*January-February 1974*

# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

*Appointments Vacant*

## Nigerian Army Signals School

Vacancies will exist shortly for Instructors in the above school which will be responsible for training to the above levels.

**Q Courses**
**Comms Courses**
**Telecommunications Officers (Short Course)**
**Foreman of Signals**
**Yeoman of Signals**

Applicants should have had sound training experience at the Officer or Regimental Training Levels and consideration will be given to the possession of a degree or professional qualification in electrical engineering, or the HNC ONC or HND with appropriate experience in teaching or training. Vacancies exist for instructors in radio, carrier, terminal and general communications systems and traffic.
Salaries and allowance will be negotiable and will be more than comparable with similar overseas posts. Appointments will be on contract from 3 to 5 years and interviews will be arranged to suit applicants convenience.

Preliminary details of posts may be obtained from

**William Simpson,**
**Communications Consultants (Nigeria) Limited,**
**P.O. Box 448,**
**Apapa,**
**Nigeria — Reference Gen. 1**

*Appointments Vacant*

## Chief Instructor — Nigerian Army Signals School Apapa/Kaduna

A vacancy exists for the above post which is a civilian appointment. The appointment is new and the person selected will be required to set up a new school for officers, probably at Kaduna as well as take over responsibility for the instructional courses now being carried out at the A.1 Technician and B1 operator levels.

The successful candidate will preferably have had experience at field rank in Royal Signals and as an instructor Royal Signals at an officers' school. He will be responsible for devising courses, organising an instructors cadre, recruiting and selecting staff.

The post will be on contract for 4 to 5 years.

The salary and allowance both local and educational will be negotiable and more than comparable with similar overseas posts.

Preliminary details of the post may be obtained from:

**William Simpson,**
**Communications Consultants (Nigeria) Limited,**
**P.O. Box 448,**
**Apapa,**
**Nigeria — Reference C. 1**

Interviews will be arranged in the Middle East, Cyprus, Germany, or the United Kingdom to suit the convenience of the applicant.

**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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
*Individual: Yearly* **£1.80**; *monthly* **15p.**
*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1.20**; *monthly* **10p.**
*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

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**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 1**

# *Editorial*

### *Our Cover Picture*

Our front cover this month affords a striking overall view of the unique ceremony at which the 7 Signal Battalion (Fermeldebataillon 7) of the German Army and our own 22 Signal Regiment jointly received the Freedom of the City of Lippstadt last October—an excellent example of good Anglo-German relations as well as of the friendship that has been built up between the two major Signals units. See page 6 for a full account and more photographs.

**Once again we must apologise to our readers for the very late publication of this issue of THE WIRE due to circumstances beyond our control—see Editorial below.**

We write this at the height of the severe limitations posed by the three day week and other industrial and economic problems. Let us hope by the time this WIRE is in the hands of our readers things may have begun to look a little better.

Turning to THE WIRE we, too, have our own difficulties. What with the three day week, a shortage of paper and certain other printing troubles, the production of THE WIRE on a monthly schedule becomes increasingly difficult. We are steadily getting more and more behindhand and we are now in the situation of THE WIRE appearing a month late. We have every intention of trying to produce a WIRE every month but it is more than possible that it will not appear until the subsequent month—so please be patient.

Our kind contributors—especially the writers of unit notes—can help materially by keeping what they send in short and to the point. Obviously the smaller the content of THE WIRE the less time it takes to print and get out to our readers. In easier times we have always given reasonable latitude to unit contributions although perhaps, now and then, they may be rather verbose and not always overfull of really 'meaty' material. We would now ask units to try and restrict their notes to about 900 words—one column of THE WIRE—and that they concentrate on factual news of general interest. Good articles are always welcome but overall we should try and aim at reducing THE WIRE from its usual 44 pages to something like 32 pages—at least a 25% reduction.

Failing this, with regret, editorial pruning will have to be fairly heavy handed. We are sorry to have to strike this rather gloomy note and we hope that these conditions will not persist for too long. However, it would be no bad thing if we accustom ourselves to being less verbose as, apart from present problems, there is every indication of a considerable escalation in future costs and there is a limit to how much THE WIRE can be subsidised from Association funds.

## —From our "In" Tray—

### The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association

Sir,

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association has been formed with the following aims:

a. To encourage and foster Motor Cycle sport throughout Royal Signals.
b. To prepare and enter individuals and teams in Army Motor Cycle Trials and Competitions in the United Kingdom and British Army of the Rhine.

8 Signal Regiment and 22 Signal Regiment are the sponsor units for the Association in the UK and BAOR. Each unit will shortly be taking delivery of a number of trials motor cycles which are being provided through the generosity of the Corps.

Although these units are the sponsors it is hoped that all motor cyclists in the Corps will join the Association, which is open to all serving members of the Corps who subscribe to either the Officers' Fund or the One Days Pay Scheme. The first task of the Association is to put the Corps back where it belongs in the motor cycling world, which is up amongst the leaders.

It is proposed that membership of the Association shall cost each member a little: how little will depend on the number who join. The more there are, the less will be the subscription.

Those who require more details and those who wish to join should please write now to:

The Secretary
Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials Association
8 Signal Regiment
Catterick Garrison
Yorkshire DL9 2PS

The target for our first success is the Army Cycle Trial in April 1974, so there is very little time. Join NOW!

Yours faithfully,

**J. P. Hart, Colonel**

8 Signal Regiment
Catterick Garrison

### Turkish Signals

Sir,

The photograph below was taken last week during a visit by myself to Turkey and shows:

On the left: **Colonel Hakki Oktay**—5 Corps Signal Officer (CSO); In the centre: **Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner**—Royal Signals; On the right; **Major Mustafa Senol**—Commander 5 Corps Signal Battalion.

The photograph was taken in the Corps Communications Centre by Turkish Signals personnel, whose duties include photography (as in the US Army).

It is interesting to note that the Corps Signals Officer's Staff, consists of a Master Sergeant, who runs the Communications Centre, and a Staff Clerk (Sergeant).

The communications for the Corps HQ are provided by **Major Mustafa Senol's** Signal Battalion of 10 officers, 40 NCO's and some 300 soldiers. This makes our 2 Corps Signal Regiment's look a bit Rolls Royce!

Yours faithfully,

**G. A. Horner, Lieutenant-Colonel**

U.K. Commanders-in-Chief Committees,
Erskine Barracks,
Salisbury, Wilts.

### 1st Guards Brigade Signal Section

Sir,

Early November is the season of Reunions and this year I managed to attend that of the 78th Infantry Division at the Victory Club. Particularly I was hoping to see members of 1st Guards Brigade Signal Section of the war years. Quite a few of them were there, including **'Ginger' Caste, Charlie Goulding, Ken Hopkins, Tommy Collins** (visiting the UK from Chicago), **Reg Over, Bill Copland** and **John Starbuck.** To the great pleasure of us all we discovered that our Section OC of early 1942 was to be the speaker after dinner. This was **Major-General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E.,** who recently doffed his uniform. As is usual in such gatherings, a lot of beer was taken in and a number of old soldier stories retold.

The General was surprised to find that so many of his old section had kept up the friendship over the years by travelling from all parts of the country for an annual drink and chinwag. I find it surprising that despite all of them having a strong attachment to Royal Signals, none of them are members of the Association or have ever attended a Royal Signals Reunion. There must be a moral to this somewhere.

Yours faithfully,

**J. I. Jenkins, Captain,** Royal Signals

30 Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

### Army Dependants Assurance Trust

Dear Sir,

I hope that you have heard of the Army Dependants Assurance Trust (ADAT), which was launched in October 1973.

Full details of ADAT are contained in DCI S58/73 and the Unit Pay Office has all the necessary forms. The aim is to provide the soldier with a cheap and simple form of life insurance. For the price of a packet of King sized cigarettes (30p) each week he can ensure that his dependant gets £520 per year tax free; this escalates at 4% per year, so after 20 years it has become over £1,000.

Since the scheme started over 6,000 soldiers have joined and during that time 80 soldiers have died, about one-third in traffic accidents. Sadly only one of these was a member; he joined ADAT a week before his death, taking out three units of benefit. His widow now receives £129 per month tax free, and when the last monthly payment is made it will be £216 and she will have received over £26,000 tax free.

Some regiments now have 50% membership, others have so far had not one applicant.

Yours sincerely,

**D. A. Gilchrist (Colonel)**
for Director of Personal Service (Army)

Ministry of Defence
Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square,
London W1X 6AA

### THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially in November 1973** | **25** |
| **Amount spent** | **£661·69** |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** | **60** |

#### One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, 13 years' regular and war-time service. Now aged 66, and in poor health, he manages to do a small part time job to augment the income a little. His wife also tried to work, but has been obliged to give it up through ill health. The Association made them a grant of £36 to enable them to buy a carpet and carry out some much needed decorating in their home. His letter is printed below.

#### One of the Month's Letters

JUST a few lines on behalf of the wife and myself to thank the Committee for the grant of £36, for which we are truly grateful. We are now clean, cosy and comfortable once again, and I finish by wishing the Committee the best of health and prosperity, and may the Royal Signals Association grow ever stronger in the future.

COMING OF AGE PARTY

A/T Nigel Manvell recently had a very successful 18th birthday party. The Army Apprentices' College cooks made him a special two-tier birthday cake with 'Jimmy' insignias around the top tier. The Commandant lent a 'Jimmy' statuette, to place on top of the cake. All this was despatched to Nigel's home in Horsham and kept completely secret from him. On the great day two of his friends, A/T's John Fisher and Alan Gill, gave up their half term home leave to join Nigel at Horsham. A splendid party at a local restaurant ensued. The photograph (*courtesy Kay Barnes, Horsham*) shows *Left to right:* John Fisher, Nigel Manvell and Alan Gill. The Corps looks after its own!

### 5 Army Youth Team

**C/o REGIMENTAL WING C.O.D., CHILWELL**

**A NEW BROOM TEAM**

THE team has at long last, become a complete Royal Signals Unit. The echo of 'thirteen studs per boot' has faded from the corridors of the regimental Wing COD Chilwell (you should see the holes in the floor in front of my desk). The team was previously Grenadier Guards.

The new team is:—**W.O.2 John Piper, Sergeant Chris Davidson, Corporal Keith Morrison, Lance-Corporal Fred Harrison, Lance-Corporal 'Blue' Bostock.**

We seem to have inherited many of the Grenadiers' ways, but we think that our Derbyshire youth are getting used to the new cap badge. There are no longer any more requests to judge drill competitions and provide uniform displays.

With the considerable experience in outward bound activity of **Chris Davidson** and others, a great deal of time is spent out in the hills of the Peak District and North Wales with maps and compass.

There is a good cross section of specialists, with a skier, canoeists, rock climbers, gymnasts and sailors—and where is the Boss? Oh, at the squash court of course!

We managed to squeeze in a week's sailing in September on *Quicksilver* and improved our navigation standards somewhat. I'm afraid our only other sailing has to be done on the River Trent in *Enterprises;* a little limited but better than nothing.

1974 will see us working with a lot more schools where we give adventurous training instruction to the ROSLA Groups. It is hoped that all our future Apprentices and young soldiers will have been well versed in the 'magic arts' of map reading, campcraft and survival; a must for winter exercises in BAOR, (all ex-7 and 22 Regiment members).

Finally, as 17 AYT mentioned in their October/November notes, we shall probably see you at children's week at Butlins next year after we have been to Peak 74 Boy Scout camp at Chatsworth and the Isle of Wight ACF camp.

P.S.—Has any unit got any double canoes they cannot use?

### New Year's Honours

All will be pleased with the following awards in the New Year's Honours:

**C.B.E.**

**Brigadier J. C. Clinch**

**O.B.E.**

**Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. W. Hickman**

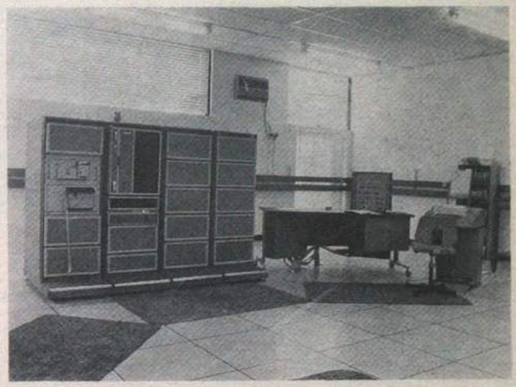
**M.B.E.**

**Major (Q.M.) F. J. Pavey**
**Major J. R. Turpin**

**B.E.M.**

**Sergeant H. Barron**
**Staff Sergeant R. A. Robertson**
**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. Scott**

### New Computer for School of Signals



Part of the Main Computer Installation

THERE has been a computer at the School of Signals, except for one brief period, since the early 1960's.

Most officers and senior NCO's who have passed through the School since then will remember (favourably?) the old Elliott 803 which gave faithful service until August last year. This machine has now been replaced by a dual, linked, computer system.

As the Corps moves towards the 1980's, Command and Control Systems and Communications Systems, will increasingly rely upon the computers as an integral part of these systems; the transmission of data between computers will become part of our daily life. It is with this in mind that the new system has been procured.

The system consists of two Hewlett-Packard 3000 computers each with an appropriate amount of memory storage and peripheral devices. These peripherals consist of fast tape readers and punches, Line Printer, Card readers, Visual Display Units and Teleprinters.

The Teleprinters work as time sharing terminals on the larger of the two computers and can all be used concurrently, each user being unaware of the others, and under the impression that he has the computer to himself.

Students and Staff of the School will use these terminals for solution of their own problems on the computer. It is of interest that one of the computer languages available will permit inexperienced users to use a computer after less than an hours instruction.

All courses will use the system to gain an appreciation of computer and data transmission techniques, the level of this appreciation depending upon the length and type of the course.

The acquisition of this new system will enable the School of Signals to start teaching now the operational techniques that students will meet in the computer based systems of the years to come.

## *For your Diary*

### Reunions

**Royal Signals Association**

- Blandford, Sunday 16th June
- Catterick, Sat/Sun 29/30 June

**Aldershot Officers Reunion**

- Friday 4th October

### Aldershot Branch—Annual Dinner

The annual dinner of the Aldershot Branch will be held at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants, on Saturday, 11th May. Assembly 7.15 p.m. Dinner at 8 p.m. Full particulars from A. V. Ient, Esq., 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants or ring Aldershot 23658.

### AER Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club

The seventh annual dinner will be held in the Officers' Mess at 31 (GL) Signal Regiment (V), 190 Hammersmith Road, London SW6 7DL on Friday, 1st March. All ex-AER/SR Royal Signals Officers and ex-HQ AER/SR Staff Officers are eligible to attend.

For further information please contact:

**Major T. Lomas** (Hon. Secretary) 01–739 3464, Ext. 314.
**Major J. Greenhill** (Hon. Treasurer) 01–432 5796.

### 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF) Annual Reunion

The 3rd reunion will be held at 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, Bunde on Saturday, 20th April.

All ex-members wishing to attend should contact: **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) E. T. A. Webster,** 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment BFPO 46.

### Annual UK Dinghy Regatta—14/15 May 1974

This year's Royal Signals UK Dingy Regatta will be held at Whale Island, Portsmouth on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th May.

The Regatta is open to all ranks who are serving members of Royal Signals. Following the Regatta, the Retired Members Race will be held on the afternoon of 15th May.

Details of the Regatta are being sent to Units and to some individuals in UK. Anyone who has not received details by 1st March and who is interested should contact **Major C. E. R. Story,** Defence ADP Training Centre, Blandford Camp; Tel.: Blandford 2581 Ext. 331. The closing date for entry is 1st April.

### Thank You!

Since the beginning of October, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mrs. B. Barr, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, The Wives' Club, 10 Signal Regiment, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. F. Stevenson, F. Veness, Esq., Mrs. W. Smith, Royal Signals Association, North London Branch, Major-General J. M. W. Badcock, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. Rigby, Major W. G. Cunningham, Miss G. Wood, Miss Eversley, Mrs. G. Corden, Brigadier E. A. James, Mrs. A. Pagan, 234 Signal Squadron, Major and Mrs. J. F. Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. H. Palmer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Sherrard-Smith, Royal Signals Demonstration Team, W.O.2 and Mrs. W. J. Clark, Mr. J. L. Smith, Major H. Marjoram, Sergeant and Mrs. R. G. Assender, Colonel P. R. Hoskins, Major R. Iliffe, Major-General A. J. Woodrow.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Mrs. A. Darkin, Cambridge Works, Elizabeth Way, Cambridge CB4 1DW. Tel: Cambridge 58985
or
Mrs. C. Dawe, Colne Valley Road, Haverhill, Suffolk. Tel: Haverhill 4422.

Pye Telecommunications Ltd




## 661 Sig Tp
## H.M.S. Intrepid

H.M.S. *Intrepid* off Gallipoli during Exercise 'Deep Furrow', October 1973

**END OF AN ERA**

WHEN H.M.S. *Intrepid* came up harbour to Devonport for the last time prior to refit on Monday, 3rd December, an unusual flag was flying at the starboard outer yard-arm. It was the Troop pennant of 661 Signal Troop (LPD) being flown, with the Captain's permission, to mark the last occasion on which the Troop would be in the ship at sea. Three days later the Troop dispersed, bringing to an end the last Royal Signals unit with the Fleet.

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

The Troop was formed in 1967 when H.M.S. *Intrepid* first commissioned and has served with the ship for just over six and a half years. During that time the ship has covered over 200,000 miles, visiting 35 different countries for varying periods. The ship spent three commissions in the Gulf and Far East. Apart from the many exercises, the ship was also the headquarters for the withdrawals from Aden (1967), and the Gulf (1971), and assisted in the disaster relief in East Pakistan in 1970. The ship was also present during the final stages of the rundown in Singapore. Returning to home waters, the ship was involved in Operation Motorman, amongst other activities, before becoming the Dartmouth Training Ship in 1972. This final period saw three deployments to the Mediterranean, and one to the West Indies, during which the ship was involved in seven large exercises.

**THE 'PONGOS'**

Despite the good natured banter, the soldiers got on well with their naval counterparts. The Signal Troop was a fully integrated part of the Communications Division, and the soldiers lived in Communications Mess-decks and formed part of the Watch and Quarter bill. It was not uncommon to find Corporals acting as Leading Hands of Messes or Watches, and everyone did their share of communal duties. Good liaison was established with the various corps units wherever the ship called, and these were numerous. Many lasting friendships were established with 'Jack' and whenever the time came for Troops to turnover, most were sorry to go.

**DISBANDMENT**

It was decided some time ago that the LPD Signal Troops would disband when the ships went to refit, after which the commitment would be taken over by the Royal Marines. First to go was our sister Troop, 621 on H.M.S. *Fearless* last November, and we were due to disband in July this year. A delayed refit date meant a six months extension, and the date was shifted to December.

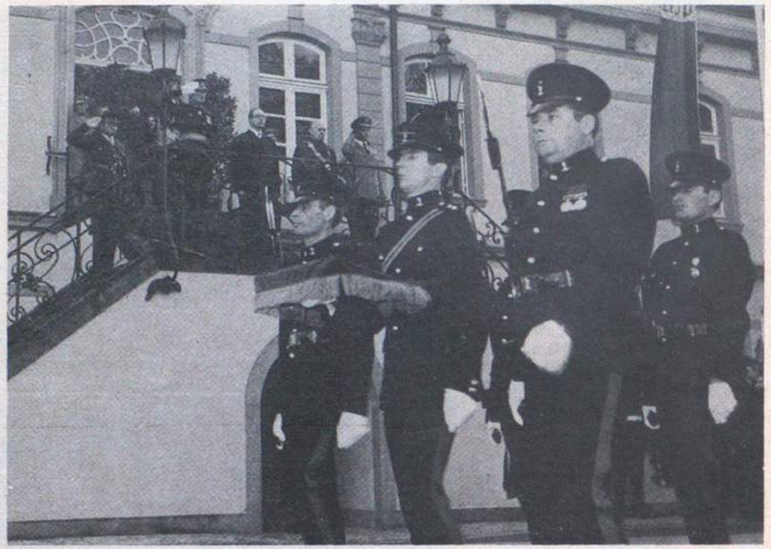
When the ship came into Devonport on 3rd December, the task of handing over or disposing of all stores and equipment was carried out and on 6th December the bulk of the Troop moved to Blandford prior to going on leave. A short disbandment parade was held the day before, on Wednesday, 5th December, to mark the disbandment of both the Signal Troop, and 409 (LPD) Operating Troop RCT. The parade was inspected by **Captain J. F. Kidd, R.N.,** and was watched by the remainder of the ships' company. **Captain Kidd** also presented plaques to each Troop to mark their association with the ship.

Captain J. F. Kidd, Royal Navy inspects 661 Signal Troop (LPD) on their disbandment parade. Captain Young (OC), Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Allen and Major Dixon, RM (AOO) in attendance

# Freedom of Lippstadt conferred on 22nd Signal Regiment and Fernmelde Bataillon 7

(German 7th Signal Regiment)

***Colourful Ceremony cements Anglo-German good relations***



The Freedom Proclamation is paraded past the saluting base

## ANOTHER PAGE OF HISTORY

THE British custom of bestowing the Freedom of the City upon a Regiment long resident within the city walls has been given to a British and a German regiment both stationed in Lippstadt. This is certainly a 'first' in the history of the 'new' Europe, and follows the pattern of active and friendly relationships established by our patenschaft ceremonies of alliance with Fernmeldebataillon 7 of the Bundeswehr on 11th August, 1972. 22 Signal Regiment and Fernmeldebataillon 7 each received their Freedom from Burgermeister **Koenen** and Stadtdirektor **Herhaus** in a colourful and impressive parade on Saturday, 27th October, 1973.

The two Commanding Officers, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear,** Royal Signals and **Oberstleutnant P. Poschwatta** watched by a large audience of Stadt, Kreis, Lande and Bundesrat Officials, Lippstadt Burghers, Military VIP's and the soldiers and families from both units, each received their "Urkunde" (Proclamation) which were then proudly paraded through the streets of the city.

## RIGHTS EXERCISED

The traditional spirit was displayed and our new rights exercised with bayonets fixed, swords drawn, drums beating and colours flying. A detachment from each Regiment marched off parade and along Lange Strasse to the stirring music of the Royal Signals Band and the applause of the crowd.

The Band of the 7 Panzer Grenadier Division had previously entertained the spectators whilst awaiting the arrival of the principals of the occasion. They were the Burgermeister, the Stadtdirektor, the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Major General M. S. Hancock, C.B., M.B.E.** and the Divisional Commander 7 Panzer Grenadier Division, **Major General Dr. Wagerman.** The Generals on behalf of the two regiments presented memorable gifts to the town; **General Hancock** a silver 'Jimmy' which glinted spectacularly in the afternoon sun. **General Wagerman** presented the Regimental Wappen of Fernmeldebataillon 7.

There was a sense of great occasion, and yet it was very much a family event. The immaculate arms drill and turn-out of the soldiers on parade was admired proudly by their wives and children together with the people of Lippstadt. The Parade took place in front of the impressive medieval Marienkirche, and gave the right atmosphere for a memorable day for everyone.

## CORPS BAND PERFORMS RETREAT CEREMONY

Other celebrations included a moving 'Retreat' ceremony by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals under the Director of Music **Major K. R. R. Boulding.** In the chill of a crisp Autumn evening, the crowds thronged around the Rathausplatz and were thrilled by the precision counter marching and the splendid music—now stirring now gentle. The Band had a very busy week and delighted many audiences with concerts at the BFES School, in the SKC Cinema and during visits to Bunde, Herford and Hildesheim.

The parades and events were crowned by a magnificent joint band concert with the Panzer Grenadier Band in the new Stadttheatre, followed by a reception for the 300 or so guests who were guided into the theatre by the flaming torches of the German Regiment. The modern architecture of the new Stadttheatre provided contrast with the afternoons parade setting and complemented the glitter of the ladies dresses and the splendour of dress uniform.

## CITY COAT OF ARMS PRESENTED

During the reception the Stadt authorities presented each regiment with a hand worked pewter Wappen of the City Coat of Arms, as a permanent memento of the occasion. The 7 Fernmeldebataillon presented the Burgermeister with a bench seat, which is to be positioned in the market square opposite the Marienkirche and finally the Regiment presented an English oak tree to the Stadt to be planted in a place selected by the Stadt authorities. The achievements of the day and the sincere feelings behind all these events are perhaps summarised by the brass inscription plate presented with the Oak tree: *"Presented to the Citizens of Lippstadt on Saturday, 27th of October,* 1973 *by Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear, Royal Signals on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals in the sincere hope that the growth of this tree will symbolize the broadening and strengthening of the ties between Stadt Lippstadt and all ranks of* 22 *Signal Regiment implanted this day by the granting of the singular honour to the Regiment of the Freedom of Lippstadt".*

*(Continued on page 8)*



# Freedom of Lippstadt as the Camera saw it

1. **General Salute—Present Arms**
2. **The Burgermeister delivers the Freedom speech**
3. **Presentation of a silver 'Jimmy' to the Burgermeister by Major-General M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant**
4. **The Corps Band plays at Retreat outside the Town Hall**
5. **The City Coat of Arms is presented to Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear, Commanding Officer**

(Continued from page 6)

**THE URKUNDE OR FREEDOM PROCLAMATION**

**"The 22 Signal Regiment of the Royal Signals has been stationed in Lippstadt since 1959 and Fernmeldebataillon 7 of the Bundeswehr has been stationed in Lippstadt since 1966. Both units have their role in the Forces of the Atlantic Treaty Organisation.**

**By their exemplary conduct and unselfish readiness to help the local community the Officers and Men of both units have proved that they look upon themselves as an integral part of the Lippstadt environment.**

**In order to recognise, cultivate and further strengthen the existing friendly relations, the Council of the City of Lippstadt decided on 6th March, 1973 to grant to both Regiments**

**THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LIPPSTADT**

**This includes the right of both units to march through the streets of the City with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.**

**May the granting of this Freedom strengthen the existing ties and neighbourly relations between our two countries in Europe.**

**GIVEN IN LIPPSTADT on 27th OCTOBER, 1973"**

## MINOR OFFICIALS ENTERTAINED

Whilst the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Regiment attended a band concert in the Stadt Theatre of Lippstadt, a selection of minor officials of the town were entertained by the Staff Sergeants' and Sergeants' of the Regiment in the Sergeants Mess on Saturday, 27th October, 1973. The guests were welcomed into the Mess by the PMC, and lone Warrant Officer, **Dennis Holder,** introduced to their various Hosts, offered a glass of punch (the operative word) produced from the book "Drinks for Social Occasions", belonging to our barman **Sergeant Tony Scrase** and thus the theme of the evening was set; one of jollity and excellent Anglo–German relations. Music provided for us by our own mobile discotheque 'Disco 2001' under the management of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Don Knox, Staff Sergeant Les Hedges** and **Sergeant 'Slim' Hodgson,** was as excellent as ever and the magnificent buffet which we are now learning to expect, helped to make this evening emerge as one of the outstanding Mess functions of the year. For those who have served here and remember the size of the Mess, the total numbers attending, 263 after the WO's joined us at 22.30 hours might give an indication of the success of the event.

Shall we end by saying that the RSM, **W.O.1 'Mac' McGilvray** couldn't have had a better wedding anniversary and it may be some consolation for him to know that he was not the only one who could not remember Sunday the 28th!

## FREEDOM BALL

On Friday, 2nd November it was the turn of the Sergeants' Mess to hold their function as part of the freedom celebrations. This took place in the Kolpingsall which is a large theatre in the centre of Lippstadt. Due to the size of the building our president **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) G. McGilvray** decided that a special committee would be needed to decorate the hall. He asked for volunteers and the following heroes emerged led by the gallant **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Bill Lees, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Dave Gouldsmith, Sergeants Mick Besant, Mick Croot, Alf Croft, Bobbie Philpott** and **Colin McMahon.** After great discussion it was decided that the theme of the ball (we always have themes here) would be Lippstadt through the ages. The stage would be decorated with a print depicting old Lippstadt. This was done with tremendous skill by our resident painter **Mick Croot** and constructed by **Bill Lees.** The foyer to be a market square with barrows and stalls. To catch the guests eyes a complete wall was decorated with carnations made of paper on which was written 'welcome to the Ball'. At this point we must thank all the wives who made the paper flowers which took up a lot of their spare time. At the Kolpingsaal entrance a replica of the Lippstadt Castle walls was made by **Staff Sergeant Dave Gouldsmith** and as it was a Royal Signals Event an eight foot 'Jimmy' was erected outside built by **Colin McMahon** ably assisted by **Bob Philpott** and **Mick Besant.** The scene set, the guests started arriving at 20.30 hours and were met by their hosts. At one of the many market stalls punch was served. Button holes were given to the ladies at another. The waiters who were clothed in old German costumes darted to and fro quenching the thirsts of our guests and members. The Freedom Supper or better still banquet, was prepared by our own **W.O.2 (S.Q.M.S.) 'Geordie' Thow,** ACC and his cooks and did us proud. The music was played by the 2 Battalion Queens Regiment and the music suited all tastes; our RSM danced to quickies, too!

Having blown the 'Freedom Committee' trumpet I think its only fair to say that the actual running of the night was carried out by the entertainments committee led by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Denis Holder.** A special mention to **Mrs. Norma Battisby** for making the table arrangements which were beautiful.

Like all good things the ball came to an end but was enjoyed by all. We wish to thank all our guests for coming and to all the people who made it possible.

**Sadly since receiving this article news has reached us of the death of Herr Koenen, Burgermeister of Lippstadt for 25 years and chief advocate of the Freedom presentation.**

# *Round the World Yacht Race*

## *Leg One—Portsmouth to Cape Town*

**REPORT BY W.O.2 (SUPERVISOR R) JOHN ROSSON**

## A GREAT SIGHT

AT 09.00 hours on the 8th September along with the rest of the crew I boarded *British Soldier*. The atmosphere around the dock area at HMS *Vernon* was full of excitement as 17 boats taking part in the race made their final preparations for the longest ocean race in the history of yachting. The yacht was honoured by the presence of the Commodore of the Army Sailing Association, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** and **Mrs. Sawers.** Both **Corporal George Marshall** and myself had time for a short chat with the General who wished us the best of luck, on our voyage.

We slipped moorings at 10.00 hours and put to sea. The start line was a complete mass of craft of all shapes and sizes and I think probably one of the greatest sights ever seen in the Solent. On the stroke of noon the gun sounded and we started. The Skipper, **Major John Day,** Queens Regiment, ordered course 230° down the Channel, the wind was light and weather fine. We continued with light winds until Tuesday, 11th September when the wind increased and we made good our course and speed, in fact during the eight to 12 watch on this day we recorded 38 miles, the speed during this period was to be equalled many times during the voyage but never bettered.

## THROUGH TO BLANDFORD

At this point I would like to point out that we had established communications with Blandford using the Clansman 320. Between **Corporal George Marshall,** the official radio operator, and myself we communicated with Blandford every day **(Sergeant John Worth)** during our 49 day voyage with the exception of three days, the 1st, 2nd and 27th of October.

By 12th September we had heavy seas and wind gusting to 35 knots. *British Soldier* became very uncomfortable and very wet. A couple of times we filled the cockpit, slightly disturbing at the time. These conditions continued until the 15th September when we were able to change to our No. 1 Genoa, sailing well on course 205°.

## BIG SEAS—STRONG WINDS

Monday, 17th September. We put up the spinnaker and we sailed well, on course 240°. On Tuesday, 18th September at 04.30 hours we sighted Madeira 20 miles off the portside, still under spinnaker and today we did a run of 204 miles. We continued under spinnaker, staysail, mainsail, mizzen staysail and mizzen, until Monday, 24th September. Helming under these

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

conditions is a tremendous feeling as 22 tons of yacht is surfing down the waves, at times reaching speeds of 15 knots. The seas were big and the trade winds strong. Also during this time we all took a short course in astro navigation by courtesy of our very able skipper.

## THE DOLDRUMS

Between the 25th September and 30th September we had continual sail changes and adjustments, we were forced to change from spinnaker to genoa and back again, so many times that I lost count. We were of course now in the doldrums, however we were able to keep sailing if only from squall to squall.

On the 29th September in one squall we were able to collect 15 gallons of beautiful rain water, this supplemented our water ration which had been a little under four pints per man per day. This of course was not four pints to drink but also had to be used in cooking. Potato powder needs a lot of water, but also proved to be good stuff. Our position at this time was 04° 10′ N 22° 30′ W. Also today we saw literally hundreds of dolphins, the whole sea around us was alive with them none of us had ever seen anything like it before.

## THE EQUATOR

Monday, 1st October we crossed the equator. The wind was very light and everything on board was very quiet. However, that evening we had a great meal and had a party. This great meal was cooked by **Captain David Glyn-Own,** Welsh Guards. "I served the whisky". The skipper did two hours on the helm, and **David** also played his guitar.

Now we were sailing to windward and making hard work of it, we somehow didn't go well and only seemed to be able to average about 100 miles a day. Unsettled conditions prevailed as we were well and truly stuck in the South Atlantic high pressure area. This again meant continual sail changes and adjustments. We heard on the 6th October that **Erik Tabarly** in *Pen Duick* had lost his mast and set course for Rio. This was real hard luck.

On Thursday, 18th October we worked St. Helena on CW and voice, we then worked St. Helena every day until we closed them down on the 26th October.

Between 18th October and the 26th October we had good strong winds and big seas at times. We were forced to reef down and change headsails. The boat was very wet and we took a lot of water through the forward hatch, which incidently had been broken early on during our blow in the Bay.

## THE CAPE AT LAST

Saturday, 27th October, 04.00 hours Table Mountain came in sight—course 130°, no wind just sitting about in light airs. We continued to drift towards Cape Town all day. At 16.00 hours we got some wind and put up all the sail we could and crossed the finishing line a 16.55 hours "I think" in grand style.

The welcome we received in Cape Town was overwhelming, the crew of *Adventure,* the Navy boat, lined the quay side and fed us beer. **Chay Blyth** came aboard with champagne. The rest of the evening is a blur of faces, drinks and people coming and going and it was a thankful crew that climbed tired, sober and exalted on hotel beds at 22.30 hours.

## THE 'HAPPY HOUR'

During the trip we had a 'Happy Hour' every night from 18.00 hours to 19.00 hours. This was important to us all and we all looked forward to it. In this hour we all had two tots of whisky and relaxed and talked. The food was basically compo rations and went down very well. The powder egg we found excellent. The salt water bread was also very good and with a little thought was soon turned into currant loaves and other types of loaf depending on what cereal was mixed with it.

Washing was difficult as we didn't have salt water soap. Oh for the old brown compo ration soap.

We were able to stay in Cape Town to see the start of the second leg, which incidently **Corporal George Marshall** is also doing. It was once again quite a sight, but nothing can be quite like September the 8th in Portsmouth.

## SAD NEWS

I am very distressed to hear that **Corporal Paul Waterhouse,** 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards, with whom I worked on leg one, and who was on loan to the Italian yacht *Taranga* for the rest of the race, was washed overboard in the Indian Ocean. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere sympathy and condolences to his family.

# *Safari To The Sky!*

BELOW is the account of how a small party of six men from 9 Signal Regiment prepared for and subsequently climbed on the Mount Kenya massif. Much of the detail has been extracted from the personal diary maintained by the expedition leader, **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Frost.**

Expedition members were:—**W.O.2 Frost,** Royal Signals, **Sergeant Sinclair,** REME, **Corporal Muriel,** Royal Signals, **Lance-Corporal Brown,** Int Corps, **Lance-Corporal Skipper,** Int Corps, **Signalman Willson,** Royal Signals.

## W.O.2 FROST WRITES:—

"It was whilst serving with the Parachute Brigade that I first had the opportunity of visiting Kenya and, like countless others before me, I was captivated by the country and its people. Anyone who has visited East Africa will know the enchantment lent to so many splendid views by the magnificent scenery, and amongst the best remembered are those of the snow covered mountains—the Amboseli Game Park with the dome of Kilimanjaro looming over the heat haze or the jagged peaks of Mount Kenya rising majestically over the Kikuyu plateau.

So it was with fond memories, on a dark bleak and wet September morning, that my party and I, along with 50 soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, landed at Nairobi International Airport for the start of Exercise 'Zachary', an Infantry Battalion exercise involving a strategic air move, jungle training, field firing and infiltration techniques in bush and jungle.

## FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT MOUNTAIN

Having been delayed for two days in Cyprus, no time was wasted on our arrival and we were unceremoniously herded aboard waiting buses for the three hour trip to the Battalion base camp at Nanyuki, a small township some 180km from Nairobi. It was an uneventful journey with most people taking the chance to catch up on lost sleep. However, as we approached Nanyuki dawn was breaking and we caught our first glimpse of Mount Kenya. It was a sight to inspire even the least aesthetic among us, with the rising sun casting a vivid orange backcloth, it rose like a lone sentinel above the mist enshrouded lower slopes, the glaciers glistening as the sun caught the ice covered slopes.

I should perhaps explain that the primary aim of the 9 Signal Regiment party was to climb Mount Kenya and, if conditions were favourable, attempt an ascent of the three main peaks of Batian 17,058ft, Nelion 17,022ft and Lenana 16,355ft then, if time permitted, carry out military training with the Royal Anglians.

## ACCLIMATISATION

As Nanyuki itself is almost 6,400ft above sea level, our first task was to acclimatise to the change in altitude. From previous experience I anticipated taking about five days for this and so, to the amazement and obvious delight of the local populace, we were to be seen every morning pounding the dusty tracks around the camp on twice daily road runs. Even at this altitude it was noticeable that breathing was more difficult and it was only after a couple of days we gradually became accustomed to exercising at altitude. As a fitting finale to our training phase I organised a trip out to Thompsons Falls, this took the form of a forced march of some eight miles with full bergen rucksacks and was completed in under 90 minutes which, considering the conditions, was extremely creditable. The remainder of the day was spent viewing the magnificent falls, the highest in Kenya, and quenching our very considerable thirst with pints of local 'Tusker' beer.

## OFF AND IN HIGH SPIRITS

The following day dawned fine and bright and we set off in high spirits for our first day on the mountain. The Royal Anglian had kindly laid on transport to lift us to the road-head at about 9,500ft, thus saving us the long haul up the Naro Moru track. This route is the most common in use because of its ease of access and runs from the entrance to the Kenya National dark, through forest on the lower slopes, then bog until it reaches Teleki Valley at 13,500ft. On arriving at the road-head, we set up camp for the

EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Lance-Corporal Skipper, Int. Corps, Corporal Muriel, Royal Signals, holding a mountain Hyrax, Lance-Corporal Brown, Int. Corps, W.O.2 Frost, Royal Signals, Signalman Willson, Royal Signals. (The other member, Sergeant Sinclair, REME, took the photograph)

night and spent the next few hours exploring the upper slopes and getting used to the altitude. After a restful night, we made an early start at 07.00 hours and, loaded down with provisions and kit, set off at a nice steady pace. It took us about an hour to get above the forest and then we were at the 'vertical bog', an area of moorland just above 10,000ft and probably the wettest and most difficult part of the climb on the lower slopes. It took us almost four hours of back-breaking effort before we were above it and then the going became much easier as we descended into Teleki Valley. After another two hours climb we arrived at MacKinders Camp 13,500ft just before 15.00 hours, and it was an exhausted but elated party that crept thankfully into their sleeping bags that night.

### ALTITUDE SICKNESS

The following day we rose later than usual with the sun already well up and I took the opportunity to examine the party as it is not uncommon at this altitude for people to suffer from altitude sickness, particularly after an exhausting and strenuous march the previous day. Three of the party were feeling extremely fragile indeed and were unable to perform even simple functions, complaining of splitting headaches and a general feeling of nausea, all these being symptoms of altitude sickness. I took pulse readings for the whole party and it can be seen that there was a marked variation, particularly as we had done no exercise and were at rest.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lance-Corporal Skipper** | 92 | **W.O.2 Frost** | 68 |
| **Lance-Corporal Brown** | 88 | **Signalman Willson** | 115 |
| **Corporal Muriel** | 81 | **Sergeant Sinclair** | 78 |

Because half the party were in no condition, and showed even less enthusiasm, to climb that day, I decided to postpone the climb to Lenana until the following day and give them the opportunity to rest and recuperate, it also gave the rest of us the chance to climb some of the smaller peaks and ridges surrounding the valley. That afternoon, **Signalman Willson** was if anything worse, and so I thought it wise to send him back to base camp at the road-head along with **Corporal Muriel** and **Lance-Corporal Skipper,** with instructions to **Muriel** to return when he thought they were safely on their way, he arrived back at about 19.00 hours and after a welcome 'brew' we all retired for the night.

The following morning we were all up at 05.30 hours but, unfortunately, **Lance-Corporal Brown** was still feeling awful and his pulse was 117, well up on his previous count, so he elected to stay at camp whilst the remaining three of us made the ascent of Lenana.

The summit of Mount Kenya as seen from Mackinders Camp at 13,500 feet

### REDUCED TO TWO—BUT WE MAKE IT

We commenced climbing at about 07.30 and were well up a particularly steep scree slope when **Corporal Muriel** felt unable to continue and complained of pains in his legs and a general feeling of exhaustion and weakness. We rested for a short while, but he still felt no better and so we were reluctantly obliged to leave him and continue on our own. After a further hour's climbing we had reached the bottom of the SW ridge that leads to the summit of Lenana and took a short rest in the Arthur Firmin Memorial Hut, a small wooden hut erected by the Mountaineering Club of Kenya in memory of Arthur Firmin, one of the conquerors of Mount Kenya who later died on a climbing accident in the Alps. Because of the altitude the final leg of the climb was particularly heavy going and involved climbing the NW ridge and crossing onto the Lewis Glacier, luckily for us, two of the RAF Mountain Rescue Team had made the ascent the previous day and obligingly left steps cut in the ice saving us a great deal of time and effort, but it was still 'dicey' without being roped together and it was a very relieved but jubilant couple who stood on the summit at 16,355ft an hour later.

### A HAIR-RAISING ESCAPE

It was during the descent that our only near accident occurred, I was leading with **Sergeant Sinclair** following when I lost my footing on the glacier, and before I could regain my balance was careering down the ice and heading for a nasty looking crevasse, luckily I had my ice pick and after two unsuccessful attempts managed to dig in and check my fall, but only some 20 feet away from the lip of the crevasse. It was a near thing because as we inched past we couldn't see the bottom. The rest of the climb down was uneventful and we arrived back at MacKinders at about 13.00 hours tired but extremely happy.

### THE URGE TO CLIMB

Why do men climb mountains? The reasons are many and varied, and in all probability depend to a great extent on the personality of the person to whom the question is directed. What I can say personally is that the tremendous sense of achievement must rate high on any list. Unfortunately, because of unfavourable weather before we even arrived in Kenya, the two main peaks of Batian and Nelion had been left out of condition for climbers with our limited experience, and even the RAF Mountain Rescue Team gave them a wide berth whilst we were there. So reluctantly, after a couple of days we returned to Nanyuki.

The remainder of our time in Kenya was spent sightseeing and souvenir hunting but this is another story, and all too soon it was time to say farewell.

**In conclusion I think it appropriate to thank the CO of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Thorne, who did all he could to ensure the trip was a success, and also the CO of the 9 Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E., whose expert manipulation of the 'strings' enabled us to go in the first place."**



# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

### CHARITY IDEA ENDS WITH THE ROYAL WEDDING

AVID readers of THE WIRE will remember that a few months ago Communications Troop decided to collect money for charity. The fund was started with the profits of a memorable cheese and wine party. Amid memories of merriment and well deserved hangovers, the committee planned a barbecue which was a great success. Although the weather turned against us during the evening, it did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm or slake the thirst of the participants. Once again our efforts were rewarded with another substantial sum towards the fund.

The main money raiser was a sponsored walk. The complex problems of organising a walk in Northern Ireland were eventually overcome, and the tremendous success of this venture can best be judged from the condition of our walkers feet and the pockets of their sponsors.

The fund was now wealthy enough to purchase the television sets which we had planned to present to the Thompson Home for multiple sclerosis in time for Christmas. However, an urgent SOS was received from the Thompson Home asking if we could manage to instal the sets in time for the Royal Wedding. This presented no problems, and Friday, 9th November saw all those who had assisted in raising the funds, sitting with the residents of the Thompson Home as the Squadron Commander **Major John Bromley,** presented one colour TV and three portable sets.

A frantic telephone call from the matron the day before the wedding sent the Squadron's television wizard, **Corporal Mick Bennett,** complete with screwdriver to do the job that the absent minded installation engineers should have done. All's well that end's well and on the day of the wedding the delighted residents saw the happy couple married.

A FINE EFFORT

Presentation of one colour and three black and white television sets to Thompson Home for Multiple Sclerosis. The funds for these were raised by various Squadron enterprises including a sponsored walk

### A BLONK, A BLONK—MY KINGDOM FOR A BLONK
### BY W.O.2 (Y. OF S.) P. J. DANIEL

Picture the scene: Squadron conferences, gathered to pool our expertise for the welfare of the troops. Said a certain Y. of S. "forget the usual quiz, try something different like 'call my bluff'" (currently showing on BBC 2).

FINALISTS IN 'CALL MY BLUFF'

Winners (TRUE)—Signalman 'Mac' McArthur', Corporal 'Ginge' Barker, Corporal 'Chas' Vines and the organiser and compere W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Phil Daniel

Runners-up (BLUFF)—Sergeant John Hamer, Sergeant Bob Lockwood and Staff-Sergeant Arthur Jones

In true military tradition—your idea—you fix. With assistance from the BBC and a great deal of preparation 16 teams entered a knockout competition starting on 8th October. Two games were played each week, seven words per game to prevent a draw.

First in the arena were the Wives Club and SHQ/QM's department. Feminine intuition prevailed and **Mrs. Norma Dawson, Mrs. Pat Burge** and **Mrs. Sandy Buckle** with their 5–2 win progressed to the quarter-final.

The Sergeants' Mess B team with **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Denis Connell, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Mick Groom** and **W.O.2 (A.Q.M.S.) Dick O'Brien** beat Technician Workshops A to join the battle with Wives Club in the next round. A win for the Sergeants' Mess put them in the semi-finals.

In the following weeks the teams fought it out and produced some tense moments for their supporters, and a lot of laughs for the audience. The Sergeants' Mess team dismissed Brigade Clerks and WRAC B to reach the final despite not knowing what is a 'wrakling'. Int section took on the Standby Crew and Communications Troop A, the latter failing to identify 'parfilage' and so going down 3–4. Communications Troop B fooled MT with 'nunlet' after coasting home against the WRAC A team to complete the list. We now had our four for the semi-finals and it was decided to have the semi's and the final on the same night followed by a disco. Sitting in the middle keeping the teams from each others throats, I had my own ideas on who the finalists would be, although all four teams were supremely confident. Could it be an all Mess final? However, Communications Troop B versus Mess B turned out to be a one sided affair with the Mess going down 4–0 (Goodbye RSM).

The other Mess team almost came unstuck against the Int section. Score three each and **Corporal Ettle** (Int) was confronted with 'nidging'. **Sergeant Bob Lockwood** was so convincing in his Bluff about American railway sidings that the Int captain had no hesitation in making the wrong choice.

What a final it promised to be. Communications Troop B with **Corporal 'Chas' Vines, Corporal 'Ginge' Barker** and **Signalman 'Mac' McArthur,** versus Sergeants' Mess A with **Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones, Sergeant John Hamer** and **Sergeant Bob Lockwood.** After 'owl glass', 'isolluschickie', 'blonk' and 'wanger' the scores were level. 'Ruta-Baga' made it 3–2 to Communications Troop and the Mess had to convince their opponents that 'catawampous' really was a malayan landing stage or a fern from British Columbia.

**Walter Love** of BBC Northern Ireland presented the trophies to winners and runners-up and the disco took over for the rest of the evening. To sum it all up, a game of good fun, with plenty of laughs. A word of advice to the next Yeoman posted to 39 Infantry Brigade—invent a new game or keep quiet on Welfare Conferences.

### GAMES EVENING WITH 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The games evening held in the Horseshoe Club against the Peake Inn (233) was a resounding success and much ale flowed under the bridge. Apart from the normal games the last event of the evening was the Thiepval Handicap Race, the horses being sold by 'Honest Joe' the bookmaker. It was a lucky win for the OC Squadron and 'Honest Joe' the part owner. **Major Mike Allen** of CR Signals Branch bid £5 for a horse called 'Stone Deaf'. He must have been because all the others were sold for £4, incidentally the winning horse was called 'Orange Lad'.

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

WHILE the present troubled times persist in Northern Ireland we are only able to carry out our many tasks thanks to a large number of emergency reinforcements who come to us from their parent units for a four months tour. We thought it was time that we presented a view of the Squadron through the eyes of one of our 'Four monthers'.

### AN EMERGENCY TOUR IN NORTHERN IRELAND

### BY CORPORAL 'ANDY' HICKLING

### ATTACHED TO 233 SIGNAL SQUADRON FROM 3 DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT.

An exciting four months holiday is offered to any member of 3 Division who volunteers for a detachment with 233. No longer do you have to fire on the reputable Bulford ranges but you have day trips arranged to the electronic range at Ballykinler, where it is rumoured live targets, namely Irish gentlemen, are being installed.

If it is action one wants though, there is no lack of it. At any time of day or night you can be whisked off to set up a VCP which provides the ideal opportunity to meet the local inhabitants at 2.30 in the morning.

The highlight of the visit to 233 is without a doubt a trip to Divis, the winter sports centre, situated with panoramic views of the Belfast docklands. One can sit and watch colour TV whilst eating a steak dinner at least twice a week. The only drawback to the centre is the transport service; Lisburn Taxis only run one Wessex a week but I believe plans are in the pipeline for a chairlift in the near future.

One's summary of 233 would not be complete without mentioning the Squadron Club, The Peake Inn, which can provide an evening's entertainment after a weary day. Contrary to popular belief though, the bar profits have not doubled since the four month holiday was introduced.

If anyone is interested in this four month vacation, although it is fully booked in the foreseeable future, information can be obtained from your local travel agent or the TOT. 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

### REMEMBER THE B70?

Those practitioners of the radio relay trade who have been in the business a long time may vaguely remember the SR B70 radio relay equipment. This set is now enjoying a new lease of life in Northern Ireland as it offers an opportunity to communicate out of the crammed VHF band. The results we are achieving are excellent and some of the ranges achieved were never dreamt of by the makers! Our photograph show the B70 in action with Communications Troop.

IT'LL NEVER REPLACE THE PIGEON!

Radio Telegraphists, Lance-Corporals Bob Underwood and Billy Jackson pass scathing comments as Combat Radiomen, Signalman John (JQ) Quigley and Corporal 'Mal' Barlow assemble a B70

### SPORT

Our hockey team are enjoying a good season. **Corporal Dave Luckett** has introduced a steadiness and very high degree of skill while the captain **Sergeant 'Tich' Woodford** is providing bags of drive and enthusiasm. The highlight of the season so far was the Northern Ireland Minor Units semi-final in which we played our old friends but deadly rivals 39 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in a very exciting and closely fought local derby. In a game of contrasting halves 39 Brigade found themselves defending desperately in the second half. However their defence was sound and the goalkeeper was playing a very courageous game. It seemed as if we would never score, but with 15 minutes to go **Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson** drove home the only goal of the match to win the game. We now play 8 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in the Minor Units Final. The winning team was: **Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson, Sergeants Pete Beavan** and **'Tich' Woodford, Corporals John Howells, Bob Turner, Dave Brewster, Dave Luckett, Lance-Corporal Bob Underwood, Signalmen Phil Hebditch, Billy Whale** and **Steve Schofield.** Mention should also be made of **Corporal Mick Palmer** who played in every other game but missed the semi-final due to injury.

The rugby team did not do quite so well. Once again we are the Northern Ireland Minor Units runners-up. The Sappers did it again with 34 Field Squadron RE beating us 14–4. The play off to decide the runners-up was a splendid match between ourselves and 39 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron again. The match was in the balance until the last 10 minutes when a flurry of scoring gave us a rather flattering winning score of 19–9. Our scorers were **Corporal 'Andy' Hickling** with a try and the OC, **Major Brian Blackwell** with one try, one conversion and three penalty goals.

The players were: **Corporals John Howells, Arthur Sullivan, Bob Turner, Lance-Corporal 'Adge' Cutler, Major Brian Blackwell, Signalmen Linton Dawkins** and **Mick Herd, Corporals Sam Mitchell, Les Farrant, Dave Brewster, 'Andy' Hickling, John Walsh, Lieutenant Ian Grant, Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson** and **Signalman Phil Brittan.**

We now wait for great news from the soccer team!

**KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!**

SEE EDITORIAL PAGE





## School of Signals, Blandford Camp

### A HAPPY 'ANNIVERSARY' AT BLANDFORD

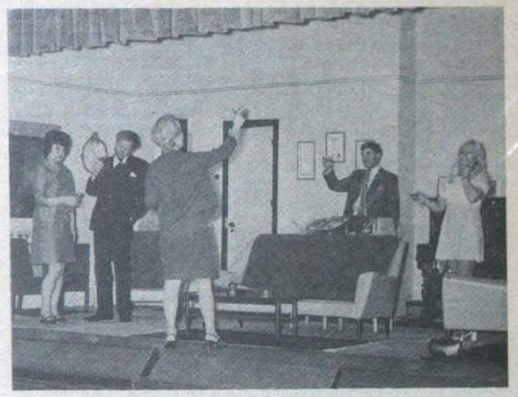
ONCE again the boards of the Princess Mary Hall at the School were trodden, as the Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club 'did its Autumn thing'. The Club chose **Bill MacIlwraith's** play 'The Anniversary', which although variously described as a 'Black Comedy', 'Comedy', 'Drama' or 'Farce', the ultimate choice of description must surely rest with each individual member of the audience. Whichever way the audience chose to interpret **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Brown's** production on this occasion we believe that they certainly had their money's worth.

The central character was 'Mum', quite brilliantly played by **Sylvia,** wife of **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter MacGillivray,** whilst around her she manoeuvred, effortlessly and as she chose, her three sons. In the parts of the sons, **Corporal Paul Cook, Brian Whiteley** and **Richard Owen** gave cleverly contrasting performances, in which they brought out the essential weaknesses and failing of each, as he strove to free himself from maternal domination.

The small cast was completed by **Chrys Fielding** and **Lilian Williams** both of whom made considerable impact on the audience as, respectively, the fiancée and long suffering wife of two of the sons.

All in all an excellent show, which was particularly fitting as this was **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Brown's** last production; he is due to leave us in March. The Club owes a great deal to his experience and drive, and he will be sorely missed.

The next production is 'HMS Pinafore', so watch this space for further news!



'THE ANNIVERSARY'

The photograph shows the main characters toasting the memory of 'Dad'. *From left to right:* Lilian Williams, Richard Owen, Sylvia MacGillivray (sadly only a back view), Paul Cook and Chrys Fielding

## 4 Sig Group, B.F.P.O. 40

Colonel Derek Briggs, Commander 4 Signal Group, with the Commanding Officers of 16 and 21 Signal Regiments and the staff of Headquarters 4 Signal Group

ALTHOUGH 4 Signal Group is now well known within BAOR it is comparatively little known to those who have not served recently in Germany. The aim of these notes therefore is to fill this gap and to give readers some details of our history, role and composition.

### FORMATION

4 Signal Group was formed on 1st October, 1969, when the former CAFSO Headquarters extended its role to include the responsibility for all permanent military communications in BFG and took 16 Signal Regiment under its direct command. **Colonel Johnny Clinch,** the former CAFSO, obtained accommodation for his new Headquarters in half of the ground floor of Block 13, in the JHQ compound at Rheindahlen. Within a few weeks the Headquarters element of the former Telecommunications Group BAOR moved into the Block, and became fully integrated into 4 Signal Group. Since that time various other sections have moved in to join the Headquarters including Signals Finance and BAOR Directories Section and a special 4 Signal Group Projects Planning Team has been established. As a consequence we have, for some time, occupied the whole of Block 13, and indeed we are already overflowing into the adjacent Telephone House.

### TECHNICAL ADVANCES

The forming of 4 Signal Group coincided with the introduction of the BAOR Permanent Radio Relay System (STARRNET) and the transfer of communication responsibilities between the RAF and Army under RISTACOMM. Since its inception STARRNET has been an unqualified success and a number of projects have been introduced to exploit the full potentialities of the system At the present time STARRNET Phases 4, 5, 6 and 7 are under way and additional Phases up to STARRNET 13 are being considered. Another major project in hand is the renewal and modernisation of the BFG Telephone system. A renewal programme known as RETEX, which will eventually provide automatic subscriber trunk dialling throughout BFG is now well under way and is due for completion before the end of the decade. Apart from RETEX, a lot of thought and work has been put in to raising the standard of the military telephone service and old Germany hands returning after a tour elsewhere will be pleasantly surprised at the substantial improvements made over the past few years A further major improvement is planned for January 1974 when trunk subscriber dialling is to be introduced between HQ BAOR, and Bielefeld and its satellites.

### A HAPPY INTEGRATION

The establishment of 4 Signal Group has been reviewed and increased several times since 1969 but, owing to delays in recruiting, the civilian telecommunications element has been seriously under strength for most of the period. However, the past year has seen a marked improvement in this respect and we are now almost up to establishment. We have been pleased to welcome, in our recent intake, four ex-members of the Corps, **Terry Fountain, Arthur Potts, Bob Seaton** and **Roy Storer,** all of whom were selected by a Civil Service Board in an open competition for the posts. Our latest establishment provides for a total of 42 UK-based telecommunications engineers in the Group and we anticipate a further four appointments to cover the STARRNET expansion now under way.

We believe that 4 Signal Group is unique in respect of the complete integration we have achieved between our military and civilian staff. The former "Telecommunications Group BAOR" has merged into 4 Signal Group and the detachments at Bielefeld, Dusseldorf and Hanover are now designated Area Telecommunications Offices, 4 Signal Group.

### OLD STAGERS AND RETIRED OFFICERS

Despite the reorganisation most of the old-stagers are still with us. **Mr. Harry Smith** fills the post of Chief Telecommunications Officer BFG, and **Mr. Jack Cavill** is the Senior P and T Officer Berlin. **Messrs. Ronnie Williams** and **Vernon Whitchurch** fill the two Senior Telecommunications Officers appointments at Group Headquarters and **Messrs. Frere Wallond, Harry McKeown** and **Eric Dobson** are the STO's in the Area Offices at Dusseldorf, Bielefeld and Hanover. We had a sad loss in May of last year when **Mr. Derek Holland,** a member of the STARRNET Control Staff at Rheindahlen died suddenly. In his earlier days **Mr. Holland** served with the Corps and more recently was employed as a civilian technician with Comcan. On the military side we recently welcomed **Colonel Derek Briggs** as our new Group Commander. We were sorry to lose **Colonel John Akass** after only one year in the appointment and we wish him every success in his new appointment as Brigadier, Procurement Executive, in the Ministry of Defence.

The Group is well-served by a devoted band of retired officers who, after distinguished careers in the Corps, have continued to give us the benefits of their experience. These include **Bill Oates, Norman Cowley** and **Eric Buirski** in the area offices, **Bill Connett** with the SWS Troop at Sennelager and **Henry Chapman, Bryn Parsonage, Jimmy Dale** and **Jean Frame** (late WRAC) at Rheindahlen. **Jimmy Dale** has revolutionised the work of the Directory Section and **Henry Chapman** continues to distinguish himself as an outstanding tennis and squash player. **Sergeant Ian Dudding** and **Corporal Ian Anderson** play regularly in the Garrison soccer team and **Corporal Fred Chapman** continues to do sterling work running the Rheindahlen Youth Club.

An auspicious arrival over the past few months was that of **Alexander James Armstrong,** born on 30th August. Our heartiest congratulations to **Major Dickie Armstrong,** our SO2 Plans, and **Mrs. Carole Armstrong.** Many readers will remember **Mrs. Armstrong,** before her marriage in 1970, as **Captain Carole Merrit,** WRAC, of 16 Signal Regiment.

### WORTHWHILE TASKS

It is now just over four years since 4 Signal Group was formed. Each year has shown an increase in our responsibilities and in the standard of the communications we provide for BAOR and RAFG. There are, these days, so many worthwhile tasks we undertake that we often wonder how the British Forces in Germany ever managed to get along without us!

## News from Regiments

### 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
### B.F.P.O. 32

### ARRIVAL OF NEW GOC: MAJOR-GENERAL J. W. STANIER, M.B.E.

OUR new GOC arrived officially at Sheil Barracks on the 5th November and first impression of the Regiment was gained when he inspected the Quarter Guard. The guard, under the command of **Staff Sergeant John Kirkman,** we think created the right impression as the accompanying photograph shows. The GOC is seen talking to **Signalman Frank McAleer** of 2 Squadron. Since his arrival at the Headquarters the General has visited the Regiment and we have explained to him what we can do under all circumstances. We now have to prove that statement and fact are one and the same thing!

### EXERCISE 'BELLENDE MEUTE' (EXERCISE 'BARKING PACK')

This exercise achieved two first in one go as it was the first time in many years we had been on exercise in late November and it was the first time for us all that we had exercised with the 1 German Division.

The object of the exercise was to practice liaison, and judging by the number of German Officers and Senior NCO's in the Headquarters this was certainly achieved. There is no doubt that many valuable lessons were learned both by the British and the Germans and I think we all now have a very healthy respect for our opposite numbers in 1 (GE) Division. The weather on this exercise was extremely wintery with snow, ice and temperatures of −20°C recorded at the Headquarters and according to the Comcentres it was even colder—but it is always colder or hotter or more windy at the Comcentres!

1 Squadron reported it was so cold that **Signalman Kenneth Manning** only took two hours to find his vehicle when he was relieved from his Guard duties—it is good to know he is getting quicker. **Signalman Ivan Rowlands,** having been effected by the cold tried again to stand up under a four ton vehicle. He failed again but it is good to know he hasn't lost interest!

NEW G.O.C VISITS
The G.O.C., Major-General J. W. Stanier, M.B.E., inspects the Quarter Guard

### GUY FAWKES CELEBRATIONS

The task of providing a suitable bonfire and guy fell this year to 2 Squadron. Despite the appalling weather conditions the celebrations were enjoyed by all the British and German spectators—the Germans still don't understand the British love for bonfires and fireworks.

The hot punch proved more than popular. **Lieutenant Brian Abbiss** and **Staff Sergeant Eddie Davies** can now rest on their laurels and we have to report that there is no truth in the rumour that **Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay** was the Guy—though come to think of it he hasn't been seen around 2 Squadron lately!

### PAGE TROPHY COMPETITIONS

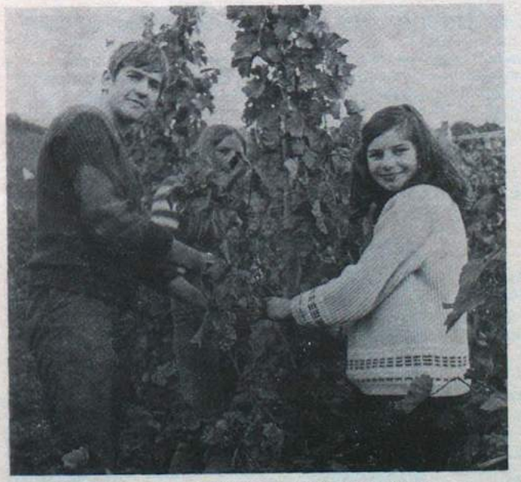
These are going well now for the winter season and most afternoons sees Troop and Squadron teams battling out for honours at soccer, hockey, basketball and cross-country running.

### PHASE 3 DEFEATED

It is with regret that we have ignored the present wage freeze in the case of **Lance-Corporal Bernie Barton-Ancliffe.** A one time lineman he has just qualified as a TE Technician and thus gained a weekly increase of £10 per week! That can't be bad.

### LITTLE OLD WINE DRINKER ME (WITH APOLOGIES TO DEAN MARTIN)

This year a party of 20 soldiers from 1 Squadron departed in September for the Mosel Grape Harvest. They get paid four pounds a day as well as getting free board and lodging and of course the chance to drink some of the finest Mosel Wines. The soldiers under the able command of **Sergeant Rob Townsend** certainly enjoyed themselves as we hope the photographs indicate.



GRAPE HARVESTING HAS IT'S MOMENTS
Signalman Mike Scott of 1 Squadron in good company

### ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome our new Second-in-Command **Major Peter Gregory** and his wife **Pat.**

### FAREWELL

It is regretted we say farewell to **Captain Jack Simpson** and his wife **Ada,** Hong Kong's gain is our loss.

### WANTED

From any source, a good supply of white camouflage nets.

### 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
### B.F.P.O. 46

### FFR

NOVEMBER seems to have been a remarkably full month, and even more hectic than usual. This could possibly have had something to do with the fact that the dreaded FFR season was approaching, to reach its peak for the Regiment on the 21st. For days and days and weeks beforehand, the soldiers scrubbed and polished and mended and sewed, the officers exhorted and coerced and occasionally swore and the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis** pre-inspected and re-pre-inspected until a result nearly approaching his high standards was reached.

The day was fine with an optimistic sun shining down, and the GOC, **Major-General A. J. Archer** started his FFR inspection at Headquarter Squadron with a parade, march-past, and inspection before travelling to Birdwood Barracks and an inspection of the Quarter Guard. Meanwhile, the DAAG, **Major Dick Smart,** and the DAA and QMG, **Major Peter Buckley** were moving around Lubbecke and Bunde at their own (separate) paces and carried out their inspections of Regimental administration and Stores /account keeping respectively. So, altogether three different parties were being escorted around the Regiment, coming together briefly for lunch and tea, with the occasional brief encounter in between times.

The final report is yet to come to us but we hope it will not be too adverse. A deal of effort was put into the preparations by everybody, and 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment can commend itself with every justification for effort.

### VISIT OF SO-IN-C MAJOR-GENERAL SAWERS

Well the FFR was on Wednesday. On Thursday the Regiment recovered from the previous day with an Officers' training day. The Regiment was left in the more than capable hands of the Warrant Officers' while the Officers were 'entertained' by a lecture on NBC Warfare from **Lieutenant Richard Skaife,** on the use of the pistol by **Captain Derek McLean,** on drugs by **Major Peter Saunders** (DADAH from the Divisional Headquarters) and on the Battle of Dien Bien Phu from **Major David Miller.** Friday saw the resumption of more activity, with a rehearsal and preparations for the visit of **Major-General Sawers.**

All seemed well, until the day of the visit dawned—in whirling snow and sheet ice, the first day of winter. Since the General was staying in Lubbecke with GOC 2 Division, some considerable anxiety was felt in case hazardous road conditions should delay or prevent the SO-in-C's arrival. However, although it took the Assistant Adjutant two hours to make the 20 minute journey across the ridge, the SO-in-C, by dint of a short cut and a good sense of direction, arrived with the Regiment in good time.

It was a rushed visit, unfortunately, with hardly enough time to fit everything in, but a varied mixture of activities was examined by **General Max** with apparent enjoyment, despite the cold and soggy weather. Like the GOC the previous week, he inspected and commended the Quarter Guard, and then went on to visit 1 Squadron, and saw their internal security training, including a riot. Two Squadron was the next area to be visited, carrying out Battle PT training, before the General and his escorting party thankfully took themselves to the Officers' Mess for a welcome cup of coffee, and to meet other (damp) officers of the Regiment. Through the courtesy of the RAF in lending two Wessex helicopters and two pilots, 3 Squadron demonstrated helicopter training on the sports field before the party visited the TM Troop, the Corporals' Club, and the Sergeants' Mess.

(*Continued on page* 17)

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(*Continued from page* 15)

In the afternoon **General Max** watched a soccer match before leaving for Lubbecke, to present the LS and GC Medal to **Staff Sergeant Hudson** in the Sergeants' Mess, and then on to Tax House and a meeting with the GOC. **Mrs. Sawers,** meanwhile, had quite an active day visiting the Lubbecke Flower Club, and spending some time with the Bunde Wives' Club.

It was a great pleasure to have **General Sawers** and his wife with us, and we are sorry that their visit had to be so fleeting. They are always welcome to the Regiment, and we hope it will not be too long before they come again.

## 1 SQUADRON

### ARRIVALS

We welcome with sympathy new arrivals to the Squadron, and hope their stay will be a pleasant one—**Sergeant 'Moss' Walker, Sergeant 'Jock' Dowie, Corporal Charlie Gemmell, Corporal Paul Barker, Corporal John Bakker, Lance-Corporal Alan Bruce, Signalmen Simon Richards, Mick Dunn, Ken Cooper, Jeremy Walters, Pete Holmes, Ken Ede, 'Stu' Mylrea** and **Staff Sergeant Alex Nicoll** who has moved from the oil and dirt of the generators bay to be SQMS of the Squadron.

### DEPARTURES

To those who are departing for better or worse, we wish good luck and goodbye—**Staff Sergeant Jack Blackburn** who goes to the TA in Liverpool, to **Staff Sergeant Doug Stewart** who goes to 8 Signal Regiment, to **Sergeant Sid Rumble** now at 240 Signal Squadron (for employment at Stenigot) to **Sergeant Dave Mallorie** who is with 259 Signal Squadron (after a static RR Course at 8 Signals), to **Corporal Tom Barton,** going to 8 Signals on a course, to **Corporal 'Mac' McSherry** who goes to emulate his OC, **Major Barrie Burke** with the White Helmets, to **Captain Barry Rowe** at Blandford, and to **Staff Sergeant 'Big T' Thurley** now with the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate.

### HATCH, MATCH AND DESPATCH

Congratulations are warmly offered to **Lance-Corporal Bruce** and his wife **Lyn** on their marriage and to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Godfroy** on the birth of their daughter **Lisa Helen** on 14th November 1973 at BMH Rinteln. We are pleased to say—no despatch to report.

### CASUALTIES

Since midsummer 1 Squadron has cheerfully contrived to occupy the time and hands of the Staff at BMH Rinteln. **S.S.M. 'FTP' Atkins** managed to break his ankle while Station Orderly Officer, and even though the accident occurred in June, is still a constant visitor to BMH. **Staff Sergeant 'Kell Shrink' Thurley** and **Staff Sergeant Dave Elcox** spent some time in hospital, the one for an operation on head, back and toe, and the other with pneumonia; both were on sick leave when the car in which they were travelling was squashed back and front by two German lorries from which **Staff Sergeant Elcox** suffered one broken ankle, cuts, and some lost teeth, and **Staff Sergeant Thurley** a broken back. Meanwhile, **Staff Sergeant Alex Nicoll, Signalmen Alan Cornes** and **Ken Ede** monopolised a few more sick beds with damaged knees. The OC **Major Barrie Burke** (as retentive WIRE readers will remember) burnt himself badly facially and manually at the Kohima Fete by going through the Hoop of Fire on a motor cycle. Last but not least—we must not forget **Sergeant Tom Hayden,** who has been on light duties for several months—with gout!

### SQUADRON BAR

The Squadron Bar has recently been redecorated, and an excellent job has been done by **Corporal 'Fat' Macallister. Signalman Matt McGregor** and **Signalman Dave Morgan.** Its subsequent popularity proves the success of the redecoration.

### FASHION SHOW

On Friday, 2nd November our Wives' Club ran a Fashion Display, ably organised by **Maureen Crawford.** It was one of the best attended events of the year, with at least a hundred ladies present—including a brave contingent from HQ Squadron at Lubbecke—and a handful of even braver husbands, and—dare we say it?—four bachelors.

Compere for the show was **Rosemary Breese** who gave an excellent commentary on the dresses and the models, even when the dresses somehow got out-of-step with the script . . . "And now we see **Yvonne** in a full-length evening—oops! a short cocktail dress!". Among the courageous girls who demonstrated the dresses were **Mary-Rose Frith, Pat Burke,** and the Superintending Clerk's twin daughters **Diane** and **Monique Izzo. Yvonne McPhail** not only modelled but also persuaded her husband to demonstrate male fashions as well. **Babs O'Rourke** wore the real show-stopper; the Colonel was rendered speechless—well, almost!

It must have been a good display as over DM 2,000 was spent on buying the dresses after the show—that will teach those missing husbands to turn up next time. All in all, a most enjoyable evening and we are most grateful to the organisers and (especially) to the girls who took part. We hope that the 50 soldiers who stood in the cold looking in through the windows will come inside next time.

### A SAD LOSS

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of **Chief Superintendent Danilo Savic, M.B.E.** of the MSO who died suddenly on the night of the 4th December. From GOC down to Signalman, **'Danny'** as he was affectionately known, impressed all by the warmth of his 'Slav' personality and by his obvious enjoyment of life.

An expatriate Yugoslav and ex-German prisoner-of-war, he served the Regiment for more than 20 years and was made an MBE for his services. Many officers who have served with the Regiment have benefited from the use of his persuasive charm in overcoming difficulties presented by reluctant landowners.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family in Dusseldorf.

## 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford

THE 14th December looms up and 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment are going to miss the Editor's deadline again. No not this time!

There haven't been many moments to spare since the new regime took over the reins—six exercises in half as many months, two of them on German soil. Let us hasten to add that relationships with NAAFI in Germany and HM Customs and Excise in UK are very platonic indeed!

Chronologically we enjoyed two Regimental Exercises on the plain. On one of them Comcen Whisky was evicted by an AD Land Agent because **Major Gordon Mills'** empire was just the wrong side of a red line on a particular overprinted edition of the local map. **Yeoman Henry Higgins** assured the Second-in-Command that this moving of the Comcen was all good stuff and only the 'loo' (**Henry** used a more expressive name at the time) was left behind. As a late breakfast at the new location was ordered the loss was not of paramount importance.

These Regimental exercises warmed us up for the Autumn Division CPX during which we pirouetted around Yorkshire and South Durham. This exercise was appropriately named Swan Lake'. The two day overture was conducted by the CSO and was Staffless. Then they finally arrived and the curtain went up. They happily decided to omit Act II and this really had the Recce Officer, **Major Bernard Strange,** and **Captain Mike Andersons'** Step Up element working overtime.

This proved a somewhat satisfying exercise despite continued stretching of the communications which did not break. We must say, however, how grateful we were for the manpower and equipment assistance loaned to us by a number of Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps to replace those of us that have been operationally committed.

### CLEVER MOD FINANCIERS

Perhaps the most talked about exercise of recent months was Exercise 'Broadband'. Two parties sailed from Harwich to Hamburg to prepare Schlesvig Holstein for the main onslaught by LSL half way up the Kiel Canal. The days for these three crossings of the North Sea were obviously selected by very clever MOD financiers as the outlay on food was minimal. Some of the more resilient members of the Regiment were seen to leave quietly for their cabins after only the second mouthful of beer!

Now **Q Jim Pollard** may have been a party to the selection of these crossing dates, as his compo was voted sufficiently

appetising to get **Corporals Crone, 'Mac' McManus** and **Signalman Douglas** away from the Radcon library for early meals.

We hope 'the professionals' impressed our many visitors on the exercise and we were particularly pleased that our GOC, **Major-General Worsley,** and the CSO UKLF, **Brigadier Clarkson,** were able to find the time to join us for a few hours.

Local Supermarkets considered rationing Quells, Sea legs and other aids to North Sea travel prior to the return trip. However, all was well and very flat crossings were enjoyed by all returning. The male 'stripper' on the civilian ferry was not a member of the Regiment (or 19 Brigade Squadron for that matter). What was true was that the disc jockey refused to play 'Roll over Beethoven' for **Second-Lieutenant Tym Brynning** and **Corporal George Slatter** who had unhappily rolled a land rover that morning but happily without a scratch to themselves.

### THE HOCKEY ELEVEN MEET THEIR MATCH

All this work and sport too. The normal winter games are well under way. Unfortunately the hockey XI met their match in the first round of the Army Cup and made a gallant exit after a long tiring first round game against 1 Royal Scots. At the end of extra time our trainer, **Q Tony O'Neill,** was in no doubts that the opponents were fitter and subsequent training sessions have been less enthusiastically attended!

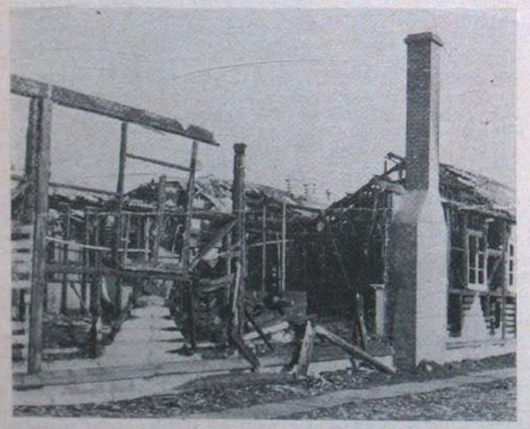
The soccer teams, all three of them, have been involved in some high scoring games both in our favour and otherwise. **Corporal Bob Cunnion** and **Lance-Corporal Brian Emery** have both earned Divisional honours and will shortly face the Corps team at Catterick. **Lance-Corporal Harry Meekin** has been a stalwart mid-field man but just missed representative selection. The LAD Team presses on in the Craftsman's Cup Competition the last round being a good 5–3 win over their School of Artillery counterparts.

The rugger team show plenty of promise and are confident in beating an equally confident 27 Regiment RCT side in the next cup round. **Sergeant Tony Bannell's** weight and experience and **Lieutenant Jim Shaw's** length over-all should give us certain advantages in the scrum.

Did we see sailing and canoeing on Part 1 Orders in November? Yes indeed—**Lieutenant Peter Whitwham** is taking his Officer-in-Command Sailing duties a trifle seriously and arranged winter matches. We won against an RAOC team at Bicester in fireflys recently (in spite of the CO and Second-in-Command missing the first race!). They said that it was to let the Sailing Officer win the first race (which he did) as they knew he would be no higher than second in the next one—which he wasn't.

**Corporal John Smith** has been chasing up canoeists and indeed practical training has taken place—in the heated Garrison pool—the fuel crisis is making this less attractive but they haven't had to break the ice yet.

### THE MISERABLE LITTLE HUT (See next column)



The morning after the night before. The remains of the MLH

Although current for a few WIRE readers, the news of the Officers' Mess fire travelled fast it seems. About a year ago the Mess building at Carter Barracks was described in THE WIRE as the MLH (Miserable Little Hut) and indeed those initials were imprinted above the bar. However, in the early hours of the day of the Royal wedding it was completely destroyed. Although a number of irreplaceable 3 Division trophies are sadly lost forever the entire collection of Mess Silver was rescued. MLH is now missed and sadness and depression hangs over and around it.

The Regimental Officers' have taken two Officers Married Quarters as a Mess and the Divisional Staff (mostly living out, of course) have been catered for by other Garrison Messes. We hope that the Beacon Mess renovation will be accelerated so that this disintegrated way of life can soon be re-integrated.

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

THIS month our 1 Squadron scribe has been persuaded to get out the wet towels and produce his impressions of the autumn exercise as seen from the rarified heights of a divisional Comcen.

### EXERCISE 'FOREFRONT' IN COMCEN HOTEL

Our first forested site would have been very pleasant if the weather had co-operated, but 24 hours of continuous rain not only dampened our enthusiasm somewhat, but also robbed us of the access road to the site. Consequently we had to employ a full time road building gang under the expert verbal guidance of **Staff Sergeant Dehdashty** (he does have a hard working voice). **Signalmen Paul Brett** and **Noel Reid** were very relieved when the rain stopped and road building came to an end (they thought). Next day, with the ground rock hard (well almost), **Second-Lieutenant Martin Strong** ordered the gang to work again. Let it not be said that the later appearance of the Adjutant had any connection with this activity . . . ?!

In keeping with the best traditions of the combat powermen **Signalman Harry Marshall** took great care to camouflage his generator, even to the extent of the fan blades, but was much surprised when the generator produced enough smoke to camouflage the entire Comcen. Having witnessed this impressive performance, **Signalman Mick Charles** decided to join the club and produced a worthy encore on the following day!

We have always known that the loneliness of the distant hill-top has its effect on our radio relay detachments, but never before have we recorded an attempt to desert the Army and join the Senior Service. The un-named deserters **(Lance-Corporal Dick 'Horatio' Jarvis** and **Signalman Bill 'Christian' Brown)** opted for the submarine branch, but **'Admiral' Jarvis** forgot one minor detail—he doesn't really possess a submarine.

The scene is set between Tundern and Ohr and ADAC the highly efficient German motoring organisation have since confirmed that there is no road bridge over the river Weser between these two towns. Our heroes cruise into view in a thick fog, with visibility down to 25 metres, or 12 fathoms in nautical terms. Their sub, a four ton Bedford, is doing five knots down a slight gradient and the crew are keeping an alert look-out for enemy aircraft or the odd convoy. Suddenly they notice that there is water washing around the gunwales of the cab. It seems that at this stage the **'Admiral'** and his First Mate **'Christian' Brown** get cold feet (literally) and decide to use the Davis escape apparatus (the cupola to the uninitiated). So before you can say "Avast ye swabs" the Admiral and crew have abandoned ship. Fortunately rescue is at hand in the shape of a naval tug—cleverly disguised as an AEC recovery vehicle. After a pause for mirth (25 minutes uncontrollable laughter) her skipper rescues their vehicle which has sustained only slight damage.

Our story has a happy ending because **'Admiral' Jarvis** has been given permission to paint a submarine on his wagon and **'Christian' Brown** did not have to walk the plank after all—he got married instead.

### CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 26th November after two and a half years in Command of the Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Burrows** handed over the reins to his successor. Two days later on Wednesday,

A FOND FAREWELL

The departing C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel John Burrows is towed away in somewhat chilly style. *Left to right:* Major Freddie Hodges, RH; Major Mike Simms-Reeve; Captain Maurice Taylor, LI; Lieutenant Ron Meyer; Lieutenant Bill Hough; Lieutenant Steve Galpin; Lieutenant Alan Wallace; Major Keith Powell

28th November he was back in his old office 'masquerading' as CO for the visit of the Master General of Ordnance, **General Sir Noel Thomas,** whilst the new CO was attending the CSO BAOR annual conference! The following morning he really did go, but not before he had unveiled a sign naming 3 Squadron block as 'Burrows Block'. Finally he was ceremonially towed out of the barracks seated on the back of a Ferret. All ranks of the Regiment wish him well in his new appointment in MOD.

We now say welcome to our new CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Westlake** and his wife **Georgina** and their family, and hope that they will enjoy their tour with us in Herford.

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

### FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OF CCR SIGNALS

THE 'Rest' exercise held in the barracks on Friday, 5th October had a somewhat special significance, in that it was the day chosen for **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.** to visit the Regiment, for the first time as CCR Signals. Only two short years ago he was the Commanding Officer. The Regiment was deployed within Maresfield Barracks, and set-up as a working demonstration so that **Brigadier Birtwistle** could walk round, and meet members of the Regiment in the places where they would work in the course of an exercise. Although many new faces had appeared, the Brigadier was able to speak to quite a lot of people who had served under him the last time he was in Herford. Besides seeing the Regiment's operational vehicles deployed **Brigadier Birtwistle** visited all other departments and also found time to visit both the Officers and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, although unfortunately the latter is still occupying temporary accommodation.

### VISIT OF THE CORPS COMMANDER

On the 16th October **Lieutenant-General Sir Roland Gibbs, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Commander 1st British Corps paid a visit to the Regiment. On several occasions he has seen elements of the Regiment on exercise but his visit to Herford provided the first opportunity of seeing where we sometimes live.

The weather was particularly unkind but was unable to remove the shine of the performance put on by the quarter guard under the command of **Staff Sergeant Gray.** A brief visit to RHQ to meet the Operations Office and RHQ Staffs, was followed by an explanation in the gymnasium from **Q.M.S.I. Seddon** as to the way in which he tries to keep everyone fit—the word 'circuits' was mentioned once or twice but entirely in the wrong context.

Visit of the new CCR Signals, Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E. Lieutenant M. J. Dunmall, B.E.M. Royal Signals, W.O.I (F. of S.) R. McKay, 3 Squadron

At the Technical Workshops the Commander was called upon to make presentations of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Corporal Roy Bilby** and **Corporal Ray Pritchard** who wasted no time in celebrating the occasion with a glass of champagne. The tour ended with a visit to 6 Squadron who provide the Covering Force Headquarters communications. This was then followed by drinks in the Sergeants' Mess and luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

### PAGE TROPHY COMPETITION

Recently the Regiment has been very much involved in the Page Trophy Competition. This Competition is run throughout the year to determine the champion squadron of the Regiment, and it covers most of the sports in which the Regiment participates.

The orienteering competition was run over ground which is no doubt familiar to anyone who has served in Herford, namely the Bismarck Ridge, just to the north of Camp. The course was approximately nine kilometres long and because of the open nature of the woods and the preponderance of tracks it favoured the runners' rather than the 'map readers'. Of the 60 competitors taking part, 49 managed to complete the course without missing any controls and the individual winner was **Lance-Corporal McLeod** of 2 Squadron. The winning team was 3 Squadron with a total time of 8 hours 15 minutes 20 seconds, followed by 2 Squadron in a time of 9 hours 4 minutes 45 seconds.

The day following the orienteering was devoted to the Cross-Country Competition, and it was interesting to note how many of the squadron teams were composed of the people who had competed in the Orienteering. The course was approximately 4½ miles long and was once again run on the tracks and roads of the Bismarck Ridge. Although the beginning of the course was up hill for about a quarter of a mile the leading runners got away to a fast start and it wasn't long before the eventual winner, **Lance-Corporal Ray Bettson** of 3 Squadron, was leading. He finished in a time of 22 minutes, 40 seconds, closely followed by **Corporal Phil Restan** of 2 Squadron and **Lieutenant Mark Riley** of 1 Squadron.

Two weeks later a further two events of the Page Trophy Competition were held, the 7-a-side Football and the Potted Sports. Both events were organised on a one-day event tournament basis and once again 3 Squadron established their supremacy by winning both events. It is rumoured that some new method of training has been introduced from Australia by **Major B. G. Le Dan,** Royal Australian Signals.

### 3 SQUADRON

OC .. .. **Major O. I. Richards,** Royal Australian Signals
Second-in-Command .. **Captain J. D. Daglish,** Royal Signals
OC 1 Troop .. **Lieutenant M. J. Dunmall,** Royal Signals
OC 2 Troop .. **Second-Lieutenant C. P. Ryan'** Royal Signals
SSM .. .. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) F. E. Worrall**
SQMS .. **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) R. While**

#### THE PASSING OF A WILD COLONIAL BOY

As can be seen from the Squadron Staff List, 3 Squadron is the Australian Squadron of the Regiment. **Major Owen Richards** has in fact only just joined the Squadron, having flown straight from an Australian summer into a real Westphalian winter. He has probably seen more snow in his first two weeks in Herford than many BAOR old-hands have seen in the past five years.

**Major Richards** has moved into the chair just vacated by **Major Brian Le Dan** also of the Royal Australian Signals, who is returning down under to be reindoctrinated in the ways of the Australian Army by spending two years at the Australian Staff College in Queenscliff, Victoria. **Major Le Dan** will be remembered by many past members of 7 Signal Regiment, all of whom will be glad to hear that he was given numerous and splendid send-offs from various parts of the Regiment.

The first farewell party was held way back in June when at the usual 3 Squadron End-of-Exercise Curry Party he said goodbye to all the Headquarters 1st British Corps Senior NCO's who joined the squadron for Exercise 'Summer Sales'. Then followed a period of 'comparative' quiet until November when the Officers and Senior NCOs and their ladies held a farewell dinner party for the departing Squadron Commander. After dinner **Major Le Dan** was presented with a 'Jimmy' and **Mrs. Pauline Le Dan** with an engraved salver. Speeches were made and toasts were drunk and then in the small hours **Major** and **Mrs. Le Dan** were sent home under an archway of boomerangs to the strains of 'Waltzing Matilda'.

The venue of the next party was the Officers' Mess where the Officers of the Regiment made their official farewells. Once again speeches were made and toasts were drunk, but this time it was **Major Le Dan's** turn to make a presentation, and two fine prints now hang in the Officers' Mess (not to mention some Aussie footprints on the ceiling of the bar—did he feel better that way up?).

The final and perhaps the most notable farewell came from the soldiers of 3 Squadron who gathered together on the 26th November for their combined Christmas and Farewell Dinner Dance. Although the sequence of events with the dining, drinking, dancing, speeches and toasts must have been much the same as at any other farewell party, the gaiety and enthusiasm with which everyone launched into previously unheard of Australian Fold songs was unparalleled and will probably never be repeated.

We would like to wish **Major Brian** and **Mrs. Pauline Le Dan** 'Bon Voyage', and we welcome to the Squadron **Major Owen** and **Mrs. Sandra Richards.**

#### FFR INSPECTION

I suppose one could say that 'IT' happens to every unit once a year, and is therefore not really worthy of any lengthy comment. However, at 9 o'clock in the morning on the 20th November we were only just in the process of finding out what 'IT' was going to entail. Within minutes of the completion of the briefing, Squadron Commanders could be seen doubling in all directions to direct their Squadrons to their alloted tasks. Headquarters Squadron spent most of the day sending teams over the assault course to meet challenges from the other Squadrons for the record time. 1 Squadron donned their webbing and weapons and did the normal Battle Efficiency Test. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Squadrons all deployed either within the camp area or in the local area and set up communications for a special exercise, named Exercise 'Flash Pack', which had been designed specifically to test our fitness for role. During the course of the day the CCR Signals, **Brigadier A C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.,** and his staff visited all parts of the Regiment and spoke to a great many members of the Regiment about their work. As darkness was falling and cables were being reeled-in the Brigadier expressed his pleasure with the standards set by the Regiment, and honour was satisfied.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## 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

#### COMINGS AND GOINGS

MAJOR **'Dicky' Bird** our sailor in signaller's clothing, is about to weigh his anchor for the last time and set sail for SHAPE.

**Lieutenant Tom Cran** has arrived to augment our Corps of Adjutants, which has sunk to the unusually low level of three.

**Second-Lieutenant 'Fifi' Richards** has taken over, with her usual cheerful charm, the task of organising the White Helmets, in place of **Second-Lieutenant Wendy Hall,** posted to WRAC recruit training, with strict instructions to send none but the best to us for trade training.

**Lieutenant Derek Rutherford** has arrived in Schemes Group, although from the twinkle in his eye no one is quite certain what sort of schemes he has in mind.

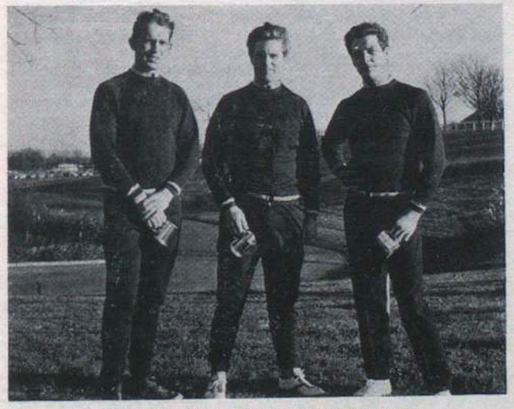
#### HAPPENINGS

The Regiment had the honour of presenting a pageant of military signalling as part of the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall. Many members of the Corps will have seen the TV excerpts, but these did not do justice to a wonderful display of signalling from Julius Caesar to the Satellite, including the Armada, Waterloo, the Crimea, both World Wars, Korea, Pakistan, Amman and Cyprus.

A squadron of Old Comrades led the Catterick Garrison march-past after the church service on Remembrance Day, and set their usual fine example to the six squadrons of Royal Signals recruits and trainees. The salute was taken by **Brigadier Jimmy Hellier,** who afterwards had a drink with the Old Comrades, thus dispelling any unfounded rumours that he is a strict tee-totaller.

#### SPORT

The Regiment's 'A' team were winners in the North East District Triathlon on 15th October. **Major Ashley Barker** was second in shooting, **Lance-Corporal King** second in swimming, **Corporal Probin** first in running, **Sergeant Dave Welch** second in running and second overall. See photograph of winning team.



WINNERS OF N.E. DISTRICT TRIATHLON
*Left to right:* Sergeant Welch, Major Barker, Lance-Corporal King

The Regiment's sailing team were runners-up in the Army Sailing Championship.

Two teams, consisting of **Foreman Payne** with **Signalman Verrall,** took part in the two-man two-day mountain marathon in Snowdonia on 13th and 14th October. They set off, equipped with special light weight tents, stores, and other camping equipment, and provisioned by the Catering Officer with delicious stocks of raisins, chocolate, condensed milk and Kendal mint cake. They came back with hair-raising tales of marching by compass through the mountain mist, camping in a violent gale and lashing rain at nearly two thousand feet above sea level, falls and fatigue, but surprisingly enough seem to have enjoyed the enterprise. Both teams completed the arduous 35 mile course, in fact, although the results are not yet confirmed, we believe our junior team were quite well up the list, and defeated the SAS and Commando teams.

Moving from the mountain tops to the other extreme, we are forming a sub-aqua club, with **Captain Keith Danby** in charge, and regular training evenings in the swimming bath in the Sandes Soldiers Home. We have not yet obtain a satisfactory explanation of how one young WRAC officer lost her swim-suit during one of these training sessions!

The hardships and privations suffered at present by the population of UK rest lightly upon the inhabitants of Catterick, whose life is always grim and hard, and on 28th November the inter-squadron cross-country race was run in deep snow, with a blizzard blowing. 3 Squadron were winners, and **Corporal Roisseter** won the individual trophy.

#### POTHOLING

Potholing is becoming increasingly popular in 8 Signal Regiment. This is not surprising as Catterick is surrounded by areas containing many of the finest caves and potholes in the country. One of the more recent expeditions was to a pothole system aptly named 'Crackpot'.

Crackpot is an old favourite and on previous visits we had discovered that there were at least two different systems in close proximity to each other. The entrances were set in the side of a hill about 20 metres apart. Local information seemed to confirm our suspicions that the systems were connected.

The first entrance led, after a very tight squeeze, into a large cavern. A number of small crawls led off from the cavern, but none of these appeared to go very far. We know the second entrance led to a much larger and more interesting system, so we decided to explore the second system. The main object being, to try and find a passage through to the first system.

The party was led by **Captain Mark Wilson** who, before he took us down, briefed us on the potential hazards, and checked our equipment and emergency rations. Leaving our driver, **Signalman Peter Waller,** to carry out the essential task of waiting for us on top, we entered the pothole.

**Captain Mark Wilson** led the way, followed by the rest of the party which included **Sergeant 'Geordie' Hennrie, Sergeant Jack Cavanagh, Signalman Nick Phillips,** and **Lieutenant Alan Jones.**

The entrance led into a short drop which we clambered down and then we entered a large horizontal tunnel which averaged about 1 metre in diameter. We crawled for about 30 metres over small rocks until we came to a fork. Each of us followed the boots of the man in front for another 40 metres, struggling through icy, muddy puddles about 6 inches deep. Soon we were all perspiring from the effort, and when we emerged into a small cavern the area was soon filled with steam from our bodies. The party were then able to walk upright from one large cavern to another, each fantastically decorated with stalactites and stalagmites. In one chamber a stalactite and stalagmite had joined to form an immense pillar, apparently supporting the roof.

Each small tunnel leading off from the main thoroughfare, was enthusiastically explored by **Sergeant 'Geordie' Hennrie** and **Signalman Nick Parker.** Eventually we came to a chamber waist deep in icy water. Wading in, with appropriate comments, we carefully stepped amongst the hidden rocks and boulders. The chamber came to a dead end here, but we found a length of string disappearing into a sump which was obviously secured at the far end. As we did not possess any wetsuits or other equipment for negotiating the sump progress was halted. This was quite possible a link with the other system.

Retracing our steps back through the system we double checked on the many other passages leading off the main one. When we finally emerged we found we had been underground for approximately two hours. We then decided to have another look at the first system. Unfortunately our gallant leader found he had put on some extra inches since our last visit and found himself firmly stuck in the entrance. After he was extricated, the rest of the group descended into the first cavern for interests sake and had a quick look around. Without our skilled leader it was dangerous to risk a long exploration so we left the first system and regrouped outside again.

After some discussion we agreed that there were two possibilities. Either the suspected link had been blocked by a rock fall, or the link was through the sump which we had not been able to explore. Our main objective had not been achieved, but a thoroughly enjoyable crawl had been had by all. If any readers know Crackpot and the link between the two we would be grateful if you could lighten our darkness!

## INTRODUCING MILITARY TRAINING GROUP

Military Training Group 8 Signal Regiment comprises three departments: Military Training headed by **Staff Sergeant Graham Leake,** Adventure Training Group controlled by **Staff Sergeant John Richards** and Physical Training under **Q.M.S.I. Norman Springall,** the whole Group under the command of **Captain John Ient.**

The Group Staff are a very closely knit community, performing a myriad of tasks in addition to their normal instructional duties—Old Comrades functions, Fellcat organisation and control, helicopter marshalling, control of North Hall conference room and regular range classifications to name but a few. Nevertheless despite these constant interruptions and despite the mysterious ways of the 'planners' who seem to spend their lives moving us from Vimy 'B' to Hut 33, (and back again?), we manage to survive and get on with the job in hand.

**Staff Sergeant ('Roll-me-own') Leake** is responsible for the administration and co-ordination of the three departments, a task he performs extremely efficiently despite his worried air and shredded nerves.

The leading light in the guns and grenades department is **Sergeant Pete ('ever 'ere') Tams** who spends countless hours stripping things and throwing blue grenades through imitation doors and windows, much to the delight of his captive audience of young trainees. His skill as a cartoonist and somewhat wry sense of humour frequently gets the better of him and we often find ourselves depicted in rather unflattering, but true, situations. His able assistant **Sergeant Jim ('Stumps') Willock** occasionally takes time off from the trials and tribulations of the cricket ptch to instruct with the Group and we must admit his throwing ability with the grenade owes much to his devotion to the game. We have heard that he is in line for his Corps Colours—well done **Jim!** As he also plays squash, rumour has it that **Sergeant Tams** has retaliated by requesting attachment to the next round-the-world yachting party so that he can get away on a 'swan' too!

**Sergeant Tony ('Prof') Cowan-Martin** is another NBC and weapon man, however, having tested the delights of the ski slopes he is now going for canoe instructor, no doubt attempting a subtle infiltration into Adventure Training Group so that he can emigrate to the Lake District with 'that other lot'.

**Q.M.S.I. Norman Springall** controls the muscle departments at Baghdad and Hipswell gymnasiums, modern as his methods are he has not yet been heard to use the word 'calesthenics'.—we wait with baited breath! **Sergeant Paul ('Brawn') Rousham** bounced round the place looking so darn fit the rest of us hide our fags in shame—we can spot his white pullover at almost two thousand yards. The PTI's, **Corporal Ron Hughes, Lance-Corporal Bob Oliver** and **Lance-Corporal Danny Daniels** take their work very seriously and pay no regard to suggestions that their training was completed at the Marquis de Sade academy.

Adventure Training Group acquired fame and/or notoriety through the remarkable efforts of **Sergeant 'Smudge' ('Mountain Man') Smith** who managed to live for over nine years in a small tent near Ullswater whilst running the Adventure Training side. To overcome any suggestion that he may have been something of a loner he shared his tent with two dogs, three ducks, a one-legged seagull and a tame goose—and the goose talked to him! We didn't lead him quietly away because he was obviously saner than most. A bit of a character nevertheless, **'Smudge'** has now left the army and is skipper of the Ullswater steamer. Many will remember him and we all wish him luck and good sailing in his new career.

**Staff Sergeant John ('Smoky') Richards** took over the Adventure Training Group last year and moved the site to Crook Farm and Wrostlers Barn Coniston, summer and winter sites respectively. As the goose was content at Ullswater, (he could only talk to **'Smudge'** anyway), and the ducks had come in very useful at Christmas, **Staff Sergeant Richards** had to look elsewhere for company and very shortly **Sergeant Les ('Pitons') Buckley** appeared on the scene. In no time at all the routes were put up and young soldiers were undergoing instruction in fell walking, rock climbing, skiing, canoeing, navigation and mountain safety. Shortly afterwards a permanent safety vehicle driver appeared in the portly form of **Sergeant 'Hutch' Hutchinson** who very quickly learned his way around the mountain roads to provide a first class back-up for the mountain parties. Having been induced to actually *walking* up one or two mountains **Sergeant Hutchinson** is rapidly developing a new 'slim line' image.

**Sergeant Buckley,** having recently completed his mountain leadership certificate, is taking his task very seriously and charges round the fells looking for damsels and stranded sheep—whether the damsels are in distress or not is irrelevant! He also takes out

TYPICAL OF THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES
A party of young soldiers after a paddle on Coniston Water

parties of trainees and introduces them to the rigours of mountain life. **Sergeant Hutchinson** going along when he can be prised out of his beloved land rover. However, he has to get out of it more frequently now as **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Carlton** has taken over the safety vehicle and is doing an excellent job.

**Staff Sergeant Geoff ('Hookie') Walker** turned up in September to take over from **Staff Sergeant Richards** and is now in the throes of ploughing round the Lake District learning the ground. As many of the RV points are strategically sited near some excellent pubs he is giving the task his undivided attention!

But what about the Boss, **Captain John ('Water Wings') Ient?** It must be admitted that he has our undying sympathy. Being in charge of such a motley group of individuals performing a wide range of tasks and operating over such a large area, it must be difficult to remember who is where and, more to the point, what the blighters are up to! Nevertheless he perseveres and manages to run an efficient nad happy group of greatly differing characters—a job that would be lost on many.

We would like to add a belated farewell to **Sergeant Bill Beade** who, although with the Group for only a short while, worked hard and very soon earned our respect. We wish him well at Larkhill. Congratulations to **Sergeant Hutchinson** on his recent promotion and welcome to our new PTI, **Lance-Corporal Chris King.**

Finally, let us not forget our civilian staff who form a very important part of our team. **Mr. Tommy Young** who runs the North Hall conference room with smooth efficiency and who is devoted to a long lasting cigarette feud with **Staff Sergeant Richards,** and **Mr. Len Lovell** who looks after us all very well in Hut 33, spicing his tea sessions with well directed sallies to remind us of our occasional failings Without these two worthy gentlemen our job would be very much harder and we greatly value their co-operation.

As a footnote let us thank **Staff Sergeant John ('Smokey') Richards** for his view of the Group and wish him and his family well on his retirement. Once again the Army's loss is someone's gain. Of course we can now be sure that the 'Fag' ration will go round. Good luck **John** and from the Group and Regiment, thanks.

**KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!**

SEE EDITORIAL PAGE



## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### VISIT OF H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT

ON Tuesday, 27th November 1973 4 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment was honoured with a visit by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant of the WRAC, as part of her visit to the WRAC Detachment of HQ UKLF.

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT WITH HER CORPS
*Left to right:* Captain B. Adcock, Colonel B. M. Metcalfe, The Duchess of Kent, Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith and Sergeant Jackson

H.R.H., accompanied throughout her visit by **Colonel B. M. Metcalfe,** DD, WRAC UKLF, visited the Squadron after a lunch party at which she had met **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith, Major R. B. Carroll, Major C. V. Hickman, Captain K. H. E. Meachem** and **Second-Lieutenant D. Platts.** At the door of the Comcen, H.R.H. was met by **Captain B. Adcock** who proceeded to show her round and introduce her to all the WRAC, including **W.O.1 H. Griffith** and **Sergeant B. A. Jackson.** She spoke to each girl at length and showed great interest in what they were doing.

H.R.H. then proceeded to the rest room where she met several drivers of the Squadron and spent some time with them talking about their work and hobbies. Finally she visited the Telephone Exchange where she was introduced to **Sergeant Ledgard** and **Corporal Mills-Bishop, B.E.M.,** Duty Supervisors, by **Mr. J. Hayes,** the senior Supervisor. Although the Exchange was fairly busy, H.R.H. was able once again to have a word with every girl on duty.

After spending more than half an hour with the Squadron, H.R.H. finally left for tea in the Sergeants' Mess before departing from UKLF. We had all enjoyed her visit immensely and were pleased to find the Controller Commandant so interested in her Corps and communicating in general.

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### "A STAFF SERGEANT'S DITTY"
### BY SERGEANT JOHN CHAMBERS OF RSSSC 78

To attend a Staffies course before my score and ten
I was summoned to the mecca of military Ken
Where the Royal Corps of Signals trains for betterment of men
and makes its leaders skilful with the rifle and the pen.

Our first and most important task, completed on first night
Was to declare our presence and to truthfully recite
Our previous attainments; skills in military might
From there repairing to the mess to meet our guiding light.

The RSM's inspection upon the following day
Shall pass without remark because he had most to say
We spent the day in learning that we had to earn our pay
While in the evening came the dreaded scourge of PFA.

Oh, the shame and degredation leading from that bout
Five minutes stepping on a bench, if fit, won't put you out,
But heaves to beams are hard it seems if you should be too stout.

The next day, stiff but wiser, we had Q accounts to start
And quickly found that filling forms was something of an art
While each and every bit of bumf must play its little part
Just think of all the other things to learn and then take to heart.

1. That evening weapon handling was demonstrated and
2. Each man was tried and tested in dexterity of hand
3. Any nobody could score the max, (they had the whole thing planned)
4. At loading magazines with rounds against the second hand.

The only other crisis in that week which warrants note
Is a two-hour written test during which we *wrote*
For two full hours upon continuation training; quote,
"Now it's only on the training done in units", end of quote!

I quite forgot, that's not the lot, there's Saturdays report
The 10 mile bash and then the carry, at high-port
Of bodies, soldier, armed, dead-weight, it's not our favourite sport
Assault course next and then the shoot, the 30 metre sort.

The high-light of the second week was Saturday, again
Security, internal, in the field with real men
To search at blocks in the rain and guard it with a bren
While others slinging mud and such did riot in the glen.

The section closes with the fray and halts some 40 feet
From where besodden riders are spoiling for a fight.
"Disperse or we throw gas" is on the banner now in sight
The mob just jeer, so on with masks and smoke bombs left and right.

There's only one thing over looked and that's the change of wind
and in a pea-soup fog of smoke the *section* is entwined
Until it clears. Then still more jeers as the mob makes up its mind
To sling some mud, quite literally, the blackest Yorkshire kind.

Now the section leader calls the banner to display
"Disperse or we will fire" which is soon festooned with clay
So down they go, four riflemen, and on commander's say
We shoot the leader of the mob, collect and take away.

The third week off to Warcop for the interesting bit
Shooting groups and zeroing, (for those of us who hit!)
Defending of a Comcen in the afternoon, good kit
And finally to Warcop Camp for tea, talk, films and pit.

The first bright dawn in Westmorland brought pleasures all anew
On the independent battle shooting range, known to a few
Combining skills of handling with movement. (Shooting too!)
Concurrent with this action was the mortar, inches, two.

That night with faces total black, we went out on patrols
To "See" if we could make our way through darkness to our goals
Through gate and gaps with snares and traps we stumbled blind as moles
It's really just a game to see who finds the biggest holes.

Next day, close quarter battle range to fire the SMG
At leering targets popping up not 20 yards from we
And in the afternoon the pistol (Firing through a tree?)
Again at leaping targets; even some we didn't see!

To see the Section in defence, impressive show of might
All cowering behind sand bags, till someone said, "Alright"
They don't shoot at us, we shoot at them! Don't get up-tight
They're *targets* you must indicate when they come into sight.

The final day, the hand grenade, a pin for souvenir
and off to do our final "thing", dressed up in battle gear
Section attacks across the range moving like a spear
Flanking left or flanking right "assisted" from the rear.

*By LMG!* while we all charge the enemy position
Regrouping just beyond that spot. Is that the end of mission
Oh no, we're up and off again and on without remission
To clear all enemy is now our task and our ambition.

A weekend free, (the only one), before we start the week
Which put us back in classrooms, just to rest our weary feet
Apart from bouts as tarmac techs (the Staffies special treat!)
Then came the first exams in which the by-word was "complete"

And so then to the fifth and final week of our course
The culmination of our training in use of force
With tests on service funds and Q accounts (what could be worse!)
Weapon training, drill IS, and discipline of course.

A final plea PFA to see if we've increased our score
An inspection of best dress by "HIM" (who's smartest in the Corps?)
A final try of M of I. Wise words to keep in store
And last, the dinner in the mess. So that's what it's all for!

A final word of thanks to those who taught us all we know
That can be said now it's all done. And we would like to show
How we can all appreciate that oaks from acorns grow:
It's enthusiasms' seed we take now with us as we go.

PASS OFF PARADES

No. 1 Troop commanded by Lieutenant M. R. S. Stanners, Royal Signals passed off on 2 November, 1973. The Inspecting Officer was Major-General J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E. The prize for the best all round recruit of his intake was awarded to Signalman Coleman who is to be trained as a Radio Telegraphist. The prize for the best recruit rifle shot was awarded to Signalman Robertson who is to be trained as a Combat Powerman. Major-General Badcock is seen here taking an active part in stirring the Christmas pudding after the parade and assisting (*left to right*) are Signalmen Taylor, Vernon and Jones

## 13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

NOVEMBER and those confounded leaves still hadn't fallen from the trees. The month was heralded in with the smell of cooked turnip as the Halloween lanterns burned through from October to gain their place in these WIRE notes. The month ended with snow, bitter temperatures and a fuel shortage. Our visit to neighbouring RAF Wildenrath for Bonfire Night had to be delayed for operational reasons "although genuine, the youngsters did not believe it"!

There is not really much to report in the month of November except the expectation of joys to come in December. The murky month has been lightened by a few sporting successes. The football team progressed to the third round of the BAOR section of the Army Football Cup and then bowed gracefully out. The Rugby team won a match well and then because of injuries suffered a couple more defeats. Our stalwart **Corporal 'Mick' Codd** played for the Corps BAOR team in their match against the Leicestershire Touring Team.

### SPORTS

The Cross-Country Team regularly turn out and by pure grit and determination always manage to break even in the large field. As hosts for one of the league matches we earned the accolade of "an excellently organised event". We will let 21 Signal Regiment tell you who were the winners. **Sergeant Dick Holman** continues to distinguish himself in this field.

The lady soldiers of the Regiment are now becoming very active in the field of sport these days. No significant successes yet but the enthusiasm is there. Soon we hope to be boasting of their achievements.

The ladies of Berlin challenged our Birgelen Wives Netball (and sightseeing) Club to meet on the field of battle in Berlin. The friendly meeting resulted in a win for the Birgelen Ladies. **Mrs. Wendy Laverick**—a great champion of Womens Lib was one of many who left their husbands "to look after things". As **O.R.Q.M.S. 'Q' Laverick** is quite capable of accepting such responsibility. **Mrs. Wendy Laverick** is singled out at the request of the Sports President who suffered a constant badgering for a netball court.

### THE KING IS DEAD—LONG LIVE THE KING

King No. 1 to depart was **Major Alan Kilby** who left us en-route to civvy street. Whereas the pantomime practice people arrive in a cloud of smoke, **Major Alan** departed in such a cloud. The dynamiters of Training Wing embroidered a far from standard road block with coloured smoke and excessive explosive noises. His car was searched at the gate and was found to contain a large number of happy memories and an even larger number of good wishes. After some 26 years of service—we can all call him **Alan** now—**Alan** is to assume command of a 'Hostelry'. His relief—**Major Tony Strachan**—and the rest of the Regiment are awaiting a grid reference and to know the brand of his best bitter. To **Mary** and **Alan** from us all—good luck and success in your new 'posting'.

King No. 2 was **R.S.M. Keith Maidment** who also decided to seek pastures new in civvy street. Again, we wish **Keith, Rose** and family every success and happiness out in that strange world on the other side. **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) 'Paddy' Drake** has arrived and started to look into all the nooks and crannies. His only comment so far is that he is finding it difficult to get at the chaps in daylight. We suspect that this 'shift working' is really an excuse for keeping out of his way. His family should arrive soon and we are all looking forward to meeting them.

King No. 3 who leaves early in December to take up an appointment in the West Country is our—urbane importee—**Major Jack Hudson.** At a party to mark his imminent departure he was presented with a silver whistle; and thereby hangs a tale. Your correspondent—a relatively new arrival was not fully convinced of his aversion to whistling—a few bars of the "Pirates of Penzance" outside the major's office produced an immediate and dampening reaction. **Bobby** and **Jack Hudson** will be sadly missed—we wish them both very well in the future. **Major David O'Connor** has been reading himself in. We are now trying to find a 25 pounder to see if that is his pet aversion.

A new arrival—not in uniform was **Laura Michelle,** a daughter for **Val** and **Brian Collier.**

A very late and very sad note to end the month. **Captain Eric Robinson** Royal Signals, died during the early hours of Saturday, 1st December. He was a pillar of strength and a respected comrade. Our hearts go out to **Evelyn, Marian, Gillian** and **Eric.**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## 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### 3 SQUADRON

WE have now, we hope, finished our current quota of exercises and just to make sure we had enough to do we set about preparing for the annual FFR Inspection which took place on 15th November, 1973. It was quite interesting really, for orders were issued for the Squadron to deploy without our illustrious leaders. Someone was heard to utter "At last, at last, someone has realised we don't need officers!" However enough of FFR's and the like!

### CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD-BYE TO F. OF S. DAVID LOWE

**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) David Lowe** left us on the 8th December 1973 for the RMA. He passed his RCB in October, he now goes to Sandhurst for one year and then an SRC commission. **F. of S. Lowe** is ex-Harrogate, 226 Signal Squadron, 249 Signal Squadron and 16 Signal Regiment. At this precise moment he is a two car man (E Type and Citroen GS). After commissioning we feel that he will probably have to revert to an eight year old banger. His services will be sadly missed by the Regiment on the sports field but technically, the Squadron will be OK as he has given **Y. of S. Kitson** our soldering iron!

### BOXING

Orders were received to produce a team of boxers to compete in the Inter-Squadron boxing championships which were to take place on Friday, 23rd November. We managed to produce a team of 10 boxers to compete in the preliminaries of whom seven won through to the finals, namely **Signalmen 'Bullet' Crocker, 'Spider' Richards, 'Lester' Piggott, 'Laurie' Tervit, 'Ginge' Allen, 'Lenny' Newton** and **'Scouse' Morgan.** We were proud of each and everyone of our original team all of whom helped us to win convincingly the inter squadron trophy. (I wonder what the Sergeant Major did say in between each round?!).

3 SQUADRON BOXING TEAM

*Left to right, Back Row:* W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Barnett, Signalman Piggott, Signalman Kilbride, Major M. J. McCann (OC), Signalman Morgan, Signalman Allen, Staff-Sergeant (S.S.I.) McClure (Trainer)
*Front Row:* Signalman Tervit, Signalman Jackson, Signalman Crocker, Signalman Newton, Signalman Richards
*Absent on Duty:* Lance-Corporal White, Signalman Bradley

### REGIMENTAL BOXING— WINNERS OF RHINE AREA (MAJOR UNITS)

It was decided recently to try to create and promote an interest in boxing within the Regiment with a view to forming a Regimental boxing team for the Annual Rhine Area Major Units Competition. The Officer-in-Charge Boxing came up with the idea of an Inter Squadron Competition and immediately became the most unpopular person in the Regiment. However after much muttering and many secret training sessions by Squadron personnel, the 'chosen few' stepped into the boxing ring on the 21st November 1973 to represent their respective Squadrons and it must be said that all five Squadrons managed to fill each of the 10 weights required, except for the odd weight here and there. The outcome of the days boxing produced a mixed bunch of 20 finalists for the Regimental finals which were held on the 23rd November 1973 and produced some good competitive boxing with 3 Squadron ending up winners. We are grateful for the assistance given to the Regiment by the many officials, RAPC and APTC who travelled from other Units in the area to officiate at both Regimental competitions and feel that our efforts were not in vain.

After this the Regiment were drawn against 36 Heavy AD Regiment RA in the final of the Rhine Area Inter Unit Boxing Championships and have been declared the winners of this Competition which puts us through to the BAOR Semi-Fina's.

### RUGBY

The Regimental rugby team, without praising them too much, have been doing quite well this season and I hope will continue to do so. The team is comprised mainly of very young and enthusiastic players with an average age of 21 for thereabouts); quite naturally this average is 'way out' when we play our old warriors namely **'Old Bones' 'Taff' Cole, 'Geordie' 'Tin-Leg' Gainford** or the **'Flying Fijian' Drika** when it jumps to 35. Of our younger stallions the two **Lytollis** brothers, **'Mick the Lip'** and **'Cowpuncher Pete'** with **Paul 'Big Ginger' Baines** make up a most promising trio indeed who should, in the years to come, lend great service to Corps Rugby. On the wing we have our **'Black Flash' Ron Biggs** who has a super turn of speed fit is rumoured that it is his great fear of whitemen that makes him so hard to catch). **Lance-Corporal Mick Henderson, Signalmen 'Chick' Wilson** and **'Taff' Evans** also deserves a pat on the back. The team is well looked after and coached by that former Corps and BAOR stalwart, and of 7 Signal Regiment fame, **Alex Kubu** with full backing from our rugger Officer **Captain John Stroud.** The team has had some notable victories this season including wins over RAF Laarbruch, 21 Signal Regiment Rhinos and other local teams not to forget the competition organised by the civilian club Hurthe of Koln. Our latest triumph, and undoubtedly our best to date, was the winning of the Rhine Area Cup when we defeated our friendly neighbours 28 Signal Regiment. We are all looking forward to meeting 7 Signal Regiment in December in the ARU Quarter Finals with no doubt in our minds that this will be a hard battle but every one of the players will play his heart out.

REGIMENTAL RUGBY TEAM

*Left to right, Back Row:* Sergeant Kubu, Signalman Lytollis, Lance-Corporal Turnbull, Lance-Corporal White, Sergeant Cole
*Middle Row:* Corporal Baines, Lance-Corporal Henderson, Signalman Nash, Corporal Drika
*Front Row:* Lance-Corporal Lytollis, Signalman Wilson, Staff Sergeant Gainford, Lance-Corporal Martin, Sergeant Darwin
*Absent on Duty:* Craftsman Pitman, Lieutenant Maloney, Signalman Evans, Lance-Corporal Cawtheray, Lance-Corporal Wilson, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Nichols, Signalman Biggs

### EXERCISE 'FALLING ANGELS'—POTENTIAL RECRUITS FOR THE BLUE HELMETS

**Lieutenant Ian Cross,** our Free Fall expert, managed to organise a course for beginners at Bad Lippspringe at the end of October. The course was attended by eight stalwarts of the Regiment who had never parachuted before but were keen to have a go. The party included **Corporal 'Stew' Baxter, Lance-Corporal Terry Hague, Signalmen Billy Atherton, 'Smudge' Smith, Phill Seaton, 'Road Runner' Stimson, Bob Thorpe** and was headed by **Sergeant Mick Huggins** who gives us a few impressions:

"Due to the limited time available, the aim of the exercise was that all personnel complete 10 descents. If the weather had been kinder, 15 descents would have been achieved and students then would have been qualified to attempt 'free fall' descents.

Generally the wind strength was too high to attempt a safe descent and trouble-free landing.

Our first three days were taken up with ground training which consisted of learning how to fall correctly, practising aircraft exits, tree and water landings, lectures on possible malfunctions and emergency drills in the event of such a malfunction and of course, packing our own parachutes (an arduous task done with more than loving care).

The first jump came earlier than expected. Late in the afternoon of our last day of ground training we were told, "OK lads get your kit on. The aircraft has arrived". All of us were calm (new definition—concealed panic). All thumbs, we kitted up and waited in 'sticks' of three to be given a final check, ready to go.

Within about an hour the 20 students on the course had made their first descent and all agreed it was, though frightening, a most exhilarating experience.

The following day the wind was too strong to continue, so we spent the day studying local places of interest—the names of the bars escape me. For the next two days the weather improved and most of us were able to make a further three descents on each of these days.

The weather then turned against us and we were, unfortunately, unable to progress to the stage where we would be allowed to make a 'free fall' descent. However most of us have agreed to return next year for continuation training. Who knows! We may have a budding member of 'The Blue Helmets' in the Regiment.

For anyone in BAOR willing to have a go, it is relatively inexpensive for what you get out of it, very exciting and an experience not to be missed".

### MOTOR RALLY HONOURS

On 29th/30th September 1973 the Regimental rally team entered the 'Border 73' rally put on by the Bruggen and District MSC and sponsored by Renault Export Sales. This was a 200 mile night navigation rally for private cars and AD land rovers.

The number one 'car' driven by **Corporal Mick Burton** and navigated by **Captain Doug Cartin** RE came 2nd in the AD class. The number two 'car' driven by **Second-Lieutenant Tudor Pope** and navigated by **Second-Lieutenant Dave Cumming** had to retire at the half-way stage with gearbox problems.

On 13th/14th October 1973 the team entered the 'Harz 73' rally organised by the Lippe Auto Sports Club and sponsored by the Forces Motoring Agency. This was a 450 mile night navigation rally for private cars and AD land rovers. The course included a lot of the Harz mountains.

The number one crew came 1st in the AD class and the number two crew, this time driven by **Corporal Roy Hitchins,** REME and navigated by **Lance-Corporal Tony Allen,** REME, came runners-up in the novice class.

On 2nd/3rd November 1973 the teams (two teams entered for this event) entered the 'Bigwood 73' rally. This was a 200 mile night navigation rally for private cars and AD vehicles.

For this rally the teams were really up against some strong competition as both the BAOR BAMA crews were entered. Undaunted by this strong opposition, the first team managed to come runners-up to the BAMA team. Although no trophies were presented for team runners-up in this event, they were rather pleased that the number one car of the first team had beaten the number two crew of the BAMA team entry.

The crews for this event were:

*1st Team*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Car One: | Driver: | **Corporal Burton** |
| | Navigator: | **Captain Cartin,** RE |
| Car Two: | Driver: | **Lance-Corporal Messer,** RE |
| | Navigator: | **Lance-Corporal Coslett,** RE |

*2nd Team*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Car One; | Driver: | **Corporal Hitchins,** REME |
| | Navigator; | **Lance-Corporal Allen,** REME |
| Car Two; | Driver; | **Corporal 'Snowy' Snowden** |
| | Navigator; | **Corporal Trevor Lloyd** |

All events were of restricted status to start with, but the 'Border 73' rally lost its restricted status due to the required number of starters not being reached.

## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

### AIRCRAFT WHICH WE SUPPORT—THE HARRIER

A Harrier from RAF Wildenrath making a vertical descent

THIS month's photograph shows a Harrier GR Mk–1A of 4 Squadron RAF from RAF Wildenrath. Three squadrons of this remarkable V/STOL aircraft comprise the Harrier Force of RAF Germany. The aircraft can carry SNEB rockets or bombs, and can perform a multitude of tasks, including photographic reconnaissance. The aircraft in the picture is carrying two 100 gallon drop fuel tanks on its inboard wing pylons, two 30mm cannon pods, and a recce pod containing five cameras on the centre under belly pylon. The aircraft also has two outboard wing pylons to carry additional rocket pods, but these are not loaded to the Harrier in the picture. The Harrier is making a vertical descent into its hide during a recent field deployment of the Harrier Force in the Corps area.

Apart from ground to air communications, the Harrier Force is dependent for its communications on 2 Squadron of this Regiment. Few Squadrons can boast a more responsible or more interesting task. They live and work with the pilots and ground crews, share the ground defence responsibility and are able to closely observe the remarkable flying capabilities of this aircraft.

A quotation from a recent edition of Aviation News illustrates the enthusiasm for this remarkable weapons system:

". . . the RAF could do with at least three more wings of Harriers based in Germany to supplement the permanently based Phantoms, Buccanneers and the Jaguars when they arrive. An effective force like this could continue operations against a fast moving attack along a wide front. It could effectively deal with large forces of enemy tanks used in a blitzkrieg type of operation and at the same time could effectively provide almost instant reconnaissance for the battle planners . . . rarely have I seen such confidence in a weapon which has such revolutionary characteristics". Looks as though we may need another Air Support Signal Regiment sometime in the future! Anyone got any spare MPT cover?

### TEST, INSPECTIONS AND EVALUATIONS

They all amount up to the same thing really—extra work. Theoretically, there were 22 working days in November 1973, but to most of the Regiment it has seemed like twice this number.



Early in the month the 2 ATAF Tactical Evaluation Team descended on RAF Wildenrath and a peaceful night was disturbed by that harmonious blend of siren and hooter which only those who have served on an operational RAF Station can fully appreciate. Within minutes, pyjamas were exchanged for the more practical NBC suits and the RAF and 21 Signal Regiment quickly changed from a horizontal to a war posture, ready to deal with any incident or action demanded of them by some 40 specialist evaluators. The Station did well, only marginally missing the top 2 ATAF grading.

This evaluation was followed by a fortnight of never ending specialist inspections, physical fitness assessments, battle efficiency tests, annual NBC tests and Regimental, Squadron and Troop inspections, all leading up to the day of judgement itself—FFR inspection on 22nd November by our Commander. We must have done well for the CO has granted a day's holiday, but unfortunately almost three weeks must elapse before we can take it—because of more tests, inspections and evaluations!

F.F.R. INSPECTION

Judging by the smiles on the faces of troop officers, Sergeant Pete Day appears to be giving sensible answers to the questions of Commander 4 Signal Group during his inspection of the Regiment. Squadron Commander Mike Collins appears doubtful. Sergeant Day is flanked by Staff Sergeant John Hornby and Corporal 'Yorky' Ryan

### SMALL ADS SECTION

Pole vaulter and hurdler wanted. Urgently required to defend Army title. Will exchange for Combat Driver (excused combat and driving), one cap badge (becoming scarce), two copies of Regimental Orders first day covers (signed by Adjutant), one L-shaped C70 mast, pint of petrol and a brace of subaltern officers. Replies to Box 21, Records Reading.

### EXERCISE 'SNOW QUEEN'

Arrangements for Exercise 'Snow Queen' are now being finalised. **Major Trevor Hendren** has spent some £1,250 on new langlauf equipment for the 100 officers and soldiers of the Regiment who will take part this year. We are the only Regiment in Rhine Area to sponsor this exercise, and whilst the work involved is very heavy, it is a most rewarding and enjoyable exercise. Our ski hut is on the Austrian border near Unterjoch in one of the most attractive parts of the Alps. There is no cost to the soldier, and he returns fit and bronzed and a proficient skier. In addition we offer a number of vacancies to other Rhine Area units.

### RETIREMENT OF MAJOR (Q.M.) BILL FINCH

**Major Bill Finch** retired on 31st December after 36 years and nine months service in the Corps. **Bill** joined the Corps in 1937 shortly after his seventeenth birthday and was trained at Catterick as an Operator Signals. His first overseas tour was in Egypt with the Mobile Desert Division, which later became famous as the Desert Rats. In 1944 he was detached from the Corps as NCO in-Command the Canadian Station of No. 1 Field Broadcasting Unit. It was during this tour that he met his wife, **Irmgard.**

Catterick greeted him again in 1949, and refused to relinquish its hold until 1955 when **Bill** was posted as a W.O.2 to 12 Air Formation Signals, which had just been formed at Wahn. The following year saw further promotion to A/RSM and posting to 2 (L. of C.) Signal Regiment in Dusseldorf.

In 1962 **Bill** was commissioned, his first appointment being the QM of 22 Signal Regiment. This tour was followed by similar QM appointments with 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment and 10 Signal Regiment. **Bill's** final appointment has been with 21 Signal Regiment, as MTO. **Bill** has maintained his vitality and fitness to the end of his service, and must be one of the youngest looking retired officers. The Corps wishes **Bill** and **Irmgard** an enjoyable retirement.

## 27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

### WRAC TAKE TO THE HILLS OR A BEVY OF BEAUTIES IN BIVVIES

BY SERGEANT NORMA HUNTER

### THE FIRST TIME

WITH the arrival of the Hong Kong cool weather after a long, hot and sticky summer (10 feet of rain in six months) some form of pick me up was in demand by the WRAC contingent of 1 Squadron 27 Signal Regiment. For those of you familiar with Hong Kong's concrete jungle it will be quite clear that the only sensible thing to do was pack a rucksack, find a tent and go camping either on Lantau Island or in the New Territories. After much map studying by **Sergeant 'Ginge' Beresford, Sergeant Mark Warne** and **Sergeant Norma Hunter,** the latter trying to look intelligent over contour lines, the other two wondering what they had let themselves in for, it was decided that Lantau was to be the place.

Eventually, with the assistance of **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ted Banham,** we were all kitted out, and 14 WRAC accompanied by two members of Royal Signals armed with a machette, set out for Lantau. Apart from **Lance-Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell** finding her seven stone frame unable to control the backward motion caused by carrying a rucksack, and **Lance-Corporal 'Rusty' Blake** almost forgetting that she could not swim out of her depth, we arrived at the selected site without incident.

**Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Murphy** showed everyone how 'unsafe' two man (or should it be woman) Bivies are by knocking one down in one easy 'leaning back' motion (much to the horror of the occupants who had erected a tent for the first time in their lives). After this **Lance-Corporal Pat Stanton** mounted guard on her tent and **Private Lin Martin** decided that star gazing was almost as good as sub-aqua swimming.

### WRAC GO TO PRISON!

Having successfully returned everyone to Victoria Barracks at the appointed time, we decided, with the appropriate blessings, to go further afield, and this was accomplished with the assistance of 415 Maritime Troop RCT, who despite a threatening fuel shortage managed to supply a GSL and Landing Craft for two weekend trips to Chi Ma Wan peninsula. **Lance-Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell** was not too sure about the landing craft and spent most of her time on 'terra firma' under the watchful eye of **Corporal Lyn Barraclough.**

Chi Ma Wan proved to be the ideal spot with a beautifully clean beach and sea, fresh water running through the camp and a waterfall with a pool suitable for swimming even if **Private Eileen Rudd** did think it too cold; 20°C is rather chilly to the average thin blooded person in Hong Kong. The prison Superintendent at Chi Ma Wan prison (our nearest neighbour) took us on a guided tour of part of the prison including their collection of snakes; 50 species all caught in the area. After this the machette stayed close by **Sergeant Norma Hunter's** tent.

**Private Ann Pound** and **Private 'Road Runner' O'Farrell** discovered, much to **Sergeant Mark Warne** and **Sergeant 'Ginge' Beresford's** amusement, that the local cows are friendly creatures at heart and also very curious about the interior of tents. **Lance-Corporal Elaine 'Lumpy' Cope** learnt that strolling near rivers in the afternoon leads to non-voluntary swimming and all this while **Lance-Corporal Sandy Murphy** proved her worth as a cook. **Lance-Corporal 'Hill-Billy' Wild** can still

be heard muttering that not only is her tent not 'Murph-proof' nor is her stomach. However, **Corporal Marion Amos** and **Private 'Mave the Rave' Darbyshire** seemed to enjoy the meals.

Now that enthusiasm has sparked for camping we intend to purchase some light weight camping kit. I am afraid the CDSO, **Captain Ted Hill** is just going to have to carry on doing a head count every Monday morning after our camping weekends.

### SPECIAL MESSAGE

To any WRAC who are on their way to 27, "Don't forget your hiking boots and rucksack".

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### ECHELON AT WAR, EXERCISE 'NORTHERN SIGNAL FOUR'

FOR the second time this year Echelon girded its loins and took to the field in November. A suitable farm was found and Echelon was installed in the comfort of two large farm complexes.

One set of barns included an industrial alcohol still administered by an ex-member of the Wehrmacht, who was captured at Stalingrad and was fondly christened **'Fred'** by our MTO, **Captain Peter Chilvers** and OC LAD, **Captain John Woods.** The MTO and OC LAD were well looked after by **'Fred'** but assured us they did not get a taste of his wares.

The other barn was three stories high and had ample space in its out-buildings for our Technical Quartermaster, **Major Mike Ham** to set up his Aladdins Cave, including **Sergeant Don Newland's** (RAOC) television set. In the barn itself the workers established their mess hall, dart board and **Corporal 'Taff Jones,** from the armoury, established his ever popular drink stall on the first floor. On the second floor **Sergeant Stan Smith** (RPC) and **Lance-Corporal Alan Kent** (RPC) organised and ran an excellent combined officers' and sergeants' mess. Finally, in the draughty eves of the building the Second-in-Command, **Major Mike Allen,** OC HQ Squadron, **Major Jim Robinson, Captain Arthur Holmes** (RPC) and **Captain Gordon Walker** (ACC) bedded down amongst rusting metal beds left by Russian prisoners of war from World War II and disused farm machinery, such as pig weighing machines. The Second-in-Command worked on the theory that the exercise involved in climbing up several narrow staircases and ducking under beams was good for one and if the building collapsed at least we would be on the top of the pile instead of in the – – – –.

During the exercise we took the opportunity to have a combined Officers' and Senior NCO's dining out of QM Technicals pacifier **R.Q.M.S. Tony Jones,** who leaves us on a well deserved promotion to W.O.1 and to take up the appointment of RSM at 12 Mech Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and to welcome his successor **R.Q.M.S. Ken Kennington.** We are sorry to see **R.Q. Jones** go as not only was he an expert in the intricacies of the Regiment's NATO accounting systems but also did much for the unit in helping or running badminton, skiing and sub-aqua. We will also miss his wife **Margaret** when she leaves the hot seat as Movements Clerk in the Orderly Room to join her husband at his new station.

For Echelon the whole exercise was a great success and many lessons learnt on the art of living in and concealment in barns. It is understood that the communicating squadrons of the Regiment were also on the exercise, in a wood somewhere!

### DINGHY SAILING

This year the Regiment has taken up dinghy sailing again after a break of a couple of years. The team: **Captain Mann** and **Corporal Hogben, Captain Woods** (REME) and **Craftsman Stewart** and **Sergeant Brebner** and **Lance-Corporal Flynn** won the BAOR inter-unit plate competition at the Dummersee in October, taking a day off in the middle of Exercise 'Clean Jug' to do so.

The season ended late with a Regimental Regatta at Roermond on 1st November at which **Signalman Brady** won a mug as champion novice. This year's team will be split up soon with the move of **Captain Mann** to 16 Signal Regiment and **Sergeant Brebner** to a civilian job in East Africa. However, 16 members of the unit qualified as basic helmsmen on courses run during the year for which much credit goes to **Corporals Hogben** and **Flynn** for instruction and administration respectively.

### RUGBY

Since the last report we have made our exit from the BAOR Cup, being beaten soundly by 30–3 by 1 Glosters at Minden. The game itself was played on a field covered by three inches of snow with just the lines dug clear. Other than the first 10 minutes when some good rugby was played the game generated into a dour slogging match with the Glosters keeping the ball amongst their heavyweight forwards. We wish the Glosters good luck in the semi-final.

Our biggest disappointment however occurred on 14th November when we fell 27–7 to 16 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area Final. In this game we completely dominated the game forward but 16 Signals capitalised on our mistakes and ran in some good tries in the second half.

We have now blooded our younger players into cup rugby so it is hoped that nerves will not affect them next season and we look forward to further cup glories.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

After a somewhat shaky start to the season the Regimental team is now having some success.

The team has rather more depth than usual and we can invariably call on a dozen runners to field a team. At times of stress we can draw on some of the Regimental football players to thicken up the team. Top runners this year have been **Sergeants Crossland** and **Thomas** with **Signalman Pammenter** producing good and consistant results.

We have qualified for the BAOR stage of the Army Championships coming second to 21 Signal Regiment in the Rhine Area Championships. Last year the Regiment came last in these championships but it is hoped we will do somewhat better this time.

### STOP PRESS

We came fourth.

### ONE UPMANSHIP

During a recent visit by the CSO BAOR, **Major General H. E. Roper,** to check the Regiments deployment drills as part of the annual FFR he stopped a vehicle and told its driver to assume he had a puncture. The General returning a little later to check what action was being taken, asked why the driver was doing nothing and was told by him "You simulated the puncture I have simulated the repair". General departs with concealed grin.

## 30 Sig Regt
### BLANDFORD CAMP

### COLONEL D. L. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY

ON Friday, 23rd November **Colonel Sylvester-Bradley** visited us to say farewell to the Regiment on handing over as Commander 1 Signal Group, prior to his retirement. He spent the morning visiting all the Squadrons and departments and after farewell drinks in the Sergeants' Mess later had lunch in the Officers' Mess before his departure from Blandford Camp.

The following week on Thursday, 29th November the Officers of 30 attended **Colonel Sylvester-Bradley's** colourful dining-out held at Old Sarum where a good time was had by all not the least, we are pleased to say, by the Guest of Honour!

### 1 SQUADRON

Did you know that the Corps has operational C41 Radio Relay equipment complete with 1 + 4 No. 3 in use. Well it has—in this very unit, and some unusual jobs it gets. Its' latest outing was with our ACE Mobile Force Signal Troop in support of NATO on Exercise 'Absalom Express'. Manned by four Combat Radiomen, **Sergeants Arscott, King, Miller** and **Nichol** with technical assistance from TM Troop they sallied forth to Denmark via South Cerney one cool November weekend. **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller's** farewell to us is this impression of his short attachment—"The Germans seemed to be well organised amongst themselves and I happened to remark on this to one of the 'Unteroffizers'. His reply was not unexpected 'Ve haf means'."

The Danes, Belgians and Italians were all helpful and cheery. The Americans in addition to be being cheery seemed to be promoting Zippo lighters.

'Danish Blue' (referring we hope to the colour of their noses) was certainly a good title for our homeward trip in an open four tonner.



### 3 SQUADRON

### VISIT BY THE QUEEN OF DENMARK TO FORCE RADIO TROOP

During Exercise 'Absalon Express', an AMF (L) exercise in Denmark, Force Radio Troop were honoured by a visit from **Her Majesty Queen Margerethe of Denmark.** She spoke to **Major Ron Clayton, Lieutenant Mike Telfer, Staff Sergeant Dougie Edmond, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Colin Eastland, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Davis, Sergeant Bill Adams, Signalman Jim Buckberry** and **Signalman Ron Coughtry.** Its ironic, but the day of the visit was the only day during the whole exercise that it didn't rain; it snowed . . .

VISIT BY H.R.H. THE QUEEN OF DENMARK

*Left to right:* Accompanying Her Majesty Queen Margarethe of Denmark, Staff-Sergeant Edmonds, Major-General Groven (Commander AMF (L/, Major Ron Clayton and Lieutenant Mike Telfer

### 2 SQUADRON

2 Squadron welcomed five new Telecommunication Mechanics this month straight from the egg to join Line Troop which otherwise seems to be rapidly disappearing. By the end of February many of the old faithfuls will have left the troop for BAOR or civilian jobs. including **Corporal 'Charlie' Peach** who during his tour has done anything from acting Squadron Sergeant Major to coffee-maker-in-chief and we wish him and the others the best of luck.

### FOOTNOTE

Exercise 'Calcoo' is a dirty word especially to our Second-in-Command **Major Bob Martin** who had one foot almost on the aircraft to take him and his advance party to the Caribbean when the exercise was cancelled. There is now a definite risk that unless somebody arranges another Caribbean exercise pretty quickly he will write another Christmas poem for THE WIRE! Appropriate staff branches please note!

(Spare us this threat! We seem to be inundated with the outpourings of would-be poets these days. Very good, no doubt, but poems do take up such a lot of WIRE space—*Editor*).

## *Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund*

*The following donations were gratefully received during the month of November, 1973:*

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding, 28 Signal Regiment | 100·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 9 Signal Regiment | 16·77 |
| Brigadier Sir Ralph H. Rayner, M.B.E. | 10·00 |
| F. C. Wilson, Esq. | 5·70 |
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| | £158·27 |

## News from Squadrons

## 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 102

### EXERCISE 'AUTUMN FLAG AND TOWER RAVEN'

26th October saw Tofrek Barracks covered with barbed wire, VCP's, patrols and flying bricks as 94 Locating Regiment RA conducted their final IS Exercise before departing for Northern Ireland. **Sergeants Jim Harlow** and **John Powles** became RUC policemen (the word 'constable' still brings on a pained expression from both) and **Corporal Brian Nevins** turned his hand to the manufacture of 'bombs'. We also provided an Auto 20 with phones to allow the control element to control, and became pioneers for a week building sandbag sangars.

"At last, a normal exercise", thought **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton** and **Y. of S. Dave Snowdon** in early November as they took B Troop down south to join 7 Signal Regiment on Exercise 'Tower Raven'. They left one 'expensive' vehicle on its side by the Autobahn and returned to camp with another on tow—but at least the communications worked!

### SPORT

The soccer team has made a good start in the Soltau Minor Units League, having won two of the first three games played and scoring 11 goals for with four against. The hockey team were not so fortunate losing their first game 9–0 to 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This month we say farewell to **S.Q.M.S. Staff Sergeant Alf Waters, Corporals Cliff Salisbury** and **Brian Nevins** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Gale,** ACC,

We welcome **Staff Sergeant Frank Brudenall** and **Signalman Aidan McLeod.**

### BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Signalman 'Paddy' Thompson** on the birth of a daughter, **Signalman Robert Barnes,** a daughter, **Gunner John Aves,** a daughter.

## 4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

### A WINTER'S TALE

THE long hard German winter has set in early with a vengeance this year. It is so hard in fact that the OC, along with some very high-priced assistance from the team, has personally been seen scraping snow off the square in order to clear the hockey pitch. The effects of the freeze here, as elsewhere, have been intensified by the fuel shortage. Obviously the GSO 3 (Coord) at Arab Headquarters will have no difficulty in passing his staff

VICTORIAN DAYS ARE WITH US AGAIN OR BEATING THE FREEZE!

Commander 4 Guards Armoured Brigade, Brigadier J. Swinton, O.B.E., arrives for morning service in Munster on the first German no-driving Sunday

promotion exam (**Captain Mills** did appear to have some difficulty with his). Sunday, 25th November was the first no-driving day in Germany but the congregation of All Saints Garrison Church was undaunted by this and used a variety of (for them) novel means of transport to morning service. Bicycles were to be seen in abundance and some people even walked. **Mrs. Kinsella-Bevan,** our orderly room typist, took her horse which unfortunately escaped during the sermon. A part 2 works service for a hitching rail has now been submitted. Star turn, however, was the Brigade Commander who arrived in a coach and pair as seen in the photograph. Sadly, services are now being held on Saturday evenings.

### FORT FUN AGAIN

Members of TM Troop have actually welcomed the cold weather and now take every opportunity to 'get away from it all' by travelling to Fort Fun. Regular readers of these pages will be familiar with this ski-resort from articles earlier this year and will no doubt recall the exploits of such renowned skiers as **Signalman 'Jock' Tennant** and **Craftsman 'Blackie' Blackburn.** TM look as though they will be maintaining our traditions in the best possible manner although somebody must tell **Sergeant George 'Peugeot-Forever' Hayes** about the virtues of anti-freeze.

Six intrepid skiers eventually reached the slopes to find there had been an excellent fall of snow for so early in the season. As beginners they decided to start on the hardest descent first and made their way to the top by chair lift. **Sergeant John Atkinson** went green on the way up; he doesn't mind flashing between trees at 50 mph, he just can't stand heights!

Time and money both ran out too quickly but on departure the locals were already calling **Jock, 'Banzai' Clark, Jean-Claude** and erecting a plaque marking the spot where **Lance-Corporals 'Chopper' McLeod** and **John Murray** (both recently AAC Harrogate) left body-sized holes in the wall of the ski hut at the bottom of the slope. Vive le sport!

### SUNDRY OTHER SPORTS

Despite various boastful threats from our friends in other Brigade Squadrons we are determined to hang on to our various sporting trophies this winter. The cross-country team has already retained the Brigade and Divisional Minor Units Championships. The soccer team is also still on the winning trail and in its last Divisional Cup game managed to net 12 goals against 7 Field Ambulance. **Staff Sergeant 'Flying Pensioner' Murphy** in goal for us almost got frost-bite. Hockey suffered a set-back by losing to 1 WFR in the Army Cup but the team is due to play 12 Mech Brigade in the Minor Units Championship. Basketball has high hopes this season and has already had some promising results.

## 11 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

### SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

THE meeting which took place on 13th November was rounded off with the Senior Officers Pistol Shoot. The event was won by **Major Ian Sprackling** our OC.

The following thoughts may well have originated with the Brigade Commander—although no proof exists.

### ODE TO A WARLIKE SIGNAL SQUADRON COMMANDER

Twas the Skill at Arms Meeting at Minden
Eleventh Brigade would be there
I'm a deadly shot with a pistol
How nice to depart in a chair.

So I practiced each day before breakfast
The wife was in England you see
The prize was a solid gold salver
Especially ordered by me

Forty-four points was my record
The BM and Padre were beat
The Boss of the Howards was ashen
The crowd were applauding my feat

When enter a black hearted villain
His ransom you'll never afford
He took out his rusty old banger
And scored four more points than his Lord

He lies in deepest dark dungeon
My fury he'll never abate
His sentence is frightfully fearsome
Never more will he communicate

There's a vacancy now down at Minden
The conditions are good, that's a fact
You need just one point for selection
An adequate helping of tact.

DEAD EYE DICK

Major Ian Sprackling being presented with his prize, by Commander 11 Armoured Brigade, after winning the Senior Officers Pistol Shoot at the Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting



## 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

### RCDS VISIT

THE Brigade was privileged to be chosen as hosts to a party of students and Directing Staff from the Royal College of Defence Studies during their recent visit to Germany. For their three day visit the Squadron was required to carry out a number of minor, but important tasks. **Sergeant Ian Turner,** (the highest paid baggage man in the Army, who does a bit of technician work on the side), and his small band of men managed not to lose a single piece of the 200 or so assorted leather suit cases and VIP plastic bags that arrived on a special Andover aircraft. **Captain Mike Powell** acquired overnight the Regimental March of almost every unit in the Brigade for **Sergeant Tom Mackenzie** to record and play at the main demonstration the following morning. It was unfortunate that the music was faded just as the first few bars of 'Begone Dull Care. came over the speakers.

The main demonstration was a comparison of the British and German approach to the Combat Team attack, or more particularly, a contrast between the 20 Armoured Brigade and the 21 Panzer Brigade versions of their tactics? Both attacks were successful and most impressive as any of **Lieutenant David Beare's** Bruins, the 'baddies', will testify, they acted as the enemy.

### VISIT OF THE DANISH ARMY

In June this year a detachment from 'Shiny Twenty' paid a visit to Denmark for an HF exercise and were hosted by the Zealand Signal Regiment which is located about 20 miles from Copenhagen. They were extremely well looked after and it was our pleasure when the Danes were able to return the visit in October. A variety of entertainments were laid on for them, ranging from sightseeing tours around Detmold to cross-country runs and a game of football. The Squadron club certainly gained much from the visit as did the export sales of Carlsberg! It is hoped that these visits will become an annual event as they do a great deal for mutual understanding apart from improving communications skill.

### LS AND GC PRESENTATION

On 23rd November **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Colin Markie** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E.** in front of the Squadron formed upon a specially organised informal parade and the Brigade Staff and their wives.

PRESENTATION OF THE L.S. AND G.C. MEDAL TO W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. MARKIE

*Left to right:* W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. Markie, Mrs. Markie, Brigadier R. G. Lawson, D.S.O., O.B.E.

The music for this occasion was provided by the band of the 9/12 Lancers who, appropriately played Scottish tunes throughout. Afterwards **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Markie** were entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess. During lunch the Brigade Commander presented **Mrs. Jennie Markie** with a medal of her own, this gesture was obviously much appreciated.

### SOCIAL LISTS
### POSTINGS

In: **Lieutenant D. K. Hadden, W.O.1 (A.S.M.) W. J. Callan, Sergeant Stevens, Corporal M. G. Lloyd, Craftsman S. T. Farrell, Craftsman I. G. White.**

Out: **Lieutenant V. T. Smedley, W.O.1 (A.S.M.) A. Hartley,** REME, **Sergeant R. Budge, Corporal J. F. Freeland, Corporal R. W. Floyd, Corporal C. L. Ward, Signalman M. H. Dorrell, Signalman K. Brookfield.**

### BIRTHS

**Captain** and **Mrs. Taylor**—a daughter, **Juliette Anne; Sergeant** and **Mrs. Bletchley**—a son, **Ryan; Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Saunders**—a son, **Stewart; Driver** and **Mrs. Watkins**—a son, **Guy.**

### MARRIAGES

**Corporal Morahan** to **Dorothy; Corporal Pearce** to **Sylvia; Signalman Johnson** to **Gillian; Signalman Graham** to **Anne.**

## 234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

### "JIMMY'S JUBILEE IN MALTA"

### 50 YEARS OF COMMUNICATING

IT is now 50 years since the Royal Corps of Signals took over from the Corps of Royal Engineers the task of providing the island's line communications and, as this squadron may be the oldest in the Corps, readers might be interested in knowing a little of the history leading up to this notable anniversary.

In 1923 the Unit was formed as the Malta Signal Section and it remained so until the end of World War II when it reformed as the Malta Signal Squadron. During the War the civilians in employment with the Services were enlisted. The first such locally enlisted Maltese recruit to join the Royal Corps of Signals was **Charlie Fenech. Charlie** is now a Leading Chargehand Cable Jointer with Line Troop and his Sapper son-in-law, **Major John Calleja,** is still serving as a QM with the Royal Malta Artillery.

In 1949 the first locally enlisted 'career-soldiers' arrived in the Squadron to swell it to its required cable laying strength. There was still much damage to be repaired and the cable gangs were kept hard at it. The following year a young chap named **Joe Grech** signed on and he too is still here careering away as **W.O.2 Joe 'Cable-King' Grech, B.E.M.**

### FLEXING NEW MUSCLES

By 1959, when the Unit was given its present title, the cable and exchange network was still increasing in strength and flexing new muscles. This state of affairs continued for a further 10 years and the Squadron strength rose with the workload until, in 1969, we swallowed up the Royal Navy Area Telephone Department, employees and all, to reach a peak in both workload and manpower which has never again been attained.

1969 did, however, see the rundown of Malta based forces begin and this continued steadily until at the end of 1971, immediately following the Squadron's move of barracks from Lintorn Floriana to St. Davids Mtarfa, news of the 'Withdrawal' was spread. A hectic packing period ensued and ended in March 1972 only just in time to turn our Rear Party into an Advance Party commanded by **Captain Mike Macklin** (was he really Commander British Forces Malta at that time?).

### PROVIDING 'CUSHY COMMS'

The present 'Agreement' allows us another five years worth of momentous events to come and the work in progress now is aimed at provided 'cushy-comms' for that half a decade's worth of Mediterranean sun. We are refurbishing or closing down

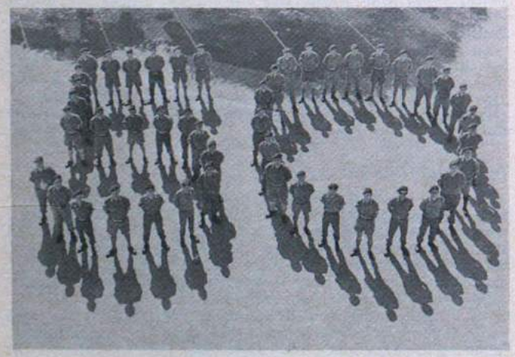
RIGHT UP TO DATE

Chief Clerk, Staff Sergeant Dave Perry 'calling the numbers' on the Apple Pye Network whilst Corporal 'Taff' Jenkins gazes in wonder at such a polished display of basic signalling skills

exchanges (there are six left at present) and are either jointing through or refurbishing at the seventy odd main cable interchange points where the island's damp is notorious for its ability to earth anything that sits still. Previous articles have mentioned the technicians delight at the prospect of the new GEC Radio Relay Systems being completed by July 1974 but from the lineman's point of view it's just another batch of priority standby's whose quality you don't see going down until—BAM—the Radio Relay drops out and the poor *old* line is somehow too noisy to please the T1 maestros. Ah well—"a hairy's lot . . .".

And so to the Jubilee, celebrated in one hazy hectic alcoholic week of Sergeants' ball, All Ranks' dance, Officers' Ladies Dinner night and massive cocktail party and capped by the visit of CSO UKLF, **Brigadier Frank Clarkson, M.B.E.,** who graciously offered his hand at the cocktail party in place of **Major Ian Robinson's** just in time to wring the changes and save the OC's squash grip for yet another season.

It's over now, the working routines have been re-established and the winter rain is showering by. Without the summer sun we can easily believe that with 50 gone and five to go, when 'Jimmy' goes, we'll follow.



46 makes 50? The other four held the ladder!

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

*See Editorial Page*



## 244 Sig Sqn
## R.A.F. Benson

**A REPORT ON C TROOP**
**THE SMALL BUT ELITE TROOP**

IT has come to the notice of both the Troop OC and the Troop Members that they have not been mentioned enough in THE WIRE in the last 'N' years. Therefore, the following article is not only to inform the many uninformed members of the Corps of our existence, but to enable us to see our names in print for once. (Actual reason is to remind the Squadron Commander of our existence).

Although we are only a small troop, we are a noteworthy mob. (Noted for our amazing ability to do anything). We are called upon to carry out a variety of tasks which fall within laid down roles. Our roles are as follows:

**PRIORITY 1**

Get on every possible swan abroad. Previous successes have included Malta, Denmark, the Ascension Islands, British Honduras, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Italy and Norway.

**PRIORITY 2**

Stay well out of the way of the Squadron Commander, the RSM and last but not least the ever earth-spiked fault finding TOT.

**PRIORITY 3**

Assist the RAF in their more favourable exercises within the UK.

**PRIORITY 4**

Ensure that we are well exercised in Priorities 1, 2 and 3.

Like all good units we exercise ourselves in all our roles throughout the year. Here are some of this years' exercises:

**EXERCISE 'TROUT CALL 4' (PRIORITY 1)**

This exercise with the RAF Tactical Communications Wing in Malta involved practically the whole of the troop. Besides a few lines that had to be laid, the troop had to attack the RAF Communications Site to practice our airmen in Ground Defence. Although this was hard work and caused much perspiration, it was well rewarded by Malta beaches and Hop Leaf beer. Footnote: The airmen have yet to recover from the shock of seeing us charging at their comfortable positions.

**EXERCISE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT (PRIORITY 2)**

The troop spent a week on the said island this summer to prepare themselves for the horrible shock of the Squadron Summer Camp. It was a great success and we think that even the Squadron Commander will agree that it proved its worth later on Dartmoor.

At this point we would like to say thank you to the shipping company (RCT Ltd.) for getting us to the island and for teaching us to drive a Land rover onto an RPL without stalling it in the sea. We would also like to thank the Isle of Wight County Council for refusing the Squadron Commander, the RSM and of course, the TOT, entry to the island.

**LIVERPOOL AIR DISPLAY (PRIORITY 3)**

Probably our most successful Priority 3 exercise. Our task was to provide Liverpool Airport with telephone communications throughout the Airfield for their annual air display. In all we installed some 35 extensions which worked into our 40/601 and enabled the smooth and efficient running of the display. As we anticipated that the exercise would take four days, we pointed out to the Liverpool Corporation that we would require accommodation near the airport. It did not take long for them to realise that they were dealing with men of impeccable taste and thus they duly booked us into the American Holiday Inn Hotel in Liverpool (four star). Each man had his own room which included no less than a colour television, a teasmaid, a radio, a telephone, two double beds and an exclusive bathroom and shower. We have since pointed out the shortfalls of the accommodation at RAF Benson.



We sincerely hope that this article has given some idea of our role and unquestionable value within the Corps. At this moment we are deeply involved in exercising our Priority 4 Role and fighting off the Administration Officer/QM who is breathing down our necks during a stock check.

A FINE ACHIEVEMENT

Signalman Mick Hawley, the 'babe' of 244 Squadron formally hands over a mini bus and a cheque for £563 for its conversion to Mr. David Freeman the Headmaster of the National Children's Home, Chipping Norton. The bus was bought by the 244 from money raised on sponsored walks. Some of the Squadron's walkers look on

## 261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

WE must start by saying a hearty farewell to our SSM and wish **Mr. Ray Haskell** every success in his new 'career' and at the same time we welcome to the Squadron **W.O.2 S.S.M. C. E. Homewood,** who was initiated into some of the Squadron customs when he attended the dining out of the outgoing SSM, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick Scott** and **Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy,** at the beginning of December.

We've been improving our military skills by entering the Cyprus annual military skills competition, organised by 1st Royal Anglian Regiment. The Squadron came 5th overall, which was a very satisfying result for the members of the team who put in some very hard work. Well done lads.

**AROUND AND ABOUT**

Our round and about feature takes us this month to our lonely snow-bound detachment on Mount Olympus. Providing they are not too much influenced by the Gods, we'd like them to read this because any other form of communication fails! Not true, you're doing a fine job.

**AIRFIELD TROOP NEWS (AKROTIRI)**

**PLENTY OF ROMANCE**

**Signalman John Bathe** has decided he has had enough of being a living-in member of the Troop; he is to join the commuters on the daily pilgrimage to and from Limassol in December 1973. He is to marry **Miss Patricia Tinsley,** whose father is **Chief Technician Tinsley,** stationed at RAF Akrotiri—colour of uniform holds no frontiers here.

**Lance-Corporal Ian Thorneycroft,** who returned from UK leave in November, very quietly announced his wedding to **Miss Patricia Lucas.** Asked by the single soldiers of the troop why he got married, he replied "One has to do something whilst on leave in the UK".

To all of you, best wishes for your future life together.

**SPORTS ROUND-UP**

With the commencement of our RAF organised winter minor-unit sports competition, the CO's Cup, we've seen more than the average Squadron personnel in sports attire. We thought at one stage that **S.S.M. R. J. Haskell,** was going to break his duck, but we should have known better. He decided to visit 603 Signal Troop, in Masirah for a rest (plus some prawns!). In the CO's

IF I WERE YOU SIR I'D USE A 'FOUR IRON'!

Colonel Colin Bound keeps his head down when cable locating during the Squadron annual FFR inspection. Also in picture Major P. J. Rowland (OC) and Captain B. Turner

Cup six-a-side Hockey Competition, we managed to run out winners after an exciting final. We were 1–0 down in the first minute but managed to pull back to win 2 goals to 1. Team: **R.Q.M.S. Nick Scott, Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' Hyde, Lance-Corporal 'Pritch' Pritchard, Sergeants Eddie Mulvana, Mick Raybould, 'Rip' Monk** and **Signalman Pete Fuller.**

This win plus good results in the volleyball and cross-country gives us an overall lead in the CO's cup competition at the time of going to press with four of the 15 different competitions completed.

The Squadron soccer team is having more success than last season, having won four out of eight games played. Two of our team have been selected for Army Cyprus—**Sergeant John Burgess** and **Signalman John Bathe.**

In December the Squadron wives (who will deny they should come under the heading of sports) are planning a wine and cheese party, which should be a resounding success, considering the availability of Cyprus wines.

But please, ladies, take some advice from a non-member, don't have too many glasses of Kokkinelly (local brew) if you want a clear head in the morning!

Another sporting occasion, judging by the amount of running about that it gave rise to, was our FFR on 4th October. Rumours that the Second-in-Command, **Captain 'Pim' Meaning** had to go to UK on the 5th for a complete rest are completely unfounded as we hope the DS at Warminster can confirm. The inspecting officer was **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group. The Commander certainly knew all the awkward corners in the Squadron, his Headquarters and SHQ are next door neighbours—albeit with a security fence between which many consider most appropriate!

In addition to the SSM's changing over up to the end of November the Squadron has welcomed into it's midst **Staff Sergeant Hyde, Corporals Ellison** and **English, Lance-Corporal Antill,** and **Signalmen Beecham, Parkhill, Taylor, Watson** and **Edwards.** Farewells to **Lance-Corporal Saxton** and **Signalman Kimber,** best of luck in your new postings.

603 SIGNAL TROOP—SUN-TANNED WARRIORS

*Standing, left to right:* Signalman Pocock, Lance-Corporal Hopper, Signalman Beck, Signalman Denny, Signalman Allen, Signalman Dickson, Signalman Pluskota; *sitting:* Corporal Turfrey, Corporal Sharples, Sergeant Sargent, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Hunt, Corporal McDonald, Corporal Corbett, Corporal Stacey

## 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah B.F.P.O. 65

WHAT has been going on in Masirah during the past few months? What is the full story of 603's first ever cricket win? Who are the steely eyed, green clad men recently despatched to Masirah by a sinister organisation in Reading? In spite of five figure offers from various Sunday papers, we have decided to make these sensational revelations exclusively for readers of THE WIRE. Undeterred by possible consequences we tell all, we give the facts, we name the names.

### MANPOWER SENSATION

In Reading there is an innocent looking building whose links with the notorious MOD have been established by our investigators. From here came the secret orders which smashed into 603 Troop, scattering half of its sun loving members across the globe and replacing them by white skinned veterans toughened by service in the relentless European climate. Gone are the kindly faces of **Sergeant Mick Goatley, Corporals Chris Purdey, Geoff Waters, Steve Bevis** and **Mick Read, Lance-Corporals Alan Doyle-Davidson** and **'Taff' Williams, Signalmen Dave Ryan, Dave Curran, Dave Fenton** and **Nick Paine.** In their place have come **Sergeant Tom Lovell, Corporals Alan Sharples, Bruce Murdin, Mal Turfrey, 'Ginge' Stacey, Lance-Corporals 'Chopper' Hopper** and **'Ty' Taylor,** and **Signalmen Alan Pocock, Charlie Beck** and **Eddie Pluskota.**

### CRICKET SENSATION

We have recently scored two astounding successes on the cricket field, having unveiled our two pronged secret weapon. Unsuspecting blue jobs arriving at the wicket are faced by the appalling spectacle of **Bruce Murdin's** quarter ton of fat, bone and muscle, (in that order) preparing to bowl. When they turn away in horror they see the awful spectre of **'Ginge' Stacey's** white skin and time ravaged face. Strong men have been known to fling down their bat and run screaming for the safety of Scrabble in the MMG Club.

### VACANCY SENSATION

If you have a thick skin and a strong stomach apply to join us. All applications to OC 603 Troop should be accompanied by large denomination banknotes.

## The Volunteers

## 34 Sig Regt (V) Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

### CAMP '73—IMPRESSIONS AND ANECDOTES OF A NEWCOMER

"DON'T worry, it will all be alright on the day", said my mentor, an experienced Volunteer officer entering his seventeenth year of continuous service with the Regiment. "It's always like this before Camp and you Regulars do worry so much".

Worry! Well I'm a pretty sanguine kind of chap normally but after all we were off to Germany in a week; we were going to spend two weeks on exercise and the Regiment hadn't actually ever before provided communications for Regular Army Staff and Units or taken to the woods for such a long time. None of the feverish 'pre-Summer Sales atmosphere' I had become used to was in any way apparent and the caretakers dog scratching in a corner of the Drill Hall seemed to sum up the most interest I had seen so far.

How mistaken can one become; the last Tuesday night before Camp and the scene was wonderfully changed—men and women bustling about with a purposeful air; officers dusting maps, instructions and check lists; SSM's bawling; Quartermasters fiddling busily; the Padre preparing sermons and the doctor checking her stocks of sea-sickness pills. The caretakers dog had disappeared disgusted. I went home amazed but heartened.

Of course it all went off well. The road and air party made textbook moves, deployment and settling into exercise locations had the stamp of the veteran and communications were first class from start to finish. However (as I've been preaching for years), THE WIRE is no place to write post-exercise reports—they make for dull-reading—so a few personal impressions and some snaps to record that happy, eventful and most successful two weeks.

### FIRST IMPRESSION

Walking around Teesside Airport with the Honorary Colonel to see the first 'Chalk' on its way. The Regimental Band is playing, wives, mums and girl-friends seeing the troops to war when a diminutive WRAC girl approaches—"Hello", she says, "nice to see you out of hospital—hope your feeling better luv". "She's from Gateshead", says the RSM, "friendly, ain't they Sir!".



### SECOND IMPRESSION

Officers Mess in the field, Mess Sergeant in attendance. "You seem to have managed a good stock here **Sergeant Perry,** NAAFI must have been looking after you". "Yes, Sir, I did have a bit of trouble at first though so I goes to see the head bloke. Look ere", says I, "don't be put off by these three humble stripes my man, in reality I run a large chain of hotels in the North of England so lets' have a bit of service". After he had given me a cigar and brandy, I had the bleeder pushing my basket for me!".

### THIRD IMPRESSION

Sentry late at night looking miserable. "Hello", I said. "Cheer up, I thought you had just had a day off duty". "That's right Sir, got engaged this afternoon to Private ? at Echelon too". Sentry continues to look even more miserable.

### LAST IMPRESSION

The Honorary Colonel **Brigadier Claude Fairweather** who braved the German October to come to live with us for a few days (complete with wife and caravan). The Brigadier commanded 2 Division Signals during the war and payed a nostalgic visit to them whilst in Germany. He remarked—"I told them what a fine bunch they were, every bit as good as the men I commanded during the war—in fact I told them that they were nearly as good as my own Volunteer Regiment!".

There is no doubt a veritable library of similar impressions stored around the Regiment. They will talk about it until next years' drama overtakes this years—and so they should, they've a lot to be proud of.

### WEDDING

Congratulations to **Second-Lieutenant Maureen Powell** of 50 (Northumbrian) Signal Squadron on her marriage to **Captain John Young** of the Corps at Richmond on Saturday, 15th December. Keep it in the Corps girls!

## 35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

### COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

SINCE 1970 when 35 Signal Regiment was granted the Freedom of the City of Birmingham, the officers have enjoyed the privilege of dining once a year in the Banqueting Hall at the City's Council House. On Friday, 23rd November, the officers, honorary members and their guests dined in the magnificent setting provided by the hall complemented as is now customary by the splendid music of the Corps Band and, this year, by the not so usual playing of two pipers from 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles who arrived hot-foot from public duties in London.

The principal guests were **Councillor Marjorie Brown,** Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Major-General Sir John Anderson** in his capacity as a Colonel Commandant and **Major-General R. W. T. Britten,** GOC West Midland District. The Lord Mayor responded to the Commanding Officers speech of welcome and in doing so made a particular point of stressing the close link between the City and its Signal Regiment.

As usual on these occasions a number of officers were dined out. **Padre Brian Brownless, Captains Ron Gee** and **Chris Finnigan,** and **Major Keith Harmon** have all hung up their boots to make way for the younger generation. All have made their contribution, all will be missed, perhaps none more than **Keith Harmon** who finished his long career as Second-in-Command.

**Captain John Douglas** has left the calm waters of 89 Squadron and moved to Newcastle-upon-Tyne and 34 Signal Regiment (Volunteers). **Captain George Illingworth** formerly OC LAD has moved on as part of a REME general post leaving us in the capable hands of **Captain Bob Gardner** who just happens to play the pipes.

Over the past four years this annual dinner has achieved a significance far beyond that of just a Regimental Guest Night because as with any important event its success is a reflection on the whole Regiment and not just that element directly involved. Every year we work on the principle "Once a guest always a friend".

### ORIENTEERING

Having achieved victory in the West Midland District Orienteering Championships at Cannock Chase in September, 48 Signal Squadron's WRAC team qualified to take part in the UKLF Championships in October at Stamford PTA.

The girls were all new to orienteering and the West Midland Competition had been their first outing. Not surprisingly, at first they were somewhat overawed by the occasion but conquered their nerves in no mean fashion to achieve the following times and placings.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Private Pat Jones** | 1 hour 9 minutes 20 seconds 1st WRAC TAVR and 2nd WRAC Regular and TAVR |
| **Private Dorinda Fox** | 1 hour 30 minutes 36 seconds 3rd WRAC TAVR |
| **Sergeant Chris Allen** | 1 hour 39 minutes 56 seconds 5th WRAC TAVR |
| **Private Allison Gerrard** | 1 hour 57 minutes 22 seconds 8th WRAC TAVR |
| **Private Helena Hartshorne** | 2 hours 1 minute 57 seconds |

The total of the three fastest times enabled them to beat the WRAC of 38 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and so win the UKLF WRAC TAVR championships. Congratulations to all the team and to **Private Pat Jones** in particular.

### A NEW TAVR CENTRE FOR RUGBY

89 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) is to have a brand new drill hall. **Councillor John Fella,** Mayor of Rugby, laid the foundation stone for a new TAVR Centre at Rowland Street, Rugby on 14th November, thus in the words of the Press, 'cementing' the bond of friendship which exists between the Volunteers and the Town.

The silver trowel used by **Councillor Fella** has an interesting history because it was presented to the Officer Commanding E Company 7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment when the nearby but now former Park Road Centre was opened in 1912. The widow, **Mrs. Janet Seabroke** presented the trowel to 89 Squadron's predecessors in 1960 and kindly agreed to its use on this occasion. The existing centre which has been 89 Squadron's home since its formation is even older having been built in 1909 and looks every day of it. We think that the squadron has suffered long enough and deserves a new home.

After the ceremony approximately 80 hosts and guests retired to the old drill hall for a champagne buffet lunch during which the Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier the Reverend Charles Nettleship,** proposed a toast to **Princess Anne** and **Captain Mark Phillips** who happened to have chosen the same day for their wedding.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby, Commanding Officer welcomes the Mayor of Rugby, Councillor John Fella to Rowland Street TAVR Centre for the laying of the Foundation Stone. Colonel Geoffrey Grey (*left*), Chairman of the West Midland TAVR Association waits to be introduced.

### THE SERGEANTS' FAREWELL

**Sergeants Ray Ricketts, Jack Chambers, Keith Hudson, Bill Holmes** and **Dante Brenni** do not normally get closer to catering than being ham-fisted. In fact they all invariably smell of petrol and diesel oil rather than cooking oil.

However they all got together and organised a memorable farewell party for those renowned warriors of the Regular Army, **W.O.1 Phil Johnson, W.O.2 Harry Sankey** and **Staff Sergeant Ted Tibby** on the eve of their retirement.

The 40 mess members and guests enjoyed a fine meal and then, the old soldiers were presented with silver salvers and their wives with bouquets. **W.O.1 Phil Johnson** goes on like Peter Pan in perpetual youth to fill the post of W.O.2 in the newly formed ACF CCF liaison staff at West Midland District. He will be remembered for many things. As MTO his lectures on 'convoy flagging' if believed, would have had the Regiment driving across Holland dressed overall. In remembrance of Camp 73 the RSM, **W.O.1 Harry Birtles** presented him with a plaque bearing a wooden spoon with hosepipe rampant and the inscription "To the Burniston Bubbler. If you can't stir it, spray it". **W.O.2 Harry Sankey** was quite overcome as he thought the party was for **Phil Johnson** only. He confessed to having mixed feelings about leaving and is still not quite certain what he is going to do. A pound to a pinch of snuff says that it will have road wheels, engine and a load.

**Staff Sergeant Ted Tibby** is also job hunting but is coming back to join us as a Volunteer to sort out the Officers' Mess.

## 39 Sig Regt (V), London

### FITNESS FOR ROLE INSPECTION— 13th NOVEMBER, 1973

THE day that everyone dreads—the Fitness for Role Inspection dawned grey, wet and windy. Spirits not in the least bit dampened the Permanent Staff of the Regiment, whipped in by the RSM—**Jack Howker,** scurried round adding the final touches. 'Wet Paint' notices appeared, as did ones that said don't walk on the carpet, the tiles, the parquet, etc. Eye-lashes are very useful! Even the Adjutant's dog had dusters tied to all four paws.

At last, by 7 p.m. all was ready and all the volunteers safely gathered in—despite a cunning notice which said 'use other entrance' and happily directed everyone around Moorgate Tube Station!

The Inspecting Officer, **Brigadier M. J. P. O'Cock, M.C., A.D.C.,** the Chief of Staff of London District inspected the Regiment on parade, and then made a comprehensive tour of the Regiment—leaving no store, office, volunteer or permanent staff unturned. He was accompanied on his inspection by the Chief Signal Officer of London District, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Swindale.** The arduous inspection finished with visits to the Lynx Club and to the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, going on then to a buffet supper in the Officers' Mess. As **Brigadier O'Cock** was masterminding the Royal Wedding the following day, he was unable to remain as late as we would have wished, but our thanks are extended to him for coming the evening before such an important occasion.

F.F.R. INSPECTION—WILL IT WORK?

*Left to right:* Corporal Bristow (Royal Signals TAVR), W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. B. T. Hill (Royal Signals), Brigadier M. J. P. O'Cock (C. of S., London District), Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White (Royal Signals). Back to the camera, Sergeant Graeme (Royal Sig·als)

### WO's AND SERGEANTS' MESS CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas festivities started early this year on 1st December with the Annual Christmas Draw of the WO's and Sergeants' Mess. Altogether some 200 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, even if the Drill Hall was a little chilly—who left that door open? Thanks for the evening go to the permanent staff who organised the whole thing, including stamping 8,000 draw tickets!

## 55 Sig Sqn (V), Liverpool

| | |
|---|---|
| OC .. .. | **Major J. R. Dawson,** Royal Signals |
| Second-in-Command | **Captain P. D. Hayler,** Royal Signals |
| SSM.. .. | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) E. L. Hamilton** |
| F. of S. .. | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) M. V. Pittock** |
| SQMS .. | **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) J. B. S. Blackburn** |
| PSI (Cardiff Troop) .. | **W.O.2 L. Coupe** |
| Chief Clerk .. | **Sergeant C. McLaren** |
| Technicians | **Sergeant R. T. McKinlay** **Corporal R. B. Williamson** |

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Squadron has, in the past year, moved from the AVR Centre in Townsend Avenue, Liverpool to;

AVR Centre,
Grace Road,
Liverpool L9 2DB
Telephone: 051–525 4214

Several items of mail have gone astray because some units have not been aware of this change. Would you please note it in your address book.

### APOLOGIES TO OUR READERS

We much regret that whilst casting back through recent and not so recent copies of THE WIRE it has been noticed that this Squadron has been lacking in the production of 'copy'. May we assure our readers that the Squadron is very much to the fore both in Liverpool and Cardiff.

### ANNUAL CAMP

This was held in July at STC Scarborough. Dark clouds, pelting rain and strong sea breezes got us off to a good start. Long days of mental and physical activity in the classrooms and on the sports field allied to the nocturnal delights of Scarborough in mid-season made first works parade an ordeal for everyone. Making full use of the excellent facilities the many hours in the classrooms paid off judging by the high pass marks obtained by all volunteers. The SNCO instructors loaned to us by CVHQ were most impressed by the enthusiasm and capability of the students.

The second week brought us better weather. It will long be remembered for a three day exercise 'Pink Panther' in which we practiced for our role in support of UKMF. This was combined with a night infiltration task which highlighted several individual acts of 'heroism'. Our resident midget, five foot nothing **Signalman Stephen Brisk** tried manfully to wade through a five foot something deep stream, his patrol leader, **Y. of S. John Toll** still believes that it didn't look that deep from the map.

**Signalman Terence Jones,** having been captured asked his captor for a sandwich. He was kindly presented with a thick syrup butty which **Jones** immediately ground into the face of his benefactor and escaped.

During the exercise we were pleased to welcome the CSO 3 Division, **Colonel Ian Swan** who was slightly bemused to see a field telephone take fright at his august presence (while he was trying to use it) and disappear up the road firmly attached by D10 to a departing line rover. Line Troop are now aware of the need for tie back drills.

(*Continued on page* 37)



(*Continued from page* 36)

The GOC North West District, **Major-General C. W. B. Purdon, C.B.E., M.C.** also visited us and throughout his tour impressed us all with his own enthusiasm and fitness. He questioned everyone about his job and sporting activities—that is except for **Sergeant Maurice** (call me **'Mo') Dahl** who leapt out of his land rover on seeing the general, shook him warmly by the hand and said, "Hello Sir, nice of you to call, sorry I can't stop to chat" and dashed off to refuel a dying generator.

We were pleased to welcome **Brigadier Derrick Baynham,** Commander 11 Signal Group and **Colonel Donald Crawford** Deputy Commander 11 Signal Group who spent a day with us on the ranges and were our guests at a dinner night held in the Prince of Wales Hotel at Scarborough.

We also thoroughly enjoyed the visit of **Brigadier H. A. J. Sturge,** BGS Signals (Army) who made a very searching study of both men and equipment.

**Captain Myrddin Davies** our Second-in-Command (V) was the Camp OC, ably assisted by **Captain Chris Dennis** (OC LSF Troop) and **Lieutenant** (now Captain) **Allan Burden** (OC LSG Troop Cardiff).

### VISIT FROM DOWN UNDER

On 13th September we were pleased to have a flying visit from **Major-General D. B. Dunstan, C.B., C.B.E.,** Chief of Material of the Australian Army. He got a full briefing from the OC, **Major John Dawson** before he had to dash off back to London. He was accompanied by the GOC and **Colonel L. A. Simpson, C.B.E., E.D.,** Commander CMF Training Group Tasmania.

### EXERCISE 'AUTUMN GALLOP'

Since Camp amongst other things we have been preparing for GOC's Exercise 'Autumn Gallop' which saw the Squadron dispersed through Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Westmorland following the movements of the various TAVR Units of North West District. All of the Squadrons equipment including D11, C11, C42 and C41 was deployed plus anything else we could scrounge to provide control communications for the 'goodies'. Having proved a Radio Relay path from Preston to Catterick (who said it couldn't be done with only one relay?), **Second-Lieutenant Doug McLay** and **Sergeant Ron McKinlay** were slightly put out to find that 24 hours before it all started their long straight shot had turned into a longer one with a right angle at the relay—The Battalion HQ had decided to change its location. Since this change meant working through a very large forbidding hill very close to the relay we have now proved that C41's are not meant to work skywave!

From a communications point of view, after a slow start excellent circuits were provided.

### OFFICERS/SENIOR NCO's STUDY PERIOD

This Annual event was held in the Empire Hotel, Llandudno on the 3rd–4th November. Even though many of us took our families or girl friends with us we did work fairly hard.

ANNUAL STUDY PERIOD

*Left to right:* Brigadier J. F. Plaskett (Commander 2 Transport Group), Major J. R. Dawson (OC), Brigadier D. Baynham (Commander 11 Signal Group)

We were pleased to welcome **Brigadier F. J. Plaskett, M.B.E.,** Commander 2 Transport Group RCT and **Brigadier D. Baynham,** GM Commander 11 Signal Group (V) as our principal guests. The visiting lecturers managed to squeeze into their tight schedules some very informative lectures. Volunteer Officers also were called upon to speak. **Lieutenant Steve Savage** our QM gave an excellent talk on the new accounting system which we have just initiated. **Sergeant Richard Morgan** tired us all out by making us watch him showing us how to keep fit.

Sunday morning when all were at a low ebb, **Mr. Teifion Morgan** from Llanstaff Technical College kept us working and amused by conducting a management seminar.

On the Saturday afternoon the families were taken on a coach tour of Caernarvon, Snowdonia and Bettwys-y-coed and other unpronounceable locations in North Wales including that tongue twister Llanfair P————g————gogogoch.

### SPORT

The Squadrons sports team have been busy throughout the year waving the corps banner in local TAVR events and on wider fronts. The various teams reached the final stages of the 11 and 5-a-side soccer and we are also good at darts. We also entered teams for cross-country running and badminton, motor rallying, small and full bore shooting and ended well up the sporting ladder.

We entered a team for the Lang Trophy, a 11 Signal Group Patrol competition in which we gained top marks in the Night Patrol and NBC 'events'.

## *The North Irish Horse*

NEWS FROM THE NORTH IRISH HORSE

Pictured above are the OC and SSM of 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V) on the evening that their CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Danny Goodwin-Jones presented Major Scott Buchanan and S.S.M. James Moore with their Territorial Decoration and Efficiency Medals. 69 Squadron is part of the 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) whose HQ is in Glasgow with other Squadrons at Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Recently 69 Squadron successfully participated in a VHF exercise communicating via relays into Duncreggan Camp in Londonderry. Morale is extremely high in 69 Squadron who are well over establishment despite competition from the Ulster Defence Regiment and other TAVR units. Rumour is afoot of an increase in establishment with an end product of even more Northern Irish Horsemen!

# ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be home owners** who do not plan well ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

**Other financial benefits** are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

# SCHOOL FEES

**Selected** schemes linked with life assurance to raise funds for provision of IMMEDIATE and FUTURE school fees can substantially reduce the cost of educating children. Very early planning can reduce such costs to NIL. If you have a school fees problem write to us now for advice before it becomes insoluble.

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## The Catterick Army Motorcycle Trial

ON 18th November under the sponsorship of 8 Signal Regiment a large motorcycle trial was organised in Catterick by **Captain Mark Wilson** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Fayers, B.E.M.**

### DETAILED PREPARATIONS

A total of 78 entries were received and processed with all the additional correspondence by **Mr. Len Jelley** the MT clerk; the many unusual items including first aid kits and hurricane lanterns were scrounged from various local sources by the MT, **S.Q.M.S. Mr. Fred Gamble** and the main planning preparation and marking of the five mile course with a multitude of signs and mine tape was carried out by the organisers.

All possible spare time during the month before the trial was spent by the MT Troop on the many preparations and the atmosphere became somewhat electrified when the first signs of a possible national fuel crisis became evident; with such a good entry and all arrangements made it would have been a bitter blow if cancellation had been necessary.

**Staff Sergeants Brian Harrison** and **Geff Lumley** produced a highly efficient system of meeting and accommodating all entries and support crews as they arrived, whilst **Captain Peter Godbold** (ACC) and the Messines Kitchen staff produced superb meals for all comers, in fact the individual Sunday lunches in sophisticated white pasteboard packages complete with plastic KFS caused a few eyebrows to be raised in surprise and appreciation when handed out by **Corporal John Green** on Gandale Moor.

### 10 DIFFICULT SECTIONS ON EACH OF FOUR LAPS

Prompt at 09.00 on Sunday morning the first riders were despatched by the start team, **Lieutenant Alan Jones, S.S.M. Len Green** and **Sergeant Morris Pearson.** The first phase of the trial required each rider to complete four laps and ride cleanly through 10 difficult sections on each lap. The sections ranged from riding up a 10 foot deep rocky gully under the eagle eye of **Sergeant John Boyes** to driving among the trees on a wooded hillside with **Staff Sergeant Graham Leake** and **Sergeant George Taylor** (3 RTR) gleefully subtracting marks for the slightest infringement of the rules.

A couple of very tricky sections up and down the face of an old quarry were manned by **Mrs. Sylvia Fayers** and **Sergeant Walley Wareing,** both of whom were relieved to be able to hand in unusued first aid kits.

Plenty of fun was seen near the start in the Pimples mud hole with **Major 'Dickie' Bird** and **Corporal Peter Laybourne** dragging out the occasional mud covered machines and rider whilst at the far end of the course mud made identification difficult for **Staff Sergeant Reg Parnell** and the volunteer assistants from the White Helmets.

Phase two required riders to ride two laps and 20 obstacles in 40 minutes with penalties for infringements and late arrival at the finish.

### 20 MILES ACROSS COUNTRY

The final phase, 20 miles across country riding in 48 minutes with time penalties only, produced a very high standard of cross-country riding and really surprised the two senior judges, **Major Henry Scott** and **Willie Robotham.**

As darkness approached the recorders, **Captain Jack Fiskel** and **Lieutenant Phil Sharman,** worked furiously in the lavish comfort of the Fiskel caravan to consolidate the score sheets and produce the list of prize-winners.

### PRIZE WINNERS—METROPOLITAN POLICE TO THE FORE

In the glow of motorcycle headlamps and a setting sun the Commanding Officer, **Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E.,** presented the 18 trophies accompanied with Parker pen and pencil presentation sets.

The winner was **P.C. Denis Glover** of the Metropolitan police riding a standard police Triumph Twin, second prizes went to **Sergeant George Webb** (RCT Transport School) and **P.C. Dave Randall** (Metropolitan police). Twin third prizes were won by **Corporal Walker** (8 Signal Regiment) and **P.C. Hobbs** (Metropolitan police).

The best Novice award was won by **Sergeant Kokocimski** (SEME) and other prize-winning novices were **Sergeant Capper** (Royal Marines), **Lance-Corporal Brickett** (12 Regiment RCT), **Lance-Corporal Howe** (218 Squadron RCT), **Lance-Corporal Urry** (218 Squadron RCT), **W.O.2 Malcolm** (17 Port Regiment RCT) and **Captain Dorward** (JSRMAT).

Team winners on Triumph Machines were **P.C.'s Glover, Randall** and **Hobbs** of the Metropolitan Police and the BSA team winners were **Corporal Walker, Corporal Hendry** and **Signalman Haverson** of 8 Signal Regiment.

The day ended with the recovery by **Captain Wilson** and **Corporal Bean** of two officials, **Sergeant Bert Barron** and **Mr. Ted Hill,** who now agree that a four wheel drive vehicle cannot cross soft ground like a one wheel drive vehicle!

## 11 Signal Regiment
## Summary of Sports successes

During 1973 the regiment won the following events:—

Northern Command Triathlon Championships
North East District Major Units
Association Football Knock-Out Competition North East
North East District Minor Units Association Football League Competition
North East District Minor Units Swimming Competition
Northern Area Minor Units Orienteering Competition
Army Minor Units Orienteering Competition

The Regiment also took part in the following events with the results as shown:

Army Minor Units Swimming Competition—Fourth
North East District 6-a-side Hockey Competition—Runners-up

Individuals from the regiment gained the following honours:

**Captain Leigh Hood,** Royal Signals won the William Turner Cup for the best placed Army pilot, in the 1973 Inter Service Gliding Championships. **Lieutenant Robin Hill,** Royal Signals won the men's individual championship in the Northern Area Orienteering Competition. **Lieutenant Willy Brewin,** Royal Signals represented the Army at Hockey and was runner-up in the North East District Golfing Championships. **Lance-Corporal Harry Elkan** was awarded his Army Rugby Union Cap and was selected for the England under-23 training Squad.

## School of Signals

SERGEANT PAUL HAROLD BRAZIL

All those who know Sergeant Paul Brazil (School of Signals) will also know the dedication with which he trains for athletics and competes in top class events representing the Army or Combined Services. He has already won the Army 1,500m, 5,000m and 10,000m events; he has now been awarded the Cotterell Trophy, awarded to the outstanding Army track athlete for 1973. This is a splendid achievement and our congratulations go to him

**CORPS CRICKET—OFFICERS XI**

Players are required for the annual Corps Officers XI versus Welbeck College match to be played at Welbeck on 12th June. The Corps Secretary has some difficulty in fielding a truly representative team for Officer matches and would appreciate some communication from any Officer who would like to play in this game.

Contact: **Captain S. A. Coltman**
Trials Squadron
School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Tel.: Blandford 2581 Ext 380

*[Photo: Courtesy Newark Advertiser*

SEEN AT THE NEWARK BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

*Left to right:* Mr. D. Greenbrook (Assist. to Gen. Sec. R.S.A.), Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D. (Vice Chairman R.S.A.), Mr. J. J. Dixon (Hon. Sec. Newark Branch R.S.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel S. Harker-Smith, T.D. (President Newark Branch R.S.A.)


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## Obituary

### Major General Sir Hubert Rance GCMG GBE CB

On the 24th January the Corps lost one of its most outstanding and best loved officers in the death of Major General Sir Hubert (Elvin) Rance, known throughout the Corps as 'Tishy'.

He was born in 1898 and commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst into the Worcestershire Regiment in 1916. During the first world war he served with his battalion as a Signal Officer in France where he was wounded three times. After the war he went out to India with his battalion and returned to the UK in 1922 as an instructor at the All Arms Wing at Maresfield. In 1926 he transferred to the Corps and thus followed the example of four other officers from the Worcesters all of whom made their mark in the Corps—Major General Sir Leslie Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Major General R. E. Vyvyan, C.B.E., M.C., Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C. and Lieutenant Colonel J. E. S. Walford M.B.E. Of these four 'Tishy' was the last survivor.

After transferring to the Corps he was posted to 2 Divisional Signals where he held the appointment of adjutant for three years during which period he represented the Corps at rugby and cricket. In 1930 he was posted to the Boys Company at Catterick. In 1932 he had a stint in Malaya for just over a year before returning to the UK to attend the Staff College at Camberley, where he passed out very high on the list and subsequently returned as an instructor.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he went out to France with the BEF and in 1940 he took command of 4 Divisional Signals being evacuated with the regiment through Dunkirk. He was mentioned in despatches and appointed OBE. Much to his disappointment he was not left long in a field unit as the powers that be considered that his undoubted administrative abilities would be better employed on the staff. He was accordingly posted to the Training Directorate at the War Office as GSO 1, Signals Training where he remained for 4½ years and reached the rank of brigadier. He would have much preferred to have been with active service units but accepted the situation reluctantly. In the spring of 1945 when a difficult situation had arisen in Burma largely as a result of the Japanese occupation, he was sent out as Director for Civil Affairs in the rank of Major General. He used his qualities of wisdom, sympathetic understanding and drive to the full with such good effect that he was able to hand over to the re-established Government of Burma in 1946. He was appointed CB and returned to the UK as Deputy Commander of South Western District. This was not for long. In August the Governor General of Burma was invalided home and at Lord Louis Mountbatten's request he was sent out to replace him. He found a very much worse situation than when he left, with the rise of a powerful communist faction under Aung San and widespread strikes and civil disturbances. By dint of hard work, great tact and diplomacy he gained the respect and trust of the leaders of all the various factions so that by 1948 a constituent assembly had been formed, which allowed Burma to be declared an independent republic under U Nu. With Lady Rance he left Burma on a wave of popularity and when they returned a few years later at the invitation of the Burmese Government they were received with a great welcome—an indication of the degree of respect and affection in which they were both held. This was further expressed by the Burmese Government bestowing one of their highest honours on Sir Hubert —the title of Agha Maha Thray Sithu.

Having completed his task in Burma he was appointed GCMG and was selected as Chairman of the Caribbean Committee and from 1950 to 1955 he was appointed Governor General and C-in-C of Trinidad and Tobago where he played an active and important part in the setting up of the West Indies Federation. During these many years overseas he maintained his interest and contact with the Corps. He was Colonel Commandant from 1953–1963 and was Honorary Colonel of 51 L of C Signal Regiment Supplementary Reserve during 1951 and 1952.

'Tishy' was an officer with great charm, enthusiasm and drive. He achieved his success through sympathetic understanding of people and their problems and the ability to gain the respect and trust of all who served him and for whom he worked. The Corps has lost a charming and loyal officer and friend and we offer our deep sympathy to Lady Rance and her son and daughter.



### Colonel A. W. Roberts MC

Arthur William Roberts ('Robbie') enlisted in the 21st (Empress of India) Lancers on his 19th birthday in 1909. He saw service in Egypt and India. He was commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment in November 1914 and won the Military Cross whilst serving with that regiment in Galipolli in 1915 and was later mentioned in despatches whilst serving in France. At the time of his transfer to Royal Signals he was serving in Egypt, Sinai and Palestine after the end of hostilities. Among the commands he held was that of a Construction Section building permanent line through Sinai. The section was formed on the 'Sillidar' system, where a camel owner was enrolled complete with his camel. These nomadic people came and went as they pleased and when a man had been absent 60 days he was struck-off as a deserter. However, the same drill did not apply to camels and 'Robbie' nearly incurred the severe displeasure of the Army Council for being short of a couple of hundred camels.

In 1929 'Robbie' took over the British element of the Signal Training Centre Jabalpur. The strength was usually less than 150 but with 'Robbie's' drive and enthusiasm their performance in sport equalled that of the big battalions. He actually persuaded Lance-Sergeant Macfarlane to interrupt his honeymoon in order to box against a new British regiment who seemed to need taking down a peg. While in Jabalpur 'Robbie' spent two days a week in the jungle. He was a keen big game shikari and bagged at least two tigers. In 1933 he took command of Waziristan District Signals which was a major's command although all it lacked compared with a Divisional Signals was the cable section. Headquarters were at Dera Ismail Khan which had no British soldiers other than a few signalmen. The only amusement was the very rudimentary frontier cinema. 'Robbie' missed no opportunity of entertaining the soldiers and keeping them happy and discipline was of a high standard. 'Robbie' could reason with the toughest egg and he made everyone work and play at their utmost.

In 1936 he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and took over B Corps Signals in Karachi. He retired 48 hours before Germany invaded Poland and was immediately back on the job. In 1940 after Dunkirk he re-formed 3 Corps Signals (the old 46th) as 10 Corps Signals. He then re-formed No. 1 L of C Signals for the Middle East. He returned to 3 Corps Signals which then served 30 Corps in the Western Desert. His last active service appointment was CSO 10 Corps.

On his return to England in 1944 he commanded 2nd Operators Training Battalion for a year. He was then posted to Germany where he served in various appointments with the Military Government before retiring in 1947. He took over as General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association from 1948 to 1951.

'Robbie' re-married in 1951 to live with his wife in Muizenberg, South Africa. 'Robbie' was by now a keen big game photographer and the wonderful game reserves of South Africa gave him great scope.

'Robbie' died peacefully in his sleep on 14th December, 1973. All his friends, and he had many, will wish to express their deep sympathy to Dorothy, his wife.

R.M.A.

### Major G. H. Hobbs MM

J.H.E. writes:—

Mere words can never tell of the esteem and affection that was held by those who knew, and had the good fortune to serve with that great character 'Ginger' Hobbs.

On the 3rd November, 1973 he passed away from a sudden coronary at his home, 74 Meols Parade, Hoylake, Cheshire. This was a cruel blow to his wife and family, as well as a great loss to his old pals and comrades of the Corps.

'Ginger' joined the Royal Engineers, as a 'Badgy' in 1914, and very soon saw active service in France, where he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery—surely one of the youngest soldiers to gain such a fine distinction.

I first met 'Ginger' at Crowborough in 1920, where as a Corporal he was a tough PT instructor under that well liked personality Major E. de W. H. Bradley.

With others, well remembered and all expert footballers ('Blanco' White, 'Jock' Turnbull, Dick Shenton, Johnny Wooldridge, Eric Sage, 'Jock' Welch and company) he was a member of the Corps team that won all the major soccer trophies in those early 20's.

Much later 'Ginger' was to be my Quartermaster at the Depot and Holding Battalion at the STC (East Africa), 1943–45, and what a wonderful iob he did. His wise counsel and unstinting help for recruits and for all concerned were invaluable. His loyalty, attention to detail and turnout, and his unfailing cheerfulness were an example which only he could, *and did* live up to.

The Last Post has sounded for 'Ginger', but our memories of him and our respect will never fade. To Jessie ('Toddy') and his family, we offer our deepest sympathies.

### Mr. W. J. Evenden

As we were going to press we were much saddened to hear of the death of Mr. W. J. Evenden.

Bill Evenden had a very wide circle of Corps friends not only from his service days, but also from those made during his long period as Accountant with the Royal Signals Association. Bill served as a regular in the Corps from 1926 onwards—mainly in Iraq 1927–29, and India 1929–33. He went on the Regular Army Reserve from 1934 to 1939 but was called up for the war during which he spent most of his time with AG 11 finishing up with the rank of Sergeant.

In 1945 he joined Association HQ as bookkeeper/accountant of its large and complicated accounting system until October 1969. During this period he served no less than four General Secretaries who will always remember him for his meticulous accuracy and copybook neatness. During this period, despite increasing ill health, he seldom missed a day and never misplaced a figure. In the days when the counter staff at Cox and King's were of an older generation he was well known there and commented on by them as a model of accuracy. On his retirement he took up bowling at which he achieved considerable proficiency.

He was utterly devoted to the Royal Signals Association and will be much missed by many old friends in it.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. May Evenden, his wife, at 21 Cathles Road, Balham Hill, S.W.12 and his brother and other relatives in their sad loss.

### Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. P. Hall

Denis Champion Perney Hall died at the age of 68 on the 12th November 1973. He was educated at St. Paul's school and commissioned into the Corps in 1925. He spent all of his overseas service in India, from 1930–1935 and again from 1939 until the end of the Second World War, where he was employed in the Armaments Department of the MGO branch of Army Headquarters India, having previously served for two years at the Royal Arsenal Woolwich.

'Ginger' as he was known to all his friends—and his personality was such that he had only friends—arrived in Records to take over as Second-in-Command in 1948 in which position he served until his retirement in 1956, when he was granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Not for long however, did the records office have to do without his services as he re-joined as a retired officer later in 1956, and was re-employed as the Officer-in-Command Mobilization from 1956 until 1960 when he started up the then new technicians section.

'Ginger' was a natural gentleman, one of the kindest and most helpful people it was possible to know. His staff at Records thought very highly of him and were very sorry to see him go when he finally retired on the 30th April 1969.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

### Captain Eric Robinson

It will be with much regret that many readers will learn of the sudden and unexpected death at the early age of 42 of Captain Eric Robinson. Eric joined the army as an 18 year old National Serviceman and was trained as a Lineman at Catterick. It did not take him long to put his first foot on the promotion ladder when after only eight months service he became a Lance-Corporal. He rose steadily through the ranks with service overseas in Singapore, Germany and Gan until in January 1969 he became the acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 11 Signal Regiment followed in July of that year with his appointment as Regimental Sergeant Major of 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers). It was in January 1969 whilst he was serving as Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant of 11 Signal Regiment that he was awarded his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

To no-one's surprise Eric was commissioned as a Short Service officer in September 1970 and posted to 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment where he took over the post of Station Staff Officer in Lubbecke. It was perhaps in his time in this appointment that he was best known, for as Station Staff Officer he 'fathered' and helped countless officers, soldiers, wives and

children of the multitude of cap badges that are posted to a divisional headquarters to enjoy life in a small station abroad. Eric spared himself for no-one, he was always willing to give up his own time to ensure that the comforts and needs of others were catered for first.

On the 1st June 1973, Eric was selected for a Regular Quartermaster commission and in September he was posted to 13 Signal Regiment as Mechanical Transport Officer. It was whilst serving in this appointment that Eric died on 1st December 1973.

Evelyn has followed 'the flag' faithfully since her marriage to Eric and it is to her and her three children Marilyn, Gillian and Eric that the thoughts and sympathy of all of their many friends go at this time.

### *Mr. J. S. Harrison*

Major J. Birchall, Vice-president of Manchester Branch of the Association writes:

It is with deep and sincere regret that I have to report the death of Mr. John Stanley Harrison our esteemed and respected honorary secretary who died on 23rd December after a serious operation.

Mr. Harrison joined Royal Signals T.A. prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 and served in many units during the war. He rejoined 42 (EL) Divisional Signal Regiment, TA in 1947 and served a further 20 years or so before retiring from the T.A. He was an indefatigable secretary of the Manchester Branch and nothing was too much trouble if he could be of service to others. He will, indeed, be sorely missed.

His funeral was attended by a large number of mourners including many former officers of the Regiment led by the present OC of 42 Signal Squadron, TAVR, Major P. Jolliffe, T.D., and a bearer party was made up by his Old Comrades.

### *Major James Williams*

Mr. R. Hinge, Hon. Secretary of Chester Branch, writes to inform us of the death at the age of 67 after a long illness of Major James Williams. Major Williams served in the Corps from 1921–61 and he had a varied and successful career in the Service. He was a Dunkirk veteran and gained a mention in despatches in Palestine in 1957. Major Williams was a popular and highly conscientious personality deeply interested in the work of the Royal Signals Association which he and other members of the Chester branch did so much to help by their support and personal contribution.

### *Captain T. A. D. W. ('Tim') Hillyard MBE*

The death occurred early in January at Great Langstone near Bakewell of Captain 'Tim' Hallyard at the age of 53. He was awarded the M.B.E. and mentioned in despatches during the Italian campaign when he was Adjutant of 8 Indian Divisional Signals. When the war ended he joined the Intelligence Corps for a year.

In 1946 he joined BP and for 25 years worked mainly in the Middle East, Canada and in the UK. In 1970 he joined the United Nations Development Programme as consultant on petroleum affairs in Indonesia. His last posting was as senior adviser to the Government of Malta on petroleum.

To his widow, his two daughters and his mother, great sympathy is expressed. His funeral in the village church of Great Langstone was attended by Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D. representing the Royal Signals Association.

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# Movements

## Officers

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|---|---|---|
| Captain R. Boden | RMC of S, Shrivenham, 9 January | |
| Captain P. E. A. Chaddock | | |
| Captain M. A. Payne | | |
| Captain N. F. Wood | | |
| Captain M. McI. Ayrton | | |
| Captain M. K. Carson | | |
| Captain D. W. Cook | | |
| Captain M. J. Lance | | |
| Captain H. G. S. Thomas | | |
| Captain K. G. Turner | | |
| Captain T. I. M. Waugh | | |
| Captain H. M. Adams | To British Gurkhas, Nepal | |
| Captain M. J. M. Alden | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) J. W. Ankers | ,, | 233 Signal Squadron |
| Major M. O. N. Bird | ,, | UK Support Unit SHAPE |
| Second-Lieutenant A. J. Bowering | ,, | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Major M. L. P. Brock | ,, | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. F. Budd | ,, | 11 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Burrows | ,, | MOD (SCDS2) |
| Second-Lieutenant J. R. Cadwallader | ,, | 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant E. C. Cameron | ,, | 11 Signal Regiment |
| Major S. R. Carr Smith | ,, | MOD (MS6) |
| Second-Lieutenant G. J. Cary | ,, | 1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant D. F. M. Collyer | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major R. F. L. Cook | ,, | 7 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Second-Lieutenant G. D. Corbet | ,, | 260 Signal Squadron |
| Major J. J. Cullen | ,, | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Captain (TOT) R. F. A. Davies | ,, | HQ AFCENT Intl. Support Unit |
| Captain (QM) J. Dean | ,, | 244 Signal Squadron |
| Captain P. R. Dick | ,, | 19 Airptbl Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain P. J. K. Dickinson | ,, | 1 Artillery Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis | ,, | School of Signals (A/Q) |
| Captain R. A. Farrimond | ,, | School of Signals (Course) |
| Captain S. C. L. Gadd | ,, | School of Signals |
| Major J. L. Golding | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. D. Griffiths | ,, | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Major C. E. Grundy | ,, | MOD (PE) DTCP |
| Major J. L. E. Gryspeerdt | ,, | MOD (DSS(A)) |
| Major D. R. Hodges | ,, | Junior Division Staff College |
| Lieutenant E. A. B. Hounsell | ,, | 39 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain R. P. Jenkins | ,, | 1 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain R. Jones | ,, | 37 (E) Signal Regiment (V) |
| Captain C. D. McK. Kemp | ,, | AAC Harrogate |
| Lieutenant A. T. B. Kimber | ,, | School of Signals (Course) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Last | ,, | CR Signals Northern Ireland |
| Captain W. V. Legge | ,, | RMCS Shrivenham |
| Captain (Tfc) W. H. Lockie | ,, | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Major T. C. McCoy | ,, | Sultans Armed Forces Oman |
| Major J. G. McLuckie | ,, | School of Signals (Course) |
| Captain J. C. K. Maclean | ,, | 39 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain G. J. Mann | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Major F. W. Matthews | ,, | School of Signals |
| Major C. B. Mercer | ,, | HQ Northern Ireland |
| Captain G. H. Mills | ,, | 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant S. C. Moralee | ,, | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Captain T. R. Morgan | ,, | Australian School of Signals |
| Second-Lieutenant P. B. Neale | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. E. Neeve | ,, | HQ 3 Infantry Brigade |
| Second-Lieutenant T. C. O'Brien | ,, | 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major W. H. H. Parkes | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R. Plant | ,, | HQ BAOR (Signals) Br) |
| Second-Lieutenant P. R. Pullen | ,, | 19 Airptbl Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain A. Rassim | ,, | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Major J. W. Roberts | ,, | Fortress HQ Gibraltar |
| Second-Lieutenant D. R. Robertson | ,, | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Major W. J. P. Robins | ,, | MOD (AT4a) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Rogers | ,, | 11 Signal Regiment HS |
| Captain B. H. Rowe | ,, | School of Signals |
| Captain D. H. M. Rumsey | ,, | 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant G. M. S. Shipley | ,, | 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant K. Sloane | ,, | 223 Signal Squadron |
| Major R. B. Smith | ,, | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major P. A. Spooner | ,, | Royal Brunei Malay Regiment |
| Major R. W. Stark | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson | ,, | Senior Officers War Course (as Colonel) |
| Major J. F. Storr | ,, | Tels Branch REME |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Taylor | ,, | 13 Signal Regiment as CO |
| Lieutenant J. M. Thenlis | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant N. J. Thompson | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain C. R. Treeby | ,, | 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| Captain M. J. Vest | ,, | 11 Signal Regiment (to retire) |
| Captain P. B. Webster | ,, | 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major M. R. C. Weiner | ,, | NORTHAG Signal Support Group |
| Major A. M. Willcox | ,, | 12 Mech Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant F. Williams | ,, | 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major R. A. Wright | ,, | MOD Signals 31a |

## W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

JANUARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W.O.2 J. D. Bowman | ,, | 28 Anzuk Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 H. G. Arnold | ,, | 38 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.2 A. Davies | ,, | 7 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) E. P. Mahoney | ,, | 20 Maritime Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. W. Mansfield | ,, | School of Signals (CADRE) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. G. W. Phillips | ,, | 223 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Supvr (R)) R. P. Etherton | ,, | 9 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. M. Charles | ,, | 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) F. Boulton | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment (CADRE) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. B. T. Hill | ,, | 603 Signal Troop |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. J. Laws | ,, | Technical Group REME |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. R. Gallagher | ,, | 34 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. P. Kent | ,, | 233 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. W. Calver | ,, | 259 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. M. Thomas | ,, | 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. D. Rayment | ,, | 633 Signal Troop |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) K. A. Allen | ,, | SHAPE HQ Command & Support (BE) |
| Staff Sergeant J. H. Smith | ,, | 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant A. G. Wooden | ,, | 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/Staff Sergeant D. C. Lister | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| A/Staff Sergeant C. H. F. MacQueen | ,, | 22 Signal Regiment |
| A/Staff Sergeant N. J. H. Naylor | ,, | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Shelton-Smith | ,, | 11 Signal Regiment (CADRE) |
| Sergeant J. T. Sharp | ,, | Army Personnel Selection Group |
| Sergeant M. J. Blackett | ,, | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. A. Brown | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. J. Abson | ,, | 28 Anzuk Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. H. Gallagher | ,, | 242 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. W. Eaton | ,, | 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. N. Coulson | ,, | 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. W. Quick | ,, | 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. Reade | ,, | 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant N. D. Martin | ,, | 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. Parr | ,, | 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant P. G. Clark | ,, | HQ AFSOUTH |
| Sergeant R. A. L. Green | ,, | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. R. Bayes | ,, | 37 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant G. A. E. Marshall | ,, | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. M. Abbott | ,, | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant C. D. Wise | ,, | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant K. D. Vince | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant N. Hill | ,, | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Bumstead | ,, | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. Birch | ,, | SHAPE (BAE) |
| Sergeant S. Gibson | ,, | School of Signals (CADRE) |
| Sergeant A. Dunbar | ,, | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. P. Shergold | ,, | Army Apprentice College, Harrogate |
| Sergeant M. F. Ledger | ,, | 592 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant M. R. A. Benbow | ,, | ACIO Bournemouth |
| Sergeant A. Smith | ,, | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Walmsley | ,, | 260 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. Clinch | ,, | Central Volunteer HQ & Training Wing Royal Signals |
| Sergeant O. S. Miller | ,, | 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. C. Farrelly | ,, | 224 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. Harris | ,, | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. D. Annis | ,, | 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant I. D. Turner | ,, | 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant L. A. Dugdale | ,, | 261 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant B. Wray | ,, | 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. I. Bayliss | ,, | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Hodgkiss | ,, | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant C. W. Peach | ,, | 603 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant J. Dunn | ,, | 524 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant J. Baker | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. L. Roderick | ,, | School of Signals (CADRE) |
| Sergeant B. R. Hobbs | ,, | 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant M. A. Essig | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment (CADRE) |
| A/Sergeant R. Taylor | ,, | 30 Signal Regiment |

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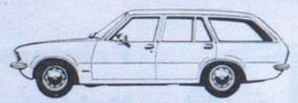
GM **FOR**  **OPEL** OPEL

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*February-March 1974*


# 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. 4RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
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*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1.20**; *monthly* **10p.**
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☆

**FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 2**


# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

One of our favourite WIRE slogans is "The Corps gets around" and certainly our 'White Helmets' live up to this reputation. On our front cover we feature a panoramic view of the White Helmets with Hong Kong—that incredible New York of the East—as a backdrop. Only ten days before the White Helmets had been appearing before enthusiastic crowds in West Berlin, but read all about it on page 49.

Once again this issue of THE WIRE is a number of weeks behind normal schedule. However, we know that readers will appreciate that power restrictions have meant that our printers have been severely curtailed in what they can produce in a given period. Let us hope that things may look somewhat brighter by the time this WIRE reaches you—we will see.

Amid the encircling gloom of the winter months one tends to look about for anything that can offset the depressing events that seem to crowd in on us each day. In fact, much consolation can be found from what goes on in our own Corps.

There is the wonderful spirit of our soldiers in Northern Ireland. Their bravery and cheerfulness under most unpleasant conditions evokes universal admiration. There is the warm hearted generosity of our soldiers and units. Time and again we have had the pleasure of chronicling in the pages of THE WIRE stories of how money and aid have been found for a wide variety of deserving causes—as often as not by groups of soldiers acting on their own initiative. See some examples on pages 64, 70/71.

Finally, there is the comradeship, loyalty and pride of Corps of all who serve or who have served in Royal Signals—so evident when we meet at our various reunions.

Things may look pretty grim at times but basically there is, in general, a great deal of good about as well. Surely this spirit must ultimately prevail despite present day controversy and political shenanigans.

**A 28 PAGE WIRE**

**This Wire has been drastically cut in order to help our printers with their backlog in an endeavour not to fall too far behind in our publishing schedule. In view of late publication most references to Christmas celebrations have been eliminated—cold plum pudding soon becomes very stodgy! The utmost restraint will probably have to be exercised for several months to come in the size of The Wire.**

P.S.: **Army Football Final April 10th. See page 64.**

## From our "In" Tray

### Another half century

Sir,

In 1975 Royal Signals will celebrate its fiftieth year in Catterick Camp. As part of the celebrations, to be held in September 1975, it is hoped to produce a commemorative plate, available for sale to all past and present members of the Corps. Although the final design has yet to be decided the outline specification is:

"A Wedgewood plate depicting the old and present Corps badges, plus the Catterick Rose, on a dark blue background".

The selling price is likely to be between 10 and 15 pounds and the bigger the demand the lower the price. A letter is being circulated to all units in an attempt to assess the demand for the plate but we cannot hope to find out how many retired members of the Corps are interested except through the pages of THE WIRE. If there are any ex-members of the Corps who think they may be interested in buying the plate, would they please write to me at the address below and let me know. Firm orders will not be asked for until nearer the time!

Yours sincerely,
**G. Barnett, Major,** Royal Signals

4 Squadron,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
Yorkshire DL9 3PS

### Looking for a Job?

Sir,

I am an ex-Foreman of Signals working for a small electronic engineering firm in Germany whose parent company is English.

The work is interesting and there are at present three ex-Signals working there. The firm is expanding rapidly and requires more electronic technicians with a sound knowledge of modern circuitry and the ability to speak German.

Interviews can be arranged either in UK or Germany.

Yours sincerely,
**James L. Stanhope,** FSERT

Windy Ridge,
Gussage All Saints,
Wimborne, Dorset.

### St. George's — The Alamein Church

Readers will recollect the appeal initiated by the **Rev. S. Pettifer**—late of the Corps and Rector of the village of Enham Alamein near Andover, Hants—to set up a special Alamein Church as a national memorial to those who turned the tide at the battle of Alamein in World War II.

This appeal met with a splendid response—not least from the Corps. The Association donated two choir stalls with a Corps shield affixed at their ends. Many units, branches of the Association and individuals also contributed in kind or in cash.

The Church is to be consecrated by the Bishop of Basingstoke at 7 p.m. on April 23rd for the local congregation followed by another Service for visitors. On 28th April there will be a Service of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. followed by a cup of tea. All who care to attend these Services will be very welcome.

### Thank You!

Since the beginning of December, gifts of clothing, toys, books, Christmas gifts, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. E. Fladgate, Mrs. J. D. T. Brett, Mrs. J. Power, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. A. Dickson, Captain A. C. Skinner, Mrs. V. Heath, Lieutenant R. H. G. Elford, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Morgan, Major N. Moss, Mr. S. G. Whenman, Mrs. D. A. McKnight, Major-General R. J. Moberly, Major and Mrs. P. R. Davies, Mrs. B. Dixon, Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, W.O.2 W. Scott, Major A. R. Bushell, Major and Mrs. A. E. Carter.

## Special Mention

**W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bill Scott** and **Corporal Rick Dudley** of 21 Signal Regiment for receiving commendations from the Commander-in-Chief RAF Germany. The commendations describe exceptional devotion to duty in their respective work as R.Q.M.S. and Combat Lineman at RAF Wildenrath.

**Mr. J. F. Odgers,** Government telephonist attached to 240 Signal Squadron for receiving the Commander-in-Chief's commendation for the courage he showed in tackling a man believed to be armed with a real pistol. The circumstances were that **Mr. Odgers** who was on duty at the Military Telephone Exchange, Catterick Garrison, went to investigate a disturbance outside the exchange. He found a youth staggering about who became abusive and pushed what appeared to be an automatic pistol into **Mr. Odger's** chest. On attempting to disarm the youth, he ran away whereupon **Mr. Odgers** told a colleague to get Police assistance. Without waiting for their arrival he went after the intruder armed with a pick helve. The intruder escaped but was later arrested by the Civil Police, charged and convicted of criminal offences which included the carrying of an imitation fire-arm.

**Second-Lieutenant N. H. Stewart** who is to be congratulated on winning the Army Squash Championship this year. He also played number one for the Army in the Inter Service matches and defeated his opposite number in both games.

**Sergeant A. J. Hall and Sergeant I. M. Perry** (now with 10 Signal Regiment) for being awarded the Royal Signals Institution prizes for professional attainment and attainment in trade training. The Council of the Royal Signals Institution congratulate **Sergeant Hall** for his exemplary performance on No. 33 Foreman of Signals Course and also **Sergeant Perry** for his exemplary results on the Radio Technician Class 2 to Class 1 Upgrading Course from 9th January 1973 to 8th August 1973.

### Northern Ireland Awards

Our readers will be pleased to hear of the following:

**Awarded B.E.M. for meritorious service—**
**Staff Sergeant R. C. Jones.**

**Mentioned in Despatches—**
**Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) I. R. D. Shapter**
**W.O.2 A. E. Haslam.**

### Army Cross Country Championships

**After their run of successes over the last few years, we have to report that the 21st Signal Regiment ran into superior opponents this year and were closely beaten into second place by the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. We are glad to report that Signalman Madden distinguished himself by becoming Army Junior Champion. After the meeting was over the following interchange of signals took place:**

**From 21 Signal Regiment to 3 Parachute Regiment: "Congratulations splendid cross country victory. We appreciate the hard training and effort behind the success and are happy to temporarily surrender title to such an excellent team"**

**From 3 Parachute Regiment to 21 Signal Regiment: "Thank you for your kind and sportsmanlike signal"**



# 8th SIGNAL REGIMENT AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

*'Signal Log' — Acclaimed by capacity audiences at Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance*

The cast of 'Signal Log'

**BEFORE HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN**

IT would be normal, and probably repetitive, to recount in these notes the many, many festive functions of December held within the Unit. To Unit readers in January 1974 such would probably prove beyond recall and to other readers not dissimilar to events within their own units. Our minds therefore go back to November 1973—the 10th of November to be exact—with 8 Signal Regiment, in close co-operation with the Army Apprentices College Harrogate, performed before Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance a pageant of communications.

'Signal Log' was an undoubted success highly praised by the 14,000 audience assembled at the Royal Albert Hall for the two performances. For the audience at large—the estimated 16,00000 television viewers—the BBC Outside Broadcasts Organization, with high technical accomplishment succeeded with ruthless editing in destroying impact and continuity of presentation.

**JUST OVER THREE MONTHS TO PREPARE**

From the date of acceptance to perform to the date of performance, 129 days elapsed. To have achieved such success in that relatively short space of time is a reflection of the spirit and determination of all those soldiers who actually stepped into the spotlight and of those whose work behind the scenes was so essential to a successful performance. It is further an indication of the true spirit of co-operation which was given willingly by persons and Units too numerous to mention.

For the record, and for the benefit of those members of the Corps who witnessed the television recording, the complete performance is reduced to writing in the balance of these notes in the hope that readers achieve a more worthy appreciation of the performance. Of course colour is lacking from words and photographs and this is a positive detraction and as no photography was possible at the Royal Albert Hall such photographs that are reproduced here were taken at rehearsals—the imaginative reader should have no difficulty.

**THE OPENING**

A darkened vastly imposing auditorium—Her Majesty the Queen admidst an audience of 7,000.

**COMMENTARY**

Wherever, and whenever, armies have marched and fought the military signaller has been there. This evening men and women of 8 Signal Regiment seek to remind you of the part that signals have played and are playing in the fact and flavour of our history. A part that represents the fulfilment of our task—a fulfilment which is

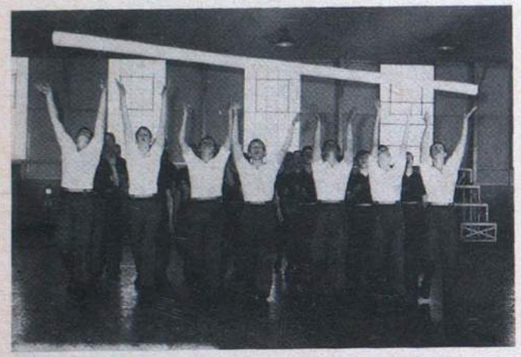
only achieved by determination, dedication, team spirit and a hard and thorough training—so aptly symbolised in a display of log exercises by the young soldiers of the Army Apprentice College Harrogate—tomorrows men of Royal Signals. Heralded by a fan-fare composed by **Major Boulding,** Director of Music, Royal Corps of Signals, and dedicated to the Royal British Legion, Ladies and gentlemen—'Signal Log'.

**FANFARE**

The Corps Fanfare Trumpeters in full dress in spotlight at stage front.

**THE LOG MARCH**

Immediately on conclusion of the fanfare, four by seven man teams of the AAC Harrogate counter marched across the arena centre tossing a 3 cwt. log from one team to the other.

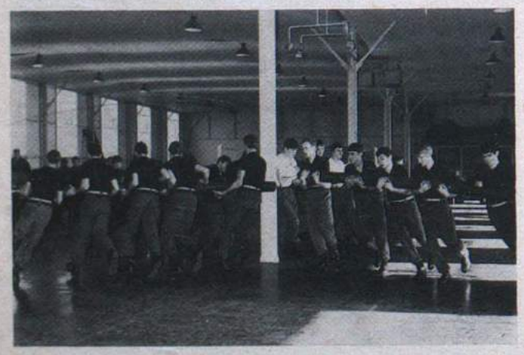


**COMMENTARY**

The Apprentices now act as a human pointer to the past and present as they whirl in the arena centre chanting the Corps motto, "Certa Cito"—Swift and Sure.

**THE WHIRL**

(*Stage Direction*—One team of Apprentices clearly defined in white is now pointing to Tableau 1. During the entrance of and commentary on Tableau 1 the four teams of Apprentices static in the arena centre perform a series of exercises in unison with the logs. The same procedure is utilised to announce and connect each of the four tableaux mounted to depict and recall the communications through the ages).



**COMMENTARY—TABLEAU 1**

Good signals have always been brief, accurate and speedily sent. Julius Ceasar to the people of Rome: I Came: I Saw: I Conquered.
and 1600 years later: The Armada is in the Channel
But the Army has always been fortunate in fighting overseas.
Imagine, therefore, the excitement and anxiety on 21st June, 1815 when Major Percy presented to the Prince Regent Wellington's "Waterloo Despatch" and the news of victory.

Man's inventiveness now gathered speed upsetting a leisurely, independent manner of warfare.

From the Crimea Lord Raglan wrote: The Electric Telegraph has upset everything.

And in 1886 General Allison complained A man holding the cups of a telephone cannot take down a message. Besides the constant ringing of the bell is a decided nuisance.

**THE WHIRL**
**COMMENTARY—TABLEAU 2**

30 years later, the leisure had gone, but the spirit and humour remained. Now the signaller was the essential link between land, sea and air, and between the Commander and his men. In 1916 this message from an aircraft of the Royal Flying Corps was carried by radio and despatch rider: "A tank is advancing through Flers, with the British Army cheering behind it".

And the humour: From 27 Division, "Pigeon food lost on way up through hole in sack. How are we to tell male from female birds".

But of all World War I memories it is the work of the lineman that signallers hold in highest esteem. Cables had to be 'through' even though this often meant the death of the working party. This is our tradition.

**THE WHIRL**
**COMMENTARY—TABLEAU 3**

In the second world war this tradition flowered in every theatre from 1st September, 1939 when an ATS signaller transmitted this message to Commanders-in-Chief: "You are to take all defence precautions in case of war against Germany".

Wherever the action the signals tell the story and nature of the Army. General Goodwin-Austen, Tobruk November 1941: "The corridor to Tobruk clear and secure. Tobruk is as relieved as I am".

Cassino 1943—our allies—2 New Zealand Division to 4 Indian



Division: "We are off to break into the Continental Hotel—by the servants entrance".

And Arnhem September 1944—Lieutenant Hardy Royal Signals: "1. Have to release birds owing to shortage of food and water. 2. About eight tanks lying about in sub unit areas—very untidy but not otherwise causing us any trouble. 3. Now using as many German weapons as we have British".

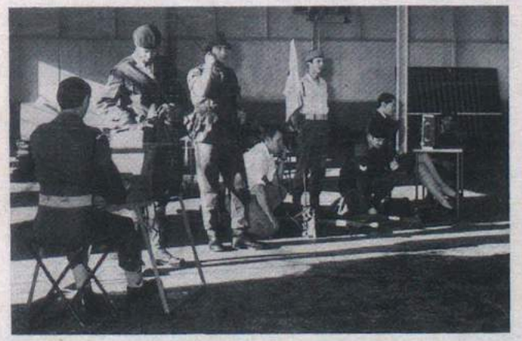
**THE WHIRL**
**COMMENTARY—TABLEAU 4**

Since the second world war we have continued to carry words affecting our destinies and lives. At times in battle and this message echoes clear from Korea: "No one but the Glosters could have done it". and the next day: "The Battalion is operational again".

Much of our work has been to aid our fellow men: Disaster relief in East Pakistan (now Bengladesh), Red Cross work in Amman, United Nations peace-keeping in Cyprus.

But the signaller has remained the link between the commander and his men in the steady roll of internal security duties—Palestine—India—Malaya—Cyprus—Aden—Borneo and now Northern Ireland.

Communication systems and equipment have changed over the years—the satellite communications of today are far beyond the dreams of Wheatstone and Bell demanding of the signaller a high standard of training and wide ranging skills.



**THE FINALE**

The teams of Apprentices erect the logs in a vertical position in the arena centre with a young Apprentice balanced at the top of each. During this action they are joined by four young soldiers dressed in combat kit and carrying SLR 7·62 rifles and Clansman Manpack Radio Sets. A Captain, Royal Signals takes post for the salute.

**RELATED COMMENTARY**

For the future, these young men, symbolised by the Apprentices in the arena centre, and thousands like them will, in the words of our Corps Collect, continue to speed the word of man to man in the Service of our nation.

## *White Helmets hit the headlines in Hong Kong*

THE Corps motor cycle display team end a successful season with visits to Berlin and Hong Kong.

Our season normally ends on a high note, with the team staging a light hearted variation to the final show, a strong possibility that the Team OC and those that are leaving get a ducking in the local pond, and a certainty that there will be a party that attempts to be more memorable than any other given that year.

To be over 8,000 miles away in a climate akin to our warmest summer days at the end of this 1973 season while all at home were shivering in the first onslaught of winter was reward enough for a year which has been pretty demanding on the team as a whole. And it was a splendid trip. We had just come back from Berlin and having seen the iron curtain there and staged our traditional pyramid in front of the Bradenburg gate, within 10 days we were looking at the view over the Canton Kowloon railway line from the summit of Crest Hill and the border along which the bamboo curtain is drawn.

FAREWELL BERLIN . . .
The White Helmets ride down the Kurfurstendam, Berlin in early November

. . . HELLO HONG KONG!
The White Helmets in Hong Kong a few weeks later

The marked success of our indoor show in the Berlin Deutschlandhälle was repeated before crowds which rose to 25,000 on the final night at the International Football Stadium in Happy Valley, Hong Kong. It amused us to read the local paper advertisements that the British Military Tattoo and the White Helmets would be appearing there at 8 p.m. and this probably all stemmed from our pre-show publicity.

For instance, the Team Adjutant went on Chinese TV and gave press interviews where, with the reporters penchant for misquoting, she was billed as everything from champion motor-cycle acrobat to a leader of a troupe of girl hell's angels! The team itself rode out daily around the new territories thereby assisting ticket sales and then there was that incident during a dress rehearsal which despite considerable publicity is something we could have well done without. Two riders collided right in front of the cameramen, enabling some very good action shots to hit the front page of the Dailies. This was small consolation to **Signalman Paul Hodgkinson** and **Signalman Bob Ellis** who each lost over a week's sun-tan through being confined to hospital beds.

The Tattoo itself started just as the weather broke and drizzle, with the consequent wet and highly slippery arena, were to be our lot. Inevitably we had to slow down our rides, and it was sheer frustration to feel the back end slide everytime one tried to increase the pace. And then the sun came out, dried out the surface for the final three evening performances and we were back in business. But it is the last night of the Tattoo which will live on in all our memories as one of our finest shows. The execution, speed and expertise with which we presented the performance knew no bounds, and was such a fitting way to conclude our season.

Echoing the translation of our sign in Chinese characters held aloft by **Lance-Corporal Peter Kingston** from the top of the Fan, on this final night, "Cheerio, Hong Kong"—and thank you, 27 Signal Regiment for being such good hosts.

It was hoped to write an account of the team 'off duty' which would really fill a book. As the publication deadline is upon us and we are still awaiting photos developed from team member's cameras. The guided tour of the wanchai, at sea with the Navy, good eating at the floating restaurants and such like will have to be deferred for another issue.

8 REGIMENT REPRESENTATIVES
*Left to right:* 'Jock' Hutton, George Firth, 'PJ' Probin, Chris Payne and Graham Verrall

## *The Karrimor Mountain Marathon 1973*

**ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY**
**STAFF SERGEANT (F. of S.) C. W. PAYNE**

### EMPHASIS ON MOUNTAINS

THIS year the organisers decided to put the emphasis on the 'mountain' rather than the 'marathon' and for this reason the battle ground was chosen to be in the craggy wilds of the Snowdonia National Park, this was in sharp contrast to the rolling grasslands of Selkirk, the 1972 venue.

The event was organised by members of the British Orienteering Federation and the course planned by **Chris Brasher,** it was designed to be a test of endurance, route planning and navigational skill over a 35 mile course in difficult mountain country. Teams were two strong and all food and equipment; much of it mandatory; had to be carried. There were prizes for the first five teams and certificates for all those to complete the course.

### THE REGIMENTAL ENTRY

Hoping to benefit from the experience of those members of our regiment who had been in last years event **Major Ross** (WRAC) was able to squeeze enough money out of the Regimental Institute to enable us to buy ultra-lightweight tents and cooking stoves. With the help of these and by carrying no tinned foods, we were able to whittle our burdens down to the 14lb region—still a far cry from the 6–7lbs carried by some of the experts.

The regiment entered two teams: Team 140, **Graham Verrall, 'Jock' Hutton** and Team 141, **Chris Payne, George Firth.**

In addition to the teams it was decided to take a two man support party, made up of **'Geordie' Hennrie** and **'PJ' Probin, 'Geordie'** being a keen member of the Fell Walking fraternity and **'PJ'** an orienteer.

We arrived at Capel Curig Camp on the night of Friday, 12th October and after a discussion on tactics at a local hostelry went to bed early for it was to be an early start the next day.

### MOUNTAIN GALORE

At 6 a.m. on Saturday morning we were on the road heading for the start point at Plas-Gwynant. The roadside was littered with tents and parked cars where more unfortunate competitors than us had spent the night. Whilst passing under the shadow of a particularly nasty looking mountain **George Firth** was heard to say, "That thing is called Moel-Siabod, if they expect us to climb up that count me out." . . . he must be psychic because the first climb up after the start was—sure enough—straight up Moel Siabod! A climb of nearly 3,000 feet, this was followed by a drop down to 400 then a climb to 1,800 and so on, it was in this manner that we dashed about the Welsh mountains like some out-of-order roller coaster.

### A HOWLING GALE

Saturday night was spent in just about the most exposed campsite that could be found; a small plateau by the side of a lake at 1,500 feet, directly above the old slate quarries at Blanau Ffestiniog. It was cold and wet and a howling gale was doing its best to sweep the hundred-or-so exhausted teams into the valley below. To be fair to the organisers they had said that it was their intention to make the event a test of equipment as well as men, and they succeeded.

Because of the gale it was impossible to cook in the open so we had to prepare our meals inside the tent, this caused condensation to form and in turn great drops of water dripped onto the sleeping bags . . . it was at about this point that a red curtain of pain and suffering was drawn over the rest of that awful night.

### SWIRLING MIST

Sunday dawned very cold, the wind had gone but we now had swirling mountain mist to contend with. The start was at eight o'clock and the first leg was a long descent through the old slate quarries—miles of pathways and old railway tracks winding through great mountains of slate all crumbling and disused and in a very dangerous condition, not a place to be ventured into by the unwary as a few competitors soon found out.

After Blanau Ffestiniog we were back on the crazy roller coaster bit again but much hampered by blankets of mist which seemed to drop over the scene at just the wrong moment, like when you were trying to take a bearing on the only identifiable feature you have seen for hours.

### NEXT YEAR?

**Both of our teams completed the marathon within the time limit allowed and in retrospect I think we all enjoyed it. We certainly learned a lot—like, next year we go into training three months before the event and we must try to get hold of even more ultra-lightweight kit.**

Any more volunteers??



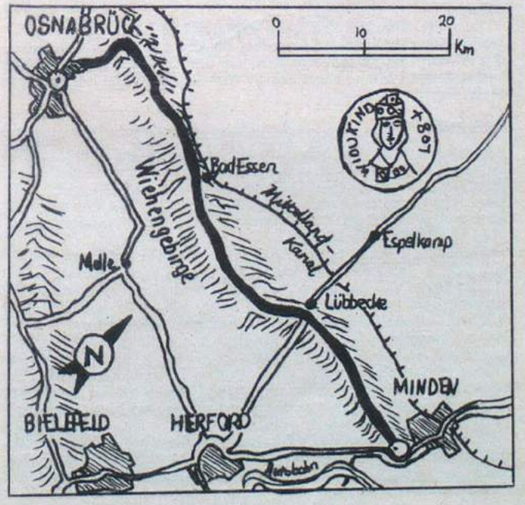
# *62 miles in three days*

☆

*Soldiers of 3 Sqn 2 Div Sig Regt complete strenuous mountain walk to a man*

FOUR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SPECIAL MEDAL PRESENTED FOR THIS WALK
*Left to right :* Lance-Corporal Mike Mallinson, Second-Lieutenant Peter Costello, Herr Vosskuhler (President of the local society who presented the medals and was in turn given a 2 Div plaque), Signalman John Riley and Corporal Mike Boucher

AFTER the PRE and FFR the Squadron Commander, **Major David Miller** decided that a change of scenery was required, this was arranged in the form of a walk from Osnabruck to Minden along the Wiehengeburge Ridge known to locals as the Wittekindweg, this is one of the marked walks which exist in Germany and covers a distance of some 62 miles. Teams who complete the walk are presented with medals.




The team, led by the Squadron Commander with the SSM, **W.O.2 Eric Webster** bringing up the rear totalled no less than 81, and they started off from Osnabruck, early one cold Tuesday morning and after covering 26 miles (quite a slog) took refuge in a barn for the night.

An early start again next morning allowed us to cover another 16 miles, the SSM remained at the rear giving encouragement to one or two soldiers who started to lag. Again a barn was found for the night, and we shared it with the occupants, a number of pigs, and, as we found out the next morning they quite enjoy chewing PT shoes and army sleeping bags.

We set off on the third and last day with soaking wet kit and the prospect of bad weather, but this didn't deter us at all because we all knew by this time we had cracked it. Nobody fell out at all during the day and we crossed the finishing line at 15.00 hours.

So pleased was the Society who organise the walks, that we were summoned to Osnabruck to be presented with certificates and medals.

The presentations were made by **Herr Vosskuhler,** the president of the Wittekindsweg Verband and this was followed by a guided tour of the Rathaus.

All in all a most successful exercise and it really was a change from barrack routine, not only that but it was reported in the local press as our contribution to the 'Save the Petrol Campaign'. Also the Squadron Commander was heard to say "If we complete the course twice more, we will be able to change our bronze medals for silver ones! Oh No!".

P.S.: The high standard of fitness and map reading resulting from this exercise probably explains why 3 Squadron swept the board in the Regimental orienteering competition the following week.

# Letter from America

**OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT WRITES:—**

DO you have the feeling that you would like to see America, if only once, not to settle there perhaps, but just to see if it is all that it is whacked up to be? Well, the chance of doing just that is not so remote as you might think—at least for officers. There are two ways to get here: a normal posting as represented by the lucky smiling faces that you see in the photograph, or a course or conference of some sort.

Royal Signals officers serving in the USA
*Left to right:* Major Mickey Topple, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Dexter, Colonel John Francis, Major Ray Bell and Major Tony Burtt

**Colonel John Francis** is the liaison officer for communications, electronics, ADP and command and control matters, electronic warfare, and some aspects of combat intelligence. He is located in the British Embassy in Washington DC. If any of you have an interest in what the US Army is doing in any of these subjects then write him a letter.

Also in Washington until recently was **Major Ray Bell,** in a weapons staff job covering C–E equipment and several other subjects. He left us in January to go to the US Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia. It is a six months course, roughly equivalent to Latimer. He has come up on the promotion list for Lieutenant-Colonel so is looking ahead with interest to find out what his next job will be. His replacement is **Major Ian Kerr,** just arrived from the RAF Staff College at Bracknell.

**Major Mickey Topple** is doing a straight staff job in the Embassy, as GSO 2 Coord to the Commander, British Army Staff. He too is walking about with a fixed grin on his face, having been listed for promotion, but we do not know when or where.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Dexter** is an exchange officer at the US Army South-eastern Signal School at Fort Gordon near Augusta, Georgia in the deep south. There used to be two signal schools in the US—at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey near New York, and at Fort Gordon. The British exchange officer always used to be at Monmouth, but the US Signal Corps has almost completed a reorganisation into just one school at Fort Gordon which is a first-class army post, commanded by a signal corps Major General. (How much longer can we in England support, Blandford, Catterick and Harrogate?). **Alan Dexter** is a full working member of the officer training wing at the School. His US Signal Corps equivalent in UK is **Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Eggleston** at the School of Signals at Blandford.

**Major Tony Burtt** is also an exchange officer serving with the 9th (Infantry Division) Signal Battalion at Fort Lewis in Washington state right over on the West coast of America. His is a new exchange, and he is at present employed as GSO 3 (Adventurous Training) in the division HQ. His opposite number is **Major Melvin Russell,** US Signal Corps who was recently installed in 8 Signal Regiment as Chief Instructor, Engineering Wing.

If this sounds like a lot of Royal Signals to be in the USA it is worth noting that there are over 70 army officers serving out here full time and several of these appointments can be filled by Corps Officers with the right qualifications.

Then apart from those posted here, there is a fairly steady flow of officers coming for courses and to attend international conferences of several kinds. Some names of those we have seen in 1973 are **Major-General Sawers** and **Brigadier Akass** on liaison visits. **Brigadier A. J. Jackson** on a course, **Colonel Maxfield, Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Ridley, Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot** and **Major Wheawell** on NATO Meetings, **Major Wilton-Steer** and **Captain Brewis** on an EW Course.

There are even the enterprising few who indulge out here by RAF plane such as **Colonel** and **Mrs. Swan.** For those interested, a RAF VC 10 leaves Brize Norton most Fridays for Washington DC and returns to UK most Saturdays and there are often spare seats.

But to come back to the original question, what is America really like? Without doubt the people are the most friendly and generous nation bar none and are especially kind to the British. The homes are marvels of comfort and convenience in their design and equipment. No British wife will tolerate happily the less endowed military quarters after a tour out here. Motoring is fun, the long-distance roads are first-class, and where else can one afford to drive a car six yards long and three yards wide with an eight litre engine and quadrophonic sound—during a world energy crisis too!

The country is a problem. It is just so big that there is no way of seeing all the major attractions during a normal tour. There are such wide variations, great mountains, scorching deserts, the beautiful Californian coastline, and the pretty, old-fashioned New England towns. But at the end of it all, the most lasting benefit is the many enduring and kindly friends that one makes. A 'mink' posting for the lucky ones. And if any of you regular, T & AVR or retired are able to get over here on business or pleasure, please get in touch with **Colonel John Francis** at the British Embassy where any member of the Royal Signals can be sure of a welcome and a helping hand.

# "All the way"

**(COURTESY OF THE 82 (US) AIRBORNE DIVISION)**

**BY SERGEANT DICK HAMILTON**

**216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON**

## MAKING A HIT WITH THE COLONEL

THE Colonel jabbed a forefinger at me then rolled his cigar from one corner of his mouth to the other, "What have you done for the Queen today, Sergeant, apart from dropping your parachute bag on **Captain Waldo's** head"?

An unusual question indeed, but posed by an unusual man. This was **Lieutenant-Colonel Brouchette** of the 82 (US) Airborne Division by way of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with 15 years of service in the American Airborne, eight of those with Special Forces in Vietnam, and doubtless a low regard for British comrades-in-arms who attempted to maim one of his Staff Officers.

Once the situation had been explained to his satisfaction, he strolled away leaving me to reflect on the diplomatic necessities of a military liaison job. For that was our task on this war-game, liaison detachment to the 82 (US) Airborne Division on Exercise 'Deep Furrow'.

## THE DROP

A scant few hours previous, in the hot brassy sky over Turkish Thrace, the largest airborne assault since World War II had taken place. A combined NATO force from America, Turkey and Britain had 'dropped' more than 2,400 men, vehicles and supporting artillery from 80 transport aircraft onto an area called 'Highball' Drop Zone.

While the remainder of 216 had 'dropped' in the first airlift with HQ 16 Parachute Brigade, the liaison crew, **Major J. A. McGregor,** MC Para and myself joined the Americans and jumped shortly after.

What **Colonel Brouchette** had referred to as a 'bag' was in fact my Bergen rucksack, containing a mere 98lbs of A14 radio, equipment and personal kit. **Captain Waldo** was the American Officer who, unfortunately, chose to steer himself beneath me as I released my 'bag', thus causing it to bounce off his head and dragging me down through his rigging lines, which burned my neck in the process.

At that time, suspended a few hundred feet above Turkish soil, and tangled together like Siamese twins, my thoughts were far from diplomatic and my remarks most certainly unprintable. However, adrenalin and fear lent haste to my actions, and Houdini

*(Continued on page 53)*



*(Continued from page 52)*

himself would have been proud of my escape, which allowed us to land safely.

Thus 'Deep Furrow' made an interesting if not hair-raising start.

## AT THE BASE

We had mounted the assault from the USAF Base at Incirlik, several hundred miles away, where we had lived for a few days, getting acclimatised and making final preparations.

The majority of the American and British troops lived under canvas in 'Tent City', as usual. This was situated as far away as possible from the main airport complex. Conditions were a trifle primitive and were not aided by the temperature, which was somewhat higher than UK, reaching 106°F on the second day!

**Major McGregor** and myself were billeted with the 82nd TOC (Tactical Operations Control), where we found the air-conditioning almost unbearably cold! (almost!). Here, we were initiated into the art of 'Sustained Airborne Training', the American version of 'Synthetic Ground Training', which they must do before each and every descent.

Our USAF hosts looked after our comforts as best they could, supplying us with food and endless quantities of ice-cold milk. There was even a cabaret arranged one evening in the NCO's Club, followed by an impromptu sing-song, led at the piano by an RAF Sergeant; and the British 'Paras' left the Americans in no doubt as to which side had the largest and loudest repertoire of ballads!

After a 24 hour cancellation due to bad weather, we finally emplaned in the early morning of the 27th September, with the 'jump' scheduled for approximately 10.30 hours.

## IN THE FIELD

At the 82nd TOC in the field, **Major McGregor** and I met up with the remainder of our crew, **Signalman 'Ricky' Richardson** and **Signalman 'Taffy' Aitken,** who brought with them the Land Rover and trailer containing our heavy equipment and the C11/C42 to replace the A14 link to HQ 16 Parachute Brigade.

We remained camouflaged and remoted to the TOC for the duration of the exercise and carried out stags in the Liaison Cell, under the watchful appraisal of the Staff of the 82nd, who made endless queries on all manner of topics, ranging from "What's it like Changing the Guard at the Queen's Palace?" to "How much extra pay do you get as paratroops?" (sore point and *not* funny).

Under **Major McGregor's** guidance we set about our liaison, and kept everyone happy with the relevant information they required. If we tended to become 'terribly British' now and then, and to drink more tea than usual, we can hardly be blamed. It was our reply to the perplexity of drawls, twangs and lingos amidst clouds of cigar smoke and gallons of "cawfee 'n cream".

We found the 82nd generous, almost to a fault, when we swopped some of our 24 hour ration packs, which they thought were very good. They had no substitute for our hexamine fuel tablets and found them to be an excellent method of cooking.

When we departed at the end of the exercise to rejoin 16 Paratroop Brigade we did so to a hail of thanks, good wishes and boxes of 'C' rations. We made many acquaintances with whom we hope to remain in touch.

**Major John Winter,** Para, who is on an exchange tour with the 82nd has said he will look out for a vacancy for a liaison crew in America. Prime requisites are personality, ability and lots of hexamine!

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

THOUGH one tries to lead a semi-normal life here it is surprising how one becomes inured to the bangs and bumps. Since our last notes Lurgan has lost its Police Station bringing a whole crop of stories about near misses. The spate of hi-jackings has also meant a lot of extra work for the Squadron. The Sappers have added to the general furore by building bigger and better defences around the factory. The photo taken just before the Sappers started work shows some of the difficulties involved. One might liken the factory to the proverbial barn door.

HOME SWEET HOME
Kitchen Hill knicker factory home of 3 Brigade Signal Squadron

## FFR

On the 10th December the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, O.B.E.** descended from on high (3rd floor actually), to take our annual FFR inspection. The squadron was spick and span and everybody prepared for anything that might be thrown our way. Have you had one of those days in which nothing seems to go right? Within five minutes of the Commander arriving, it started; Bomb alarm! **Corporal Hobbs** from Signal Operations enjoyed winding the siren handle. Within seconds it seemed, the whole squadron was assembled, the fire picquet under **Corporal Callaghan** all raring to go. Unfortunately it was a false alarm. A red faced staff officer tried to explain that the parcel he had left unattended in the MI room was not intended to look like a bomb, and he wouldn't play such a trick in the middle of our FFR inspection! On with the show. The Brigade

LS AND GC PRESENTATION
The Brigade Commander, Brigadier C. S. Wallis-King, O.B.E. presents W.O.2 P. J. B. Tuppenney Royal Signals with the LS and GC in the Sergeants' Mess

clerks were stood to in their battle order, leaving the Super Clerk, **W.O.1 Coutts** to man the Headquarters. He was heard to mutter, "definitely not British", or words to that effect. The Comcen were also tested in its casualty drill with a simulated electric shock victim. The expert first aid rendered to the victim by **Y. of S. Dunbar, Lance-Corporal Connell** and **Lance-Corporal Sambrooke** would probably have ensured his early demise. They of course checked the choking, blue faced victim's security clearance before allowing his entry to the Comcen.

**Signalman Gilfilian** must however, take the Oscar for acting. He was the supposed victim of a sniper's bullet, which had smashed his thigh bone; blood pumping and real bone sticking out everywhere. **Lance-Corporal Ingledew** (RAOC photographer) was first on the scene. Realistic screams and the use of a strategically placed blood pump made **Lance-Corporal Ingledew** regret having had breakfast. He got his own back by using **Gilfillan's** apology of a sock for a tourniquet. The rest of the inspection passed off fairly quietly. In the Sergeants' Mess at the end of the visit the Commander presented **W.O.2 Tuppenney,** the MTO, with the LS and GC. His record of service would be too long to put in here, but we wish to congratulate him on this fine achievement and thank him for all his good work here.

## SPORT

The football and hockey teams have not been very successful this season. The football team lost in the minor units cup to 33 Field Squadron RE, so one more trophy disappears from our shelves.

Our indoor sportsmen fared slightly better. **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Donovan** reached the semi-finals of the Northern Ireland Badminton Championships, and he and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Dunbar** reached the doubles semi-finals.

To make sure that everybody gets a breathe of fresh air and gets away from the factory environment, the squadron has taken to weekly excursion trips into the Mourne mountains. A small party of men go off into the hills for a six mile trek. The conditions at times were something shocking; I'm afraid so bad that none of the photos came out. It's a pity really as the picture of the RSM falling down the snow-covered slopes of Silent Valley was a sight for sore eyes.

On 13th/14th November **Lieutenant Richards** took three teams of two men to Wales for the Karrimore Mountain Marathon. (See article on page 50).

## MARRIAGES

We wish to congratulate **Corporal Ingrey** (our resident postie), **Signalman Harris** and **Private Mullane,** RPC on their respective marriages. As they say, may all your troubles be little ones. Lurgan seems quite a marriage market. There are a few more in the pipeline, it must be the air or something.

# 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# B.F.P.O. 801

## DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

IN November we bade farewell to the OC, **Major A. P. Fielding,** who has gone for a well-earned rest in Aldershot. Our thanks also go to **Mrs. Fielding** who has looked after our wives so well during her stay. We welcome **Major A. F. Carter,** our new OC and his wife, who face a great change after coming from the luxuries of BAOR! We also sent the QM, **Major C. H. Gibbens** on his way to the dizzy heights of Berlin, and welcome in his place **Captain (Q.M.) S. J. Raynor** and his wife, who joined us from 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. Other changes within the Squadron during the past two months include the departure of our Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Stan Hargreaves** who has deserted us on promotion to 30 Signal Regiment. In his place we welcome **Staff Sergeant Dave Berry** from NATO. Last but not least, **W.O.2 (C.Q.M.S.) Steve Radford** left us for civvy street, and we hope he is enjoying his three day week. His place has been taken by **W.O.2 (C.Q.M.S.) Ned Reynolds,** who seems to be enjoying himself.

## BELATED REPORT

As Londonderry is where the action is, we have more than our fair share of visiting celebrities. Recent occasions have been the visits of **Miss UK, Mr. Ken Dodd, Mr. Harry Secombe** and of course a frequent visitor was **Mr. Whitelaw** (then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland). We were also delighted to show **Mrs. Whitelaw** around.

A GENEROUS ACT

Presentation of the Chairmobile at Stradreagh Hospital. Pictured with members of the hospital staff are (*left to right*) Private Mike Bailey (RPC), Signalman Gordon Brown, Signalman Bernard Cornell, RSM Ken Davis and Signalman John Young

# 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# B.F.P.O. 801

## PLEASANT MEMORIES

DURING September and October of last year, soldiers from all over Ulster took part in four Exercises in Cyprus. This unit was chosen as the sponsoring unit for Exercise 'Hot Tail', the last of these exercises.

The exercises were designed to allow soldiers stationed in Ulster to carry out recreational training in a more peaceful and pleasant climatic environment.

Our exercise comprised of 100 soldiers and WRAC of various cap badges and lasted for just over a fortnight. Needless to say, once the apprehension of the word exercise was removed, there was no shortage of volunteers.

The flight from Belfast to Akrotiri passed uneventfully apart from turbulence due to thunderstorms and a bumpy arrival at Cyprus which was attributed to the presence of a WRAC Corporal on the flight deck during the landing.

From Akrotiri we were taken by coaches to the Sovereign Base at Dhekelia where we found our accommodation situated on the beach. This removed any remaining doubts from the participants as to the purpose of the exercise.

During the next two weeks all thought of troubled Ulster passed into oblivion and everyone relaxed and enjoyed the kind hospitality of the units stationed on the Base. We found to our surprise that coaches had been arranged on most days to take personnel to all places of interest on the island, and that such facilities as sailing, water skiing and skin diving were available for those remaining in camp.

A considerable number of our more affluent members hired cars for the duration of the exercise and by all accounts they had their money's worth in mileage. We believe the record was 1,500 miles.

The return journey to Belfast dampened the high spirits that prevailed throughout the exercise, however we feel sure that all participants will survive on the pleasant memories of a very successful and enjoyable exercise.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank, once again, all those in Cyprus who helped to make our stay so enjoyable and we regret that our humorous photographs cannot be included due to an industrial dispute.

## OPENING OF THE BLACK SWAN

November and December also kept the Squadron busy with annual inspections and preparations for the festive season. One feature which will greatly assist the seasons festivities will be the Black Swan which was opened on 13th December; a piece of Old England transplanted to Lisburn Garrison.

Having gained entry after knocking on the door **Corporal Ken Yarker, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Archer, Lance-Corporal Dave Smith** and **Driver 'Nobby' Clarke** confirm that the beer is good.

OPENING TIME

Customers eagerly await the opening of their own pub—The Black Swan

# 233 Sig Sqn
# B.F.P.O. 801

THIS month we thought it was time to feature once again our worthy warriors from E Troop. E Troop is our biggest troop, formed from a mixture of soldiers on full two years tours and a large number of emergency tour personnel on four months and six months attachments from many Royal Signals units in GB and BAOR. The Troop OC, **Captain Nigel Cory** reports:

## E TROOP

On receipt of the Squadron Commander's instruction, "We'd like some WIRE Notes from 'E' Troop", there was a pregnant silence closely followed by a curious stampeding noise then yet again silence. OC E Troop remarks to himself that it would have been wise to chain a scribe to a desk before attempting to delegate this awesome task.

In the murky cellars that we inhabit I stretched out a steady hand for the issue Ballpoint pen cunningly concealed by **Lance-Corporal 'Rick' Pettigrew** the Troop Clerk underneath last year's desk diary.

E Troop 233 Signal Squadron has many functions to perform, not least in keeping away from the eagle optic of **W.O.2 S.S.M. Derek Leggott** who in the manner born has the rest of the Squadron in fear and trembling anticipation of their next military training session. However, notwithstanding the rigorous regime of the Squadron hierarchy we manage to continue to enjoy the joys of life in this delightful island. With frequent visits to the sun soaked Shankhill, balmy Ballymacarrett and the arid desert of the Ardoyne not to mention hours of pleasant relaxation in the area of the Falls Road we manage to survive the fiery blasts which are directed at us during our visits to SHQ.

This of course is not to say our life is all feathered palm trees swaying over sun drenched white beaches. Regretfully most of the Troop also are subject to long hours of shift work at the various detachments scattered around the province.

Despite the vagaries of the IRA weather service and the DOE we now have two new buildings in use. Both of these have been long awaited and their completion is gratefully acknowledged.

Now that we have our full complement of combat drivers great things are happening to the Troop's MT. **Corporal 'Geordie' Middlemas** having returned intact from the horrors of R and R proposes that we have our own multi-storey vehicle park. This notion is frowned upon by his henchmen **Signalman Ted Poole, Signalman Steve Smith,** and **Signalman 'Jock' Mansell** because they know only too well that they would be tasked with building it.

It is I'm afraid quite impossible to give an account of the comings and goings during the last two months but I will mention just a few of the characters that have left us.

**Sergeant Brian Nicholls** left us after putting in many hours of his 'spare time' work on improving the amenities of the Troop's Bar/Television room. **Lance-Corporal 'Baz Stoater' Roberts** has taken his unique fund of wit and incapacity for Irish beer back to Germany. **Staff Sergeant 'Dowie' Blythin** has left us with an impression of a redoubtable worker with a fund of funny stories all of which he claimed were true.

**Corporal Chris Greenhill** lately our ex-office scribe has returned to UK still threatening not to sign on again for further punishment.

To all who have served with E Troop, sadly it would take too long to mention all your names, but thank you for everything you did whilst with us.

. . . and now back to sleep!

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

One activity which is regarded second only to operations in importance in Northern Ireland is community relations work. The Squadron has formed a community relations committee who assess the work to be done and allocate resources accordingly. **Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson** is the NCO chairman of the committee and we cut off his supplies of Tartan beer until he produced the following notes:

**Community Relations Committee:**

| | |
|---|---|
| NCO IC .. .. | **Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson** |
| Liaison Officer .. | **Sergeant Mick Burke** |
| Treasurer .. .. | **Sergeant Ray Whall** |
| Secretary .. .. | **Corporal Keith Hatton** |
| Committee Members | **Corporal 'Raggy Tash' McSkimmings** |
| | **Corporal Derek Shearsby** |
| | **Lance-Corporal Joe Snailham** |
| | **Lance-Corporal 'Chopper' Dickman** |
| | **Signalman 'Herbie' Herbison** |
| | **Signalman 'Dave Bowie' Stork** |
| | **Signalman Martin Whitesmith** |

Having arrived late July and being made NCO IC of something I was not exactly sure of, I didn't quite know how to go about it. Look to your committee thought I, great, but alas they were in the same boat as myself, newly formed. Tasking my LO, **Sergeant Mick Burke,** to go forth and seek, things soon began to take shape. At first, however, we appeared to be nothing more than tent erectors. The first few jobs we did to assist the community were the supply and erection of tentage for local organisations.

At the Glenville Golf Club the weather was reasonably good and everyone looked forward to a change of surroundings if not in the actual work involved.

**Lance-Corporal 'Chopper' Dickman** driving **Lance-Corporal Joe Snailham** and **Signalman 'Dave Bowie' Stork** in fine voice until we found out that our route to the club was blocked and we had to go via the Falls and Shankhill Roads. Deathly silence reigned until our destination was reached and even then, young **Stork** would only work if he had at least two outlying sentries.

Being the fine weather season tents were in great demand. The committee erected them for tennis clubs, church bazaars and the like. Being the Royal Corps we are always expected to supply PA equipment and so on. We've done this on most occasions with **Corporal Derek Shearsby, Signalmen 'Herbie' Herbison** and **Martin Whitesmith** producing the goods with a willingness that would please the Sergeant Major.

In addition to this we have weekly visits to the old and infirm people's home in Lisburn, Thompson House and the mentally retarded people's home in Wallace Avenue. In both cases we talk,

discuss anything and nothing and show films when available. **Sergeant Mick Burke** and **Corporal 'Raggy Tash' McSkimmings** working regularly and very hard with assistance from the rest of the Committee when called for.

Our best achievement to date was with the Bridge End YC in Lisburn. On our normal liaison visits to youth clubs and other young people's organisations **Mick Burke** and myself came across this one. It had quite a lot of support by the locals, but the place was in a deplorable state of repair. Cutting a long story short we came to an agreement with the organiser of the club that if we supplied the equipment etc., from the community relations fund his boys would supply the labour under our supervision to re-decorate the interior. The job was completed over a Friday night—Saturday session. Give a soldier a paint brush and he usually moans his head off, but not these fellows. What with **'Herbie'** and **Joe** continually inspecting their achievements and telling each other just how good a job they had done we contributed more on the work force than the club members. Now that's over, anyone wanting a tent detail fully trained and going cheap, contact our treasurer **Sergeant Ray Whall.**

**DEPARTURES**

**Lance-Corporal George Forbes, Lance-Corporal 'Mac' McKeown, Corporal Bruce Ozanne, Corporal 'Al' Garvie, Corporal 'Al' Grohs, Corporal John Howells, Corporal 'Bill' Bailey, Corporal Ian McNaughton, Corporal Don Robertson** and **Signalman Ray Carroll.** Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

**ARRIVALS**

WRAC: **Private Brister, Private Tompkins, Private Yeadon, Private Southby, Private Humphries, Lance-Corporal Stanton, Sergeant Mathews** and **Lance-Corporal Lowe.**

Royal Signals: **Corporal Cowton, Corporal Orman, Corporal Brailsford, Corporal Wagstaff, Signalman Carmichael, Signalman Curran, Corporal Epthorp, Sergeant Summers, Lance-Corporal Oliver** and **Signalman Taylor.**

## Headquarters 2 Signal Group

### THE WAY AHEAD OR NORTH TO THE HIGHLANDS

2 Signal Group is an enormous organisation. The military family tree shows that there are 256 Officers and 3,990 soldiers, and of course there is a large civilian element. Geographically the Group is widely scattered around the United Kingdom.

It is therefore necessary to gather together the management periodically to check that we are on the right course and to look ahead to the future. This was the aim of the Groups PSI's convention and Study Period 1973, and appropriately the theme was called 'The Way Ahead'.

### A TEMPERANCE HOTEL IS CHOSEN!

32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) were tasked with providing the administrative support for both functions and retaliated by selecting, as a suitable venue, a large temperance hotel in the Highlands of Scotland.

With uncanny foresight HQ 2 Signal Group selected the dates to fall between a period of bad weather and a railway strike. So it was not unexpected that all arrived at their destination and that all reached home in good time.

We were fortunate to secure the services of some high powered guest speakers. They included the SO-in-C, **Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., Major General C. E. Page, M.B.E., D.C.D.** (Army), **Colonel F. Ramsbottom,** Officer-in-Command Royal Signals, Manning and Records, **Wing Commander W. S. Ireland,** RAF and **Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Davies, O.B.E.** from UKCICC (Home) and **Majors Kelvin Kent** and **David Gent.** We did of course have several officers from the Group who gave presentations.

### MORNING SWIMS

The balance between work and play was about right. Two dinner nights thinned out the starters for **Brigadier Clinch's** morning swimming parades, but some of the more hardy types made it and made a point of saying how much they had enjoyed it.

The fact that the hotel is a temperance hotel was an administrative problem 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) were able to overcome as indeed they overcame all the other problems that beset them.

On Sunday, 9th December as the last of the 200 odd officers left, a strange silence descended on the hotel which had so recently come alive to the crash of drums and the lament of pipes. Those who attended might be interested to know that the hotel staff and the resident guests genuinely enjoyed our stay.

The author hopes that all the Officers' and PSI's have now received their Mess bills.

**BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!**

## Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

### GRADUATION DAY—WINTER TERM 1973

GRADUATION Day for the Winter Term was celebrated on Friday, 14th December—easily the coldest Graduation Day in memory, with the temperature at zero and a high and biting wind blowing straight, it seemed, from the North Pole.

Much to their credit, the 700-odd Apprentices and Junior Signalmen did not allow the appalling weather to affect the standard of the parade, commanded with admirable poise by **A/T R.S.M. Paul Crisp.** Their performance led the Reviewing Officer later to describe the parade as "first class, and the music quite exceptionally good".

The Reviewing Officer was **Major General J. M. Strawson, O.B.E.,** Chief of Staff UKLF. He remarked that it was "a great experience for a man nearing the end of his service to see the wonderful influx of new men in, of whom one can be so very proud". As a Cavalryman, he was pleased to see added to marching of a very high standard, "a minor equestrian element"—a reference to **'Colonel Johnny',** the College's Shetland pony mascot.

To those leaving, **General Strawson** said that the qualities of duty, loyalty and perseverance which they had learned in the "wonderful College you have here" would stand them in good stead throughout their lives, and reminded them of Shakespeare's undying words "To thine own self be true . . . Thou canst not then be false to any man". He hoped very much to be invited to the College again, but hoped equally that next time it would be in Summer!

The reviewing officer, Major General J. M. Strawson, chats with R.S.M. L. Meade, Scots Guards and A/T R.S.M. P. Crisp after the parade



Main prizes were presented to the following:

*The Master of Signals Award* "for the best all-round Apprentice of the Term":
**A/T Sergeant Ian Brewster**

*The Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award* "for the best all-round Tradesman of the Term":
**A/T Corporal Roderick Strain**

*The Commandant's Prize* "for conduct, discipline and example":
**A/T R.S.M. Paul Crisp**

*The Director of Army Education Prize* "for the highest academic achievement":
**A/T Gavin Logan**

*Prizes Awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee* to the best Apprentice of the Senior Term in each trade:

| | |
|---|---|
| Radio Technician: | **A/T Declan Turner** |
| Terminal Equipment Technician: | **A/T Corporal Roderick Strain** |
| Radio Telegraphist: | **A/T Ian Heathcock** |
| Data Telegraphist: | **A/T Sergeant Ian Brewster** |

*College Education Prizes*

| | |
|---|---|
| Technician: | **A/T Stephen Smith** |
| Telegraphist: | **A/T Christopher Sheppard** |

*The Borough of Harrogate Prizes* for the best essay on Local Government:

| | |
|---|---|
| Technician: | **A/T Timothy Broomfield** and **A/T Leslie Robins** |
| Telegraphist: | **A/T Anthony Mainprize** |

*The Champion Squadron Cup*

Phillips Squadron (**Major R. O. G. Wood,** QRIH; **C.S.M. W. Grimley,** Grenadier Guards; **A/T S.S.M. P. Hirst).**

# News from Regiments

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 32

### 1 SQUADRON

1 Squadron report at last the final farewell of **Signalman 'Jock' Cowan.** He was well known for his exploits in Hong Kong and Malaysia to the far reaches of Norway although his documents show he only served in Germany. Still he made interesting listening especially with plenty of salt.

The Squadron Christmas party was a real success with the magician 'Kajar' providing a spectacular cabaret. No one knows how the card got into the middle of the grapefruit. Certainly the delighted giggles of **Mrs. Laws** helped the show along.

We don't want to boast but we have just won our first soccer match in three years—great improvements.

### 2 SQUADRON

Having celebrated Christmas in true 2 Squadron style at a party for 180 run by **Y. of S. Botham** with some help from his friends, we are now in the throes of PRE preparations. Sport has not been neglected and 2 Squadron (true to form) won the second leg of the Inter Squadron Cross-Country. **Signalman Ashley** was the first man home followed closely by **Corporal Wood** (3rd) and **Lance-Corporal Mansley** (4th). The Inter Squadron Trophy now adorns the Stagger Inn.

### 3 SQUADRON

After Exercise 'Bellende Meute' reported last month Bravo Troop adopted a 24 hour shift system to attack the squadron vehicles in preparation for the PRE, and although it was noted that the shift led by OC Bravo Troop usually turned to snowball fighting in the early hours their efforts were rewarded with an outing to Bremen—supposedly for Christmas shopping. **Corporal Frank Shaw** and **Lance-Corporal 'Crinkle' Grey,** both RCT, delayed their return to check 'tyre pressures' on all vehicles parked in the town—old habits die hard!

As usual 3 Squadron Christmas Party took place in the Gymnasium—just to prove again that they are the largest squadron. One of the prizes, a leather whip, was won by **Mrs. Hanlon** and the ladies make-up case by **Signalman Ayres.** They both came to an agreement and **Signalman Ayres** is now the whipping boy of Line Troop.

### WELCOME

We would like to welcome **Second-Lieutenant Mike Sheenan** from Cambridge, and we look forward to seeing some amusing cartoons of the 1920's and also welcome to **Captain Bob Jenkins** and his family. **Bob** is a TA & VR Officer serving with us for one year and we hope he doesn't find us 'Regulars' too strange!

### HELICOPTER TRAINING

Amidst snow and freezing temperatures, in December, 30 soldiers took part in basic helicopter training using a Wessex helicopter from RAF Gutersloh.

This training was enjoyed by everyone—even the exit via the rope—there were one or two burnt hands to prove the point.

ON EXERCISE

Staff Sergeant Kirkman shares his compo with German friends—and they seem to like it

## 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford

NOW that Christmas festivities are over and the New Year is upon us with a vengeance, most of us are trying to remember what happened to the last four weeks. What with Sergeants' Mess draws, children's parties, Squadron parties, carol singing and two weeks leave, the exercise we have just finished (Staff Ride 10) did more than just blow out a few cobwebs.

### FREE-FALLING

Late last year some of the more intrepid members of the Regiment volunteered to go parachuting, and Exercise 'Long Delay 2' was born.

It was a free-fall parachuting exercise held at The Sport Parachute Centre, Grindale Field, Bridlington, Yorks.

The aim of the exercise was to introduce students to free-fall and to provide a continuation training facility to those volunteers already parachute trained. Those who volunteered were:

**Lieutenant Peter White, Lieutenant Tim Bryning, Y. of S. Bill Richards, Corporal Tom Oman, Corporal Steve Holmes, Lance-Corporal Steve Bailes, Signalman 'Mario' Cost, Private 'Jock' Geddes.** (Continuation students were **Second-Lieutenant White, Y. of S. Richards** and **Corporal Holmes**).

All students did at least four descents. Highlights of the course were **Signalman 'Mario' Cost's** malfunction on his third descent, on which he did not bother to deploy his reserve parachute, "Didn't need to—obviously good enough to come down on" was his subtle reply.

Then there was **Y. of S. Bill Richards** who tried to plough a barley field when he was dragged 110 yards across it because, due to high winds, he could not collapse his canopy on landing—twice?

Our next go is in January.

## SKIING

**Captain Mike Anderson** and his hardy ski team have reached Oberjoch in one piece and are apparently enjoying three feet of snow. If the team does well enough in the 3rd Division Championship great things will be expected of it in the Army Championships. Enthusiastic readers will doubtless remember that last year the Regimental Team won the novices 15km Langauf event.

## FAREWELL

**Major Norman (ZB298) Chesher** has commanded HQ Squadron for 3½ years now, and this month he leaves us for MCTC at Colchester. As an instructor not a pupil, we hasten to add. **'Trooper' Chesher** has been around for so long that no-one here can remember HQ Squadron without him. We wish him well, and welcome in his place **Major John Rix** to carry on the traditions of the most illustrious of Squadrons. **Captain Keith Turner** leaves for Staff College after a short stay of only a year with us, **Captain Hugh Grenville Jones** arrives to take on A Troop in his place. We wish them both good fortune. They will need it.

# 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

How many cap badges can you count? The 2 Squadron Divisional Troops Radio Convention 1973—plus Jason

This month's contribution comes from 2 Squadron. ..

## SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OC .. .. .. | **Major J. M. Hincks** | |
| Second-in-Command .. | **Captain A. M. Wallace** | |
| SSM .. .. .. | **W.O.2 R. Harris** | |
| F of S .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. Keeton** | |
| Y of S .. .. .. | **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Young** | |
| SQMS .. .. .. | **Staff Sergeant B. E. Pengilly** | |
| OC Al .. .. .. | **Captain S. D. Galpin** | |
| Troop Sergeant .. | **Staff Sergeant W. Kerr** | |
| OC A2 .. .. .. | **Lieutenant H. H. Van-Praag** | |
| Troop Sergeant .. .. | **Sergeant W. Macintyre** | |
| OC D .. .. .. | **Second-Lieutenant I. W. Griffiths** | |
| Troop Sergeant .. .. | **Sergeant P. Boulby** | |
| OC SHQ .. .. | **Lieutenant M. J. P. Collins** | |
| Troop Sergeant .. .. | **Sergeant J. D. Kitchener** | |



## OVERWORKED?

Any notions the Squadron had about 'switching-off' after the summer exercise season were soon dispelled as the telephone kept ringing in the OC's office and units all over the Division phoned in requests for detachments for their various exercises and courses. Most, if not all, requests were favourably treated. In fact at one point the despairing troop commanders of A1, A2 and D Troops, faced with PRE and Telecommunications inspections, were firmly of the opinion that the only people 2 Squadron were not helping were BFBS, Radio Luxembourg and Radio Netherlands. Miraculously all our wanderers returned before the inspections started, and they were greeted with assorted cleaning materials and the order to get busy. With a little assistance from the Padre, it was arranged that 2 Squadron was allocated an extra three hours a day bringing the total to 28 hours instead of 25 as before. We presume the Telecommunications inspection was satisfactory but we were concerned to find the TOT, **Captain Gill Sharp** camping in the workshop, and our Foreman, **W.O.2 'Buster' Keeton** nervously biting his nails and wincing every time the words 'digital alignment' were mentioned. Though like any new technique it had its teething troubles, the results seem to be well worth the initial anxiety.

Having got the F of S back down to earth, it was then the turn of our Y of S, **Staff Sergeant Tony Young** who was seen rising in a cloud of smoke as the Squadron Commander piled more and more work on him. The results of his labours came to fruition on the 4th and 5th of December when we held our Divisional Troops Radio Convention of which more later. The Y of S proved the age old saying "No one can waffle like a yeoman" by making a five minute lecture at rehearsal last for 35 minutes on the day, and he was reading from his own script!

## DIVISIONAL TROOPS RADIO CONVENTION 4th/5th DECEMBER, 1973

The DTRC, as it was soon abbreviated to, was the brainchild of OC 2 Squadron and had the double aim of bringing together all the radio elements of the Division and giving the opportunity to put over a few points on basic radio skills. A wide variety of cap badges, all clearly shown on the photograph appeared on the day with representatives from the RA Regiments, the RE Regiments and Squadrons, Field Ambulances, OFP's, REME Field Workshops, the RCT Regiment, Army Air Corps and our RMP Detachments, plus of course, a liberal sprinkling of our own 'Jimmy's'! The variation in cap badges was only matched by the variation in ranks, the lowest being Lance-Corporal and the highest our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Westlake,** who showed a great deal of interest in the convention. The general theme of the convention was 'back to basics' and the 'battle of the ends', concentrating on simple radio skills applicable to both VHF and HF communications. Apart from lectures from our own Squadron's officers and senior NCO's, 225 Signal Squadron provided an excellent demonstration of their capability and grim warning of what to expect from the 'other side'. On the whole the convention was a great success, providing a unique opportunity for 'both ends' to get together and discuss mutual problems and to meet socially over lunches and coffee. We hope that all our visitors learned something from the two days with us as we certainly did!

## REGIMENTAL REVUE

With the Convention over it was the turn of our Squadron Sergeant Major, **W.O.2 'Rog' Harris** to attempt levitation as he prepared the gymnasium for the assorted parties, and more important, the Regimental revue.

With a lot of hard work from the Squadron, the stage was built and the gym set up for an evening of entertainment provided by all departments of the Regiment. An audience of over 600 saw a laughter-filled show which ran for over two and a half hours. The cast which altogether totalled nearly 80 put on a fine performance on the night and seemed to enjoy the show as much, if not more than the audience. And after it was all over, we handed the gymnasium back to the QMSI and within minutes he had PT on the go again. Oh well, that's showbiz!

## SQUADRON SPORT

The Squadron was very pleased with itself on its showing in the Regimental Cross-Country Competition, providing five of the 10 teams entered, with Alfa 1 Troop A Team coming second in the Team Event. We also had three runners in the first 10, namely **Lieutenant M. J. Collins, Lance-Corporal 'Col' Boothby,** and **Signalman 'Taff' Williams** 567.

During the Christmas warm up **Second-Lieutenant 'Wee' G. Griffiths,** no doubt hoping to add to his silver collection, organised a Squadron squash competition. Much interest was generated as to who would win. In the final **'Wee G.'** beat the Squadron Commander in spite of the fact that the RSM was the judge. Next year, however, the Squadron Commander considers that we will have a handicap system, in which one point will be awarded for each year of service, on the basis that he could have won the final this year without entering the court. In the final of the plate **Corporal 'Mal' Campbell** narrowly beat **Signalman 'Scouse' Farrer** in a closely matched game.

## FAREWELL SAPPER SIGNALLERS

Over the last few months our Sapper Signallers have slowly been declining in numbers, and to our dismay and loss and DOE's delight, soon all will be gone. However, we would like to offer our thanks for all their help both with the CRE net and around the camp in the role of Garrison Engineers and at last give all a free mention in THE WIRE. Those departed include **Sergeant Ken Dodds** to civvy street, **Corporal 'Timber Galore' Heath, Corporal 'Hockey Sticks' Clasper, Sapper 'Cre' Wratten, Sapper Bob Best, Sapper 'Smudge' Smith** and **Sapper Dave Wilkinson.** We wish them all every success on their new postings and careers, and we will do our best to maintain the high standard they always kept on the CRE net.

# 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

## AT LAST

On 7th December, 1973 the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers,** opened the renovated Sergeants' Mess and named the new bar.

The bar is now named the Pintle Bar, and aptly so, as members of the Regiment, past and present, will agree.

Tremendous credit must go to **R.S.M. G. J. McKie** who, together with a selection of mess stalwarts too numerous to mention, battled for over a year to produce a mess comparable to any in BAOR.

## REGIMENTAL RUGBY

The Rugby Club is continuing to enjoy a very successful season, fielding three XV's when ever possible.

The 1st XV, ably skippered by **Sergeant 'Taff' Williams,** has reached the BAOR Semi-Final of the Army Cup, beating 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment (25–3), Royal Hussars (49–0), and 16 Signal Regiment (36–0) along the way. It is promising for Corps Rugby to note that other BAOR Royal Signals units have given us the hardest games this season. The scores against 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and 16 Signal Regiment belie the true run of play.

**'Taff' Williams** has strong support in the first XV from old (not long in the tooth) established players such as **Signalman Bill McConnell, Signalman Vince Fallon, Lieutenant Mark Riley, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins,** and **Corporal 'Al' Ewing** in the forwards with **Lance-Corporal Alun James, Corporal 'Q' Gilder, Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott** and the **Rev. Alistair Heagerty** in the backs. Newcomers to our rugby club and knocking hard for regular 1st team squad recognition are **Sergeant Sid Soqo, Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Doak** and **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith** in the scrum and **Signalman John Cavanagh, Sergeant Ian Haldane, Signalman Roy Cameron, Lance-Corporal Alex Kenedy** and **Second-Lieutenant Mark Grieves** in the threequarters. **John Cavanagh** merits special mention in that he has already played at lock for the BAOR Corps team and prop, lock and centre for our 1st XV; come to think of it he has also played full back for the 3rd XV and is a useful place kicker.

**Bill McConnell** and **'Q' Gilder** are to be congratulated on being selected for this years Army Trials in UK. **Bill McConnell, 'Q' Gilder, Dave Higgins** and **Alun James** have already been selected for BAOR representative sides this season but the games were cancelled due to bad weather. Their chance will come again.

Our coach, **Sergeant Jim Tunney,** has been called lots of things, mostly unprintable; 'Sadist' is one word frequently used. However results speak for themselves and **Jim** must take no small measure of credit for the high standard of play achieved. He is also to be congratulated in another area; recently he has become known as the best dressed coach on the touch line in BAOR.

Corps rugby followers will be pleased to hear that **Lance-Corporal Pat Lee,** our Corps and BAOR lock, is making a determined effort to overcome his injury and it looks promising for him to start playing again in the new year. In fact he has had to be restrained from coming back too early and has been giving the selectors, coach and our rugby playing Padre a hard time. The Padre was co-opted to persuade **Pat** that he wasn't ready to come back and ended up having to defend his faith, back to the wall (in the club room) against **Pat's** two hour verbal attack.

The 2nd XV captained by **W.O.2 Frank Worrall,** a dedicated skipper both on and off the field, has been enjoying an equally successful season. Their standard of play is high and compares favourably with most regimental 1st XV's, All are potential 1st team players and provide a reserve of match fit players for the 1st XV in case of injury and absence due to leave, exercises and courses. These players ensure that the 1st XV players do not become too complacent about their own play, knowing full well that there is some one else waiting to step into their position.

The 3rd XV, made up of the old, the bold and the inexperienced play in the true spirit of rugby football. They play purely for pleasure with no great ambitions but still manage to win most of their matches. The team is under the temporary captaincy of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Steve Waudby** while **Staff Sergeant Jim Adams** has been away on a course. **Steve,** 41 years old, has set the younger players an example in strength, speed and playing ability. Apart from playing he has ably assisted in the administration of the Rugby Club.

A mention must be made to that very important part of a rugby club, the non-playing members, who are on the touch-line, whatever the weather, giving support to our teams. Very often they return to the club to do bar man and other mundane tasks without any expectations of reward. In this field **Corporal Chris Tout, Signalman 'Yorky' Bradley** and **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Lawson** readily come to mind.

We must end on a sad note; we have recently said farewell to one of our most likeable and able players, who is well known throughout Corps Rugby circles, **Corporal Mel Wilson. Mel** has left us to return to civilian life and the Merchant Navy as a marine engineer. Our best wishes for the future go to **Mel, Eileen** and the children. There is sure to be a welcome for him in all Royal Signals Units Rugby Club's throughout the world should he look in on his travels.

## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### 3 SQUADRON ANNOTATIONS BY RUSHMOOR ALDERSHOT MILITARY STADIUM—FLOODLIGHTING

The Corps does well at sport and one of the nice things about being in Aldershot is the number of times we are requested to support units from the Corps who get through to the finals of different events.

3 Squadron girls seemed to spend a lot of time shouting on the Corps reps last year; lets hope it happens again this year.

We are sure that all sportsmen will be interested to know that the Stadium is now having floodlighting put in. As yet we do not know when they will be in use due to the fuel situation. All the same, the 3 Squadron 'Cheer Girls' are all ready to do their stuff when the first Corps team appears under lights.

### JOHNNY ONION MAN

Rushmoor thought that wives of the Corps would like to know that we have had a fully fledged French 'Johnny Onion Man' in Aldershot for the last three months.

The OC's wife has purchased two full strings of onions at the cost of £1.

It must be said that the best of the onions is the way they look, beautifully strung together so that they can hang in the kitchen.

One last point—Johnny Onion Man covers miles around Aldershot on his push bike festooned with onions. He does this in all weathers, and to cap it all, he only has one good leg, the other being metal.

What an example to all young recruits!

### MRS. ANGELA SNAPE GETS A BRONZE

**Mrs. Angela Snape,** the 3 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment operator at Guildford Comcen, won the coveted Comstar Bronze award for her comcen skills for the period March to August 1973.

**Angela Snape** is ex-WRAC and served at 4 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment, Wilton before she got married and moved to Guildford.

She was presented with the award by **Brigadier Lanyon, M.B.E., M.C.,** at a small presentation party given at The Directorate of Work Study (Army) at Guildford. **Major Grist,** OC 3 Squadron represented **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** CO 10 Signal Regiment, at the presentation.

### 4 SQUADRON
### THE ROSE BOWL—CAPTAIN MEACHEM MAKES IT TWO IN A ROW

**Captain Katie Meachem,** until recently DSO of Aldershot Communication Centre and Exchange, made it 'two in a row' for 10 Signal Regiment when she carried off the WRAC prize for this year. Last year **Major Greta Baylis** won the prize for the Regiment.

**Katie Meachem** has only just moved within the Regiment, from 3 Squadron Aldershot, to 4 Squadron Wilton. She is now doing the demanding job of Squadron Second-in-Command and Administration Officer.

It was a proud day for 3 Squadron when she returned to Headquarters South East District at Aldershot to receive the coveted rose bowl from the hands of **Lieutenant-General Sir Terence McMeekin, K.C.B., O.B.E.,** on Monday, 22nd October 1973. The ceremony was held in front of a small audience of WRAC staff from the Aldershot communication centre and exchange. **Lieutenant-General Sir Terence McMeekin** made a short speech before presenting the rose bowl. He thanked **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith,** CO 10 Signal Regiment, for composing the citation for the award. He said he was particularly struck by the fact that it was unusual for an officer of **Captain Meachem's** age to have to deal with both WRAC and civilian staff. This she did very well indeed.

Also present at the function was CSO UKLF, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** and Commander 2 Signal Group, **Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E.** As guests of honour, the parents of **Captain Meachem** made the journey from Rushington, Sussex. After the photographs for PR, **Wing Commander (Retd.)** and **Mrs. Meachem** were escorted to a special luncheon party in Government House Mess. The whole event was stage-managed (including the helicopters) by SO2 Signals South East District, **Lieutentant-Colonel Haycock,** Royal Signals. We are also told, and we believe it, that our OC, **Major Greg Grist** and the Second-in-Command, **Captain 'Pippa' Jarman,** WRAC had something to do with it. They got their reward as they both went to the luncheon.

To cap the winning of the rose bowl, **Katie Meachem** has now announced her engagement to **Captain John Knopp,** PWO. She tells your reporter that she is not leaving the WRAC just yet.

A proud Captain Meachem receives the Rose Bowl from Lieutenant-General Sir Terence McMeekin, K.C.B., O.B.E. (*Right:* CSO UKLF Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.)

## 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

### . . . I WANT TO HEAR SUCCESS STORIES

At Birgelen we have been 'Shooting to Kill' (the new range course) and some of us have succeeded. Christmas has been celebrated with 100% success, an attempt has been made to interview the editor of the Regimental Newspaper with no success at all and we are still wondering whether the latest fiendish plot of the Property Services Agency even aims at success!

### SHOOT TO KILL—PISTOL—WHAT THEY SAID

I shot a round into the air
It fell to earth I knew not where
(with apologies to H. W. Longfellow)
It only takes about 15 minutes to classify
(**Lieutenant Phil Noble,** Training Officer—before it started)
I'm better with something a bit heavier
(**Major David O'Connor,** RA)
We'd better allow two days next year
(**Lieutenant Phil Noble,** Training Officer—afterwards)

### THE PSA PLOT OR HOW THE QM DEFIED OPEC

We first heard about it a long time ago but nobody believed it. Then about half-way through the year it was confirmed. The vintage coke fired boilers in the married quarters were to be replaced with modern oil fired systems!

"But when?" we asked.

"Ah!" they said "November—before it gets too cold".

November came and went, the vintage boilers remained and nasty rumours began to circulate about a delay until January. Then the oil crisis arrived and we began to feel quite attached to our coke fired heating systems—after all *we* were warm. And surely under stringent oil economy conditions the conversion programme must be cancelled?

Just before Christmas, full of the spirit of the season, **Captain Jim Peck,** the QM, issued a letter to us all (in lieu of cards?) detailing the conversion programme. It runs through January and February and whilst the boilers are out we are to have two electric heaters (provided that we don't cook—the circuits won't stand both). Ah well—that's why we get the X factor.

Rumour has it that the next project will be to fit each house with a coal distillation plant—to produce heating oil!

### THE MERCURY BULLETIN

The Bulletin is the Regiment's weekly newspaper and is ably edited by **W.O.2 Peter Jones** (who in his spare time is Chief Clerk Operations Bureau). An attempt was made to interview him but he just muttered about 'D' notices and said "I just write it".

"Just write it" he may but it is a big job and some very good articles appear. So to close, and I think reflecting the thoughts of most of us at this time, here is a recent Editorial from the pen of **Peter Jones** (reproduced without permission!).

### EDITORIAL

28th December, 1973. The old year—unmourned—is dying and the infant 1974 is soon to be delivered from the womb of the future.

A time to take stock. Not from the corridors of power, but rather from the standpoint of an ordinary soldier, an ordinary member of the family. Because this, our Regiment, is a family. From Big Daddy at the top to Junior Junior who has just joined us—we are a family. Whether we like it or not, this is true. After all, there are always members of a family who want to cut loose. But, the family stands, and as I have said, we all belong. Our strength as a family lies in our intrinsic loyalties, the ties that bind us together.

I don't think that we can pretend that 1973 has been a year of unqualified success and happiness. The wings of the Dark Angel have brushed us, tragically, too often. We have especially in the last weeks of 1973, been acutely aware of the economic difficulties besetting our nation. We should be more than grateful that we are, as yet, on the right side of the fence not now subject to the discomforts and privations that afflict our kith and kin.

On the reverse side of the coin there has been a lot of hard work done by us all. Work with an eye to the future. There is a lot more to be done. And I feel that we'll all knuckle down and do it.

I don't want to preach. I can't. I'm just a soldier. Like you—and you—and you. 1974 is going to be tough. We don't know how tough yet.

I reckon that family feeling is what our nation needs at the moment. Badly. In adversity any family worth its salt closes ranks and faces trouble with unity.

On that note I am closing. I make no apology for dropping the Editorial 'we'. Once a year, I reckon I am privileged to inflict my own personal views upon you all. God Bless.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

With the New Year now upon us we look back over the last month and reflect, with much satisfaction, on a period of intense but nevertheless enjoyable activity. The month commenced with visits by **Brigadier H. C. Illing,** Commander Rhine Area and **Major General H. E. Roper,** CSO BAOR. The latter presented Warrants to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Wally Lockwood** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Alan Tomlinson** and the LS and GC to **Staff Sergeant Ian Underwood,** our catering specialist.

On the sporting scene the Darts Team are still progressing whilst the Mess Soccer Teams activities have been somewhat curtailed by the Sunday driving ban.

Finally we say farewell to **W/Sergeant Margaret** and **Sergeant Jim McDermott** and have much pleasure in welcoming to the fold **Sergeant Roy Green, Staff Sergeant Tony Baker** and **Sergeant Michael Smart** whose stay with us we hope will be long and pleasant. That happy pair **W/Sergeant Maggie Foulkes** and **Sergeant Dave Foulkes** have been separated for a period—to **Maggie** now in 9 Signal Regiment—au revoir, to **Dave** in Northern Ireland—good luck and see you back soon.

## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

### AIRCRAFT WHICH WE SUPPORT—THE WESSEX

Wessex Mk 2 helicopter

OUR photograph this month is of a Wessex Mk 2 helicopter of 18 Squadron RAF, from RAF Gutersloh. These aircraft have a cruising speed of almost 100 knots, and can carry a variety of payloads quickly and tactically around the battlefield. For example, a 105mm Pack Howitzer can be carried as an underslung load, or even a ¾ ton FFR land rover if quick rebro communications are required from an otherwise inaccessible high feature. The internal payload is of the order of 1,700lbs, and this is sufficient to lift six–seven soldiers in full battle order with ammunition and supplies for 24 hours. The capabilities and flexibility of the Squadron's aircraft taken together is impressive, and will be even more impressive when the new Puma helicopter is taken into service.

Communications for 18 Squadron RAF are provided by J Troop of this Regiment, which is similarly located at RAF Gutersloh. With RHQ and Squadron HQ over 200 miles distant, the command of this troop must be a subaltern's dream. Certainly, **Lieutenant Ian Wilson** seems well 'dug-in' and satisfied with his lot. Troop personalities are plentiful, but top of the list must be **Corporal Lori Vula,** whose good humour ensures that there are few dull moments.



### BAOR CROSS-COUNTRY TITLE RETAINED

Sport is full of the unexpected—remember the 1973 cup final? A similar upset, though at a much lower level, occurred on 17th November when our all conquering cross-country team was beaten in Berlin by 1 WFR. It may have been only a friendly race, but clearly our team were both surprised and shocked, particularly as the BAOR Championships were only a month away. Perhaps this defeat was a 'blessing in disguise', for the team really tore into their training on their return. It takes considerable character and determination to put in a long run before breakfast on a cold wintery morning, followed by another during the lunch break, and additionally to complete a normal days work—not just for one day, but daily, including weekends. This hard training schedule, over several months, has been the key to our successes in the past, and again we were to receive the benefits of this rigorous schedule for the BAOR Championships on a wet, sultry afternoon at Sennelager on 13th December.

The start was most spectacular, with 164 runners from 20 teams displaying a kaleidoscope of colour which rapidly diffused into the grey mist of the training area. A pile of tracksuits and a strong smell of embrocation was all that remained. The moment of truth had arrived—the chips were down.

A quick appreciation at the three mile point showed that 1 WFR were most unlikely to repeat their Berlin achievement—six of our team had passed before the leading 1 WFR runner appeared, whilst the balance of our team were holding sound positions in the centre of our opponents' pack. From the halfway stage our tangerine and scarlet strip monopolised the head of the race, with Army champion **Sergeant Bill Venus** dictating a pace which was just right for the rest of the team. The finish showed six of our team in the first 10, with the leading 1 WFR runner in 11th position. Our two remaining runners to count towards the team total finished in 14th and 18th positions, to total 67 points. Second were 1 WFR with 177 points and third 1 Royal Irish with 255 points.

This impressive victory was our fifth consecutive BAOR Cross-Country Championship, achieved after the loss of half of the 1972 team, with replacements from within the Regiment. Indeed, one team member **(Signalman Gary Askew)** had never run in a cross-country race before our talent spotting inter troop race in October. He finished 14th—a superb performance for an 18 year old in his first big race. The leadership behind this victory was provided by **Captain Richard Farrimond,** who despite considerable individual ability could not quite make the final team. Thank you **Richard,** and also all the wives, who have never grumbled at the demands on their husband's free time.

### C-IN-C's COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bill Scott** and **Corporal Rick Dudley** on receiving a commendation from the Commander in Chief RAF Germany in his New Year List. The commendations describe exceptional devotion to duty in their respective work as RQMS and Combat Lineman at RAF Wildenrath.

### APPRENTICES ENJOY THEMSELVES

Prior to the Christmas break we were visited by a party of apprentices from the AAC Harrogate. Consisting mainly of the College Cross-Country team, the party was brought over to Wildenrath by **Major David Elliott,** RAEC, ably assisted by two past members of the Regiment, **Sergeant's Pete Dring** and **Mike Gue.** During their seven day stay the lads paid visits to a Harrier Squadron, our local AAC Squadron, the Harrier flight simulator, and of course, elements of our own Regiment.

The highlight of the week was naturally the cross-country meeting, a round of the Rhine Area League staged on our own Wildenrath course. Ten teams entered the meeting, which our own team convincingly won with 36 points. The apprentice A Team was an easy second with 70 points, their B team only just missing a third place.

### AND SKIING

Thirteen keen young apprentices accompanied by a few permanent staff, including our ex-adjutant **Mike Yolland** (complete with one of his VW mini-buses), came over to sample the delights of our ski hut for two weeks during their Christmas break.

Arriving in Germany in time for a New Year's Eve party in our Regimental Club 'The Train', the party were given a day to recover before motoring down to Unterjoch. For many of the lads this was their first trip abroad, and the quick visit to Wildenrath, followed by a ski holiday in Bavaria proved to be an interesting experience for them.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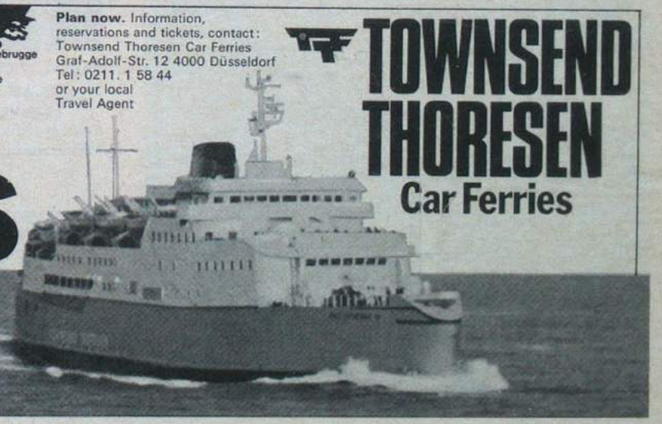

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## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

THE best way to write THE WIRE notes, so they tell me, is to sit up in bed chewing the end of your pen till your wife gets so fed up that she writes them for you!

Well after the Freedom of the City (which was fully covered last month) the next crisis was our FFR and no-one wants to hear the gory details about that. It was, however, a good day in that the tasks set were many and varied and by nightfall everyone felt good and tested. The CCR Signals, **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle, O.B.E.** and his staff covered a lot of ground to see it all happening and only managed to grab a bar of chocolate and a slice of compo cake in a muddy comcen location; they did ask for a light lunch!

The festive season is in full swing and as the year draws to a close perhaps now is a good time to look back and see what happened to it.

### 200 SOLDIERS SKIING

Our best 'Snow Queen' ever gave almost 200 soldiers a taste of skiing in the Bavarian Alps and this year the figure will be larger still. A small and select langlauf team had two months intensive training in Norway under **Captain Roland Ebdon** and did very creditably; **Lance-Corporal Bob Dudley** and **Signalman Gordon Simpson** won various novice races at Divisional and Army level and the whole team gained a lot of valuable experience.

### 10 ONE WEEK CRUISES

Baltic cruising from Kiel proved a large success and a total of 10 one week cruises were completed, mainly with new crews learning the ropes from one or two experienced hands. Among the newly qualified skippers 35 was **Lance-Corporal Trevor Calver** who also helped to instruct the many dinghy novices. There were nine one week courses at the Mohne See which introduced a lot of young soldiers to dinghy sailing.

### ITALY VISITED

In between times there were exercises too numerous to mention. The memorable ones include the windiest and most snow covered 'Flying Falcon' during which we entertained the SO-in-C among the fallen trees. A splendid exercise in Italy for 130 of us was covered by a report from **Corporal Arnie Fleischer** and the long range exercise in which we passed a Mufax picture from near Switzerland to the Baltic was reported on in the August/September issue.

A lot of detachments (TEV's A, D11 etc.) were involved in the Autumn FTX's and it was gratifying to get a lot of 'strawberry' letters (nowadays called 'chocolate frogs' I'm told!) in appreciation of the high standard of communications achieved.

### DEPARTING

The postings season is also in full swing; we have recently welcomed **Major D. F. Malone** who takes over the fighting Fourth Squadron. **Major** and **Mrs. T. B. Scarff** leave us for the delights of Catterick, and will soon be skiing on new slopes. They were given a rousing send off by 2 Squadron in the shape of **Signalman 'Dusty' Miller** inside a monster Ritter bottle. This was in answer to the many 'gas attacks' called by **Major Scarff** whenever a beer bottle was found in the Comcen Sierra location! **Signalman 'Slim' Walker** took his leave of us at the same party en route to Northern Ireland and promotion. That's the way to go!

And on that note I'll stop chewing my pen and hand over to my wife.

### LADIES' CLUB IN THE ASCENDANT

What you expect me to write at this time of night I can't think but the 'Ladies Club' goes from strength to strength—85 at last month's meeting, 95 this month and 99 for our Christmas dinner and cabaret! We're getting pushed for ideas but as long as you are happy with the informality of Bingo and a good nosh up we'll keep up the search for at least one additional attraction each month. At the rate we're going we'll need a bigger club yet again!

### QUARTERS FOR ALL

The quarters situation has improved dramatically this year and there are now no families living out in expensive private accommodation thank goodness. If it weren't so expensive Lippstadt is really a very pleasant place to live—Winterberg and the Mohnesee so nearby and the Baltic and Italy only a few hundred miles further. Goodnight all!



## *28 Signal Regiment bring cheer to 85 handicapped children*

### SORGENKIND

THIS is a venture whereby less fortunate and retarded children within German communities are looked after in such ways as, periods at holiday homes, special cures and so on. The Regiment's small contribution to this worthwhile cause was to entertain some 85 children from the local Heilepadagoisches Centrum to a Christmas party on 14th December. The handicapped children, some in wheelchairs, and others wearing special protective headgear duly arrived at Francisca Barracks to the seasonally decorated dining room to be met by Officers and Soldiers of the Regiment. Alpha Troop provided some of their 'privates' under the command of **Sergeant Jackie Smith,** closely supported by **Signalman 'Geordie' Scott** to help look after and entertain the children. Members of the school staff including some helpers who are also Krefeld Stadt Theater players dressed in medieval costume danced and sang a Christmas fantasy in which some of the children were able to take part, carol singing and childrens' songs, following. Particularly popular with the children was the custard pie in the face act between the pirates and the clown, played by **Yeoman Tim Martin,** as some of them were allowed to join in the fun. Our battery operated clown's eyes and nose lit up at the press of a button and a propellar on his belt fascinated the smaller children. Wearing party hats the children sat down to a traditional Christmas party table, pulled their crackers and watched in delight the balloons falling down from the net in the ceiling. The arrival of the Weinachtsman was the highlight of the afternoon for them however, and each received his or her gift from Father Christmas and a handshake from the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie, M.B.E.** All too soon the party was over and a bunch of happy children left the Regiment for their school, leaving behind them some wiser and certainly more thoughtful people.

ALPHA TROOP PIRATES MADE THINGS GO WITH A SWING
*Standing, left to right:* Signalman 'Taff' Lewis, Sergeant Jackie Snaith, Signalman 'Evie' Calvert, Lance-Corporal John Grogan
*Kneeling, left to right:* Signalman Don Fraser, Signalman Bert Pridgeon, Signalman 'Radar' Tustin, Signalman 'Geordie' Scott, and 'Jock' Hagen

**STOP PRESS**

## *28 Regt in Final of Army Association Football Cup*

**Having beat 40 Fd Regiment R.A. 2–0 in the BAOR final, 28 Regiment now meet the School of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering at the Aldershot Stadium at 2 p.m. on the 10th April.**

**COME AND SUPPORT YOUR CORPS TEAM!**



## 30 Sig Regt
**BLANDFORD CAMP**

### VISIT OF COLONEL J. H. HILD, M.B.E.

Our new Commander at 1 Signal Group, **Colonel Henry Hild,** visited the Regiment on 7 December last. He spent the day meeting members of each of the Squadrons and being briefed on how the Regiment does its job. During his stay he visited our Operations Room, run by **Captain Ron Reid,** ably assisted by **Mollie** and **Sandra,** our two civilian Operations clerks.

### 3 SQUADRON—EW TROOP

**Captain Chris Shuker** writes;

While the rest of the Squadron are sleeping off the aftermath of Christmas I am putting pen to paper in an attempt to get EW Troop's name into print for perhaps the first time. Our sister Troop in the Squadron is the AMF(L) Troop who seem to get all the publicity because they wear tennis racquets on their boots when it snows.

Those of you who, having read the word 'EW', have already put a match to your copy of THE WIRE can stamp it out because all I intend to do is keep those of you who are interested up-to-date with a run-down of the Troop personnel.

It's been quite a month for new arrivals and it's too early to start telling stories about them. We welcome **Corporal 'Big Al' Franklin, Corporal 'Spic' Retallick, Lance-Corporals 'Geordie' Dove, 'Mossie' Millington, 'Vicar' Ryan, Signalmen 'Rag Tash' Almand, 'Ringo' Armstrong, 'Loo' Calvert, 'Maggot' Hannon** and **'Mod Alf' Wrightson.** I know it reads like the nominal roll of Wormwood Scrubs but I have been assured that any resemblance is purely coincidental.

Now for the old boys. The two chief warders, who like to be called Supervisors, are **Staff Sergeants 'Bomber' Wells** and **'Scouse' Honor.** They are presently trying to bash the aforementioned arrivals into shape, before the first exercise of the new season hits us. We have to be specially prepared because it always snows on EW Troop. **Sergeant Alan Meir** was there last April when our little complex was snowed under and two miles down the road people were wearing sunglasses and flowery shirts. **Sergeant John Garbutt,** who looks after our stores, found snow in the tentage during a stores check in July. Unfortunately his snowball melted before he got to the RSM's office.

**Corporal 'Specky' Eccleston** and **'Worms' Murphy** are about to leave the Army but we all agree we can do without the blind and hungry. **Corporal 'Fat Rat' Gilbert** is certainly very busy at the moment—trying to find out who gave him that horrible nickname. There are three lads without nicknames. They are **Corporals Bob Hales, Bruce Ogilvie,** and **Roger Sellars.**

**Lance-Corporal 'Baby' McNaught** is the last, and the least (by height) of the lads, but try telling that to a judo and karate man.

Now that you know the characters of the Troop I hope that next time we write we can amuse you with some stories, and perhaps a photograph or two. Alright, alright—just a story.

### 661 SIGNAL TROOP

On a quieter note, the disbandment of 661 Signal Troop from HMS *Intrepid* was a sad occasion for the Regiment, marking the severance of an association which we have had with the Royal Navy ever since the ship's first commissioning for operations in 1968. We presented the ship with a Regimental plaque together with an engraved farewell which was finished off with a very suitable quotation from the Bible, a custom to which the Navy is very addicted. 661 Signal Troop's farewell gift of an HMS *Intrepid* plaque is now proudly displayed in Regimental Headquarters.

### FOOTNOTE

It is obvious that the appropriate Staff Officers did not read the footnote in our previous edition of THE WIRE, and we have therefore been unable to restrain our Second-in-Command from poetising yet again. With no apologies to Shakespeare, Browning, Keats or Shelley (but with more than a little to **McGonagall**) we append his latest poem.

When you travel up to London on a train that doesn't run
Or sit beside a coalless fire—it's really not much fun—
Don't let depression pull you down—it truly could be worse
You're better off by far than those who travel round by hearse.

The benefits of more restricted hours of television
(Though greeted by the pundits with unlimited derision)
Are very real but make you feel a little bit restricted
Especially if you are one of those who is addicted.

But if they had the added time they want, what would we see?
Some gloomy Midweek Special (or its twin on ITV)
About the state the country's in, how nobody's to blame
But how much money (money mad) we're losing all the same.

Let's give a thought to other things, to loyalty and hard work;
These could beat "Malaise Anglais" (translated) chronic shirk.
It mightn't suit the men who try to rule us for self gain
But would cheer us all up greatly; there would really be a train!

**Co 1974 R. T. Martin**

## *News from Squadrons*

## 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

A SHORT report from the 'Flying Fifth'. As ever, many people have come and gone since the last report but the Signal Squadron goes on in almost the same way.

### ALL VERY MILITARY

Having successfully completed our complement of Brigade and Division exercises we were able to get down to some troop exercises towards the end of 1973. Bravo Troop started with a 'tactical' exercise including simulated gas attacks, trench digging, map reading, and all the joys of infantry work. The enemy for this was provided by three members of the troop namely **Lieutenant Harry Ross, Sergeant Gordon Philbrook** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Barry Jepson.** Most of the time the demonstration was on how not to do it ending up in their being captured, killed, or both! New records were set on how fast a crash move could be made. There were also new records in getting lost on Salisbury Plain!

'B' TROOP ON EXERCISE
*Left to right:* Corporal Colin Brown, Signalman Terry Rawlinson, F. of S. Barry Jepson and Corporal Peter Maciver, digging a trench on a perimeter, camouflaged vehicles in the background

Alpha Troop followed shortly after with a walking exercise involving map reading and initiative with some signalling skills thrown in for good measure. The complaint most currently heard was about the quantity of Salisbury Plain carried on boots. This time no one got lost although some tried hard.

### IN SUNNIER CLIMES

Finally, we send our regards to six members of Alpha Troop who are on detachment to sunnier climes. They are **Signalmen Fred Caldwell, 'Jock' Sibbald, Alan Cogan, Nick Devon, 'Baz' Palmer** and led by **Corporal Frank Gibson.** We had a Christmas card from these latter-day 'Desert Rats' who seem to be working for the first time in ages.

Judging by the shortage of blanks on the Squadron planning chart for 1974 we can look forward to a busy time ahead. There is mention of exercises in Cyprus, Italy, Germany and Aldershot. It will be interesting to see how they all materialize. Come fly with us in 1974.

### FOOTBALL VICTORY

Following the Squadron's sporting victories in 1973 we beat the Parachute Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps in the South West District final of the York and Lancaster Cup, the Army Minor Unit Cup. Scorers were **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Bruce Graham** and **Lance-Corporal 'Chunky' Chandler** who scored twice. We now look forward to meeting the winners of the Wales and West Midland District Section in the quarter-final.

## 6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 106

THESE notes may well seem a bit sporty, but as we are doing rather well, excuse us for saying so.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

The 4 Division cross-country championships took place at Hammersmith Barracks, Herford, on 15th November, 1973. Runners came from 14 major units and six minor units, making a total of over 200 runners in all. Our team walked the course in the morning to familiarise themselves with the course, as some of our runners have been known to go the wrong way on occasions.

The race began at 14.30 hours and all the team got off to a good start—with the exception of our **Signalman Bowley,** who tripped over the steel fence 10 yards from the start. He soon recovered and eventually finished a creditable 26th. As our runners started coming in, it was obvious we had done rather well. It turned out that we won the minor units easily and had we counted our last two runners, we would have beaten all the major units, with the exception of 1 Royal Irish who won the major units championship. Two trophies for 6 Brigade.

### HOCKEY

Our hockey team is also doing well, having won the Soest minor units league. We are through to the finals of the Division championships and are top of the Western League at the moment. The Western League as all hockey fans will be well aware, consists of major and minor Units. Our record is quite impressive at the moment—we are impressed anyway! We have played six games in the Western League, 23 goals for and 5 goals against. In the Soest League, we played four games with 12 goals for and 3 against. The Division championships gave us 5 goals for and none against. Totals are 12 games, 12 wins, 40 goals for and 8 goals against. We hope to keep as many trophies in the Corps as possible.

### FOOTBALL

So that we cannot be accused of only reporting our successes, our football team is not doing as well as it did last year. After a good beginning in the League, but due to postings (Officer-in-Charge Records please note!), courses and PRE, we have lost the last three games. **Lance-Corporal Tommy Ponton** is being missed whilst he is at Catterick, but the team manager, **Sergeant Dave Darlington,** feels he ought to mention **Signalman Ken Ritchie** and **Signalman John Whale** as the most improved players.

### STOP PRESS

6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron are now 4 Division Minor Unit Champions.



## 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

### EXERCISE 'DEEP FURROW' 1973

THE largest airborne assault since the Second World War took place over Turkish Thrace on 27th September 1973, when combined British, American and Turkish paratroops dropped from 80 transport aircraft delivering more than 2,400 men, vehicles and supporting artillery onto 'Highball' DZ. The drop was watched by thousands of local villagers and a large gathering of NATO observers.

Among the troops from 16 Parachute Brigade were members of 216, on their second UKJATFOR exercise with NATO. As always, 216 played a major role in providing communications.

A Corporal and two PFC's from the 82 (US) Airborne Divisional Signal Battalion 'jumped' with the Squadron as a liaison detachment, while **Sergeant 'Dick' Hamilton** 'jumped' with the 82 TAC HQ. A small ceremony at the end of the exercise was held in order to present para wings and Squadron lanyards to the American troopers, who responded by giving the OC a Master Parachutist Wings and their Battalion badge.

We recovered from the exercise area to a 'rest camp' (reminiscent of Butlins circa 1890!) with somewhat primitive facilities, but situated a mere 12km from Istanbul, on the shores of the Bospherous. This proved handy for sightseeing and shopping trips to the grand market in the capital.

### KAPE TOUR

No sooner had our vehicles and equipment returned from Turkey than we had to re-load for a KAPE tour scheduled for the North West of England (Preston, Manchester, Lake District) and the Squadron was divided into two teams for this, lead by **Captain Clem Palmer, M.B.E.** and **Lieutenant Dave Harris.**

Some of the stories which reached home were hair-raising and we did think of contacting the Guinness Book of Records at one stage (enough on that!).

The work was very interesting, albeit over long hours, and it was most pleasant to be the subject of crowds of admirers, which naturally brought the 'smoothies' to the forefront. It was discovered that **Lance-Corporal 'Hotlips' Joanes** (the Valentino of the Technicians Shop) had his own fan club who send him a vast amount of mail.

While this went on the remainder of the teams were attempting to prove that 'Paras' can survive on a solely liquid intake and an elastic X factor. (Scottish and Newcastle Breweries please note!).

Both teams enjoyed the tour, which proved to be a success. It had, as is usual, its fund of amusing/peculiar/ridiculous anecdotes:

*Spectator at Show:* "What is your unit's role in NATO?"
216 *Soldier* (in hasty aside to nearby Sergeant): "What's NATO"?
*Sergeant:* "Same as SEATO, of course".
216 *Soldier:* "That's on our cap-badge isn't it"?
(No names, no pack-drill).

### CANADIAN PARA TOUR

At the same time as the KAPE tour were captivating (!) the North West of England, a few of our older and bolder members donned their drawers pyjama and flew off to the Arctic wastes of the Canadian Airborne Forces Jump School at Edmonton, Alberta. These were the S'arn't-Major (minus his kilt this time), the Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Ray Duffy, Staff Sergeant John Newman, Sergeant Ray Cardwell, Corporal Jeff Hartley** and **Signalman Pete Doherty.**

After some very cold training they only managed to complete a few descents from a variety of single-engined aircraft before the weather clamped down and cancelled all flying. However, they were presented with their Canadian Para Wings by the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.

### EXERCISE, 'VARIANT', MALAYA

**Lance-Corporal 'Nique' Nichols** went with D (Patrol) Company, 1 Para and 1 (Guards) Independent Company Para to Malaya, to assist with the C11 SSB rear links working to jungle patrols with A16 sets.

### UN DUTIES, CYPRUS

**Lance-Corporal 'Para' Finn, Signalmen 'Gilly' Hagan** and **'Ed' Newton** returned to the fold after a successful tour with 1 Para on UN duties in Cyprus.



### ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS
### COURSES

**Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' McKee** returned from Catterick after passing his A1 R Training without once visiting any cells, or being RTU'd. (**Signalman Bob O'Hara** please note!).

**Lieutenant Dave Harris** and **Staff Sergeant Doug Baikie** went to Hereford on a combat survival course and now live on grubs, grass and sheep's eyeballs!

Congratulations are due to **Lance-Corporal 'Chopper' Aspinall** for achieving an 'A' grade on his Lineman to Telecommunications–Mechanic conversion course at Catterick.

More congratulations to **Lance-Corporal 'Kev' Barrett** and **Lance-Corporal 'Nik' Joanes** for coming 1st and 3rd respectively on their detachment commander's course at 11 Signal Regiment.

### 16 PARACHUTE BRIGADE v. 46 GROUP RAF

Due to our previous record in the soccer world, we were asked to organise and select teams for soccer and cross-country, which did well in this competition.

### SOCCER

Free transfers have been given to our goal-keeper, **Corporal Jim Coffey** and our centre-half, **Corporal Ian Campbell,** who have left us for Hong Kong and Cyprus respectively. (Lucky . . . !).

Both 1st and 2nd teams are doing extremely well in the Army Minor Units Cup, The Yorks and Lancs Cup and the South East District Cup. ("As always!" . . . to quote the Manager, **Corporal Pete Pritchard,** the Airborne version of Brian Clough!).

### STOP PRESS

Army Minor Units: 3rd Round:
216 Para Signal Squadron—4; 1 Para Log Regiment—3

### DEPARTURES

Over the last few months we have said farewell (in our own inimitable fashion!) to the following:

**Second-Lieutenant Dave Bannister,** 21 Signal Regiment; **Second-Lieutenant 'Jeeps' Jackson,** 7 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Dave Fox,** 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; **Corporal 'Andy' Starling,** 21 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Dave Jackson,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Fred Bryson,** 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; **Corporal Jim Coffey,** 27 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Ian Campbell,** 262 Signal Squadron.

### ARRIVALS

A different story indeed!

**Second-Lieutenant Bill Edwards, Signalmen Faherty, Pendlebury, Guy** and **Shaw.**

Parachute Volunteers please note: If you're good enough you need 216!

## 244 Sig Sqn
## R.A.F. Benson

### THE END OF AN ERA

JANUARY brought to an end the tour of our Officer Commanding, **Major Phil Spooner.** Having suffered the trials and tribulations of commanding the 'Red Hand Gang' for two and a half years he now moves on to warmer climes in Brunei, where we hope he and **Mrs. Sue Spooner** will enjoy their tour as much as they have in the 244.

It is not often that one refers to an officer as a soldier, but without doubt **Major Spooner** certainly qualified as such whilst with this Squadron. It is a sad fact that many Commanding Officer's are necessarily forced to command from a chair and desk, but not **Major Spooner.** He was always at the front and tackled everything that his soldiers did, be it on the physical side or behind a set in the field—**Spooner** was there.

The Squadron say bon voyage and good luck in your new posting—you will both be sadly missed.

### A FRIENDLY WARNING TO THE ROYAL BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT

*He loves:* Parachuting, fast cars, fast ball games, and other people's matches.

*He loathes:* Offices, the use of pen and paper, warm beer, goods that have had duty paid on them and anybody who can effect a 'con' better than he can.

### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It is not often that the seniors of the Squadron hold a formal function, due to sharing Mess facilities. However, the night of Friday, 4th January brought to a bewildered RAF Sergeants' Mess a Dinner Night held in true Corps tradition—the occasion, the dining out of **Major** and **Mrs. Phil Spooner.**

The dinner as usual was a credit to the catering genius of **Staff Sergeant Fred Lima,** ACC who went international, producing dishes from Italy, France, Scandinavia and Britain. After the Loyal Toast the diners were treated to a marathon farewell speech by our RSM, **W.O.1 Steve Bresloff** who obviously instilled an obligation onto **Major Spooner** to reply in equal terms as well. Eventually speeches over, presentations made, we retired to dancing provided by **Messrs. Claffey** and **Young** who endeavoured to prove that the human ear is capable of sustaining a considerable number of decibels in the course of seven hours.

At approximately 03.00, the RSM decided that it was a reasonable hour for the OC to go to bed. After despatching **Mrs. Spooner** home by car, the seniors assembled around a dubious looking contraption, constructed of various bits and pieces pilfered from toilets around the Station, and the OC was invited to sit in the centuries proved position. Thus seated he was pulled over roads, sports pitches, monsoon drains until finally arriving at his quarter in a select RAF neighbourhood, insisting that the contraption be parked outside his quarter until daylight hours. We are not sure but we think this was a case of pride knowing that his RAF neighbours would comment on his personal commode.

It was thought that duty and pleasure over the members could start to filter away—but no—at 03.30 hours a small major appeared at the Mess entrance requesting admittance to continue the thrash. Eventually at 07.30 hours the OC and RSM decided to call it quits. Yes it was a night to be remembered.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICER COMMANDING

The Squadron welcome **Major** and **Mrs. J. D. Cathcart** to the 244th. We hope their tour will be a happy one at Royal Air Force, Benson.

### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

We are now in a position to guarantee that you will receive our notes by the 12th of the month as you always request. (These arrived on the 14th—but never mind—*Editor*).

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**KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!**

*See Editorial Page*

## 32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

### CAPTAIN BILL TYERS DINED OUT AFTER 42 YEARS WITH SIGNALS

ON the 3rd November, 1973, the Officers, Honorary Members and Guests of the Officers' Mess, 51 (H) Signal Squadron (V) bade farewell to **Captain Bill Tyers** on his retirement after serving nearly 42 years with the Corps.

**Bill** is personally known to many members of the Corps, as he has served in such places as The North West Frontier in India to the North East Frontier of 32 Signal Regiment (V) in Aberdeen. **Bill,** a Yorkshire man, has endeared himself to the Scots, and it is rumoured that he is even liked by some of the English. He enlisted into the Royal Corps of Signals as **Signalman Tyers, W.** in December, 1931, served at Catterick, Colchester and Canterbury, where he left the latter in 1935 on posting to India. Shortly after his arrival in India he was stationed at Quetta and lived through one of the most devastating earthquakes ever to strike in India.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, his return to the UK in 1941 proved to be the year in which two important factors in his life occurred. Firstly, he met and married his good lady, **Edna,** and secondly he was posted to the 51 (Highland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (TA), with whom he served in North Africa and Sicily. On the 30th October, 1942, at El Alamein, he had an argument with the German artillery and lost, the result being a few months in hospital. In 1945 **Bill** left the 51st on posting to Whitby. 1946 saw him as PSI with Edinburgh OTC, 1948 at Catterick until 1951 when he was posted to BAOR on promotion to WO1 (RSM). He served well as RSM and was commissioned in 1955 as Quartermaster to the 51 (H) Infantry Division Signal Regiment (TA) at Aberdeen. He became the Administrative Officer in 1960 and continued as AO in 1967 in the reformed reserve known as the T & AVR, the Regiment now becoming a Squadron—the 51 (H) Signal Squadron (V) of the 32 Scottish Signal Regiment (V).

**Bill** retired on 30th September, 1973, and his influence and wisdom will certainly be missed.

So on the 3rd November, 1973, at the Station Hotel, Aberdeen a dinner was held to honour **Bill.** He was presented with a solid silver rose bowl by **Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.,** in the presence of six of his Commanding Officers and 22 of his brother officers of 51.

To **Bill** and **Edna** we sincerely wish a long and happy retirement.

## 34 Sig Regt (V) Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

### A WRAC RECRUIT'S FIRST TRAINING WEEKEND

IT was a Dickensian scene that Saturday morning at Burniston Barracks Scarborough. A cold Victorian block with snow-covered square and a chilly winter morning. However, undeterred by the climate we went through our basic drill movements, learned about the Army, the Regiment and our job and generally spent an interesting and informative day. The evening was the star turn though, with a Regimental dance to a super disco, a lavish buffet and plenty of fellows to go round.

The next morning we all paraded and marched down to the local parish church for a carol service. Our band led the singing of over 300 voices and I certainly enjoyed my first visit inside a church for some time—a military service is an impressive occasion to a newcomer. After the service we formed up behind the band and marched back to barracks with a swing in our step. The Colonel took the salute, presented a few medals and cups and wished us all a Merry Christmas. My thoughts as I journeyed home were of a pleasant weekend with lots of new friends made and plenty to look forward to next time.

CHURCH PARADE

The Regiment led by the Second-in-Command, Major G. C. Beadle, marches back to Barracks behind the Band. The salute is being taken by the Commanding Officer

### DINING-OUT OF MAJOR RON FAWCETT

A Regimental Dinner held in the Officers' Mess was the occasion of saying an official 'Farewell' to **Major Ron Fawcett,** who after 19 years with the corps had just handed over the appointment of Second-in-Command of the Regiment to **Major Colin Beadle** (fresh from commanding 50 Squadron). Our Group Commander, **Brigadier Peck** was amongst the guests present at the dinner, during which our Regimental Band played some of **Ron's** favourite Gilbert and Sullivan music. **Major Fawcett** was presented with a silver candelabra from the officers of the unit, and he gave two splendid hand-cut lead crystal decanters for us to remember him by—we will miss his happy jovial figure—but trust that in his new capacity of secretary of the '345' Club, will be able to keep in close contact with us.

### 90 (NR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) PERSONALITY PARADE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OC | .. .. .. | **Major G. C. Mitchell,** TD |
| SSM | .. .. .. | **W.O.2 H. Bent** |
| PSI | .. .. .. | **Staff Sergeant A. K. Woods** |
| Clerical Officer | .. | **Mrs. I. M. E. Parkin** |

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Bob Dobson** on winning the Punshon Cup (previously mentioned) and to **Private Sue Barclay** for being the first winner of the Walker Rose Bowl.

After an extremely glutinous Christmas, followed by a very fluid New Year, all of us in 90 Squadron, are glad Ted Heath brought in his three day week, to enable us to recuperate. We will hopefully, recover in time, for our next event, 90 Squadron SNCO's Annual Dinner on 19th January!

Rather like a phoenix from the ashes, some good news has come out of bad. **Lance-Corporal Branwell Peverley** of the Squadron, unfortunately suffered a heart attack when returning from Annual Camp last year. The actions of our vociferous but highly competent Medical Sergeant, **Sergeant Mick Trevor,** undoubtedly helped to save the life of **Lance-Corporal Peverley.** When one remembers that this critical event took place on board a North Sea Ferry, then one can only acclaim the decision to award **Sergeant Trevor** the C-in-C's Commendation for his actions.

We in 90 Squadron would like to join **Lance-Corporal Peverley** in thanking **Sergeant Trevor,** and offering our sincere congratulations on his award.

In a lighter vein, a pat on the back and best wishes go to **Lance-Corporal Phil Maddison** and his wife **Alison** on the birth of their first-born, **Phillip,** a bouncing baby son. **Lance-Corporal Maddison** is one of our latest acquirements from the Regular Army, thereby carrying on the traditions of our Corps.

The TAVR just cannot get enough of 'the **Lance-Corporal Maddisons**' leaving the Regular Army. To keep new idea's and new blood flowing through the TAVR's veins, we will always have a warm welcome and a vacancy for ex-Regulars. Anyone who is on the verge of departing for Civvy Street, but secretly admits that they're going to miss the life, should seriously think about joining us in the Volunteers. In the majority of cases, rank and trade are regranted by Records after a very short space of time, you get the same daily rate of pay plus allowances as in the Regular Army but with the opportunity of earning an £85 bounty at the end of the year! Worth thinking about isn't it? Just call in at Brambles Farm anytime, and ask for 90 Squadron!

## 40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

### EXERCISE 'BREAK OUT'

A REGIMENTAL weekend was held at Ballykinlar during the 13th/14th October. The aim of the weekend's training was to practise members of the Regiment in specific military skills. The skills were: weapon training including firing the annual personal weapon tests, fieldcraft, NBC, platoon in attack, platoon in defence and internal security.

The camp had to be taken over on Friday, and this **R.Q.M.S. Mike Thurgood** managed with able assistance from **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) W. Carey.**

**Corporal T. Burtonwood** and his cooks quickly saw the cookhouse and mess facilities in operation.

The No. 1 Troop ACF Royal Signals volunteered their services to work in the butts and all fired a full practice before the weekend was over. The WRAC also assisted the butt party. Not many of the girls or the cadets were much more than five feet tall, a good number were very short, but credit was due to them all for working so hard.

**Captain Norman Geddes** assisted by **Captain Duncan Mackinnon** and **Lieutenant Irene Mercer** ran the SLR range whilst **Captain John Dean** and **Lieutenant Brian Mitchell** ably assisted by **Sergeant D. Bayley,** managed the SMG and pistol practices.

**Staff Sergeant J. Bayne** left **Sergeant B. Chambers** to organise the transport while he instructed all in the SLR. Members of the Pipes and Drums were highly delighted to have this opportunity to shoot weapons for the first time and to show their potential as a defence platoon.

**Corporal W. Woodrow** excelled in platoon tactics but was hoarse for many days afterwards. **Yeoman Alan Winstanley** and **Sergeant P. Atherton** fought many platoon battles but finally settled their differences amicably in the bar.

**Sergeant Teddy Kitching** found the internal security instruction difficult without the services of the IRA but was not unduly concerned about this.

**Sergeant M. R. Nash** and **Lieutenant Andy Trimble** caused much amusement with their own noddymen running about in NBC suits.

**Foreman Keith Eustace,** reputed to be our ugliest PSI, was lost amongst the daisies teaching fieldcraft and dispensed gallons of grease paint in an endeavour to make people disappear.

**Captain Joan O'Hara** assisted by Cookie and **Signalman Anderson** ran the Officers' Mess. **Sergeant Vi Garrett** was IC the Sergeants' Mess bar.

**Majors Bill Surgeon** and **'Bunny' Scott** have still not agreed on how many cigars they smoked but perhaps the Irish mist which hung over the mountains of Mourne clouded their minds at the time.

The programme started at nine o'clock on the Saturday morning and eight details were arranged which allowed everyone to take part in all the different training aspects. Details were briefed as they arrived and having settled down got to work.

After lunch on Sunday all those persons who had been involved in the administration were able to fire their APWT's.

When the time came to leave Ballykinlar on Sunday afternoon two days valuable training had been accomplished and there were many very tired soldiers, especially instructors and administrative staffs.

We are grateful to the Ballykinlar Training Centre staff, **Major Burt Turner** and CO for their help and co-operation.

### REGIMENTAL REVUE

In the evening on Saturday everybody squeezed into the Canteen for an entertainment to which almost every section of the Regiment contributed. Despite the inevitable over-crowding there was no lack of good humour, and the efforts of the performers were well received. They survived a last minute failure of the PA system, and with little or no rehearsal, a tiny rostrum, and with no special lighting or scenery, produced a Show that did them credit.

### TILLER GIRLS

The WRAC were very good indeed with their two part turn—the second of which was a finale, the audience being festooned with streamers that were not bought at any novelty store. In the first part of their turn, they marched on with lanterns, Snow White leading many more than seven dwarfs. Their Tiller girl routine was a delight and in their own version of "In the Quartermaster's Store", a considerable number of Officers and NCO's were given a (slightly libellous) mention.

### HONOURABLE MENTION!

These included **Lieutenant Irene Mercer,** WRAC, with two prominent pips, and the RSM, **W.O.1 Terry Cushen**—the girls had discovered that hard bread rhymes with hard head! Those Officers and NCO's who escaped "demichaelisation" and were immensely relieved/faintly piqued (delete whichever is inapplicable) should note that this team is quite capable of returning to the attack on another occasion. Words and choreography were hammered out by the three musketeers, **Privates Irene Gordon, Heather Butler,** and **Sarah Young,** ably aided and abetted by **Staff Sergeant Carol Cameron** and a whole bevy of chorus girls.

### PIPED ABOARD

The show was opened with a rousing selection played by three pipers, led by **Pipe Major Evans** of the Regimental Pipes and Drums.

### VETERANS ALL

As the skirl of the pipes died away, in marched the Officers as the newly-formed Veterans' Troop, training for entry to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, gnarled, bearded, and scarlet bedecked. As **Captain Mainwaring,** the Adjutant, **Captain John Dean** made a creditable attempt to keep this irreverent and sometimes uproarious training session in order. On Colonel's inspection, however, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Rogers** discovered some surprisingly non-military accoutrements in their beards! **Captain Joan O'Hara,** WRAC, played the part of **Veteran Dooless,** while **Maisie,** who figures in the plot but does not appear, was played by **Gina Lollobrigida.**

### SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

The Sergeants' Mess managed two turns. **Staff Sergeant Dougherty** took the Volunteers through a session as Black and White Minstrels, made-up by courtesy of Quartermaster's Camouflage Cream!

### ON A FIZZER!

The PSI's performed a little sketch in which poor **Staff Sergeant John Bayne** was arraigned before a rather high-handed Squadron Commander, played by **Sergeant Phil Atherton.** His sentence: Take him out and break his leg! We are happy to report that **Staff Sergeant Bayne** appears now to be walking without any noticeable limp.

### CROWDED PROGRAMME

66 Signal Squadron re-decorated a part of the canteen in a scheme that went slightly awry. Squadron Commander, **Major 'Bunny' Scott** and **Staff Sergeant Alan Till** as Slapdash & Co. lived up to the company's name. The programme was as crowded as the hall, and space forbids mention of all who did sterling work both in the wings and on stage.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

# Sport

## Corps Basketball Tour—16-25 November 1973

THE players assembled at Blandford on Friday, 16th November, 1973, for the third meeting of the Corps Team.

The side selected for the tour was:—

**Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Stubbins,** 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Doug Poutney** (Captain), 7 Signal Regiment; **Sergeant Ian Bell,** 227 Signal Squadron; **Corporal Chris Bond,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Steve Smedley,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Corporal 'Matty' Matthews,** 8 Signal Regiment; **Corporal Colin Elstob,** 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; **Corporal Phil Crone,** 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; **Corporal Brian Rees,** 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron; and **Signalman Fred Tedby,** 30 Signal Regiment.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday | 17th | was devoted to fitness training and coaching. |
| Sunday | 18th | saw us play our first Corps game against South Dorset, unfortunately we were without our England under-19 player **Fred Tedby** who was away playing for the Army squad in the Channel Islands, but that didn't deter the Corps from beating the Dorset side by 80–52. A good fast game with all the Corps players playing extremely well. |
| Monday | 19th | was the day all players were glad to see the end of, especially after **Corporal (Ian) Cameron** had finished putting them through his fitness training course. |
| Tuesday | 20th | saw us training in the morning and then travelling to Bognor Regis to play a Portsmouth select side, that evening. Again the Corps put up a fine show winning 76–52. |
| Wednesday | 21st | Training in the morning, with a game against a combined School of Signals and 30 Signal Regiment, again the Corps won 78–34. |
| Thursday | 22nd | Once again the PT Staff at Blandford put the players through their paces. Even **Corporal Chris Bond** was heard to say "its getting easier". In the afternoon the Squad saw a basketball film—the All American professional finals. It was the first time that all the players were quiet except **Corporal Phil Crone,** our comedian of the squad. That evening we played the Solent Basketball Club, a side that sported one full England player and two potential stars. It was here that the Corps met a better team and our first defeat, losing 74–63, but a first class game, with our England under-19 player, **Signalman Fred Tedby,** scoring 36 points. |
| Friday | 23rd | A hard days work by all, with thoughts for our final game against the REME, a game that all of us wanted to win. Friday closed with the players getting their own back on the sadistic PT Staff. We hope you enjoyed the shower **Ian.** |
| Sunday | 25th | Our last game against strong opponents. |

The game against the REME last year was devastating, the Corps were beaten 103–39. So with this in mind the Corps team set about the task of making sure this didn't happen again. The score at half-time was 35–34 for the REME, and the Corps side were playing extremely well. Half way through the second half, the Corps lost **Fred Tedby** with his fifth foul. Unfortunate, but at this stage the team were three baskets down, but pulled back to go two points in front 62–60, but the REME big boys stopped the rot and went in front 68–63. Again the Corps side came back to within one point (68–67) of winning, when the final whistle went. Result the REME won 68–67. A disappointed Corps team needless to say

The highlight of the tour was a very good buffet at **Sergeant Doug Poultney's** father's pub after the game with the Portsmouth Select Side.

Thanks from all the players to **S.S.1 Allen** and Staff—**Captain Dowd** for his buffets and salads and **Major Howley** for his transport assistance, and all who assisted at Blandford Camp.

## Corps well placed in BAOR Cross-Country Championships results

**Major Units**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | 21 Signal Regiment | 67 points |
| 2nd | 1 WFR | 177 ,, |
| 3rd | 1 Royal Irish | 255 ,, |
| 4th | 28 Signal Regiment | 412 ,, |
| 5th | 3 LI | 424 ,, |
| 6th | 45 Med Regiment RA | 435 ,, |
| 7th | RH (PWO) | 463 ,, |
| 8th | 40 Field Regiment RA | 795 ,, |

**Minor Units**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron | 302 points |
| 2nd | 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron | 320 ,, |
| 3rd | 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE | 342 ,, |
| 4th | 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron | 542 ,, |
| 4th | 7 Field Workshops REME | 542 ,, |
| 6th | 40 Army Support Regiment RE | 566 ,, |
| 7th | 4 Regiment AAC | 612 ,, |
| 8th | British Forces Antwerp | 637 ,, |

**21 Signal Regiment Placings**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | **Sergeant Venus** |
| 3rd | **Sergeant Turvey** |
| 6th | **Signalman Madden** |
| 7th | **Sergeant MacMillan** |
| 8th | **Sergeant Holden** |
| 10th | **Sergeant Wood** |
| 14th | **Signalman Askew** |
| 18th | **Sergeant Cottam** |

**6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron Placings**

| | |
|---|---|
| 23rd | **Signalman Wyles** |
| 47th | **Signalman Bowley** |
| 51st | **Lance-Corporal Reid** |
| 58th | **Private Saunders** |
| 59th | **Signalman Whale** |
| 64th | **Signalman McGinlay** |
| 73rd | **Signalman Trivett** |
| 109th | **Signalman Barlow** |

# Soldier's Generosity

## (1) 10 Sig Regt, Hounslow

FOR the second year running the 17 members of Radio Troop, led by **Sergeant Mel Gowling** handsomely assisted by troop wives and girl friends, got together to provide a Christmas party and dinner for 30 senior citizens from the Borough of Hounslow.

After several weeks of running raffles and pestering the PRI for funds, as well as having a troop 'whip-round', on the evening of 15th December the party got under way. The guests travelled in style in a 42-seater coach and arrived at the Bruno Club to a sherry reception.

After sherry came a truly magnificent dinner of traditional Christmas fare, prepared by **Sean McKenzie** and **Barry Horman** of 50 AYT. This was eaten by candelight with the best Regimental silver on display.

After the meal, which was served by the troop ladies, everybody made themselves comfortable in the bar where drinks and cigarettes were free all evening (for the guests) and there was much joviality, music and a sing song.

At the end of what was a most enjoyable evening for everyone concerned, our guests received a food hamper to take home with them in the coach.

Since the party we have received several letters of thanks from our obviously very grateful guests.

*(With acknowledgements to the Middlesex Chronicle)*

SENIOR CITIZENS ENTERTAINED BY RADIO TROOP

The feast begins in the main hall of the Bruno Club, attended in the foreground, by Mrs. Buckley

## (2) 30 Sig Regt, Blandford

Helping old people at Christmas time has always been a pleasurable task and with current fuel shortages, old age pensioners in Blandford and the surrounding villages were thrilled to receive bags of logs, obtained as waste from nearby timber yards and sawn up by our soldiers before delivering around the area. Southern TV, who got to hear about our activities, sent a news and camera team headed by **Mr. Geoff Sulling,** late Royal Signals. The result was a short TV appearance of the King Wenceslas Gang in action. Apart from the feeling that we were doing something really worthwhile we had one or two quite unexpected bonuses. A gentleman in Bournemouth wrote to us offering to lend a chain saw, because he thought we were doing such a good job, and another gentleman from Portsmouth sent us a cheque for £5 'for ale'. Needless to say, as worthy representatives of their Squadrons, the hard-working team, comprised of **Sergeant Ron Appleyard, Corporal Phillip Jones** and **Signalmen Peter Bumstead** and **William Bertenshaw,** sincerely enjoyed their ale.

GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Sergeant Appleyard and Signalman Bertenshaw delivering some wood to Mrs. Pike, an old age pensioner, during Operation 'King Wenceslas'

# Obituary

## Signalmen Leslie David Walsh, Michael Eugene Waugh, and Paul Anthony Reid

It is with regret that we report the tragic deaths of Leslie David Walsh, Michael Eugene Waugh and Paul Anthony Reid. These soldiers were killed in the coach bomb explosion on the M62 in the late hours of 3rd February .

Leslie David Walsh, aged 17½ years, enlisted as a Junior Soldier on 8th January 1973 and served with ACC Harrogate until 28th November 1973 when he joined 8 Signal Regiment to commence training as a Combat-Radioman.

Michael Eugene Waugh, aged 22 years, joined the Corps on 10th July 1969 and was trained as a Combat Lineman. Completing his training in January 1970 he was posted to BAOR and served with 4 Guards Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. On 11th September 1973 he returned to 8 Signal Regiment to attend a conversion course to Telecommunications Mechanic and would have completed the course on 5th February.

Paul Anthony Reid was an enthusiastic and determined young recruit. He joined the Army on his 17th birthday and had always wanted to come into the Corps.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their families in their sad loss.

## Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E.

All who knew him will be much saddened to hear of the death of Sam Brandle just before Christmas 1973.

Sam was a remarkable personality with a very wide circle of friends. For some years he had battled against ill-health, and was severely handicapped as the result of a stroke in February 1970, leading to his retirement from the Corps in November of that year. He was only 58 at the time of his death.

Sam joined 56th (London) Divisional Signals TA in 1931 and was an active and popular member of the unit until 1937 when he was posted to Brazil by Eastern Telegraph. He returned to the United Kingdom soon after the war started and served in North Africa and Italy before being posted to the Far East.

He was granted a permanent commission in 1946 and then served in regimental and staff appointments before specialising in senior staff work. Two periods which he particularly enjoyed were six months as acting CO of the 3rd Divisional Signals and a three year attachment to Norwegian Signals when he served on the staff of Colonel Palmström, the Chief Signal Officer of the Norwegian Army. During this particular time Sam re-wrote the Norwegian Signal Training Manual!

He later served as GSO 1 and Colonel in NATO, Malta, the MOD Washington and the School at Blandford. In these last two places his main concern was Mallard, now called Ptarmigan.

During all this time he made many friendships which continued until his death. His hobbies included golf, singing in choirs and playing the organ.

In 1949 he married Aileen Prescott who had been the ATS 'Queen Bee' in SEAC and all our sympathies go to her and their only son Kenneth in their great loss.

Major General Michael Whistler who knew Sam very well pays eloquent tribute to him in the following words:

"It came as a tremendous shock to hear of the tragic death of my friend and colleague Sam Brandle, after so courageously fighting a long battle against illness. While serving, he had refused to give in, but alas, unlike his efforts for our Royal Corps, this time he lost. And what a loss to us all.

I always regarded him as the finest type of Signal Officer we ever had. Determined, knowledgeable, practical and most self-effacing, probably his real 'forte' was his understanding of men in all walks of life, and consequent ability to get the best out of them. His great success in the international and inter-Service fields of NATO and Washington in particular, was real proof of this.

It was my good fortune to have served with him a number of times, in many parts of the world. The occasion best remembered is while with the 3 Division Signal Regiment for six months, while I was taken for another job. Typically—with no fuss or bother and

in very difficult times—he improved the Regiment in no uncertain terms. But, such was his genuine humility, he would accept no praise, and the incident, I believe, is not even recorded in his favour.

Although later, he became my 'No. 1 trouble-shooter' he was loved and admired by the 'troublemakers' themselves, for he had the priceless gift of a real, sometimes almost impish, sense of humour.

Nothing, I repeat nothing, was too much trouble for Sam. May we have more Signal Officers like him".

There can be no doubt that Sam's passing will sadden, not only a host of UK friends, but many who live outside these islands.

## Movements

### Officers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Captain R. D. Abbott | To | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Captain M. J. M. Alden | ,, | 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain C. Arthur | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) D. Bees | ,, | Attd. MOD (Signals 36a) |
| Major (Tfc) F. Brandreth | ,, | Attd. 10 Signal Regiment |
| Captain C. W. Collier | ,, | Army Apprentices College |
| Captain J. D. Cox | ,, | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Major M. C. Deverill | ,, | PR Services BAOR (BONN) |
| Captain (Q.M.) S. J. R. Dunlop | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant C. J. Durham | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Major C. T. Garton | ,, | HQ BAOR (Man 1 S & R) |
| Major I. Graham | ,, | 28 (UK) Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant I. R. Grant | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Hales | ,, | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant H. A. R. Hancock | ,, | 24 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M. | ,, | 259 Signal Squadron |
| Major J. F. Higton | ,, | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Major G. A. M. Holland | ,, | MOD (Signals 31c) |
| Lieutenant J. L. Kennard | ,, | 262 Signal Squadron |
| Major M. J. McCann | ,, | MOD (PE) SRDE |
| Major D. J. D. McKail | ,, | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Major M. Marples | ,, | HQ Training Brigade |
| Major F. R. Maynard | ,, | 6 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain J. M. Messer-Bennetts | ,, | JFACTSU |
| Major M. Y. Miller | ,, | MOD (PE) SRDE |
| Major J. H. T. Nealon | ,, | JSB HQ British Forces Germany |
| Major E. Pickup | ,, | KUCICC |
| Major J. Radford | ,, | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Captain A. Rassim | ,, | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major R. P. Shiner | ,, | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Major F. Smith | ,, | MOD (Signals 32) |
| Major M. C. Spence | ,, | 39 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain R. F. Willsher | ,, | 11 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |

### W.O.s and Sergeants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W.O.1 (Super R) L. G. Storey | To | 13 Signal Regiment |
| A/W.O.1 J. Boyle | ,, | Royal Military Academy |
| W.O.2. J. Horne | ,, | Birmingham University Officers Training Corps (V) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. E. Greenhill | ,, | HQ Training Brigade |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. H. Jackson | ,, | 14 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. M. Smith, B.E.M. | ,, | 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. K. Harvey | ,, | 216 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. W. A. Charlton, B.E.M. | ,, | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant J. George | ,, | MOD Camp Commandant A D |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. V. Austin | ,, | B A T T Sudan |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. H. Douglas | ,, | 242 Signal Squadron (Collarfirth Hill) |
| Staff Sergeant W. G. Bell | ,, | 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant T. R. Mallabone | ,, | 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant T. Curtis | ,, | Army Apprentices College |
| Sergeant B. E. Ibbertson | ,, | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. J. Stevens | ,, | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. F. MacMillan | ,, | Army Apprentices College |
| Sergeant K. W. Cooper | ,, | 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. A. Downie | ,, | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. H. Wharton | ,, | 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant J. C. Muir | ,, | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant T. P. M. Smith | ,, | 605 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant J. G. Humphreys | ,, | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant N. Hill | ,, | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. W. J. Shaw | ,, | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. J. Woodthorpe | ,, | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. M. Dempster | ,, | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. J. Frost | ,, | SHAPE (BAE) |
| Sergeant T. T. F. Harding | ,, | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. R. Jukes | ,, | 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |


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3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment
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Telephone: Aldershot 24431 Ext 2193



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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*March-April 1974*


# wire

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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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

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*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1.20**; *monthly* **10p.**
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☆

**MARCH/APRIL • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 3**


# *Editorial*

### *Our Cover Picture*

It is good to read on page 76 that nearly 1,000 members of the Corps in BAOR were on the ski slopes this winter—also that the 2nd Regiment made their mark in the Army Team Championships. Ski-ing is a sport which brings together enthusiasts—irrespective of rank or skill. Our cheerful picture is a good example.

Left to right: **Signalman Bob Scott, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Davis, Signalman Andy Rydz, Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Signalman Tony Green, Major General Harry Roper, Mrs. Ann Davis, Lance-Corporal Doug Elliott, Corporal Bob Naylor, Lieutenant Tom Richardson** and **Signalman Bill Deacon.**

The backlog of work at our printers due to the three-day week is a major worry and THE WIRE is still many weeks behind schedule in going to press. Please, therefore, do not be surprised if your WIRE does not appear to be arriving when you expect it—we are doing our best in this difficult situation, which we hope will right itself in another few months.

In the case of units, whom we bill every quarter for their WIRES, please note that, if it is necessary, we will make suitable adjustments to their invoices once things have steadied down.

One disagreeable bye-product of the present difficulties has been the necessity to cut down the size of THE WIRE drastically and this has meant heavy pruning of unit notes, for which we apologise. Another irritating feature is that owing to the long delay news has, in many cases, become stale by the time it reaches our readers. Once again your forebearance will be appreciated.

**DON'T FORGET!**

**—Association Reunion Blandford Camp**
**Sunday, 16th June 1974**

**—Association Reunion Catterick Garrison**
**Saturday/Sunday, 29/30th June 1974.**

**Apply NOW as MEMBERS attending may have to be limited if there are too many applications.**

# From our "In" Tray

## The 'Fair Maids of Kent'

Sir,

I feel it my duty to the fair maids of Kent to put right a 'boob' made by my former unit 10 Signal Regiment.

The 'boob' appeared in your December/January 1973–74 edition under the heading "Miss Kent 1973". Part of the notes read "Also in the parade were 18 beauty Queens from all over Kent each aspiring to the office of Miss Kent 1973". This however, I am afraid is untrue as the young ladies were only competing for the title of Faversham Carnival's Queen of Queens of 1973 and not that of Miss Kent 1973.

I must admit that part of this blame, if not all of it, must rest on the shoulders of myself and my father as we should have explained it more clearly to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Bishop** whom I believe wrote the notes (if not I sincerely apologise, Sir).

Also **R.S.M. Bishop** forgot to mention that Miss Folkestone the daughter of **Captain (TOT) Alblas,** OC Tropo Troop, 10 Signal Regiment took second place in the competition.

This point now clear my sincere regards to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith** and all members of 10 Signal Regiment, hoping to read more of your activities in the future.

Yours faithfully,

**F. Alexander (Signalman)**

Bravo Troop,
11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron,
BFPO 29.

## Service before Self

"Sir,

"The story contained in the attached article speaks for itself. I discovered the facts by accident and have only been allowed to offer the article for publication after I promised to guarantee the anonymity of the Corporal.

"At a time when 'self before service' is showing every sign of becoming the public motto, such accounts may serve to stimulate others to do likewise.

Yours faithfully,"

**H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel,**
Royal Signals

9 Signal Regiment,
BFPO 53

### HOW CAN I HELP?

We have all asked the question at one time or another, well I asked myself this question in 1967 and after a day or so to pluck up courage I went along to the local County Hall and asked a department there—'How can I help?' They gave me numerous suggestions, none of which were suitable because of my Service commitments. I thanked them and left.

Within a month I made arrangements with my bank that a voluntary allotment should be paid to the local council department in question. To date this allotment is still being paid and has formed the basis of a fund from which this department can draw upon in time of need when official money is not available. Some may think, "Well this will run him short". Not at all; what your eyes don't see, your heart will never grieve about and after all it is voluntary and can be stopped in a moment without giving reasons if you ever come to such a state that you really are desperate yourself.

I did nothing further until 1970, when I told myself "you aren't doing sufficient". It was then that I hatched my first project. The details I won't bore you with, those of you who are reading this, who want to help will, I know from experience know what to do when the time comes. I contacted the department and stated it was my wife's and my intention to give a holiday to a child of their choosing—they chose, we paid. This child, deprived of parent's love and warmth, which all children deserve, in 'care'—that is living in a family group home, not knowing the meaning of the word privacy—spent a fortnight with my wife and me in Holland. For the first three days it was joy and heaven itself for this child to sit and think or play in his very own bedroom. The expression of gratitude throughout the holiday was ample thanks. The child went back into care after his holiday, leaving behind at least two satisfied customers and I know from reports after the holiday that this child's outlook on life made a change for the better. The child had been given a chance, it saw that there was hope in his world of misery and sorrow. During our leave on posting to Cyprus we visited the child, now a budding teenager, and we correspond regularly.

In 1973 my project 'Chairmobile' became operative. We saved the requisite sum of money needed, made the necessary arrangements and donated the chair to the department. This chair is in popular demand at a centre, which is designed to help people who are in need of help, due to them being immobile through muscle disorders or bodily defects. I may add, during the saving of the money my wife and I made many personal sacrifices, such as watching the TV instead of joining in parties, which we were asked out to, because we knew by sitting watching the box it could be anything up to a fiver in the kitty saved instead of going and blowing it We think the sacrifices we made were only small and they did us no harm. I can however assure you we did not exactly become hermits. We just placed restraint and economic control on our activities outside the home.

I've rambled on enough, now its up to you if you want to help. The above, I hope, has given you some ideas on how to start and some fields you could possibly help in.

I'd just like to sum up by saying that I am not a wealthy capitalist, just a moderately paid NCO who has a wife and child to support, neither of whom go without in order that we can help others. If we did, we would rapidly become welfare cases ourselves. We just have a desire to help and we thought it out logically and helped within our means. Whatever you decide to do I ask you to always remember that. Only help within your own special circumstances and do not go beyond your means.

## Congratulatory

233 Signal Squadron congratulate **Sergeant Peter Littler** on his award of the GOC's Commendation for devotion to duty while serving in Northern Ireland with 233 Squadron from 27th April–28th August, 1973.

## Award of Corps (BAOR) Golf Colours

The Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Major-General H. E. Roper,** has approved the award of Royal Signals (BAOR) Golf Colours, to those listed below, in recognition of their services to Corps golf in BAOR during 1973.

| | |
|---|---|
| **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. C. Barnett** | 16th Regiment |
| **Major (Tfc) K. J. Bicknell** | HQ BORTHAG |
| **Signalman C. Dennis** | 13th Regiment |
| **Lance-Corporal M. Edge** | 13th Regiment |
| **Sergeant D. Falconer** | 227 Squadron |
| **Major J. K. Heyes** | 32 Regiment (V) |
| **Captain (Tfc) D. F. Reed** | 227 Squadron |
| **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. Simpson** | 16th Regiment |
| **Major P. D. Tidey** | HQ BAOR |
| **Captain M. P. Walker** | HQ BAOR |

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## A.G.11 on Parade

IN September 1945 the Staff of AG11 consisted of: 2 AAGs, 3 DAAGs, 6 Staff Captains, 2 Supervising Officers, 2 Civilian Officers, 14 Military Clerks and 39 Civilian Clerks.

During the last 29 years the Branch has been gradually reduced in size and as an establishment inspection takes place in the very near future it was thought wise to have a photograph of the Staff before it was too late.

Even AG11 has to suffer the turbulence caused by postings. **W.O.2 Len Jeffery** departs in July on promotion to become the Superintending Clerk of 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment The AAG, **Colonel 'Able'** leaves us in August on promotion to become Commander British Gurkhas, Nepal and **Captain Ian Turner** at the end of the year (he has not yet arranged his posting!)

The new AAG is to be **Colonel John Agar** who not so very long ago was DAAG(O) here. He comes to us straight from the desert so that customers seeking interviews should remember that an offering of sheep's eyes will be as acceptable in the future as goat's blood has been in the past.

YOU WANT THE BEST POSTINGS?—WE HAVE THEM! AGII REVEALED FOR ALL TO SEE

*Prone* (his usual position): Captain Ian Turner (S. Captain (O))

*Seated Left to right:* Mrs. 'Dot' Smith, Major Hamish Mackinlay (DAAG(O)), Colonel 'Able' Dacre, O.B.E. (AAG), Major Hugh Rogers (DAAG(A)), Mrs. Alice Feist

*Standing Left to right:* W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) Len Jeffery, Major Joe McGlynn (S.Q.M.), Private Shirley Valentine, Mr. Jess Jessemey, Mr. Arthur West, Staff-Sergeant John Martin

## Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during December, 1973:

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Commander, 12 Signal Group (Volunteers) | £1·00 |
| Mrs. F. Stanley | 10·50 |
| Mrs. J. Power | 2·00 |
| P. M. Weber Esq. | 1·00 |
| G. Oldroyd Esq. | 1·00 |
| P. A. Alexander Esq. | 0·70 |
| Various small donations | 0·85 |
| | £17·05 |

# CORPS SKIERS ARE GETTING THERE!

## 2nd REGIMENT 4th IN ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### *Ski 1974*

**MAJOR GERRY FUNNELL,**
**SECRETARY CORPS SKIING WRITES:—**

**6 RACING TEAMS**

IN January, a Signals team won 4th place in the Army Ski Championships—a 'best ever' for the Corps. The team was 2 Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment whose **Lance Corporal Nick Doveton** won this year's special slalom.

As well as the 50-gate slalom, the 4-man Alpine team races in the giant slalom and the 70 mph downhill. These are the 3 races that make up the Alpine Championship.

The other half of the competition is the Nordic Championship, made up again of 3 races—the 15 km, the 4 x 10 km Relay and the Patrol Race, which is a biathlon (ski-ing and shooting) event.

As a Corps we produced 6 racing teams this season from 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment (Nordic and Alpine), 21 Signal Regiment (Nordic and Alpine) and in spite of a tragic accident just before Christmas, 22 Signal Regiment (Nordic only). Also, as I write, the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate are preparing to enter the Scottish Ski Meeting in Aviemore in the middle of March.

**NEARLY 1000 CORPS SKIERS IN BAOR**

But to get as far as the BAOR and Army races a unit has to qualify at a Divisional meeting. For a training base, a lot of units use their Exercise Snow Queen huts, although these are primarily set up to give soldiers an introduction to skiing, a change from their garrison, and a touch of adventure. With 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, 4 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, 7 Signal Regiment, 21 Signal Regiment and 22 Signal Regiment all running Snow Queens huts, just short of 1000 Signallers will have skied this season—that is 25% of the Corps in Germany.

This 1000 included some 15 Harrogate Apprentices, the ski-ing progeny (if he will excuse the phrase) of **Captain Mike Yolland,** who took them to Bavaria for a fortnight at 21 Signal Regiment's Snow Queen hut near Oberjoch. Trained on the Catterick dry ski slope and the muddy slush of the Yorkshire Dales, they astonished their instructors with their ability and courage—and broke two legs into the bargain. But a brave start to apprentices' ski-ing.

The present state of the Army ski-ing game is such that 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, to win 4th place in the Princess Marina Cup, started with a ski squad of 15 which included their entire racing teams from last year and also our 2 national biathletes—**Corporal Sean Dillon-White** and **Lance-Corporal Doug Elliott**—sent their Alpine team to Italy for 6 weeks in August for glacier skiing, followed Munich University **Professor Dieter Bergler's** tailor-made fitness programme from July to October, sent both teams to the snow of 1st November, hired professional trainers, competed in club races during training and backed all this up with sophisticated administrative and financial support.

So if that's what it takes to come 4th, what ever do you have to do to win? Well, a higher powered training programme, the benefit of another year's experience and better equipment will all help, but more than anything else, success depends on the will to win.

**A SYSTEM TO BRING ON THE YOUNG**

But for consistent success you need a system—a Corps production line for skiers. Currently, **Captain Mike Yolland** starts the thing moving at Harrogate, **Captain George Harrison** continues the movement at Catterick, and the skiing Regiments in BAOR produce the goods. And there's a feed back of talent to the source when time-expired ski racers return to the Training Brigade to help bring on the youngsters. This system was established by the current president of Corps skiing, **Major-General Roper,** and although its very new and will take a few seasons to get into its stride, it looks very promising.

Skiing is a growth industry in the Corps. Financially backed by the Corps Games Club to the tune of £1050 this season, we've had a best-ever set of results. So if you're a skier, ask to be posted to a skiing regiment, and 'Roll on next season!'

CHAMPION AT SPEED
Lance-Corporal Nick Doveton in the special slalom event

SKIERS FROM ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE, HARROGATE ARE GUESTS AT 21 REGIMENT SNOW QUEEN HUT
*Left to right:* Apprentice-Tradesman Parker (16¾), Corporal Spink (18), Lance-Corporal Lathbury (17½), Lance-Corporal Grant (17½) outside the 21 Regiment Snow Queen Hut, Untere Schwand, near Oberjoch





### *2nd Regiment Skiing Record 1974*

**DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Slalom | Second |
| Giant Slalom | Second |
| Downhill | First |

**BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Slalom | Second |
| Giant Slalom | Second |
| Downhill | Third |

**ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Slalom | Fourth |
| Giant Slalom | Fourth |
| Downhill | Fourth |

**LANGLAUF RESULTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Army 4 x 10 km Relay | Fourth |
| Army 15 km (Team) | Fifth |
| Patrol Race (Team) | Fourth |
| Biathlon (Team) | Second |

**PRINCESS MARINA CUP**

Team Position .. .. Fourth

**INDIVIDUAL RESULTS**

**Lance-Corporal Elliott**—British Sprint Race—Second
British National Open Biathlon—Third

**Lance-Corporal Doveton**—Army Alpine Combination—Runner Up.
British Championships (Valdisere)—Ninth
Winner of the Army Slalom

### *A near thing in Army Rugby Final*
### *7th Regiment lose 15–12*

FOR the second year running the Regiment fought its way into the Army Rugby Cup Final, beating 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment 25–3, Royal Hussars 49–0, 16 Signal Regiment 36–0, Royal Irish Rangers 60–3, and 49 Field Regiment RA 19–6, on the way.

Unfortunately the Regiment was once more pipped at the post, this time by the Royal Regiment of Wales who were the UK finalists. The final was held at Bad Lippspringe on Wednesday, 27th March and the final score was 15–12. The Royal Regiment of Wales scored one goal, two penalty goals and one drop goal, and the Regiment scored one goal and two penalty goals.

The game was played under ideal conditions and was very closely and cleanly contested. It could have been anyone's match and the Regiment was a little unlucky not to have scored again in the second half, when they were exerting strong pressure on the Royal Regiment of Wales' line for some twenty minutes.

The 7 Signal Regiment team were: **Signalman Vince Fallon, Signalman Bill McConnell, Sergeant Sid Soqo, Lance-Corporal Pat Lee, Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Doaks, Corporal Al Ewing, Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, The Rev. Alistair Heagerty, Sergeant 'Taff' Williams** (Captain), **Corporal 'Taff' Sayer, Lance-Corporal Alan James, Lance-Corporal Alex Kennedy, Signalman Roy Cameron,** and **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott.**

Notwithstanding the disappointment of not winning we are already planning ahead for next year when maybe it will be third time lucky. The Royal Regiment of Wales has reached the final on five previous occasions without winning, so perhaps there is hope for us yet.

### *Royal Signals Yacht Club*

There are still some vacant charter dates this summer for Skywave and Quicksilver. The Yachtmaster's new address is:

Royal Signals Yacht Club, c/o **Major M. Y. Miller,**
Procurement Executive, Ministry of Defence
SRDE Christchurch, BH23 4JB, Dorset.
Tel: Christchurch Mil: Ext SRDE 427.

### *Thoughts of an Ulster OC*

**THE voice from AG 11 over the telephone came through clearly—"Well, there were two squadrons going—one was in Cyprus. I'm afraid you've got the bed of nails—39 Brigade". An alarm bell rang in my mind—39 Brigade in Belfast! I couldn't think of anything to say other than a rather lame ". . . but I've already been to Northern Ireland".**

**GETTING INTO THE ULSTER PICTURE**

So started a memorable two years. That first call came to me in the middle of a war game in the depths of Surrey. The seething troubles of Ulster seemed far removed from my present existence and were then only vivid images seen nightly on TV screens or graphic pictures dominating the front pages of newspapers.

With the customary six months warning of posting it became difficult to fix one's mind continually on one's current tasks. One's whole interest became focussed on the Ulster scene. Newsreel shots were examined to see what communications were evident. So far only general information. Then it came—a very large and bulky envelope. The 39 Brigade orderly room stamp caught the eye. The desk soon became covered with the envelope's contents; 'tribal maps'—strange maps these, unconventional colouring—I wonder why they use so much orange and green! Standing Orders, newspaper clippings, security rules and a long letter telling me to some extent what my next two years would be like.

The weeks pass—house is packed up, farewells to friends are made. The drive to Liverpool. Car loaded—the first thoughts are that the ferry is still the same as the one in the previous posting.

A stormy crossing—January isn't the best time to get posted to Ulster. My first impression of Ulster is very vivid—from the ferry slowly backing into Donegall Quay—The city is strangely and unexpectedly quiet. One half expected fires and explosions but no, a city still half asleep.

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

The ramps came down—then a feeling of 'this is when it all starts'. The first drive through Belfast is one of vague memories from the past—the place has changed—how the hell does one now get to Lisburn. Must find the motorway—a wrong turning and then some dark back-streets—what a start—the new OC lost on his first day. In the morning gloom a darkened building covered by wire—the road strewn with bricks; as I drive past suspicious army eyes follow my passage—a sign reads Vere Foster. At last the motorway and Lisburn. Not a good start.

"Sorry about the accommodation—we are a bit overcrowded here" and there it is—slap bang in the middle of the parade ground in all its solitary splendour, what is to prove to be my home for the next six months—a 4-ton office trailer—I must have looked glum! "Well it does have a bed fitted Sir, and you do have your own water trailer". For the first time my mind drifts back to comfortable, quiet, civilised Surrey.

**THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DESK**

The handover—ten days of cramming in information—hosts of new faces—can't remember any of their names. Tours round Belfast—". . . nine RSOs? That seems a lot".—"Yes, it will probably become more". It did. The ten days evaporated, handover was here; as I sat at the desk the departing OC looked at me and with a smile said, "It's very nice to stand this side of the desk". Those words were to stay with me for quite a while.

Months began to fly by—one becomes fascinated with the developing situation, one feels almost privileged to be in the Brigade Ops Room during the height of aggro to see command being exercised under pressure. The passage of time is marked by many distinct turns of events; looking back they stand out like milestones: Internment, Direct Rule, IRA truces made and broken, Operation Motorman, the Referendum, District elections, the Marching Seasons and the Assembly elections.

**A TOUR TO BE REMEMBERED**

Suddenly a new posting order appears—Rheindahlen. The circle is nearly completed—now the packing of one's belongings—farewells and a sadness that the tour is nearly at an end. The journey to the ferry, no chance of getting lost this time, one's local knowledge has improved! The car is safely stowed in the hold; a short walk to the stern rail of the boat as it draws away from the quay. Last thoughts, last sights of what is a very sad city—a tour to be remembered!

# With an Australian SAS Squadron

**submitted by Sergeant KEN CRISTIE**

### EXCELLENT BARRACKS

I HAVE recently returned from a 6 month exchange visit to out sister squadron in Australia, 152 (SAS) Signal Squadron. The squadron, whose task, like ours, is communications support for an SAS Regiment, is based at Campbell Barracks, Perth in Western Australia. The barracks are 6 years old and are superbly situated overlooking the Indian ocean in 40 acres of ground. Facilities include a 600 metre rifle range, 2 sports areas, a swimming and aquatic training pool, tennis and squash court, gymnasium and sauna baths which make it the most pleasant and best equipped military establishment I have had the pleasure to visit.

### EXERCISE IN AN AREA THE SIZE OF ENGLAND

It took me about 40 hours to get from Brize Norton to Canberra where I spent 3 days before proceeding to Perth. I was greeted by Australia's winter weather (July!) which consisted of rather large hailstones. Fortunately the winter was brief as I was sent 2 days after my arrival in Perth to the Kimberley region of Western Australia where the regiment was engaged in an exercise with the remainder of the Australian special forces. After 4 hours flying I left the civilization of Perth and arrived in the land of the 'Flying Doctor'. Unless you visit the country the physical size of the continent means very little, but when you consider the exercise was being run on a homestead, the size of England, where the cowboys use aircraft at round-up time, its immense size become very real. Being in the tropics the temperature was a pleasant 25C on most days. The area is semi desert and accommodates an average of one cow to every 3 acres of ground. I spent the remaining 5 weeks taking part in Land Rover and motor cycle exercises which were familiar to me from my previous desert experience. This gave me the chance to see a great deal of what is regarded as the most interesting area in Australia. At the end of the exercise the majority returned by C130. I travelled back to Perth with the road party. 1800 miles and 5 days later we all arrived in Perth with no major breakdowns which speaks highly of the RAEME.

Australian SAS recruits undergoing repelling training. An efficient method of putting up to 6 men with equipment into any environment

### BOAT HANDLING

As there is no Special Boat Service (SBS) in Australia the SAS covers this aspect of operations very thoroughly. I took advantage of this and the onset of the summer weather and took part in a 'small boat' handlers course which included canoes and rubber craft work, coastal navigation and finally an exercise using a submarine as a base station.

Nearing the end of my visit I took the opportunity to visit the School of Signals at Melbourne, a new and impressive camp built on similar lines to our School. This is the equivalent of our Training Brigade and School of Signals rolled into one.

During the attachment I had enough time for social activities, but I was pleased to be near my return date as my family remained in the UK. Nevertheless I was sorry to see the end of the summer when on the 10th December I left Perth with the temperature at 31C to arrive in England on the 15th rather cooler at 6C.

I found the visit to be extremely worthwhile learning a lot in conditions which cannot be simulated in Europe and making many friends in the process.

**In summary I found that 264 and 152 Signal Squadrons are so similar that there would be no problem if we ever had to work together in future.**

## Royal Signals Manning and Records Office Communications Centre—Comstar Award

The very hard working staff of Records Reading communications centre have just won a Silver Comstar. To this is added the Bronze, Silver and Gold they have already gained. As all these awards have been won since February 1972, it shows a very high standard of operating skills.

To mark this new win, the Commanding Officer 10th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith, made time in his busy programme to visit Records and present the awards to the proud recipients Mrs. Skinner and Mrs. Horsman. These ladies are both on the staff of 3 Squadron, as indeed, are all the other civilian Commcen Operators in South East District

## Signals Research and Development Establishment

### SATURDAY WORKING

EVERY unit has its 'grapevine' and the SRDE one seems more reliable than most. The rumour was . . . SATURDAY WORKING . . . Sheer disbelief by all military but Saturday working it is. Actually things have not been quite as traumatic as first thought since it follows on from our non lit days of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when office lighting is provided by flashes of inspiration and 24 volt batteries!

### COMING AND GOING

This second contribution will, we hope, help readers recover from the shock of our first article after years of silence. In the few months since we appeared in the WIRE we have had a considerable turnover of officers. **Major 'Ed' Mulley** left us in early January for Verden where he has taken over a squadron in 1 Signal Regiment and he has been replaced by **Major Mike Miller** from 22. Our numbers balance with the REME officers is now in our favour; the GSO2(W) post in 'Night Vision' formerly a REME stronghold, was filled by **Major Mike McCann** in early February—did someone say carrots! Our man in Telecommunications Branch REME, **Major John Higton,** left to fill the seat vacated by **Mike Miller** and his liaising role has been taken over by **Major Jim Storr** who arrived from the hallowed halls of Cambridge University OTC.

### PLAYED STAGGERINGLY WELL

We helped out the officers of Telecommunications Branch in their annual soccer match with the Sergeants' Mess. Despite disclaimers of not having played since time immemorial **Tony Seward** and **John Higton** played staggeringly well—the staggering being obvious the next day when the muscles tightened up! The result was a draw but only after a penalty to the Sergeants' Mess in the last minute; there will be no prizes given for guessing the rank and affiliations of the referee!

### LATEST ON CLANSMAN, BRUIN AND PTARMIGAN

Power-less days and rail disruptions or not, work continues in the various laboratories aided by batteries and the odd inverter. CLANSMAN trials continue despite the weather and conferences various occur with the same frequency. Work on BRUIN, PTARMIGAN and other major projects continues and SRDE involvement in these is no doubt well known. Work of a more immediate nature is also being undertaken which, hopefully, will have a more direct impact on units in the short term. In Radio Division assistance is being given on the rewrite of the groundwave range tables and work should be completed before CLANSMAN enters service. The problems of mobile communications, HF techniques and data devices are also being worked on. The first 100 CLANSMAN production models of the HF and VHF manpacks will shortly begin reliability trials and this will be followed by their release to the various arms schools for familiarization later in the year.

### SKYNET 2 AND THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

The period from mid January onwards was a hectic time for S Division who were preparing for the launch of SKYNET 2. Alas in vain, for as you will have heard the third stage of the launch vehicle failed and the satellite went into a very low orbit. At the time of writing the Americans are still looking for it. Meanwhile, back on the ground, the rest of the establishment can at least get the odd thing printed now the pressure is off the print room.

### AT YOUR SERVICE

Now for the good news, we shall be back in two issues time but don't forget that **if you do have a technical problem the answer is almost certainly within SRDE and only a letter or phone call away!** We are pleased to say that we have been of some assistance since our first notes were published.

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### FAREWELL TO CR SIGNALS

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL T. Rigby,** CR Signals Northern Ireland departed for the more peaceful surroundings of Blandford on 30th January. Before he left, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron and their wives decided to hold a farewell ladies dinner night. It proved to be a splendid occasion and **Lieutenant-Colonel Rigby** was presented with a squadron plaque and, as a unique farewell gift, a collection of the twelve best Irish jokes selected from the Squadron and specially printed and mounted. It is hoped they will prove an amusing opening to the many lectures on Northern Ireland which **Lieutenant-Colonel Rigby** will be called upon to give.

*Sample Joke: Why don't Irish labourers get ten minute tea breaks? Answer: It would take too long to re-train them!*

We wish **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Rigby** all the very best in Blandford.

### ADMIN TROOP

Until Sunday, 11th November 1973 was designated MT, SHQ and 'Q' Troop. However, our Second-in-Command, **Captain 'Paddy' Henry** experienced a certain amount of difficulty in getting his tongue around this when he reported the Troop "ready for inspection" to the Squadron Commander on our Remembrance Sunday parade, therefore on 12th November 1973 the Troop was redesignated Admin Troop.

The troop is comprised of SHQ in the form of our **S.S.M., W.O.2. 'Legs' Leggott** and chief clerk **Sergeant Bill Winder,** 'Q' branch with **Staff-Sergeant Harry Emraz** and **Sergeant Bob Turner** and lastly, but by no means least, the bulk of the troop MT Section under the control of **Sergeant Gordon Johnson. Gordon Johnson,** in between periods of leave, manages somehow to keep a few wheels on the road with the able assistance of **Corporals Dennis Broadfield** and **Alan Epthorp** with **Lance-Corporal Chas Ward** as details NCO.

The main task of the MT Section is to provide an SDS. This is carried out by shift drivers, but **Signalman Dave Curran** and **Alex Carruthers** are forever saying that they seem to get the bulk of the work.

Vehicles available to the Section are 4 cars and 2 Land Rovers and weather permitting (just depends upon how hard it's raining) we have a helicopter for ADS in the afternoons. This helps to keep our road mileage down—a mere 300,000 miles in 1973. When the 'chopper' is grounded, we have to meet our commitments by road. When this occurs **Lance-Corporal Chas Ward** starts pulling our his hair and screams "what are we going to do?"

### SPORT

The last week in January proved to be a great week for the Squadron sportsmen with an unbroken run of successes.

### HOCKEY

The minor units hockey final between ourselves and 8 Inf Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron was played in appalling conditions on the all-weather (thank goodness!) pitch at Lisburn. Despite the continual rainfall the standard of play was high. At half time there was no score although we had had one goal disallowed. In the second half we gradually got on top as the 8 Brigade attacks floundered on our solid defence in which **Sergeant Bob Turner, Corporals Dave Luckett** and **Brian McSkimmings** were outstanding. Our attacks in which **Signalman Billy Whale** was always prominent became more frequent and the pressure finally told when **Staff Sergeant Bob Patterson** slotted in the first goal. **Bob** in fact scored a hat trick and the final result was a 3–0 victory. We now have our eyes on the Army Cup semi-finals. The full team was; **Staff-Sergeant Bob Patterson, Sergeants Pete Beavan, Ron Hambleton, 'Tich' Woodford** (Captain), **Bob Turner, Corporals Dave Luckett, Dave Brewster, Ginge Hunter, Brian McSkimmings, Brian Barker, Lance-Corporals Steve Schofield, Bob Underwood** and **Signalman Billy Whale.**

### BASKETBALL

The Squadron Basketball team qualified for the Northern Ireland minor units final by pulling a surprise victory over our old rivals 39 Inf Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron by 27–19. We now pit out skills against Depot R Irish in the final. Members

of the team were; **Staff-Sergeant Bob Patterson, Corporals Dave Luckett, John Scully, Signalmen 'Ted' Tedby, Ron Kirkwood, Jim Shiels, Mick Walker** and OC **Major Brian Blackwell.**

### CROSS COUNTRY

Our week of sporting success was brought to a perfect conclusion when the cross country team retained the minor units championship at Ballykinler on Saturday 2nd February. The team had trained hard under the S.S.M., **W.O.2 Derek Leggott,** and the sweat and toil was rewarded by an outstanding performance by the whole team. Particularly creditable was the performance of the S.S.M. himself who led the rest of the team in and gained second individual place in the minor units competition. **Signalman 'Scouse' Evans** was heard to mutter something about 'age before beauty' before downing a celebratory pint of lime juice! We now look forward to the Army championships at Pirbright with considerable optimism. Our team consisted of: **W.O.2 Derek Leggott** and **W.O.2 Dave Etherton, Sergeant Pete Navin, Corporal Dave Thain, Lance-Corporal Dave 'Sparky' Sparkes, Signalmen 'Scouse' Evans, 'Tulip' Caderius Van Veen** and **Martin 'Demob-Happy' Ryan.** The non-running team captain was **Corporal Derek Collick** and **Staff-Sergeant Trevor Daws** was the team recorder.

### DEPARTURES

WRAC—**Lance-Corporal Gemmell.**

R SIGNALS—**Corporal Mitchell, Corporal Sullivan, Lance-Corporal Howell** and **Signalman Ryan.** Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

### ARRIVALS

WRAC—**Lance-Corporal Skeggs.**

R SIGNALS—**Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Kent, Corporal Rea, Lance-Corporal Phoenix, Lance-Corporal Codd, Lance-Corporal Dempster** and **Signalman Brown.**

# News from Regiments

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 32

TAKING note of the Editor's plea to heart, this month's notes from Shiny One have been severely reduced.

### TWO DAYS ON THE RANGE

In January eighty communicators set forth for the rocket launcher ranges at Hohne. We had some 180 HEAT rockets to fire and even though there had been two days of 'dry training' prior to our arrival at the ranges we all wondered what would happen.

The heavily insured instructors supervised what turned out to be some very accurate shooting. **Captain Graham Saunders** was already to blow up the blinds—"That's where rank does *NOT* have its privileges", chuckled one man responsible for one of the blinds. "Not at all," replied **Captain Saunders**—"let's go and find it *together*." However in the final analysis we discovered that, the Bundeswehr Staff Sergeant in attendance throughout the shoot, was delighted to use his demolition kit.

### PREPARATION FOR FFR

This is the time of year when all the Regiment wears coveralls to prepare vehicles and equipment for the annual PRE. Line Troop is always willing to have a go and this year **Lieutenant Chris Smith** and his band of merry men excelled themselves by renovating the Regimental pig farm—who said line troop always live like . . . . . s on exercise anyway! Bass brooms were useful in not only sweeping out the styes—and the pigs—but also fending off the mad dog chained to the wall! The first barn had been repainted by the end of the day and the headman—affectionately known as—swine chief—willingly departed with his junk—three lorry loads!

### 10% DISCOUNT

There is no truth in the rumour that there is a 10% discount at the QMs for having a bulk order for deficiencies—and they don't give green shield stamps.

### EX SNOW QUEEN

Regardless of the work in hand **Lieutenant Phil Tilson** and **Sergeant Andy Evans** are busy teaching scores of soldiers to ski. **Sergeant Andy Evans** has been in Bavaria so long he thinks S.Q.M.S. means Snow Queen Master Sergeant! We hope to have some good action shots for the next edition.

### MARRIAGES

Our best wishes go to **Signalman Jack Norrie** and **Leslie** who were married in the Garrison Church on 26 January. The bride was given away by **S.S.M. Peter Hardwick** of 1 Squadron—although he was tempted by her beauty and was loathe to do so until the last moment—he has a reputation for being reluctant to give anything away!

Our congratulations also to **Lance-Corporal Poul Gosney** and **Helen,** and **Lance-Corporal Allan Morecroft** and **Shirley** on their recent marriages which took place in UK.

### FAREWELL TO OC 2 SQUADRON

2 Squadron now possess, or are maybe possessed by, a new Commanding Officer **Major Ed Mulley** who has just taken over from **Major Hugh Nealon.** An informal goodbye to **Major Hugh** and his wife **Liz** was held in 2 Squadron Club.

The most noticeable change in 2 Squadron since **Major Nealon's** departure is that instead of being bullied by **Henry**—a large boxer, they are now harried by **Lucky**—a Jack Russell!

We wish **Major** and **Mrs. Nealon** all good luck and happiness in the future.

## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 46

### 1 SQUADRON

### EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN

On a cold mid-January morning, members of the Regiment arriving for work were cheered by the sight of OC 1 Squadron, **Major B. J. Burke** standing at the guardroom armed with a pair of skis and a tin of cigars, waiting to lead 20 members of the Regiment, 2 hours later they were further cheered by the sight of the aforementioned OC still standing by the guardroom, armed with a pair of skis and half a tin of cigars. Reason—the bus had broken down. It was, therefore with some relief, that the course eventually debussed at Haag, S Bavaria, over 12 hours later, skis at the ready and raring to go, only to be met by the sight of green fields and slopes. Definitely a bad omen you might think. The appropriate order was given, however and 2–3 feet of snow fell during the night. A good omen?

Next morning, the course sallied forth to the slopes in high spirits, and a bizarre array of kit. **Major Burke** tastefully clad in grey flannels tucked into knee length yellow rugby socks, cut a dashing figure, rivalled only by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Ben' Lawson** and **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Garth Letori,** loyal to the end, sporting bobble hats in Corps colours (by courtesy of their wives). **Signalman 'Ken' Ede's** multi-coloured patched jeans added to the gaiety of the spectacle. The only thing missing was the instructor, **Lance-Corporal Guy,** who was down with flu. Another bad omen?

Disregarding such minor setbacks, however, all members of the course made great progress—downwards, it must be added. Some came down faster than others; some more gracefully than others, and some once down, stayed down. **Signalman 'Hendo' Henderson** experienced considerable difficulty in mastering the

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*(Continued from page 80)*

art of picking himself up, but practice made perfect. **Signalman Ennels** constantly fell about with laughter at the sight of his 'fallen' comrades—but ultimately demonstrated the most spectacular falls himself.

By the start of the second week, the instructor was recovered and ventured forth to see what had been achieved in his absence. At the end of a promising first day, he decided to demonstrate a jump, the execution of which resulted in 4 stitches and the loss of one instructor for the rest of the course. Definitely a bad omen.

Deliverance from their trials was at hand, however, with the arrival of **Rev. Adrian Graesser,** CF, whose 'services' were much appreciated, but whose most fervent prayers seemed to be uttered for the comfort of his seat and not his soul!

Less strenuous entertainment, in the form of a freestyle yodelling competition, was proposed by **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Steve Sims.** That idea was fortunately shelved in favour of a games evening against the 1st Battalion Light Infantry who were 'Snow Queening' at a nearby village.

A quick count during the return journey revealed 4 bent legs, 2 strained hands, 1 'misplaced' shoulder and a considerable number of bruises, in places which made the trip back uncomfortable.

Their taste for adventure aroused, the happy band are now considering jumping out of aeroplanes, but may have to make do with the Squadron's planned combat survival course! The leader of the expedition, limping on his 'ski-wounded' leg, could only regret, with a straight face, that he will be then posted to Canada.

### 2 SQUADRON

In spite of the heavy social commitments over Christmas and the New Year, details of which are best left unrecorded, and the disappearance of most of the Squadron on Exercise Snow Queen, 3 Squadron has embarked on a number of strenuous activities in the last few weeks.

The inter troop orienteering competition took place in thick snow and freezing temperatures; conditions which gave the competitors an incentive to keep running. The prize was taken by SHQ Troop. Despite this practice the Squadron could only manage to gain 2nd place in the Regimental competition. This can be viewed as a victory for fairness as the course was planned and marked out by **Second-Lieutenant Hugh Hancock,** one of our Squadron officers.

The Squadron has also run an assault course competition. The course followed the path of a stream and was constructed by a team under the directions of **Lieutenant Gordon Shipley** (who left on posting just before the competition was run). When the obstacles finally emerged above the flood waters and the ice and snow cleared, A 2 Troop, led by **Signalman Noel De Bruce,** showed the agility and shooting prowess by winning the competition.

The Squadron football team continues to do well under the captaincy of **Signalman George Cook,** playing matches with an international flavour against local German teams. The team now tries to keep clear of playing matches on shale pitches after losing 3–1 to a German team and in the process injuring four players.

To help pass away the long winter nights in Bünde, various evening activities have been organised. **Signalman Ross Parrotte** is to be seen ably instructing a band of intrepid would-be helmsmen in the intricacies of desk sailing. **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Braithwaite** and **Sergeant Ron Budd** have begun a model flying club and their demands on the Squadron funds are reaching Concorde like proportions. The club got off the ground recently when the first model, powered by a roaring 1 c.c. engine, flew for a few minutes after patient preparation by the ground crew of **Signalmen Jones** and **Turner.**

The Squadron would like to take this opportunity of saying farewell to **Captain Brock** who is off to the complexities of satellite comms. **Lieutenant Shipley** who has gone airborne and **Staff-Sergeant** (now **W.O.2) Prunell** who has now joined the fleshpots of Sheffield University. A special farewell is given to **Sergeant Davies** (RE) and his merry band of Sappers who are leaving the Squadron to rejoin their Corps as honorary 'Jimmies'.

There is also a warm welcome offered to **Lieutenant Peter Neal** and **Second-Lieutenant Nick Thompson** who joined this month, and to **Signalman D. Darbyshire, M. Doherty** and **J. Connolly** fresh from Harrogate.

### 3rd SQUADRON—MIKE TROOP

*Front row:* Lance-Corporals Smith, Williamson, Davis, Burke and Crabtree

*Second row:* Sergeant Neilson, Corporal Young, W.O.1 (F.O.S.) Brown, Sergeant Frith, Corporal James

*On vehicle:* Sergeant Cole.

*Missing from photo:* Sergeant Maynard, Lance-Corporal Masters

### WHO WE ARE

Collectively, we are Mike Troop, alias Tech Troop, alias "You're busy? You want to see the work we've got to do!!" Troop. We live in 2 barrack rooms, 4 MQs, 1 workshop, 2 multiple hirings, 1 private accommodation, 3 PAX's and a euphoria of general good humour. We are talented, hard working, God-fearing, good looking, sober, upright, terminal equipment technicians, and we believe everything we see in print. Individually we are:

**W.O.1 (F. of S.) Dai Brown.** Troop Commander. Refused posting to Hong Kong in order to join us. Owns two cars and a string of fat wallets. Bears remarkable resemblance to Ernie Wise.

**Sergeant Andy Neilson.** Bastion of Regimental Hockey and Sergeants' Mess Football teams. Active supporter of Herforder Breweries. Berlitz languages diploma for advanced Scouse.

**Sergeant Chris Maynard.** Squadron Christmas draw ticket seller extraordinary. Master of the pun. Practices pipe smoking.

**Sergeant Jim Frith.** R & I and Forward expert. Favourite saying "No, we haven't got any". Hobbies: canoeing and Foreman's entrance exams.

**Sergeant John Cole.** About to embark on project at Lübbecke Signal Centre, God, snow, ice and MMA willing.

**Corporal Dave Palmer.** Shortly to go on active service in sunny Catterick, alias TI course. Due to recent new arrivals and projected postings-in, modestly surprised and flattered it takes half a troop to replace him.

**Corporal Chris James.** Holder of 'n' O and A levels. Supports Cardiff FC. Likes rugby, Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Richard Burton, Harry Secombe, coal, National Eistedfods, 'wellies' and sheep. He is not believed to be English.

**Corporal Steve Young.** Drives Beetle. Ravishes NAAFI meat pies and lashings of cookhouse dinners. Burns up massive intake of calories by 'gonking'. Mentioned in Guinness Book of Records.

**Lance-Corporal 'Herbie' Davis.** Understood to have been christened Bob, but origin of name lost in folklore.

**Lance-Corporal Tom Burke.** Squadron footballer. Once owned a full petrol tank in his vehicle, but fuel shortage and phantom petrol pinchers changed all that. Father, ex-Corps R.S.M. Not expected to follow in Father's footsteps.

**Lance-Corporal Jeff Masters.** Married, lives in private. Employs Securicor to collect LOA. Supports Brighton and Hove Albion. Doesn't shout about it.

**Lance-Corporal Mick Crabtree.** Answers to 'Crabbers' or similar pronunciation. Calls his index fingers 'flipper digits'. Applying to Open University to study 'The Concise History of Pin-Ball playing'.

**Lance-Corporal Ian Smith.** Just taken possession of new Sunbeam Rapier. Frustrated by German emergency speed limits. Recently turned down possibility of higher things, to stay in troop.

*(Continued on page 83)*

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*(Continued from page 81)*

**Lance-Corporal Ian Robinson.** Permanent Squadron right hand man on R.S.M.'s parades. Has to wear tinted glasses, thereby making him look like trendy version of Nelson's column.

**Lance-Corporal Bob Williamson.** Recent arrival, still bewildered by us. Perhaps he can learn to write WIRE notes?

### WHAT WE DO

We won't tell you about the normal day-to-day Exercise, FFR, Tels, PFAs, VIP visits, BE tests, 'got to be done by yesterday' jobs etc. everybody gets that. What we will tell you, is that we recently took part in the famous 95 km mid-Winter ridgewalk, (already reported in THE WIRE) and that despite taunts about 'fairy' technicians from the 'hairies', operators, 'hooterheads', and various other elements of the Squadron we were the ONLY troop to end up at the finish without anyone having dropped out. Also recently **Sergeant Jim Frith, Corporal Steve Young** and **Lance-Corporal Ian Robinson** took part in the charity sponsored Lubbecke walk.

## 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## Bulford

### SITUATION

JANUARY has been a quiet month it started (or did it) very well considering the fuel crisis, power shortage and new year celebrations. The Squadrons were soon back into the swing of preparing for Exercise Staff Ride 10 which, to say the least, shook the cobwebs out. Virtually the whole of 3 Squadron under Command of **Major John Barrett** headed north-west to Nessciff Training Camp in Shropshire from 14th–18th January for their military training winter camp. They even took **Y. of S. Brian Foulger**—yet another excuse to miss hockey training. The exercise had been named Exercise Snow Shoot in anticipation of some of the Welsh snow drifting across the border, but in retrospect it should have been called Exercise Wet and Windy Shoot. The rain and wind were an annoyance factor but did not prevent the range classification going through. On the day of the BE test, the wind dropped and the rain stopped for long enough to enable everyone to get round. Somebody obviously has friends in high places.

### MISSION

To ensure that February is as enjoyable as was January.

### EXECUTION

The **Q.M. (Tech) Major Terry Canham** has organised a Regimental troop level soccer league, and the competition grows fiercer by the game. Even the most possessive of Squadron Commanders can find no excuse anymore; their troops must do something else on the two days each week we are electricity-less.

The sporting gladiators of A Troop led by **Staff-Sergeant Dave McGurk,** will have to look to their laurels however, because at the moment the league is headed by our LAD and MT Troop teams.

**Captain Mike Anderson** has led his ski team in Oberjoch to various victories in the 3 Division skiing competition.

Far be it from me to steal any of his thunder now—he can write WIRE notes next month! However two stalwarts deserve a mention. **Second-Lieutenant Ian Fraser** was runner-up in the overall novices competition and **Signalman Graham Watts** put up such a splendid performance that the national selectors became rather interested in him.

Less successful for the Regiment, however, was a sailing match against HMS *Daedalus* at Gosport on 26th January. In the early autumn of 1973 **Lieutenant Peter Whitwham** succeeded in gathering together 14 able mariners to compete against HMS *Daedalus* sometime in January. In January, thanks it seems to the gale force winds and lashing rains, the intrepid fourteen rapidly became the intrepid six. In the first race **Major Mike Harnett** with crewman, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Russell,** took advantage of the Navy's mistake and gained first place. The Navy took the next three places and our other two crews **Lieutenant Peter Whitwham** and **Major John Barrett** and **W.O.2 Colin Johnson** and **Signalman Andy Fry** came in 5th and 6th. In the second race the Navy pulled off first place with **Peter Whitwham** and **John Barrett** in second place and **Mike Harnett** and **John Russell** taking third. Messrs. **Johnson** and **Fry** again sailing a useful 6th place. The overall results were a win in both races for the Navy. It would seem that their map reading is better on the blue bits after all than it is on the rest of the map.

### ADMIN AND LOGISTICS

### L.S. & G.C. PRESENTATION

On Friday 4th January Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented by **Major General R. E. Worsley, O.B.E** GOC 3rd Division to **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. J. Mathieson, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Pete Utteridge** and **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Ray Chapman.**

The presentation took place in the Sergeants' Mess and the families of the recipients were present.

We think we have a 'first' in that the R.S.M. and both R.Q.M.S's in a Regiment all qualified for the L.S. & G.C. within a few weeks of each other. Is this a record?

FIFTY-FOUR YEARS TO CELEBRATE
Major-General R. E. Worsley, O.B.E. congratulates W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Mathieson, R.Q.M.S. Utteridge and R.Q.M.S. Chapman

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 15

THIS month 3 Squadron take their turn in the limelight and give an insight into Squadron personalities and activities.

**3 SQUADRON** (or 'The Squadron' as the S.S.M. is heard to say on parade).

With the start of a New Year, it is again time we had a look around the five troops in the Squadron and bring our many readers and followers up-to-date.

### SHQ TROOP

Just arrived . . . **Sergeant 'Tex' Gallagher, Signalman Males.**

Just a year ago SHQ had 1 member, the OC **Major Colin Brown.** The troop now has 21 members and goodness knows what on earth they all do! but as **Corporal 'Fingers' Parry** says, "Even if we only do a little—we do it well." The troop can now field a good team at any major sport and can hold their own against any of the other troops. In the Squadron cross country competition the troop won and won well, with **S.S.M. Ken Stewart** chasing home **Signalman Hobson** and **Corporal Dave Sharp.**

**Corporal 'Paddy' Baxter** spends his life playing, thinking, organising and dreaming hockey, in between looking after the Squadron armoury. It looks as though he could be on the short list for a BAOR Cap.

**Corporal 'Jock' MacDonald** spends his day running a very modern, smart Squadron clothing store, catering for some 280 members with L Straps left and right.

BULLETS OR GOALS—HE SHOOTS THEM

Corporal Baxter the Squadron Armourer (equally at home with a hockey stick) checks an SLR assisted by Signalman Sabor of Bravo Troop

Perhaps the stars of SHQ are **Signalman 'Lighting' Wildeman** and **Signalman 'Twinkle Toes' Dears.** With identical colourful outfits, plus the modern image of long hair (wigs of course!) they can be seen on a Saturday night as the Astra Disco in many German haunts.

### BRAVO TROOP

Just arrived . . . **Corporal Leybourne, Lance-Corporal Moore.**

Being the troop to have three Comheads and most of the Data Telegraphists in the Corps it is a normal part of our daily routine to keep a log of events. Therefore with the expected last minute rush of, "Wire notes are required by lunchtime," it was easy for **Staff Sergeant Stewart Gledhill** to say "Ours are ready," as he hastily thumbed through the log for December.

*(Deleted as December and Christmas are now too far past to be revived*—Editor.*)*

### LINE TROOP

Just arrived . . . **Signalman Morton, Signalman Fearnley.**

Just before Christmas **Lieutenant 'Bamber Gascoinge' Durham** ran an up-to-date version of the troop officer giving a current affairs lecture. The troop is always one drum ahead and with all the buzzers and lights in action the lecture was indeed a University Challenge. **Signalman 'Sparky' Clarke** was really sharp on his light but **Corporal Bob Hamilton** forged ahead on his buzzer. The lecture even drew the new CO—**Lieutenant-Colonel Westlake**—in to see the troop for the first time. His presence was soon to be felt with a roar from the back when the question master gave a wrong answer to one of his 'starter for Ten'!

As to be expected we have troop members in all the major sports run by the Regiment. **Corporal 'Eyes' Linton, Lance Corporal 'Glen' McArdle, Corporal Bob Hamilton** help the rugby team along. **Corporal Pete Mitchell, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Dunn** and **Signalman '7.62' Tye** can be seen with the soccer team and **Lance-Corporal Larry Tulett** beavers away in the hockey team. However, the sporting stars in the troop are our two giants, **Signalman 'Lofty Mk 1' Kelly** and **Signalman 'Lofty Mk 2' Fleming.** Both have been selected to play for BAOR at basketball. We wonder if this should be in the Guinness Book of Records, for who has ever heard of 'two big hairies' in an Army team of only five players!

Although we have some line work to do in 1974, we are going to produce a troop tug-of-war team to pull anything. Dedicated training has started and already there is only **Sergeant John Ackers** with any interest left! Not true of course as the S.S.M. is interested. He always said he would get us over a barrel if it was the last thing he did.

Just leaving . . . **Signalman 'Leg of Mutton' Dutton.**

### STAFF MT TROOP

Just arrived . . . **Lance-Corporal Mbiwe** (again), **Gunner Wade.**

Just at present we are a well spread out troop with our Sapper drivers in UK on a course, the Gunners in Austria for the Divisional and BAOR ski meetings, the REME drivers on a German language course the RCT drivers on Snow Queen, up grading courses, or in Northern Ireland getting married. So that just leaves **Drive Taff Morris** and **Sergeant Chris Laughlin,** plus our man on the gate **Driver 'It's a good number this' Reader.**

### DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Just arrived . . . All of us as we have just formed a new troop from the old Staff Troop.

Our troop line up is:

OC: **Lieutenant Bill 'I've got an office in the HQ' Hough.**

Troop Sergeant: **Sergeant 'Two Office' McCall.**

Within days of the troop being formed we found success in the Regimental orienteering competition. In the team we had three sappers, **Major Mike Lewin-Harris, Captains Willie Shackell** and **Freddie Hulton,** two RAOC members, **Staff-Sergeant Tim Lill** and **Corporal Andrew Gass,** plus of course, the troop OC.

As can be imagined the troop is somewhat of a 'heavyweight' troop, and as the MGO—**General Sir Noel Thomas, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.** said to the troop commander on a recent visit, "I know how you must feel, I wouldn't like to be in your shoes!"

We do however take a pride in having volunteers to help with the youth organisations in Herford. **Lance-Corporal Tony MacKenzie** and **Private 'Kildare' Kunuska** spend much of their free time organising and running successful scout groups.

Just leaving . . . **W.O.1 Oytaben** ACC.

### THANK YOU

The living in members of the Squadron have asked for a footnote to be added to say a sincere thank you to all the wives in the Squadron who invited every single soldier out for Christmas Day. The wives in 3 Squadron are really the tops.

. . . THAT'S 3 SQUADRON . . .

### SQUASH NOTES

Our squash correspondent writes:

I have often noticed whilst reading THE WIRE how other Regiments draw attention to their own particular sport. I always imagine the author of 28 Signal Regiment's WIRE notes to be juggling a football from one foot to the other as he makes his contribution. Similarly I see a man disappearing into the distance, running forever onwards as he writes notes for 21 Signal Regiment. Well I thought, what has football got, or running for that matter, that squash hasn't?

Last year unnoticed by all, this Regiment were runners-up in the BAOR inter-unit tournament. This year morale in the team is high and it is felt that we can win this championship. At the start of the season the team, consisting of **Major C. R. S. Notley Scots.** DG, **Major D. D. Phipps,** RA, **W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall, W.O.2 K. C. Stewart** and **Lance-Corporal J. Christian,** played several friendly matches against teams from 7 Signal Regiment and HQ 1 BR Corps. There were no defeats. 1 BR Corps took two games off us on one occasion but we have no fears of a repetition.

At the end of November **W.O.1 Hall** and **Lance-Corporal Christian** visited Rheindahlen Garrison in a quest for glory.

*(Continued on page 86)*

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*(Continued from page 84)*

Regimental honour was upheld as the R.S.M. was runner-up in the BAOR Soldiers championship and reached the semi-final of the Open. **Christian** won the plate event of the Soldiers championship and was runner-up in the open plate. An eight hour journey back to Herford through never ending traffic jams failed to take that haughty look from their eyes!

It was now time for the first round of the Army cup, BAOR Stage. On 11th December the team played 35 Engineer Regiment at Hameln. There were no worries however and we won five games to love. It might be said **Major Phipps** had a hard time winning his match by only three games to two but I think he may be excused. He seemed to spend most of his time avoiding his opponent's racket as the said opponent moved around the court in the manner of a man trying to catch butterflies (butterflies moving at 120 mph at that!).

In the meantime 2 Squadron were organising their own squash tournament. **Second Lieutenant I. W. Griffiths** organised it, **Second-Lieutenant I. W. Griffiths** won it. One could end there but that would not be just to **Second-Lieutenant Griffiths** as I am sure many of 2 Squadron agree. Witness to this are **Corporal M. J. Campbell** and **Signalman M. J. Farrer,** finalists in the plate event. They have both been playing squash every dinner break since the competition. Of course one must mention the runner-up **Major J. M. Hincks.** The final between he and **Second-Lieutenant Griffiths** was a fitting climax to an excellent competition.

The Inter-divisional tournament took place on the 12th of January. Originally four members of our team had been considered for selection. However, other commitments were heavy and eventually only **Major Plewman** was selected. We were obviously missed as 4 Division was placed third, beating only 1 Division.

That about brings you up to date with the squash scene in the Regiment. We are to play 22 Signal Regiment on the 25th of January in the next round of the Army Cup. As I have said the team is full of confidence so I hope to be able to write sometime in the future and tell you how we won the BAOR Trophy.

**STOP PRESS.** The match against 22 Signal Regiment was won by 5–0. The team are now through to the BAOR final.

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

**THE BOTTLE . . .**

HAVING successfully exercised its way through January the Regiment now moves into another action packed month. However, we do have some spare time, occasionally, and **Corporal 'Corky' Cork,** the regimental police Corporal, knows where we can spend our hard earned money in this spare time. A lot of it goes into a three-litre brandy bottle which **Corporal Cork** stationed at the Guard Room window back in 1972. The intention was to collect money for 'Wireless for the Blind', and because this was so successful, the bottle stayed throughout 1973. **By the end of the year the contributions totalled 700 DM and went to buying an invalid chair for the patients of the British Military Hospital, Rinteln. Corporal Cork** presented the chair to the hospital in December.

The bottle remains, although this year's charity is still undecided.

**. . . IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!**

Other people in the Regiment who are intimately concerned with bottles this year are **Signalman** and **Mrs. Paul, Sapper** and **Mrs. Gray, Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Bovington,** and **Padre** and **Mrs. Heagerty** who all had additions to their families this month.

Our congratulations to them.

**RUGBY? WHAT'S THAT?**

Just to prove that the regiment does play something other than rugby, some notes from the hockey club.

Now that the season is well under way it is probably an opportune moment to say a few words about Regimental hockey.

League matches were slow to start, but friendly fixtures were arranged with a variety of units—4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment in particular, providing a very worthwhile series of warm-up matches.

Not long after the start of the season we lost our 'star' centre forward, the somewhat temperamental **Signalman 'Woody'**

IT ALL CAME FROM A BOTTLE

Corporal Cork with the invalid chair and some of the money collected in the bottle

**Woodall,** and it took a long time for the forward line to get over his absence. This was mainly due to the fact that there was no-one who could immediately step into the centre forward spot and not leave a hole somewhere else. Fortunately however the forward line has since been stabilised.

The Army Cup was entered into with a confidence which proved quite justified until we came up against our arch opponents 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, who were the better team on the day and beat us decisively 3–1 in the quarter final.

We will be taking our revenge later on in the season when we play them in the League.

The league itself is continuing to prove successful for us. Although we have played only five games so far, we remain unbeaten.


## Civilian Maintenance Electrician (Telephones) Post in Signal Works Troop

**3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment, Aldershot, Hants.**

Civilian maintenance electricians (Telephones) are required to fill vacancies existing at Aldershot and Portsmouth within the establishment of Signal Works Troop Aldershot.

At present there are three vacancies at Aldershot and one at Portsmouth. It may be possible to arrange for any successful applicant for the Portsmouth area post to be based at Longmoor if he so desires.

Mainly, the duties of the grade involve maintenance of Range Communications, Intercom and Public Address Systems. Combat Linemen and Telecommunications mechanics due to leave the Army in the near future and interested in outdoor working conditions would be ideal candidates for these posts. Current rate of pay is £28·03 per week for a 40 hour week. Applicants must be prepared to work overtime, particularly during the summer months. Three weeks annual leave, sick pay, and opportunities exist for establishment in the grade after one year's service: Applications to:

**Civilian Personnel Officer,**
**3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment,**
**Maida Road, Aldershot, Hants.**
**Telephone: Aldershot 24431. Ext. 2191.**




## 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

A VAST turnover of staff once again since the last news item from M Troop **Lieutenant-Colonel** ('What *are* you doing Sergeant') **C. V. Impey** and **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Tony the Terror Bateman** are still IC and Second-in-Command respectively.

All the workshops are now up to their strength of two years ago, three of them now being controlled, if that's the term by **Staff-Sergeants Hudson, Huxtable** and **Stewart.**

One of our longer serving members of the Troop **Sergeant Dave Reade** has left us after 4 years of faithful service. We wish him well in his sojourn with 11 Armoured Brigade. We also said farewell to **Lance-Corporal Graham Mackenzie** of the Royal Marines on his return to Plymouth for a drill and weapons course. The photograph depicts **Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) C. V. Impey** presenting a memento to **Lance-Corporal Mackenzie,** whose pleasant personality will be sorely missed by us all.

The troop held a party in December, and once adjusted to the noise level a good time was had by all, with the 'noise' ensuring that the bar staff were kept busy not only serving but providing conversation without straining the tonsils.

The sporting activities are wide and varied providing members of most Regimental teams from fishing to all the ball games.

The troop has just successfully completed another Tels inspection and our PACE programme has been temporarily suspended because of the energy crisis.

By the time the next missive is due we will have experienced a turnover of some 20–25 men, this being our biggest administrative problem. Meantime we continue to feel our way forward, despite the gloom.

Lieutenant-Colonel Impey presenting a memento to popular Royal Marine personality, Lance-Corporal Graham Mackenzie


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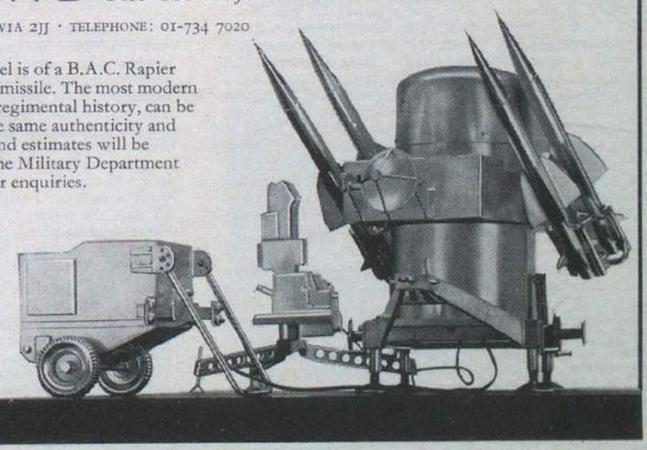

## 10 Sig Regt
## Hounslow

10th Signal Regiment ran another very successful WRAC basic commcen op course from 22nd October to 18th January. The happiness of the 13 who 'finally made it' is reflected in this photograph, taken on a rather blustery Friday morning following their presentation of 'Jimmies' by the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith. The instructors remain with the Regiment, but the girls are now serving in various UK and BAOR locations

*Standing* from left to right are Privates Kim Emery (16th Regiment), Sue Smith (16th Regiment), Sheena McLanachan (242 Squadron), Sonja Hawke (10th Regiment), Sergeant Dot Paget (35th Regiment (V)), Privates Rita Jenner (16th Regiment), Ann McCann (242 Squadron), Sandy Heel (16th Regiment), Mary Thistlewaite (10th Regiment), Sue Vine (16th Regiment), Elaine Hilton (10th Regiment).

*Seated* from left to right are Private 'Taffy' Davies (Top Student of CCO 4; 240 Squadron), Sergeant 'Spike' Lewin, W.O.1 Ken Glenville, Major Hickman, Lieutenant-Colonel Galbraith, W.O.2 Joan O'Connell, Corporals Dave Henderson, Dave Kirkwood, Private Jeanette Vaughan-Spruce (Top Student of CCO 3; 10th Regiment)

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### PASS OFF PARADE

The last Past Off Parade of 1973 was a combined one, No. 8 Troop and CT Troop taking part. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** was the inspecting officer, while the Parade Commander was **Major Mike Deverill;** this parade marked the end of **Major Deverill's** tour of duty as OC 1 Squadron. He has commanded the Squadron since November 1971 and has seen over 1500 recruits pass through it. We wish him luck in his new job as Public Relations Officer in Bonn.

The parade took place on a very cold and windy day in mid-December, and although the snow held off until the parade had finished, the wind carried the saluting dias away as the inspecting officer was approaching! Luckily enough, a makeshift dias had been provided in time for the General Salute.

### ORIENTEERING

After their success in the Army orienteering championships, the team split to orienteer in both Dorset and Yorkshire. In the south, **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones** and **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle,** while on a captains course at the School of Signals, ran regularly in highly competitive events organised by local Dorset clubs. In the North, **Lieutenant Robin Hill** finished an impressive 24th in the Yorkshire championships and in November achieved a gold standard time in the Blue Star trophy event.

Sadly we loose a team member in 1974, when **Ray Lloyd-Jones** leaves for a tour of duty with the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry. However, with new talent on the scene and army and civilian events early in the year, 1974 holds great promise for 11th Regiment in the 'Thought Sport'.

### ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF SERGEANTS COURSE—TAVR NO 2

"It came to pass that jointly and severally various Reservists did con-join to make a new law. This law begat despondancy and confusion amongst the various tribes for this law stated that to continue in their exalted positions certain of their subjects must be tested. This law was deemed unjust by all but there was no gainslaying them". Thus the RSSSC TAVR No 2 was born. We all expected a tough time but the reality far exceeded our worst expectations. Thirteen 'happy civvies' assembled at Instructional Wing 11th Regiment on Saturday 24th November long—short—fat and thin, we thought we looked quite reasonable until a certain Captain was heard to say "Who has been sick all over the square". Smarting from our first inspection I have never seen so many dried up old tins of blanco appear as if by magic in such a short time. The following day an eruption occurred in Instructional Wing when we first met officially our course officer **Captain Alan Alfred.** The memory is still painful.

We then went into high-geared instruction, weapon training, drill, tactics, fieldcraft, leadership, M. of I. (will it never end), etc., etc. During weapon training our instructor **Staff-Sergeant Bill Leslie** christened us 'Leslies layabouts', **Sergeant Bob Watts** called us 'Watts wasters' but collectively we were known as 'Knacker-nutts'. As you can see everyone thought very highly of us. It would take a book to list all our happenings. A few highlights. We shall always remember the time **Sergeant Andy Bridges** was locked in the gymnasium after early morning PT. He missed breakfast and almost the morning. We shall also remember **Sergeant Roy 'Wings' Ellis** with legs astride a large



water-pipe which was covered in snow and ice and fourteen feet in the air. Frozen in a sensitive area (which **Captain Alfred** assured him would be preserved forever) he demonstrated a para leap, bounced off **Staff-Sergeant Reg Thurbon** and landed on **Sergeant Andy Bridges** who promptly started to count legs. Nor shall we forget **Sergeant John Dee** who awoke the course at 0625 hours only to find that his watch was upside down and that it was in fact 0055 hours. The best remembered of all is when **Staff-Sergeant 'Big Jim' Vere** was leading us into an assault during a Section attack having been told by **Staff-Sergeant Bill Leslie** not to get his knickers twisted shouted 'follow me' ran three paces and his trousers fell down. Honestly!! they really did.

We had a lot of fun, but don't be misled. We did a lot of work. We all agreed it was the toughest and most rewarding course we have ever experienced and we would like to thank all our instructors for their expertise and patience. When we return to our units we know we shall be more fitted to carry out our role in the TAVR. In conclusion for future TAVR studies make sure you are fit, brush up your weapons and beware.

### DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE NO 55

For the uninitiated, the main aim of the course is to familiarize you with the art of measuring distance (by 30 in. paces)—how to save fuel by moving everywhere on foot. How to move cross-country through elephant grass, rivers and fog of the Yorkshire Moors, and how to improve your voice, thus being able to hail a cab at 200 yards thereby saving the cost of the telephone call made by lesser mortals.

Enough of the aim, for your enlightenment a typical day. The days always seem to start at the unheard of hour of 0530 to the sound of wolves howling—(the early call perhaps) then follows a session in the temple of many bars (gym) where we practice Kung Fu first in slow time then up to a speed of 24 frames a second from there a detour via the Koo-kouse and hence to the gravel pit, this area of instruction includes dressage and choreography. Lastly supervised by **Sergeant Pritchard** who checks our stance and the state of our hooves. Forty minutes later sees us entering the room of instruction where the master (**W.O.1 A. Irons**) reads from the Red Book (MML) to condition the course.

The care and husbandry of our weapons of war is demonstrated and impressed upon us by the two warlords **Corporal Massam** and **Lance-Corporal Clark-Darby.**

Finally we are allowed yet one more visit to the Koo-kouse and allowed to sample the delights therein.

### THOUGHTS ON A NIGHT PATROL

A pleasant evening stroll dressed in the height of MOD fashion (psychadelic kit) and the latest makeup applied in alluring streaks. Our evenings perambulations were disturbed by large size fireworks, obviously left over from Guy Fawkes night, this took us by surprise and we played an impromptu game of statues, only to have this game disrupted by the dullest tones of the duo **(W.O.1 Bert Irons** and **Sergeant Clive Prichard)** which heralded the opening of the war game proper with cries of 'Down —get down'.

Incidents came and went as did the rotation of leaders. Even the short lived increase in our numbers failed to upset the even tempo of our walk. I have no doubt we shall regard it all with fond memories. The sight of our scout **Lance-Corporal Para Barrett** will indeed live with me for ever.

### EPILOGUE OF 55

The Officer-in-Charge Instructional Wing with deep regret announces that on the 14th December 1973—12 N.C.O.s failed to end up 6 feet under and consequently left 11th Regiment, alive, well trained and possessing knowedge which will assist them to run a detachment. This is the 55th time this has occurred and therefore the Instructional Wing unemployment benefit is being withheld WEF date.

### SUPER RECRUITS

The regiment is currently in the process of training the first of the 'Super Recruit' intakes—this is a new recruit training syllabus based on 'Shoot to Kill' and the common military syllabus. The 'pilot' troop is undergoing 12 weeks basic military training and the envisaged end product is a cross between superman and John Wayne.

### COMING AND GOING

We wish a warm welcome to **Major Tom Scarff** and his family who have recently joined us from 21st Regiment. We hope that their tour will be a happy one.

We also welcome **Lieutenant Ewan Cameron** and bid farewell to **Lieutenant Bob West,** who commences a tour with the Royal Anglians and **Lieutenant Lloyd-Jones** who is going to work with the Light Infantry. **Corporal Thompson** and family leave us for 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

### VISITORS

**Major-General H. R. S. Pain, C.B., M.C.,** the Director of Army training, visited us on 1st February to look at training and discuss progress and problems. Other visitors during the month were student officers of No 2 Young Officers Course from the School of Signals, who visited the regiment on 14th January to see recruit and N.C.O. training.

## 13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

### THE END OF AN ERA

Obviously the main subject this month is the departure of our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson,** on promotion, at the end of his tour; and the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Taylor.** There was a hectic run-up to **Colonel Geoffrey's** departure from which no doubt both the Colonel and **Mrs. Stephenson** are still recovering. The programme started with their 'dining out' at a Ladies Night in the Officers' Mess. This was followed by the 'dining out' of the Colonel by the members of

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FINAL DEPARTURE (1)
First a horse drawn landau—dignity and grace!

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FINAL DEPARTURE (2)
. . . then a mini-Fiat, indignity, no space

the Sergeants' Mess; their correspondent has reported the occasion in the Sergeants' Mess Section of these notes. The final farewell on 23rd January started with lunch in the Officers' Mess. After lunch The Colonel was transported from the Mess to the main gate by landau along a route lined by members of the Regiment. To add a little more colour to this special occasion, the parade was led by the band of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rangers.

At the main gate The Colonel was invited to inspect a Barrack Guard mounted by our Royal Pioneer Corps detachment commanded by **Sergeant Phil Hall.** During the inspection a piper of the RIR played. The final act was the Colonel's departure through the main gate in the mini Fiat 126 of **Sergeant Jim Fowler** our Orderly Room Sergeant whilst the band played Auld Lang Syne. This final act was a novel experience as the Colonel is known to be a 'big car' man.

Our heartiest congratulations and a fond farewell go out to **Colonel Geoffrey** and **Betty**—we who are left promise to continue seeking and gaining success stories.

To our new **Colonel** and **Mrs. Noni Taylor** we say "Welcome to XIII, may your tour be happy and successful".

### BASKETBALL (by our Special Correspondent)

After remarkably little pressure the W.O. in charge Basketball submits the following: The basketball team started the season well by being non-existent; however a phone call or two from the Second-in-Command produced a chain reaction that resulted in a certain 6 ft. 6 in. tall Warrant Officer being, as they say, lumbered. Having recovered from the shock of becoming W.O. in charge Basketball I quickly found that the situation was not as bad as it first looked; it was worse! Thanks mainly to the efforts of a couple of basketball old-timers, the team was reborn and we now have quite a group of players training and playing three nights per week. At the present time the Regimental team is doing well; having lost both League matches played so far, we managed to get into the final of the Rhine Area stage of the Army cup by doing better in the preliminary cup matches and beating 28 Signal Regiment and 36 Regiment RA on the way. The final is to be played on 31st January and it is hoped that the result will make a pleasant Stop Press item to this month's notes. If we win the final the team will go forward to the BAOR Finals in February with the tantalizing prospect of getting through to the Army cup and a trip to UK.

### STOP PRESS

The result of the Rhine Area final of the Army Cup (BAOR stage) resulted in a loss for the Regiment by 40 points to 28. Although the Regiment lost, we had strong opposition in 19 Field Workshops REME and look forward to playing them again in the BAOR finals later this year. The date of the BAOR finals has been changed yet again and will now be held at Osnabruck on 8th March.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

#### FAREWELL

On the 18th January the Sergeants' Mess dined out the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. A. Stephenson.** After a superb dinner, prepared by our two Cordon Bleu's **Staff-Sergeant Ian Underwood** and **Sergeant Ray Austin** and equally superb speeches, The Colonel was conveyed in a GP 14 Dinghy, dressed overall, to his residence. Fortunately, the time chosen was in the quiet frosty hours of the morning so the music and general mayhem did not disrupt the local traffic or policemen.

We welcome as new members **W.O.2 Bill Clark, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Tony Morpeth** (a QTO to boot), **Staff-Sergeant Jim Hardy** Int Corps and **Sergeant Ron Green.**

### 13th STORK REGIMENT

THERE must be something in the Birgelen air, or is it shift working? Perusal of past WIRE Notes will show the prolific birthrate in the Regiment and December and January have been no exception. Our heartiest congratulations go to **Corporal Cindy Parkes** and **Lynn** on the birth of twin sons **Lee** and **Scott;** to **Staff-Sergeant Dave Swann** and **Georgina** on the birth of **Denise;** to **Signalman Bob Bignall** and **Diana** on the birth of **John;** to **Lance-Corporal Pete Jones-Ward** and **Netty** on the arrival of **Jennifer** and finally to **Corporal Joe Pearson** and **Sue** on the arrival of **Sean.** If you are having difficulty starting a family come to Birgelen. The air is bracing.




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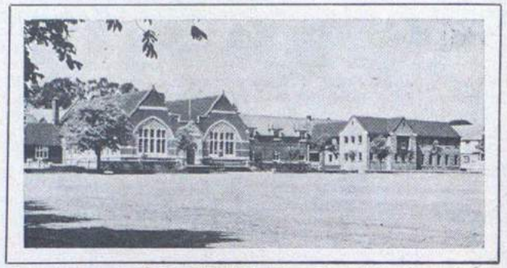

A view of the School Buildings from the Cricket Ground

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The fees are moderate by present-day standards and fathers who are serving in the Armed Forces may draw the Service education allowance to help with the payment of the fees.

The School has a very high proportion of sons of Servicemen and it is particularly sympathetic to their educational needs. It can be especially useful when fathers are liable to be posted overseas.

The age of entry is 12 to 14 years. There is an entrance examination, which is held in the Spring and Autumn terms, for admission to the School each September and January.

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**Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.**

16 SIG REGT WINNERS RHINE AREA INTER UNIT BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS (MAJOR UNITS) AND BAOR SEMI-FINALISTS

*Back Row Left to right:* C.S.M.I. McClure (Trainer), Signalman Richards, Corporal Kelly, Signalmen Ward, Piggott, Kilbride, Allen, Lance-Corporal Dobinson, Signalman Hayes, W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. Meredith, OIC Boxing

*Front Row Left to right:* Signalmen Cupper, Flowers, Smith, Barnard, Corporal Baines, Signalman Lloyd, Lance-Corporal Turnbull

## 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

THIS Squadron has the distinction of manning the only Commcen in Europe still run by the British Army and such heavy responsibility has prompted a great interest in internal recruiting.

Our Administration Officer, **Lieutenant Paul Holden,** and his wife **Sue,** started the ball rolling with the birth of their daughter **Jenny,** on January 11th, and since **Sue** used to be a DSO here, how's that for loyalty?

**Private Mary Pounder,** the self-appointed 'Coffee-Maker in charge' of Control Group and her husband **Bill,** continued the good work and **Mary** is now sampling the life of the civvy housewife whilst awaiting the arrival of her expected twins.

AG 11 also decided to take a hand and **Major Frank Smith** is off to sample the expensive life of MOD, whilst we welcome **Major Jimmy Golding** as our new OC.

### REPORT FROM 2 SQUADRON

The month has been fairly quiet for the Squadron after the rigours of the Christmas festivities.

We have several new members who have joined us and we would particularly like to welcome **Captain John Thewlis** who is now the governor of Alfa Troop. (He does not know what has hit him!), **Second Leiutenant Les Poole** who takes over Romeo Troop and last, but not least, **Staff Sergeant Brian Connors** complete with thinking pipe and toupee.

On the sporting side it has been quiet except for the battle to extract our trophies from PRI. When we received them it was almost time to compete for them again!

Military Training has progressed in the guise of shooting but it was an effort trying to find people to shoot and it turned out to be more an exercise in administration. It is said that a certain Troop Officer thought the orders to fire came from the butts and only when the S.S.M. appeared over the papapet did he realise something was wrong. Perhaps he was looking for the English hoards coming over Hadrian's wall!

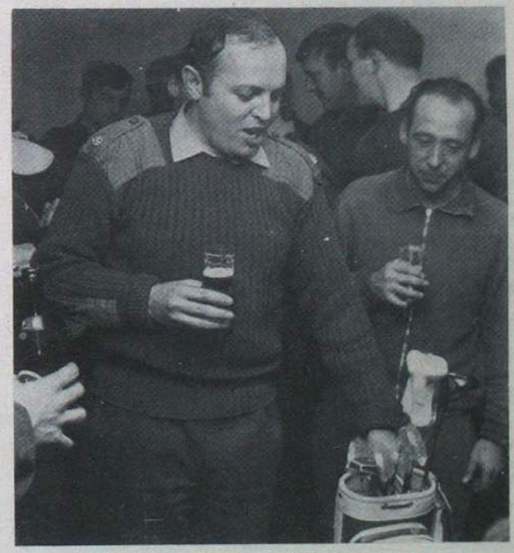
We finished the month with an exercise where at one stage we moved three times in forty minutes—work that one out! The problem was a forest warden who decided it was his privilege to site the Commcen. We are trying to find a tame warden who can be employed with us as OC Recce!

**Fred (1 Bar of Chocolate) Mortimore** tried to dismantle the kitchen every time we tried to eat his delicious food! It is rumoured that he is going into the rag and bone trade judging from the sacks of rubbish and tins he carried around.

The whole Squadron is in good spirits and looking forward to the training season.

### REPORT FROM 3 SQUADRON

On the 16th January at 1500 hrs. **Major Mike McCann** duly signed the Hand/Take Over Certificates giving command of the Squadron to **Major Bob Stark.** On the request of the **S.S.M. 'Barney' Barnett, Major Mike McCann** was asked to take his last walk around the Squadron lines. What he didn't know was that the Squadron had arranged a 'happy hour' to bid him farewell! On arriving at 'S' Troop he was led to the bar and after a couple of well earned pints the S.S.M. called for silence. **Captain John Stroud** then wished **Major McCann** 'bon voyage'. At this point **Corporal Paul Bained** stepped forward and on behalf of the Squadron asked **Major McCann** to accept, as a momento of his year's command of the Squadron, a brand new half set of golf clubs (the 3 day week in UK?)!



MUCH APPRECIATED

Major Mike McCann admiring his new golf clubs together with Sergeant Tommy Wilson

This he reluctantly accepted and then gave his farewell speech. It was requested that he present the regimental colours to all those in his Squadron which he gladly agreed to do. At 1700 hrs. the S.S.M. called for quiet, then shouted, 'Action!' at which everybody moved outside except for a party who seated **Major McCann** on a 'Thunderbox' and carried him off the premises.

Outside, the Squadron had a line laying landrover onto which he was ceremoniously dumped and to cheers and singing of 'For he's a jolly good fellow' and 'Thanks for the memories', he was pulled to the main gate. On his arrival at the gate, three cheers were ordered at which **Major McCann** with tears in his eyes stood on the bonnet raised his glass and wished everybody the 'best of luck'.

We all wish **Major McCann** and his family the best for the future at SRDE and would like to take this opportunity of welcoming **Major Bob Stark** to the Squadron.

### WRAC CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 3rd February was truly a perfect day to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps. A squad of 35 WRAC from the Regiment, led by **Lieutenant A. C. Leach, WRAC,** after two weeks 'Square bashing', paraded on the Regimental Square. The inspecting officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth,** R Signals, accompanied by **Major M. J. Craggs,** WRAC. During the parade the Colonel presented General Service medals for Northern Ireland to **Sergeant Sue Williamson, Corporal Jane Mills-Bishop BEM, Corporal Chris Lowe** and **Private Lyl Kelly.**

After the parade, members of the Corps attended Church Services. Cocktails and a buffet were then served in the Youth Club, and a cake, crowned with 25 candles, was baked specially for the occasion. The cake was paraded into the Youth Club to the tune of the WRAC Corps March, and was then ceremoniously cut by **Major Craggs.** Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

## SPORT

### BOXING BAOR SEMI-FINALS

Having held our Inter Squadron and Regimental Boxing Competitions in November 1973 with a view to selecting our first Regimental Boxing Team for a number of years, we entered the Rhine Area Inter Unit Championship (Major Units) and as a result ended up holders of the Rhine Area Inter Unit Boxing Cup (Major Units) which put the Regiment into the BAOR Semi-Finals.

We heard in late December 1973 that the Unit we were to box in the BAOR Semi-Final were 10 Regiment RCT who are the current BAOR and Army Champions.

The BAOR Inter Unit Boxing Championship Semi-Finals took place in the 16th Signal Regiment gymnasium on Tuesday 8th January and resulted in a win for 10 Regiment RCT by 22 points to 11 points.

Its not every day you box the Army Champions and all the bouts were hard fought particularly the Bantamweight contest between **Lance-Corporal Dobinson** (16th Signal Regiment) and **Craftsman Corbet** (10 Regiment RCT) and the Heavyweight contest between **Corporal Baines** (16th Signal Regiment and **Lance-Corporal Wheeler** (10 Regiment RCT) both bouts going the full distance and both resulting in a points win for 10 Regiment RCT. All members of the Regimental Team gave a courageous display against a much more experienced and professional team which resulted in a better evening's boxing than we expected against the Army Champions.

We take this opportunity to wish 10 Regiment RCT success in their future competitions.

### HOCKEY

Congratulations to the girls of 1 Squadron who on being beaten in the final, came third on goal average in the BAOR womens inter unit hockey tournament. We wish **Captains Jane Freebairn** and **Sheila Johncey** with **Corporal Sharon Joyce, Privates Sue Skyrme** and **Maj Stott,** the best of luck in the BAOR women's services hockey trials on 9th and 10th February.

### RUGBY

As you know our rugby team has excelled itself. We now seem to be suffering a spate of injuries with **Lieutenant Pat Maloney's** dislocation of his left shoulder and **Second-Lieutenant Les Poole** dislocating his right one. We now have one pair of hands in two Radio Relay Troops.

### WEDDING BELLS RING ONCE AGAIN

Congratulations on the occasion of their marriages to **Private David Brewster** AAC and **Claire,** eldest daughter of **Staff Sergeant John Walker, Signalman Jimmie Mallon** and **Carol More, Lance Corporal Steve Walker** and **Carol,** eldest daughter of **Captain Geof Oakley, Signalman Philip Fields** and **Private Beth Ellis** WRAC, and **Lance-Corporal Allan Hallgate** and **Alison Mackay.** We wish them the best of luck for the future.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since Christmas, Mess activities have continued to be as hectic as ever.

On the 8th January we entertained some ninety guests in the Mess after the BAOR Boxing Semi Final including nine R.S.M.'s from other interested Units in BAOR. Needless to say the topic of conversation was about boxing events past and present.

Later in January we had another of the every popular 'Cafe Continental' nights which was a great success and much credit must go to the PMC and his Committee and in particular to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Wally Sugden** for all his hard work. The end result justified the effort.

On the 26th January we took on the Corporals Club for a games evening which resulted, believe it or not, in a draw, the result being decided by the boat race. A very enjoyable and competitive evening was had by all and it is thought that the Corporals Club are planning all sorts of unheard of games for the return leg as they are determined to beat the 'old hands' at their own game.

The Mess football team are doing well in the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess competition. At the time of writing they are third in the league and in the Sergeants' Mess Cup semi final.

The Mess darts team are doing quite well in their league and are through to the quarter finals of the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess competition.

The Mess Supporters' Club for football and darts is proving a success. We planned to start a Mess Ladies and junior football team and to end the football and darts season with a grand dance paid for from the profits of the successful quiz evenings and raffles held by the Club. These have been organized by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Jim Phillips, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Nichols** and **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Derek Le Carpentier.**

### CORPORALS' CLUB

The Corporals' Club continues to flourish with entertainment most weeks, mainly dances and discos, and it is hoped to run some coach trips to local areas of interest when the weather improves.

The Committee under the direction of **Corporal Paul Connors** has had a very successful quarter including a particularly good New Year programme and must be congratulated on their enthusiasm and effort; in particular, the PEC **Corporal Mick Badwi.**

Club improvements are now to recommence and it is hoped to redecorate and refit another part of the Club shortly.

The Club are looking forward to the return leg of the games evening against the Sergeants' Mess and the result should be very interesting.

## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

### AIRCRAFT WHICH WE SUPPORT—THE BUCCANEER

THIS month we feature a Buccaneer of 15 Squadron RAF, from RAF Laarbruch. The Buccaneer is a low level strike aircraft, originally designed for the Royal Navy. Its weapon bays, which are set beneath the fuel tanks, can accommodate four 1,000 lb. bombs or a single large store. Alternatively, a special reconnaissance pack containing 6 cameras can be fitted. A fixed flight refuelling probe is mounted in front of the cockpit for in-flight refuelling when the aircraft is required to operate over abnormal distances.

Two Buccaneer squadrons are based at RAF Laarbruch, together with one Phantom squadron. These squadrons are supported by L Troop of this Regiment, commanded by **Lieutenant John Haydon.** It is most unusual to see L Troop so formally dressed—they are normally to be found grovelling in boiler houses,

L TROOP 21 REGIMENT

*Back Row, Left to right:* Corporal Campbell, Signalmen Banor, Smith 260, Thorpe, Corporal Humphreys, Signalmen Jones, Pua, Langsford, Corporal Dawson, Lance-Corporal Shaw

*Third Row:* Corporals Fortier, Large, Signalmen Bruce, Wright, Griffin, Dove, Lance-Corporals Ashworth, Thornton, Bennett, Corporal Coulson, Signalman Didcock

*Second Row:* Signalman Burrow, Corporals Morland, Thompson, Signalmen Harrison, Smith 149, Clark, Henning, Lance-Corporal Hicks, Signalmen Alexander, Dibble

*Front Row:* Sergeants Wilkinson, Guyatt, Evans, Stanford, Staff-Sergeant Derbyshire, Lieutenant Haydon, Staff-Sergeant Smith, Sergeants Anderson, Lythaby, Walley, Corporal Donaldson

*Absent on duty:* Corporal Bowes, Lance-Corporal Dale

*Absent on Course:* Sergeants Tuplin, Chilton, Signalmen Flynn, Morton, Lance-Corporal Duncan

*Absent on leave:* Corporal Candon, Signalman Brookes

*(Continued from previous page)*

The Buccaneer

attics, or along operations room floors, in 'clean' working dress of course. Their scribe writes:

"Our work is one long succession of priority tasks—there being nothing less than priority 2 in the Royal Air Force so far as communications are concerned, and even priority 2 usually means the day before yesterday. We have an excellent relationship with the boys in blue, however, and share all their splendid station facilities. We delight in beating them in station competitions, and are proud of being current 10 pin bowling champions and have won our last two football matches against them 6–4 and 10–0. Personalities abound in the troop: there is **Signalman 'Diddy' Didcock,** the clerk who never lets the paperwork get on top of him (he keeps it on the floor and walks on it!), there is **Staff Sergeant 'Old Man' Derbyshire** who is trying to 'kid' us that he's a footballer and many others, not least being the OC who is trying frantically to establish an office in the squash courts where he shelters when its too wet for golf."

Like all our airfield troops they're a good bunch of lads, with tremendous troop spirit.

### JANUARY ROUNDUP

The month began with an establishment inspection by a team of specialist inspectors from the Ministry's 'Inspectorate of Establishments'. We feared a group of 'faceless' and unsympathetic gentry with red pencils protruding from outsize pin striped suits, carrying stopwatches and volumes of Ministry policy documents. Not at all. We received a group of very experienced, likeable civil servants, who enjoy a laugh and a pint of beer as much as we do, whose aim was to provide the Regiment with precisely its requirement of manpower and vehicles to meet the task. As this coincided with the Regiment's aim, we were able to work together as a team in resolving a quite complex reorganisation, and we agreed completely with the inspectors' final recommendations. Briefly, the requirements of new Bruin commitments necessitated an increase of 4 officer and 84 soldier posts, but by various economies, including the introduction of a new and less demanding type of static radio relay equipment, this was reduced to an overall increase of 3 officer and 12 soldier posts.

2 Squadron set off for their first field deployment of the year in the middle of the month—Exercise Pelican's Puff, and returned with red and rosy cheeks, just in time for a station alert. C Troop, our 'fire brigade' troop, also received an unexpected deployment during this period, to provide emergency communications to the site of a crashed Harrier, an accident, we are sad to say, which involved the death of the pilot. The crash occurred some 60 miles from Wildenrath, inside Holland. The tannoyed, 'Crash-Crash-Crash' message automatically implemented an SOP drill, and within 15 minutes of positive identification of the crash site C Troop were away. Circuits were handed over for use to the Wildenrath PBX and duty operations officer 4 hours later, fifteen minutes before officers of the hastily formed RAF Board of Inquiry arrived on site. Well done C Troop!

Five of our cross country team were selected to represent BAOR in the annual challenge race against RAF (G), held this year on the RAF Bruggen course. BAOR received a shock defeat last year, but this year they had their revenge with a convincing win, with three of the Regiment's runners at the head of the field—**Sergeant Bill Venus, Sergeant Pete MacMillan** and **Sergeant John Turvey.** A few days earlier **Mrs. Shirley Turvey** had presented her husband with a 9lb. 9oz. baby girl—they seem to do everything well in the Turvey family!

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## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

The principal appointments in the Regiment are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| CO | **Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Spear** |
| Second-in-Command | **Major D. Lycett-Gregson** |
| Adjutant | **Captain R. J. Ebdon** |
| A/Adjutant | **Lieutenant H. Bell** |
| Ops Officer (designate) | **Major M. Y. Miller** **Major J. F. Higton** (6th February) |
| RSM | **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) W. G. Wallace** |
| Chief Clerk | **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) D. McCluskey** |
| OC HQ Squadron | **Major S. W. Mawson, M.B.E.** |
| OC 1 Squadron | **Major A. P. de Bretton Gordon** |
| OC 2 Squadron | **Major C. H. D. Cross** |
| OC 3 Squadron | **Major M. S. Louden** |
| OC 4 Squadron | **Major D. F. Malone** |

### SONG THRUSH

Eight days into the New Year saw the Regiment involved in their first, of many, Exercises of 1974, albeit a small one in barracks and our local training area. The old 'Bruin' bear must have wondered what we were doing during the first few days as he had never ever been asked to turn so many cartwheels and jump through so many hoops before—yes even on a 'Flying Falcon'. Happily by the end of the week the new arrivals knew that Bruin was a communication system and not the name of the Corps pet bear. This was all to the good as two weeks later we were to tell the staff at Rear HQ 1 (Br) Corps how it all worked!

### STAFF/SIGNALS STUDY DAY. EXERCISE PELICAN'S PUFF

In accordance with SOP (is there such a thing?) the third week of January is always reserved for the Staff/Signals Day. This is a very important event in our calendar as it not only gives us an opportunity to meet the Staff—under pleasant circumstances but also enables them to see what they can expect from us in the way of communications. We think we achieved our aim as many Staff Officers were heard to comment on their way home after lunch in the field "Don't these Signals chaps work hard—especially the linemen, what do they call them 'Hairies?', very odd, they all seemed to have decent haircuts!" Our hope is that during the coming exercises—before they scream for our scalps—they remember that we do work hard and do everything possible to provide them with constant high quality communications.

### EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN

For the uninitiated Snow Queen is a 1 (Br) Corps sponsored ski-ing exercise which is run throughout the winter months. This year we are running seven 13-day courses at Oberstdorf in Bavaria with up to 20 students on each course. Shortly before Christmas the first batch of 'volunteer' soldiers left for Bavaria. **Captain Peter Dick** who commanded the Cadre at Oberstdorf (until he was posted in early January) must have done a very good job as not only did the first two courses return intact but the first request they made on their return was "Please may I go on the next course". **Captain Brian Chubb** who took over from **Captain Dick** at Oberstdorf, must be very grateful to his predecessor as his courses now consist of keen voluntary volunteers (civilian style). As expected 'Snow Queen' is proving very popular once again and the lucky participants are easily recognisable around the Regiment as they all look like suntanned Austrian Ski instructors.

### LANGLAUF TEAM—A TRAGIC ACCIDENT

The Regiment once again sent a group of men to Norway to prepare for the Army ski championships. Whilst the training went very well, a tragic accident occurred on the Autobahn near Herford on their way back in which three of the team were killed. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of **Lance-Corporal Bob Dudley, Signalman Stuart Hudson** and **Signalman Bob Davies.** The team were deeply shocked but they all decided that their departed team mates would have wanted them to carry on with their training and participate in the Ski championships and accordingly left for Bavaria to complete their final preparations.

### DEATH OF HERR JAKOB KOENEN—BURGERMEISTER OF LIPPSTADT

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death, on 16th January, of a very good friend of the Regiment **Herr Jakob Koenen. Herr Koenen** had been the Burgermeister of Lippstadt for the past 25 years and since the Regiment came to Lippstadt in 1959 he has worked tirelessly to cement relationships between the town and ourselves. It was largely through his good Offices that the Regiment was granted the Freedom of Lippstadt on the 27th October 1973. We shall miss this distinguished gentleman very much and offer our deep condolences to his wife.

### SPORTING ACTIVITIES

The weather and the festive season has taken its inevitable toll on our outdoor sporting activities, however we are now feverishly trying, exercises permitting, to catch up on the backlog of league fixtures in soccer and hockey.

### JUDO

Unlike we lesser mortals and in keeping with the traditions of his Corps **S.I. Alan File** APTC resisted all our attempts to persuade him to partake of the Christmas 'spirits'. He got his reward, he is now BAOR Middleweight Judo Champion. Well done.

### SQUASH

Although our Squash team were knocked out early in the BAOR competition by a very useful 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment team **Signalman Roy Sinclair** distinguished himself in the individual championship and was only narrowly defeated in the semi-finals.

### SOCCER

Of necessity exercises eat into our first team squad which comprises 27 players, therefore a regular and consistent team is difficult to field and this accounts for our rather chequered league form. We are now eagerly looking forward to the second half of the winter league programme during which we believe we can do well.

### CONGRATULATIONS

On 26th January, **Ann,** the wife of our Commanding Officer gave birth to a daughter—**Christina.** This of course accounts for the reason why for the last few days **Colonel Ian** has looked 10 feet tall. The whole family, in other words the Regiment, offer our warmest congratulations to **Colonel Ian** and **Ann.**

Farewells to **Captain Peter Dick** and Hello's to our new arrivals: **Captain (TOT) Des O'Connor** from his knife and fork course, **Second-Lieutenant Bob Dibley** from Cyprus and **Second-Lieutenant Derek Robertson** from the egg.

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### FRANSKI 74

DURING the past years the Regiment has enjoyed the hospitality offered by Gebergsfemeldebattaillon 8 (8th Mounted Signal Regiment) of the Bundeswehr, stationed at Murnau in southern Bavaria. This year was no exception and, after a liaison visit and recce carried out by **Captain Gareth Mann** last December, Exercise Franski was once again under starters orders.

### FIRST PARTY HAVE THEIR ADVENTURES

The first party for Franski departed from Krefeld on the 4th January, arriving at Murnau without mishap on the 5th January. Under the 'dictatorship' of **Captain Mann** the course quickly settled in and began their first tentative steps on ski's under the able instruction of the German Army ski instructors lent to us for the duration of the exercise. As the exercise was basically downhill skiing, progress for some was much quicker than that intended and it was not long before some of the more extroverted

members of the course earned their nicknames. **Lance-Corporal Allen Kent** of our RPC section being renamed 'Chief Avalanche Cruncher,' closely followed by **Corporal John 'Snowman' Cullen,** plus many other too numerous to mention. Undoubtedly the 'Man of the Course' title was earned by **Lance-Corporal John 'Call me Wingnut' Clare,** whose skiing proficiency rose in direct proportion to the number of times he was stood up during the 'Apres ski'.

### SECOND PARTY ACCIDENT PRONE

All too soon it was time for the first party to return to Krefeld, only to be replaced on 19th January by Party 2 under **Captain Dick Stokes** ably assisted by **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Bob McLaren.** Once again it was back to the drawing board for our instructors with the unenviable task of having to produce proficient skiers out of 21 un-cordinated (ski-wise) British soldiers. However, try they did, and life followed very much the same pattern as it did for Party 1 except that Party 2 seemed far more accident prone, with **Lance Corporal 'Smudge' Smith** twisting his knee on the first day and **Signalman Dave Grant** twisting an ankle. One other notable event on the second course was the visit to the Zugspitz, Germany's highest mountain. This involved an early morning start in order to catch the first cog wheel train up to the Schneeferner Haus. Once there, most of the day was spent skiing on the superb ski runs on the Zugspitz glacier or visiting the summit by a breathtaking cable car ride. From the summit one can see the Alps of Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, which makes the trip worthwhile even without the skiing.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, so on 1st February Party 2 returned leaving behind many new friends and happy memories of the kind hospitality shown by Gebirgsfemeldebataillon 8.

## News from Squadrons

## 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 102

SINCE our last contribution the Squadron has survived the rigours of Christmas and New Year and is working up for the busy year ahead

### BORDER PATROL

From the 19th to 21st December we again undertook the Border Patrol commitment. **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton** was accompanied by **Lieutenant Chris Spencer,** under instruction, on this interesting duty, together with a patrol found from all departments for the Squadron. Despite the thick snow we covered our allotted area and were fortunate enough to see an East German border survey team at close range.

BORDER PATROL 19th-21st December 1973
"Helping our Allies in Arctic conditions" Look who's not pushing!
(Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton)

### EXERCISE FLINTSTONE V

From the 21st to 24th January the Squadron ran Exercise Flintstone V, a fast moving exercise, in the local area to brush away the cobwebs from our field routine, our NBC suits and respirators. It also introduced the joys of Brigade Recce Officer to **Captain Patrick Dickinson,** our new Second-in-Command.

Vehicle 'crash outs' kept everyone on the alert including **Staff-Sergeant Dave Snowdon,** our Yeoman, who put up a quick time on his own although the technicians would appreciate it if he disconnects the remotes next time before driving away.

### VETERAN VEHICLE

The Squadron is the proud owner of 'Lizzie', a 4 x 4 Bedford QL who celebrates her 31st Birthday in July. 'Lizzie' came into service in July 1943 and served the remainder of the war with an Armoured formation which included action in Normandy.

In June 1948 she was BLR, and returned to the Central Vehicle Depot the following month. By 1951 she had recovered and undergone a change to an office vehicle before posting to 91 Coy RASC. From 91 Coy RASC she went to 17 RVD in 1962 before coming to the Squadron in 1963 where she still serves, in the tender care of **Lance-Corporal Walt Moir,** as our Signals Command Post.

### DEPARTURES

Since Christmas we have said farewell to **Captain Mike Payne, Corporal John Richardson,** bound for the Civil Service, **Corporal Cliff Salisbury, Corporal Ray Garner, Lance-Corporal Dave Patten** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Gale** ACC. To them and their families we wish all the best for the future.

### ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Captain Patrick Dickinson** and **Staff-Sergeant John Smith.**

### NEW ARRIVALS

**Shevonne Hutchins** daughter of **Signalman Steve Hutchins** at BMH Hannover

## 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 36

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| OC | .. .. .. | **Major A. M. Willcox,** Royal Signals |
| Second-in-Command | .. | **Captain A. L. W. G. Steane,** Royal Signals |
| OC A Tp | .. .. .. | **Captain N. R. Pullman,** Royal Signals |
| OC B Tp | .. .. | **Second-Lieutenant C. C. McColville,** Royal Signals |
| Comms. Officer | .. .. | **Captain G. P. Maddren,** Royal Signals. |
| Adjutant | .. .. | **Captain G. R. Hooton,** Irish Guards |
| MTO | .. .. .. | **Captain A. R. M. Forbes,** Royal Corps of Transport |
| QM | .. .. .. | **Major E. Higgins,** Royal Regiment of Fusiliers |
| RSM | .. .. .. | **W.O.1 R. A. Jones,** Royal Signals |

### NEW YEAR STARTS

WITH the Squadron having just settled down after the Christmass gallop, a slight upheaval occurred—with the change of OC. The culmination of the farewell events was the departure of **Major Mike Marples,** on horse back. The horse being an electric one loaned by NAAFI. Power was provided by courtesy of A Squadron 439, our 10 pfenning pieces being fed in on route. The procession was led by **Acting Sergeant Major Jock Butler**

*(Continued on page 97)*



*(Continued from page 96)*

playing his bagpipes while the OC was escorted by **Sergeant 'Mat' Matakitoga** in full Fijian war kit and **Sergeant Ron Bond** dressed as Brittania and showing the flag.

The Squadron wish **Mike** and **Denise** a happy tour in Catterick and welcome **Tony** and **Gwendolin Willcox** to the lazy H.

### BAOR MINOR UNITS TEAM BOXING CHAMPIONS

In the final of the BAOR Minor Units Team Boxing Championships 12 Mechanized Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron beat 6 Ordnance Field Park by six bouts to one.

The match was kindly staged by 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rangers in Deiling hofen and the Squadron moved en bloc down the Autobahn to give the team support. The boxing was of a very high standard and all credit must go to the team trainer and manager **Sergeant Dave Johnson** who has had a great deal of experience with the Royal Green Jackets.

The first bout was a featherweight contest in which **Signalman Barry McMillan** outpointed his opponent with a very good display of boxing. The next bout was quickly over with **Corporal Denis Parkinson** proving that he is a very capable and experienced boxer, the fight being stopped in the first round. The next fight was at light Welterweight and gave **Signalman George Bantin** the opportunity to representing the Squadron in his first bout. He moved around the ring with great speed and was far too elusive a target for his opponent who walked into many good punches. Bantin won on points. The squadron was now three bouts up and had only one more to win to make certain of the match. No one expected the surprising result of the next bout when **Diver 'Cas' Porter** RCT from the MT Troop despatched his opponent to the canvas with a sharp left jab within fifteen second of the start.

Now barring a disqualification the team was home and dry, the boxers however did not subscribe to this view and continued to make every bout exciting. **Signalman 'Rocky' Rocque** had a very hard fight at middle weight against an experienced boxer and won on points. This was an excellent bout and provided many winces from the spectators as punches landed with great force. **Signalman 'Billy' Tindall** at light heavy weight met a good opponent who proved to be too capable a boxer for Tindall. Here again it was a bruising and hard fought fight with **Tindall** losing on points. The final championship bout was a very fine display by **Signalman Stevie Haddrell,** the fight being stopped in the second round after **Haddrell** had continually found his opponents face with some straight lefts. A further bout was arranged which did not count towards the final result **Signalman 'Hoppy' Hopkinson** the lightest and smallest member of the boxing squad beat a very gangly opponent on points, displaying a great deal of courage in the process. Rumour has it that **Hopkinson** is being fitted for a pair of built up boxing boots.

The Squadron looks forward to the Army final when we box against the Welsh Depot.

**(Which we are happy to report they won—Ed.)**

BAOR MINOR UNITS BOXING CHAMPIONS
The victorious 12 Mech Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron Boxing Team
*Back row (left to right):* Signalman Bantin, Driver Porter, Signalmen Rocque and Tindall
*Front row (left to right):* Trainer Sergeant Johnson, Signalmen Hopkinson, McMillan, Corporal Parkinson and Signalman Haddrell

## 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 41

THE following brief notes appear by special permission of the Comms Officer, who is rushing off to England on urgent business. And anyway, as the MTO has not contributed to THE WIRE before, he would be very upset if he did not get a word in before he is posted. Quote: "It is all very well for you 'Bleeps', but us RCT chappies get a bit lonely stuck up here away from our kin." In that case, over to him.

### WINTER SPORTS AGAIN

The highlight of the winter is with us again; namely Exercise Snow Queen. This year we have a new ski hut, near Sonthoffen, and the first course left Detmold for Bavaria on the 9th January.

After issuing skis and boots the initial 9 apprehensive skiers shuffled out on to the slopes behind the ski hut to practice standing up, getting up, turning and stopping, roughly in that order.

**Craftsman Steve Farrell** having executed a fine turn, looked up to see a barn approaching him across the snow. "How do I stop?" was the anxious cry. "That's the next lesson" came the amused reply. However, he survived. The barn stepped aside! With the basic skills safely mastered, we moved to Oberjoch. Here the MTO, **Captain Leslie Reason,** RCT established the PRI caravan (the Hobart Hilton) as a lunch time RV, and **Richard,** our German ski instructor, drank all the tea sent up earlier by **Corporal 'Dolly Gray',** our resident cook. We soon discovered a good friend in our German instructor and were constantly amazed by his appetite for baked beans and army tea.

### SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING

As our efforts on the slopes increased, so did our thirst and this resulted in us feeling morally obliged to visit the local brewery. **Lance-Corporal Bill Gibson** had a few difficult minutes when the guide got stuck for a word describing the process. After consultation with **Richard,** the missing word was found to be Gypsum, but when spoken in a curt German accent, it turned out that "there is Gibson in the beer vats". (If only it was true).

At the end of the course, **Captain Leslie Reason,** veteran of Snow Queen '73', led **Signalman Trevor Ashley, Signalman Wally Walpole, Signalman Pete Horne** on the 7 km journey down the Nebelhorn. Verdict "Never again."

**Signalman Wally Walpole** became very proficient at skiing with his hands in his pockets, because he had no gloves.

During the course, **Herr Beck,** our genial host, organised some Bavarian dancers and a yodeller to entertain us, and we were very pleased to be able to entertain the **Beck** family to supper before we left for home.

**Exercise Snow Queen must be the best exercise in the Army—Long may it remain!**

### MOVEMENTS—W.O.s and Sergeants

*(Addendum from page 104)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sergeant G. Manton | .. .. .. | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Hodgkiss | .. .. .. | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. H. Holden | .. .. | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant C. G. Cox | .. .. .. | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. J. Lincoln | .. .. | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Acting Sergeant H. R. Roberts | .. .. | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Acting Sergeant B. Luby | .. .. | „ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Acting Sergeant G. Leitch | .. .. | „ 564 Rear Link Detachment |
| Acting Sergeant M. V. Ledwards | .. | „ 227 Signal Squadron |

## 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

### 16 PARA BRIGADE WINTER SPORTS

WE did not fare as well as we had hoped, but considering our depleted numbers we did give an excellent account of ourselves.

**Soccer:** as always, we won the Final 3–2 against 9 Indep Para Squadron RE.

**Rugby:** beaten in semi-finals 12–6 by HQ Coy, HQ 16 Para Brigade.

**Basketball:** A Team lost in semi-final. B Team lost to HQ Coy, HQ 16 Para Brigade in first round.

**Volleyball:** A Team lost in semi-final. B Team lost in 1st round to 23 PFA.

**Cross-Country:** came second to 1 Para Log Regiment by 19 points.

**Orienteering:** we came 3rd.

**Boxing: Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Rickards** won both his bouts; **Signalman 'Jeff' Guy** won his too!

**Hockey:** lost in first round to 9 Indep Para Squadron RE.

### FINAL RESULT

The Squadron finished 3rd overall behind 1 Para Log Regiment (winner) and 9 Indep Para Squadron RE (runner-up). This was good considering the 40 odd men we had available during the period of the Sports.

### MANPACKING IT IN NORTH WALES

This was a manpack HF exercise held in North Wales, where, for a week, twenty-three members of Communications Troop, under command of **Second Lieutenant 'Bill' Edwards** and **Staff Sergeant 'Doug' Baikie,** were based at Capel Curig adventure training camp.

The camp had been recently renovated and was well maintained, so our 'house' was in good order. The surrounding countryside lends itself more to mountain-climbing than manpack radio exercising, but the weather was kind to us, it only rained once! . . . for a period of 24 hours! This allowed us to achieve our training aims and enjoy ourselves into the bargain.

We certainly 'brushed' away any cobwebs which might have lingered from the Christmas break. On reflection, 'brushed' is a misnomer, taking into account the steepness of the hills, on which we performed our morning runs. Our 'Airborne Shuffle' in the dawn light brought many a questioning glance from the junior soldiers in the camp on their way to breakfast each day. Incidentally, one of these boys had the temerity to ensuire, "Since when had Signals been wearing red berets?" To enlighten him, and any of your readers, who are not au fait with Airborne Signals, the date is "When the Red Beret was invented!"

We started our training by refreshing the memories of the older Squadron members, and teaching the newer lads, some of the requisites of our way of life in the field. Constructing 'bashas', siting and concealing 2 man detachments, orienteering with A14's and A41's (our version of mobile comms!) and the grand finale being a 24 hour exercise to test all the week's lessons. How did you guess? This was the 24 hours when it chose to rain!

Soggily we managed to 'work' A14 and A16 nets to Aldershot, and two local A14 and A41 nets, the latter using its own RRB system. **Corporal 'Ralph' Smith** and his 2 man detachment were the lucky RRB crew. This entailed three Bergen loads carrying 2 x A14's, 2 x A41's, the A41 rebro, and their own survival kit.

One of the tasks was for a man from each detachment to make a tactical RV with an 'agent', who would hand over a message. The message was a ration of G1098 rum, laced with vodka, and after that all comms improved drastically!

Our pick up and move to a final location created a morale boost for the weary troops, and a welcome trade boost to the landlord of the Inn in Capel Gorman.

I must point out that we did not exercise all the time. We played our own version of 'Kung Fu Football', (where ball control comes second to a flying wristlock) and we did, on occasions, sample the delights of a few hostelries in exotic places such as Betws-y-Coed, Bangor and Llanrwst, where we almost became honorary members of the British Legion Club.

We look forward to visiting Capel Curig again, all things, especially a heavy exercise commitment, permitting.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Lieutenant 'Dave' Harris,** who has left us to join 3 Para for his next tour, and to **Captain 'Chris' Byrom,** who is off to Norway on the Corps 'Whiteshod' skiing course.

We welcome **Captain 'Craig' Treeby,** fresh from 30 Signal Regiment, and to **Lieutenant 'Gordon' Shipley** from 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, and last but not least, **Signalman 'Barry' Shaw,** having just recieved his 'wings'. We also extend a warm welcome on the return of **Corporal 'John' Tovey,** still with the tang of salt from 20 Maritime Regiment RCT, Portsmouth.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

We would like to congratulate the following members of the Squadron:

**Signalman 'Pete' Doherty,** on attaining a 'B' pass on his MT Sergeants Course.

**Signalman 'Larry' Cardwell,** on being chosen for the Army Soccer XI and on scoring the winning goal when they played an Aldershot XI recemtly, which included seven first team players.

**Corporal 'Gus' Hartley,** on being accepted for his Y. of S. Course next month. The best of British luck!

### ENDNOTE

Our commiserations to the Squadron soccer team on losing narrowly to 1 Para Log Regiment in the quarter-final of the South East District Minor Units cup—final score was 5–4 They had to win eventually, and they've been trying for long enough now!

## 260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

### SHQ/W TROOP

| | |
|---|---|
| OC .. .. .. | **Major A. C. Stutchbury** |
| Admin Officer.. .. | **Lieutenant S. F. Bloom** |
| SSM .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) C. Hay** |
| F of S .. .. | **W.O.1 (F. of S.) W. L. Benson** |
| SQMS .. .. | **Staff-Sergeant D. Wilcox** |

THIS month sees SHQ and W Troop frantically preparing for FFRI inspections after the Christmas social whirl. During the latter part of December the Squadron was honoured to accept the custodianship of a Military Medal awarded to the late **Gunner P. Malton** RA during the Second World War for bravery in action by carrying heavy loads and a wireless set during intensive shelling.

The medal was presented by **Mrs. G. Malton,** who was visiting her son-in-law in Dortmund, at a brief ceremony in The Junior Ranks Club, Napier Barracks on 27th December 1973. The medal is now displayed in Squadron Headquarters.

The notes from our troops are a result of the Squadron Chief Clerk's marvellous impersonation on the phone of our Admin Officer.

### X TROOP
### BRIEF INTERLUDE

Telephone rings: **"Sergeant Lupton** X Troop, Good morning Sir".

Pause.

"Ah . . . Admin Officer. Yes it certainly is a good morning Sir."

Pause.

"Notes . . . Me . . . WIRE Notes. No Chance Sir, much too busy, sprained wrist, I can't . . ."

Even longer pause.

"YES Sir, 1000 hours in the morning Sir. I *AM* stood to attention Sir . . . your desk Sir, very good Sir, *THANK* you Sir. mumble mumble . . ."



### EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN

This exercise takes place in Bavaria at NESSELWANG on the Austrian Border. The object being (I think) to teach non-skiers to ski and skiers to ski even better. So in appreciation of good work achieved in the past year our troop commander—**Lieutenant D. W. Dobson**—waved cheerio to 20% of the Troop for a two week (cheap) holiday. Good luck **Corporal Johnny Taylor** because with **Signalman 'Brum' Jordan** and co you will certainly need it.

### COURSES

Apparently this is the time of year when it is thought that everyone must be sent on some form of course. So with great technical skill and amazing forethought, ably assisted by the wisdom of **Staff Sergeant Pete Lori** we have bundled off members of the troop on Det Cmds courses, upgrading, basic German courses, driver training and also attachments to 7 Signal Regiment. The main reason for these attachments is to keep our Cbt Rmn up to date on more modern equipment than the infamous B70. Amongst more recent pilgrims to C70 and C50 land were **Lance-Corporal 'Nellie' Nielsen, Signalmen Bill McCann** and **'Lofty' Grove.**

### FITNESS FOR ROLE INSPECTION

Suddenly—like a rocket from the sky (sorry 10 Bty)—somebody spread the gospel, i.e. FFRI is just around the corner. In fact on 28th February, which is a little too close for comfort, if you ask me . . . and anyone else. Vehicles, trailers, stores, equipment and long forgotten bogeymen all have to be cleaned, scraped, renovated, painted and buried.

You may wonder what this leads to. Well, with so many people away on courses, exercises, leave and other legitimate skives it does not take much imagination to deduce that there are not many of us left! What worries me most is that I may have to go home and ask my wife where my coveralls are kept. A hint which I cleverly intercepted from **Second Lieutenant David Case** (Troop Second-in-Command) who at the time was having a veiled conversation with **Lieutenant David Dobson.**

We of the Troop would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Troop **Corporal** and **Mrs. 'Stubby' Kaye, Signalman J. Grove** and **Signalman 'Nymph' Cardell.**

Farewells are always hard and we wish the best to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Bill Hickey, Signalman** and **Mrs. Dave Slater, Signalman R. Ling, Corporal** and **Mrs. Tony Sherriff** and **Staff-Sergeant Colin Storey.**

Feeling decidedly better at having strung together some words for my contribution to THE WIRE, which will no doubt be severely edited by anyone who gets their hands on them before it reaches **Captain John Cowe's** (when will he eventually hand over to the new admin officer **Lieutenant Steve Bloom**) desk by 1000 hours tomorrow. Copyright: **Sergeant Dave Lupton.**

### Y TROOP

Fresh from our Northern Ireland tour we fell upon a trilogy of exercises with renewed vigour. Old skills were employed with increasing expertise. Old mistakes were made and new ones added to our repertoire. A few pointed questions:

Who puts diesel in petrol vehicles?
Who doesn't change frequency at midnight?
Who sets up under falling watchtowers?

Despite all the funnies we managed to maintain our good name with the Gunners. Communications are good and data flows fully even if recce parties do go hungry!

We have made our sad if somewhat liquid farewells to **Corporal Bob Langley, Signalman Derek Naylor, Signalman Gerry Carr** and **Signalman 'Bobo' Morrison. Signalman Dave Daly** has departed to the warmer climate of Belfast, this time attached to 1 RHA. Some people will do anything to avoid FFRI!

We welcome our brand new Troop Second-in-Command **Second-Lieutenant G. D. Corbett** and more later on this subject.

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Garry Thomas** and **Corporal Rod Webdell** on achieving respectively their first and second stripes.

## 261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

DURING the past months our contribution to THE WIRE has not been as great as it could have been. The main reasons being that the usual author being far too busy and secondly he has been waiting for someone else to have a go.

### WORK

On the technical side the Squdron's commitment has been extended by a take-over from Cyprus Telecommunications Authority (CYTA) in the Sovereign Base Areas. Needless to say we are doing this with no increase in manpower, stores or transport.

Station Troop commanded by **Lieutenant Gordon Raku** have borne the brunt of this extra work so we feature them particularly this time. **Sergeant Len Plummer** and his gangs have been kept busy particularly now that the rainy season is with us. During a recent thunderstorm the General's house exchange was struck by lightning. It does without saying that although the General's phone didn't ring several others did and many unusual 'Telemechs' appeared on the scene apart from Station Troop regulars including **Sergeants Colin Whitelock** and **Norrie Carse, Corporal Keith Ellison, Signalmen Philip Holehouse** and **Jim Beecham.**

**Sergeant Tony Young** with his fault controllers **Corporal 'Taff' Whitfield, Corporal Ken Schindler** and **Lance-Corporal John Antill** are busy trying to sort out records from 'Way in Way back' (a local BFBS programme). Perhaps some of our older readers of WIRE could send us details of the 'Epi Cabinet'.

### UNSUAL EVENTS

The three Warrant Officers of the Squadron **W.O.2 S.S.M. Charlie Homewood, W.O.2 R.Q.M.S. Nick Scott** and **W.O.2 F. of S. John Goldsworthy** attended a continuation course at 9 Signal Regiment. In some quarters this may be felt as being a noteable achievement in itself.

Everything right down to early morning tea in bed. Surely that doesn't tie in with the words of that song!

The Foreman has since been heard muttering that he can't see what all the juniors are complaining about.

### SPORT

Our soccer team continues to make steady improvement having had to apply for re-election last season. In their last five games they have only dropped one point and that was to the league leaders. This has been mainly due to team effort and a zealous manager **Staff Sergeant Bob Woods.** Other stalwarts include **Sergeant John Burgess, Signalman Dave Stower,** who has been taking a bit of stick up front and **Signalman Edwards** who has recently joined us.

In the world of cross country running good efforts have been put in by **Staff Sergeant Dave Jolly, Lance Corporal Frankie Callaghan, Signalman 'Kev' O'Connor** and **Signalman Beecham** being placed high up in the Cyprus minor units competition. **Signalman O'Connor** has been short-listed for the Army team.

We have also entered a team for this year's Cyprus walkabout and they are now training hard. The team led by the S.S.M. includes **Staff Sergeants Dave Jolly, Sam Leggett, Sergeants Reg Dixon, Tony Young** and **Colin Whitelock** with **Signalman O'Connor** bringing up the rear.

Our efforts at badminton weren't very well rewarded in the Station Commanders' cup competition with the result that we have been toppled from our top position and are now second—more incentive to do well in the remaining events, of which more next time.

### AWARDS

Finally, on the basis of leaving good news to the last we would like to congratulate, on behalf of the whole squadron, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick Scott** on his B.E.M. in the New Years Honours List and **Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy** on his A.O.C. in C's Commendation. A similar award was also made to **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Meachin** for his services whilst with 603 Signal Troop, 'our' troop in Masirah of doubtful lineage (where the chain of command is concerned of course).

## 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
## B.F.P.O. 65

LANCE-CORPORAL **'Chopper' Hopper,** this month's scribe, writes:

For all those who haven't 'hacked' a 9 month tour yet, Masirah is an island in the Arabian Sea off the South East coast of Arabia.

The troop has just said a fond farewell to **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jerry Hunt, Sergeant Dick Sargent** and our driver **Signalman Murdoch Dickson.** The troop wish them all the best in their future careers. We welcome to the troop **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill** (FOS to his friends), **Sergeant Charlie Peach** and 'whiter than white' **Signalman Trev Hutchinson.**

### VISIT OF COMMANDER 3 SIGNAL GROUP

On his last visit to Masirah before taking up his new appointment, Commander 3 Signal Group, **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.** made a Masalaam (farewell) visit to the troop. The troop were in fine form, and were completely at ease during the Colonel's two and a half hour informal walk round. Later he gave plenty of vocal support to the football and volleyball teams, and then, accompanied by the Station Commander, demonstrated 'What yer right arms for' until the early hours of the following morning.

CAUGHT OUT

O'Grady says "Hands on hips" and Colonel Bound catches out the F.O.S. Still in the game are Sergeant Peach, Corporal Stacey and Signalman Allen

### SPORTSWISE—TOPS EXCEPT CRICKET

Sport wise the troop is still astounding the blue jobs (RAF) by fielding a team in every sport going and doing very well in them all—all except cricket that is, which we still can't get the hang of.

The Station has just started up a volleyball team, fifty per cent of whom are from 603 Troop, namely **Corporal Bruce Murdin ('Juicy Brucy'), W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill, Signalman Eddy ('the food') Pluskota, Signalman ('Fiji') Allen** and **Corporal Mal Turfrey,** so you can see who rules the island of Masirah—the Pongo's of course! It is also rumoured by **Corporal ('Ena') Sharples** that there is an RAF Detachment on the island.

Lastly we must not forget our 5 man detachment in Salalah who are **Sergeant Tom Lovel, Lance-Corporal (Ty) Taylor, Signalmen Tom McGrandles, Al Pocock** and **Sam Coster.** They are all performing an excellent task under arduous conditions and proudly display the Royal Signals esprit de Corps.

**KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!**

*See Editorial Page*

## 632 Sig Tp, R.A. Range, Hebrides

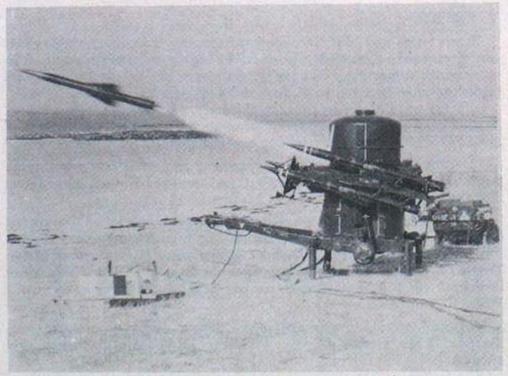
IT is a year since our last notes, and a lot of water has passed under—and over the North Ford since then.

### CHANGES

The huts, tied down with wires, are gradually disappearing, and we are occupying three-storey blocks at the Admin site. The new range control building, known to us as 'Mount Cassino', sits imposingly on Rueval, 284 feet above the range, bristling with radio and radar antenna.

The Troop has had a busy year. The Line Section and Technicians have taken every advantage of breaks in the weather to lay new cables over the whole of the range area, and back to the new building and a new 100 line auto exchange has been commissioned with all the associated internal wiring. Now, with engineers from Plessey Radio, we are about to commission a new 12 channel link to St Kilda, 45 miles off into the Atlantic.

Bristling with radio and radar antennae



PART OF THE JOB

The first of 4 Rapier missiles 'Away'





With three signal centres and three exchanges to man, the Operating Section have had their work cut out. Our soldiers are telegraphists one day, telephonists the next. RAF Benbecula, now established a year, use our signal centre for their traffic, where 'Flash' and 'Op Immediate' seem the rule rather than the exception.

### THE BLIZZARD

"It never snows in the Hebrides"—we used to be told. Well, we have got news for you, all you aspiring fishermen who hope for a tour here. It does snow, and horizontally at that. For 36 hours the islands were in the grip of a 120 mph gale with deep snow. Vehicles stopped, electricity failed, and water failed. With no heat or light, things began to grind to a halt. For three days this situation existed. The Troop switched on the standby generator, crossed their fingers, boiled a kettle for coffee (of course!) and set off to give aid to the civil power. This ranged from digging out stranded vehicles to supplying generators to the Post Office exchanges, which were rapidly running out of battery!

### THE FLOODS

Just two weeks later, with power and sanity restored, the floods hit us. It would appear that such a conjunction of extremely high tides and extremely high winds can only happen every 100 years. It did, with the result that the beaches were lifted from their normal location, at the side of the Sea, and dumped over the coast roads. Vehicles passing from one island to another over fords had to drive through breaking waves twice their height, and recovery crews were kept busy. When the bull-dozers had gone through, it was disconcerting to drive between six-foot banks of sea weed, and the occasional lobster pot.

The coast road—January 1974!

### PERSONALITIES

**W.O.1 (F. of S.) Derek Thom** has now joined us, in place of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Paul Cook,** now in Worcester in the sunny South. In so doing, he has acquired many new skills—such as jointing a cable underwater—and a few more grey hairs. **Staff Sergeant Ian Rothwell,** as Troop Staff Sergeant, runs the Troop and his OC with an iron hand, acts with the Range dramatic society, and is known throughout the Range as 'The Fixer'.

# The Volunteers

## 32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

### SEVEN SQUADRONS ON PARADE

THE dreaded cry 'WIRE Notes' from the Commanding Officer immediately brought out all the pending trays bustling at the seams—the result—a revolting pink coloured memo, Adjutant to R.S.M.—Your turn!

Well what has happened since our last correspondent fell by the wayside.

Annual camp was held in the Shropshire area. A great deal of training both military and technical was carried out with a very high standard of success, our Irish brethren of 69 (NIH) Squadron (V) earning the highest praise from our attached regular Infantry instructors on their performance in the field.

The highlight of annual camp was undoubtedly the Regimental parade where the salute was taken by our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel Ian Wotherspoon A.D.C.** There is not a Regiment in the Corps, whether regular or volunteer that can muster seven Squadrons, a full pipe band and also the guidon and escort of 69 (NIH) Squadron (v). An impressive sight indeed!

### SERGEANTS' MESS BALL—THEY CAME FROM FAR AWAY

The Regimental Sergeants' Mess achieved a 99% attendance at their autumn ball. All the Mess members and their good ladies travelled from places as far away as Londonderry, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and from Glasgow of course to attend. This can only be attributed to the very high standard of morale which has been nurtured by the R.S.M. and his P.S.I.s—Well done.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

There have been some departures and arrivals of our regular element.

**Major Derek Copeland**—complete with staff and kilt—to 16 Regiment.

**W.O.1 John Clarke**—with even less hair—to civvy street.
**W.O.2 (F. of S.) Jim McInally**—less toolkit—to civvy street.
**Staff-Sergeant Peter Milne**—from C Lineman to Lineman—in civvy street.

In their places we welcome the following and wish them a happy and successful tour with the Regiment

**Major John Heyes**—from the 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment as Training Major
**W.O.1 Ken Hammond-Haley**—to take over the brunt of the MT
**Staff-Sergeant Vince Zimmer**—who is now residing in Londonderry with 69 Squadron.
**Sergeant Scott,** REME—who joined us just in time for our pre FFR Vehicle Inspection.

### 2 GROUP STUDY PERIOD/PSI's CONVENTION

We were tasked with the administration of this, and despite the many hair raising difficulties that an event of this type produces, we are glad to say everything ran smoothly and all concerned were satisfied with our efforts. HQ 2 Signal Group, who of course have the spare time, are writing up the event in detail.

### OBITUARY

**It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Sergeant Dave Kendall, who died from a heart attack while playing football. Dave Kendall was a much respected and admired PSI, both by regular and volunteer alike, a keen sportsman and efficient soldier who left no stone unturned in his efforts to help all and sundry. He is survived by his wife and three children who are residing at c/o Riddell, 7 Marryat Street, Dundee to whom our deep sympathy goes.**

## Association News

### York Branch Annual Dinner

DESPITE the prevailing transport difficulties some 80 members and guests attended the Annual Dinner of York Branch held at Betty's Restaurant, York

The Branch Chairman, **Mr. J. Varlow** introduced the President of the Branch, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. ('Nat') Gould** who welcomed the members and guests and referred to the loss of the Club premises following the decision of the Ministry of Defence to dispose of the land upon which the Club stood. For the time being branch meetings were being held at the REME Association Club, Imphal Barracks, York and members were asked to support the Branch functions.

The guest of honour was **Brigadier Pat Hobson,** General Secretary who spoke of his pleasure in being able to visit York Branch. He gave examples of the excellent work being done by the Corps in Northern Ireland and in other spheres, particularly in respect to charitable aid not only to the Association but to many other deserving causes.

The Branch was also pleased to welcome **Mr. Dave Greenbrook** from HQ and were delighted to see present **Lieutenant-Colonel Reg Atkinson** Chairman of Catterick Branch and **Major R. O. Edwards** Chairman of Leeds Branch and their ladies.

After an excellent meal the evening closed with dancing and it was generally agreed that the event had been an outstanding success, so much so that it has encouraged the Committee to think of ways and means of arranging similar functions on a more frequent basis.

## Obituary

### A. V. Stuart

We are sorry to have to record the death of Tony Stuart who passed away on the 17th January after a short illness. He was one of those outstanding sportsmen with which the Corps was blessed in the 1920's and 30's. He enlisted in the mid 1920's when boxing was a popular Army sport and when the Corps was particularly successful in it. It was not long before Tony was involved and in 1926 he represented the Training Battalion as a novice heavyweight. At first he was not too successful but rapidly improved and in 1927 began to make his name. From there he progressed quickly to top ranking both while serving and after leaving the Corps in 1930. On discharge he joined the London Fire Brigade where he continued his boxing career up to 1945 during which time he had won over 500 fights and lost very few. In spite of all his successes Tony was a modest and warm hearted individual and always willing to help out and give advice when asked. Some of his outstanding successes in the heavyweight class included: Royal Signals Champion 1928–1930; Commonwealth Champion 1928–1930; I.S.B.A. Champion 1928–1930; Champion of Great Britain 1930, 1932, 1936, 1937; Champion Empire Games 1939, 1934, Golden Gloves Champion 1935, 1936, Olympic Games 1936 and UK Champion 1936.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, Mrs. Stuart, whose address is: 94 Palermo Road, Harlesden, N.W.10.

### Major G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E.

Throughout his life the Army and particularly the Corps were George Flynn's main interests. He served continuously for 42 years on the active list and continued after that for 12 years as an RO, a total of 54 years. His death on the 31st January is a great loss to all who knew him and to the Corps.

George enlisted as a Boy Telegraphist in the RE Signal Service in 1913 and reached mans service during the middle of the First World War where he saw active service in Mesopotamia. At the end of the war he was posted to Russia and on returning to the UK he was on the staff of the School of Signals at Maresfield where he shone as a technician and a useful rugger player. Just before his 26th birthday he qualified as a Foreman of Signals and proved a great help as an instructor to technicians and Y.O.'s at Catterick. His next posting in 1930 was to Malta where he did outstanding work in the development of Fortress Signals, for which he was appointed M.B.E. On leaving Malta he was commissioned and joined the C.S.O.'s staff at Singapore by which time the Second World War had broken out and he was amongst those unfortunates who were taken prisoner by the Japanese. With his fortitude and determination he survived the hardships and privations of the infamous Burma railway, but this experience had a damaging affect on his health. Soon after VJ Day he was reunited with his family, who had been evacuated to Tasmania, and then returned to the UK and attended a refresher course at Catterick. After a short period in Scottish Command part of which was spent in hospital recovering from the affects of the Japanese prisoner of war camp, he was posted to Catterick in 1947 where he remained for the next 8 years as a squadron commander in 1 Training Regiment and on the staff of the STC. After retirement in 1955 he continued at Catterick as an RO finally retiring in 1967 when he moved to Buckinghamshire.

George devoted the whole of his life, even after retirement, to the service of the Corps. He was unique in many ways. For example he was the first other rank of all three Services to be elected an associate member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and subsequently qualified as C Eng MIEE. Whilst with 1 Training Regiment he was responsible for the setting-up of the first Royal Signals recruiting display in a Queen Mary trailer, and later, whilst at the STC he was largely responsible for much pioneer work in the initial establishment of the Corps Museum, which has now become one of the finest Military Museums in the country. For more than 12 years he was church warden at St. Martin's Garrison Church Catterick. He was ably supported by his talented wife Emma, who not only contributed greatly to social and welfare functions but also designed and produced a beautiful altar front for the church, amongst many other artistic contributions to the Corps. George also worked tirelessly for the annual Corps re-unions, was corresponding member at Catterick for the Royal Signals Institution, a member of the ex-Boys Dinner Committee for many years and a prominent citizen of the ancient town of Richmond. Anyone who met him could not but fail to be impressed by his integrity, willingness to help and his wide and expert knowledge of the Corps in all its aspects. To Emma and her daughter we offer our sincere sympathies. George, like Emma, was characterized by a warm, generous and talented nature and never looked for any reward for all that he did. He will be sorely missed.

### Captain S. N. Smith

Lieutenant Colonel G. Davis of 38 Ormiston Crescent, Belfast, writes to inform us of the death of Captain S. N. Smith, an old friend. Both were commissioned on the same day into the Corps on 10th October 1939. Captain Smith served with 4 Corps Signals at Bakewell and later saw service with 10 Corps Signals—a Field Division in Scotland. Later he was posted to Lagos in West Africa.

Sympathy is expressed to Captain Smith's relatives in their sad loss.

### W.O.1 D. F. Langston

With regret the death has been reported of W.O.1 Douglas Frank Langston. He served with the Corps from 1950 and was mentioned in despatches in 1953 while serving in Malaya. He saw service in France, Cyprus, Malta and BAOR. He retired from the Corps in 1968 and worked for Lloyds Bank, but he never lost his interest in the Army and was associated with the Army Cadet Force and the TA. Sympathy is expressed to his widow whose address is: 34 Sutherland Avenue, Downend, Bristol BS16 6QL.

### Mr. R. W. Moore

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on 17th February of 'Bob' Moore of SRDE. Bob was well known throughout the Corps and indeed for many Bob was SRDE. He joined the Establishment as an apprentice in December 1927 at the age of 14 and over the years became the recognized expert on vehicle installations; so much so that he continued working beyond the normal retiring age. His work on Larkspur, Bruin, Clansman and Ptarmigan installations brought him into close contact with many members of the Corps and we have much to thank him for; he will be greatly missed.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. R. W. Moore, of 148 Lymington Road Highcliffe, Hants and three children to whom we extend our sympathy.

*(Continued on page 104)*

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*(Continued from page 102)*

## Captain (TMO) F. C. Toogood

It is with regret that we report the death of Frederick Charles Toogood who died aged 68 on the 29th January at his home in the Isle of Wight. He enlisted in the Sappers in early 1920 and almost immediately transferred to the Corps. Before the war he was in India from 1927 to 1933, where he saw active service on the North West Frontier, and again from 1937 to 1939. He returned to the UK in time to take part in the BEF Operations at the outbreak of the war. After returning to the UK via the evacuation from Dunkirk he was commissioned and joined 51st (H) Divisional Signals. He served the rest of the war in the Middle East mainly with 2 Air formation Signals and retired at the end of hostilities in 1945. He was a life member of the Association and we would like to express our sympathy to his family in their loss.

## Movements

### Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Major B. W. P. Adams | To School of Signals |
| Captain (TOT) D. C. Ashton | „ HQ NORTHAG Support Group |
| Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin | „ HQ 2 Signal Group |
| Major J. S. B. Brinsford | „ 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major J. D. Bromley | „ HQ BAOR |
| Captain R. F. Brooks | „ H.Q. W. Falland (as Major) |
| Captain (TOT) V. C. Brown | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) for retirement |
| Captain (Q.M.) T. W. Cantle | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Major M. E. G. Chandler | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Captain B. Cleaver | „ 24 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E. | „ Regular Commissions Board |
| Captain C. W. Collier | „ HQ Training Brigade |
| Captain A. J. Cowe | „ 5 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl | „ HQ 3 Signal Group (as Colonel) |
| Major R. W. Garlick | „ 20 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Gibson | „ 25 Liaison HQ |
| Lieutenant R. G. Gittings | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Major P. Goldney | „ HQ NORTHAG |
| Captain R. P. Gravestock | „ 216 Signal Squadron |
| Major I. J. Hamilton | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Major C. R. F. Hinds | „ MOD (D of DOP) |
| Lieutenant P. S. Holden | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Major (TOT) F. Iveson | „ Signals HQ RAF |
| Lieutenant A. M. Jones | „ AAC Centre |
| Captain (QM) R. W. Kay | „ 37 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Major R. A. Macheath | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (TOT) R. Morris | „ 225 Signal Squadron |
| Major (QM) S. G. Pavey | „ AA College |
| Captain D. S. Pawlow | „ Attd. HQ 39 Infantry Brigade |
| Lieutenant N. R. Pullman | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Lieutenant T. E. M. Richardson | „ 12 Mech Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel T. Rigby | „ School of Signals |
| Lieutenant C. J. Smith | „ 224 Signal Squadron |
| Captain W. J. Spiers | „ Attd. RAPC Training Centre |
| Captain P. Stanley | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Major D. P. Watson | „ CV HQ Royal Signals |
| Major D. C. Whitehead | „ HQ BAOR (as Lieutenant-Colonel) |
| Captain J. C. Young | „ 7 Signal Regiment |

### W.O.s and Sergeants

*(Held over from February)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Sergeant J. M. C. Young | „ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant D. Osborne | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. Crook | „ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant W. Lawrence | „ 260 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant T. Foody | „ 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Muller | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. D. Kitchener | „ Central Volunteer HQ and Training Wing, Royal Signals |
| Sergeant R. G. Graham | „ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. Croft | „ 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant M. R. Malpass | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. H. Anderson | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron (For Royal Marines Training Wing) |
| Sergeant G. T. Omara | „ 227 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant T. Theis | „ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. Carter | „ SHAPE HQ COMMAND & SUPPORT (BE) |
| Sergeant W. S. Matthew | „ 262 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. R. Lawless | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Manser | „ 4 Communications Unit |
| A/Sergeant R. J. Goddard | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. P. Copley | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant G. L. Paton | „ 538 Rearlink Detachment |
| Sergeant J. Spink | „ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/Sergeant J. A. Crothers | „ 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| A/Sergeant C. C. Mitchell | „ 521 Rear Link Detachment |
| W.O.2 C. C. Bedwell | To 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 P. L. Harrison | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. G. M. Kirkham | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. A. Dunbar | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. McBeath | „ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant K. D. Wade | „ London University O.T.C.(V.) |
| Staff Sergeant P. W. Lees | „ 38 Signal Regiment (V.) |
| Staff Sergeant R. S. Dehdashty | „ RAC Centre |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) B. K. Burton | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr R) A. Feldon | „ 225 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr R) J. R. Hague | „ 225 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. Scott, B.E.M. | „ 32 Signal Regiment (V.) |
| Sergeant A. C. Mockford | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant D. Hirst | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant R. M. Taylor | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant M. A. Flanaghan | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant S. J. Rushton | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant S. M. Crowe | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant R. G. P. Harris | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant P. B. Baldwin | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant W. Davies | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. J. Stevens | „ 262 Signal Squadron (Cape Greco) |
| Sergeant C. E. Walker | „ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant S. Gair | „ Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| Sergeant P. M. Barlow | „ 641 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant A. H. Halfpenny | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant J. Nunns | „ MAT (Gulf) |
| Sergeant F. W. Martin | „ 229 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant W. G. Page | „ 641 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant R. K. S. Gent | „ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant B. Jones | „ 260 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. Barnett | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. J. Sims | „ 234 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. D. Carre | „ 234 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant F. I. Gibbons | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant D. M. Woodhouse | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. A. Flynn | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. Gomersall | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Murphy | „ School of Signals |
| Sergeant V. Burgess | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. E. B. Weld-Richards | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant P. W. Weatherall | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. Langford | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. E. Whitham | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. A. Simpson | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. S. Berry | „ Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| Sergeant D. A. Hand | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. J. Parsons | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. A. Mullin | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant P. Gallagher | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant A. MacDonald | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant W. Ritchie | „ 653 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant D. R. Roberts | „ 35 Signal Regiment (V.) |
| Sergeant R. L. Henderson | |

*Continued on page 97)*


# OPERATORS

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*April-May 1974*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

**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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

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**APRIL/MAY • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 4**

# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

We feature this month 28th Signal Regiment's successful football team who for the second year running fought their way through to the Army Final at Aldershot. Alas, their opponents, the School of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering, R.E.M.E., were too strong for them and they went down 4–2 (see page 109). Let us hope 28th Regiment pull it off next year.

*Standing left to right :* **Sergeant Ray Francis** (Baggagemaster), **Lieutenant Mike Anderson, Corporal Roy Pickersgill, Sergeant Jackie Snaith, Signalman Dave Charles, Corporal John Mizen, Signalman Tommy Taylor, Corporal Tommy Hope, Corporal Peter Campbell, Signalman Tony Horan, Sergeant 'Mac' McLean.**

*Sitting left to right :* **S.S.I. 'Bunny' Rea** (Coach), **Captain Alex Shaw, Sergeant John Harvey, Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie, M.B.E., Corporal Maurice Harkin, Captain Bob Peake, B.E.M., Corporal Davey Manders and Corporal Ricky Licence.**

*Absent :* **Corporal Dave Hatten.**

## The World Veterans Federation

We write this month on the subject of the World Veterans' Federation or WVF as it is generally called. Firstly because it is little known in the UK although this is not so in many other countries. Secondly because Major-General Fladgate, when he was Chairman of the Royal Signals Association some years ago, took a great interest in it and was one of its founder members. As a result the Royal Signals Association is still a member of the WVF and your Editor in his capacity as General Secretary of the Association is currently Chairman of the UK Members Committee.

The word 'veteran' is used in the American sense of anyone who has been involved in a war either in the armed forces or as a member of a resistance movement. Starting in 1950 with representatives from seven nations the WVF has grown so that now it has a membership from over 50 nations from all parts of the world. The UK Committee is composed of representatives from the RAF Association, the Pathfinder Association, the Royal Signals Association, the WRAC Association, the WRNS Association, the Royal Naval Association and the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association. Constant efforts are made to increase this membership and it is hoped that it will not be too long before the Royal British Legion joins the UK Committee.

The aim of the WVF is to bring together all those who have fought in war—many on opposite sides—so that they can use their collective influence to bring about world peace. The WVF credo is summed up in the immortal words of Ralph Bunche:

> *"None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in in war. The voices of war veterans are a reflection of that longing for peace of people the world over, who within a generation have twice suffered the unspeakable catastrophe of world war. Humanity has earned the right to peace. Without it there can be no hope for the future. And without hope man is lost."*

The WVF supports:—

- The settlement of international disputes by appropriate peaceful means;
- The respect for the right of peoples to self-determination, and the abolition of all forms of colonialism;
- Economic development through effective international cooperation in economic aid and technical assistance to developing countries;
- The full utilization of human resources, including the reintegration of the handicapped into social and economic life;
- The banning of all nuclear arms tests and the achievement of general, complete and controlled disarmament;
- The effective protection of human rights by the creation or strengthening of institutions on the national, regional, and world levels;
- The strengthening of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

*Continued overleaf*

*Continued from previous page)*

In practice these aims are achieved by conferences, discussions and projects covering in particular the rehabilitation of war wounded, legislation affecting veterans and their rights, aid to developing countries, support of peace-keeping forces and the protection of human rights. Over and above this the General Assembly meets every two or three years to formulate policy and to pass resolutions, most of which are directed towards the attainment of peace. These resolutions, which are generally passed unanimously, are, where appropriate, brought to the attention of the governments of member countries, the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The writer recently had the honour of leading a small delegation to meet Lady Tweedsmuir of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in order to acquaint her of the resolutions passed at the General Assembly held in Paris in November 1973.

Apart from the General Assembly a standing Council meets tt more frequent intervals with an Executive Board which carries out the decisions of the Assembly and the Council. The day-to-day processing of WVF affairs is dealt with by a permanent secretariat located in Paris. Finally, there are various regional standing committees including one for European affairs.

The WVF is having an increasing impact in the international field and is accorded category I status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It has similar relations with a number of other international bodies such as UNCTAD, UNICEF, WHO and the ILO as well as certain non-governmental organisations. The WVF derives its income from annual dues and other contributions from its member organisations and by funds provided by international and national foundations as well as by specific fund raising campaigns.

The WVF has a long way to go but increasingly it is an organisation to which the world can hardly turn a deaf ear in the face of a united demand for world peace from so many who have actually fought in wars—often on opposing sides. It is significant that the WVF is the only international forum in which Egyptian and Israeli representatives have agreed a common formula for peace in the Middle East. This was at the General Assembly in Paris in November 1973.

War involves conflict. Peace, too, must be fought for in men's minds and by their actions. This the WVF seeks to do with all the resources at its disposal.

## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during January and February.

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding, 858/859 Signal Troop (V) | 5·20 |
| Officer Commanding, 233 Signal Squadron | 2·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V) | 2·00 |
| L. C. Hall, Esq. | 5·00 |
| P. Deane, Esq. | 5·00 |
| W.O.2 M. Kennington | 3·50 |
| J. Ingledew, Esq. | 3·20 |
| Colonel D. S. Clarke | 2·75 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly | 2·00 |
| J. N. K. Billett, Esq. | 1·70 |
| S. H. Jennings, Esq. | 1·50 |
| Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., D.L. | 1·25 |
| C. W. Holmes, Esq. | 1·25 |
| Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., D.L. | 1·20 |
| Colonel J. F. Longfield | 1·00 |
| Major J. F. Everard | 1·00 |
| Captain I. C. Double, Royal Signals | 75 |
| J. V. S. Templeton, Esq. | 70 |
| Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E. | 60 |
| Officer Commanding 11th Signal Regiment | 15·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 49 (West Riding) Signal Squadron (V) | 1·05 |
| Hon. Secretary, Huddersfield Branch, Royal Signal Association | 5·00 |
| Major F. G. Strange. In memory of the late Major G. H. R. Flynn | 3·00 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel B. T. Sherman, O.B.E. In memory of the late Major G. H. R. Glynn | 3·00 |
| Major The Earl Kitchener, T.D. | 2·00 |
| M. E. Holdsworth, Esq. | 1·00 |
| H. S. Ramsey, Esq. | 75 |
| Various small donations | 1·70 |
| Total | £74·10 |

## Clothing

Since the beginning of January, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc, have been gratefully received from the following: The Thrift Shop, 10th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Miss J. Harris, Mrs. J. S. Hewson, Mrs. R. Walters, Captain G. D. Willis, Mr. A. Walsh, Captain W. Farmery, Foreman and Mrs. N. Crowder, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Mrs. M. Evenden, Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Major J. Bayfield, Mrs. J. Brimble, Major and Mrs. A. G. Harfield, Major F. Iveson, Mrs. C. Fry, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. D. Le Febvre, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. D. G. Perry, Mr. W. E. Osborne, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, Major H. J. Crocker, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Lieutenant-Colonel I. E. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, Captain M. P. Walker, Mrs. P. B. Wymbs, Major and Mrs. D. Lycett-Gregson, Colonel T. W. Boileau.

# From our "In" Tray

## A welcome to the Corps

Sir,

I was privileged recently, to attend the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Among the many officer cadets being commissioned was **Second Lieutenant A. D. Forster** who is the son of the late **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Nick' Forster.**

Many readers will no doubt remember Nick Forster who was so tragically killed in a traffic accident a few years ago. I am sure that they will wish to join with me in welcoming Andy Forster into the Corps. May his stay with us be a long and happy one.

Yours sincerely,

**A. F. Dyer, W.O.2 (F. of S.)**

School of Signals,
Blandford Camp.

## An Appeal for Sub-Aqua Equipment

Sir,

We are trying to start a Sub-aqua Club in the Blandford Garrison which would be open to all visitors and members of local units. We are therefore appealing for any equipment which is surplus to a units requirement or held by a PRI and no longer in use. Would any unit having such equipment please contact me at the **SCHOOL OF SIGNALS.**

Yours sincerely,

**D. P. Herring, Major**

**WIRE—LATE PUBLICATION**

We need hardly draw the attention of our readers to the continued late publication of THE WIRE. This issue, we estimate, will be six weeks late. We are continuing to publish curtailed editions to help our printers and the support of our correspondents in keeping their contributions short is much appreciated. A determined effort is now being made to try and catch up and we sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we are on schedule again.



# Obituary

## Colonel D. M. Haslehust

Whilst serving as Military Attache in Brazil Dennis Haslehust died suddenly on Sunday 3rd March. He was educated at Malvern and was one of the last officers to be commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich before the outbreak of the war in 1939. He served throughout the war with East African units in East Africa and South East Asia. In 1948 he qualified at the Staff College and thereafter spent most of his service overseas, a majority of which was in staff appointments. He filled two military attache appointments one in Warsaw and the other in Brazilia.

Dennis was an above average athlete particularly in cross country and middle distance running at which he represented the RMA. The war however, curtailed his activities in this field. Nonetheless it always remained a particular interest in his life and when commanding 21 Signal Regiment from 1961 to 1963 he laid the foundations for the outstanding success this regiment has subsequently achieved in athletics and cross-country running.

J.J.H.S., a friend of long-standing writes:

"Dennis was a remarkable linguist, and had qualifications in Danish, Swahili, Russian, Polish and Portuguese, as well as being a competent performer in a number of others; in a recent letter he said that he had lately taken up Spanish as so many of the South American attaches in Brazilia were Spanish speaking. He seemed to have a flair for learning a new language in less time than most mortals would take to read the first chapter of a drama. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Linguists and managed to find time, whilst filling an exacting appointment in the War Office, to obtain an external degree in Scandinavian languages. I shall always remember Dennis particularly for his outstanding kindness and consideration for others, especially for the very old and very young. He would have made a wonderful father and it was sad that he had no children; he tried to make up for this by being a most attentive godfather to the sons of several brother officers.

He was something of an Edward Lear; his strongly developed sense of humour produced an unending flow of little verses, sometimes illustrated by talented cartoon sketches.

We all extend our deep sympathy to Joy, herself an ex-ATS officer, who supported him so well in his various appointments."

# Movements

## Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant B. Abbiss | To 30 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. C. Alexander | „ MOD (AT1) |
| Major M. Allan | „ HQ South East District |
| Major A. S. M. Anderson | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E. | „ HQ UKLF |
| Captain R. J. Brown | „ 32 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Major P. J. Brunton | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| A/Captain K. Bunston | „ 3 Div HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major B. J. Burke | „ Canadian Forces HQ (Exchange) |
| Captain (Q.M.) A. Burns | „ 223 Signal Squadron |
| Major E. C. Byrne, B.E.M. | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant D. R. Case | „ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) J. H. Cotton | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant M. J. Crane | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Captain R. A. Farrimond | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Q.M.) J. J. C. Finch | „ 608 Signal Troop |
| Captain T. G. B. Fish | „ School of Signals |
| Major M. J. Ford | „ Project Davell (1 BR Corps) |
| Captain L. G. French | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Captain M. J. C. Galloway | „ HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Captain R. A. J. Gardner | „ 604 Signal Troop |
| Lieutenant A. H. Gibb | „ 657 Squadron AAC |
| Major M. Q. M. Greaves | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| Captain J. A. Grierson | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Major (Q.M.) M. Ham | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant P. J. Hryhoruk | „ 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain A. T. B. Kimber | „ 6 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major (Q.M.) R. G. Knight | „ 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Knott | „ RRE Malvern |
| Captain (TOT) M. Langford | „ 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron |
| Captain (Tfc) W. A. Little | „ School of Signals |
| Lieutenant J. B. M. MacLeod | „ 8 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major J. G. McLuckie | „ 19 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain (Q.M.) E. J. Mann | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Major F. W. Natolie | „ HQ 2 Signal Group |
| Colonel W. G. Neilson | „ Army Apprentices College |
| Captain (TOT) A. G. Norton | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Q.M.) D. F. Rees | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. H. Roberts | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant P. A. Rouse | „ 20 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major R. J. Savage | „ HQ AFNORTH |
| Captain D. Strong | „ HQ BAOR (SD 4) |
| Lieutenant A. Sugdon | „ School of Signals |
| Captain (TOT) A. R. Taylor | „ CPA Royal Signals |
| Major (TOT) R. Taylor | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Lieutenant M. R. Telfer | „ 3 Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment |
| Captain D. G. Thomas | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. D. Tydeman | „ BAORComputer Centre |
| Major P. Valder | „ HQ Training Brigade |
| Captain H. M. Vines | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major (Q.M.) A. V. K. Ward | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Ward | „ HQ BAOR (SD5) |
| Lieutenant G. C. Webb | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Captain P. P. White | „ 24 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain (TOT) F. C. Williams | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Major M. G. H. Wise | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) H. E. Wright | „ 27 Signal Regiment |

## W.O.s and Sergeants

| | |
|---|---|
| W.O.2 J. Horne | To Birmingham University OTC (V) |
| W.O.2 P. B. Cairns | „ 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. R. D. Couperthwaite | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. B. Graham | „ 610 Signal Troop |
| A/W.O.2 G. Watson | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant W. M. Kerr | „ HQ AFNORTH |
| Staff Sergeant M. Foster | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant C. E. M. Widdowson | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant E. G. Bell | „ 44 Parachute Brigade Signal Troop (V) |
| Staff Sergeant G. F. Austin | „ 67 Army Youth Team |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. P. Palmer | „ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) C. J. Burrows | „ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr (R)) R. J. Courtney | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. Roberts | „ 233 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant C. E. Harvey | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. J. Larkin | „ 223 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant H. Lund | „ HQ AFNORTH |
| Sergeant R. G. Assender | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Manser | „ 4 Communications Unit |
| Sergeant R. E. Hambleton | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant S. Lawrence | „ 4 Communications Unit |
| Sergeant C. P. Trayler | „ 574 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant D. K. Whiteley | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant J. S. Boardman | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. Jones | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Sergeant F. C. Howden | „ 30 Engineer Brigade Signal Troop (V) |
| Sergeant D. A. Ackers | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. A. Botfish | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant S. Gregg | „ Army Air Corps Centre |
| Sergeant J. W. Ayre | „ HQ AFNORTH |
| Sergeant T. D. Mallorie | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. J. Lowry | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant S. M. Harvey | „ 44 Parachute Brigade Signal Troop (V) |
| Sergeant H. V. Baynton | „ Royal Military Academy Sandhurst |
| Sergeant M. O. Ellis | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. J. Dove | „ 38 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant R. G. Sargent | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. H. Gatehouse | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. McKenzie | „ 8 Infantry Brigade Signa Squadron |
| Sergeant V. Shuttleworth | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. F. Buckett | „ 550 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant M. Farrell | „ Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| Sergeant J. D. Lycett | „ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. W. J. Wall | „ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. J. Forster | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. Johnson | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant J. Boyes | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. Ramsden | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Sergeant M. L. Croot | „ 8 Infantry Brigade Signa Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Bonnett | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant A. H. Harris | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| A/Sergeant J. W. Laflin | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| A/Sergeant C. A. Smith | „ Army Apprentices College Harrogate |

# ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

There is no need for us to highlight the position regarding the acute shortage of funds for house purchase loans. **Would-be Home Owners** who did not make positive plans well ahead for house purchase are finding it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans in the foreseeable future. Why let this happen to you?

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

**Other financial benefits** are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

# EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

**Selected schemes** linked with life assurance to raise funds to meet the expenses of schooling and further education can substantially reduce the over-all cost of educating children. Very early planning **can reduce** such **costs to NIL.** If you have a school fees problem write to us now for advice before it becomes insoluble.

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# Army Football Cup Final

**POWERFUL OPPONENTS TOO MUCH FOR 28TH REGIMENT**

ON Wednesday, 10th April at Aldershot, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment failed to win the Army's most coveted trophy, losing to the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering by 4 goals to 2.

Despite our defeat we pride ourselves in having reached the final two years in succession and having represented the Corps twice in the seven times Royal Signals units have played in the final.

The full season has been an excellent one and, in addition to the Army Final, our record reads (all matches):

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals for | Goals against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 135 | 37 |

Winners: **BAOR Major Units Cup.**
Winners: **Rhine Area Major Units Cup**
Winners: **North Rhine Inter Services Football League Division 1.**

This is the premier services football league in BOAR, and our breakdown of league matches reads:

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals for | Goals against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 89 | 23 |

Such was the competition in this league, that in our final league match we needed to win whilst our opponents, 23 Regiment RCT, needed only to draw to take the title for themselves. The result was a 2–1 win for us and the score indicates how tight a game it was. Indeed, it was 23 Regiment RCT's only defeat all season in the league, but with four previous draws, it only made them runners-up—probably a record in itself!

In winning the Rhine Area Cup we completed a hat-trick of Corps victories, defeating 21st Regiment 6–2, 13th Regiment 6–3, and, in the final, seeing off the challenge of our neighbours, 16th Signal Regiment 5–2.

Obviously our main target from the beginning of the season was the Army Cup and to this end a Squad of sixteen players were used. It is the opportune moment to record our thanks to so many who have helped in our successful season. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Carnie, M.B.E.,** who quietly (sometimes) encouraged us from both office and touchline. Squadron Commanders and Troop Officers were particularly helpful so that players could be released for training at awkward moments. Wives of the players were most understanding—there were only 4 free Saturdays since last August. Our thanks also go to **Major John Ingledow** and 223 Squadron personnel who looked after us so well whilst we prepared for the Aldershot final. As all our Cup matches, save one, were away from home, a special thank you must be said to our loyal band of supporters who travelled literally hundreds of miles in all weathers to cheer us on. Lastly **S.S.I. 'Bunny' Rea** who started the season as Captain/Coach but when injury slowed him down just before Christmas unselfishly stepped down to let a younger player in and then encouraged the same player to new heights so as to ensure him a permanent place. We owe **Bunny** so much and our success reflects great credit on him.

The run-up to our Aldershot appearance was:
1st Round: 3 BAPD Bracht, Away, Won 3–0
2nd Round: 23rd Regiment RCT, Home, Won 5–0
3rd Round: 15/19 Hussars, Away, Won 4–2
4th Round: 54th Squadron RCT, Away, Won 4–0
5th Round: 2nd Div HQ and Signal Regiment, Away, Won 2–1
BAOR Final: 49th Field Regiment RA, Neutral, Won 2–1

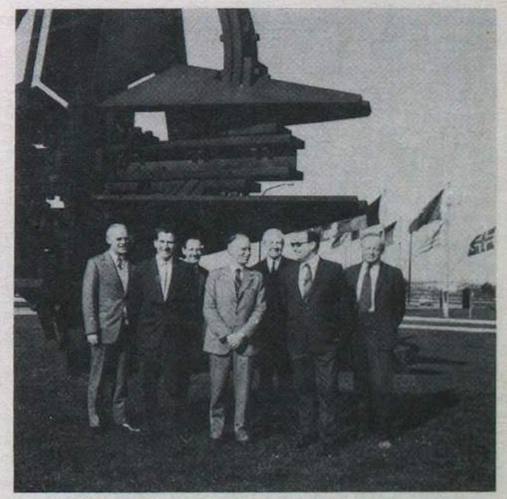
After such an exciting, rewarding season it would be unfair to mention players individually. We trained as a squad, shared as a squad and, yes, complained as a squad at times. However the leading goal scorers were **Peter Campbell** 41, **Tommy Hope** 33, **John Harvey** 22 and **Alex Shaw** our penalty king netted 7.

Concerning the final itself it is only fair to say we were beaten by the better team on the day. SEME have 6 of the current Army team and play a very polished game indeed. In training, prior to the final, **John Mizen** our goalkeeper injured his ankle and even the professional attention at Southampton F.C. failed to ensure his fitness. **Corporal Dave Hatton** came into the Squad at the last moment and whilst playing a steady game obviously needed more cover at the back than we wanted to give, thereby restricting our game somewhat.

After early pressure from our forwards the SEME midfield took control and dominated the remainder of the first half. Goals came from **Lance-Corporal Cartlidge, Staff Sergeant Morton** and **Corporal Aitchison.** The first being rather lucky as it was controlled by the players hand and the referee over-ruled the linesman's objection. The 3–0 score needled us into harder action in the second half and we reduced their lead with a **Dave Charles** effort. SEME however came back and **Staff Sergeant Morton** once again scored with a powerful drive. To our credit we never gave in and when **Peter Campbell** was brought down, **Alex Shaw** scored from the spot kick. Thus the game ended 4–2 with the SEME goal under pressure. We met SEME at their very best and no Army side on the day would have contained them. Four of our Squad—**Maurice Harkin, Alex Shaw, Ricky Licence** and **Davey Manders** now leave us so the rebuilding must commence. If any budding stars fancy joining a good soccer set-up then apply to join us at Krefeld. Here's hoping our third trip to Aldershot will be lucky!

## *NATO Headquarters, Brussels*

ON the 20th of February, members of the Corps serving with NATO Headquarters were privileged to receive a visit from the Signal Officer in Chief. **Major-General Sawers** was met at Brussels airport by **Colonel Maxfield** and escorted to the Headquarters where informal drinks were enjoyed in the UK Military Representative organisation. The weather could not have been better and it was decided that outdoor photographs were the order of the day. A photograph taken outside the main entrance to the building appears below. The Signal Officer in Chief was heard to comment that this is probably the first time a photograph of himself in civilian clothes has appeared in THE WIRE. The Signal Officer in Chief later visited the Assistant Director CE Division, **General Alessio** and the Director General of NICSMA, **Herr Buchs** for talks on a wide range of subjects, dealing mainly with Corps responsibilities. During the evening **Major General Sawers** was entertained to dinner by the officers and wives at the Moulin Lindekemale restaurant, an establishment with an unusual ambiance, which may well be remembered by our predecessors here at NATO.



OUTSIDE THE NATO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
*Left to right:* Colonel R. S. D. Maunsell, W.O.I (S.C.) R. Copland, Major J. G. James, M.C., Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E., Colonel A. H. Dennis, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) B. W. Smoker, Colonel R. H. Maxfield
*Not in photograph:* Lieutenant Colonel T. A. Byrne, Lieutenant Colonel (Tfc) A. Sawyer

WELCOME TO THE CORPS. No. 2 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO SCHOOL OF SIGNALS JANUARY 1974
*Back row, left to right:* Second Lieutenants Alan Armstrong, David Beach, Andrew Bowering, Jim Cadwallader, Geof Cary, David Collyer, Gerry Corbet
*Front row, left to right:* Second Lieutenants Clive Cox, Mark Grieves, Tom O'Brien, Pete Neale, Phil Pullin, Derrick Robertson, Nick Thompson
(We apologise for late publication due to current printing delays)

## *New Trunk Dialling Exchange installed in Cyprus*

### THE BIGGEST EVER

HOW does it feel when you have just brought into service the biggest telephone exchange Royal Signals has ever installed? The answer can be given by the members of the Auto Exchange Installation Team from the Communication Projects Agency, School of Signals who, over the week-end of 2nd-3rd March, commissioned the 1400/1800 line exchange at RAF Station Akrotiri, thus culminating five long years of planning and installation work. Their unanimous reply would be "Well, it's only doing our *job*", as you might expect from a group of specialists who carry out this type of work for the Services in all parts of the world. Some, like **Sergeants Dave Bacon, Ian Machel, 'Moss' Snooks** and **Corporals Peter Gardner** and **Stew Malcolm** have been through similar experiences in Hong Kong or Malta. For the indefatigable Foreman, **W.O.1 Don Freeston,** there was inevitably a moment of regret because soon he will be leaving the Team, though not the Agency, and this was his last 'cut-over'. However he has not had much time for reflection because since August he has been grooming his successor **Staff Sergeant 'Spud' Murphy.**

### THAT'S A LOT OF WIRE

The new Akrotiri exchange represented only a part of the Team's activities; during the past 15 months they have expanded the exchange at Episkopi and provided VF inband signalling equipment at all the other switching centres in the Cyprus military telephone system. This provides the facility which is probably of greatest benefit to the 5,000 plus users, namely extension to extension trunk dialling. **Sergeant Brian Bennett** and **Corporal David Kirkpatrick,** like **'Spud' Murphy,** are newcomers to the Team, but they could probably rattle off the odd statistic such as how some 33 miles of jumper wire were run, 6½ miles of multi-wire cable laid, formed and laced, approximately 140,000 terminations made (gun-wrapped or soldered) and countless digits dialled while proving selectors and making test calls from each new extension line circuit. Some of these activities are

Sergeant Dave Bacon completes one of the 140,000 terminations

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Spud' Murphy checks bank multiple wiring with a locally designed and produced tester

illustrated in the photographs which were taken before commissioning. Despite this concentrated work, as OC **Captain Norman Webb** points out, there still has been opportunity for team members to utilise other hidden talents.

For example, **Sergeant Ian Machel** who, by virtue of his water-divining techniques and expertise, was able to assist DOE staff at Episkopi by successfully locating two 'lost' underground cables and a cable joint for them all at no extra charge! !

### BE A PRO

The exchange at Akrotiri is a major achievement but there still is work to be done in Cyprus. In the near future some of the team will be moving to Gibraltar to undertake some exchange expansions and system rationalisation. This will include work not accepted by a major contractor in the telecomms industry. The tasks done by the Team provide a depth of experience which is unique in the Corps. The skills required are at least equal to their civil counterparts. As **Lieutenant Colonel Donald Cooper,** head of CPA, has often maintained—when you are posted to CPA you fulfill the Army's claim . . . you join the professionals!

## *Gurkha Signals in the Solomon Islands*

**IN December last year ten members of 48 Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron accompanied 'D' Company 2/2 Goorkha Rifles on a jungle training exercise in the Solomon Islands. Second Lieutenant Tim Fletcher, who led the party, describes his experiences.**

### OUR HOME FOR OVER A MONTH

The Solomon Islands are an archipelago some three hundred miles long lying about one thousand miles North East of Townsville, Australia. They were the scene of bitter fighting during the latter years of the last war and the rusty remains of landing craft and crashed planes may still be seen there to this day. Guadalcanal, one of the seven main islands that form the archipelago; is about sixty miles long and thirty miles wide and covered in dense jungle. This was the home for a party of Gurkha Signallers for a month over last Christmas and New Year.

We had come to the Solomons with 'D' Company, 2 Battalion 2nd King Edward V Own Goorkha Rifles to take part in infantry jungle training. The party was led by myself, ably supported by **Sergeant Prembahadur Pun** and **Corporal Dambarbahadur Gurung.**

After nearly a day of flying we arrived at Henderson Airport, Honiara on Guadalcanal. Having passed through a minimal customs check we proceeded to King George VI School where we were to stay the night before moving into the jungle. At the school we spent a very uncomfortable night sleeping on the springs of the beds. It seems to be a Melanesian custom not to use mattresses.

### A MOVE INTO THE JUNGLE—AND A SLIGHT MISHAP

The following day we moved into the jungle. After an hour and a half travelling down a pot-holed, coconut-strewn road we reached our destination, a village at the end of the road. The villagers helped us carry our stores and aided us in transferring an area of bushes and eight foot high grass into a jungle camp. After a night settling in we started our training with encounter ambushes, patrols and the usual infantry skills.

One of these skills was river crossing which the platoon I was attached to had to demonstrate to the Governor of the Solomon Islands, when he visited us one afternoon. After rehearsing the harbouring drills once or twice beside the river we set-to on the real thing. This was easier said than done because we had no rope. Showing normal Gurkha resourcefulness we went to the jungle to cut vines which can be twisted to form a rope. Eventually all was prepared for the Governor and the first man was sent into the river to take the rope to the other side. Suddenly, there was a blood curdling scream and the unfortunate rifleman was swept down stream clutching some broken vines. In the ensuing chaos a corporal was dragged into the stream and a Gurkha Officer fell in as well. Finally, to show willing and for demonstration purposes we all waded across the river and then returned to camp for some hot tea and rum.

### A NIGHT OF FRIVOLITY

A few days later we organised a dance evening with the locals in their village. The evening commenced with a Gurkha 'natch' swiftly followed by a local war dance performed by the men of the village carrying spears and shields. This proved to be very exciting for each dance reached a crescendo with stamping on the ground. The noise was increased by that of nut shells tied round the dancers ankles. Eventually after about two hours of dancing we presented the villagers with the only commodity we had, namely rum and in return received bananas the size of which I have never seen before.

### A TENSE NIGHT

After this night of frivolity came further training. We started a company exercise with myself as enemy platoon commander. The men in the platoon were Gurkha Signallers and one or two experienced Infanteers from the Company. The first two days were rather dull in that we were providing patrols to be seen by the friendly forces. On day three, however, in one of my madder moments I said we would attack the company location. After evening 'bhat' we set off carrying just the essentials for the night, namely two bottles of rum and a ground sheet each. During a close recce one of the friendly patrols in the half light walked within eight inches of my head. I couldn't have been more frightened if they had been carrying real ammunition. After a night that can hardly be termed comfortable my attack went in with complete surprise and we withdrew without a casualty.

### FAREWELL TO CORAL AND WAVING PALMS

Several ambushes and a company attack later we were on our way back to Honiara where we were to stay before returning to Hong Kong. The air move started on the 11th January and after a few very pleasant days in Australia we all arrived safely at Kai Tak, telling stories of girls in grass skirts, coconuts in abundance and pine-apple breakfasts. To me it will always remain an experience of a lifetime when instead of just gloating over the travel brochures of the South Sea Islands, I was actually there to breath in the beauty of the coral islands and to see the palms waving in the gentle breeze.

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## *Exercise 'Cold Comfort II' — Norway 1974*

### A REPORT FROM 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE 'Cold Comfort' was such a success in 1973 that there was a lot of pressure to run a repeat in 1974 and this was duly arranged. The whole exercise depended on hitching a life on an ex 'Hardfall' aircraft with the AMF(L) troop of 30 Signal Regiment. After many postponements, cancellations and cancelling of cancellations, we finally flew to Norway on the 14th January.

The exercise contingent was twelve strong and a joint venture with six coming from the School of Signals and six from 10 Signal Regiment. Once again we stayed at the hostelry of **Rod Tuck,** an ex-RM Major, and were provided with most comfortable accommodation and excellent food.

Three of last year's party—**Captain** (now **Major**) **Dick Smith, Yeoman Andy Harkins** and **Corporal Stan Sudron** returned; the remainder of the party were newcomcers. Some, who had not experienced cross-country skiing before, were rudely awakened from their illusions that a skiing 'holiday' was in the offing when our instructor **Eric Dyball**—an Englishman—started putting us through our paces ending on the first day with a 6 km run. Once the 'holiday' euphoria had been dispelled the rate of improvement in skiing was marked and by the end we were all taken round a 22 km route. Everybody took British Ski Federation Tests in the final days and the following results were achieved:—Instructor 3rd Class—**Captain Dick Smith;** Silver skiers—**Yeoman Andy Harkins, Corporal Stan Sudron;** Bronze Skiers—**Staff Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell, Yeoman Harry Cooke, Corporal Ken Cerrone, Corporal John Hogg, Signalman Nigel Sloane, Signalman Dave McCombie, Signalman Tony Reynolds.** Try again: **Signalman Kevin Smith, Signalman Tony Levy.** To finish, I must put in a plug for the place where we stayed. It is set in the most beautiful mountain countryside at a height of 3,200 ft and in the winter provides perfect cross-country skiing with plenty of very well maintained tracks. In the summer it provides trekking, canoeing, orienteering, rock climbing and fishing. All this is provided at a daily full pension rate of about £3 per head in accommodation with all mod cons provided. If you are mounting an adventure training expedition summer or winter and can get to Norway there is no better place. The address is **ROD TUCK,** KVITAI VATN FJELLSTOGE, 3660 RJUKAN, NORWAY.

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

PART of the excitement of life in Londonderry is being asked to meet an infinite variety of communication requirements for an indefinite period anywhere in our parish at no notice: all this, of course, without appearing to turn a hair. The last few weeks have seen a number of tasks like this come our way.

### TWO INTERESTING COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENTS

The first was Operation Dromedary, in which a composite battalion under command of 1 RRF carried out a cordon and search of the border village of Clady, near Strabane. The troops involved were taken out of Londonderry itself for the operation and to enable them to use their UHF Pocketfones, the Squadron provided a pair of mobile UHF talkthrough stations on a small hill overlooking the village. These detachments moved in stealthily in the small hours of the morning so as to be set up by first light without giving away the purpose of the operation. This party was led by our Yeoman, **W.O.2 Jack Wraith** (who had successfully made a heart rending plea to be released from behind his desk to see some fun) with **Sergeant Liam Brown** (RPC) in charge of the protection element—as bloodthirsty a collection of Pioneers as one could ever wish to meet on a dark night. Communications were established at dawn without a hitch and the search went quickly and smoothly, producing a useful haul of arms and ammo. The detachments were able to return to barracks by lunchtime—faces still camouflaged—regretting only that the IRA had been wise enough not to test their defences.

We had not finished with Clady, and were soon involved with Operation Averse, in which certain border crossings in this same area were made impassable to wheeled traffic. The operation was rather longer—a week—and involved a squadron of Sappers, a battery of Gunners in the infantry role with two troops of armoured cars and two Puma helicopters. Our commitment was to provide radio and telephone communications for the ad hoc Force HQ and a large rebroadcast detachment.

Emboldened by the successful use of UHF radio on Operation Dromedary it was decided to set up a UHF talkthrough for the infantry element and interface this with a C42 so that the other elements of the Force with Larkspur radios could join this Force Command Net. Because we also wanted to locate a C42 No 3 rebroadcast station at the same place (to save guards) we were forced to choose a steep sided high feature named Knockavoe, just outside Strabane, which has no road access. In the event the

OPERATION AVERSE

A briefing at Force Headquarters by OC 'A' Troop. In the foreground are (*left to right*) Signalman Worsell, Signalman Tracey, Lance-Corporal Marshall, Lieutenant Noble

whole operation was delayed for a week. Official sources claimed that this had been a political decision, but we knew that it was so that the Brigade Commander could have the whole Squadron in barracks while he carried out his FFR inspection. The delay was fortunate in that it produced the first fine days of the year, and our rebroadcast detachment was flown in, in four Puma lifts, on a sunny windless day. Those who know Londonderry will know how infrequently these occur! During the fly-in, with **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Ken Davis** directing the Pumas, having practised his hand-signals in front of his mirror every night the previous week. The detachment commander in this case was **Sergeant John Turner.** Careful preparation on his part had meant that only one thing had been left behind—a portable TV set. Having been satisfied that there really was an operational requirement to monitor the output of the ITV station on the next hill, O.C. 'A' Troop **(Lieutenant Ian Noble)** drove out to the bottom of our hill to issue an armed escort party from the Knockavoe garrison with their 'telly'. Lest, however, our readers should get too much of an impression of an easy life, we should point out that Knockavoe, like most Irish hills, is really a sponge filled with water and thinly disguised with layers of peat and heather. Even on the top gum-boots were the order of the day, and weather conditions at times were rather unpleasant. The detachment

*(Continued on page 113)*

OPERATION AVERSE

"I am the Egg-man". Lieutenant Ian Noble resupplying his radio detachments. In the background is a rare study of Captain Mike Walker in a flak jacket!

were fortunate in finding one small dry patch of ground on which to set up trailers and tents.

Communications worked well throughout the operation; so well in fact that the resident Radio Tech, **Corporal Lew Jones,** felt in danger of being declared redundant and turned his hand to cooking. To everyone's surprise, he has even offered to exchange his soldering iron for a ladle on any future deployment.

### TWO STALWARTS LEAVE

During the last week, we have had to say good-bye to two of our stalwarts: **Sergeant Braithwaite,** our RAOC FATSO N.C.O., has had his Guardsman-like appearance rewarded by a posting to 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, and **Sergeant Mackin,** our Clerk Tech Sergeant, is off to Cyprus after a Staff Sergeants course. (We should add that **Sergeant Mackin,** having looked after our G1098 most diligently for two years, was careless enough to have his own bed stolen on his last night here!). In their place we welcome **Corporal Bartlett** and **Sergeant Jukes** respectively, and we wish them both similarly rewarding tours.

## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### BON VOYAGE FOR MAJOR BROMLEY

WERE it not for our policy of not mentioning arrivals and departures because of the large numbers involved, we should be able to tell you that **Major Mike Spence** has taken over command of the Squadron from **Major John Bromley.** In honour of the latter a farewell dinner was held for him by the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess. It was decided not to court-martial **Major Bromley** since the dinner took the form of a Ladies Guest Night, but instead a spectacular called 'Is this your Life?' was staged. This was masterminded, produced and introduced by **R.S.M. Denis 'Eammon' Connell** who managed to procure a unique collection of potentially embarrassing photographs from Major Bromley's past. These were mounted in a suitably inscribed album and the R.S.M. proceeded to delight the assembled company with pertinent and, in some instances, impertinent stories. To complete the spectacular we were treated to some enlightening memories from the midwife who delivered the bouncing baby **Bromley,** (ably portrayed by **Sergeant John Hamer),** a CO from the past, (**Sergeant Rick Thomas**—with gout!) a leading lady from **Major Bromley's** theatrical days, (**Staff Sergeant Wally Cutler**—practising, perhaps, for his imminent retirement), and the clergyman who married **Major** and **Mrs. Bromley** (**Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones**—whose assumed character was reminiscent of that of a clergyman well known in Ulster political circles!). At the end of the evening's entertainment the outgoing 'Skipper' was escorted to the Camp gates, steadfastly manning the bridge of the SS Comms. with **Sergeant Bob Lockwood** in the engine room and **R.S.M. Denis Connell** acting as pilot.

FINAL EXIT

Major John Bromley leaves camp in a slightly unorthodox manner after being dined out in his W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess

### COMMS TROOP

**Captain John MacLean** writes:

Every Troop has a character of its own, identified one might say, by the sum of its parts. As a newcomer I was immediately impressed with Comms Troop and its general attitude although my first interview was with **Signalman Charlie Flynn,** who has the most infectious good humour of anyone I've come across, genuinely requesting his discharge to become an undertaker! Did this schizophrenia extend further within the Troop? **Corporal Paul Walker** (Chess Secretary, Amateur radio) seemed a more steadying influence from the cypher office whereas next door in the Comcen there is volunteer **Signalman 'Mac' McArthur** unable to wait for his 2 weeks attachment to 3 Para and the Ardoyne. **Sergeant Bill House,** who takes on assignments which often lead him to these areas should be able to bend his ear with advice. The other day **Sergeant Bob Lockwood** (MT, power and driver training) wrested a steering wheel from **Signalman 'Budgie' Edge,** who at best can just see over a vehicle dashboard, and reversed the vehicle away from a flattened oil drum which just couldn't have been visible to the erstwhile driver. **Sergeant Lockwood** stepped out to cheers of the rest of MT who thought he was responsible for the accident. I've been asked to insert this so that the record is set straight. He needs some comfort in any case as he is lying in Musgrave Hospital with a broken jaw and cheek from a football injury. So certainly there's those that play hard, and for those that relax indulgently there's **Corporal Roger Key** and **Corporal Dave Marland** who run the Horseshoe Club especially well, in addition to **Corporal Brian Murkin** and more recently **Signalman McNaughton** who can turn on a highly professional disco set up at the drop of a hat. Add to this, for entertainment, a splendid comedian in the shape of **Lance-Corporal George Franklin** who would make a fortune in any Northern club, and the recent Country and Western evening couldn't fail. It must be mentioned that where support is required particularly on the stage, **Signalmen 'Jacko' Jackson, John Hughes, 'Budgie' Edge, Geordie Thompson** and **Geoff Armstrong** are all in on the act.

These are some of the Troop indispensibles who live a vigorous existence between shift work in static locations, night call-outs to Belfast and the inevitable 'garage' life during the day. All this is coordinated under the eye of **Staff Sergeant George**

**Hardman** who has included in his job everything from briefing the Press on captured weapons to organizing the building of SS Comms (such a splendid ship that we cannot bear to dismantle her). So perhaps it is a diverse troop, certainly with expertise right across the board, 74 strong at the last count, and I hope as rewarding as possible to work in given the restrictive conditions in which we live.

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### COMMCEN

During the last month the Commcen has been its usual busy, not to mention hectic self. As ever the movement of personalities in and out of Northern Ireland has been a major feature of Commcen life.

Having mentioned comings and goings we must say a sad farewell to the Traffic Officer **Captain Dennis Bees,** posted to the never ending corridors of power in the MOD (after a suitably warm send-off in the Squadron Club the 'Peake Inn'). Taking over the 'Hot-seat' fresh from a hectic globe-trotting life in 30th Signal Regiment is **Captain John Ankers** (no more globe-trotting for him—he's struck behind the fence like the rest of us now!).

But of course now that spring is with us the main feature of the departures is marriage. The most notable of these is that of **Lieutenant Terrie Howie** WRAC, who fell foul of the RAF Regiment at Aldergrove and has left us to marry **Flying Officer Jim Stewart,** and we wish them all the best for the future. **Lance-Corporal Bridget Dunnion** also 'retires' from Signals life (or at least is trying to) when she marries **Signalman 'Herby' Herbison;** and **Private Jo Birks** has also fallen for the love-bug when she marries **Signalman Jim Shiels** in a few days time. So we thank them all for all the hard work and effort they have put into their tours here and wish them a peaceful and happy life together.

We also say a fond farewell to **Lance-Corporal 'Sally Mac' McDougall** who is away (actually posted to the Commcen not the married quarters) to 27th Regiment in Hong Kong and hope that she enjoys life as much in the dank hot climate over there as much as she did in the cold damp climate over here.

However we do have arrivals in the Squadron as well. There is **Second-Lieutenant Katie Binks** WRAC who has taken over from **Lieutenant Howie,** and who is heard to swear faithfully daily to the Squadron OC **Major Blackwell** that she is not getting married. We also say hello to **Private Babs Lightfoot** and **Signalman John Connolly** and hope that they settle down to plenty of hard work and ejoy their stay as much as the situation allows.

The troop has represented the Squadron in quite a number of its many sporting activities including basketball, hockey, football and cross-country (details given below) to name but a few, making us the fittest tape-apes in Northern Ireland.

### LEGGOTT (S.S.M.) TOURS

The Squadron is renowned throughout the Province for its sporting activities, and has for the enjoyment of all concerned discovered a phenomenon called 'Leggott Tours'. This takes place every Monday at the crack of dawn (well 0700 hours) and is guaranteed to take away those Monday morning blues (privately some have been heard to say that they are the cause of all the Monday blues not the cure!).

The tour lasts a mere 30 minutes—if you are fit that is—in which time you can view the scenic beauty of Thiepval Barracks at your own leisure, as you run around it three times (and of course if it's light enough for you to see where you are going). If you come in the first ten places this automatically welcomes you to the joys of the Squadron Cross Country/Orienteering team, and even if you come in the last ten there's no escape from joining the team members in their early morning pastime.

### DEPARTURES

WRAC: **Private Deacon, Private Lansfield.**

Royal Signals: **Sergeant Page, Lance-Corporal Ward Lance-Corporal Snailham, Lance-Corporal Ross** and **Signalman Dillon.** We wish you all the best in the future.

### ARRIVALS

WRAC: **Corporal Conroy, Private Gillies** and **Private Lightfoot.**

Royal Signals: **Corporal Welch, Signalman Chamberlain, Signalman Peel, Signalman Connolly** and **Signalman Rider.**

## News from Regiments

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 32

### ELEPHANTS WALK

EARLIER this month **Captain Tim Mountford** decided it was time his 'Bravo' Troop elephants went for a walk and walk they did, to Soltau Training area. The rest of the Squadron turned out to feed and water them and to provide a real enemy. 'B' Troop actually dug slit trenches so they are one step ahead of us all in this respect.

### SAS SITE GUARD

1 Squadron provided the SAS Site Guard this month and we are pleased to report that the guard, under the command of **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Finch** excelled itself to such an extent that we have just received a most glowing report of its activites from the American site guard commander.

### EXERCISE 'CRUISER BLUE'

Not to be outdone 2 Squadron have also had a warming up exercise involving all the radio detachments. The value of this exercise was highlighted during the FFR when VHF communications were maintained throughout the exercise.

### 1 DIVISION HQ & SIGNAL REGIMENT 10—GOC 2

This was the score assessed by our GOC, **Major General J. W. Stanier, M.B.E.** at the end of our annual FFR in the field.

It was the first time for many years that the Regiment had been inspected in the field so a lot of careful and detailed preparation had been done by all members of the Regiment prior to the event.

The day dawned, bright and clear with the Regiment deployed at its various locations. The GOC arrived at 1000 hours after having flown over all the locations testing camouflage—he couldn't detect step up HQ from the air and was very impressed with the overall standard. From the moment of arrival of the GOC we were placed on our mettle until 1600 hours.

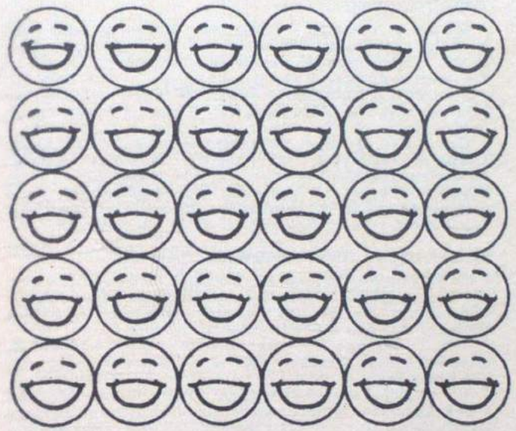
It is impossible to list all the activities which were covered but we changed command three times, crashed out two Headquarters, were subjected to NBC attacks, cookhouses were set on fire, Autoforty exchanges broken down, Commcens moved and were attacked by elms of 1 Green Jackets, casualties suffering from burns, broken bones, bullet wounds were evacuated or dealt with on the spot, rebroadcast stations were attacked and captured. This list is by no means complete so a score of 10–2 in favour of the Regiment was indeed an excellent result—and it was an away match!

### FURTHER LIAISON WITH OUR GERMAN ALLIES (FERMELDE BATAILLON 1)

On 15th February Officers and S.N.C.O.s of the Regiment visited the Fernmelde Bataillon 1st GE Division in Hannover.




# Smile, you lot!



# We're offering Travel Bargains for Forces

Here's something to smile about — low-cost passenger fares all year round for Continent-based Forces and dependants (and attached civilians and their dependants). We also offer special low rates for cars, caravans, trailers and motorcycles from 1 Jan. – 31 May and 1 Oct. – 31 Dec. 1974, inclusive. Our routes (listed below) are ideal for getting you and your family home for a short visit or extended leave. If you want to take your car, ask about our Minitour scheme which gives you up to five days away with your car going across *free*. For more details on these travel bargains for Forces and reservations and tickets, contact Townsend Thoresen Car Ferries, 4000 Düsseldorf, Graf-Adolf-Str.12. or your local travel agent.

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The programme consisted of a presentation of the Regiment's role including an excellent film made during a typical exercise, a tour of the vehicles showing all aspects of the technical layout. Last but not least an evening's entertainment in the respective messes. We look forward to further visits and exercises with our NATO partners.

## 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## Bulford

### EXERCISE SWAN LAKE 3

THE Regiment deployed on a beautiful Sunday morning at some unearthly hour that the writer cannot even remember. The Camberley and Aldershot training areas were our ultimate destinations.

Comcen Whisky deployed itself on an ancient burial ground. Main lost itself on Barrossa training area and Step up wandered around the WRAC Training College, supposedly communicating. Rumour has it the water bowser takes an hour and a half to fill.

One amusing event occurred to prove that life is not totally unbearable at a Divisional Headquarters. **Lance Corporal Vivian Joyce,** from 'Bravo' Troop was checking the cable from the message centre to the terminal vehicle. He was challenged by a highly efficient, but nameless, member of the Defence platoon.

"What are you doing?" he cried.

"I am looking for a message that was lost somewhere along this wire," ventured **Lance-Corporal Joyce.**

"Do you want to borrow my torch to find it?" suggested the ever helpful Pioneer.

It has been noted that Rear Headquarters were on the exercise and did move at least once.

We look forward to Exercise 'Flying Falcon' during March to stock up on our duty free.

### SKIING

In the sporting world the Regiment has been very active and met with mixed successes. The Regimental ski team under **Captain Mike Anderson** returned in February. Many loaded remarks were made about their coffee stained colouring and hippy like appearance.

The teams results in the Divisional Championships were excellent with the team coming 3rd in the 4 x 10 km relay race, 2nd in the 15 km race and 2nd in the Patrol race. As a result the Regiment came overall 2nd in the Divisional Championships with **Signalman Graeme Watts** as runner up individual and **Second Lieutenant Ian Fraser** won the runner up novice prize. **Signalman Tich Evans** and **Corporal Macgraw** were both novices and returned excellent times in all their races. In the BAOR/ARMY championships the team fared far better than last year and our times were well up with those of the other teams. We say goodbye to **Signalman Graeme Watts** on his posting to BAOR and wish him well in his new unit. **Second Lieutenant Ian Fraser** has been sent on a six week langlauf course to Norway and the remainder of the team are combing their 'Hobbitt boots' ready for action at the end of the year.

We would like to thank **Colonel John Russell** for all the financial and moral support that he gave us and also we extend our thanks to **Colonel Peter Davies,** his wife and **Tom Richardson** of 2nd Division Regiment for all the help and advice that they gave our team in Oberjoch.

### PARACHUTING

Whilst the skiers were enjoying the airs of BAOR a hardy band of men took to the air at the Parachute Centre Bridlington, under **Y. of S. Bill Richards.** They arrived at the centre amidst 50 mph winds and torrential rains—but they braved it all.

The basic students, **Corporal Colin Joseph, Signalmen Alex Scott, Graham Wilson, Stewart Forrest** and **Keith Glasby** were soon engrossed in Ground Training, the remainder, **Y. of S. Bill Richards** and **Corporal John Bailes** watched the weather with anxious eyes. At last the weather broke after five days had been spent parachute packing and checking—time usefully spent because **Corporal Bailes** earned his packing certificate—we got down to some serious jumping. **Y. of S. Richards** made six decents and the remainder managed 3 or 4 each before the high winds returned again. The remaining days were spent either relating past experiences or playing such games as Cardinal Puff. **Signalman Glasby** will never be the same again.

All look forward to getting future courses lined up.

### ORIENTEERING

We also have just had a Regimental Orienteering competition on 20th February. Some 90 members of the Regiment took part in this violently physical exercise—a record surely. There were the usual moans of:

"Honestly, it wasn't there when I got there, someone must have moved it," or "What fallen tree? There are dozens of them in the wood."

However on the whole the event was successful with **Lance Corporal Ivan Evans** winning the 'Perkins Memorial Trophy' for the best individual on course 'A', 2 Squadron 'Alpha' Troop Team 'A' winning the team event and **Sergeant Ken Rudd** (did anyone say again?) winning the 'B' course. (It can't have been too bad even the Adjutant turned up and enjoyed it.)

### SERGEANTS' MESS—FARWELL DINNER

On Friday, 8th February the Warrant Officers and Sergeants dined out **Major** and **Mrs. Norman Chesher,** who, as well as Commanding Headquarters Squadron, was the Supervising Officer of the Mess for the duration of his tour.

After Dinner and the usual farewell speeches, the **R.S.M.** presented **Major Chesher** with silver goblets on a suitably inscribed salver.

Also attending were the President, **Major (Retd.)** and **Mrs. J. T. L. Blackler** and three members and their ladies of the Royal Signals Association (Salisbury Branch). This to bring about a renewal of ties between the Regiment and the Association.

The evening was rounded off in the enjoyable if somewhat lively manner, which has become part of the 3rd Division Sergeants' Mess Social life.

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 15

DURING the last three months the Editor has repeatedly reminded us that contributors could help to alleviate the problems caused by the three day week by keeping their articles short. Looking back at our contributions during this period, they seem to have been of much greater than average length. Now that the three day week is over your correspondent finds himself scratching around for enough material to produce just one paragraph. Isn't that just life?

The month of February has sped by at an astonishing rate with the usual BAOR diet of Squadron and Regimental Exercises proper to this season of the year but with few, if any, events of great social or 'WIRE worthy' importance.

However, on the sporting side there are however some items of interest to record, not the least of which is the success of the Regimental squash team in winning the BAOR Final—beating the HQ BAOR Team 4–1 in the process. The team now go forward with high hopes to the Army Final in UK at the end of March.

The Regimental basketball team have also had considerable success but were unluckily beaten by 6 points in the semi-final of the BAOR competition having earlier defeated the eventual winners, 3 RTR 91 to 72.

**Sergeant Mick Stocks** our leading cross country runner now has some competition in the person of **Captain Bob Shields** (REME) a recent arrival in the Headquarters. **Stocks** won the Divisional Championship and was 8th and 23rd respectively in the BAOR and Army events. **Shields** won the 1st Division Championship (he was previously in 1st Division) and was 4th in the BAOR.

Cross country running's sister sport of orienteering has seen a resurgence of activity in the past few months, not perhaps unconnected with the new CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Westlake's** personal interest and participation. The regimental 'A'

*(Continued on page 117)*



*(Continued from page 116)*

team consisting of the CO, the Second-in-Command **Major Keith Powell,** the Specialist Messing Officer **Captain Mick Marshall** and the aforementioned **Captain Bob Shields,** showed how it was done in a recent 3 event competition, the Teotoburger Triathalon, by winning all three events from a field of some 30 teams.

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

EXERCISE 'Winter Sales', a visit by the Corps Commander, a demonstration in the field for the Staff College, a Quartermaster's Convention, many sports engagements, and regimental Exercises, other than that there really was not much to do in February!

### VISIT OF THE CORPS COMMANDER

We were honoured that **Lieutenant General Sir Jack Harman, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.** should decide to visit the Regiment so soon after assuming command of the 1st British Corps. Having been met on the morning of 21st February at the Autobahn Raststatte Herford by a motor cycle escort, he was led to Maresfield Barracks to inspect a quarter guard commanded by **Staff Sergeant D. Gray.** The guard put on an immaculate show which set the tone for the whole visit.

The Corps Commander chatting with Corporal Harry Bishop—one of the members of the smart motorcycle escort which led him into Barracks

The Corps Commander looked at the Page Trophy assault course competition, and a layout on the square of communications vehicles, before visiting the Sergeants' Mess and lunching in the Officers Mess. He spoke to many N.C.O.s and soldiers, and learned very directly from them what they thought about their lives in Germany and their lot in the Regiment. Few people were more surprised than **Signalman Webb** who was caught alone in the middle of Barnes bridge with no escape route.

The Commander said he was delighted with his visit.

### WIVES

We do not often mention our ladies in these notes on the Regiments activities, which is quite wrong. They are always involved, whether it be guarding the fireside while the menfolk enjoy themselves on exercise, or adding grace and colour to the numerous social events, or just being there to support when things have not gone quite right.

Apart from those generalisations, the Wives Club itself flourishes, and in particular, some wives have much fun as part of the Shooting Club. The following paragraphs were written by one of our expert shots.

### WIVES SHOOTING CLUB

Whilst quite innocently walking into our Mess to use the telephone, I was approached by **Second Lieutenant Chris Ryan,** to write an article on the Ladies 7th Signal Regiment Rifle Shooting Club. As I had just come from our weekly shooting session, the thought crossed my mind, that it wasn't words that were needed to describe the Thursday night happenings, but cartoons a la Thelwell!

Take tonight for an example, **Carol Budd** managed to get herself entangled with a Parker Howell rifle, a rifle strap and her watch on a chain. However **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham's** prompt action saved the situation, and **Carol** was back in business.

We are all very keen to learn the mysterious art of perfect shooting. A measure of our keenness can be seen in the fact, that any one turns up at all, as invariably someone forgets to turn on the heating at the shooting range. Any would-be observers might see a group of mummified persons arriving, clutching life-saving thermos flasks of hot tea or coffee.

Most of us now have the experience of a few months of trial and error behind us. Thanks to the endless patience, lots of good humour and personal knowledge of **Captain Tim Smith, Captain Bob Middleton, Corporal Ken Fisher** and **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham,** we are on the road to success, and a 'Bull's Eye' now and then really was skill rather than chance!

Many funny moments happen at every shooting match—too many to mention them all. However one springs to mind, when **Ken Fisher** was explaining to **June Whiteside** that all she had to do, was focus on her target, keep the rifle completely still, hold her breath and press the trigger. He got very worried when after a lengthy time he realized that she was still holding her breath and he had to reassure himself that she hadn't fainted, and then quickly ordered her to breathe again

It is always morally uplifting to welcome newcomers to the Rifle Club, as the difference of the shooting ability of the regulars and first timers quite definitely shows that practice makes the master.

We certainly enjoy ourselves at our weekly 'shoot-ins", and whilst waiting for our turn to shoot a card full of 'Bull's Eyes', we gossip and laugh our cares away.

### WIVES CLUB COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Four venerable amateur German cooks not able to speak English, facing one hundred British wives, unable to speak German was the potentially disastrous setting for the February Wives Club meeting. But, how well it went, with these expert amateurs from a Herford mens cookery club demonstrating in our regimental kitchens the secrets of Wiener Schnitzel, Red Cabbage and Cheese Cake. The German Press saw fit to print a postive friendly article concerning the meeting, including announcing that our regimental cooks will demonstrate Chinese cookery to the Herford club in May (British demonstrating Chinese to Germans—the mind b....es).

## 9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

### THE REGIMENT AT WORK

### F.F.R. INSPECTION

THE Regiment has had a large number of visitors in recent months most notable of which was the visit by the GOC NEARELF, **Major General H. D. G. Butler** on 30th January for the annual F.F.R. The Inspection took the form of an IS Exercise with 28 Junior Guardsmen from the Guards Depot acting as enemy and also included inspections of the dining hall, barrack accommodation, Harewood Club (NAAFI) and the Quartermaster's store. All the enemy were captured in 'no flush time flat' and the guardroom soon became overcrowded with the prisoners who were transferred to the squash court which proved to be ideal. The inspection of the rest of the camp went well and the result was an 'FFR day off'.

### AWARD OF LS & GC MEDALS—COMBINED SERVICES

What was probably a unique occasion took place during the recent visit of **Air Commodore F. C. Padfield,** Director of

Signals (Air) MOD when he, together with **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** kindly presented LS and GC medals to Navy, Army and Royal Air Force W.O.'s and S.N.C.O.'s who are serving in the Regiment.

### FAREWELL TO THE COMMANDER 3 SIGNAL GROUP

**Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group paid a farewell visit to the Regiment last month at the end of his tour in Cyprus. He inspected a Quarter Guard commanded by **Staff Sergeant R. Collins** and then visited just about every department in the Regiment saying his farewell. He concluded his tour of the Regiment by visiting the W.O. and Sergeants Mess and finally was dined out at the Officer Mess.

### TRAINING

Fifteen Warrant Officers from all the Royal Signals Units on the island were placed behind the iron studded doors of our Training Centre which is commanded by **Captain R. A. Couchman** assisted by **W.O.2 F. Pope,** for a three day course last month.

The aim was to practice and improve their weapon handling and to give the Warrant Officers some insight into the content of the Continuation Training Course run for their Royal Signals Junior Ranks by the Training Wing.

After a brief welcome by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** the course started with PFA tests; the stiffness lasted in most of the members for the duration of the course!

After a series of lectures which included information about current Royal Signals Training Policies the course did day and night firing on the 30 metre range. Later the W.O.'s found difficulty drinking water and eating compo biscuits wearing NBC suits in an atmosphere of CS gas! !

The course concluded with a forum chaired by the Commander 3 Signal Group **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** on the role Warrant officers play in Man-Management and the problems of internal recruiting. The course was considered well worthwhile by all those who were involved in it!

### REGIMENTAL CATERING SUCCESSES

The Army Catering Corps personnel of 9th Signal Regiment proved extremely successful in the ACC Cookery Competition held in the George Club Dhekelia.

The team, captained by **Corporal P. Hammett** and consisting of **Lance-Corporal R. Metcalfe** and **Pte. M. Chapman,** won the All Units Team Competition and were awarded a total of five trophies.

**Sergeant R. Bettsworth** once again demonstrated his confectionary skills by winning the Decorated Gateau Class. Although handicapped by a broken arm, **Lance-Corporal Pellow** was awarded both First and Second Place in the Cold Sweet Class.

ARMY CATERING CORPS PERSONNEL OF 9th REGIMENT SCORE RESOUNDING SUCCESS IN CYPRUS COOKERY COMPETITION

*Left to right:* Lance-Corporal Pellow, Lance-Corporal Metcalfe, Private Chapman, Sergeant Bettsworth, Lance-Corporal Cardill, Corporal Hammett

**Lance-Corporal Fisher,** a new arrival to IX, won the First Prize for Decorated Fish and the Second Prize for Cold Poultry. **Lance-Corporal S. Cardill** was just pipped at the post in the Decorated Gammon Class by **Sergeant R. Taylor** (ex-IX) and so took second place.

Overall, the Regiment's Catering Department collected eleven trophies from a total of thirty-eight!

## THE REGIMENT AT PLAY

### SOCCER

The Regimental team recently scored a notable victory over the 1st Battalion 1 Royal Anglian Regiment by 2 goals to nil (although their side contained nine Army (Cyprus) players). Both 1 and 2 Squadrons have had considerable success in the ESBA league games, 2 Squadron is in the semi-finals of the soccer knockout competition.

### RUGBY

The Inter-Services Rugby Match was held in February and in spite of the rigorous training programme held for the team in the Regiment, the outcome was an 18–4 defeat. **Staff Sergeant Collins, Corporal Walker** and **Corporal Kirk** from the Regiment were in the Army team and **Kirk** scored the only Army try.

### BASKETBALL

The Regimental Club has an extremely creditable record in both the major and minor unit competitions losing only 4 of the 56 games played. The following have been selected to represent the Army (Cyprus) team in the Inter-Services match. **S.S.I. Bass, W.O.2 Maunder, Sergeant Braddon, Corporal Cooke, Signalman Smith (109).**

## EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES

### FREE FALLING

Yeomen who are heading for a fall normally take evasive action, but **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. W. Badger,** by taking a free-fall parachuting course did just the opposite. Since he was the second volunteer in a short space of time, doubtless the new OC, **Captain (Tfc) J. V. Culbert,** felt that the departure of his predecessor **Major (Tfc) W. H. Lockie,** was having an adverse effect on the troop. This feeling must have been further re-inforced when **Signalman McMahon** on his first descent had to rely on his reserve chute because his main one refused to open.

## *Camera Report from 10th Regiment*

JIMMY AND FRIENDS

The Regimental CPO, Jimmy Orr (*second from right*) is joined by (*from left to right*) Bob Hanton, Bob Bray, Lou Carter, Major Frank Natolie and Major 'Mac' McQuade for a pre-retirment drink

ALL SMILES HERE

The 'lucky 13' of Radio Troop waiting to drink to victory after winning the Inter-Troop Sports competition

GOLD COMSTAR FOR MILL HILL

The Mill Hill Commcen achieved its hat trick of Gold Comstar Awards when the third in a row was presented by the Chief of Staff, London District, Brigadier M. J. P. O'Cock, M.C., A.D.C. to the Supervisor Mrs. Netta Lait on 20th February. The achievement is particularly noteworthy, since Mrs. Lait has herself trained operators 'on the job' from the ranks of the WRAC and Sappers who work in Mill Hill. The standard of training is obviously high! The photo shows Mrs. Netta Lait with her direct boss, Lieutenant Peter Fearless, R.N. Liaison Officer at Mill Hill, and Major Dick Smith, OC 2 Squadron

## *Calling Old Friends*

**Mr. J. W. Dobell** of 4 Kershaws Hill, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, would like to trace **Sergeant 'Rusty' Hill** or any other members of General Spear's mission to General De Gaulle in Africa during World War II. Also news of any members of No. 2 Ships Signal Section, H.M.S. Largs, Combined Operations Command.

Man at the top

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Students on 11th Regiment's First Leadership Course

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### ROYAL SIGNALS LEADERSHIP COURSES

THE first Royal Signal Leadership Course assembled at 11th Regiment on the 1st of February and will disperse on the 15th of March. The plan is to run about seven 5 week courses a year.

The aim of the course is to develop a soldiers inherent qualities so as to enhance his potential as a leader. Students from the course may be drawn from soldiers of any rank or trade who are recommended by their Commanding Officer as having the potential for quick advancement to Senior NCO or to a supervisory roll, with Warrant or Commissioned rank. All soldiers on a S-Type engagement also attend the course.

On the first course there were four S.N.C.O.s, two Corporals, two Lance-Corporals, two Signalmen, and five Privates from the Depot, The King's Division.

The five week course starts with a Battle PE intake test. Formal leadership and management is taught early on the course and this is then put into practice by all students in varied command appointments throughout the course. The monkey gland in everyone is put to the test on interesting exercises spent hanging in trees and standing on 'tarzan' platforms, while the intellectual qualities are put to the test in essays and formal military writing of every kind. Much time is spent preparing for and taking part in discussion groups and presentations, while the more military aspects are concentrated in appreciations, planning, and orders for raids on Service installation in Northern England. General military knowledge is improved throughout the course so that the raids and final battle camp are seen in their proper perspective rather than some ingenious way for the directing staff to break the moral of the students. If anything the students have the upper hand at times!

For the next edition we hope to bring you some interesting snapshots of life on the course, with an 'Ode to the Leader' being composed by our lead guitarist.

The photo above shows the course about to depart on the standard but arduous Battle Physical Efficiency Test. A mention of all names would fill our pages and it is hoped to please everyone next time. The overworked DS staff are **Captain James Budd** and **Lieutenant Carl Conlon** who both hope to be able to appear in the next course photo.

### ORIENTEERING—1974

Orienteering continues to flourish. Although **Captain Cathy Birtwistle,** WRAC and **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones,** both active members, have been posted, we have managed to recruit two recent arrivals, **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** and **Lieutenant Ewen Cameron.**

This year the Orienteering team has set its sights on the North Area Championships. An intensive training programme was undertaken, with the team taking part in civilian events held at Hampsterly Forest and Warncliffe. **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** ran particularly well at Warncliffe finishing 1st in M21B class. Meanwhile our man in Scotland, **Lieutenant Robin Hill** turned out for the Scottish Midlands Championship, In spite of stiff opposition and a generous covering of snow on the ground he ran well.

On Sunday 10th March the team rose early to travel to Delamere Forest near Chester to take part in the Northern Area Championships. The team consisted of **Major Patrick Templeman-Evans. Lieutenant Dick Hoyle, Lieutenant Robin Hill, Lieutenant Ewan Cameron** and **Lieutenant Dick Gittings.** With five runners and the best 3 to count it was a very close thing when **Lieutenant Robin Hill** and **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** produced some very good times only to be disqualified because it was discovered that they had finished on the women's course! Fortunately, the remaining three members earned good results which carried the day. The Regiment won the North Area Minor Units Championships for the third year in succession. The team is now set on winning the Army Championships again this year.


### *Caretaker Required*

Messrs. Higgs and Hill require a resident caretaker for their Thames Ditton Estate. Salary £13·30 per week plus a two-bedroomed detached cottage, rent and rates free. Applicants should phone **Mr. B. Fairhall** (reverse charges paid) on 01-398 7242 for an appointment.




## 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

WITH Christmas, New Year and the change over of Commanding Officers now well and truly behind us our thoughts rapidly return to earth. FFR was very close! Preparations went into full swing for the final phase. The inspection officer on the day was our own CSO **Major General H. E. Roper.**

Overall we reckon we did very well and are awaiting the report to prove it.

Thank you XXIst for providing us with a few posers during the inspection.

CSO's FFR INSPECTION

Signalman Bowen tests Lance-Corporal Atkinson, RPC, for 'You know what'—Instructor Sergeant Williams. Major-General Roper observes as inspecting officer

### ANGLO-GERMAN

Our Anglo-German specialist **Captain Mike Dawkins** appeared with those tickets again. The last over the wire were caught, paid the penalty and after the event proclaimed how lucky they were to get the chance to attend The Spring Ball (carnival dress) at The Berg Wassenberg.

The 25th January was a day of special significance to the Village of Rosenthal, just a few steps from Mercury Barracks, **Frau Johanna Schloesser** celebrated her 100th birthday. **Captain Mike Dawkins** and **Mrs. Erna Dawkins** presented **Frau Johanna** with flowers and a congratulatory address on behalf of All Ranks 13th Signal Regiment. It would appear that **Frau Johanna** still has a very healthy appetite and loves chocolates—we are ready for year 101.

### CLUB 72

Club 72, the Regiment's Youth Club was formed in the summer of 1972 under the guidance of **Major C. F. Lewis** with the full support of the Commanding Officer. The Youth Leader at that time was **Staff Sergeant** (now **W.O.2**) **'Finn' Finnegan** and it was Finn who set the club out along its present lines and devoting most of his free time to making it a going proposition. He obtained the present club premises with the necessary strong support of the Second-in-Command and financial assistance from the Area Youth Organisation to finance works services to make the club room attractive and what it is today. During the summer of 73 **W.O.2 'Taff' Tahany** became the Youth Leader and, with the enthusiastic but amateur assistance of the members of the club embarked on a programme of redecoration. The result is a club setting of which the members can be proud.

The club is encouraged to participate in all Regimental activities and in fact almost won the Regimental "Its a Knockout" last May. In October 73 a number of the senior members were given a weekend at the Regiment's summer camp and the camp instructors took them through some of the more gruelling activities of the camp. Like early morning PT and over the assault course. The weekend was an unqualified success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Winter activities are catered for by the club being equipped with table tennis, darts, board games and a stereo record player on which many weird noises are produced.

Although run by a committee formed from the members of the club whose ages range from 15 to 19 years their actions are guided by the current Youth Leader, **Mr. Brian Collier.** The present committee consists of **Keith Forrest, Dave Smith, Ian Riley, Glen Riley, Peter Hearsfield, Karen Deveau** and **Ann Webb.**

### VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball has caught the interest of the lads since its introduction in 1970 and we now have a regular league and cup competitions within the Regiment. The season 73/74 started off quite well, however due to the Gymn being out of action for reasons ranging from renovations to Christmas shows, we have only just managed to complete the league. The winners this year were 'D' Troop, 1 Squadron, who went the entire season undefeated in a league match. The runners up were 'L' Troop, 2 Squadron. The 'L' Troop defeated 'D' Troop in the final of the cup so honours are now even and both teams are looking forward to their next clash.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

February burst upon the Senior's Scene with the 'Dining in' of **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. J. N. Taylor.**

After an excellent meal the evening developed into a test of stamina between the bounding musicians of Irish Rangers and the gyrating members, guests and ladies. A repeat performance is promised but only after a period of intense training.

The Mess also said a goodbye this month, with the presentation of a 400 day clock to **R.Q.M.S. 'Geordie' Watson,** leaving us for his 'last six months in UK'. **Geordie** left protesting that he only went into the recruiting office because it was raining.

Our record in Mess football is much improved this season at the time of writing we are second in the Rhine Area Sergeants' Mess Sunday league. This has been a worrying season for our team selectors, **W.O.1 Tom Cooper, Sergeant Frank Connor** and **Sergeant Ron Clay** when, during one period, six of the Mess team were also selected for the Regimental XI.


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## 16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

### NEWS IN GENERAL

IT is the time of year again when the weather is cold, snow is falling, there are fourteen day exercises every week and all good sportsmen think, "Now is the time to go skiing". Even the junior subaltern has managed it so it can't be that bad!

Talking of moves there have been a few in the Regiment recently 3 Squadron have lost **Captain John Stroud** who has been demoted to MTO and **S.S.M. 'Barney' Barnett** who has been promoted to R.Q.M.S. (General)! In their places the Squadron would like to welcome **Captain Pat Mac Culloch** (fresh from the Gulf and fully declimatised by short stays at Winterbourne Gunner and Sunny Blandford!) and **S.S.M. Brian Connor** (from the Training Wing) who is to be congratulated on his promotion.

1 Squadron have also been on the losing side having lost 21–0 at inter troop football and **Major Frank Smith** to MOD! Their football has not improved but they have managed to find another OC and welcome **Major Jimmy Golding.** Seriously though, we would like to wish **Major Frank** and **Mrs. Sue Smith** the best of luck for the future. Congratulations are also in order to **Captain Jane Freebairn** on her promotion and though we are sorry that she has moved to Rheindahlen she is still under our wing. **Jane's** place has been taken by **Second Lieutenant Christina Buchanan** who has certainly been kept busy in the short time she has been here.

Finally we must congratulate **Lance-Corporal John Bairstow** for his foresight in inviting the Commanding Officer to his forthcoming wedding to **Private Andrea Mills** WRAC. The following morning he received a posting order to Hong Kong. It pays to have friends in high places!

On 15th February **Brigadier H. M. Sinnatt,** Commander Royal Armoured Corps, 1 BR Corps and Commander Lippe Garrison, presented members of the Sennelager Commcen with a Bronze Comstar Award for the period September to December 1973. The award was received by **Corporal Paul Lockie** on behalf of the members of the Commcen. The name **Lockie** is well known to the Corps as **Paul's** brother, **Stuart** is serving with the Regiment in Krefeld and his father, **Major William Lockie,** is serving elsewhere in BAOR.

COMSTAR AWARD

*Left to right:* Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Hackworth, Commanding Officer, Corporal P. W. Lockie, Major R. E. Barber, OC 4 Squadron, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) W. D. Dyke

### PERMANENT NETWORK CONTROL

The hub of the BAOR permanent communications network is The Tape Relay Centre at Krefeld. The Nework Controller is the Second-in-Command 16th Regiment, **Major Trevor Grice.** Working under him is a small team who attempt to foresee and satisfy the long term engineering and traffic requirements of the Network.

Appropriately the team members are known as Deputy Network Controllers (DNC). **Major Albert Mercer** heads the engineering side and **W.O.1 Dave Wootten** deals with the Network traffic problems. A third member of the team who labours under the title of Inspector of the Permanent Network is **W.O.1 Jim Phillips.**

This group also conveniently forms the basis of CP 16 when the Regiment deploys in the field, and its allegience is then transferred to the Operations Officer **Major Derek Copeland.**

The work undertaken by Network Control is varied but basically consists of putting into practice projects originated many years past or initiating new ones.

Current traffic problems include how to win more 'COMSTAR' awards, rationalisation of Network operating procedures and instructions including investigating changes which will become necessary with the introduction into service of the RAF computerized TARE system.

On the engineering side the problems include the construction of a new TRC for the TAVR, modernizing existing communication centres in the Network and all matters concerning Radiation security.

All equipments in use on the Network are obtained through SWS channels. The Regiment's own SWS interests are looked after by **Corporal Mike Kilvington** who, when not playing football, cricket or engaged in small bore shooting, all of which he does at Regimental level, manages an efficient SWS store. In a department with so few 'Indians' we must acknowledge the assistance we receive from other members of the Regiment who provide the means to carry out most of our projects and to keep our rather ancient military telephone system ticking over.


# OPERATORS

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"Three Tees made me feel at ease right from the start. They gave me free tuition and a lot of help with commercial aspects of the trade. After arranging several interviews for me (all of them good positions) I have now started a new career in Telex, with an American Bank (good salary, interesting work, security and easy hours). So for anybody leaving the forces with experience in Teleprinters or Telex my advice to them is why not give Three Tees a try too?"

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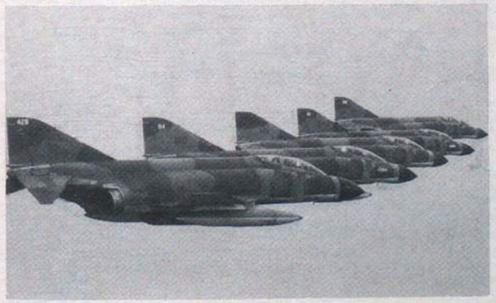
**20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)**

DOWN HEARTED? NEVER!

Though obviously disappointed at not pulling off a hat trick by winning the Army Cross Country Championships for the third year running 21st Signal Regiment's team (who came second) show their high spirits and morale in this action photograph after the event. Let us hope that they will once again be up at the front next year to regain 'their' cup *(see page 131)*

## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

### AIRCRAFT WHICH WE SUPPORT—THE PHANTOM!



Phantoms in flight

SERGEANT **Roy Strawn** of 'H' Troop at RAF BRUGGEN writes:

"Last, but not least, of the aircraft supported by the Regiment is the McDonnell Phantom FGR2—quiet by name, but not by nature. To we ground-based personnel its two Rolls Royce spey turbo fans seem to expend a significant percentage of their combined re-heat thrust of 41,030 lbs in shaking windows, door and eardrums, but there is sufficient left over to give the aircraft a Mach 2 capability, viz 1,500 mph at sea level.

The Phantom is a two seater strike/attack aircraft whose advanced radar, combined with an inertial navigation and attack system, enable it to use its devastating weapons effectively by day or night, regardless of weather. These weapons include 1,000 lb bombs, rockets, air to air missiles and a gun pod which can fire 20mm ammunition at the rate of 100 rounds per second."

### A 'JIMMY CLUB' FOR 'H' TROOP

**Lance-Corporal Pete Hughes** writes:

"After much pressure from the fairer sex (wives), the troop decided that a club should be built to enable us to have more 'get togethers', and so enhance out of work friendships. It started modestly with the 'sticky bun bar' (run by the wives) providing most of the funds. Eventually we made a 'drinks bar', but this did not provide sufficient space for the essential users requirement of 3 pints per minute. So, the bar was enlarged, and after 3 or 4 'dry starts' the club was opened with a big splash (beer, spirits and our ever faithful home made punch) by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel de Bretton-Gordon,** who showed amazing ability at pulling pints."

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel de Bretton-Gordon, opens a new 'Jimmy Club' for H Troop at RAF Bruggen

***Corps Promotion Rosters—"Bluebooks"***

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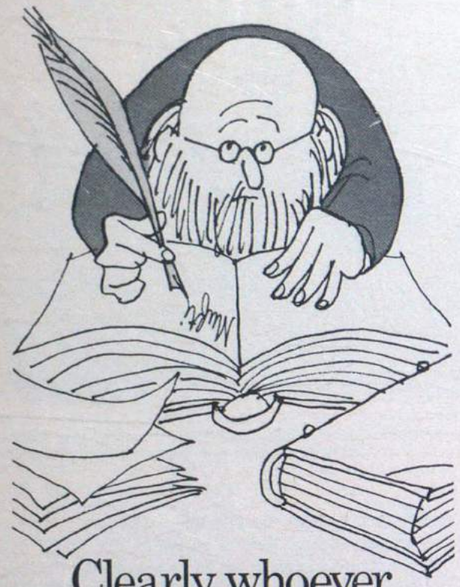

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## 27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

### ORIENTEERING WINNERS

2 Squadron (or Lion Rock Squadron as past members would better remember it) has once again proved that climbing the well known Hong Kong landmark every morning, has proved worthwhile. The Squadron successfully defended their title as 51 Infantry Brigade Orienteering Champions against strong opposition, and over particularly hard country. This is the second successive year that the team has taken the title. Not to be outdone by the youngsters, the 'elderly' members entered a team in the veterans event and finished second to HQLF. The suggestion that the orienteering team should enter the infamous "Khud Race" was met with an ominous silence. It is hoped that with the posting of the instigator of Lion Rock runs, **Major Norman Muir,** orienteering will not lose momentum and the Squadron will make it a hat trick next year.

ORIENTEERING—WINNERS
*Standing (left to right):* Corporals Mawhinney, Vince, Cubban
*Seated (left to right):* Signalman Hui Shu Lun, Captain D. G. Halliburton, Corporal Chan Kwai Piu

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

Anybody who has had any connection with Hong Kong, will know that there exists a thriving community relations scheme. Apart from monthly visits to outlying villages, 2 Squadron also organises weekend training sessions for Ho Lap College students working for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. At the time of writing **Captain Peter Metcalfe,** ably assisted by **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Chin Ten Loy,** and other 2 Squadron and WRAC members are organizing a three day expedition for over 50 of the students.

### DEPATURES AND ARRIVALS

**Major Norman Muir** will be departing later in March. We wish him luck in Northern Ireland and welcome **Major Ian Hamilton** from 1 (BR) Corps. OC 1 Squadron, **Major Denis Watson** has departed for Catterick and we welcome **Major Jim McKail.** Also leaving in the very near future is **Captain Peter Metcalfe,** his replacement will be **Captain Harry Wright. Mr. Chan Tong,** the LEP Technical Supervisor, retired on 28th February, after 42 years service to the Army. We wish him well in his retirement.

### VISITS

**Colonel F. Ramsbottom,** OIC Manning and Record Office, visited this month and had the doubtful privilege of giving his career presentation three times in four days. All our technicians are now reassured that they will be Fs. of S.!



## 30 Sig Regt
**BLANDFORD CAMP**

### EXERCISE SNOWBALL

ONCE again the Regiment is in the throes of its annual winter Adventurous training-exercise 'Snowball' in Aviemore. From reports that we have been receiving back from **Lieutenant Jill Mackay** the slopes are reasonably well covered though not too fast, which is probably a good thing for many of our beginners. This exercise provides a very good grounding in the art of skiing and as such provides a useful adjunct to hardfall training for those in 3 Squadron who are lucky enough to get to both and for those in 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron who in certain circumstances have to support AMF(L) on the Northern Flank.

### OFFICER TRAINING WITH THE DORSET AND BOURNEMOUTH CONSTABULARY

A very informative and interesting communications presentation was given to us at Bournemouth by senior Police Officers. Although their task is very different from the Army the type of organizational technical and manpower problems they encounter are very similar to ours and members of our party came back with some very useful new information at their fingertips.

### RUMOURS DENIED

It is untrue that **Majors Chris Glydon** and **Ron Clayton** are writing a specification for a computer which will replace their key tradesmen shortages. The Quartermaster **Major Bill Jackson** says that he wouldn't be able to fit it with a uniform as it would put him over the top on wastage rates.

### 30th REGIMENT WIVES CLUB

Our hard core of 'interested' wives were entertained, on the evening of 5th March, to a film and slide lecture on Denmark by **Mr. Christransen.** I think that they were secretly hoping to find out what their husbands do get up to in Denmark on AMF(L) Exercises—better luck next time!

### 1 SQUADRON NOTES

'Snowball' training has been covered elsewhere in these notes, so we limit ourselves to a short description of the attachment to the Regiment by 9 Gurkha Signallers from the rear link troop of 10 GR. Lead by **Sergeant Khim Bahadur Gurung** they all took a keen interest in the C42 and C41 exercises which they carried out with the Squadron, travelling as far afield as Honiton. During their attachment we also managed to get through an interesting social programme with them including visits to Bournemouth, Dorchester, Bovington, Salisbury and of course the Corps Museum which is right on our doorstep. **Sergeant Khim Badadur Gurung's** final remark on behalf of his men was "HAMILE SAKAT RAMRO BELA YAHAN BASDAK-HERI BANAE KO CHHA". I am told that that means, "We have had a very good time here"—and so say all of us.

### EXERCISE HARDFALL 74—A REPORT FROM 3 SQUADRON

In January Force Radio Troop participated in Exercise 'Hardfall 74'. The annual winter warfare training period for the UK contingent to the Ace Mobile Force. The exercise took place near Voss in Western Norway, where weather conditions can vary fron very cold and dry (—20°C) to a wet and slushy (0°C).

Prior to the departure for Norway, the Troop ran a four week dry shod training period at Blandford, consisting of lectures, demonstrations, films, physical training and a Volvo snowcat familiarisation course. The Troop were fully prepared to face the hazards of Winter warfare, by the time Christmas came round. (Sic!)

The Troop deployed on 10th January by RAF and civil ferry and finally arrived at Mjolfjell Camp near Voss. On the 16th January the training began in earnest when we deployed into the mountains for a 6-day period under canvas practising survival, the construction of snowholes, snowcaves and igloos and mobility; consisting of ski and snow shoes training and Volvo snowcat driving.

We were all very happy to see **Lieutenant-Colonel Jarrett,** who during his visit spent two days up the mountain with us and was also seen on skis. Rumour now has it that he is re-writing the SOP for 'rising after a fall.' We must also mention **Corporal Rick Slade** and **Signalman Jock Wallace** for their apparent coolness whilst skiing towards a Ravine.

Although the training was intense and physically demanding, it was very enjoyable and such subsidiary subjects as ski training and skijoring (towing up to 12 skiers behind the snowcat) kept moral high throughout. All the training instruction was accomplished by **Captain David Gardiner, Lieutenants Vaughan Smedley** and **Mike Telfer** and **Corporal Dave Kemp** with the assistance of two Norwegian Officers, a **Lieutenant Arne Junker** and **Second-Lieutenant Kjell Selnes. Arne Junker** an old friend from previous 'Hardfalls' had arranged a release from his new staff appointment specially to be with us. We were delighted to see him again.

### NORWEGIAN SENSE OF HUMOUR

The following connoisseur item was noted at approximately 1130Z on 27th January.

Norwegian Instructor, "Turn left! . . . TURN LEFT! ! . . . TURN LEFT ! ! !"

Student: (Crashes in unbelievable tangle of skis etc.).

Norwegian Instructor, (Sadly), "That—was not necessary".

### FAREWELL

This month we say goodbye to our TOT, **Captain John Milton,** who having served the Corps for almost 25 years is retiring to Darlington. We will miss **John** and **Brenda** but nevertheless wish them all the best in their future life.

## News from Squadrons

## 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 37

AFTER a short hibernation the Jerboa Rat has broken his winter sleep to pen the following notes.

### COMMANDER'S HANDOVER

Last November **Brigadier I. H. Baker** handed over command of the Brigade after two successful years of putting the 'Desert Rat' on the map of Germany, we well as seats, walls, signs, landrovers and panzers.

Best wishes to him and **Mrs. Baker.** We would like also to welcome **Brigadier M. B. Farndale** as our new Commander.

### TWO FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that we also report the passing of our Squadron OC, **Major John Alexander,** who goes on promotion to sail a desk at MOD. Congratulations and good luck for the future.

**Lieutenant Dick Gittings** finally left 'Bravo' troop at the end of January, bound for 11 Signal Regiment. Best wishes go to both him and his dog 'Chesney', so much a double feature of Soltau night-life.

### EXERCISE 'BELLENDE MEUTE'

Towards the end of November the Squadron was persuaded to take part in a German FTX. Unfortunately the exercise coincided with the first onslaught of winter: a generous powdering of snow and temperatures at night dropping to —18°C. Every heating appliance available was brought into use and still the bulkheads inside the APCs froze.

Despite the cold, spirits were high (especially with **R.S.M. Rogers** dishing out the 'Rum Issue') and our liaison with the German Brigade was a success.

### EXERCISE 'CAVALRY PATROL'

To turn selected areas of Hohne Camp into Londonderry took about a week of hard sandbagging and barbed wiring.

For 36 hours the Brigade Headquarters became 'HQ 8 INF BDE' to provide a control for the Queen's Dragoon Guards who were training for a forthcoming Northern Ireland tour.

Apart from 'control', elements of the Squadron were called upon to perform a variety of acclimatisation tasks:—**Corporal Game** and **Signalman 'Black' McIntyre** patrolled as members of the RUC complete with uniforms, while **Captain James Sweetman** and members of 'A' Troop helped out as part of a rioting crowd.

PREPARING FOR ULSTER

Members of 'Alpha' Troop and soldiers of the Royal Green Jackets make an impressive mob

### RAT SKI

The 1 Division Ski Meet was held this year at Axams, Austria. At the 11th hour **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** was 'asked' to enter a team to compete in both downhill and cross country events. In early January, the team moved briefly to the Brigade ski hut near Sondhopen, Bavaria, before heading for Axams to join the rest of the competitors. The 'Downhillers' led by **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** were **'Taff' Winter, Signalman Paul Ellis, Tommy Fallon, Bob Pepper** and **'Wurz' Worsell,** while the cross country team was **Lieutenant Howard Ham, Lance-Corporal Steve Walker and Signalman Godfrey Burris.**

All events were entered on both sides of the competition and whilst winning no honours, personnel bests were recorded by the majority of the team.

## 223 Sig Sqn, Winchester

THE Squadron surged into the New Year with a stronger sense of unity than that which normally exists in a split camp. To what did we owe this new source of brotherhood and sisterhood, let us not forget the WRAC element. Was it sudden co-operation at work . . . hardly, was it the growing number of sporting successes . . . no. Well was it the darts team again . . . no. It was none other than the first class celebrations that were organised throughout the Squadron for a festive period. A period during which time sworn enemies became bosom buddies. Shift worker drank with day worker, officers swilled with juniors, and everyone earbashed his seniors, and the 'Old Man' join in and earbashed back. The WRAC girls let their hair down and became household names overnight. Mind you they never did get round to 'Go Go' dancing on a glass stage as was threatened, and **Auntie Vee (Corporal Vera Hemsley)** never did get around to telling us the one about the famed 'cucumber machine'! ! Yes you could say, "Out of the morass came forth solidarity".

### SPORT

The Squadron, though small, has become a pretty formidable foe in most sporting arenas. Badminton under the leadership of **Captain John Finch** and the coaching abilities of **S.S.M. Jim Sinnett** has done exceedingly well. Known as the 'Bushfield Badminteers', the 'A' team came halfway up the Winchester and District Badminton League last season, and are sitting squarely at the top of Division 4 in an unbeatable position with games in hand at this moment of writing. The 'B' team in Division 5 are currently second, and also have games in hand. Well done Badminteers.

### SHOOTING

The vast array of trophies (pictured) are what the shooting team won last year under the ebulient leadership of **Captain Geoffrey (Hambone) Hudson.** Though he has now left us and the original team has broken up, we are assured that the present team are pretty lethal, and convinced they can win the same trophies as last year, plus the odd one or two that got away. Well perhaps we will know soon enough, watch this space after the shooting season ends this summer.

Shooting trophies won by 223 Squadron

### GOODBYE

Farewells are often sad, but when published in THE WIRE notes tend to become rather boring and make dispassionate reading. However, 223 Signals feel that an exception must be made for the recent posting of **Captain (Uncle George) Hayes.** George could be called the soldier's soldier. His departure is regretted by all ranks down to the last man. The mammoth task of filling his shoes is being undertaken by **Lieutenant Kenneth Sloane** whom we cordially welcome to our ranks. We also say a fond farewell to that man of all seasons, **W.O.2 Pat Mahoney**—a football, fishing, and drinking exponent, who will always be remembered for his enthusiasm and total commitment for anything he undertakes.

### HALLO AGAIN

Members of the Squadron (past and present) will be delighted to hear that **Captain (Uncle George) Hayes** has been accepted, as a Retired Officer, to the post of Administrative Officer, 224 Signal Squadron (Radio). Glad to have you back Uncle George.

### FINALLY

The latest civilian to join the unit security staff is 72 year old, ex-Life Guardsman young **Johnny Maxwell,** who has been writing poetry for years. The following poem was written by him, and we think it could apply to many a would-be big noise.

THE INDISPENSABLE MAN

Sometimes when you are feeling important,
Sometimes when your ego's in bloom,
Sometimes when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometimes when you think that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how they humble your soul.

Take a bucket, and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to your wrist,
Pull it out, and the hole that remains
Is the measure of how much you'll be missed.

You can splash all you like when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore
But stop! and in no time at all
It's the same as it was before.

The moral of this quaint example
Is to do the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself but remember:
There is no indispensable man.

JOHN MAXWELL.

## 242 Sig Sqn, Edinburgh

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Officer Commanding | .. | **Major L. W. Prescot** |
| Second in Command | .. | **Captain (Tfc.) D. Duncan** |
| TOT .. .. | .. | **Captain (TOT) J. A. Parkin** |
| OC Comms Troop | .. | **Second-Lieutenant S. D. Ellis-Jones,** WRAC |
| S.S.M. .. .. | .. | **W.O.2 F. Nutter** |
| F.O.S. .. .. | .. | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. Carr** |
| S.Q.M.S. .. | .. | **Staff Sergeant G. S. Lowe** |

From as far north as most of us are ever likely to serve, which apart from helping you to remember that we still do in fact exist, reminds us that although very thin on the ground here at the Squadron Headquarters, Edinburgh, we do cover quite an area as our Annual Administration Parade last year shows, inspected by Commander 2 Group **Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E.** Although turning out every available body (male and female) and leaving civilian staff in charge of comms and phones we captured for posterity 28 smiling faces for the Squadron photo from a posted strength of about 110.

Photos didn't stop there however as later the Brigadier while having an aperitif with the officers and seniors in the Sergeants Mess before having lunch with the Officers, presented Royal Signals Blue Helmets free fall parachuting badges to **Second Lieutenant Sarah Ellis-Jones** (5 jumps) and **Sergeant Bob Findlay** (15 jumps, photo attached) who recently returned from the course.

AWARDED FREE FALL PARACHUTING BADGES

*Left to right:* Sergeant Bob Findlay, Brigadier Clinch, Second-Lieutenant Sarah Ellis-Jones

### COMMCEN TROOP

Our switch-board operators frequently find themselves whisked away on detachments to different parts of Scotland including the Hebrides. This is not only restricted to the switch-board operators as the OC WRAC, **Second Lieutenant Ellis-Jones,** knows to her cost when she volunteered (?) to audit the books of our Squadron folk in the Shetlands, her enthusiasm for skiing has waned since being marooned at Maybury just before Christmas.

The new year has brought farewells. **Lance-Corporal Shield, Private Mackenzie, Private Clarke** and **Williamson** to Hong Kong, **Lance-Corporals Fury, Stewart** and **Flynn** to BAOR, and **Private Lightfoot** to Northern Ireland. Farewell also to **Privates Chapman** and **Allen,** who decided to forsake the Corps in favour of matrimony.

New arrivals welcomed are **Privates Haydock, McCann, Maclanachan** and **Jenkinson.** Finally we have our first GSM Northern Ireland medal which has just arrived and is worn by **Lance-Corporal Guy.**

### NATO FSS MORMOND HILL AND BUCHAN TAIL

Up in the North-East corner of Scotland, there lives a small detachment of the Corps communicating on behalf of our NATO Allies.

Led by Station Supervisor **W.O.1 Gary Bradford** at Mormond Hill and **Sergeant Keith Pennington** at Buchan Tail, we manage to soldier on under adverse conditions such as—oilmen, navvies, fishermen and 'Blue Jobs'.

Most of us play a wide range of sports, varying from tiddly-winks to golf. **Syd Christie** our resident fixture in the Corporals Mess has been observed breathing between pints and at the moment is our reigning tiddly-winks champion. He still finds the strength to support **Jim Scouler, Martin Kerrigan, Jock Weir** and **Al Dixon** in crippling the RAF at football.

Even though most of our personnel are married they still manage to escape to play football and their favourite sports. The most popular at the moment is golf, which is closely contested by **Gary Bradford, Keith Pennington** and **Martin Kerrigan.** It's difficult to work out who is best.

**Don (Findus the Fisherman) Lodey** and **Robbie Gallagher** are our keenest fishermen and although the season started a few weeks ago, they have caught 2 fish between them. The nearest person to water must be **Paul Hebbs** who goes diving in the North Sea even in the coldest weather. There are not many more sports except for **Dave Kingdom** who keeps turning up for cancelled hockey matches, but hopes to get a game before the end of the season.

We have had our share of Hello's and Good-bye's and in the last two months have welcomed **Sergeants Robbie Gallagher, Dave Hillman, Morgan Davies** and **Corporals Syd Christie, Paul Hobbs, Jim Scouler** and **Signalman Dave Ward** but said cheerio to **Sergeants John Muir, Steve Gibson, Corporal Dave Barnes, Lance-Corporal Al Dixon.** Finally we congratulate **Willie Kirkland** (now **Mr.**) and **Yvonne** who were married on 26th January, at last.

### SWS TROOP

During the first two months of the year, linemen and telemechs of SWS troop have had a busy time. We have constructed, repaired and completed almost all of the routine maintenance out on the ranges and training camps up in the wilds of Bonnie Scotland. We have probed as far as Fort George in the North and as far east as Aberdeen and just up the road to Barry Budden.

It has been rumoured that we go for a holiday. True we stay in bed/breakfast accommodation near a bar if possible although in the wilds it is sometimes hard to find one but our 'barhound' **Signalman 'Scouce' Jones** has not let us down yet.

### NATO FSS, MAYBURY, SHETLAND
### or
### "A HOTEL IN THE NORTHERN ISLES"

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Manager | .. .. | **Captain (TOT) Bill Graham, M.B.E.** |
| Maitré d'hotel | .. .. | **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Fred Toole** |

Once again our season of visits starts; we provide conducted tours of Shetland in our fleet of air conditioned Land Rovers (Hire cars optional). Buffet lunches and formal dinners can be obtained at very little extra cost, lunches being served at the bar to the accompaniment of Shetland whisky and rum.

As yet we have no AA or RAC listing, but we're hoping for sponsorship from 'Egon Ronays Guide To Good Food', thanks to head chef **Sergeant Rodger Smith,** ACC and his band of galloping gourmets. Our area manager **Major Leslie Prescott** (rumoured to be working for the now defunct Horizon Tours will be only too pleased to arrange a mini holiday for you, fishing rods provided. Please contact OC 242 Signal Squadron.

**"PREVIOUS CLIENTELE"**

In late July of last year a distinguished visitor **Lieutenant-General Sir Chandos Blair, K.C.V.O., O.B.E., M.C.** GOC Scotland visited Shetland.

The use of an Army Beaver aircraft enabled the GOC to visit all three of our stations, in spite of foggy weather prevailing.

After his whistle stop tour of the Islands, the GOC had tea in the Maybury Club, during which time he met the station staff and their families the main topic being the provision of quarters at Maybury.

As a result of this visit we are happy to report that things really began to move.

The arrival of **Major-General A. R. Cornock, O.B.E.,** Director of Quartering, Army accompanied by **Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E.,** Commander 2 Signal Group and **Brigadier A. O. L. Lithgow, M.C.,** Commander Highland Area, in February finally confirmed the speculation that the days of caravan walls shaking in a force ten gale would soon be over.

So all you ex-Maybury doubting Thomases please note, Quarters ARE being built this spring, and as we write we are reviewing the Maybury bar stocks to provide lateral support for a squadron of sappers who are providing drain and roadworks in preparation for the contractor commencing building.

Down at the loch the Bosun (who wishes to remain anonymous) was frantically working out ways to sail without a mast. Thanks to **Brigadier J. C. Clinch** we recently acquired a Bosun Dinghy which unfortunately during a severe gale sustained a ten degree bend to the mast. Looking forward to this latest visit to Shetland we learnt of the Brigadier's intention to sail! However all was not lost, and urged on by the knowledge of his impending visit the mast was eventually straightened.

During the same storm, our friends at the nearby US Coastguard station came up with the sailing story of the year. Their boat, which was to have been used in an America's Cup match with us, took off and damaged the roof of the station Land Rover.

Our fishing experts are sorting out their tackle in preparation for the inter station sea angling competition. It is rumoured that the nearby station at Collafirth Hill are using the same Trawler this year as they have in the past.

**Corporal Phil Kingham** who is shortly leaving us to become a Shetland fisherman cum MOD Policeman is our contender for the individual award with his fine catch of a 15lb conger.

## 260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

HELLO 233—THIS IS 260!

With reference to 233 Squadron's article in a recent *Wire* we of 260 Squadron would just like to say there are still quite a few members of the Corps who know all about the SR B70. As you can see we have several of these sets in the Squadron, and their mysteries have been revealed to many a young signalman

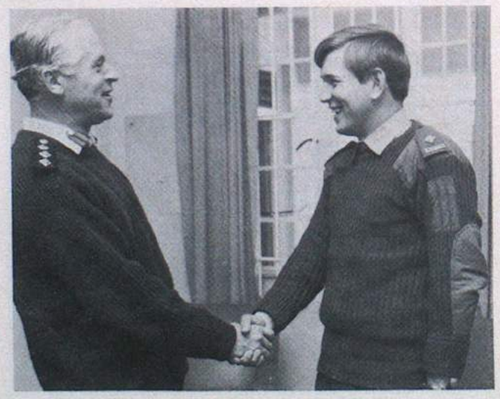
## 262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

| | |
|---|---|
| OC .. .. .. | **Major L. A. Woods** |
| Second-in-Command .. | **Captain E. Hampson** |
| Administrative Officer .. | **Captain E. A. Ruffle**, WRAC |
| OC Commcen .. .. | **Captain J. N. Clark** |
| OC Radio .. .. | **Lieutenant J. L. Kennard** |
| S.S.M. .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) F. Ward** |
| F. of S. .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. V. F. Hall** |
| Y. of S. .. .. .. | **Staff Sergeant K. Halliwell** |

THE Squadron recently said farewell to **Captain J. F. Budd** on posting to 11th Regiment, to **Second Lieutenant P. J. Hryhoruk,** bound for 1st Division Regiment and to **Captain J. A. Baker** WRAC on posting to London District. We wish them all well in their new tour.

**Sergeant M. N. Harrison, Sergeant M. R. Mandy, Sergeant Williams, Corporal A. G. Holyoake** and **Corporal P. F. Wood** have just left us and recent arrivals include **Sergeant W. S. Matthew, Corporal D. S. Rickard** and **Lance Corporal L. B. Bennett.**

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE we have successfully completed our FFR Inspection which this year was conducted by **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** and the winter CPX went very smoothly although there were complaints from the S.S.M. that he was not allowed to put out his new road blocks.



NOTABLE PERSONALITIES DEPART

Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E., Commander 3 Signal Group and Second Lieutenant P. J. Hryhoruk, OC Radio Troop say farewell



As a joint effort we went into the antenna mast erection business. 62 (NE) Support Squadron RE put in the bases, **Sergeant Quinn** and his Radio Telegraphists bolted the first sections on the bases and bolted the second and third section together ready for DOE to lift into position with their crane. Antenna riggers from 9th Regiment then bolted the sections together.

**Lance-Corporal Lee Searle** and **Miss Jillian Eddison** were married in Episkopi and were well supported by the Squadron. Some of Radio Troop however had some difficulty finding the Church and so started the reception early.

Other recent memorable events were the escort communications we provided for the visit of **H.R.H. Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon,** and the farewell visit of **Colonel C. O. Bound, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group. As this coincided with the farewell of **Second Lieutenant P. J. Hryhoruk** we commemorated the occasion with a photograph.

The Wives Club thrives, after saying good-bye to **Mrs. Bound.** Their next important function is the sale of the menagerie of toy animals they have been making.

The Squadron is now responsible for line and telephone communications in the Eastern SBA and we are now able to offer STD to subscribers and are about to open the new Automatic Exchange in BMH Dhekelia.

## 603 Tp, B.F.P.O. 65

**Signalman R. Sharp** writes:—

GREETINGS from headquarters Pongo Power, Persian Gulf. Since our last report we have had our usual quota of arrivals and departures. Gone to distant shores is newly promoted **Lance-Corporal Mick Denny.** We have also, in traditional manner, welcomed our new moonies **Trevor Hutchinson, Cliff Kerry** and **Paul Hames.** We wish them well over the next two hundred and seventy-four days.

In the sporting fields we have actually won a cricket match—and in fact reached the semi-finals before bowing out to the eventual winners. When you are only 14 strong, 11 cricketers are hard to find. There is a slack period in the soccer season at the moment pending the start of the five-a-side, so **Eddie (The Bin) Pluskota** is hard at it putting on weight, attempting, he says, to cover more of the goal area. This project seems to have had the full co-operation of Catering Flight.

Our forte at the moment seems to be volleyball. We have recently won the league hands down, and only dropped three sets in twenty-seven throughout the season. This apparently has nothing to do with the Foreman **(W.O.2 John Hill)** being station volleyball officer. On the contrary, rumour has it he's bribed the Troop rep to keep his place in the Troop Team. However both he, and **Signalman Charlie Beck** have been selected to represent the station verus RAF Gan in March and April.

Workwise thing are pretty quiet. Negotiations have been finalised with DOE who have now agreed to stop cutting our cables (we hope).

To end this report, the Troop Clerk, **Corporal John Corbett,** has recently been released from the station medical centre swathed in bandages having had some veins removed. Hobbling down the road, his crutch under his arm, he was spotted by the Padre, "My word"—(that's how padre's say it) he said "Lazarus has really risen".

## 642 Sig Tp, Gibraltar

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding .. | **Captain (TOT) P. J. Steeples** |
| Foreman of Signals .. | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. J. Peplow** |
| Sgt. Projects & Planning | **Sergeant R. W. F. Wathen** |
| Sgt. Inst & Maint .. | **Sergeant M. R. Vaughan** |
| Techs TE .. .. | **Sergeant B. F. Williams** |
| | **Sergeant D. Bolger** |
| | **Sergeant P. Mathews** |
| Tele Mechs .. .. | **Corporal A. Tobin** |
| | **Corporal E. Sykes** |
| | **Corporal S. Buckley** |

**VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF TO GIBRALTAR AND TO 642 TROOP**

**Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** visited Gibraltar with Mrs. Sawers from 10th-14th February staying at the home of the Deputy Fortress Commander, **Brigadier M. C. Thursby Pelham.**

*Back row, left to right:* Corporal E. Sykes, Sergeant B. Williams, Sergeant P. Mathews, Sergeant K. Johnson, Sergeant D. Bolger, Corporal Tobin, Corporal Buckley

*Seated, left to right:* Sergeant R. Wathen, W.O.2 (F. of S.) P. Peplow, Major J. W. Roberts, Signal Officer-in-Chief, Captain P. Steeples, Sergeant Vaughan

The visit was planned by the outgoing Fortress Signal Officer, **Major Jim McKail** who has now had the good fortune to be posted to Hong Kong. The new Fortress Signal Officer, **Major John Roberts** lately arrived from Catterick, accompanied the General throughout his comprehensive visit which included Royal Navy and Royal Air Force installations on (and in) the Rock. **General Sawers** also paid courtesy calls on H.E. the Governor, the Chief Minister, the Mayor of Gibraltar, the Flag Officer and the Air Commander.

After a tour of the Rock which included the apes and other places of historic interest, the Signal Officer-in-Charge began his tour of Army units. This included the lone detachment N.C.O. of 665 Signal Troop, **Sergeant Ken Johnson,** who holds the fort with the 3rd Battalion The Queens Regiment and the largest Royal Signals unit in Gibraltar, 642 Signal Troop consisting of ten British personnel and 42 locally employed civilians.

The General took the opportunity to talk to all the soldiers that he met and to listen to their views, particularly those of the Tele Mechs relating to their pay banding.

**ROLE**

Although the Troop can only boast 10 Military members, we have 42 locally employed Civilian members. These include test clerks, tele mechs, drivers, storemen, clerks, a draughtsman, a carpenter, a typist and, of course, our chargeman, **Mr. Manolo Perea** and last but not least, our chief clerk, **Mr. Ernest Ramognin.**

The Troop is responsible for the usual airfield communications and all the external lines for Royal Naval Commcen to their transmitter and receiver Sites. Our two PABX No 3 Exchanges serve all the Army and RAF Subscribers on the Rock. Throughout the year we have a very large PA commitment giving a lot of audio experience to the techs. These commitments vary from the Gibraltar song festival and the consecreation of the Bishop, to the standard Ceremony of the Keys and the RSPCA dog show.

**Sports**

The Troop is far too small to enter teams in its own right, but individuals do play for other units. **Sergeant Robert Wathen** plays for the Gibraltar Rugby Football Club and **Corporal Eddie Sykes** plays soccer for 1 Fortress Squadron RE. The remainder play squash except for **Captain Steeples** and **Sergeant Barry Williams** who are still after the one that got away.

## 644 Sig Tp
## HQ UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

**DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY**

644 Signal Troop has been missing from the WIRE notes for some time—we hope to improve on this from now on. Normally most of the soldiers on their 6 month tour in the Troop are from 30th Signal Regiment but over the past year these have been supplemented by postings from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. We say goodbye to the last of 3 Division personnel during the next two months. The Troop normally consists of 2 British and 1 Canadian Officers, 55 British and 20 Canadian soldiers and we live in NICOSIA, CYPRUS. We are the Signal Troop for HQ United Nations Force in Cyprus. The photographs gives some idea of our activities.

FORCE COMMANDER INSPECTS
Corporal Paddy Hayes and Corporal Dave Milner of 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment being inspected by the Force Commander Major General D. Prem Chand, P.V.S.M., during the British Contingent Medal Parade

INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION
Captain Walter Gaunerstofer of the Austrian Contingent 'auctioning' one of his radio sets at a Signals Officers Convention

GOING PLACES
Corporal Danny Day, a Canadian Radio Operator of 644 Signal Troop, climbing one of the 40 Jontz masts on the Island which belong to the Troop

## CORPS SPORTING RESULTS

**1974 QUADRANGULAR FOOTBALL COMPETITION**

THE highlight of the Corps football calendar is the Quadrangular Competition, a four-way tournament between the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This year the hosts were the Royal Artillery, the venue the Durrington sports ground, Larkhill.

The Corp's first fixture was played on Monday 25th February against the Royal Engineers. A firm and dry pitch under a bright and sunny sky provided a fine setting for a brisk first half in which **Corporal Pinkus** scored the only goal.

The second half was completely the reverse of the first. Mistakes by **Sergeants Beston** and **Fuller** and **Signalman Rosslee** allowed the Engineers first to equalise and then to take the lead. During this half, injuries to four players added to our discomfort and the eventual score was 4 to 1 for the Engineers.

The second game was played on the Wednesday against the Royal Artillery. Both teams played through the first half at an extremely fast pace. They were so evenly matched that the first half produced no score. At one stage things looked very black for the Corps with two injured players off the pitch together. **Signalman Cardwell** was taken to Tidworth Military Hospital for examination and subsequently discharged, to be replaced by **Corporal Pinkus. Signalman German** after a short break, limped back on.

Our chance came at the midway point of the second half. A mistake by the Gunners, exploited by **Sergeant Beston,** gave the Corps a 1–0 lead that it retained until the final whistle.

Thus, with a defeat and a win under its belt, the Corps team came to the hardest match of the week, against REME. This strong side has dominated the Quadrangular Competition since its inception four years ago.

The game started briskly against a confident REME team who had already defeated RE 2–1 and RA 4–1. They put the pressure on and after 20 minutes drew ahead. An unlucky moment gave them a bonus goal, scored accidently by one of our players.

The game continued at the same pace throughout, with the Corps fighting off repeated REME attacks. Despite great determination, however, they could not stem the tide and the game finished 3–0.

In all, not a good week for the Corps Team. Injuries, priority games, courses and exercises denied the team some of the Corp's better players. Those who did come tried their very best while representing the Corps at a sporting week of football.

All who attended gave their backing to the Corps Football Secretary, **Major P. A. Lenthall,** Manager **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Walton** and Coach **Sergeant Flockhart,** but they share the Management's feelings. The Corps wants more players. If you think you are of Corps standard, and we don't know about you, let us know in 8 Signal Regiment. A Corps trial will be held later this year.

Corps v Hull University. Draw 1–1.

**RUGBY**

Corps v Royal Corps of Transport. Lost 17–27.

**Army Rugby Cup Final**

7th Signal Regiment v Royal Regiment of Wales. Lost 12–15.

**SQUASH**

**Result of Corps Matches**

Opponents: Inter Corps Div II Competition—vs RE, RAOC, REME, RCT.

Venue: Aldershot.
Dates: 8th-10th March.
Results: 1 RAOC; 2 R Signals; 3 RCT; 4 REME; 5 RE.

**Remarks**

The Corps was represented by the following:

**Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E.**
**Major A. H. P. Marley**
**Major A. R. Bushell**
**Major J. F. Storr**
**Lieutenant N. H. Stewart**
**Corporal W. A. Hutton**
**Corporal A. Barker**

Match results were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| R Signals beat REME | 3–2 |
| R Signals beat RE | 3–2 |
| R Signals beat RCT | 4–1 |
| R Signals lost to RAOC | 2–3 |

Once again the Corps finished a close second in this competition with the outcome depending on the final match against RAOC who were extremely strong with three Army or Army 'A' team standard players. In that match both **Major Marley** and **Corporal Hutton** put up excellent performances before losing to far more experienced opponents.

**Lieutenant Stewart** won all four of his matches although placed under extremely pressure by the very fact that he is current Army Champion. **Brigadier Hellier** gained the admiration of all who saw him demolish two of his three opponents.

**HOCKEY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Corps v Newcastle University. | Draw | 1–1 |
| Corps v Welbech College | Won | 3–1 |
| **Officer's Team** | | |
| Corps v Durham University | Won | 4–0 |

## *Army Cross Country Championships 1974 in Retrospect*

On Friday 22nd February at precisely 1500 hours the starter's gun fired at the Guards Depot, Pirbright for the start of the 1973/74 Army Cross Country Championships. Over 300 runners from 21 major and minor units teams, plus some 25 individuals sprinted into the haze for commanding positions. Amongst them were ten runners in the well known running strip of tangerene and scarlet who were intent on achieving the rare feat of a hat trick in the major units championships. They were the favourites—the best of 21st Signal Regiment.

It was apparent after the first of the three gruelling laps that, as expected, they had a real fight on their hands, with tremendous opposition from two parachute regiments—3 PARA and 7 PARA. Six of the regiment's runners were well to the fore, but gradually as the race progressed it became apparent that the Regiment lacked the depth of talent of previous years and that the standard was exceptionally high, even for an Army Championship. Even **Sergeant Bill Venus,** individual champion on several occasions and German National 20 kilometre champion, was fighting to keep up with the leaders! Though positions were imp during the race and though each runner ran himself into soggy ground, it was not quite enough—a roar of approval from the many red beret supporters rent the still air as the scoreboard announced a narrow victory for 3 PARA by 300 points to 331, with 7 PARA an equally close third with 367. It takes a considerable effort to win the Army Cross Country Championships, including many hours of training, physical pain and self sacrifice. The personal knowledge of this was reflected in the way the regiment's team warmly congratulated the winners, and in the way they sportingly handed over their concealed bottles of champagne. In addition to the team's defeat, those spectators who had been able to make the long journey from BAOR were saddened by the personal defeat of **Sergeant Bill Venus.** If this should be the end of Sergeant Venus's remarkable cross country achievements then let it be recorded in this well read magazine that he has set standards of sportsmanship, performance and modesty of the very highest order—throughout his 'reign' he has been a true sportsman. However, though the team and **Sergeant Venus** lost their championship titles, a new champion emerged in the Regiment—**Signalman Phil Madden** collected a very nice piece of silver, inscribed, 'Army Junior Champion'.

The end of an era? Certainly not—merely a temporary setback, and if anyone wants any more of our silver they'll have to work as hard for it as did 3 PARA.

## *Boxing*

**12 MECH BDE SIG SQN TAKES FIRST EVER ARMY MINOR UNITS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

READERS of THE WIRE were told to watch for further news of the Fighting Twelth's progress in the Boxing World. On 14th February the Squadron Boxing Team representing BAOR won the first ever Army Minor Units Boxing Championships, by defeating the Welsh Depot from Crickhowell representing the UK, a night we will always refer to as 'The St. Valentines' Day Massacre'.

The bout took place in Osnabruck which meant that the Welsh had to travel and were unable to bring all their supporters. The boxing was of a very good standard and a great deal of the credit for the Squadron's performance must go to **Sergeant Dave Johnson** 1 RGJ who has trained the team and fired them with the same passion and enthusiasm that he has for the sport. It is only to be hoped that such hard work will be rewarded by the Army Sports Board making the Army Finals a regular event and marking it with a suitable trophy.

The Squadron team showed a couple of changes from that which had defeated 6 OFP in the BAOR Final. **Corporal Clive Blackburn** came in at light-heavyweight so that the team could all drop a weight and **Signalman Steve Haddrell** had to step out. The first bout was at Featherweight where **Signalman Barry McMillan** had a good points win over **Fusilier Roberts.** He was followed by **Corporal Denis Parkinson** at lightweight who showed his great experience in beating **Fusilier Carvick,** again on points. It was remarked that **Corporal Parkinson** wanted the ring practice otherwise he would have finished it in the First! At light welter **Signalman George Bantin** made swift work of **Private Wilkins,** the referee stopping the bout in the first round in favour of **Bantin. Bantin** is a very fast mover in the ring (and elsewhere!). His opponent had difficulty catching sight of him, never mind actually hitting him. The Squadron was now three bouts up and only needed another win to clinch the match. **Driver Cass Porter** RCT looked as though he was going to provide it for us, he was ahead on points, in the final round of what was the best bout of the evening. **Private Buck,** his opponent, had received quite a lot of punishment in the first two rounds but was not beginning to score when he produced a brilliant right to **Porter's** chin that put an end to the fight. It was ironical that **Porter** had produced a similar punch to stop his opponent in the BAOR final. The win that the team needed came in the next bout when **Signalman Billy Tindall** beat **S.S.I. Panton** the referee stopping the bout in the second round. **Tindall** was far too strong for his opponent and he looked a completely different boxer than he did in the BAOR final. **Corporal Clive Blackburn** was overpowered at light heavyweight by a strong opponent. In the final bout **Signalman 'Rocky' Rocque** won a hard bout on points against **Sergeant Evans. Rocque** was a few inches taller than his opponent and made full use of this long reach to score freely.

The final score of five bouts to two was a fair result and credit must be given to the Welsh Depot for making it such a sporting

12 MECH BDE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON BOXING TEAM
*Standing (left to right):* Signalman Clunie, Signalman Tindall, Signalman Bantin, Signalman Rocque, Driver Porter, Signalman Haddrell
*Seated:* Corporal Parkinson, Captain Maddren (Boxing Officer), Major Willcox (OC), Sergeant Johnson RGJ (Coach), Corporal Blackburn
*Kneeling:* Signalman McMillan, Lance-Corporal Hopkinson *Laying:* Emma

contest. The standard of Minor Unit boxing is very high and the Squadron Team are all capable of holding their heads up in any competition. In the Army Individual Championships in the UK **Signalman Rocque** reached the semi-finals at welterweight. He was beaten by **Maxwell** who was on the Commonwealth Games short list.

**Lance-Corporal 'Hoppy' Hopkinson** was also beaten in the semi-finals by the eventual winner. **Lance Corporal Hopkinson** and **Signalman Haddrell** have provided great support to the team that competed in the Army Finals. Both boxers have boxed for the Squadron in earlier bouts. **Signalman Pete Clunie** should also be mentioned for the work he did as assistant second. His most unenviable task was holding the sand tray and receiving a face full of sand!

With many of the boxing team leaving the unit, **Sergeant Johnson** will have his work cut out repeating the performance next year. However, if the unit has as much enthusiasm throughout all ranks as it had this season, then once again the Fighting Twelth will be in the boxing news.

## SCHOOL OF SIGNALS SMALL BORE SHOOTING CLUB ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL SEASON

THE most noteworthy event this season has been our success in the SW District section of the UKLF Inter Unit Team Small Bore Knockout and the SW District Individual Championships. At Warminster on Sunday 27th January the School of Signals beat the School of Infantry in the final by 7 points, scoring 776 against 769 out of a possible 800, and **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** won the individual championship, scoring 394 out of a possible 400. The team match which followed the individual competition was in fact sweet revenge; the School of Infantry Club are old rivals. They had already beaten us twice this season in league matches and we had no intention of allowing this to happen again if we could possibly avoid it. On the day luck, albeit spiced with a certain degree of skill and wide experience, was on our side, and the team, consisting of **Colonel Richard Gilbertson, Majors Dick Haywood, Bill Matthews** and **Geoff Exell,** now go forward to the UKLF Finals which are to be held at Bordon.

The shooting season is still but half over, and as the saying goes "there is many a slip twixt cup and lip", our teams have been performing remarkably well in a very full programme of competition shooting. It is this heavy programme, together with our new Anshutz rifles, which have produced the quite remarkable improvement in performance as the season has progressed. To date the teams have reached the 5th round of the 'British Teams of Four' Championships, are top of their division in the Dorset and Army Leagues and have finished 2nd in the SW District League to the School of Infantry.

Individual team members are doing well and several have passed the preliminary stages of the British and Army individual championships, as well as achieving varying degrees of success in the Dorset individual Leagues. Our thanks must go to **Major Robert Sandeman,** our attached member from the Royal Scots, **Corporal Andy Smith, Sergeants Alan Forrest, Nigel Baker,** and **Captain Mike Rice,** all of whom have shot in the League matches and who by their enthusiastic support keep first team members on their toes by producing performances which prevent complacency.

During the season **Colonel Richard Gilbertson** has represented the Army versus the Civil Service and **Majors Exell** and **Haywood** have shot for the Army versus Devon, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. Hot from the press is the news that **Colonel Gilbertson** and **Major Exell** have been selected to shoot for the Army team in the Inter Services Smallbore Match; **Major Haywood** is a reserve.

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*May-June 1974*


# wire

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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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
*Individual: Yearly* **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

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**MAY/JUNE • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 5**




# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture was taken when **Major-General J. M. Sawers,** Signal Officer-in-Chief, visited Canada last year. During his visit he was present in Kingston, Ontario, during the Tercentenary celebrations. The picture is of interest as the Signal Officer-in-Chief is seen inspecting the world famed Fort Henry Guard in historic Kingston. Fort Henry, which was garrisoned by British Infantry up to 1891, has been restored as a museum of the British garrison period in 1867. The Fort Henry Guard is a precision trained unit of Canadian university students who function in the summer months only. They perform a Retreat Ceremony every Wednesday and Saturday during July and August bringing back to Fort Henry in living form the scenes of 100 years ago.

## Faraway Troops

We are always particularly pleased to receive contributions from our more remote Troops and detachments of which we have had a number recently. They generally have something interesting to tell us and also, from our experience, they are very worthy upholders of the Corps' good name both at work and play.

We are happy in this issue to feature contributions from two such Troops —603 at Masirah and 605 at Gan Island. Judging from the cheerful faces on pages 155 and 156 morale is pretty high in both these faraway Troops. All faraway Troops or detachments please note that your contributions are always very welcome—try and include a group photograph if possible from time to time.

## Security

Unit notes and articles in THE WIRE, if we are not careful, may give away useful information which can percolate through to unfriendly countries or extremist groups. Please remember when writing for THE WIRE that it has a wide and not easily controlled circulation—after all a copy was found not so long ago in a dentist's waiting room in Georgetown, British Guiana! Seriously though, our readers would be surprised at the strange individuals who, every now and then, write and say they would like THE WIRE on an annual subscription basis. Naturally we turn these down but certainly THE WIRE cannot be considered a 'safe' publication. Attention must be paid to the security aspect of articles dealing with planning, operational communications, new equipment, projected moves, training, morale, strengths and such like. Also it is wise to steer clear of giving personal opinions on controversial and sensitive subjects. It has been known for these to be picked out and republished elsewhere as authoritative service pronouncements.

We have said enough, we hope, to alert our correspondents to certain inherent dangers. From the Editorial point of view we watch this aspect but the co-operation of all who write for THE WIRE would considerably assist in this task.

## New Corps Car Badge

The Association now stocks an attractive new type car badge in full Corps colours with silver Jimmy. The badge is in the modern square design (about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches square) similar to the A.A. badge which it would nicely balance off. It is designed for radiator fitting but might be adapted for bumper fitting by a D.I.Y. expert.

Price £1·50 including V.A.T. and postage.

Money will be refunded if recipient finds the badge unsuitable and returns it unused.

# From our "In" Tray

## 79th Armd Div Signals Officers Re-union

Sir,

The third re-union of the Officers took place on 22nd/24th March 1974 at FitzWilliam College of Cambridge University, as previously, by kind permission of the Master of the College and the splendid organisation of **Dr. Jack Street,** Fellow and Don of the College and ex-Signalmaster of the Divisional HQ in 1944/45.

The following were able to attend the re-union: **Desmond Hoysted, Chris Denard** (the Re-union Secretary), **Maurice Hewitt** (the Regiment's first Adjutant), **Denis Strange, Peter Woodhead, Jim Humble, Leslie Wardell, Robin Jennings** and, of course, **Jack Street** himself. Unfortunately, **Major-General John Badcock** was unable to be present "due to the exigencies of the Service" at the last moment; and **Chris Denard** had to return home with incipient influenza on Saturday, 23rd March. Nonetheless, it was a most pleasant meeting, much enjoyed by all present.

We dined in great state in the Staff Dining Room, and were accorded the pleasure of seeing the College silver both on the table and in the strong room which was photographed with the College butler for the record. On Saturday morning, we walked some way on the towpath to Grantchester and had a splendid 'pub lunch' there. As the weather was too chilly for further outdoor recreation, **Jack Street** then took us on a most interesting tour of Queens', King's, Clare and Trinity Colleges in the afternoon.

Plans are already advanced for our fourth re-union at Fitz-William College on 21st/23rd March 1975, when we shall hope to increase attendance. The Re-union Secretary **(C. Denard,** 22 Mountway, Potter's Bar, Herts EN6 1EP) will be very glad to hear from anyone connected with the Regiment who may read this note.

Yours faithfully,

**D. St. J. Hoysted,**
OC 1942/43

Saddlers,
Chaplin Close,
Galleywood,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8QW.

## Greetings from Australia

Sir,

As **W.O.2 Stan Neill** I made many friends during my 22 years service up to my retirement from the Corps in April last year. On my retirement I emigrated to Queensland, Australia, where I settled down to the problems of making a new life for my family and myself, not only in the strange environment of civvy street, but also in a new country. It is for this reason that I am writing this letter in the hope that you will kindly publish this in "THE WIRE" so that any member of the Corps contemplating emigrating to Australia who requires any information whatsoever with regard to emigrating to this country will have something that I was unfortunate in not having, and that is a contact who has served in the Corps and who appreciates all the problems of leaving that great family of the Corps and going it alone. So after 12 months out here, which I have enjoyed immensely, I feel sure that I could be of some assistance in providing answers to the numerous questions one asks oneself on leaving the service which can readily be answered by resettlement boards, friends and the Royal Signals Association but alas when one intends emigrating this information is not so readily obtainable. So to all members of the Corps if I can be of any assistance whatsoever all you need to do is to drop me a line and if I cannot help you I will find someone out here who can.

In conclusion I would like to mention that I am not the only Corps member out here. Within an area of 5 miles there is ex-**Sergeant Bob Spooner** of Corps motor cycle and motor rally fame who retired from the Corps last year and ex-**Sergeant Ray Cossor,** well known at the Depot and the School of Signals so I am sure that between us we can provide most of the answers.

All the best to all members of the Corps wherever you may be and may you reap the same satisfaction that I reaped in belonging to the family of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Yours sincerely,

**S. G. Neill**

17 Limerick Street,
Acacia Ridge,
Queensland 4110, Australia.

## The late Colonel Sam Brandle

Sir,

In the obituary to **Colonel Sam Brandle** no mention was made of his return to the TA when he took command of 62nd (M) Signal Regiment TA. It was mainly due to his efforts that the Confederation of Cinque Ports appointed the Regiment as "The Cinque Ports Regiment". Later Sam obtained for the Regiment the regimental silver of the last Cinque Ports Regiment RATA.

Sam worked unstintingly to effect the amalgamation of his Regiment with 44 (HC) Divisional Signal Regiment TA to form 44 (HC) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) TA. After giving up command he was posted to Malta and it was from there that he sent to the Regiment one of the most unusual farewell gifts ever made—an altar cloth that fitted over a 6ft GS table for use in the field with the Regiment's coat of arms beautifully worked on the frontal by the nuns of Malta.

Having been Sam's Second-in-Command I can testify to his devotion to his Regiment and to the devotion of the volunteers for their Regular CO. I know how pleased he was that the title 'Cinque Ports' is now continued with 44 (Cinque Ports) Squadron of 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and that the volunteer strength of this Squadron has since its formation always been in excess of establishment.

His many TA friends will miss him but they will not forget his friendship and sense of humour.

Yours sincerely,

**M. H. Seys-Phillips,**
Colonel (Retd.) T.D., D.L.

The Malt House,
Mereworth,
Kent ME18 5LU.

## Honours and Awards

All our readers will join us in congratulating the recipients of recent awards as follows:

**BIRTHDAY HONOURS**

**C.B.**

**Major General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** (S.O.-in-C)
**Major General C. E. Page, M.B.E.** (Now retired—recently Director of Combat Development ('A') )

**M.B.E.**

**Captain J. Dowd, A.C.C.** (Attached to the School of Signals)
**Lieutenant G. McGilvary**

**B.E.M.**

**A/W.O.2 A. G. Turner**

**Northern Ireland**

**M.B.E. (For Meritorious Service)**

**W.O.1. D. Connell**
**W.O.2. J. A. Wraith**

**Mentioned in Despatches**

**Sergeant N. R. Cox**
**Staff Sergeant R. J. Wherry**
**Captain J. A. Wilkins**



# Movements

## Officers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Captain M. J. Bowen | To | School of Signals — |
| Captain W. I. Buxton | „ | School of Signals — 2 TEM |
| Captain H. J. P. Exon | „ | School of Signals — Course |
| Captain J. F. Stuart | „ | School of Signals — |
| Major R. Acott | „ | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Major R. G. Aitken | „ | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. R. S. Amberton | „ | School of Signals |
| Major W. F. Batty | „ | School of Signals |
| Major R. S. Clayton | „ | HQ 1 (BR) Corps (JOCPT) |
| Captain R. A. Couchman | „ | 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Major W. E. A. Edmonds | „ | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant A. H. G. Elford | „ | 70 Army Youth Team |
| Major J. Fender | „ | School of Signals |
| Captain E. S. Fielder | „ | 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. H. Fisher | „ | HQ 8 Infantry Brigade |
| A/Major M. L. Forge | „ | 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Captain (Tfc) K. M. French | „ | HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Captain (TOT) J. M. Gilyeat | „ | MOD (QE Man 1e) |
| Colonel G. W. Gittins | „ | MOD (Signals 31) |
| Captain (QM) G. A. Granger | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Major P. J. Hartshorn | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Major E. W. Hunt | „ | AAC Harrogate |
| Captain A. J. R. Jackman | „ | School of Signals |
| Captain P. J. J. Kington | „ | 11 Signal Regiment |
| Major (TOT) L. F. Knight | „ | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major C. F. Lewis | „ | HQ AFNORTH |
| Captain (Tfc) P. F. Metcalfe | „ | HQ AFNORTH |
| Major G. H. Morgan | „ | MOD (Signals 31a) |
| Major N. C. Muir | „ | HQ 39 Infantry Brigade |
| Captain (TOT) D. Prime | „ | 226 Signal Squadron |
| Major E. F. Prockter | „ | HQ 3 Signal Group |
| Captain R. J. Sanders | „ | 234 Signal Squadron |
| Captain G. E. Shakeshaft | „ | School of Signals |
| Captain S. M. Siddall | „ | School of Signals |
| Captain (QM) A. Taylor | „ | 1st Co. Antrim Battalion UDR |
| Major L. J. Taylor, M.B.E. | „ | CPA Royal Signals |
| Major P. D. Templeman-Evans | „ | HQ 3 Signal Group |
| Captain A. E. Truluck | „ | HQ Land Forces Hong Kong |
| Second-Lieutenant R. J. Turnbull | „ | 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major G. C. Verdon | „ | RMA Sandhurst |
| Major M. J. H. Williams | „ | 39 Signal Regiment (V) |

## W.O.s and Sergeants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. G. Hunt | „ | 261 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 P. L. Gray | „ | SHAPE HQ Command and Support |
| W.O.2 F. Jepson | „ | 227 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 C. K. R. French | „ | 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Supvr R) P. J. Smith | „ | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant D. G. Dean | „ | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant W. J. Donnelly | „ | RMA Sandhurst |
| Staff Sergeant D. G. Holland | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant R. F. D. French | „ | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant R. C. Jones | „ | 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant T. A. Perkin | „ | 7 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. E. Everett | „ | 55 Signal Squadron (V) |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. S. Kidd | „ | 48 (Gurkha) Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. J. Wherry | „ | 37 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. C. Brown | „ | 602 Signal Troop |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) I. Forbes | „ | 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. D. Chapman | „ | 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) O. S. Vannan | „ | 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) T. J. M. Peters | „ | 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant L. R. Byrne | „ | 240 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. T. Riddy | „ | 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant C. Watson | „ | 242 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. Armer | „ | 240 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. P. Holland | „ | 653 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant D. W. Quick | „ | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. W. Gillham | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. E. Guerin | „ | 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant B. J. Barnett | „ | 38 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant L. Halliday | „ | Communications Project Agency |
| Sergeant P. J. Waring | „ | 242 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. G. Hall | „ | 24 Airptbl Bde Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. L. Hyatt | „ | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. B. Mackey | „ | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. J. Indge | „ | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. M. Rutherford | „ | 639 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant D. F. Woodruffe | „ | 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Sergeant J. L. Brice | „ | 38 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant M. A. Stevenson | „ | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. C. Stocks | „ | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. L. Denne | „ | 603 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant M. J. W. Hollins | „ | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant V. G. McGarry | „ | 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Lavery | „ | 603 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant D. R. Woodford | „ | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. D. Collinson | „ | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant I. Borland | „ | 261 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. R. Flanigan | „ | 224 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. H. Close | „ | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant D. A. Lewis | „ | 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant M. J. McHale | „ | HQ 1 Signal Group |
| Sergeant T. J. Pengelley | „ | 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. I. Weston | „ | 224 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant S. Evans | „ | 233 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. E. Mackin | „ | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Turner | „ | 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. J. Dagless | „ | 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant B. Walker | „ | 573 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant M. Johnson | „ | 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron (for Signal Training Wing Royal Marines) |
| Sergeant G. Hardware | „ | 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron (for attachment to 35 Signal Regiment (V)) |
| Sergeant W. R. Wareing | „ | 225 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. W. Bartliff | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. G. James-Bailey | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. J. Shaw | „ | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. Whenlock | „ | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant C. A. Jewkes | „ | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. T. Nelson | „ | 229 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. W. Hague | „ | 233 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. M. Sparnon | „ | 32 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant D. MacDonald | „ | 32 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant G. G. Taylor | „ | 227 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. A. Robjohn | „ | 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Smith | „ | 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. R. Peacock | „ | RMA Sandhurst |
| Sergeant R. Paterson | „ | 37 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant A. Campbell | „ | 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. T. Connor | „ | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant T. M. Wareing | „ | 7 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant J. G. Thomson | „ | 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| A/Sergeant P. M. H. Rousham | „ | 7 Signal Regiment |

# Obituary

## Sergeant Bernard Ash, MBE

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Ex-Sergeant Bernard Ash, M.B.E. Sergeant Ash was a senior executive engineer in the Post Office Civil and Mehanical Engineering Branch. He was well known in Royal Signals circles both during the war and as a result of his frequent post-war visits to the School of Signals to lecture on external plant and coaxial cable in particular.

Bernard Ash joined the RA at Woolwich in 1928 and served most of the time in India. On transfer to the Army Reserve in 1935 he joined the PO and became an instructor on cable jointing techniques at Birmingham. At the outbreak of war he was recalled to the RA and was transferred to Royal Signals in 1940.

Following a period as an instructor at Catterick he was posted in 1942 to North Africa and then to Italy in 1943. Later he was transferred to the School of Signals at Nola where he remained until the end of the war. On his return to the PO in 1946 he soon became involved again in cable jointing development and training activities. This enabled him to maintain close association with the School of Signals in Catterick until he retired in 1972. He was a specialist in coaxial cable jointing techniques and was awarded the MBE for his services during the laying of the land section in Canada of the first transatlantic telephone cable. He leaves a wife and two daughters to whom sincere sympathy is expressed.

## Lance-Corporal Ian Smith

**2 DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT WRITE:**

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Lance-Corporal Ian Smith, who died in a traffic accident in Belgium on Monday, 18th March.

Ian enlisted at Birmingham on 3rd January 1972 at the age of 19. After his basic training at 11th Signal Regiment he successfully completed a course as a Terminal Equipment Technician and was posted to us at 2 Division on 28th July 1973.

He was an outstanding sportsman and in the course of his short Army career he represented the Corps at squash, badminton, tennis and orienteering. Among his more notable results was first place in the Northern Command orienteering Championship.

Ian was popular with his Troop and Squadron and we will all miss his quiet, self confident and helpful personality.

Sadly, Ian died on his way to his step-father's funeral and we all offer our deepest sympathy to his family on this tragic double loss.

# ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

There is no need for us to highlight the position regarding the acute shortage of funds for house purchase loans. **Would-be Home Owners** who did not make positive plans well ahead for house purchase are finding it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans in the foreseeable future. Why let this happen to you?

If you **take our advice** and set in motion **now** a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan 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. The longer the Plan is in force, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice,** the higher the loan possible and the more financially beneficial the purchase.

**Other financial benefits** are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum financial advantages to yourself.

# EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

**Selected schemes** linked with life assurance to raise funds to meet the expenses of schooling and further education can substantially reduce the over-all cost of educating children. Very early planning **can reduce** such **costs to NIL.** If you have a school fees problem write to us now for advice before it becomes insoluble.

# FAMILY SECURITY ASSURED

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£15·45 monthly** for those liable to tax at 33p in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next birthday **immediate family protection of £28,000** and an anticipated **cash sum of £42,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65. We arrange our **Plans** on an extremely **flexible** basis in order that they **can** be made to **mature** in part or total at an **earlier** age **or** be adapted to **provide an income** on retirement from the Service, **e.g. at age 55.** We shall be pleased to prepare for you a balanced Family Life Assutance Plan tailored to your circumstances and needs for your consideration without obligation.

---

**WHY NOT** take full benefit from the time you have given to reading this advertisement and **WRITE TO US NOW** for full details of our above Plans and/or of the specialised advice we can offer you on all forms of Assurance, Insurance, Mortgage and associated Financial matters? 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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# RECENT SUCCESSES AT THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

**HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE RESULTS: No. 33 FOREMAN OF SIGNALS COURSE (1st May 72-28th Nov. 1973)**

| | | *Distinctions gained.* |
|---|---|---|
| **Staff Sergeant G. A. Bannister** | 7th Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant P. Bruce** | 21st Signal Regiment | Telecommunications Engineering |
| **Staff Sergeant M. E. Catley** | 605 Signal Troop | |
| **Staff Sergeant H. E. Connor** | 4 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant A. J. Hall** | Army Apprentices College Harrogate | Electrical and Electronic Principles and Radio Principles and Techniques |
| **Staff Sergeant H. A. Huey** | 28th Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant R. A. James** | 1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant R. M. James** | 7th Signal Regiment | Radio Principles and Techniques |
| **Staff Sergeant J. Logan** | Military Advisory Team Gulf | |
| **Staff Sergeant R. C. Offord** | 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant N. Patton** | 234 Signal Squadron | Radio Principles and Techniques |
| **Staff Sergeant W. F. Pearson** | Royal Australian Signals | Electrical and Electronic Principles and Telecommunications Engineering |
| **Staff Sergeant P. D. Shawyer** | 261 Signal Squadron | |
| **Staff Sergeant R. C. Steffan** | Royal Australian Signals | |
| **Staff Sergeant J. A. Watson** | 28th Signal Regiment | |
| **Staff Sergeant J. P. Wells** | 16th Signal Regiment | |

The results of the course were excellent. All the candidates passed the examination and there was an unprecedented number of distinctions.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS—CLANSMAN'S MANY HEADS
"Dey wuz all poiled op on top o each udder"—but who was the boss?

## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during April, 1974:

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Treasurer, 42 Signal Regiment Officers' Club | 10·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V) | 2·00 |
| Honorary Secretary, Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association | 50·00 |
| Honorary Secretary, Glossop and District Branch, Royal Signals Association | 21·00 |
| Honorary Secretary, North London Branch, Royal Signals Association | 10·00 |
| Honorary Secretary, Bath and District Branch, Royal Signals Association | 10·00 |
| Honorary Secretary, Central Scotland Branch, Royal Signals Association | 4·20 |
| Major J. F. Everard | 1·25 |
| Major F. W. Natolie, Royal Signals | 1·05 |
| D. G. Falkner, Esq. | 75 |
| Captain G. W. Ogden | 65 |
| R. A. Briggs, Esq. | 53 |
| E. P. Piers, Esq. | 53 |
| J. N. B. Penny, Esq. | 50 |
| H. M. Kirklandy, Esq. | 50 |
| R. E. Pickford, Esq. | 50 |
| G. Cawthorn, Esq. | 50 |
| R. M. A. Jones, Esq. | 50 |
| I Prockter, Esq. | 50 |
| Various small donations | 65 |
| Total | £105·61 |

## The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

THE Duke of York's Royal Military School offers a FREE Secondary boarding school education for the sons of soldiers.

The only qualification for application for admission is that the boy's father or mother must have enlisted in the ranks of the Regular Army, and must have served in the ranks for not less than four years.

A boy must be between eleven and twelve years of age on 1st September of the year of entry to the school.

The school was founded at Chelsea in 1801 as an institution for the children of soldiers of the Regular Army, with priority of admission for orphans and compassionate cases. This principle continues. The school moved to Dover in 1909 into purpose built accommodation on the high ground east of the town above Dover Castle.

The school buildings are fully centrally heated, and completely modernised with well equipped classrooms, science block, language laboratory, workshops, gymnasium, indoor swimming bath etc.

The grounds of 150 acres contain extensive playing fields, a fine athletics track, tennis courts, rifle ranges, cricket school and many other facilities. YOU NAME IT, THE SCHOOL HAS IT and is the envy of the finest boarding schools in the country.

The school contains 450 boys. At present over 60% are the sons of serving soldiers, 30% are sons of fathers who are ex-soldiers who are now in civilian life, and 10% are orphans.

There are two junior boarding houses for boys age 11 to 13 years, and six senior houses for the older boys. There are also a central dining hall, sanatorium, C of E and RC Chapels, library, and theatre cum assembly hall. All boys remain at school to age 16 and take either the GCE 'O' level or CSE examinations. Those boys who qualify for admission to the Sixth Form stay on for a further two years to take the GCE 'A' level with a view to entry into the Services, Professions, or to go on to University. A comprehensive careers advisory service is maintained and boys may aim at any career they choose.

A unique feature of school life is the strong military tradition. The school has carried Colours since 1825, and Troops the Colour in July every year in blue No. 1 Dress, as a Royal Regiment. All boys in senior houses belong to the Cadet Force.

The normal working dress is a dark blue school blazer with pocket badge, grey flannel trousers, and black shoes.

Seventy five boys are admitted to the school each year.

Registration for admission should be made between the ages of 8 and 10 years.

Write to the school, or telephone Dover 203012 for further information, OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VISIT.

## *Ski Heil!*

**by Lance-Corporal Nick Doveton**

**NICK Doveton is one of a number of young Corps ski enthusiasts who, we hope, will be helping to put the Corps into a strong challenging position in the Army Ski-ing championships in the next few years. Nick distinguished himself by coming first in the special slalom event at this year's Army meeting.**

**The Build Up to 2nd Div. Signals Regiment's First Appearance In The Army Ski-ing Championships in Austria**

Equipped with skis, sticks, slalom poles, composite rations and all the paraphernalia required for a stay at a ski camp high in the Italian Alps, 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment ski team members consisting of **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes, Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley, Signalman Rob Giles, Driver 'Taffy' Brocklebank** and myself set off for the ski resort of Cervinia just underneath the Matterhorn.

Training began under the critical eye of our German instructor **Dr. Dieter Bergler** and after a week's slave driving by **Dieter** there was a marked improvement in everybody's ski-ing. Then bad weather set in, with high winds sometimes up to as much as 168 kph, which caused the cable car to swing dangerously so it had to be closed down. This hazard coupled with dense fog and the fact that Italian lift men are not the most industrious of people resulted in the fact that many days training were lost.

Other teams may have been daunted by this misfortune but not us. At the end of our training period, squaring our shoulders and gritting our teeth we set off for our Divisional races at Oberjoch in Bavaria. Our neighbours in Bunde, 2 Division Regiment RCT, with 3 Army team members, came first in the giant slalom and special slalom events, with our team right behind in second place. The last event of the meeting was the downhill race, and suported by cheers from our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** our previous Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman** and their wives, also members of 1 Squadron who at the time were at the Snow Queen Hut in Bavaria, we skied home to a very convincing win with myself coming first, **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** second, **Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley** fourth and **Signalman Rob Giles** fifth.

This set us in very good spirits for the next races which were the BAOR races in Ischol, Austria.

Here our rivals were 94 Locating Regiment RA and the story was much the same, 94 won the giant slalom and special slalom with us taking second place in both events. It's interesting to note here that in the special slalom we were beaten by only 300th of a second! However disaster struck in the downhill when **Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley** very unfortunately losing a ski on a very fast corner was forced to retire. This gave us third place with 35th Engineer Regiment taking second place.

The final meeting of the season was the Army Competition—this year being held at Obertaven in Austria. The standard of ski-ing was now much higher with all members of the Army ski team back with their respective teams. The first race here was the giant slalom. This was a short but very fast and tricky course and it was evident from the start that this was a course to be reckoned with. 94 showed their experience here by ski-ing very strongly into first place with 2 Division Regiment RCT second, 35 Engineer Regiment third and we clinched the fourth position. This was not a good race for us with me ski-ing very badly into sixth place, **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** and **Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley** both falling to come 26th and 47th respectively and **Signalman Rob Giles** losing a ski and retiring.

The second event was the special slalom which was held on the same slope as the giant slalom. Here the problem was ruts. The night before we had a fall of snow and so that meant the snow would be soft and would rut very quickly. This was proved when after the first fifteen runners had been through the course the ruts resembled a ski-bob run. Here 94 skied to victory again with 35 Engineer Regiment taking second, 2 Division Regiment RCT third and we again held fourth place. Individual results were, myself first, **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** twenty-seventh, having had a very bad fall in the first run but ski-ing very well to make up time on the second run. **Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley** had a fight with a pole and after an enquiry with the gate keeper and the race officials he was disqualified which was most unfortunate as he skied very well indeed and would have materially changed the final results. **Signalman Rob Giles** unluckily lost a ski and had to retire. The final race was the downhill which was a 2·6 km. course which is used for international races, and needless to say very fast and frightening. The team results changed only slightly, 94 gained their hat trick by coming first, 2 Division Regiment RCT took second place from 35 Engineer Regiment third, with—guess who—yes 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment fourth.

All members of the team had an enjoyable race with myself coming second, **Captain 'Paddy' Hughes** fifteenth, **Signalman Rob Giles** sixteenth and **Signalman 'Tanky' Townsley** forty-fourth. Our lang lauf team had also been ski-ing well and we finally finished fourth in the Princess Marina Cup which is a combined lang lauf, downhill competition.

So that was it and the end of a very exciting series of race meetings. We had held our own with very experienced teams and came away a lot wiser and determined that next year the Army and Princess Marina Cup would be displayed in our Regimental trophy cabinet.

**ONE OF THE CORPS' MORE REMOTE TROOPS**

## *A Tour with 603 Signal Troop*

**Contributed by Corporal John Corbett, Troop Clerk**

(See also page 155)

ONE cold and miserable day in February 1973, the unit I was stationed in received a ROPO with a surprise posting for me, to 603 Signal Troop, RAF Masirah. On asking members of the unit, "Where the hell is Masirah", and getting blank looks and even worse replies, I looked at a world atlas and eventually found a small dot with the word Masirah by the side of it, the word being larger than the island. Looking out of the window and seeing the snow falling and the clouds piling up I thought, "It will be good to see some sun in the Near East".

On a rainy day in July 1973, I left UK, and, after an overnight stay in Cyprus (care of 261 Signal Squadron) I landed in Masirah. First impression was "My God what have I let myself in for?" This impression was gained by the sight of all the members of my new troop waiting for me outside movements with looks of glee on their faces—obviously thinking "Another new Moonie—with more time to do than me".

After the first few days of settling in and getting used to the slow but industrious way of life here, it quickly became apparent that the members of 603 (Pongos) make up for the size of the Troop—15, by the show which goes on to the RAF 24 hours per day (or almost). The Troop takes part in just about every sporting event in Masirah and are held in high regard by the 'Blue Jobs' for the efforts made, both on the sports field, at work and even for drinking. Being overweight when I arrived, I soon found that I could not keep up with some of the active members of the troop. I therefore went on a strict diet and 2 months later, and 2 stone later I was running around the sports field like a teenager (at least I have that impression).

Some of the highlights of my tour here have been, representing Masirah in a fishing contest in Singapore, a short leave spent in Dubai and Shajah, a couple of trips to Salalah, going out in a small boat with 2 or 3 other fishermen for an afternoon and bringing in catches of 100 to 120 lbs, of fish, all this, of course, at the taxpayer's expense.

My tour with 603 Signal Troop comes to an end in April 1974, and happy though I am to be leaving here and rejoining my family, I know that it will be a sad occasion for me to be departing from such a close knit troop and saying cheerio to such characters as **Corporals Bruce Murdin** and **Ena Sharples** of Radio 65 fame, **Corporal 'Mac' McDonald** who runs the troop stores and the Masirah Curry Club so efficiently, **Signalman 'Fiji' Allen** who represents the troop and RAF Masirah in most sporting events, the members of the troop cricket team (for actually winning a couple of matches) and our new F. of S. **(W.O.2 John Hill)** who rules the troop and the Island through his sense of humour and priorities.

For anyone thinking of volunteering for a posting to 603 Signal Troop I can only say "Come along and volunteer, your stay here will be one to be remembered for years to come".



# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

YOUR correspondent from Kitchen Hill Factory is having a hard time of it. The OC, **Major Dorrell,** and the RSM, **W.O.1 Sam Bedwell** are out manning a VCP on the motorway, along with most of the Squadron who are not on shift, on guard or on detachment to a border unit. The result is a constant attack on the peace of mind (by telephones, bomb hoaxes, etc.) which this correspondent needs to write this masterpiece of erudition.

Since our last notes the IRA still maintain themselves top of the pops for disturbers of the peace. On the 21st January an RPG 7 rocket hit the main part of the factory building. Luckily there was minimal damage except to the room of the Roman Catholic Padre, **Father Poole.** In February a rocket passed over the top of the factory and self destructed somewhere above the town. It is still a matter of conjecture whether it was meant for us or 'they' were just celebrating Guy Fawkes a trifle late.

### OPERATIONAL—A REPORT FROM A BALLOT BOX ESCORT

Apart from the normal Squadron activities connected with our communications role we are often called upon to provide patrols in support of the Brigade units. The elections on the 28th February for example brought requests for support. **Sergeant Mick Farrell** who was due to be posted to AAC Harrogate a few days later was tasked to command a ballot box patrol. Here in his own words is his report.

The main rule on being posted from this Brigade Squadron is never send off your MFO Boxes until you have at the most one hour of your tour to go.

Election day did not just mean popping down to a polling station and voting, not here in Northern Ireland.

"Could we borrow two Rover patrols to act as escort to ballot boxes being collected for counting"? This innocent request started some of 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron personnel on a day of extreme variety.

True to the spirit of the Squadron (90! proof) happy smiling and willing (perhaps stretching a point there) I and my seven merry men, **Corporal Ian Buick, Corporal Dave Scott, Signalman 'Tich' Liddy, Driver Steve Patterson** (RCT), **Private 'Taff' Sellwood** (RAOC), **Private Ron Taylor** (RPC) and **Private 'Ginge' Rayner** (RPC), fully kitted out for a mobile escort duty and duly armed left for A Company, 3 RRF at Dungannon for our briefing. The weather as usual, rain (no wonder the grass is green over here), started with our journey and staved with us all day.

The briefing at Dungannon was to say the least short and not so sweet. "Nice to see you, glad to have you (I bet they were). Well you have all the details. Your first pick up will not be until 2200 hours but one little job, its now 1400 hours, could you take your lads and clear this little piece of road for culvert mines. After all, its on your route".

The little piece of road was about 5 miles long and has more culverts per mile than anywhere else in the Brigade area. In the first 2 miles we even had a bomber's dream, milk churns by the thousand.

After about an hour, all wet but still getting on with it, **Private Sellwood** found what appeared to be two wires going into the bank. Everyone waits and after a pregnant pause, big sighs of relief, only old scrap metal.

The next problem was a large culvert entrance in a field next to the road. Problem. Culvert is fenced in, **"Private Sellwood** under you go". On his return a little more damp (if that is possible) but with extra DPM colouring (mud patches) "Another one clear". **Private Taylor** in the meantime slipped and went for an impromptu paddle. Not to be recommended in February.

Soon the road was clear and; we could look forward to a meal in the nearby Ulster Defence Regiment barracks at Cookstown. A splendid meal, hot coffee, armchairs and three hours to dry off in.

Too soon it was time to move again. With a clear cold moonlit night, and wet boots, the cold soon set in.

When we arrived at our first pick up point it's "Oh! you're early there's a slight delay in the ballot boxes coming in". After a two hour wait, zero hour and off we went on the first leg down our own road (it felt like ours after checking every foot of it) and on to our middle stop.

More boxes—then the last and longest run. Like Le-Mans we drove through the night. Soon we heard a welcome sound of a covering helicopter. Told you we were'nt the only people in the Brigade working tonight.

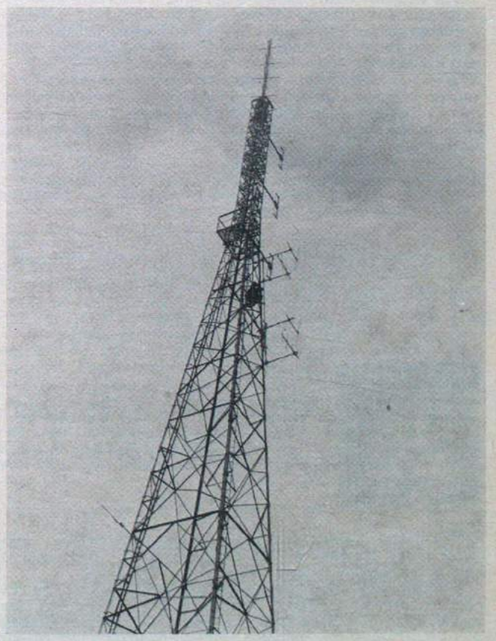
March had started and 1½ hours later the boxes are delivered in Omagh.

Back to A Company in Dungannon and "Thanks job well done". Hot soup and "Oh could you pick up some ammo from Armagh and take it back to Brigade HQ—it's on your way home". So's Paris or Dublin, but like it or not off we go.

At last, home sweet home! At 0400 hours the Knicker Factory looked like the Hilton Hotel.

### OTHER JOBS TOO

Other activities have included VCP's in Newry **(Sergeant Mumford** and **Corporal Hobbs** claim a traffic jam from Rathfriland to Newry, some 14 miles) and various communications tasks in areas such as Crossmaglen and Forkhill. Another task has been the maintenance of the radio sites at Slieve Croob and elsewhere. **Sergeant McGarry** and **Corporal Hobbs** have become quite adept at shinning up 200 foot masts. The photo shows **Sergeant McGarry** repairing a coax feeder for the Pye talk through somewhere at an altitude of 150 feet.



CAN YOU SPOT HIM?

Sergeant McGarry repairs a coax feeder on a Pye 'talk through' at a height of 150 feet—one of the many out of the way jobs the Corps gets in N. Ireland

FAREWELL TO R.S.M. AND MRS. THORNTON

Mr. Thornton donates his pace stick to the Corporal's Club while Mrs. Thornton holds the silver candelabra just presented to the departing couple

## SOCIAL

Despite all the activity in the area the Squadron manages still to cram in a full social programme. The Junior Ranks Club contrive to find an inexhaustable supply of girls for the discos. We're not quite sure if its the charm of the entertainments member **Signalman Gilfillan** or the attraction of a real red hot professional disco.

The Corporal's Club have also had several successful functions including a wine and cheese Party on the 23rd February organised to say goodbye to **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. J. Thornton.** After two years in Ulster **Mr. Thornton** is posted (on commissioning) to Germany. Apart from the oak leaf on his GSM we hope as a founder member he takes a few pleasant memories of 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron. We wish him and **Mrs. Thornton** all the best for the future as well as thank them both for all their efforts on behalf of the Squadron and the families.

Another of the Squadron founder members, **Y. of S. Dunbar** has also left for the School of Signals. We hope he finds ADP as interesting as communications in Northern Ireland. Perhaps he can sort out the recent frequency assignment programme.

*Footnote:* The 'Streaking' craze has hit Lurgan. A streaker was seen streaking through the ground floor of the factory. When asked if she could identify the culprit the woman cleaner replied, "No, to be sure Sir, I didn't see his face".

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

THE month of March was a very busy month in more ways than one. Not only was the Squadron busy with operational commitments, but also busy with a number of farewells.

The Brigade Commander, **Brigadier David Mostyn** handed over command at 2359 hours 31st March 1974 and we wish him and his family a well deserved peaceful tour at MOD. A farewell party was held in the Squadron Club on Saturday, 30th March 1974 and a painting from all ranks was presented to the Commander, by **Colonel The Hon. W. D. Arbuthnott,** Deputy Commander. **The Brigadier presented Corporal Norman Hughes with a tankard in appreciation for a job well done on his Rover Group.**

8 BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON—JONES' OWN!

*Standing, left to right:* Jones the Bike (Signalman—Clerk), Jones the Spanner (Corporal—Fitter), Jones the Bottle (Signalman)

*Seated, left to right:* Jones the Iron (Corporal—Radio Technician), Jones the Pen (Captain—G.S.O.3), Jones the First (Major D.A.A.Q.M.G.), Jones the Phones (Staff Sergeant—Lineman), Jones the Wagon (Signalman—Driver)

## QM's DEPARTMENT

The QM's Department had a disastrous month losing two Sergeants (the only two) on posting. These were **Sergeant Dennis Mackin** and **Sergeant 'Wes' Braithwaite.** We thank you both for two years' hard work.

## SQUADRON CLUB

The Lemon Club has been given a face lift by the supervising officer, **Captain Tony Downes,** Royal Anglian, assisted by members of the Pioneer Platoon. One can now enter the club without wearing boots rubber knee.

## MIKE TROOP

This month saw the departure of two stalwarts of the Troop, **Corporal Bill Cook** and **Corporal Frank Byrne.** Both will be missed for their prowess on the sports field, as well as their ability to make a decent cup of coffee. We welcome the arrival of **Sergeant Steve Gair** and family, and wait with baited breath for one new Foreman to arrive to take over from **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Wherry.**

## SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

The orderly room was subjected to the annual documents check, and received a good report. **Staff Sergeant Jim Husband** Royal Signals Documents team thought he was back at 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment after meeting so many ex-members of that Regiment in this Squadron. Perhaps that is why the result was so good!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Bob Jones** on his award of the B.E.M. We are not sure who recommended him for the award. It could have been the GPO seeing how he is known as 'Jones the Phones'.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## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

"IT'S A TOUGH LIFE IN NORTHERN IRELAND—BUT NEXT MONTH WE HOPE TO GET A SECOND DESK"

Major Ernie Ash, Staff Sergeant Arthur Jones, Corporal Ken Yarker, Lance-Corporal Alan Johnston and Corporal Joe Cagilaba await the start of their weekly conference

## SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

OVER the last couple of months we have had so many changes of personnel that a special issue of Part 2 Orders was considered to be justified. In a fit of nostalgia the old style for Part 2 Order has been used.

## STRENGTH DECREASES

**Major John Bromley** (Squadron Commander), **Major George Bedford,** RCT (Admin. Officer), **Corporal Tony Kelly, Signalman Bill 'SDS' De Sykes, Signalman Jim 'Legless' Lawless** and **Signalman 'Mighty Mick' McAlpine.**

## STRENGTH INCREASES

**Major Mike Spence** (Squadron Commander), **Major Ernie Ash,** RCT (Admin. Officer), **Corporal Joe Cagilaba**—fresh from DOMCOL leave, **Lance-Corporal Alan Johnston, Signalman Gerry Raffell** and **Signalman John Jarvis.**

## MARRIAGES

**Corporal Joe Cagilaba**—pronounced 'Thangilamba' for those whose 'O' Levels Fijian is a little rusty—to **Miss Akanisi Raivaka Sausaubitu,** known as Vaka.

## BIRTHS

**Paul Anthony Raffell.** Watch this space for **Lance-Corporal Johnston's** next issue, due any time now!

Young **Paul Raffell** was almost christened 'MV Ulster Prince' but fortunately **Mrs. Raffell** realized in time that the discomfort she was experiencing could not possibly be seasickness as the boat had not left the Liverpool quayside. The Raffells hurriedly disembarked and found a local hospital where some two hours later baby Paul drew his first breath. It was heard that, when re-booking his passage two days later, **Signalman Raffell's** voice faltered a little as he said "I'd like to book a berth on tonight's boat . . ."

## TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

Part of the workshops role in Belfast is to give assistance to roulement units. This assistance usually takes the form of straightforward advice (or linelaying) but there are some howlers that ought to go on record. One unit brought some large magnets into the workshop to be remagnetised, (they are used for fishing in drains for suspicious metal objects). The bearers couldn't understand what our F. of S., **W.O.2 Mike Groom,** was up to as he struggled to get the keepers off the magnets. They had never had them off! One individual was always reported weak on his pocketfone transmissions, but there was never anything wrong with the radio. Eventually he was watched as he made a transmission and was seen speaking slowly and clearly into the pocketfone battery! Sometimes of course it isn't funny. **Sergeants 'Rick' Thomas** and **John Harcourt** were early on the scene after the second bomb at the Grand Central Hotel army post; the masonry and glass were still falling and the devastation had to be seen to be believed. 1 RHA had just been about to move into their new Ops room but it was completely destroyed. The two technicians' timely arrival helped to get a temporary Ops room working and work started straightaway on another new Ops room for the Regiment.

## MT TROOP

In addition to meeting all their details and SDS commitments a number of the troop have been attached to the Welsh Guards to assist in search operations in Mid Antrim. This involved street patrols, buildings searches and boat patrols on Lough Neagh. It was a welcome change for those who took part and assistance was appreciated very much.

We welcome recent arrivals, **Signalmen Whittaker** and **Thomas** who are finding SDS in Northern Ireland rather different from past experiences.

## COMMUNICATIONS TROOP

The linemen of 39 Brigade, under the experienced eye of **Corporal Barry Cooke,** work as an independent line detachment who are sent out to work on a wide variety of tasks often involving working on unfamiliar equipment belonging to the GPO or purchased locally. The GPO are understandably reluctant to work in certain dangerous areas and so our linemen have to step in and assist.

A recent example occurred when the Grand Central Hotel suffered severe bomb damage and the linemen were in almost before the dust had settled. Within a couple of hours the mess was sorted out and line communications were back in. At a risk of living a monotonous life, three weeks later they were back again after the second bomb to keep the unit operational until the GPO could effect a permanent repair.

**It is no small tribute to the line detachment that so far no job has yet proved to be too dangerous, difficult or unusual for them. If there are any linemen in the Corps who want a job that is different and don't mind hard work and long hours there is always a place for them in Northern Ireland.**

## UNIT DOCUMENTATION

Almost a year ago a prefabricated building suddenly appeared on the Camp. This was shortly afterwards occupied by the Army Pay and Documentation Office who now maintain our personal documents and publish Part 2/3 Orders on our behalf. The Part 2/3 Order system will be of interest to Chief Clerks as a possible pointer to the shape of things to come. APDO publish one Part 3 Order for all officers' occurrences irrespective of Regiment, Corps or Unit to which posted. They publish, daily, one Part 2 Order for all soldiers' occurrences irrespective of Regiment, Corps of Unit. Copies of all Part 2 Orders are sent to all Manning and Record offices and Regimental Pay Offices, who extract all relevant details. This simplified system has been in operation for almost a year now and no reports have been received of the computer having a nervous breakdown.

### WIRE—LATE PUBLICATION

We need hardly draw the attention of our readers to the continued late publication of THE WIRE. This issue, we estimate, will be six weeks late. We are continuing to publish curtailed editions to help our printers and the support of our correspondents in keeping their contributions short is much appreciated. A determined effort is now being made to try and catch up and we sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we are on schedule again.

## Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

ARMY APPRENTICES' COLLEGE TEAM PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR TROPHIES AS WINNERS OF THE ARMY JUNIOR UNITS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army Apprentices' College Harrogate Cross-Country Club has just completed its most successful season. The crowning glory was the team's victory in the Army Junior Units team championships at Bramcote on 15th February. This trophy, added to the Junior Inter Unit Athletics cup, made it a clean sweep for College Athletics during the last 12 months. In fact, for a week all four major Army Athletics and Cross-Country Trophies were held by the Corps. Unfortunately, 21 Signal Regiment were to lose the Senior Team trophy to 3 Para shortly afterwards

*Left to right:* A/T Paul Staynings, A/T David Purnell, A/T David Walker (Captain), A/T Sergeant Keith McKenzie, A/T Jeff Warburn, A/T Peter Garratt, A/T Jim Richardson, A/T Lance-Corporal Keith Robinson

A TROPHY AMONG FRIENDS

When Sergeant Mick Gue led the Army Apprentices' College team to victory in the North East District cross-country championships, the shield was to find itself surrounded—literally!—by familiar faces. No fewer than five members of the College staff had had a hand—or a foot?—in winning this famous and coveted trophy, formerly the Northern Command Shield, in bygone years. Their combined cross-country careers span 6 decades—though they certainly do not look it! *Left to right:* Major Trevor Luscombe, M.B.E. (1930s), Sergeant Harry Escott (1960s), Sergeant Mick Gue (1970s), Major David Elliott, R.A.E.C. (OIC Cross-Country), Colonel Norman Butler (1940s and 1950s), Major Bob Edwards (1920s)

*(Photograph: Captain C. B. Storey, R.A.E.C.)*


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HARROGATE APPRENTICES HELP LOCAL YOUTH CLUB RAISE OVER £100

Members of the Pennypot Youth Club, with runners of Bradley Squadron in support, ran 200 miles in the 24 hours from 30th to 31st March, and by their efforts raised well over £100 for the Training Centre for the Mentally Handicapped at Starbeck, near Harrogate. The idea of the 'race' came from 15-year-old Melvin Escott, whose father, Sergeant Harry Escott, is a Troop Sergeant in Bradley Squadron. Like his father, Melvin is a keen cross-country runner, and is carrying out a school project with the mentally handicapped. The idea was enthusiastically adopted by Mr. Keith Thomas of Telegraphist Wing, youth leader of Pennypot Youth Club, who organised the run with the support of the S.E.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Don Horner, Chairman of Pennypot youth management committee.

The course was one of 12 miles, from the College through Birstwith, and left-handedly back to the College, with each runner doing a two-mile stint. Safety precautions were plentiful: a check-point with radio link to the College every two miles; a cyclist in support of each runner; fluorescent jackets worn during the hours of darkness.

*Left to right (back row):* A/T Corporal Oliver, Melvin Escott, A/T Lance-Corporal Robinson, A/T Thompson, Sergeant Escott, A/T Garratt, A/T Douglas, A/T Sykes, A/T Potter

*Left to right (front row):* A/T Lance-Corporal Corkwell, Susan Dale, Jane Meade, Lyn Clifton, Sophia Driver, Carlos Clark

*(Photo: Sergeant T. Williamson)*

# News from Regiments

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

THE month of March passed through the Regiment before anyone had really noticed that it had arrived. Most of it was taken up by Exercise 'Flying Falcon', but prior to that we were either doubling onto the square in preparation for the annual fire inspection, or else burrowing deep into cupboards and drawers in readiness for the arrival of the BAOR Documents Team.

### RHINE AREA WHITE WATER CANOE RACE

This year's Rhine Area White Water Canoe Race was once again sponsored by the New Telemark Canoe Club in Krefeld, but it was 7th Regiment who carried away the team championship with both first and second places in the team event.

The race was held on the River Erft near Neuss, on the 4th–5th April, over a 10 kilometer course which contained one portage and seven rapids. Unfortunately because of the nature of the river there were long stretches of flat water between the falls, however most people felt that the excitement of the Grimlinghausen Wier and the Double Arch Bridge were quite enough for one day. The winning team from the Regiment were **Signalman Phil Philpot, Signalman Alf Ramsey** and **Signalman Andy Garlick,** whose combined time was 37 minutes 12 seconds. The second team, also provided by the Regiment were **Corporal Derek Coker, Corporal Benny Bingham,** and **Corporal Stan Sudron** who between them managed a time of 39 minutes 26 seconds. The third team home was from 21st Regiment in a time of 40 minutes 29 seconds, but they had to borrow **Signalman Pete Doughty** from us to make up their numbers. The prizes were very kindly presented by **Mrs. Grice,** the wife of the Second-in-Command of 16th Regiment, the meeting sponsors.

### EXERCISE 'FLYING FALCON'

Once again the Regiment took to the field for Exercise 'Flying Falcon', though those who were looking forward to the excitement of last year were somewhat disappointed. The weather was fine and there were no blizzards or blown down trees to prevent Comcens moving into or out of their locations. The exercise was characterised by its usual large complement of visitors from various establishments in the UK, and a dinner night was held at Main HQ in the field for the VIP visitors. Among those attending were the SO-in-C **Major-General J. M. Sawers,** the CSO BAOR **Major-General H. E. Roper,** and **Air Commodore F. C. Padfield** from the MOD.

## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### CORPORAL GLEN MORGAN REPORTS ON 'QUICKSILVER'—THE CORPS MOBILE DISPLAY

AS the majority of the team are completing the first half of the Winter Schools Tour programme, the OC has 'passed the buck' and asked me to write the WIRE Notes.

Those of us left behind are involved in the complete rebuild of Quicksilver for the Summer 1974 season, under the craftsmanship of **Sergeant Joe Fisher, B.E.M.** and **Mr. Tony Freak.** They have been banging, sawing, planing and swearing ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal 'Siats' Campbell, Signalman 'Lofty' Dean** and **Signalman 'Chippy' Woods,** who has just completed a Draughtsman course at Catterick. We are assured that by April all will be ready.

The team's vehicles (which include two that have been in service for the past 20 years) are having a facelift for 1974. The Army's own particular 'British Racing Green' is being changed for Corps Colours, and the vehicles now look resplendant in their light blue with the horizontal band of green and dark blue running through the centre. There are however mixed feelings about the new colour scheme; some liken the vehicles to giant Players No. 6 packets and **Lance-Corporal Nat Pass** keeps muttering to himself "give us white overalls and we can spend the summer selling ice-cream to the kids".

The programme for Summer 1974 shows has not yet been finalised, but it looks as if we are going to beat last year's mileage record easily. Last summer alone we toured Eastern District 5 times, the North East twice, the South East 3 times, London once, the South West once, the North West once and the West Midlands twice, and we covered some 84,000 miles—if you want to see the UK then this is the job for you.

The team has seen a rapid number of comings and goings in the past few months. **Lieutenant-Colonel Inglis** has gone to teach in civvy street and has been replaced by **Lieutenant-Colonel Sherrard-Smith. 'Oscar' Powell** has gone to 20 Armoured Brigade and **'Oscar' Gale** and **Wessex** have replaced him. **Corporal Jim Long** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Murray** say farewell to the Army and in their places we have **Corporal Mick Kidd** and **Signalman Colin Misra. Staff Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell** is off soon and his place is being taken by **Staff Sergeant Gil Harding, Signalman Phil Lee** goes to Tidworth and in his place we welcome **Signalman 'Lofty' Dean.** Finally we welcome **Signalman Jack Barry** who joins us today.

It seems if you want a wife a posting to the team is a must. The following to whom we extend congratulations, have all made it in the last few months, or are about to take the plunge.

**Lance-Corporal 'Slats' Campbell** and **May** in February 1973; **Signalman Phil Lee** and **Pat** in April 1973; **Lance-Corporal 'Boom' Moore** and **Janet** in August 1973; **Signalman Tony King** and **Jackie** in October 1973; **Lance-Corporal Alan Murray** and **Morag** in December 1973; **Signalman Mick Sherwood** and **Val** in February 1974; and **Lance-Corporal Nat Pass** and **Brenda** on the 6th April 1974—needless to say subs to join Quicksilver are pretty h gh!

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### 1 SQUADRON

ON Friday, 22nd March it was the turn of 4 Troop to terminate their recruit training with their 'Pass Off' Parade. Minutes before the march on the parade square was a curtain of swirling mist. Fortunately it cleared before the arrival of the Inspecting Officer, **Major-General G. de E. Collin, M.C.,** General-Officer-Commanding North East District, **Lieutenant 'Willie' Brewin** led his troop through the parade watched by 56 guests and friends of the troop, and a distinguished audience including the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Mrs. K. M. Carr,** the Chairman of Richmond Rural District Council, **Mr. C. W. C. Watson** and **Brigadier Jimmie Hellier,** Commander Training Brigade Royal Signals. During the parade **General Collin** presented **Sergeant M. O. Ellis** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and at the prize giving in the Junior Ranks Club after the parade, he presented the prize for the best recruit to **Signalman Neil Watson** and the prize for the best rifle shot to **Signalman Jeff King.**

We bid farewell to two lively personalities this month; firstly that dashing, suave man about the sportsfield, **Lieutenant Chris Donaghy,** who reckons he holds the record for having the most appointments in any one regiment. 4 Guards Brigade take note! Secondly, we must say goodbye to **Captain 'Rick' Brown,** who will be remembered for his outdoor activities from the Mess lake to the 19th hole. We wish him luck in his new posting in Scotland

We welcome to the squadron **Leiutenant Dick Gittings** who joins us from 7 Armoured Brigade in BAOR.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SQUADRON—NOT A VERY FREE WEEKEND!

Having sent the latest batch of much wiser potential staff sergeants in the shape of Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course Nos. 81 and 82 on their weary but happy way, we had a free weekend.

The Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson Pratt,** in his infinite wisdom, decided that this was the ideal opportunity for Instructional Squadron to put the Regimental Cadre through its paces at battle camp.

**Major Mike Galloway** and **Captain 'Ollie' Hackett,** our Infantry Officer from the WFR, immediately withdraw from their normal daily haunts and routine and started to churn out sheets of pink paper. These were eventually placed before **Captain Alan Alfred,** who was nominated as exercise control. After much heated discussion all the 'nitty gritty' was sorted out and the fate of the regiment was sealed.

Five five men patrols were selected to take part in a patrol race which consisted of shooting, a ten mile forced march, a night move through terrorist held territory and finally a falling place competition.

The initial shooting involved IBSR, SLR, CQBR, SMG and jungle lane SLR.

The forced march was carried out during the hours of daylight but as darkness fell the fun really started. Compass march? I am sure at least one Captain was steering by 'moving' stars. **Major Bill Mayne** assures me that **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** now knows that you turn right from the direction in which the red arrow is pointing if you want to go East and not left.

I still maintain that **Sergeants Eric Birchall** and **Steve Pedley** boldly walking up the road to bunker number five and demanding my name tag, does not represent a section attack on my bunker.

A bit of advice about thunderflashes. If you decide to hold a thunderflash behind you ready to strike because you are not sure whether the approaching party is friend or foe, don't fidget. It is embarrasing trying to dispose of an accidentally ignited thunderflash among friends.

The final RV was a hide area where each patrol set up its own tactical 'bivvy' area and slept for what was left of the night. They were dissuaded from oversleeping by some enthusiastic attention from the aforementioned unscrupulous parties.

The competition ended with an inter-patrol falling plate shoot which was won by **Captain James Budd's** patrol.

The weekend was rounded off with a Drumhead Service followed by prize-giving. The best patrol was **Lieutenant 'Piper' Ewan Cameron, Sergeant Terry Beckett, Sergeant John Bonnett, Sergeant Les Downie** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Jarwood. Sergeant Bill Harland** won the prize for the best all round shot and a special prize was presented to **Sergeant Les Harris** for a combination of effort and age.

Those members of the cadre not participating in the patrol race also fired on all ranges and, apart from assisting in directing/misdirecting and harassing the patrols during the night, attended to the thankless task of administering the camp for the weekend. It is strongly rumoured that **W.O.2 Les Stoneham** can now play a very good game of chess using landrovers, four tonners and coaches.

We say farewell this month to **Major Mike Galloway** and **Dickens** his dog, on posting to BAOR, to **W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) Fred Poole,** APTC on completion of his service, to **Corporal Eric Massam** on posting to the School of Infantry and to **Mrs. Carol Donaghy** on posting with her husband, **Lieutenant Chris Donaghy** to BAOR. We wish them well.

We also extend a warm welcome to **Major Robin Macheath, W.O.1 (S.M.I.) Ted Dixon,** APTC and **Signalman 'Nev' Maw** to the gymnasium staff.

Finally we heartily congratulate **Corporal** and **Mrs. Vic Hoyle** on the birth of their daughter.

## 13 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 40

THERE was a great improvement in the weather at the end of March. As the temperature rose **Captain John Francis** could be seen sniffing the air, then disappearing to the boat shed to prepare the sailing dinghies for launching in May.

### SPORT

The football team, less **Signalman Alex Middleton** who broke a leg in an inter-troop game, beat RAF Tangeren 3–nil. Despite injuries and the difficulties of shift work the team has had a most successful season. With one game to play against 28th Regiment, they need only one point to win the league.

This year has seen the first appearance of a Regimental badminton team in the Rhine Area League. They were placed fifth but what they lack in skill is made up for by their enthusiasm. A 'Badminton for Beginners' course is running and we hope it will produce some new talent for next season. In the middle of the season our star player **S.S.M. Ken Kennington** was posted to 28th Regiment. Fortunately 28th don't play in the league so **Ken** was able to carry on playing for us.

### FOLK

The Birgelen Folk Club is a thriving concern with regular meetings and audiences of 100 to 150. Leading lights of the Club are **Sergeant Mike Shail** and his wife **Mary,** who are ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal 'Pip' Page.** UK folk groups regularly play in the Club and when **'Wally Whyton'** appeared the house was packed out.

### CUISINE

**Sergeant Raymond Austin** and **Lance-Corporal Nigel Dolan** were our representatives in the Rhine Area Cookery Competition. Though they didn't win the top prizes this year, they have had no complaints from the lads of 13th Regiment.

### GENERAL

After the hectic FFR period—the Sergeants' Mess have been suppressed once more and we have had no more talk of takeover whether with or without violence.

March wended its weary way. Although we did not join 'those who hibernate' we did slow down a little. The arrival of the FFR reports and real spring weather on 1st April started the sap moving once more. The report reminded us that we have an even higher reputation to maintain this year.



We are now preparing for the Regimental Weekend to be run 25th–28th May—the spring holiday—when we hope many of the families will join us by luxury coach from UK. Quite a weekend with local tours, a fete, cricket, hockey, 'meet the modern soldier' and athletics for all ages from 2 to 102.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last time of going to press our social whirl has been, to say the least, hectic. Visits by German footballers, Dutch soldiers and not to mention British coppers have left us gasping and pleading for sleep. On top of this **Staff Sergeants Dave Wilson** and **Roger Scrivens** have provided a month's social activities that have made every week seem like Christmas all over ag ain.

Throughout this mad socialite existence our mess sportsmen have kept cool heads, steady hands and produced good, indeed outstanding performances.

The mess soccer team have crowned a good league performance, 2nd position, by beating the Borussia Munchengladbach manager's team. A feat unequalled by any British Army team this season. It would be difficult to accredit this success to any one player however **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Wally' Lockwood** has told us he was entirely responsible for the win!

The darts team have kept a tidy league record with some excellent wins. **Sergeants Bernie O'Connor** and **Des Mc-Gonigle** are keeping the team on their toes and are always prominent at training sessions!

Finally the Mess now looks forward to the forthcoming summer activities. The ladies of the Regiment are most certainly looking forward to our annual summer ball; which I can guarantee, from past experience of Mess life in the Regiment, will be an extremely successful and enjoyable evening.

## 14 Sig Regt Worcester

### CHANGE OF COMMANDING OFFICER

THE major domestic happening of the month was the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Ward** and the arrival of **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales.** We wish both the best of fortune in their new jobs.

### CHANGE OF STYLE

Unrelated to the change of hierarchy is the change in style of exercise practised by the Regiment. The fuel restrictions have forced us to continue practising our role without deploying overseas. Not that everybody is confined to Norton Barracks; we still send liaison parties to our anchor stations, the latest trip being conducted by **Captain Colin Heaps** and **Corporal Steve Kent** who spent a merry time searching for the Naval Comcen in the Rock of Gibraltar, whilst Alpha Troop under **Lieutenant Alan Griffiths** spent their time—you'll never guess where—on Catterick Moor bouncing the odd radio wave off a fog ound ionosphere under the technical direction of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Trev Spence.**

The other way to get overseas from Worcester is to go to Belize, without passing 'go' and certainly without collecting £200. The leading castaway at present is **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len Sant** who knows he has no need to worry as long as he has such stalwarts as **Signalman 'Fub' Williams** supporting him. But seriously, they are doing a great job and we look forward to seeing their tanned faces again and listening to all the unlikely stories of cays trips, not to mention the other delights peculiar to the 'Heart of the Caribbean Basin'.

### INTERNAL RECRUITING

In response to a directive from the Commander 1 Signal Group, a working party was set up in the Regiment to study internal recruiting within the Group.

Representatives of all ranks were asked to complete questionnaires and the answers were analysed to provide data for inclusion in a presentation to the Officers and Warrant Officers of the Group. The working party is glad to report that the soldier who found the most enjoyable part of his work to be the 'Time Off' was not typical and that the presentation to the Group was a success giving those attending plenty of food for thought.

### FITNESS FOR ROLE

This month saw the completion of the annual inspection with the visit of **Major-General Bob Britten, M.C.** So far we have not received the official report but we feel confident that we achieved the usual high standard.

Whilst with us the General presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Nickson** and **Sergeant Terry Wood** in the Warrant Officers' and Senior NCO's Mess before lunching in the Officers' Mess.

### WIVES' DAY

In an effort to spread the New Gospel according to Mike, the Regiment opened its gates to the families. Wives visited all departments and discovered how to run an efficient organisation. The reaction to the day was generally favourable and gave the wives a chance to find out just what it is that their husbands have been doing when they come home exhausted after a hard day at the Barracks.

### SPORT

The most successful sport this winter has been football. The Regimental team was runners up to the West Mercia Constabulary in both the Worcester Thursday League and Challenge Cup. The mainstays of the team throughout the season have been **Sergeant Mick Birney, Corporal Dave Butler** and **Lance-Corporal Keith Bowes.**

The rugby team has not enjoyed the same degree of success but that cannot be attributed to a lack of enthusiasm. **Sergeant Bert Ingleby,** in his last season in the Corps, has been a constant driving force and we wish him well in his second career.

The orienteering team trained hard but on Cannock Chase in sleet and snow were beaten into fourth place in the West Midland Orienteering Championships. The sport is in its infancy in the Regiment but participation in local club events should foster the interest in this most rewarding sport and produce better results in future.

Indoors, badminton has been thriving under the enthusiastic directions of **C.S.M.I. Robin Shuttle,** APTC. He has also talked the PRI into buying time on the local squash court for the introduction of the game to some newcomers. We hope that before long we will have our own court and the game will gain more devotees.

### REGIMENTAL SHOOTING

As this month's notes are being completed we have just received the results of the Inter Squadron shooting competition. They bear a remarkable likeness to last year's results with Headquarters Squadron being the overall winners and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Trev' Spence** being the champion shot with **Corporal Barry Winship** a very close second. The wife of the Commanding Officer, **Mrs. Ella Hales,** presented the prizes and gave a demonstration of one way to fire a sub machine gun. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frost** naturally claims full credit for the hit the CO is indicating to his wife.

. . . AND IT'S A BULL!

Mrs. Ella Hales, wife of the C.O., is shown her bull by Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales

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HEADQUARTERS RHEINDAHLEN GARRISON ·22 SHOOTING FINALS
Knock Out Cup Winners: Headquarters BAOR Signal Troop 'B' (Royal Signals)
Plate Competition Winners: Headquarters BAOR Signal Troop 'A' (WRAC)
*Front row, left to right:* Staff Sergeant M. McKechnie, Captain G. Oakley (O.C.), Sergeant G. Fenton, Corporal W. Kane
*Middle row, left to right:* Private D. Bradshaw, Private A. Fletcher, Private A. Ratcliffe, Lance-Corporal K. Gemmell
*Back row, left to right:* Signalman N. Small, Signalman D. J. Williams, Signalman T. A. Procter, Signalman D. J. Noble, Signalman R. B. Brophy

## 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

WITH the coming of spring the two field squadrons in March shook off their winter blues to exercise from the Belgium coast to the Teutoburg ridge.

### 1 SQUADRON

The members of 1 Squadron have been practising their military skills in other ways than being on exercise. Our HQ BAOR Signal Troop entered in the Garrison ·22 Knock Out Cup. The 'A' team led by **Sergeant Gordon Fenton** having been beaten in the first round entered the plate competition, and after a bye in the first round won their way to the final by beating teams from Transport and Movement, and HQ NORTHAG. In the final they defeated I ADU. The 'B' team led by **Corporal Bill Kane** won their first round beating 'C' Company Rheindahlen Garrison. Winning their next two rounds they came up against 4 Signal Group in the final. This they won, which meant that the troop had both the knock out cup and plate. A very good effort by both teams as they only started shooting this season.

### 2 SQUADRON

2 Squadron started the ball rolling with exercise 'Bent Bowler' whose aim, "to practice HF working in congested frequency bands", produced a few wry smiles from people in the know. This was followed by exercise 'March Hare' when 'A' Troop scattered DII's liberally around Belgium and Holland. The exercise necessitated a considerable amount of liaison with our 'NATO brothers' and most of the detachments, as a result were treated right royally. One fly in the ointment however, came when **Sergeant 'Chuck' Kemal** was lectured on the vices and animalistic habits of the British soldier by a Dutch Lieutenant-Colonel who held the firm belief that he, a mere Sergeant, could not possibly control such brutal and licentious characters as **Corporal Brian Smith** and **Lance-Corporal Ronald Wilbraham.**

Prior to this, radio village situated at Emblem camp caused some black looks when the departing Commander at the advanced base's farewell cocktail party was disturbed by a line detachment, who like a cartoonist's dream, emerged from the night and laid P3 cable around the Officers' Mess. Again, time spent on recce proved itself; a few quiet words from the right people recovered the situation.

### 3 SQUADRON

3 Squadron having received a stay of execution with regards to exercise 'March Hare' deployed on exercise 'Dropped Stitch', a Regimental warm up before this year's 'Flying Falcon'. Finally the controlling heart CP 16 joined the already deployed Squadrons, in time to get settled in comfortably before the start of the big exercise. The CSO, **Major-General H. E. Roper,** visited the Regiment in the field on 22nd March. At CP 16 **Sergeant Tom Ditch** suddenly found himself the official greeting party when the helicopter bearing the CSO ignored the designated landing site and came in to land by his Commhead. While the Second-in-Command rushed through the Haltern woods he calmly showed the CSO around his detachments till the two groups met up again.

At Commcen J **Signalman Alex Craig** was able to provide the CSO with a welcome cup of coffee and chat to him about the exercise. Though he was only able to visit the main locations he was able to see the varied HF and VHF communications provided by the Regiment. Whilst not always a visitor the RSM, **W.O.1 Colin Meredith,** was seen at the two Comcen sites both by day and night. Having taken Kilo by surprise one night with some gas and smoke grenades he planned a similar sortie on Juliet. Here he was not successful, the alert sentry on the track leading to the site disarmed him and was able to warn the Commcen of the attack. Worst of all his landrover was ambushed and his accomplices captured.

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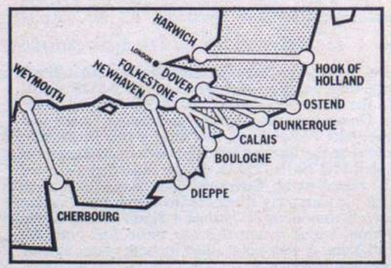


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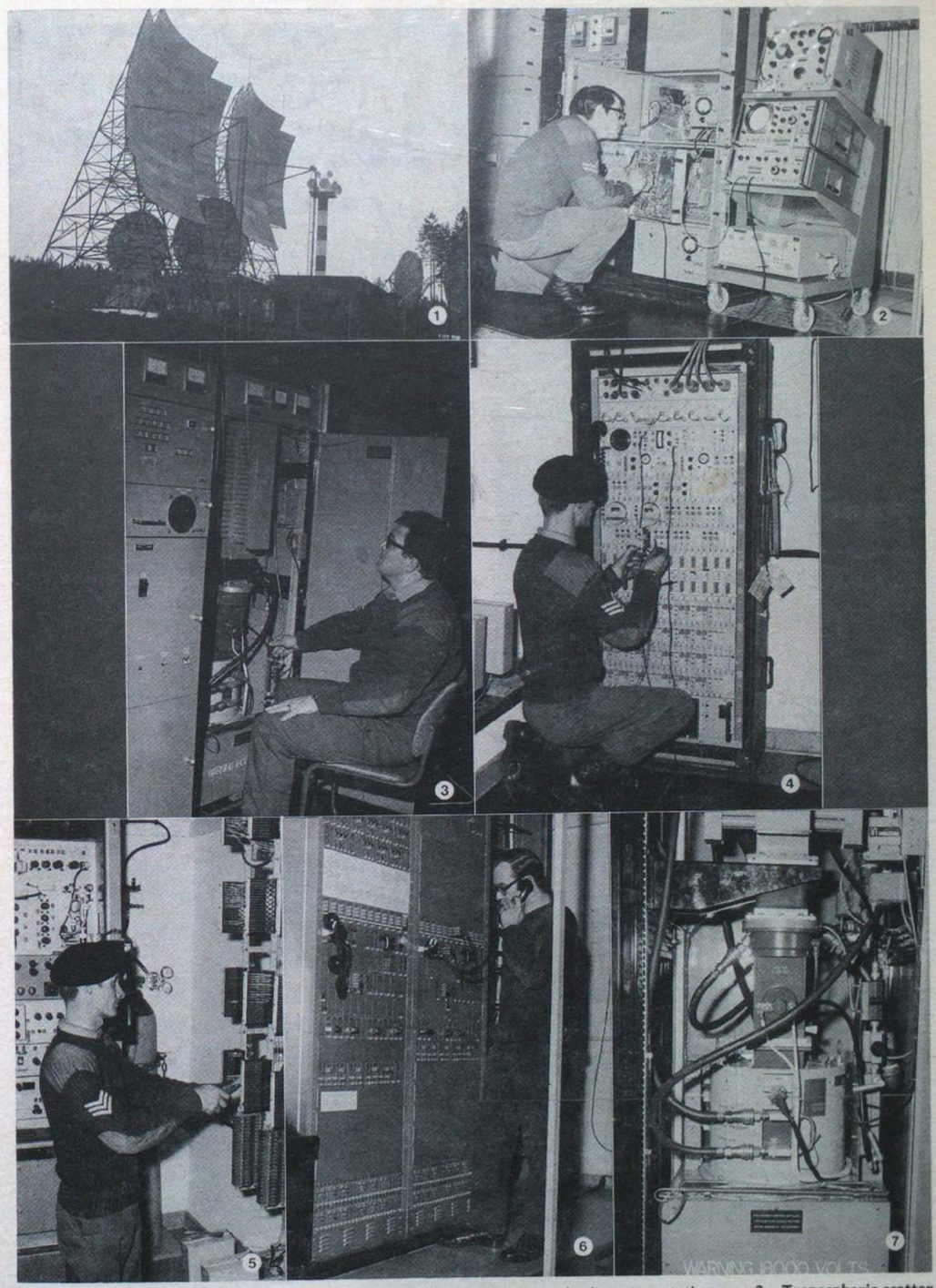
## *Tasks and equipment that come the way of 1 Squadron, 21st Signal Regiment*



1. Tropospheric scatter antennae 2. Routine maintenance in tropospheric scatter station 3. Tropospheric scatter radio equipment 4. Channel testing 5. Circuit jumpering 6. Radio control 7. Klystron power amplifier

## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

"NOT only are the WIRE Notes late but you haven't done them." The Adjutant was begging the question. "So!", he continued, "as your Squadron Commander, if he was here, would have delegated them to you, you won't have a free weekend". He smiled, I felt sick.

### FLYING FALCON

The past month has been rather hectic, with many an unsocial hour (Armed Forces Pay Review Board please note). Exercise 'Flying Falcon' once again arrived and flew wing tip to wing tip with the bird of Paradise. The entire Regiment was deployed on electronic silence to await the code word that would herald the start of the CCR Signals 1974 Exercise. As normal the Comcens stayed well above cloud base doing a fine job (intentional honestly). Meanwhile our Regimental comhead rush around communicating. It proved particularly hectic for the comhead due to the large numbers of visitors amongst whom were the Commander-in-Chief, Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Chief Signal Officer BAOR, and several civilians above the rank of Major-General, all of whom were most fully entertained and dined. No one could ever accuse the comcens of being jealous but we came back with the lean and hungry look whilst certain persons came back well fed. The weather was quite excellent and not one drop of rain fell during the ten days. It seems that the winter war stories of last year were not to be repeated. The latter part of the exercise proved to be interesting and a challenge, in that many circuits, not normally held were taken. This resulted in manpower redistribution, one C50 detachment having a crew of one lieutenant-colonel, one major, one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, one corporal and a signalman. A rapid calculation by Son of Wang, showed that one year's wages for this detachment to be £29,200. It was therefore decided that the crew of this now working detachment would ruin the defence estimates so it was regretfully disbanded, leaving the corporal and signalman with delusions of grandeur

### 3 SQUADRON

In the Regiment are two comcen Squadrons, the older of them being comcen uniform or uninformed as they are cordially referred to by their ex friends in 2 Squadron. It is commanded by **Major Mike Louden** who has joined the Regiment from a successful course at Staff College and who quotes from memory passages or JSP 101 to our new Squadron clerk **Signalman Stephen Cooper.** The Squadron, has been dispossessed of its usual offices during accommodation modernisation. As a result the cellars, the MTO Mobile Office and several other cupboards have now been co-opted. **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Trevor Sherwin** has a clean dry cellar where he looks after his brood of lieutenants. Next door wearing his ice bag due to the new accounting system resides **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) David Gouldsmith** ably assisted by **Corporal 'Mac' McDonald** and **Lance-Corporal ('where did you get that chicken') James.** The MT cellar sports our terrible trio of combat drivers, **Messrs. Chris Gavin, Campbell Houston** and **'Flicker' Saveall.** The latter does a very nice line in scrap metal.

Some four hundred yards away is the complex where technicians may be seen on any fine day playing volleyball and sometimes working, or is it the other way round. During a re-organisation we lost our example of well dressed Lance-Corporals. **Lance-Corporal Arthur Alderson** always had clean and it is said bulled boots, even when surrounded by deep mud, until we found he just hovered around. One of our latest arrivals **Lance-Corporal Eric Frost** who did 12 years in the RAF, replied to a senior RAF Officer on exercise that in the Army he was firstly a soldier and then a tradesman. A brave honest NCO he is.

During February the Squadron, en masse, had the pleasure of doing a site guard where nuclear devices are protected. The orders stated that during the day guards in towers must not look into the compound but might occasionally do so at night. It was here that for the second time **Second-Lieutenant Stephen Fathers** won the two wheeled, four tonner race from the base to the site. **Signalman 'Flicker' Saveall** provided more scrap metal.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## 30 Sig Regt
### BLANDFORD CAMP

LIFE in the Swan Regiment has, as always, been busy this month, especially so with two major Exercises in progress—'Argus Express' to Norway, and 'Snowball' to Scotland.

'Argus Express' was held in the chill mountains of the Norwegian Arctic region with 3 Squadron adding communications to their previous antics galore on langhauf skis and snowshoes. Although it was very hard work everybody enjoyed this most successful exercise. The main talking point, in fact, seems to have been the food! 'Norwegian Porridge' is highly recommended by the ACC participants, and so is the high style of lining (eating) abroad the RFA 'Sir Geraint', the vessel which brought the Squadron back to England.

Meanwhile our Commanding Officer, **Leiutenant-Colonel Mike Jarrett,** and **R.S.M. Mike McMahon** took flight to distant places, visiting 644 Troop commanded by **Captain Richard Smith** who are in good heart and still providing communications for the United Nations forces in Cyprus. This winter some of the Troop were lucky enough to spend a week up in the Troodos mountains learning to ski. Adding this skill to his many others was **Y. of S. Bland,** and not least of his problems was how to fit 12 men into an eight-bed radio hut! Soon afterwards the 644 Troop Ski team won the HQ UNFICYP competition, so that one week's training was well worthwhile. On the professional side—**F. of S. Yule** is making the best of some very antiquated equipment on the island, and **Sergeant Arscott** and his ad hoc radio tower repair team risk their necks frequently on some pretty dicey towers.

Life is rough and ready but apparently enjoyable!

After an interesting visit to 644 Troop the flying visitors boarded a VC 10 bound for Gan. Here 605 Troop, ably headed by **Staff Sergeant Catley** were in good form in their pocket sized tropical island. See elsewhere for an account of their activities.

Sport, alas, is where we try hard but pick up little in the way of trophies. Our rugby, football and hockey teams all got knocked out of the Army Cup competitions, but the station badminton team, in which we figure strongly excelled and boosted our morale considerably.

Special mention must go to **Signalman Jones** of 1 Squadron who won the Army junior sabre competition. Well done!

On a different line, when TM Troop went sea fishing nobody could have been more surprised than **Sergeant Ron Appleyard** when he caught a magnificent conger eel complete with a small live pouting inside it. (Cap that 605 Troop!)

This month we say goodbye to **Captain Ron Reid** who is leaving the Army after 34 years service. We wish him and his wife **Sue** the best of good fortune in their new life in Gloucestershire.

Although gas training is continuous there has been a scourge recently of annual tests. Even the two WRAC Officers, **Lieutenant Jill Mackay** and **Second-Lieutenant Rosemary Hewlett** have been seen eating their CS flavoured biscuits!

On 28th March, Blandford hosted a 1 Signal Group study day concerned with "Man Management and Internal Recruiting". The study directed by **Colonel Hild,** Commander, 1 Signal Group, was a most interesting day, and everyone left full of ideas and decisions to put into practice. Among the visitors we were pleased to see were **Brigadier Clarkson,** CSO UKLF, and **Colonel Ramsbottom,** Officer in Charge, Corps Manning and Record Office.

Well, nobody can say that life in 30 is dull! In fact, after noting past expeditions abroad, and future ones this year, Turkey and Belgium (not to mention a Sahara crossing), a certain person, who shall be anonymous, suggested a new nickname—"Globetrotters Glorious".

### EXERCISE 'SNOWBALL'

Once again after much gnashing of teeth, and bribing Squadron Commanders we managed to get together three parties of potential skiers and head for the Cairngorms, for our annual Regimental ski exercise. As always we were extremely well received by the Craiglynne Hotel, under the new management of **David Small,** who was so pleased with the increase in his bar profits that he gave us a free barrel of beer on our last night. The White Mountain Ski School welcomed our return also, the director of which, **Peter Wheeler,** very kindly took time to test and award all those who attended their bronze or silver medals. We were also pleased

IN THE CAIRNGORMS

*Left to right:* Corporal Harry Waugh, Lieutenant Jill Mackay and Major Hugh Bonaker

Corporal Harry Waugh had the best individual time in the Army meeting in Scotland

to be instructed by **Major (Retd.) Tom Blashill** late of this Regiment.

This year we were perhaps more fortunate with the weather conditions than last year and this seemed to create a kind of summer madness in all of us—the cries of the season "Ski happy" and "Ski sloppy" could be heard echoing through Caire Cas daily, mostly from **Corporal Harry Waugh** who skis sloppy anyway.

One of the most confident skiers was surely **Corporal Jim 'Ski-brain' Hardy** (School of Signals) who arrived on the last party and announced that he was a parallel skier. What he did not tell us was that he could only turn to the left and so for two weeks he practiced right turns and made sure the standard of beer in the hotel did not lower.

Our admin party, **Leiutenant Jill Mackay** (OIC), **Sergeant Bill Banks** (SQMS), **Corporal Harry Waugh, Corporal 'Tich' Tallons** (Chef Superieur), **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Thomas** and **Signalman 'Patches' Anderson** stayed in Grantown on Spey for the whole six weeks. Even after some of us returned dragging our feet as well as our bank statements looking like battlefields.

There were several determined novices on the course, not least of which was **Corporal 'Wheels' Trolley** who amused us all by doing his now famous racing snow-plough down the White Lady run after being on skis only a week. Not to be outdone, **Second-Leiutenant Guy Thornton** did the same and ended up in Cyprus—hope you arrived safely Guy!

Two of our civilian instructors there, **George Hutcheson** and **Monsieur Herve** got very used to the way the Army works over six weeks and although often confused by it all, we might well have two new recruits on our hands.

During the period we had visitors from the School of Signals and 8th Signal Regiment join us. One very upset Lance-Corporal was **'Super tech' Brockman** who ripped his new ski pants on the

first day—**Lieutenant Jill Mackay** was clever enough to wait until the last day before ripping hers.

All good things must come to an end, however, and so it's back to the drawing board for next year. Our thanks to all concerned with the exercise.

### 2 SQUADRON

Since 2 Squadron last appeared in THE WIRE several occurrences have made it worthwhile writing again.

**Lance-Corporal Coleman** and **Signalman Clive Johnson** have recently returned from detachment in British Honduras during which time **Clive** played rugger in Mexico City.

**Staff Sergeant 'Colen' Nurse,** chevalier supreme, has done an equestrian course with the household cavalry, the second day of which he dismounted without permission and broke his collar bone. Needless to say he bravely soldiered on. **Staff Sergeant John Howes** has disappeared to 644 Signal Troop in Cyprus until October, we wish him all the best for his tour.

We have two newcomers to the fold in the forms of bouncing baby boys born to **Mrs. Gladwin** and **Mrs. Harold 'Bruce' Forsyth.** Congratulations ladies and many of them.

### ARMY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

During Exercise 'Snowball' it was discovered that the Army races were being held whilst we were in the Cairngorms. What better chance to test our skills, thought we, and before we knew it we had the Blandford Station team ready, entered and raring to go. The team comprised **Corporal Harry Waugh, Major Hugh Bonaker, Lieutenant Jill Mackay** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Thomas** (who unfortunately is missing from the photograph). The great day came, all of us were kitted out in crash helmets and numbered bibs, the sun was blazing down and one could do little else but enjoy every minute of the day. **Harry Waugh** had the best individual time and overall the team came thirteenth, which pleased us all. We now look forward to winning next year and above all beating 8th and 11th Regiments, so watch out **Charles, Dick, Robin** and **Peter.**


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## News from Squadrons

## 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 41

### FITNESS FOR ROLE INSPECTION

We had our first FFR Inspection from our new Brigade Commander, **Brigadier M. R. Johnston, O.B.E.,** on 21st February. We were not quite sure what to expect, so preparations of the usual sort went ahead and we crossed our fingers. On the day, he had a good look around the Squadron and seemed quite pleased with all he saw. In particular the Brigadier spent some time in the Amateur Radio Club where **Sergeant 'Colin' Harvey** was talking to Australia just as he came through the door. This was fine at the time, but has given rise to comments like; "If you can talk to Australia, why can't I talk to that unit just over the hill." This is difficult to explain to the uninitiated and we are not now advertising the achievements of the Club!

### HAND-OVER/TAKE-OVER OF SQUADRON COMMANDERS

During the last two months we have changed Squadron Commanders. **Major R. W. Garlick** is given a hearty welcome to the Squadron and we wish him a most enjoyable time with us. We bid a sad farewell to **Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) D. C. Whitehead,** who has left us to take up a staff appointment in Rheindahlen. The change-over took place during a Squadron work-up exercise, so the new OC was able to see us in the field as well as in barracks. He got rather a shock when he arrived at the exercise location and there was a gas attack laid on for him; rather unkindly we were using real gas and with a certain amount of glee we watched two OCs running to their Land Rover to acquire their respirators! Apart from this incident the change-over went smoothly and **Major Garlick** is now well settled into the Squadron.

### EXERCISE 'FLYING FALCON'

Although we have taken part in a number of exercises during the last eight weeks, 'Flying Falcon' seems to have been the most eventful and is worthy of some mention. It was primarily a communications exercise but also it was the first time that the new OC had been in command of the unit in the field. He was anxious to see us working hard and we had a tough but satisfying time.

As always, there were amusing incidents, such as the case of the haunted rebro site: One dark and windy night **Lance-Corporal 'The Beast' Palmer's** rebroadcast station was sitting on top of a lonely hill top. During the course of the night, all the crew found it necessary to grab a shovel and disappear into the bushes to attend to the call of nature. They all returned, unsatisfied and in a great hurry, and huddled into their sleeping bags for the rest of the night. On comparing notes in the morning they all found that their meditations had been interrupted by mysteriously shaking bushes. Having listened to their terrifying tales, the Communications Officer is trying to convince the CCR Signals that a rebroadcast site is no good because it is haunted!

During the exercise all the key personnel in the unit were 'killed off' for a period of 24 hours and we played a second eleven, so to speak. It seems that at the end of that day the OC had more grey hairs than he would have done if he had been in command of the Squadron!

### THE FIRE

On 30th March the largest block in the barracks was burnt down. This included the garrison Churches and the main cookhouse and was a sad loss to the whole of Detmold garrison. The Churches managed to organise open air services and the cookhouse was moved to the amenities centre, so no-one went spiritually or physically hungry. No-one knows the cause of this catastrophe as yet, but the Squadron Commander was talking about moving the cookhouse on the previous day!



## 28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn,
## B.F.P.O. 5

THIS month's contribution from the newest unit in the Corps comes from our Foreman **Staff Sergeant Nick Lynn.** In between trying to win golf balls from the OC, playing squash and run the wing on the football field he tells us all he is a busy man. To give credit where due, the demands of deciding on the scaling of test equipment for the radio relay and repairing American radios represent a fairly wide spectrum, but we don't tell him.

**Foreman Lynn's** team comprises: **Sergeant Colin Bachelor, Sergeant Tom Sawyer, Sergeant Barry Vargas, Corporal Neil Urquhart,** and with a touch of nostalgia for the old ANZUK Signal Squadron we have a Kiwi technician, **Corporal 'Chas' Charlton.** Although on the books as a technician we suspect he is 'moonlighting' as a recruiter for New Zealand Forces.

As we mentioned in our last contribution we have inherited American equipment issued through Australian sources. That in itself is fraught with problems, not least of which is the fact that the radios are known by a series of letters and numbers that would not be out of place in a 'print out' of Ernie winners. Things are not helped by the same radio having one set of numbers for the manpack role and another set for the vehicle role.

Some of the radios we have, with the comparable Larkspur range in brackets, are as follows: AN/GRC 106, RT–662/GRC–(D11), AN/PRC 47–(C11), AN/PRC 77–(A41), AN/PRC 160–(C42).

Although initially we tended to compare our radios to the Larkspur range now we are more familiar with them it is apparent that they are more similar to Clansman. May we bid for the historical record that maybe we are the first British unit to be issued with Clansman type equipment!

The sets are built along similar lines to Clansman with pull-out sub unit modules (although, unlike Clansman, each set is a self contained unit carrying its own power supplies, synthesiser, and input and output audio sockets). Further refinements such as 3 way rebroadcast facility require additional ancillaries.

Our American teletypewriters however, do not belong in the same league as the Siemans T100R, both in compactness and reliability. We are pushing hard to get the T100 (and the way things are going some of us may still be here when they arrive! !).

The Squadron Commander, **Major I. Graham** has laid down dates by which certain tasks such as vehicle installations have to be completed. Everything is geared to the Squadron being fully operational for the major Brigade exercise later this year. In an effort to keep to the schedule some of the technicians are swapping miniature soldering irons for oxy-acetyline welding kits—we are having problems matching our radio sets to the British FFR Landrovers.

Coupled to this is the inevitable spares problems; nothing we seem to want appears to be held on the Island. A steady stream of requests for air mail spares from Australia conjures up visions of the Berlin airlift, with the SQMS, **Mick Abson** off-loading without the aircraft landing.

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## NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 18

### WHO AND WHERE

NO doubt these were the Editor's first words. Efforts to trace back to the previous occasion in which the Squadron appeared in THE WIRE, have proved fruitless. For the uninitiated the Squadron is unique in that, although it is a recognised NATO unit, and is part of the NORTHAG Signal Support Group, it is funded and equipped purely by the four nations making up the unit, and not by NATO.

The Squadron is comprised of Belgian, British, German and Netherlands personnel, and commanded by a Royal Signals major. It is based in Belgium, and occupies a small part of a Belgian national barracks. The closest British Unit is 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) at Maastricht in Holland.

### PERSONALITIES

The hierarchy is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major Mike Weiner,** Royal Signals |
| Second-in-Command | **Comdt. Dantinne,** Belgian Army |
| OC A | **Lieutenant Van Oostrum,** Netherlands Army |
| OC B | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Enright** |
| Chief Clerk | **Sergeant Walker** |
| MTO | **Sergeant Shillingford** |
| Tech Storeman | **Corporal Feasey** |

Remaining Royal Signals personnel are **Sergeants Bacon, Horan** and **Taylor, Corporals Fenwick, Haldane, McIntyre, O'Connell** and **O'Hara, Lance-Corporal Mackay** and our tame Signalman, **Dawson.**

### ROLE

The role of the unit is to provide Air Support Communications for NORTHAG. The Squadron is currently in the process of converting from the long held, on loan, British Equipment, to 'special to task' vehicles, shelters and equipment to meet the Squadron's role.

### VISITS

The Squadron has recently been privileged to receive two VIP's on visits to the unit. On 8th March we were delighted to have with us, Commander NORTHAG, **General Sir Harry Tuzo** who, during an exercise, managed to spend an hour with us. During this time he was briefed on the Squadron role by the OC, and then managed to visit all parts of the Squadron, meeting and speaking to all ranks. The Commander took a lively interest in all he saw, and asked many very searching questions.

On 26th March Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier Illing,** visited several units in the area with the express purpose of discovering for himself how we were administered and what unusual problems we had, being stationed in Belgium. We trust his visit will bear fruit and solve many long standing mis-understandings.

The Commander, NORTHAG, in the S.Q.M.S. stores, speaking with the O.C., Hauptfeldwebel Fette, Corporal Feasey and in the background Obergefrieter Jungmann

### FUTURE

Like all other units we are now embarking on the start of the exercise season. Participation in Exercise 'Flying Falcon' has just finished for the UK element. National exercises are a normal weekly occurrence as we work up towards Exercise 'Crested Eagle' in May.

We shall endeavour to provide, from now on, periodic reports of our activities (Yeoman please note).

## 227 Sig Sqn.
## B.F.P.O. 18

RESEARCH shows that a year has passed since last we submitted notes so, with regard to arrivals and departures, we extend a blanket 'Hallo and Welcome', and a fond 'Good-bye and Good-luck', to all our members past and present. Of course they are worthy of far more appreciation than this, but please understand that our turn-over of personnel, at all levels, borders upon the phenomenal and renders the pin-pointing of individuals virtually impossible in the space available.

On the 26th February we were visited by the SO-in-C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** who, after inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by the Squadron, presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Captain (TOT) 'Donna' Reed** and **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Robin Dodman** at a ceremony attended by all ranks of 227. Afterwards he reviewed a line-up of vehicles and spoke to all the British, American, German and Dutch personnel, individually, who together comprise the Mobile Communications Centre, AFCENT.

### SPORT

### SQUASH

Our OC, **Major Peter Riding,** on one of his forays into the local countryside came upon a wayside squash court, (no mean feat—they are very few and far between in Holland), knocked on the door and walked straight in. 227 Signal Squadron Squash Club was born. As founder member, player and coach, his own game has gone from strength to strength and with the first team, under the captaincy of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Killick,** he has been to the fore in our first two matches against an RE Postal team (we lost) and a Dutch team (we won). With current membership at about 20 and rising, the club is a very viable concern, while our relationships with the local population, always good in the past, have improved beyond measure.

### SOCCER

Our endeavours in the AFCENT league, through no fault of our own, have not been very successful this last season. Two of our fixtures were scheduled to take place whilst we were on exercise, a point which came to our attention too late to be rectified; on two other separate occasions we and our opponents turned up but no officials materialised; and in another instance we travelled 40 km. to a match only to find that it had been cancelled. However, we are forming a new team for the Walker Cup, so stand back AFCENT.

### RUGBY

'Gundersen's Guerillas' under the joint captaincy of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Gav' Spearpoint** and **Sergeant Dave Arundel,** was formed only last November but, spurred on by Manager **W.O.1 'Taff' Gundersen's** Celtic fervour, they have been coming up with some good stuff. Their most unfortunate match was played away against SHAPE although as team Hon. Sec. **Corporal Jim Mackie** pointed out; in a snowstorm, with a white ball, and a Yeti as a referee, what can you expect—Twickers already?

### DARTS

Those amongst us who prefer their sport to be less physical but more precise, provide the bulk of two first-class teams for AFCENT.

The NCO Club team skippered by **Corporal Tom Charteries** has won the Bartel's Cup, a local civilian knock-out competition; became the Second Division South Limburg champion; and are runners-up in the beer-leg. All in their first year of entry.

The Anchor Inn Club team led by **Corporal 'Sprig' Lakin,** the South Limburg Singles Champion, won the beer-leg and are runners-up in the Championship.

### BASKETBALL

Captained by **Sergeant Ian Bell,** and in it's first year of entry, the 227 team finished the season as runners-up in the Rhine Area Minor Units Basketball competition. A result which, hopefully, augurs well for the future.

### OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Sergeant John and June Goodman** on the occasion of their recent marriage. This was an event doubly memorable because immediately after the ceremony, **John** was presented with the 'German Golden Sports Medal for Men' by **H.F.W. Hans 'Jack' Riemann** of the Bundeswehr who paid tribute, we suspect with tongue in cheek, to **John's** staying-power.

**Major Peter Riding, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Brian Cumming, Sergeants Mick Provart** and **Pat 'Pretty Boy' Fraser** and **Corporal Andy Ramsay** who were awarded Certificates of Training by **Lieutenant Gault,** Commander US Detachment 'A', for the consummate ease and skill with which they handled the US Army ·45 automatic pistol.

**Corporal Bill** and **Gwen Fryer** for having the first baby, **Susan,** born in RAF Wegberg Hospital in 1974.

**Signalman Gordon Beckley** on his forthcoming marriage to **Juffrouw 'Tiny' Rosier** and **Corporal Jim Mackie** to **S.A.C.W. Irene Anderson.**

**Sergeant George Oliver** and **Corporal Phil Davies** who, in an initiative test, travelled to the Carlsberg Brewery in Copenhagen by train using their NATO Travel Order as a ticket.

**Corporals Jack Ridley** and **Tom Charteries** who, on a separate initiative test, were unable to make themselves very useful in rendering aid in a 50 odd vehicle pile-up in the Ardennes on their return from Luxembourg.

And finally **Sergeants Dennis Green** and **Tony Hand** for having the good fortune, in a third initiative test, to be brought straight back from Bavaria to the camp gates by **Brigadier E. W. Anstey, O.B.E., A.D.C.,** Commander British Army Element AFCENT, in his Staff car.

### UNHAPPILY:

**W.O.1 'Taff' Gundersen** will be retiring from the Service very shortly after a total of 25 years soldiering. This stalwart and popular member of the Corps is going to be sadly missed. His dining-out however, promises to be a good one. We look forward to the arrival of his successor, **W.O.1 Jepson.**

## 244 Sig Sqn
## R.A.F. Benson

### FOCUS ON ALPHA TROOP

This month WIRE readers have the pleasure of reading about Alpha Troop and its antics over the past few months.

We had one of our rare trips to Cyprus on Exercise 'Dawn Chorus', which was a JFHQ exercise located at Anzio Camp, and went very well especially the beach landings which were controlled by the RSM.

There was a fair bit of controversy over this part of the exercise, certainly nothing could be found in the Operations Order pertaining to beach instructions but the RSM insists that he was given special instructions on arrival in Cyprus. Needless to say he came back with the best tan in the Squadron.

The second week of the exercise can only be described as a JFH (Joint Forces Holiday) with the troop disppearing to all parts of Cyprus, whilst waiting for transport back to UK.

**Sergeant Dennis Wheeldon, Signalman 'Maggot' Mooney, Signalman 'Heap' Wright** and **Signalman Bob Petrie** went swanning off to sample the delights of Turkey on Exercise 'Deep Furrow'. **Signalman 'Maggot' Mooney** sampled one delight too many (local brew) and found that he was demoted from his self appointed title of 'Troop Boozer' to the official troop title of 'Troop Flakey'. No more will be said to save him the embarrassment.



Our next trip was to sunny Sennelager in the middle of winter for Exercise 'Trout Call 2'. Three of our detachments travelled by road and sea. The sea trip being undertaken in a force 9 gale. This wasn't too bad until the ship the 'Prinz Oberon' answered an SOS from a Norwegian freighter and turned into the wind. In the dining lounge all who could force breakfast after the previous night suddenly found their greasy bacon and yellow eggs either in their laps or on the floor. Plates, cups and saucers had taken to the air whilst dish trolleys raced up and down the aisles. Only a few braved the deck (mainly to be sick) others who obviously had sea legs namely **Corporal 'Urn' Macrorie** and **T. C. Chew** just got soaked to the skin.

The troop provided the communications for the Benson 20 mile sponsored walk which was in aid of the old people of Wallingford. Our Troop OC, **Captain Hugh Bennett** and **Signalman 'Maggot' Mooney** walked whilst **Corporal Bob Rylance** ran, completing the course in a remarkable 3 hours 20 minutes. **(Message to 21st Regiment: Keep your beady eyes off our star.)**

Alpha Troop continues to pound the roads on weekly road runs although the Squadron Office is not normally part of the course we like to show the flag. Will **Staff Sergeant John Lawrance** please note that saluting on the run whilst not wearing a beret is not in the drill manual.

### HATCH, CATCH AND DESPATCH

*Hatch.* Congratulations to **Signalman** and **Mrs. Brown, Signalman** and **Mrs. Fletcher** and **Signalman** and **Mrs. Hibbins** on the births respectively of a son, a son and a daughter.

*Catch.* Welcome to **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Durrant** who have moved up from Tidworth and **Signalman Sutton** from Harrogate.

*Despatch.* Farewell to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Lally,** to 602 Signal Troop and Bermuda and to **Corporal** (now PC) and **Mrs. Spencer.** We hope we shall see them occasionally.

### SQUADRON FAREWELL

We bid farewell to **Major (Q.M.) Alan Harfield** and **Mrs. 'Curry' June** in January 1974. Thank you for all you did for us. Your style is sadly missed and we wish you a Happy Tour with 259 Signal Squadron.

### AND WELCOME

**Captain John Dean** is now the wearer of the many hats left by **Major Harfield.** We hope you enjoy your stay with 244.

## 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
## B.F.P.O. 65

603 SIGNAL TROOP, RAF MASIRAH (See notes overleaf)

THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM THAT ROMPED AWAY WITH THE STATION LEAGUE, DROPPING ONLY 3 SETS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

*Back row, left to right:* Corporal Bruce Murdin, Signalman 'Fiji' Allen, The Station Commander—Squadron Leader Young, Signalman Eddy Pluskota, Signalman Bob Sharp

*Front row, left to right:* Corporal 'Mac' McDonald, Corporal Mal Turfrey, W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill, Signalman Charlie Beck

### POSTINGS IN

We welcomed to the troop recently **Signalman Cliff Kerry** and **Signalman 'Ossie' Hames. Cliff Kerry** in his first cricket match a couple of days after his arrival brought havoc to the opposing team. Well done Records for taking note of our requests for cricketers in recent troop WIRE notes. **Signalman 'Ossie' Hames** has also made his mark on the troop by his outstanding feat of climbing a distant 'Mountain' of approx. 600 ft. in about 10 minutes, much to the astonishment of **W.O.2 John Hill** and **Sergeant Charlie Peach** who thought it was a 'Bondu Rat' rushing up to the clouds.

### REUNIONS

**Corporals Bruce Murdin** and **'Mal' Turfrey** have both recently spent 10 days leave in Cyprus visiting their neglected wives. Both have now returned looking extremely happy but tired. The F. of S. who is very keen on man management approved of their exploits.

### VOLLEY-BALL

The enclosed photograph features the Troop Volleyball team that romped away with the station Volleyball league, dropping only 3 sets throughout the season. The RAF, after due consideration, and some soul searching have 'invited' four members from our troop, namely **W.O.2 John Hill, Signalman Charlie Beck, Signalman Eddie Pluskota** and **Signalman Bob Sharp** to form a large part of a team which is going to RAF Gan later this month to take part in inter island volleyball matches. No doubt the Army and therefore RAF Masirah will come through with flying colours.

### SURPRISE VISIT BY THE GOC NEARELF

On the 20th March, **General Butler** paid us a surprise visit. At 10 minutes to 7 p.m. our hard pressed F. of S. received a phone call in the Sergeants' Mess bar saying that **General Butler** and the station Commander would like to have an informal chat with all members of the troop. After much phoning, all members of the troop congregated in the troop rest room at 7 o'clock. The visit went very well and the General seemed very pleased with the troop, though we do believe that he overhead certain unnamed personnel who were wondering 'out loud' if the fish that they had nearly landed were still on the hooks, whilst another was enquiring if he could get his money back from the cinema manager as he was pulled from his seat half way through a film. The F. of S. has now got his normal smile back on his face and appears to be looking forward to his next visitors, (perhaps he's heard that there is a party of WRAC passing through).

### LATE PRESS RELEASE

All members of the troop have just completed a 20 mile route march in a temperature of about 110 degrees in only 4 hours 5 minutes, and they still managed a game of football the next day.

KEEPING THE CORPS FLAG FLYING

The best fourteen men in the Corps (see notes)—look cheerful enough in far off Gan Island

*Standing, left to right:* Sergeant Pete Smith, Signalman Nigel Grant, Signalman (now Lance-Corporal) Ken White, Corporal Alan Taylor, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick Catley, Corporal Mick Taylor, Corporal Sam Coltman, Corporal Bill Stadius, Sergeant Brian Bartrum

*Sitting, left to right:* Signalman Bob Lane, Corporal Pete Monteith, Corporal Cliff Price, Corporal Brian Fenton

*Squatting:* Abdullah Didi, Mohamed Futta

*Not on photograph:* Corporal Fred Dey (claiming to be the only worker in the troop)

*Censor:* **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Catley**
*Editors:* **Sergeant Smith, Corporal Stadius**

SINCE our last WIRE notes there has been a complete change of personnel here on Gan. The present Troop all realise what a very difficult job the staff of Balmore House, Reading must have had in selecting the BEST fourteen men to enjoy life on this sun drenched tropical island for nine months.

### MONK OF THE YEAR

Whilst installing a cable in the roof of the Blue Lagoon Route Hotel, **Lance-Corporal** (then Signalman) **Ken White** had certain ideas.

Leaping through the plaster board ceiling, his aim was perfect, but the timing left much to be desired. **Ken** landed straight in the

*(Continued on page 157)*



*(Continued from page 156)*

showers of the Q's (RAF type stewardesses), but they were unoccupied.

He still feels that he is the biggest failure ever to visit Gan. Foiled again?

### DAFFYNITION

On Gan the telecommunications operator is 'affectionately' referred to as a 'Siggie'.

In the station magazine *Gan Island Post* the following definition of such a person appeared:

"With thanks to another magazine and apologies to the Saddle Club the following definition of a Siggie is offered:

The strength of a carthorse, speed of a racehorse, and the brains of a rocking horse."

The Foreman would like to know if this is the *true* definition of a Yeoman?

### VISITORS TO THE TROOP

On Tuesday, 26th March all members of the Army Element, (two Royal Engineer postal workers making a total of sixteen) here on Gan met the Chief of the General Staff, **General Sir Peter Hunt, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.** The meeting took place in the '180' Club where the lads and the General had an informal discussion about life on Gan. This follows visits very recently of **Brigadier Randall,** Commander Overseas Detachments, UKLF on the 14th February, **Colonel Ramsbottom,** Officer i/c Records on 25th February, and **Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Jarrett,** CO 30th Regiment, our parent unit, on the 8th February.

### SPORTING CHANCES

For any person in the Corps who would like to spend some months (i.e. nine) in a sporting paradise, life with 605 Signal Troop on Gan is the place. Facilities provided here cover soccer, rugby, badminton, squash, tennis, basketball and volleyball not forgetting cricket, sub-aqua, golf, fishing, sailing, and many others too numerous to mention. Tricky games such as chicken (using the runway, when a VC10 is landing), or alternatively 'streaking' (through the Route Hotel, when the passengers are in it) if you're that way inclined, are banned. All applications from potential volunteers (£5 or £10) should be addressed to OC 605 Signal Troop, RAF Gan, BFPO 180. . . .

Note to potential streakers. You won't be the first on Gan. See you all next issue if we haven't been banned . . .

## The Volunteers

## 39 Sig Regt (V) London

### VISIT OF THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON 1st MARCH 1974

THE Highlight of the Regiment's Calendar—the visit of the Lord Mayor of London took place on 1st March 1974. Together with the Aldermanic Sherrifs and many distinguished guests the Lord Mayor dined with the Officers of the Regiment, having first visited, at considerable length, the Lynx Club and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Mention must be made of all the hard work put in by the permanent staff who, on the great day, spent the evening marshalling staff cars, and so missed out on an evening's merriment.

LORD MAYOR'S VISIT

*Left to right:* Lieutenant-Colonel K. G. White (C.O.), Lord Elsworthy, Lord Mayor of London

### MISS TAVR 1973/74 FINALS

Having successfully run the London Semi-Finals of this Contest there was keen interest in the finals, held at the Duke of Yorks Headquarters. Of our four contestants we took first and sixth place—congratulations are due to **Sergeant Valerie Charnock** and **Private Valerie Shipp** and commiserations to **Lance-Corporal Maggie Edwards** and **Private Christine Alford.**

WINNER OF MISS T.A.V.R. 1974 CONTEST
Lord Mais congratulates Sergeant Valerie Charnock

### PAST AND FUTURE

Despite the onslaught of the three-day week and fuel and lighting restrictions the Regiment has continued to train, receive visitors and exercise on a country-wide scale.

We are now preparing for the spring exercise, for which detachments will be going to BAOR, Cyprus and Gibraltar, as well as this country. Rehearsals are now under way for the Hunters Visit in May, so if you are passing Worship Street and hear singing—you have been warned!

### REGIMENTAL HISTORY

**Major David A. D. Smith,** who will be remembered by many who have served in the Regiment and its predecessors since 1952, has undertaken to write the history of the Regiment since its foundation in 1947 as one of his last tasks before finally calling it a day

He would very much like to hear from anyone who has served in No. 1 Special Communications Regiment (TA), 65th (City of London) Signal Regiment (TA) and the 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) who might be able to provide any dated photographs or documents including old training instructions, orders, nominal rolls, anecdotes, or generally anything else which might jog his memory to recall names and events long since forgotten.

If you have anything which you think might be useful could you please contact **Major Smith** via the Regiment's RHQ address at 79 Worship Street, London EC2.

## Association News

### SHREWSBURY BRANCH

**Honorary Secretary: Mr. J. Goggin, 211 Whitchurch Road, Harlescott, Shrewsbury.**

The Branch recently held a very successful Grand National draw and dance attended by well over 100 members and friends.

The *Shropshire Journal* reports as follows:

The annual Grand National draw and buffet dance of the Shrewsbury Branch of the Royal Signals Association took place at the TAVR Centre, Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury. Among people attending included the General Secretary of the Association in London, **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Kevan Kirkby, Major Peter Parker** and members of the Shrewsbury Branches of the Royal Engineers and the Royal Air Force Association.

The President of the Branch, **Major 'Nick' Carter** thanked the ladies and members of the committee for providing refreshments, and the Shropshire Yeomanry Signal Squadron for the use of the Drill Hall and general help with organisation.

During the interval the Grand National draw took place, tickets of which are sold by Signal Units in Europe and the Middle East. the draw was organised by Branch Secretary **Jim Goggin.** The music was provided by the D.J. dance band. The first prize went to a Signal Officer in Cyprus, second and third went to Catterick and the fourth to Oldham.

AT THE SHREWSBURY BRANCH GRAND NATIONAL DRAW
*Left to right:* Mr. John Wall (P.R.), Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Kirkby (C.O. 35 Signal Regiment), Mr. Jim Goggin (Hon. Sec), Brigadier Pat Hobson (Gen. Sec. R.S.A.), Major Nick Cantor (Branch President)

### Chester Branch

**Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. Hinge, 63 Green Lane, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5LB.**

THE 28th Annual Dinner of the Chester Branch of the Association took place on 11th January at the Freemasons Hall, Chester.

The Mayor and Mayoress, **Mr.** and **Mrs. J. Smith** were the principal guests. Their easy charm and the Mayor's after dinner ad-lib remarks delighted all present. **Mr. E. C. Lavis-Jones,** President of the Chester Branch, gave a special welcome during his address, to **Rowley Hill** who is 82 years of age. He has the longest record of service dated back to times before the Royal Corps of Signals was formed, over half a century ago.

Old friends of **Mr. R. Hill,** our only surviving member of the formation of Chester Branch, will be pleased to know that he is steadily recovering after his last illness.

A Dance followed the dinner and was a great success. The toast master was **'Bomber' Haigh** and the master of ceremonies **'Fairy' Faircloth.** The whole evening was arranged by the Secretary and **'Jumbo' Charlton** and his Committee. The Branch Chairman, **Jimmy Ellis** presided.

Any ex-Signals who have got out of touch with bygone days and comrades should contact our Secretary, **Mr. R. Hinge** at 63 Green Lane, Chester. (Tele: Chester (STD 0244) 313955).

CHESTER BRANCH HOLD THEIR USUAL SUCCESSFUL DINNER
Among those present were (*left to right*): Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Ellis (Chairman), Mr. J. Smith (Mayor of Chester), Mr. P. 'Bomber' Haigh, Mrs. J. Smith (Mayoress), Mr. E. C. Lavis-Jones (President) Mrs. E. C. Lavis-Jones

## Sport

### Corps Canoeing

**The Secretary reports:**

**SLALOM**

Four members of the Corps were selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championships. These were **Staff Sergeant Brett** (3 Commando Brigade), **Second-Lieutenant Cornforth** (21 Regiment), **Sergeant White** (36 Regiment (V)), and **Sergeant Harper** (16 Regiment). The Army team came a close second to the RAF, and substantially ahead of the Royal Navy.

On the whole we have a number of very proficient slalom canoeists but as can be seen they are widely separated geographically and compete as individuals, with little opportunity for team training.

A notable success has been that of **Sergeant White** of 36 Regiment (V) who has represented Great Britain. He is active at the highest levels in white water racing and hopes to remain a member of the GB team during 1974. The Corps has supported his efforts by buying a new competition canoe for his personal use.





### Corps Football

### Royal Signals (1) v Hull University (1)

The return match between the Corps and Hull University was played at Messines grounds, Catterick on Wednesday, 6th March.

From the start it was an evenly matched game with both teams unable to find an exploitable weakness in the other. This continued throughout the first half.

Within minutes of the start of the second half the University drew ahead. **Sergeant McBirney** revenged this just before the end with a fast header from a corner.

The score stayed level until the end of this sporting match against a team that it is always enjoyable to play.

The Corps team was composed of the following players: **Corporal T. Reilly,** 8 Signal Regiment, **Sergeant M. McBirney,** 216 Para Signal Squadron, **Staff Sergeant P. Smurthwaite,** AAC Harrogate, **Corporal I. Campbell,** 242 Signal Squadron, **Corporal G. Keegan,** 11 Signal Regiment, **Sergeant J. Tierney,** 8 Signal Regiment, **Corporal J. Murray,** 8 Signal Regiment, **Lance-Corporal S. Stanley,** 216 Para Signal Squadron, **Junior Signalman T. Brown,** AAC Harrogate, **Signalman A. McArthur,** 8 Signal Regiment, **Sergeant C. Beston,** 11 Signal Regiment, **Sergeant P. Gallagher,** 8 Signal Regiment.

WELL EARNED
After 80 'Free Fall' descents another success for Private Caroline Franklin 71 Signal Regiment (V) as Brigadier J. C. Clinch, C.B.E. awards her the Corps Blue Helmets badge at Aldershot

### 11th Signal Regiment win UKLF Orienteering Championships

Success again! On 10th March we won the Northern Area Minor Units Championships and on 7th April we won the UKLF Army Orienteering Minor Units Championships. This qualified the team, at present unchanged, to go forward to the Army Championships which are due to be held in BAOR on 16th May.

The UKLF Army Orienteering Minor Units Results were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lieutenant Robin Hill** | 84:48 minutes |

He also came first overall and was **Individual UKLF Champion.**

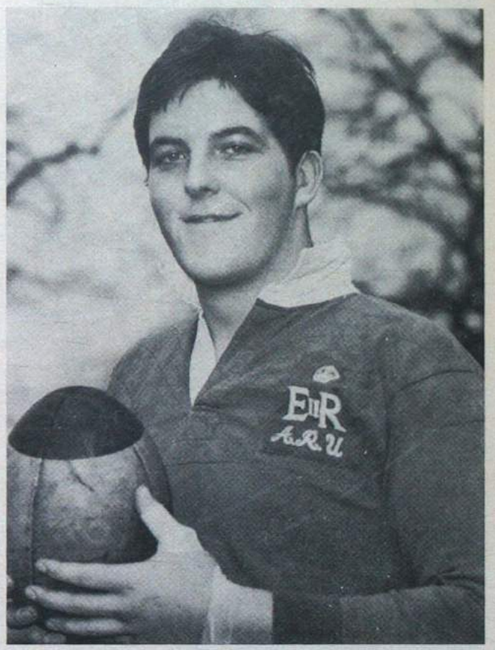
| | |
|---|---|
| **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** | 109:38 minutes |
| **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** | 117:43 minutes |
| Total | 312:09 minutes |

Team's first 3 runners to count.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Major Patrick Templeman-Evans** | 133:03 minutes |
| **Lieutenant Ewan Cameron** | 137:59 minutes. |

The team beat the Parachute Squadron of the Royal Armoured Corps by only 1½ minutes.

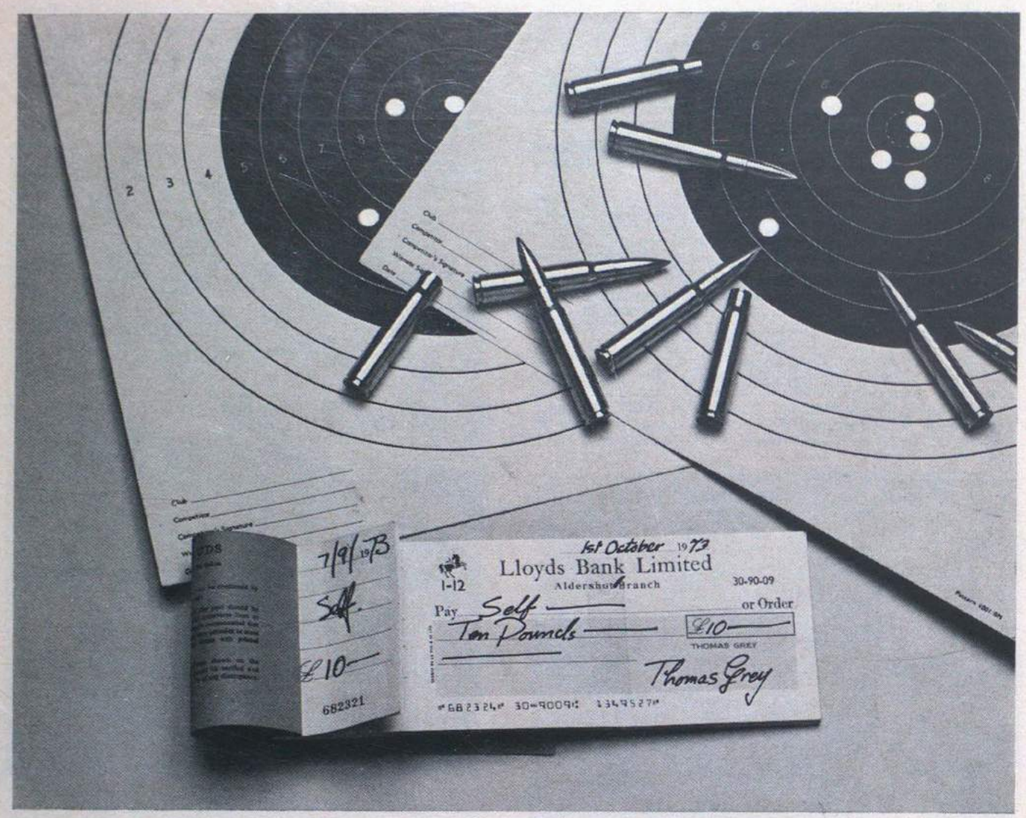
The team offer their congratulations to **Captain Cathy Birtwistle** who used to be our Assistant Adjutant until she left last December. She won the **Individual Women's Championship** for the second year running.



RUGBY PLAYING SOLDIER WHO SHOULD GO FAR
Wearing the Army Rugby Union jersey in this picture is Signalman Stephen Peacock of 8th Signal Regiment. Signalman Peacock, 6 ft 3 in tall and weighing 16 stone, has really started to make a name for himself in the field of rugby since enlisting in the Corps in August 1972. His achievements, playing at second row, are considerable. A regular first selection for his Regimental 1st XV; he has played for the Corps side on three occasions; selected for the Army Senior Team Trials and played against the RMA Sandhurst; six times selected for the Army Under 19 team and awarded his ARU (Juniors) colours following the match against the RAF at Twickenham on 23rd February; selected for the first ever Combined Services Under 19 team and the peak of his achievement to date is his selection for the final England Colts Trial on 2nd March. In July this year he will become 19 years of age and for the 1974-75 season he will, it is hoped, become a serious contender for the England Senior Team. This is his ambition and he has the strength of character and determination to achieve it. We wish him the very best of luck. We would add that he is a 'Satisfied Soldier' as well

**WIRE—LATE PUBLICATION**

We need hardly draw the attention of our readers to the continued late publication of THE WIRE. This issue, we estimate, will be six weeks late. We are continuing to publish curtailed editions to help our printers and the support of our correspondents in keeping their contributions short is much appreciated. A determined effort is now being made to try and catch up and we sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we are on schedule again.

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# Promotions

## APRIL

| Name | Initials | Rank | Trade | Nete Sen. Date | Old Sen. Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regimental Duty Roll** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Morphey, | M. | A/W.O.1 | | 28 Nov. 73 | 14 Jun. 68 |
| Park, | G. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Dec. 73 | 7 Oct. 70 |
| Burt, | A. J. T. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Jan. 74 | 3 May 71 |
| Smith, | G. F. | A/W.O.1 | | 3 Jan. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Binks, | C. | W.O.1 | R Op | 16 Oct. 69 | 4 Oct. 72 (as W.O.1) |
| Webb, | K. W. | S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 1 Oct. 73 | 9 Oct. 71 |
| Wilson, B.E.M., | D. F. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Dvr | 2 Oct. 73 | 1 Dec. 65 |
| Griffiths, | G. J. | S-Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 3 Oct. 73 | 12 Feb. 70 |
| Sheridan, | M. J. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 4 Oct. 73 | 13 Feb. 70 |
| Sizeland, | R. G. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Lmn | 6 Oct. 73 | 18 Jan. 66 |
| Drugan, | A. P. | A/W.O.2 | Data Tg | 8 Oct. 73 | 12 Aug. 70 |
| Phillips, | A. E. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 9 Oct. 73 | 11 Oct. 70 |
| Shaw, | C. R. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 2 Nov. 73 | 1 Apr. 70 |
| Patch, | D. W. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 3 Nov. 73 | 19 Sep. 70 |
| McGonagle, | J. | A/W.O.2 | R Tg | 8 Nov. 73 | 10 Mar. 69 |
| Dixon, | R. F. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 1 Jan. 74 | 6 Feb. 70 |
| Bailey, | R. J. | S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 3 Jan. 74 | 16 Nov. 71 |
| Harris, | R. | S-Sgt. | R Tg | 4 Jan. 74 | 28 Nov. 71 |
| Richardson, | K. | S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 6 Jan. 74 | 7 Nov. 70 |
| Percival, | E. W. | S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 7 Jan. 74 | 20 May 71 |
| **Staff Sergeants Seniority Roll** | | | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Wood, | D. G. | A/S-Sgt. | Tele Mech | 1 Sep. 73 | 5 May 70 |
| Nichols, | P. W. | A/S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 3 Sep. 73 | 1 Feb. 60 |
| Peters, | B. J. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 4 Sep. 73 | 7 Mar. 73 |
| Young, | B. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 5 Sep. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Gray, B.E.M., | W. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 6 Sep. 73 | 1 Jun. 65 |
| Beadle, | W. S. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 7 Sep. 73 | 1 May 61 |
| Davis, | T. D. A. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 8 Sep. 73 | 2 May 68 |
| Potter, | E. R. S. | A/S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 1 Oct. 73 | 23 May 62 |
| Pursell, | D. G. | A/S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 2 Oct. 73 | 2 Sep. 68 |
| Crannage, | J. | A/S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 3 Oct. 73 | 6 Aug. 70 |
| Hepworth, | J. | A/S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 4 Oct. 73 | 14 Sep. 70 |
| Maloney, | G. H. | A/S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 5 Oct. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Cotillard, | A. S. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 5 Oct. 73 | 18 Mar. 62 |
| Coatsworth, | G. | Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 7 Oct. 73 | 1 Jan. 63 |
| Wallace, | J. B. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 8 Oct. 73 | 2 Jun. 66 |
| Thomas, | D. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 1 Nov. 73 | 17 Feb. 70 |
| Gray, | D. R. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 2 Nov. 73 | 3 Jun. 69 |
| Pimm, | D. S. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 5 Nov. 73 | 17 Feb. 70 |
| Hardman, | G. | A/S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 7 Nov. 73 | 2 Nov. 68 |
| Nicoll, | A. A. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 9 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Tapp, | C. J. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 10 Nov. 73 | 16 Jan. 67 |
| Hazel, | T. A. | Sgt. | Tele Mech | 1 Dec. 73 | 13 Jun. 70 |
| Norris, | R. A. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 2 Dec. 73 | 7 Jan. 66 |
| Barber, | V. A. H. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 3 Dec. 73 | 10 Jul. 68 |
| Davenport, | E. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 4 Dec. 73 | 15 May 68 |
| Coulson, | T. W. | Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 5 Dec. 73 | 8 Feb. 70 |
| Adams, | G. W. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 6 Dec. 73 | 1 Sep. 70 |
| Dalton, | P. A. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 7 Dec. 73 | 2 Nov. 71 |
| Brighton, | A. | A/S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 8 Dec. 73 | 27 Feb. 64 |
| Walker, | J. E. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 2 Jan. 74 | 20 May 64 |
| Greaves, | R. W. | Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 3 Jan. 74 | 24 Nov. 64 |
| Lister, | K. | A/S-Sgt. | R Tg | 4 Jan. 74 | 25 Mar. 69 |
| Collins, | I. | A/S-Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 5 Jan. 74 | 3 Aug. 71 |
| Rossall, | P. G. | A/S-Sgt. | Tele Mech | 6 Jan. 74 | 18 Apr. 70 |
| Pigg, | T. L. | Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 7 Jan. 74 | 25 Nov. 69 |
| **Foreman of Signals Roll** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Brown, | D. | W.O.2 | | 25 May 73 | 14 Jul. 72 |
| Freeston, | D. J. | W.O.2 | | 1 Oct. 73 | 18 Apr. 70 |
| Thom, | D. | W.O.2 | | 15 Oct. 73 | 18 Apr. 70 |
| Fison, | J. E. | W.O.2 | | 20 Oct. 73 | 12 Mar. 72 |
| Maltby, | B. W. | W.O.2 | | 1 Nov. 73 | 14 Jul. 72 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Gray, | J. R. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Francis, B.E.M., | J. E. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Kay, | T. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Keohane, | A. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Wills, | J. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Emslie, | G. W. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Shone, | C. J. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Hope, | I. D. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Paton, | R. A. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Abrahams, | B. W. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Livesey, B.E.M., | R. F. W. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Allen, | R. A. G. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Bamforth, | K. V. | S-Sgt. | | 18 Jan. 74 | 18 Jan. 68 |
| **Supervisor (Radio) Roll** | | | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Roberts, | B. D. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 Nov. 73 | 15 May 71 |
| **Yeoman of Signals Roll** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Wood, | P. C. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Oct. 73 | 1 Mar. 65 |
| Cox, | D. E. P. | A/W.O.1 | | 4 Oct. 73 | 12 Oct. 66 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Couperthwaite, | W. R. D. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 Sep. 73 | 2 Apr. 70 |
| Moat, | D. | S-Sgt. | | 1 Oct. 73 | 29 Jun. 68 |
| Cheeseman, | W. J. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 Nov. 73 | 2 Apr. 70 |
| Sydney, | J. C. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 Jan. 74 | 7 Aug. 69 |
| Jackson, | A. T. | S-Sgt. | | 3 Jan. 74 | 29 Mar. 69 |
| Sleightholm, | I. | A/W.O.2 | | 4 Jan. 74 | 2 Nov. 68 |
| Hayes, | D. R. | A/W.O.2 | | 5 Jan. 74 | 26 Nov. 70 |
| **Terminal Equipment Technician Roll** | | | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Huxtable, | R. V. | Sgt. | | 10 Dec. 73 | 12 Apr. 67 |
| Collie, | L. G. P. | Sgt. | | 17 Dec. 73 | 13 Oct. 66 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Harper, | C. | Cpl. | | 13 Jun. 73 | 5 Mar. 66 |
| Ellis, | D. C. A. | Cpl. | | 25 Jul. 73 | 15 Mar. 69 |
| Bachelor, | C. R. | Cpl. | | 25 Jul. 73 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| North, | P. H. | Cpl. | | 25 Jul. 73 | 4 Feb. 71 |
| Steele, | S. M. | Cpl. | | 25 Jul. 73 | 4 Feb. 71 |
| Cherry, | D. E. | Cpl. | | 25 Jul. 73 | 1 Apr. 71 |
| Brydon, | I. D. | Cpl. | | 5 Aug. 73 | 16 Dec. 70 |
| Baker, | N. G. | Cpl. | | 7 Aug. 73 | 20 Dec. 68 |
| Appleyard, | M. R. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 15 Mar. 69 |
| Haslett, | R. W. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Meakes, | P. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 17 Sep. 70 |
| Smith, | J. R. J. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 17 Sep. 70 |
| Furber, | G. W. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 23 Mar. 71 |
| Elder, | H. J. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 28 Aug. 65 |
| Gemmell, | C. A. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 6 Jun. 69 |
| Rodgers, | D. A. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 16 Jul. 69 |
| King, | R. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 18 Jul. 69 |
| Callaway, | J. G. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Whitworth, | D. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 23 Oct. 69 |
| Matthews, | P. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 29 Jan. 70 |
| Camplin, | J. R. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 30 Jul. 71 |
| Coates, | A. | Cpl. | | 26 Oct. 73 | 31 May 69 |
| Squires, | H. G. | Cpl. | | 26 Oct. 73 | 12 Nov. 69 |
| Bond, | C. D. | Cpl. | | 26 Oct. 73 | 1 Jul. 71 |
| Gibson, | R. L. | Cpl. | | 31 Oct. 73 | 25 Jul. 69 |
| Guy, | A. R. | Cpl. | | 19 Nov. 73 | 10 Aug. 68 |
| Moir, | M. W. | Cpl. | | 18 Dec. 73 | 14 Aug. 69 |
| Catterall, | P. | Cpl. | | 28 Dec. 73 | 3 Jun. 68 |
| Dunk, | C. B. P. | Cpl. | | 28 Jan. 74 | 30 Jul. 70 |
| **Radio Technician Roll** | | | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Bancroft, | F. A. | Sgt. | | 30 Nov. 73 | 27 Aug. 70 |
| Sloggett, | A. J. | Sgt. | | 1 Dec. 73 | 27 Feb. 67 |
| Jarrett, | T. | Sgt. | | 3 Dec. 73 | 8 Aug. 67 |
| Ackers, | D. A. | Sgt. | | 9 Dec. 73 | 17 Feb. 67 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Newbery, | D. F. R. | Cpl. | | 6 Aug. 73 | 13 Apr. 68 |
| Atkinson, | G. A. | Cpl. | | 6 Aug. 73 | 15 Dec. 68 |
| Bell, | J. | Cpl. | | 6 Aug. 73 | 7 Oct. 69 |
| Lang, | D. A. | Cpl. | | 10 Aug. 73 | 11 Aug. 67 |
| Bird, | A. M. | Cpl. | | 17 Oct. 73 | 10 Jun. 69 |
| Crabb, | G. D. | Cpl. | | 30 Oct. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Sidwell, | C. | Cpl. | | 30 Oct. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Pawlak, | M. E. | Cpl. | | 30 Oct. 73 | 20 Sep. 69 |
| Burgess, | R. | Cpl. | | 30 Oct. 73 | 1 Jan. 72 |
| Rankin, | K. | Cpl. | | 2 Nov. 73 | 22 Apr. 71 |
| Guy, | M. A. J. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 14 Apr. 67 |
| Nesbitt-Clark, | B. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 3 Jul. 68 |
| Beard, | V. T. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 9 Aug. 68 |
| Bowles, | D. K. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 4 Oct. 69 |
| Sawyer, | R. K. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 25 Jun. 70 |
| Sture, | W. J. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 19 Feb. 70 |
| Sharp, | T. J. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| Napier, | W. | Cpl. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 27 Apr. 72 |
| Perry, | I. M. | Cpl. | | 17 Jan. 74 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| **Radio Relay Technician Roll** | | | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Winter, | J. F. | Sgt. | | 1 Dec. 73 | 15 Apr. 57 |
| Lowry, | A. J. | Sgt. | | 3 Dec. 73 | 14 Dec. 67 |
| Goldthorpe, | A. H. | Sgt. | | 5 Dec. 73 | 29 May 69 |
| Smith, | A. W. | Sgt. | | 10 Dec. 73 | 17 Apr. 67 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Green, | R. A. | Cpl. | | 16 Jun. 73 | 1 Apr. 71 |
| Waring, | P. H. | Cpl. | | 20 Jun. 73 | 10 Aug. 68 |
| Hunter, | R. G. | Cpl. | | 20 Jun. 73 | 19 May 69 |
| Madden, | F. | Cpl. | | 20 Jun. 73 | 22 Jul. 69 |
| Russell, | P. J. | Cpl. | | 31 Jul. 73 | 22 Dec. 65 |
| **Radio Relay Technician Roll** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Allan, | H. | Cpl. | | 31 Jul. 73 | 28 Feb. 71 |
| Drury, | P. S. | Cpl. | | 31 Jul. 73 | 28 Oct. 71 |
| Wintrip, | A. | Cpl. | | 8 Aug. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Clarke, | P. H. | Cpl. | | 8 Aug. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Ramsay, | B. | Cpl. | | 8 Aug. 73 | 25 Jun. 70 |
| Hobley, | J. H. | Cpl. | | 9 Oct. 73 | 12 May 68 |
| Harris, | C. I. | Cpl. | | 9 Oct. 73 | 26 Jul. 68 |
| Jones, | J. R. A. | Cpl. | | 10 Oct. 73 | 5 Jun. 70 |
| Travis, | R. | Cpl. | | 19 Oct. 73 | 25 Jun. 70 |
| Rideout, | M. J. | Cpl. | | 28 Oct. 73 | 28 Oct. 69 |
| Budd, | G. A. | Cpl. | | 28 Oct. 73 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| Blavins, | N. | Cpl. | | 6 Nov. 73 | 13 Mar. 70 |
| Lythaby, | A. W. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 4 Feb. 66 |
| Dodsworth, | J. K. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 4 Nov. 68 |
| Gilmour, | J. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 20 Dec. 68 |
| Kidd, | A. T. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 27 Jan. 69 |
| Lumb, | D. J. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 28 Feb. 69 |
| Murphy, | J. | Cpl. | | 12 Dec. 73 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| Kerr, | J. | Cpl. | | 12 Dec. 73 | 11 Sep. 70 |
| **Telecommunications Mechanic Roll** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Flanagan, | D. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Sep. 73 | 31 May 65 |
| Patterson, | F. T. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Dec. 73 | 30 Jun. 65 |
| Peach, | C. W. | Cpl. | | 1 Jan. 74 | 31 Oct. 70 |
| Plummer, | L. A. | A/Sgt. | | 2 Jan. 74 | 15 May 64 |
| Cripps, | I. G. | A/Sgt. | | 3 Jan. 74 | 31 Jul. 71 |
| White, | P. J. | A/Sgt. | | 4 Jan. 74 | 31 Jan. 70 |
| Dunn, | J. | A/Sgt. | | 6 Jan. 74 | 30 Sep. 68 |

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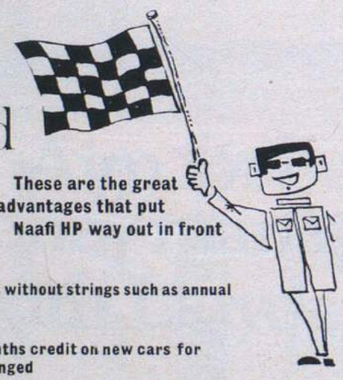

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- ☐ **Easy payment plan for premiums if you wish**
- ☐ **Cover against most of your liability to tax and duty in the event of your premature repatriation from overseas**
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☐ Deposit savings scheme *Please tick whichever applies*

*block letters*

**Rank**

**Name**

**Address**

**Tel. No.**




### Data Telegraphist Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Willmott, | L. E. | Cpl. | 2 Sep. 73 | 1 Jun. 71 |
| Stewart, | J. A. | Cpl. | 17 Sep. 73 | 1 Oct. 58 |
| Bartliff, | G. W. | A/Sgt. | 18 Sep. 73 | 1 Oct. 68 |
| Rattray, | W. M. | A/Sgt. | 19 Sep. 73 | 1 Dec. 68 |
| Henning, | W. J. | Cpl. | 28 Sep. 73 | 1 Jan. 69 |
| Evans, | T. J. | A/Sgt. | 1 Oct. 73 | 10 Mar. 69 |
| Norrie, | M. L. | A/Sgt. | 2 Oct. 73 | 30 Jun. 70 |
| Farrell, | J. R. | A/Sgt. | 3 Oct. 73 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Darwin, | A. J. | Cpl. | 17 Oct. 73 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Shaw, | M. J. | Cpl. | 18 Oct. 73 | 1 Jun. 71 |
| Munroe, | A. C. | A/Sgt. | 19 Oct. 73 | 15 Sep. 65 |
| Walker, | D. J. | A/Sgt. | 20 Oct. 73 | 1 Feb. 67 |
| Daisey, | P. J. | Cpl. | 21 Oct. 73 | 10 Mar. 67 |
| Formosa, | E. A. A. | A/Sgt. | 1 Nov. 73 | 21 Apr. 67 |
| Rann, | I. T. | A/Sgt. | 2 Nov. 73 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| Wheeldon, | D. | A/Sgt. | 3 Nov. 73 | 1 Dec. 69 |
| Hodgkinson, | P. | Cpl. | 15 Nov. 73 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Taylor, | G. G. | Cpl. | 16 Nov. 73 | 1 Jun. 67 |
| Orton, | R. | Cpl. | 17 Nov. 73 | 1 Sep. 68 |
| Biggs, | D. | Cpl. | 18 Nov. 73 | 1 Dec. 69 |
| Gray-Cowan, | S. | A/Sgt. | 19 Nov. 73 | 1 Dec. 69 |
| Constable, | A. R. | Cpl. | 1 Dec. 73 | 4 Oct. 66 |
| Hyde, | L. J. | Cpl. | 2 Jan. 74 | 1 Nov. 66 |
| Nixon, | J. P. | Cpl. | 3 Jan. 74 | 3 Mar. 67 |
| Varvel, | M. J. | Cpl. | 4 Jan. 74 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Mason, | G. J. | A/Sgt. | 27 Jan. 74 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| Chapman, | R. J. | Cpl. | 2 Feb. 74 | 1 Nov. 69 |

### Radio Telegraphist Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Allan, | W. | Cpl. | 2 Sep. 73 | 30 Nov. 70 |
| Haytree, | J. D. | Cpl. | 3 Sep. 73 | 1 Nov. 71 |
| Patience, | A. J. | A/Sgt. | 4 Sep. 73 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| McLoughlin, | T. J. | Cpl. | 5 Sep. 73 | 30 Nov. 70 |
| Stanley, | J. J. | A/Sgt. | 19 Sep. 73 | 1 Dec. 70 |
| Gallagher, | P. | A/Sgt. | 20 Sep. 73 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Day, | D. | Cpl. | 21 Sep. 73 | 22 Feb. 70 |
| Straw, | K. P. | Cpl. | 22 Sep. 73 | 1 Dec. 70 |
| Bowden, | D. | Cpl. | 10 Oct. 73 | 1 Nov. 71 |
| Talbott, | A. C. | A/Sgt. | 11 Oct. 73 | 30 Nov. 71 |
| Gethin, | P. L. | A/Sgt. | 12 Oct. 73 | 30 Jun. 68 |
| Elliott, | R. | A/Sgt. | 26 Oct. 73 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| Bowen, | A. D. | A/Sgt. | 27 Oct. 73 | 1 Dec. 68 |
| Carpenter, | G. M. | A/Sgt. | 28 Oct. 73 | 1 Jan. 69 |
| Burns, | J. F. | A/Sgt. | 29 Oct. 73 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| Moore, | D. | A/Sgt. | 30 Oct. 73 | 1 Feb. 70 |
| Beavis, | J. F. | A/Sgt. | 6 Nov. 73 | 22 Feb. 70 |
| Butler, | M. R. | Cpl. | 7 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Bartlett, | D. G. | Cpl. | 22 Nov. 73 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Jennings, | D. R. | Cpl. | 23 Nov. 73 | 1 May 71 |
| O'Neill, | P. A. | A/Sgt. | 24 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Mullin, | M. A. | Cpl. | 25 Nov. 73 | 22 Apr. 67 |
| Whelan, | A. A. | A/Sgt. | 26 Nov. 73 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Morell, | T. K. | A/Sgt. | 27 Nov. 73 | 30 Apr. 68 |
| Bark, | K. J. | A/Sgt. | 1 Jan. 74 | 1 Oct. 68 |
| Atkinson, | K. | A/Sgt. | 2 Jan. 74 | 1 Dec. 68 |
| Weller, | K. | Cpl. | 4 Jan. 74 | 28 Apr. 70 |
| Harper, | G. T. | A/Sgt. | 26 Jan. 74 | 10 Jul. 70 |
| Thornton, | M. A. | Cpl. | 27 Jan. 74 | 30 Nov. 70 |

### Special Telegraphist Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Thompson, | D. | A/Sgt. | 12 Nov. 73 | 20 Jul. 66 |
| Thomasson, | J. W. | Cpl. | 1 Dec. 73 | 30 Apr. 68 |
| Hern, | R. M. | Cpl. | 1 Jan. 74 | 30 Jun. 70 |
| Waite, | A. G. | Cpl. | 24 Jan. 74 | 31 Aug. 70 |
| Thompson, | B. A. F. | Cpl. | 11 Feb. 74 | 1 Apr. 71 |

### Combat Driver Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Connor, | T. | A/Sgt. | 1 Jan. 74 | 3 Feb. 72 |
| Shillingford, | V. H. | A/Sgt. | 2 Jan. 74 | 2 Jul. 72 |

### Combat Lineman Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Healy, | M. G. | Cpl. | 1 Sep. 73 | 31 Aug. 68 |
| Baker, | J. | A/Sgt. | 2 Sep. 73 | 30 Sep. 64 |
| Callear, | D. J. R. | A/Sgt. | 3 Sep. 73 | 31 May 67 |
| Galway, | R. B. | A/Sgt. | 4 Sep. 73 | 31 Aug. 68 |
| Banks, | W. | Cpl. | 5 Sep. 73 | 28 Feb. 66 |
| Perkins, | G. E. | A/Sgt. | 6 Sep. 73 | 1 Dec. 56 |
| McAlpine, | S. | Cpl. | 7 Sep. 73 | 30 Jun. 67 |
| Burley, B.E.M., | W. S. | A/Sgt. | 8 Sep. 73 | 1 Dec. 59 |
| Craft, | T. A. | Cpl. | 9 Sep. 73 | 31 Jul. 67 |
| Clinch, | R. | Cpl. | 10 Sep. 73 | 31 Jul. 71 |
| Stadius, | R. | Cpl. | 11 Sep. 73 | 31 Dec. 71 |

### Combat Powerman Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Fry, | W. M. | Cpl. | 6 Sep. 73 | 30 Nov. 69 |
| Snee, | W. O. H. | A/Sgt. | 1 Oct. 73 | 30 Sep. 68 |
| Elliott, | S. B. | Cpl. | 8 Oct. 73 | 31 Mar. 70 |
| Bradley, | R. | A/Sgt. | 1 Nov. 73 | 31 Oct. 71 |
| Farrell, | M. | Cpl. | 2 Nov. 73 | 2 Nov. 69 |
| Drew, | P. J. | Cpl. | 9 Nov. 73 | 30 Nov. 68 |
| Hunter, | R. | A/Sgt. | 18 Jan. 74 | 30 Sep. 70 |

### Combat Radioman Roll

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Askew, B.E.M., | J. | Cpl. | 2 Sep. 73 | 31 Aug. 70 |
| Stevens, | T. A. | Cpl. | 4 Sep. 73 | 30 Nov. 70 |
| Hobbs, | B. R. | Cpl. | 8 Sep. 73 | 30 Jun. 60 |
| Bayliss, | R. I. | A/Sgt. | 15 Sep. 73 | 18 Jan. 64 |
| Longstaff, | M. | A/Sgt. | 17 Sep. 73 | 21 Oct. 66 |
| Brown, | J. A. | A/Sgt. | 18 Sep. 73 | 3 Feb. 67 |
| Henderson, | A. S. | Cpl. | 24 Sep. 73 | 28 Jan. 66 |
| Henderson, | R. L. | A/Sgt. | 1 Oct. 73 | 31 Jan. 66 |
| Ledger, | R. J. | A/Sgt. | 2 Oct. 73 | 31 Jan. 67 |
| Cavanaugh, | M. J. R. | A/Sgt. | 31 Aug. 73 | 28 Feb. 69 |
| Bondin, | S. | A/Sgt. | 3 Oct. 73 | 30 Apr. 68 |
| Parsons, | R. F. | A/Sgt. | 4 Oct. 73 | 30 Nov. 69 |
| Lloyd-Williams, | M. | Cpl. | 5 Oct. 73 | 31 Dec. 69 |
| Hadland, | D. R. | Cpl. | 6 Oct. 73 | 1 Feb. 70 |
| Oliver, | R. A. | A/Sgt. | 17 Nov. 73 | 31 May 70 |
| Dalton-Brocknell, | C. R. | Cpl. | 17 Dec. 73 | 1 Dec. 70 |
| Kenning, | M. | A/Sgt. | 20 Dec. 73 | 25 Jul. 63 |
| Smith, | C. A. | A/Sgt. | 21 Dec. 73 | 3 Feb. 66 |
| McIntyre, | W. | A/Sgt. | 23 Dec. 73 | 10 Dec. 66 |
| Worthington, | H. | A/Sgt. | 24 Dec. 73 | 3 Jan. 67 |
| Whitehill, | T. J. | A/Sgt. | 25 Dec. 73 | 1 Jan. 69 |
| Lupton, | D. W. | A/Sgt. | 26 Dec. 73 | 30 Nov. 69 |
| Coude, | G. J. G. | A/Sgt. | 27 Dec. 73 | 30 Jun. 70 |
| Dunne, | J. | A/Sgt. | 28 Dec. 73 | 31 Mar. 69 |
| Banks, | H. W. | Cpl. | 2 Jan. 74 | 31 Aug. 70 |
| Marshall, | G. S. | Cpl. | 15 Jan. 74 | 5 Jul. 60 |
| Cottam, | B. | A/Sgt. | 14 Feb. 74 | 1 Feb. 70 |

| *Name* | *Initials* | | *Sen. Date* |
|---|---|---|---|

### Regimental Duty Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To W.O.1 | | | |
| Cage, | H. W. | (Discharged) | 23 Jun. 69 |
| Johnson, | P. S. W. | (Discharged) | 1 Oct. 69 |
| McGilvray, | G. | (Commissioned) | 27 Jun. 70 |
| Bloom, | S. F. | (Commissioned) | 31 Mar. 71 |
| Judge, | R. J. | (Discharged) | 27 Apr. 71 |
| Williams, | F. | (Commissioned) | 3 Aug. 71 |
| Shakespeare, | D. | (Commissioned) | 18 Jan. 72 |
| Loome, | D. J. | (Discharged) | 11 Jul. 72 |
| Binks, | C. | (Reduced to W.O.2) | 4 Oct. 72 |
| Hammill, | T. D. | (Discharged) | 10 Oct. 72 |
| Clarke, | J. W. | (Discharged) | 20 Mar. 73 |
| W.O.2 | | | |
| Tune, | B. W. | (Discharged) | 8 Feb. 68 |
| Froggatt, | F. G. | (Discharged) | 27 Jan. 69 |
| Coleman, | R. B. | (Discharged) | 27 Jan. 69 |
| Cooley, | A. E. | (Discharged) | 22 Feb. 69 |
| Wheeler, | W. C. | (Discharged) | 16 Aug. 69 |
| Waugh, | A. P. | (Discharged) | 9 Sep. 70 |
| Harding, | C. G. | (Discharged) | 2 Dec. 70 |
| Farmer, | G. T. | (Discharged) | 16 Dec. 70 |
| Yates, | W. C. | (Discharged) | 2 Feb. 71 |
| Maidment, | K. | (Discharged) | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Barber, | R. W. J. | (Discharged) | 1 Dec. 71 |
| Johnson, | E. H. | (Discharged) | 4 Jun. 72 |
| Tryner, | D. J. | (Discharged) | 8 Sep. 73 |


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### Staff Sergeants Seniority Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Morris, | A. | (Discharged) | 24 Jan. 62 |
| Sankey, | H. A. | (Discharged) | 31 Jan. 63 |
| Probert, | D. C. | (Discharged) | 1 Jul. 64 |
| Selwyn, | G. P. | (Discharged) | 18 Aug. 66 |
| Tibby, | E. C. | (Discharged) | 9 Feb. 70 |
| Farrell, | P. G. | (Discharged) | 11 Feb. 70 |
| Mellett, | J. E. T. | (Discharged) | 18 Feb. 70 |
| Haskell, B.E.M., | R. J. | (Discharged) | 2 Apr. 70 |
| Sutton, | J. L. | (Discharged) | 17 Aug. 70 |
| Phillips, | J. A. | (Discharged) | 20 Sep. 70 |
| Foster, | R. H. | (Discharged) | 19 Jun. 71 |
| Bree, | J. C. | (Discharged) | 20 Jun. 71 |
| Devey, | R. | (Discharged) | 4 Aug. 71 |
| Phin, | J. T. | (Discharged) | 13 Aug. 71 |
| Richards, | J. C. T. | (Discharged) | 3 Dec. 71 |
| Bagwell, | A. W. A. | (Discharged) | 3 Sep. 72 |
| Waters, | A. R. | (Discharged) | 12 Nov. 72 |
| Morrell, | K. | (Discharged) | 31 Dec. 72 |
| Flake, | G. | (Discharged) | 14 Jan. 73 |
| Farr, | G. H. | (Discharged) | 1 Apr. 73 |

### Foreman of Signals

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W.O.1 | | | |
| Weir, | R. | (Discharged) | 31 Jul. 67 |
| Shakeshaft, | G. E. | (Commissioned) | 1 Oct. 68 |
| Stanhope, | J. L. | (Discharged) | 17 Aug. 70 |
| Geldard, | G. | (Commissioned) | 31 May 71 |
| Morris, | R. | (Commissioned) | 10 Jul. 71 |
| W.O.2 | | | |
| Jackson, | D. L. | (Discharged) | 12 Nov. 69 |
| McInally, | J. P. S. | (Discharged) | 16 Jan. 71 |
| S-Sgt. | | | |
| Cliff, | M. F. | (Discharged) | 18 Jan. 68 |
| Lowe, | D. J. | (Discharged) | 11 Aug. 72 |

### Supervisor (Radio) Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W.O.2 | | | |
| Edgar, | C. D. | (Discharged) | 31 Jan. 63 |

### Yeoman of Signals Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W.O.1 | | | |
| Lockley, | T. | (Discharged) | 22 Sep. 72 |
| W.O.2 | | | |
| Newell, | D. A. | (Discharged) | 28 Oct. 66 |
| Massey, | R. T. | (Discharged) | 10 Jun. 67 |
| S-Sgt. | | | |
| Tompkins, | G. E. | (Discharged) | 15 Nov. 59 |

### Terminal Equipment Technician Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Wardill, | G. K. | (Discharged) | 2 May 55 |
| Gore, | D. A. | (Discharged) | 15 Oct. 62 |
| Gibson, | A. S. | (Discharged) | 20 Mar. 64 |
| Brierley, | D. | (Discharged) | 26 Mar. 64 |
| Cole, | A. C. R. | (Discharged) | 12 Sep. 68 |
| Johnstone, | D. | (Discharged) | 16 Dec. 70 |
| Lee, | A. R. | (Discharged) | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Brebner, | I. R. G. | (Discharged) | 1 Apr. 71 |
| Cottam, | C. | (Discharged) | 13 May 71 |
| Thomas, | E. J. | (Discharged) | 13 Oct. 72 |

### Radio Technician Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Mills, | R. G. | (Discharged) | 18 Sep. 57 |
| Hotson, | D. E. G. | (Discharged) | 16 Mar. 66 |
| Percival, | R. H. | (Discharged) | 29 Nov. 68 |
| Mackenzie, | T. W. F. | (Discharged) | 24 Sep. 70 |
| Clark, | R. M. | (Discharged) | 16 Dec. 70 |

### Radio Relay Technician Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Jarratt, | J. R. | (Discharged) | 25 Mar. 60 |
| Gilchrist, | H. A. | (Discharged) | 17 Feb. 61 |
| Hinton, | C. A. | (Discharged) | 22 Apr. 68 |
| Edwards, | B. J. | (Discharged) | 17 Dec. 69 |
| Froud, | W. | (Discharged) | 14 Apr. 70 |
| Gray, | D. | (Discharged) | 12 Aug. 70 |
| Fenge, | J. C. | (Discharged) | 9 Oct. 70 |
| Godley, | M. P. | (Discharged) | 22 Oct. 70 |
| Adams, | G. C. | (Discharged) | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Vardy, | D. G. | (Discharged) | 27 May 71 |
| Bingham, | B. D. | (Discharged) | 29 Jun. 71 |
| Everest, | R. M. | (Discharged) | 1 Jul. 71 |
| Bishop, | J. F. | (Discharged) | 19 Sep. 72 |
| Sherman, | S. E. | (Discharged) | 2 May 73 |

### Telecommunications Mechanic Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt. | | | |
| Cowsill, | K. | (Discharged) | 8 Nov. 72 |

### Data Telegraphist Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt. | | | |
| Hornby, | A. R. | (Discharged) | 27 Feb. 72 |

### Radio Telegraphist Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Emmerson, | P. M. | (Discharged) | 15 Dec. 70 |
| Pitcher, | W. A. | (Discharged) | 3 Jul. 72 |
| Kendall, | D. T. | (Deceased) | 22 Jan. 73 |
| Smith, | C. A. W. | (Discharged) | 4 Aug. 72 |

### Special Telegraphist Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Metters, | W. E. | (Discharged) | 22 Jan. 64 |
| Willoughby, | A. M. | (Discharged) | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Anderson, | G. | (Discharged) | 3 Sep. 73 |

### Combat Lineman Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Kehoe, | J. | (Reverted to Cpl.) | 1 Nov. 72 |
| Baker, | F. W. | (Discharged) | 10 Sep. 66 |
| Salt, | D. T. | (Discharged) | 28 Feb. 62 |
| Faragher, | T. E. | (Discharged) | 3 Jan. 66 |
| Coulson, | F. | (Discharged) | 1 Jan. 61 |
| Perham, | L. E. L. | (Discharged) | 1 Apr. 66 |
| Moore, | F. J. | (Discharged) | 1 Jan. 66 |

### Combat Radioman Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Rozier, | D. E. G. | (Discharged) | 2 Dec. 54 |
| Lynch, | R. | (Discharged) | 22 Jan. 64 |
| Wisher, | G. W. | (Discharged) | 31 Jan. 64 |
| Chapman, | J. F. | (Discharged) | 1 Jun. 65 |
| Dicker, | A. H. | (Discharged) | 27 Mar. 62 |
| Graham, | F. G. | (Discharged) | 7 Jan. 73 |

### Combat Signalman Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sgts. | | | |
| Pickles, | B. | (Discharged) | 5 Sep. 72 |
| Sherlock, | C. C. | (Discharged) | 2 Nov. 73 |

## INSERTIONS

### To Telecommunications Mechanic Roll

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cpls. | | | |
| Wilding, | A. J. | from TE Tech | 15 Jan. 64 |
| Wright, | H. | from Cbt Lmn | 19 Jul. 72 |
| Smith, | J. R. | from TE Tech | 7 Feb. 66 |
| Jameson, | W. M. T. | from Cbt Lmn | 19 Jun. 73 |
| Spencer, | B. F. | from TE Tech | 5 Oct. 61 |
| Harrington, | T. R. | from TE Tech | 1 Jul. 71 |
| John, | K. B. | from Cbt Lmn | 21 Jun. 73 |
| Moore, | G. N. | from Cbt Lmn | 18 Jun. 73 |
| McFaul, | D. P. R. | from TE Tech | 4 Mar. 65 |
| Gladdis, | M. J. | from Cbt Lmn | 3 Jul. 73 |

## THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

**Number of cases assisted financially in March** .. .. .. .. .. **49**

**Number of clothing parcels sent** .. .. **47**

**Amount spent** .. .. .. .. .. **£1,179·06**

### One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, 5 years' war time service. Due to illness, he has not been able to work for 11 years. His wife, who looks after him, has recently been in hospital for a major operation. The Association made a grant of £34·00 to clear gas and electricity bills which had accrued during her illness. Her letter is printed below.

### One of the Month's Letters

MY dear husband and I are overwhelmed by the understanding and benevolence the Committee and all concerned have shown in so helping us. We feel that ours is a deep debt of gratitude, both for this generous financial help and for such deep and sincere understanding of our needs. As we say "Thank You" to one and all, we trust you will feel the depth of profound gratitude our simple but sincere thanks seek to convey.

**THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN**

### *Clothing*

Since the beginning of March, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Captain and Mrs. V. C. Brown, Mrs. J. M. Badcock, Major-General M. D. Price, Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, Major and Mrs. P. B. Leonard, Staff Sergeant F. Stevenson, Corporal and Mrs. J. S. G. Vanscolina, Major N. A. V. Ribchester, Colonel J. A. Baker, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. Napper, Misses A. and K. Napper, Brigadier and Mrs. C. H. Akehurst, Miss Akehurst, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. M. A. White, Sergeant and Mrs. R. Assender, Anonymous donor of two boxes of clothing received 14th March 1974 by British Road Services, Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, Brigadier and Mrs. C. H. Stoneley, Major A. W. Stewart, R.S.M. T. Keany, W.O.2 T. A. Perkin, W.O.1 P. E. Jepson, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Lady Scott, Captain G. D. Willis, Corporal S. A. Graham, Mr. R. L. Cartwright and Mr. and Mrs. A. Morgan.



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Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*June-July 1974*


# wire

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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. 4RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
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*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

☆

**JUNE/JULY • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 6**


# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

We feature 8th Regiment's motorcycle riders this month. Not only did the Regiment sponsor and organize the Army Motorcycle Championships earlier this year but they also ran away with many of the prizes as our picture shows.

*Top left: Left to right:* **Corporal Tom Walker, W.O.2 Tom Fayers, B.E.M., Corporal (now Sgt.) Ken Hendry.** Among the cups displayed are the best Royal Signals rider cup, the Swedish Army Trophy and the Viscount Gort Cup as well as many other medals and cups won during the year.

*Bottom left: Left to right:* **Staff Sergeant Derek Thomas, Corporal Tom Walker, Captain Mark Wilson, Signalman Mick Haverson, W.O.2 Tom Fayers, B.E.M., Sergeant Mick Gratton, Corporal (now Sergeant) Ken Hendry.** *Kneeling:* **Corporal Roger Lelachuer** and **Sergeant Des Ross.** Cups as in top left.

*Photo on right: Left to right:* **Corporal Tom Walker, Corporal (now Sergeant) Ken Hendry, W.O.2 Tom Fayers, B.E.M.** Winners of team event with their cups.

## Royal Signals Association Reunion, Blandford Camp, Sunday, 16th June

A one day gathering of the Association was held at Blandford Camp on Sunday 16th June which, with wives and families, totalled nearly 500. Unlike the 1973 reunion—probably the wettest day of 1973—the sun shone continuously and conditions were ideal.

Brigadier Chris Bate, Commandant of the School of Signals, once again organised an excellent programme and our warm appreciation goes to him and all those members of the School of Signals, 30th Signal Regiment and the Dorset Branch of the Association, who gave up their Sunday for our enjoyment. Our special thanks must go the Lieutenant-Colonel David Barker who so ably co-ordinated all arrangements.

It was very much a family gathering and it was a pleasure to see so many wives, sons and daughters of members present. After suitable pre-lunch liquid refreshment in the Junior Ranks Club and the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess, an excellent buffet was laid on by Captain Dowd, ACC who, incidently, had just been awarded a well deserved M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours.

After lunch the White Helmets, lead by Captain Jim Blake, performed with their usual breathtaking skill and as they rode off the Corps' Blue Helmets (free-fall parachutists) under Major Mike Forge, appeared in succession from the skies landing within a few feet of their target except for one intrepid parachutist who decided that the V.I.P. enclosure needed waking up—not that this was necessary as everyone was poised on the edge of their chairs after the thrills of these two action packed displays.

During the rest of the afternoon the School lecture and demonstration rooms were open for inspection and a wide variety of most interesting displays was available for all tastes—well set out and expertly explained by members of the staff. The Corps Museum was, of course, a centre of attraction and was thronged throughout the afternoon. Captain Dowd and his staff provided an excellent afternoon tea during which the prize-winners of the Dorset Branch raffle were drawn. Finally all present gathered on Hawke Square for an impressive Retreat Ceremony played by the Corps Band under Major Keith Boulding.

So ended what was probably one of the best days that the Association has enjoyed for many a year.

## From our "In" Tray

### The Desert Rats

**From Lieutenant-Colonel G. Forty RTR**

Sir,

I am writing an illustrated history of the 7th Armoured Division, covering the complete period of World War 2.

I am most anxious to include as many photographs and personal reminiscences as possible in it, so I wonder if I might use your magazine to put out a call to all Ex-Desert Rats amongst your readers? If there is anyone who would like to contact me, then I will be delighted to hear from him and will naturally refund all postal charges involved. I will also take the greatest care of any photographs etc. and promise to return anything which is lent to me.

FLOREAT JERBOA!

Yours sincerely,

**G. Forty**

RAC Tactical School,
Lulworth Camp,
Wareham, Dorset.
Tel: Bindon Abbey 462721 Ext 217.

### Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

Sir,

WE old soldiers are very honoured to have been granted affiliation to the Royal Signals Association. We are now an active branch who will meet annually and we are entitled to attend the two big reunions annually in Catterick and Blandford. I therefore thought it only right that this unique honour should be marked by a contribution to our own magazine which most of us have read regularly since 1930 and in some cases even earlier.

In contrast to other branches of the Association ours can only be one with a diminishing membership. To be eligible to join us one must have served in the old Hong Kong Signal Company between 1939 and 1945. Most of us, of course, survived the Japanese prison camps but quite a number did leave Hong Kong before the Japs struck and carried on the war in the other theatres. We meet each year at Blandford Camp due to the hospitality and kindness of the Commandant and officers of the Defence ADP Training Centre. We look forward very much to this annual reunion and meeting old friends and comrades. We try to keep going the spirit that kept us going in the war years.

Our next reunion opens at Blandford on Friday 30th August and ends after lunch on Sunday 1st September. We are still trying to trace old members of the Company and should any see this they are asked to contact **Lieutenant-Colonel M. E. E. Truscott,** Defence ADP Training Centre, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset. Last year 37 members attended plus wives, relatives and friends and we hope to improve on that this year. We estimate that there are about 26 old members who have not yet been contacted. Can you help us to trace any?

We send our salaams to all units and branches of the Association and to those who are separated from their loved ones we wish you a happy reunion with them soon. We are proud to be a part of your fellowship and to be officially back in the fold. Sayanara.

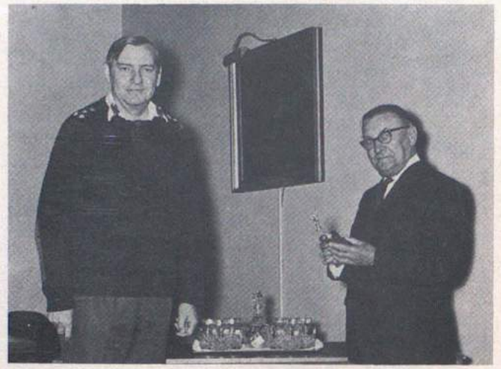
**Harold Copsey, 2323556.**

### Officers Reunion — Aldershot Club 4th October 1974

Arrangements are in hand to hold a similar reunion to the one held last year. The purpose is to bring together serving and retired officers living within a reasonable distance of Aldershot for an informal gathering from 6.30 p.m. onwards. Drinks and a cold buffet will be available on payment.

A letter giving full details has been sent out on the same distribution as last year. Anyone who has not heard from the General Secretary of the Association and who would like to attend should get in touch with him immediately.

## News in Focus . . .



MAJOR (RETD.) 'POLLY' PERKINS RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS' SERVICE TO THE CROWN

Many of those who have passed through the School of Signals over the years will be interested in this photograph showing 'Polly' Perkins receiving from Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E., the Commandant, a presentation of a 'Jimmy' and a set of glassware following his retirement at the end of 50 years' unbroken service to the crown, both as soldier and civilian

Polly joined the Royal Engineers in 1924. He retired from active duty in 1949 in the rank of Major. From 1949 until 1957 he served as a civilian instructor at R.S.M.E., after which until 1960 he was seconded for service with the Government of Cyprus. He joined the School of Signals as an instructor in 1960, where he served until he finally retired this year

The presentation, which was subscribed to by the members of the officers and warrant officers and sergeants' Messes, carries with it the best wishes of all who knew him, for a long and happy retirement

THE CORPS WERE THERE

At the Kentish Cup Association football between France and Belgium at Toulouse the three officials above were all U.K.—two from the Corps. *Left to right:* Captain P. W. Todd, B.E.M., Royal Signals, Lieutenant P. Andrews, M.P.S.C., W.O.1 P. D. Studd, Royal Signals



## News in Focus . . . continued

"BRITISH ROYAL MARINE" !

Described in the U.S. Marine Corps newspaper as "British Royal Marine" our own Major J. E. Kerr is seen addressing students of the U.S. Marine Corps on "Allied Military tactical communications"

MAKING HISTORY

The American Army has a prescribed ceremony for the promotion of its officers to the rank of full colonel. Usually, a General reads out the promotion order and attaches the silver eagle rank badges of a 'bird' colonel to the shoulders of the promoted officer

In London the recent promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn P. Rose, U.S. Signal Corps, was unique

He was elevated in rank by a *British* officer—Major-General Max Sawers, Signal Officer-in-Chief

Colonel Rose is serving with the U.S. Army Staff in London. His promotion ceremony was to have been performed by Brigadier-General John H. Boyes, U.S. Signal Corps. In the event, General Boyes was not able to make the journey to England and wrote to ask General Sawers to stand in for him

A COMMENDATION WELL DESERVED

W.O.2 (F. of S.) Brian Meachin of the Royal Military College of Science, receiving the commendation of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Near East Land Forces. The citation pays tribute to his outstanding contribution during his tour at R.A.F. Masirah. At work and on the sports field, his personal example was a credit to his Corps and a fundamental factor in raising and maintaining the standard of morale of the soldiers for whom he was responsible. The photograph shows the Commandant R.M.C.S., Major-General F. W. J. Cowtan, C.B.E., M.C., presenting the commendation to W.O.2 Meachin, which he received in the presence of some of the officers, warrant officers and civilian staff of the College. W.O.2 Meachin is due to leave Shrivenham in September for 3rd Division, on promotion to W.O.1

LINK BETWEEN THE CORPS AND ROYAL NEW ZEALAND SIGNALS RENEWED AS OLD FRIENDS MEET

Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, Royal Signals, with a group of R.N.Z. Signal Officers at the Officers' Club, Auckland, during his recent visit to New Zealand. *From left:* Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Shirley, Major R. H. M. Pope, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Mortiboy, Colonel G. L. Agar, Brigadier Smijth-Windham, Colonel R. W. Foubister

# Obituary

## Brigadier Ralph Chenevix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

It is with regret that we report the death of Brigadier Ralph Chenevix-Trench on 1st May. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers from the RMA at Woolwich in 1905. In his first four years service he gained experience in the 1st Telegraph Company, 1st Airline Company and 1st Wireless Company at Aldershot then in 1913 he was seconded to the Egyptian Army as Assistant Director Posts and Telegraphs in the Sudan where he designed and erected wireless stations with the object of linking-up Sudan telegraphs with those of Abysinnia. He established a signals despatch service using camels and did an 800 mile camel journey himself. He took part in the Darfur campaign and then went to France and Belgium in 1917–18 where he was Assistant Director Signals in the Cavalry Corps. He took part in the Battle of Cambrai and the retreat in 1918, he was awarded the M.C. in 1917. In 1918 he was posted out to North Russia where he was Assistant Director of Signals and was appointed to the Order of St. Vladimir with Swords 3rd class. Whilst in Russia he used reindeer for the Signals dispatch service and had a 900 mile sleigh run. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1919.

He transferred to the Corps in 1920 and after four years' service in India he was appointed to the then senior signal position in the War Office in 1934. This period covered the start of re-armament and was vital to the future organization and preparedness of Signals. His tenacious character, meticulous accuracy and clear exposition were valuable assets during this period.

During the Second World War he was Commandant of the STC but was very soon appointed SO-in-C to the British Expeditionary Force in France. He took part in the retreat to Dunkirk. In his final despatch Lord Gort used the following words "I wish to refer particularly to the valuable services of my Signal Officer-in-Chief". On return to the UK he became SO-in-C Home Forces but regrettably was invalided out in 1941 due to sickness and he then became a battalion commander within the Home Guard. He was appointed C.B. in 1941.

He was a competent and enthusiastic horseman and took part in many point-to-points. After his retirement he interested himself in sailing, gardening, local affairs and church activities. He did a lot to promote the activities of sailing in the Corps. He was a good and prolific writer and in 1921 won the Royal United Services Institute gold medal and in 1931 the Bertrand Stewart Essay Prize. He also gained a premium award at the Institution of Electrical Engineers for a paper on Wireless Ranges which he read in 1921. He continued his writing after retirement and was a tremendous help to the Royal Signals Institution, he always answered all queries immediately and was blessed with an excellent memory. He endowed the Chenevix-Trench Essay Prize which is competed for by members of the Institution.

Among the bolder actions he took during his career was asking Field Marshal the Duke of Connaught and Field Marshal Lord Roberts to move their horses off the verge as they were obstructing a cable detachment. In the hunting field once, when his horse was injured, he gave a member of the field sixpence to send a telegram to a vet. The member turned out to be the Duke of Wellington, not of course the first holder of that title. He had a moment of horror when at an IEE occasion he was called upon by the Chairman to speak immediately after Senator Marconi, who had just given one of his historical addresses explaining his new invention of very short waves generated at the focus of a parabolic mirror and being reflected in a narrow beam.

In 1916 he married Meriel, daughter of Cannon Jelf of Rochester. His elder son John was in the last batch to be commissioned into the Corps from the Shop and was invalided out as a captain after the war. His second son, Maxwell was killed as a sapper subaltern at the battle of Fondouk in 1943. His daughter Susan is married and is a Fellow of St. Hughes College, Oxford.

With his death the Corps has lost a very efficient and loyal officer and we extend our very sincere sympathies to his widow and family. He was buried at Studland on Tuesday 7th May.

## Lieutenant-Colonel William Medway

We have received news of the death last April of Lieutenant-Colonel William Medway ex-RE Signals and 'K' Company Rhine Signals and later Depot Battalion Crowborough and Catterick.

## Major (Q.M.) P. A. Harding, M.B.E., M.S.M.

Phil Harding was born in Cornwall in 1889 and enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1906. He served throughout the First World War and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for bravery and was mentioned in despatches. He was well known as a rough rider and for his ability in the art of tent pegging. From the Royal Engineers Signal Company he joined the Corps on its formation and remembered well the Maresfield days and later went to Egypt Command at Abbassia. 1924 saw him at 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester and in 1925 he became chief clerk at HQ STC Catterick. On being commissioned as Quartermaster in 1930 he joined 5th Divisional Signals at Scarborough and saw service with them in Palestine in 1936. He returned to Scarborough and then to Catterick in 1938 and on the outbreak of wat in 1939 went with the 5th Division to serve with the BEF in France. He was evacuated from France and joined London District Signals as quartermaster. He was appointed M.B.E. in 1945 for his services during the war. He retired to Scarborough in 1946 where he was a founder member and first Chairman of the Scarborough branch of the Royal Signals Association and where he and his wife, May, celebrated their golden wedding in 1966. His wife died on 31 March 1970 and Phil passed peacefully away on 13 April 1974. The funeral was held on 18 April and in addition to his family it was attended by representatives of the Scarborough branch of the Association. We offer our deep sympathy to his three sons, one of whom is still serving in the Corps, one is in Cyprus and the third is employed at Fylingdales near Scarborough.

## Major C. W. Ainsworth

Charles William Ainsworth who was born on 1st October 1914 died at his home in Bournemouth on 14th April. He enlisted in 1940 and was commissioned in 1942, seeing service during the war in North Africa and the Middle East. After the war he served in a wide variety of regiments in the UK, BAOR and Hong Kong, finishing up in 30 Signal Regiment where he remained for seven years from 1960 to his retirement in 1967. Charles was a most likeable warm hearted individual, brim full of ideas and energy. He had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in all walks of life who seemed ever ready to respond to his enthusiasm. He used this gift for many years to the advantage of the Corps in running 'Quicksilver' where he set the standard of a professional, polished and eye-catching recruiting display. After retirement he ran an hotel in Bournemouth. His death will cause sorrow to his many friends both inside and outside the Corps.

## Captain (Q.M.) H. Cummings

It is with regret that we report the death of Herbert Cummings on 9th March, at the age of 75. He served with the Royal Engineers during the First World War and after discharge in 1929 joined the TA in 1922 and when the Second World War broke out he was embodied in 53 (W) Divisional Signal Regiment, He was commissioned as a quartermaster in 1942 and in 1943 went out to India with 82 (WA) Divisional Signals and saw service in Burma, but was evacuated through sickness in 1945, returning to the UK in June of that year. Because of his disability he had to relinquish his commission in 1946 being granted the honorary rank of captain. He was a life member of the Association and we offer our sincere sympathies to his family.

## W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. A. McGregor

It is with regret that we have to report the tragic and sudden death on 25th June of R.S.M., W.O.1 R. A. McGregor.

Mr. McGregor joined the Corps in August 1954 and since then had seen service in Cyprus, Germany, the Persian Gulf and England before returning to Cyprus when he joined 9th Signal Regiment as RSM on promotion to W.O.1 in January 1973.

Much could be said of this man who embodied so many qualities, but perhaps the one which mattered most was his real and abiding concern for the welfare of his fellow men. He was completely selfless and he never sought personal glory. His integrity, natural dignity and invariable courteousness were bye words.

He had countless friends of all stations and walks of life.

By his untimely death, those who were privileged to know him, have lost a comrade and the Corps has been deprived of a man of real calibre.

To his widow and sons we offer our most sincere sympathy.





# Movements

JUNE 1974

## Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Alexander, M.B.E. | To 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Colonel A. A. G. Anderson | ,, School of Signals as Commandant |
| Major P. R. Brewis | ,, 28 Signal Regiment |
| Major W. R. Clare | ,, MOD (Signals 31) |
| Major C. W. Collier | ,, 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain P. A. Cooper | ,, 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Captain (TOT) H. Davies | ,, 28 (UK) Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Major A. R. Dominy | ,, AWSG Team BAOR |
| Captain R. A. Ellis | ,, 226 Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel G. Ferrier | ,, 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Captain F. J. Garrod | ,, School of Signals |
| Major T. E. Grice | ,, HQ 11 Signal Group |
| Lieutenant R. M. J. Hussey | ,, 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major B. F. Kavanagh | ,, HQ 1 Wing AAC |
| Major (QM) R. D. Laing | ,, School of Signals |
| Captain S. M. A. Lee | ,, 12 Mech Bde HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Captain W. G. Lidster, B.E.M. | ,, SMIU |
| Major W. J. M. Michie | ,, 21 Signal Regiment |
| Major J. Mills | ,, 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Major H. A. Morrison | ,, 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major (Tfc) F. W. Natolie | ,, 7 Signal Regiment |
| Major M. R. E. Pack-Davison | ,, School of Signals |
| Captain N. R. Pullman | ,, 644 Signal Troop |
| Major J. R. Roberts | ,, HQ DA Aviation |
| Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Rogers | ,, OPS DIV SHAPE |
| Major R. W. Simmons, B.E.M. | ,, 34 Signal Regiment (V) |
| A/Captain E. S. Storie | ,, 55 Signal Squadron (V) |
| Captain L. R. J. Tilson | ,, HQ 7 Armoured Brigade |
| Major M. P. Walker | ,, 233 Signal Squadron |
| Captain (QM) E. Webb | ,, 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Captain F. P. Wilkinson | ,, RMA Sandhurst |

## W.O.s and Sergeants

| | |
|---|---|
| W.O.1 M. G. E. Hall | To 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.1. A. Leitch | ,, 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| W.O.2. K. Deleq | ,, School of Signals |
| W.O.2. G. J. Griffiths | ,, 10 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2. F. C. Pope | ,, 13 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2. E. C. Hunt | ,, 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.2. W. W. Scott | ,, 14 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2. J. H. Richardson | ,, 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Supvr. R) G. G. Eagle | ,, Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| W.O.2. (F. of S.) B. Holder | ,, 16 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2. (F. of S) A. J. Horton | ,, 27 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) D. G. Goodwin | ,, 22 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. Baxter | ,, M A T (GULF) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. Kay | ,, Communications Project Agency |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. A. Baker | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. K. Chapman | ,, 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 A. G. Rose | ,, UK Mil Rep Comms Staff and International Mil Staff, Brussels. |
| W.O.2 G. Clark | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant D. B. Smith | ,, 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant I. K. Ryder | ,, MOD (AD) DM (AGII) |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) D. C. Snowdon | ,, 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. McLoughlin | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. K. Hurn | ,, School of Signals |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Locke | ,, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr R) M. T. Sposito | ,, 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant A. G. Boag | ,, Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| Staff Sergeant L. A. Brown | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant F. C. Howley | ,, 37 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant F. Needham | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff Sergeant T. Moorhouse | ,, 63 SAS Signal Squadron (V) |
| Staff Sergeant M. G. Springer | ,, 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/Staff Sergeant J. Gibson | ,, 32 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant H. C. Johnson | ,, HQ 4 Signal Group |
| Sergeant C. E. Claypole | ,, 55 Signal Squadron (V) |
| Sergeant H. A. Collyer | ,, 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. F. Johnstone | ,, School of Signals |
| Sergeant E. Powell | ,, 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. J. Thomas | ,, 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. P. Munn | ,, 242 Signal Squadron (SAXA VORD) |
| Sergeant D. Gee | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. L. Budworth | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. H. Smith | ,, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Murtagh | ,, 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sgt. D. J. Stanbridge | ,, 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. G. Thomas | ,, 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. M. Bird | ,, 604 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant D. C. Powell | ,, 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Harper | ,, 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. D. Gilbert | ,, 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. W. South | ,, 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. Davis | ,, 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. F. Williams | ,, 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. J. Woodthorpe | ,, 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. R. Stanley | ,, Communications Project Agency |
| Sergeant M. F. R. Hardy | ,, 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant R. M. Payne | ,, 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Robson | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. L. Olley | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant G. Garland | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. J. Slavin | ,, 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant N. L. Sigs | ,, 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. M. Roberts | ,, 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. A. Davies | ,, 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant A. J. Gay | ,, 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. M. Findlay | ,, 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. P. Kenney | ,, 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. J. Patience | ,, 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. G. Davies | ,, 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. J. Boucher | ,, 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. E. Drage | ,, 565 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant H. Service | ,, 566 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant K. Thomas | ,, 229 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. W. Nelson | ,, 242 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. P. Duggan | ,, 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant F. J. Meek | ,, 262 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant W. R. D. Burnham | To School of Signals (Y. of S. Course 26) |
| Sergeant D. G. Bartlett | |
| Sergeant G. R. Coles | |
| Sergeant J. A. Lees | |
| Sergeant W. S. Balding | |
| Sergeant C. H. Birchall | |
| Sergeant E. J. Douglas | |
| Sergeant R. M. R. Graham | |
| Sergeant P. J. Hockram | |
| Sergeant A. D. Janaway | |
| Sergeant M. J. Tivenan | |
| Sergeant T. R. Watson | |
| Sergeant K. J. Bark | |
| Sergeant C. A. Smith | To Army Apprentices College Harrogate |
| Sergeant J. A. Brown | ,, 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. L. Pettie | ,, 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. M. Carson | ,, 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. G. Hawkins | ,, 261 Signal Squadron |
| A/Sergeant E. L. Turner | ,, 7 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant N. J. I. Cox | ,, School of Signals (Y. of S. Course 26) |


# RADIO OPERATORS

**LEAVING THE SERVICE IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS?**

**If your trade involves radio operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the composite signals organisation.**

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The future holds good opportunities for established status, service overseas, and promotion.

Training courses commence at intervals throughout the year. Earliest possible application advised.

Applications only from British born UK residents up to 35 years of age (40 years if exceptionally well qualified) will be considered.

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**Government Communications Headquarters,**
**Priors Road, Oakley,**
**Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5AJ.**
**Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.**

# Army Motorcycle Championships 1974

FOR the first time since 1966 the Army Motorcycle Championships were held in The North—Catterick. 8 Regiment were honoured by being asked to sponsor and organize the event and it accepted. The chief organiser was **Captain Mark Wilson** who also bravely set the bogey times for the course.

## THE COURSE

The course was an 8·5 mile circuit with 10 sections on Gandale Moor which had to be completed 4 times on each stage. The course was of a high standard and had been set by **Phil Mellors,** a 1948–51 vintage Ariel and Norton works rider, and **Staff Sergeant Derek Thomas.**

The competitors and machines were to find it a long, hard course.

## THE PROGRAMME (5th–7th April)

Friday PM—Scrutiny of machines.

**Day 1**

Saturday AM—Stage 1. Map reading; Stage 2. Braking and acceleration tests.

PM—Stage 3. On circuit, sections observed only.

**Day 2**

Sunday AM—Stage 4. On circuit, sections observed and timed.

PM—Stage 5. On circuit, sections timed only.

## PREPARATION

**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Fayers, B.E.M.** (for motorcycling) assembled 8 Regiments riders in January 1974 and submitted them to a severe programme of preparation. The aim—"Win the Cup."

**W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) Norman Springall** uses all his vast experience of torture to bend, break and generally cripple the intending competitors, but he fails and the lads are quite fit and toned by April. **S.S.M. Tom Fayers** improves the team riding skills and makes sure 'bike' maintenance and repair keeps apace.

Mid-March and 22 riders concentrate on their map-reading skills for a fortnight and so to scrutiny.

## THE TEAMS

140 riders are entered. They include an invited Swedish Army team, a London Metropolitan Police Team (on Triumphs) and some military riders on 'pukka' competition mounts. The vast majority ride the khaki monster—including 22 from 8 Regiment.

## THE PRIZES/TROPHIES/AWARDS

A total of 87 awards of all sorts were at stake so everyone has a good change of winning something.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP

**Friday**

140 riders and their machines come under the eye of the scrutineering team led by **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Mike Whitlock.** No 'odd' incidents such as the ½ mark penalty awarded to **S.S.M. Tom Fayers** in the 1967 BAOR event for excessive size of stitching in his gauntlets.

All machines declared OK and all entries wait the morrow.

**Saturday, 6th April—Day 1**

**AM (early)** FOG. Map reading delayed and Stage 2 begins—no problems yet.

**AM (later)** FOG. Visibility still 20 yards or so. Map reading abandoned—much glee from riders, they think road riding is a waste of time anyway!

11.30 hours Stage 3 begins. After only 1 lap most riders were losing many marks on the very stiff sections, and for the least experienced the high standards have come as a bit of a shock.

By the end of the first day 8 Regiment are in a good position. Of all the Army competitors only two had lost less than 100 points. They were **Staff Sergeant George Webb,** RCT a past

### Heavy going called for skill and determination as the camera shows

winner and **W.O.2 Ted Johns,** REME with 75 and 97 points lost respectively.

**Captain Peter Godbold,** ACC keeps up a non stop supply of food—all gratefully received, nice work!

**Sunday 7th April—Day 2**

**AM** Still foggy but visibility sometimes lifting to 200 yards or more.

**Stage 4.** The sections have been slightly simplified to aid the aim of today's riding which is to complete the circuits at quicker rates than yesterday. This stage has a 2 hour time limit. 8 Regiment get down to it in no mean way and 4 of our 22 entries have 40 minutes to spare—however the weeding out has begun and a fair number of the total entry has fallen by the wayside.

**PM** Much brighter now—Sun later but the briskwind that blew away the fog persists throughout the day.

The final test, the last 4 laps. All the sections more muddy, scarred and slippery and speed is the King! Time allowed 1 hour 40 minutes—8 Regiment lead the field and the Colonel is smiling.

**15.30 hours.** All finished—everyone tensed up waiting for Stats to calculate placings and results. Meantime the damage is counted—only 82 finishers. **Signalman Mick Haverson** contemplates the black masking tape which has been holding his chaincase together since Day 1. **Corporal Roger Lelacheur** spent much time during the competition fiddling with his 'bike between sections whilst **Sergeant Des Ross** had continually suffered from dropping footrests—a most painful and debititating disease.

## FINALE

a. Team event (The Cup) 1st—8 Regiment. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Fayers, B.E.M., Corporal Ken Hendry, Corporal Tom Walker.**

The Colonel really is smiling now!

b. 3rd Individual—**Tom Fayers.**

c. 4th Individual—**Corporal Tom Walker.**

d. Best Royal Signals Rider—**T. Fayers** (for the 4th consecutive time).

e. Inter-Army Event—British Army Team (**Tom Fayers, Staff Sergeant George Webb, Sergeant Bob Belton**).

f. Best young soldier—**Signalman Mick Haverson,** finishing 18th, an excellent performance.

**Other Results**

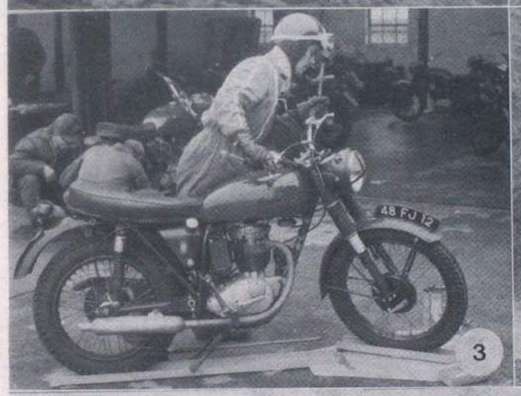
**Corporal Ken Hendry** gained a 2nd Class award
**Corporal Roger Lelacheur** finished 33rd
**Sergeant Des Ross** finished 44th
**Sergeant Mick Gratton** finished 62nd
**Sergeant Arthur Morris** finished 80th.

The following entries and results were from the Royal Signals Display Team attached to 8 Regiment:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Corporal Pete Hallsworth** | 34th |
| **Lance-Corporal John Deegan** | 43rd |
| **Lieutenant Jim Blake** | 51st |
| **Lance-Corporal Dennis Fawcett** | 54th |
| **Signalman Dicky Brown** | 71st |
| **Lance-Corporal Bill Forster** | 79th |

Interestingly, the first 3 finishers are all over 30 (31—42—39, respectively), the bogey time was set by **Captain Mark Wilson** who I am assured is over 30—**young blood is definitely required.**

Note: The individual winner was **Staff Sergeant George Webb,** RCT for the 3rd consecutive time. Well done—but then he is from 12 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron!



**1. S.S.M. Fayers speeding through the mud. 2. Sergeant Jinks—a bit pushed. 3. Staff Sergeant Webb has his machine checked. 4. Corporal Hendry clears the stream. 5. Corporal Lelacheur waits to start. 6. Victory smile by Soldier Shield winner Signalman Haverson. 7. Corporal Walker up the gully**

# Round the World Yacht Race — 3rd Leg

SYDNEY TO RIO DE JANEIRO—VIA CAPE HORN

Seagull's eye view of 'British Soldier'—Army entry in the Round the World Yacht Race

EXTRACTS from the log of *British Soldier* on the third, and longest, leg of the Round the World Yacht Race.

By: **Captain A. E. Truluck**—Mate and Radio Operator.

## A SLOW START BUT NOT WITHOUT EXCITEMENT

**Day 1.** Crossed the start line at 17.00 hours in very light airs and spent a frustrating night becalmed in mist.

**Day 4.** A sudden and violent squall hit us last night whilst carrying the storm Spinnaker. The Spinnaker got out of control and the yacht broached. The off-duty watch, climbing into the water-logged cock pit to assist were met by a macabre sight. *British Soldier* lay on her side in the darkness, lit only by the almost horizontal beam from the mast-head flood lights, and held down by the water and wind-logged Spinnaker. After a great deal of heaving the sail was recovered and the yacht came upright. (We learned later that **Eric Tabarlay's** yacht *Pen Duick* had lost her mast in the same squall).

**Day 7.** One week at sea today. Now out of the Australian weather forecast areas and picking up the SW Pacific Met Bulletin from Wellington, New Zealand in CW. The morse is recorded on tape and I decode when I next come off watch.

## A RUDE INTRODUCTION TO THE 'ROARING FORTIES'

**Day 8.** Wind and seas building up as we enter the Roaring Forties just South of New Zealand. A huge sea struck the yacht this afternoon, turning her over and putting the masts below sea level. She lay on her side for 10 seconds or so before righting herself, ripping the mizzen to shreds in the process. The watch on deck were submerged and of those below, one broke a rib and another had a flask of fine Australian wine smash over his head. This knock-down has made us realise, now more than ever; just how powerful the sea can be: Casualty reports start coming in from other yachts; a crushed foot on *Peter Von Dansig* and a broken arm on *CS and RB*.

**Day 11.** Fleet is now passing out of range of coast radio stations and *British Soldier* (with her exclusive Clansman PRC 320 link to 1st Royal Australian Signal Regiment at Sydney) begins to act as 'Flagship' as she had on the previous two legs. Amongst the messages we were asked to relay to shore today was the tragic news of the death of **Bernie Hosking,** lost from **Chay Blyth's** paratrooper-manned yacht *Great Britain III*.

## ICEBERGS

**Day 17.** Starting to sight whales regularly and prepare thunder-flashes in case they have to be frightened off.

The weather is now bitterly cold and we very rarely see the sun. Yachts *Kriter* and *Grand Louis* report Icebergs ahead and a six-hourly radio ice watch is kept to report position and drift of ice.

**Day 19.** Strong NE winds force us further south towards the Ice Cap. Sighted our first icebergs today each a few miles long and several hundred feet hight.

**Day 21.** Got a fright this morning when an iceberg loomed up dead ahead. It is extremely difficult to estimate size and distance as we have no yardstick, but the ice invariably appears to be much closer than it really is! Sailed past several smaller icebergs today, none more than a mile long, and standing like Matterhorns above the grey sea.

**Day 24.** Still seeing icebergs, but not so frequently: Had five killer whales around the yacht yesterday. Antenna shorted at mast head and crew-member has to climb the mast in bitterly cold conditions to free it. We are now at 60 degrees 50 minutes South (the furthest south we were to go)

## CAPE HORN—TYPICAL CONDITIONS

**Day 30.** Broached badly when the downhaul lead block parted from the deck and the Spinnaker boom flew upwards, damaging the pulpit and lifelines. Luckily the mishap occurred at change of watch and both watches were on deck. The Spinnaker was gathered in and *British Soldier* righted herself. Subsequent investigation showed that the spinnaker boom had also broken under the strain and we were busy with repairs for several days afterwards.

**Day 33.** After several exhilarating days of strong following wind and seas we are now experiencing very light winds some 60 miles SW of Cape Horn. By mid-afternoon however the wind had increased to almost hurricane-force and the seas became mountainous. We rounded the Horn at midnight in very strong winds and the short, steep seas with very little visibility. The yacht *Tauranga*, a few hours ahead of us, capsized several times in the heavy sea.

**Day 34.** An amazingly clear day after last nights ordeal. On the Horizon we spotted H.M.S. *Endurance* the RN Antartic Patrol Ship with whom we have been communicating since losing Australia a week ago. *Endurance* sailed up to us and her crew waves as 'I don't want to join the Army' was sung over the loudspeaker system!

## UP THE SOUTH AMERICAN COAST

**Day 38.** Sailing between the Falkland Islands and the coast of South America. Unable to make our course due to very strong northerly gales for past 48 hours. Life below decks uncomfortable because of constant heel of yacht and pounding of waves, as we beat into the wind.

**Day 42.** Six weeks at sea today! Now out of range of H.M.S. *Endurance* and the Falkland Islands but can work R.F.A. *Wavechief* (bound for Rio) and Rio Yacht Club Radio. Picking up S. Atlantic Met Bulletins from Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro (CW) since leaving the Falklands.

After a week of Northerly gales we are now almost becalmed in the light, variable winds characteristic of this area.

**Day 49.** A week of frustration in very light airs, often becalmed. Today we picked up a good breeze at about midday which carried us right up to the finishing line at Rio de Janeiro.

## POSTSCRIPT

On arriveal at Rio we were to find that we had arrived just in time for carnival week. After a few days spent preparing the yacht for handover to the crew for the next Leg, we were able to sit back and enjoy the carnival; a fitting finale to what had been an exciting and rewarding voyage.



# April Fools Day! We're off to the Ulu!

CORPORAL KEN FOWLER, 28 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON WRITES:

"0930 hours, 1st April saw two rovers, two 4 tonners and 18 men heading for the Kota Tinggi Training Area, West Malaysia.

The purpose of the exercise was to give members of the Squadron recently arrived in the theatre, and of course those of us who had lost touch, an introduction into jungle warfare and basic jungle survival.

The run took us about two hours. It was a bit of a let down for those who had been told (conned) to look out for tigers, wild bull elephants, and so on. Even so, for those members of the party who had never seen rubber plantations and palm oil growing in seemingly never ending rows, Malaysia holds a great deal of interesting and varied sights.

We arrived at the site which was to become our base camp at 1100 hours. This was a clearing about 3 Kms. from the main road. There were logging operations in progress, which accounted for the area being easily accessible and tracks being in good condition.

Everyone worked with a will, and the tiring, but of course necessary task of unloading stores and erecting tents was quickly accomplished. Comms were established with very little trouble—the link back to Singapore being manned by **Corporal Rick Simpson, Lance-Corporal Bob Pakes** and **Signalman Rob Lake.** They were working back to men of our own Squadron, who were manning the rear link for Exercise Jungle Green, a Kiwi exercise taking place at that time.

While this preparation had been taking place the OC, **Major Graham,** 2 i/c, **Captain Kay, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bowman, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Pond,** and **Staff Sergeant Stewart,** an instructor kindly loaned to us by 1 Gordons, had been selecting a site for us, the trainees, to make our camp.

At about 1300 hrs we took the time to prepare a meal from our 24 hour one man packs. I think the general opinion of these were that they were quite good (certainly had worse!). Everyone at this stage was trying to forget the vivid tales of foot long bull leeches, king cobras, and all the other stories related by the 'older members' of the Squadron.

The afternoon continued with **Staff Sergeant Stewart** showing us three different types of 'Bashas', (jungle type accommodation), basically a bed and tent. These are built with cut poles, and the issued waterproof sheet for the top tent. The bed is a sheet of nylon type material with two poles running on either side. This is placed on a frame. The end product gives you a bed held about two feet off the ground, and a canvas cover which acts as a tent outer. The whole thing makes for a very comfortable and waterproof resting place. Blankets and a mosquito net are inserted into the tent.

It all looked very straightforward, or so we thought, so the next step was for **Captain Kay** OIC Party, to take us into the jungle proper. Here we were shown an area which had been selected for us to make our camp. At this time the heavens decided to open up So here we were, like ten drowned rats, all trying very hard to make our bashas look as professional as the ones we had just seen Needless to say there were some rare sights! Towards the end of the afternoon most of us had managed to make what, from the outside at least, looked like reasonable 'bashas'.

The 'Staff' came out to the site a little later on and their impression seemed favourable. For those who have never been in the jungle, night seems to fall very quickly. The rain ceased shortly after we had finished making our accommodation and with everyone feeling peckish, it was decided to make our evening meal before dark. Once again, quite reasonable little nosh.

## ONE BY ONE THEY CRASH

There were two patrols, each consisting of five men, two Corporals and eight Signalmen making up the party. We were termed the 'trainees', though a couple of us had spent some time in the jungle before. The fun and games for some of us came shortly after dark. I think **Signalman Jock Rankin** was the first to discover that bashas that looked reasonably professional were not in fact as secure as first thought! A mighty crash, followed by some cryptic remarks, were the first signs that **Jock** had been pitched from his proudly erected perch. **Signalman Len Ball** was the next to go at about 0100 hrs. Mine lasted until exactly 0410 hrs, when awoken by what sounded like a clap of thunder, I found myself on the deck! Where I stayed for the rest of the night!

I did notice at various times during the night that torches were being used. No doubt the weird and wonderful noises made by creatures and insects had a lot to do with it. The morning certainly found a few members of the party looking somewhat haggard, but nothing worse after their first night in the jungle.

After breakfast the next day we made our way back to the base camp to start a varied and very interesting series of lectures by **Staff Sergeant Stewart.** These lectures ranged from map reading to water purification, all very important things to know when living in the jungle.

**Captain Kay,** after enquiring how we had fared with the bashas, was sporting enough to admit that his own basha had mysteriously come adrift during the night.

## LESSONS BEING QUICKLY LEARNED

The night certainly saw an improvement in our camp routine. Lessons were being learnt quickly. The night saw most of us considerably more comfortable. **Signalman Jock Rankin** was, however, no sooner into his basha when once again the crash and the stream of oaths told of what was to become a nightly ritual.

Wednesday was to be our trial. A trek of about 3 kms through the jungle. We left base camp at about 0800 hrs. all well-soaked in insect repellent and all keen to get under way. The general lay-out of the patrol was one man out in the lead, followed by the navigator, whose job it was to correct the lead mans' position, thus keeping us on the correct bearing. These two are followed by the rest of the patrol. One man is usually selected to go 'Tail-end-Charlie'. In our case we had two, the **OC** and the **Y. of S.,** 'Tail-enders', that is, not 'Charlies'.

The whole patrol took us about 6 hrs., taking us through most of the different types of jungle, therefore providing us with a fair knowledge of how best to travel under the varied conditions likely to be encountered. **Staff Sergeant Stewart** pointed out things of interest along the route, mostly edible plants and trees, which in an emergency will provide food.

I think that the only one who had reason for concern was the **OC.** He was unfortunate enough to be following **Signalman 'Flash' Wiley,** who somewhere along the way decided to remove his specs. This resulted in him heading due West on a couple of occasions—our course being due North! The problem was quickly solved by sending him up front! The problem of keeping him moving along smoothly was solved later by the **Yeoman,** who discovered that **Wileys'** big weakness was spangles. Given a sweet, he plodded along quite steadily.

We arrived at our rendezvous, tired scratched and carrying a few thorns that we hadn't started out with. There were of course some very relieved looking faces, but I think all will agree that a patrol of this sort teaches a great deal more than could ever be learnt from lectures.

The rest of the afternoon gave us a chance to clean up, treat ourselves for the many scratches, bites, and smother our feet in foot powder. For the remainder of that day most of us tried our luck at fishing. There are no record-breaking fish to be caught, but nevertheless, good fun can be had. I managed to catch four or five different species of fish, ending the day with a nice cat-fish about ten inches long. Tinned compo cheese does have its uses after all. The tackle consisted of, a hook, and half a dozen yards of line tied on to a thin stick. Crude, but very effective.

## FLOTATION PACKS

The next day we were going to one of the many rivers for a crossing. This would involve being shown how to make flotation packs from our kit, and how to get a patrol of men safely across rivers and swamps. Unfortunately **Captain Kay,** who has spent all of the afternoon checking the rivers in our area was unbale to find one suitable for crossing, this being due to the lack of rain recently. It was therefore decided to break camp and take a trip to Jasons' Bay, on the east coast. The flotation pack could be tried, and of course everyone could take a well earned dip!

We arrived at Jasons' Bay at about 0930 hrs. The sea looked very inviting. **Staff Sergeant Stewart** then gave us a complete demonstration on the method used to secure two men's kit and, of course, make it waterproof. So clad in various coloured underwear we took the waterproof package down to the sea. It certainly floated okay, unfortunately the sea was fairly choppy, and much to the disgust of the pair who had volunteered their kit, some sea water managed to get in.

At 1130 hrs our last compo meal completed, we left for Singapore. The exercise proved a success, with everyone learning a great deal and enjoying themselves. A combination hard to beat."

# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### A BREAK FROM N IRELAND

IT would seem that even those of us who live in exile in Ulster are not immune from the bug that sends all soldiers to ski resorts in the winter. In order to give a few people an opportunity to see life outside barracks and to experience fresh air and exercise again we hired a cottage in Scotland (close, cheap, and friendly natives) and packed as many souls as could be spared away for two weeks on the slopes at Aviemore.

OUR LITTLE GRAY HOME IN THE WEST
*Left to right:* W.O.I (R.S.M.) Ken Davies, Signalman Pete Schollick, Driver Dave Crisp, Lance-Corporal Duncan Gray, Signalman 'Ossie' Osborne, Corporal Ruggles Johnstone, Private 'ARFKID' Sullivan. *Kneeling:* Corporal J. A. Arbury

Despite perfect summer weather and adequate (if not satisfactory) snow we suffered our usual collection of problems and horrible sights. The worst of these will remain hidden for all time to protect the organises of the trip but a few of the more amusing incidents have been released for general information.

The 'evergreen' **Signalman Pete Shollick** performed well from the beginning when he forgot his copy of the brief listing addresses and train times and his travel warrant. At Stranraer he decided to stroll along the road parallel to the railway line while his train and his friends chugged off towards Glasgow. Thirty-six hours later, footsore and tired after a night on a bench at Glasgow station he found us and soon proceeded to damage himself and his equipment on the slopes. Although he is still alive and kicking we are worried about him.

To any civilians who may read this and who were at Aviemore in April we apologise for having put "J A" on skis. They will know him as the sixteen stone, stripped-to-the-waist, bowling ball. They will have thought that the shouts, screams and destruction of their orderly queues were accidental. We admit now that **Corporal John Arbury** (writs care of this unit) used this technique as a completely efficient way of getting onto tows out of turn.

What an excellent course it was: we even had our own instructor with his own smooth instructional technique, "For . . . sake bend your . . . knees before you . . . kill yourself"

We had the usual survivor types who believed that a satisfied soldier was an unemployed one and who used any old break or sprain as an excuse to attempt a two week stay in the Palace Hotel next to the dartboard. **Corporal 'Chuck' Wright** and **Signalman George Fuller** succeeded and are still drying out.

For those of you who are emotional I have bad news: you missed the sight of a collection of normally cynical soldiers standing on Aviemore station waiting for a train and fighting back the tears: the movies couldn't have done it better. The journey back had its moments. The last party arrived at Liverpool only to be greeted by hordes of football crazy maniacs. This upset their itinerary with the result that they arrived at the jetty with a Police escort. **Corporal 'Ruggles' Johnson** must have felt like royalty as the Captain met him at the first class gang plank after receiving a message to hold the ship.

Exercise Snow Eagle was a little thin in snow but never short of interest and enjoyment for all concerned.

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### THE FIRST COMSTARS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

THE award of a COMSTAR may sound common place to many units. However, to the hardworking Royal Signals and WRAC staff of HQ Northern Ireland Commcen it is belated recognition of their major contribution to the efforts of the Security Forces in Northern Ireland. The swift and accurate passage of information is what the Royal Signals is all about. When lives and operational success depend on the individual accuracy and skill of each operator, then the job generates its own tensions and pressures.

We won't bore you with all the details of what it takes to get a COMSTAR out of the DCN because you all know only too well! But it must rank as an achievement of more than average merit when you consider our heavy traffic load, permanent three way shifts and all the other operational obligations of our staff. We would like to take this opportunity publicly to thank all members of Commcen Troop for the hard work and long hours that they have endured. The grand presentation was made by the CLF, **Major-General P. J. H. Leng, M.B.E., M.C.** to a packed Commcen (I've never seen so many bodies in the Commcen of their own free will at any one time before and probably never will again!). The CLF said "Although it is only a bronze award, consider it a gold one; because any small commcen handling two or three signals a month can never be compared with this commcen handling a million messages a year. Your record is not just laudable but unbelievable."

Major-General P. J. H. Leng, M.B.E., M.C.—C.L.F. Northern Ireland, presenting the Comstar award to Captain (Tfc) J. W. Ankers with Sergeant B. Robinson in the background

We wish to congratulate our sister Commcen in 39 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron on their award of a bronze COMSTAR for the same period.

### BY APPOINTMENT COMMUNICATORS

This grandiose title has recently been assumed by a small and often forgotten detachment of Comms Troop namely the D11 Crew. This detachment has been little used of late but true to form it answered an SOS call to help the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales. They had been asked by their Colonel in Chief, **H.R.H. Prince Charles** on board H.M.S. *Jupiter* to open up a link so that H.R.H. could pass on some words of encouragement to his regiment.

In open defiance of the pundits who condemned the task as impossible (5,000 miles with a D11 to a ship—it can't be done) **Sergeant Al Bird** the technical back up, **Lance-Corporal Mel Dempster** and **Signalman Chris Aitken** the operators and **Signalman Jeff Stork** the erstwhile antenna rigger, set off to the 1 RRW barracks to prove everyone wrong. The first problem encountered was the type of antenna—an inverted V with each leg 100 yards long with a coupling transformer at the top of a 250 mast—was quite a problem for **Jeff Stork** but he amazed all the assembled infanteers by happily climbing to the top. When the link was finally established, the 1 RRW message was passed and then a different naval operator took over the morse key. His keying was definitely that of a novice but only two errors, both of which were corrected, were noticed as he wished the RRW all the best for their tour. Not many people in the Corps can boast having worked a very difficult link such as that let alone to such an illustrious recipient. Footnote:—Anyone wanting information on the Bird home made Vee and associated unique equipment will have to apply to 604 Troop where **Sergeant Bird** will be going shortly.

BY APPOINTMENT COMMUNICATORS TO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES
Sergeant Al Bird, Lance-Corporal Mel Dempster, Signalman Jeff Stork, Signalman Chris Aitken

### OPERATION PREVENT—300 lbs EXPLOSIVES AND MORTAR BOMBS FOUND

This province wide 'ring of steel' to prevent the continuous influx of car bombs once again had Comms Troop fulfilling a different role, this time manning a VCP on Belfasts busy M1 Motorway. Traffic jams at times seven miles long queued behind the check point as every single vehicle was rigorously searched for explosives. This demanding four day operation resulted in one find of 300 lbs of explosives and quantity of mortar bombs, this was a great credit to all those concerned especially to **Corporals Mal Barlow** and **Steve Cowton** who both commanded sections involved in this road block. They in turn would like to thank those traders from Belfast who gave them cakes and cases of beer as they passed through the road block!

### DEPARTURES

R Signals: **Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant Hambleton, Sergeant Turner, Sergeant Woodford, Corporal Broadfield, Corporal Palmer, Corporal Allen, Lance-Corporal Jackson, Lance-Corporal Sparkes, Lance-Corporal Underwood, Lance-Corporation Clark, Signalman Whale, Signalman Scott, Signalman Herbison.**

Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

### ARRIVALS

WRAC—**Private Duff, Private Hingley, Private Booth** and **Private Luyt.**

R Signals—**Sergeant Roberts. Sergeant Baird, Corporal Stevenson, Corporal Marton, Corporal Birchall, Corporal Black. Lance-Corporal Reynolds, Signalman Meehan, Signalman Lavall, Signalman Hine, Signalman Hall, Signalman White** and **Signalman Paul.**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The Brigade Command and members of 39 Inf Bde Sqn Commcen drink to their well earned Comstar . . . . and it's Champagne!

## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### COMSTAR AWARD FOR OUR COMMCEN

THE award of a Bronze Comstar to our Commcen was the result of a promise made by the **Yeoman W.O.2 Phil Daniel** to our previous OC, **Major John Bromley.** We entered the award scheme in April 1973, and the Yeoman promised the OC 'an award' before he left. After coming very close on two occasions, the award was won for the period November/December 1973. As **Major Bromley** handed over command in February it was a close thing.

The following facts emphasise how difficult has been the task, and how praiseworthy is the result:—

This is the largest Brigade in the Army, and has had as many as 13 regular Battalions plus 4 UDR Battalions under command at one time. There are currently 7 regular and 3 UDR Battalions plus an RMP Regiment and supporting arms.

There have been as many as 22 Teleprinter circuits into the Commcem. At present there are 16.

One signal (a Brigade NIREP) was 54 pages long. The average now is only 2 or 3 sections! !

Our monthly Traffic Totals have gone up from 10,000 in 1970 to 17,000 in 1972, and now run at 23,000 per month.

The praise for the success must go to the shift supervisors who have faced the wrath of the Yeoman, (and the OC's door) when things have gone wrong. N.C.O.s like **Brian Murkin, Jim Peat, Paddy Speers, Jim Tate, Bill Lofts** and **Alan Skells** not forgetting those who have recently left us, **'Ginge' Barker, Chas Vines** and **Ted Kilpin.** Theirs is or was the responsibility, but all members of the Commcen staff contributed to the efforts in winning the Award. To quote the CR Signals "A Bronze under those conditions is worth a Gold under normal conditions".

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK
Corporal Archie Arnold rides shotgun on one of the Squadron's line vehicles


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# —News from Headquarters—

## School of Signals, Blandford Camp

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

WHEN this scribe heard our barracks officer **Captain Peter Kirby RAOC** say that "The new class C and D married quarters are the best quarters he had seen in more than 30 years service" he decided that this was something to investigate and report in THE WIRE. Being a bachelor and not entitled to a married quarter the hapless scribe has spent the last three months trudging from Estate Agent to Estate Agent before buying a humble, single bedroom flat. Having seen these excellent quarters (two of the fitted cupboards are larger than rooms in the humble flat) of which 110 have been built he jotted down how an honest Estate Agents details might look. The result is as follows:

MODERN COUNTRY RESIDENCE

The houses are situated two miles from the picturesque Georgian town of Blandford Forum in the lovely Dorset countryside. They are on the local bus route with convenient small shopping centre, cinema, school, church, post office and public library within a few minutes walk.

The houses have been recently completed and are of three or four bedrooms. The houses are within sight of a well known local landmark and have attractive views over open fields (with cows).

A feature of these houses is the large number of spacious fitted cupboards throughout. All downstairs rooms have electric 'Enviwarm' hot air central heating.

The accommodation consists of:

**Lounge:** 18 ft. by 10 ft. with windows facing both towards the front and back of the house with three bar radiant electric fire.

**Dining Room:** 12 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in. A pleasant light room with easy access to the kitchen.

**Kitchen:** 12 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 6 in (a little smaller in three bedroom houses) with stainless steel sink unit and ample formica topped working surfaces and fitted cupboards.

**Bedrooms:** There are two large and two small bedrooms with large fitted cupboards.

**Bathroom:** With panelled bath, pedestal hand basin, WC, half tiled walls and hot air heating.

**Outside:** Large and convenient garden shed. The whole area has been landscaped and planted with flowering trees. Each house has an easily manageable garden.

**Garage:** Garages are available.

**Price:** It is not possible to give a price (The MOD will not sell) but they compare most favourably with civilian houses in the area priced at £15,000.

Lounge in one of Blandford's desirable residences

## Force Signal Officer's Branch
## HQ UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 567

(Writ en from the view of an FSO's Clerk)

TO the best of my knowledge this will be the first time any WIRE Notes have been published from what must be the smallest branch having any connection with the British Army. We are situated at Blue Beret Camp, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Straight away let us introduce our large staff: (See photograph)

| | |
|---|---|
| Force Signal Officer | **Major Ted Baxter,** Royal Signals |
| Signals Officer | **Captain Unto Peri,** Finnish Army |
| FSO's Clerk | **Sergeant Graham Fuller,** Royal Signals |
| FSO's Operator/Driver | **Signalman Mack McLuckie** |

SEAT OF POWER—UNITED NATIONS SIGNALS IN CYPRUS
*Rear, left to right:* Signalman McLuckie, Sergeant Fuller
*Seated, left to right:* Major Baxter, Captain Peri

The Force Signal Officer (FSO) controls all the electronic communications within the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), including the Force rear link to United Nations Headquarters. To enable the FSO to carry out his allotted tasks he is ably supported by 644 Troop, commanded by **Captain Richard Smith.** From 1964 to 1971 the appointment was known as Chief Signal Officer and was in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The following have held the appointment CSO/FSO.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1964–1965 | **Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. P. Sampson** |
| 1965–1968 | **Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe** |
| 1968–1971 | **Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft** |
| 1971–1973 | **Major J. D. Cathcart** |

The FSO's clerk is provided from the 4 Sergeant clerks at 30 Regiment who change over every 6 months. Its a well known fact that **Sergeant Graham Fuller** keeps volunteering for UNFICYP to keep away from 30 Regiment—he is now on his second tour. A special mention must be made of **Sergeant Roger Iredale** from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment (now with 225 Squadron) who has just left the job. He filled in for 6 months due to 30 Regiment being so heavily committed elsewhere and unable to fill the appointment.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED OF AN FSO's CLERK

A good sense of humour, tactful, patient and able to work with the different nationalities.
A 'jack of all trades'.
Able to 'scrounge' as supplies are limited.
To be able to drive is a very useful qualification.
A dab hand at public relations (especially for the FSO).
Part time 'Charwalla' (tea and coffee maker).

### PERKS OF THE JOB

A staff car is permanently allotted to the FSO. The FSO's clerk can use it if **Major Ted Baxter** is not using it. This is most unlikely!

Being such a small branch the FSO's clerk is often left in complete charge when the FSO and Signals Officer go 'swanning off' all over the island on so called liaison visits. This is a time to catch up on your reading or knitting.

Opportunities for touring the island are good when you can persuade the FSO to let you also make a liaison visit. (FSO's comment—"He is very good at organising this").

Now a few words about the other two members of our branch:

**Signal Officer.** The appointment has been filled by many different nationalities including Finnish, Austrian and Irish. The main responsibility of the Signal Officer is for the installation and maintenance of lines and telephones for the UN throughou: the island. He is also the liaison man with the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority.

**FSO's Operator/Driver.** This appointment will cease to be filled by Signals in June 74 due to the rundown of the Force and the RCT will take it over. The job gives plenty of opportunity for seeing the island and also experience in operating the Motorola. A good knowledge of voice procedure is essential. On the photograph you will see he looks more like a bodyguard—size is useful in keeping the women away from the FSO!

**(As we go to press the tragic events in Cyprus cast a shadow over this light-hearted contribution—Ed.)**

# News from Regiments

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 32

### A MONTH OF PREPARATIONS

PLANNING and preparations has been the theme in the Regiment during April. The cries of PRE and FFR are now only echoes. The coincidental events of 1st Division Study Period and Exercise 'Green Finch' (Summer Camp at Eckernförde) were the main 'projects' on which all attention has been focussed.

### VISITS

Cadets from the Monmouth Brecknockshire and Radnorshire ACF and the 1st Pembrokeshire Cadet Regiment visited the Regiment from 17th–26th April. Their programme included visits to other Regiments in the area and they had an opportunity to look over Chieftain tanks at Fallingbostel, watch an Artillery demonstration at Hohne and a crossing of the river Weser by Royal Engineers from Nienburg. Our new Training Major (Programme planner!) **Major Graham Saunders** is reported to have had 9 outside calls booked at one time negotiating timings and details with other units.

The cadets also shopped and souvenir hunted in Bremen and spent an afternoon at Hannover Zoo.

The task of liaison N.C.O.s fell to **Corporals Mick Kerr** and **Jock McKay** of 1 Squadron who are now reported as speaking fluent Welsh. **Lieutenant David Turner** acted as conducting officer and enjoyed the visits as much as the cadets.

We now look ahead to hosting King Edwards ACF and Lord Williams (Five Ways) ACF together in July.

### A REAL SPORTS AFTERNOON

On Wednesday 10th April, 6 a side soccer and hockey teams and a 7 a side rugby team (plus many spectators) arrived from 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron to take part in an American tournament. Many hard games were played and the sportsfield was a splash of colour. Everyone was ready for refreshments at 5 p.m. (especially the players after 3 hours of sport) and a light buffet in the JRC Triangle Club soon disappeared. In the words of **Major Bob Cooke,** OC 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, "This could be the start of something bit". 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron might accept the challenge!

### FAREWELLS

We said farewell to **Major Hugh Nealon** and his wife **Liz** who are now in Rheindahlen and wish them all good fortune.

The new OC 2 Squadron is **Major Ed Mulley** from SRDE and we welcome him and his wife **Ann** to Verden. **Captain Bryan Abbiss** after being congratulated on his promotion was bid farewell and has gone to 30 Regiment with **Sergeant Jock Brown.**

Our intrepid Division Recce Officer/Training Major/Baltic Sailor and Amateur Dramatist **Major Errol Hunt** has departed for UK to return to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, he was a Squadron Commander there in 1969. We thank **Errol** and his wife **Sybil** for all they have done during their stay in 1st Division—and wish them every success in their new (and expensive) environment.

### NOTES

**W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tony Cudlip** is still at sea!

## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 46

HQ SQUADRON SUCCESS

The photograph shows the award of a bronze Comstar being made by our new G.O.C. Major-General Mangham to the N.C.O.in-Charge Commcen Corporal Allan Smallwood. Also in the picture, *from left to right* are, Corporal Joan (Pud) Wilmot, Private Sue Owen and Corporal Ian Wilmot

The two Wilmots are the Commcen's resident husband and wife team

The award, for the period October/November/December 1973 is the second the Commcen has received. The first being a bronze for the same period in 1972

### RHQ SQUADRON

| | |
|---|---|
| Squadron Commander .. | **Major W. H. H. Parkes** |
| C.S.M. .. .. .. | **W.O.2 J. B. Lethan,** A & SH. |

A HAPPY event took place in March when **Eileen Letham** one of RHQ's typists and also the daughter of the Squadron Sergeant Major was married to **Signalman Ian Slater** also of RHQ Squadron. We wish them every happiness.

### A TRUE SCOT

It happened during exercise Flying Falcon when the admin group vehicles were moving to a new location. The convoy was travelling down a country lane, the **S.S.M. Jimmy Letham** who was travelling in the front vehicle, for no apparent reason, screamed "stop the vehicle". The driver glanced sideways to the packet commander, shrugged and continued to drive on (thinking the S.S.M. had taken a turn for the worst). A few seconds later again the S.S.M. raised his voice "Sir we must stop". In a layby

200 meters on, the packet was halted, out jumped the S.S.M. running for all he was worth, back down the road, as he passed the tail vehicle, he pointed at a soldier "Come with me lad". The pair vanished from sight. Some minutes later they returned carrying a dead badger. When asked for an explanation, the S.S.M. replied "In my Battalion (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) a badgers head sporron is a very coveted item of dress, they cost over £100 and I'm sure this wee beast would prefer to spend his retirement hanging from the waist of a proud Jock than left to rot on the side of the road. Look at the head on it—its beautiful!"

At the next location the animal was skinned and salted and made ready for the convertion. Members of the Admin group were still talking about it days later—"It must have been important if it made him move as fast as that, or was it the thought of making some money?" He must be a true Jock! ! !

### HQ SQUADRON (LUBBECKE)

OC .. .. .. **Major D J Jolly**
S.S.M. .. .. .. **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Corkery**

**BRONZE COMSTAR AWARD** (see photo)

The Commcentre is again in the news, being awarded for the second time in 1 year a certificate which is presented quarterly for Signals transmitted accurately and rapidly. Congratulations go out to **Captain (Tfc) Bill Coxon** and all his staff (Keep up the good work).

### 1 SQUADRON

OC .. .. .. **Major J S Brinsford**
S.S.M. .. .. .. **W.O.2 F. Atkins**

**Arrivals**—We welcome our new OC **Major Jim Brinsford, Lieutenant David Collyer, Sergeant Barry Weld-Richards, Sergeant John Eaton, Corporal John Fletcher, Corporal Bill Lovatt** and **Corporal Les Beatson,** and wish them an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

**Departures**—Our farewells go to **Major Barrie Burke** and his wife **Pat, Sergeant Dave Mallorie, Sergeant Fred McFadden, Corporal Tim Howley, Corporal Dave Sheriff, Lance-Corporal Dave Robinson** and **Signalman Taff Walters.**

We wish **Major Barrie Burke** and **Pat** an enjoyable and leisurely two years tour in Canada, and would like to take this final opportunity to thank **Pat** for all the interest and hard work she has undertaken in running our Squadron wives club, looking after the welfare of the Squadron's wives and in her capacity as a teacher at the Bunde Junior School.

**Lieutenant Richard Skaife** deserts the fort at Bunde for 8 months to accompany an expedition to Zaire in July. We hope to give an account of the expedition on its completion.

**Family Events**—Congratulations to **Sergeant Joe Gill** and **Eleanor** on the birth of a baby boy. And to **Lance-Corporal Les Jackson** and **Eileen,** and **Lance-Corporal Joe Lucas** and **Dawn** on their marriage.

**Sport**—A note of praise to **Lance-Corporal Doug Elliott** on achieving a very high standard at a meeting of the worlds top Langlaufers held in Russia. He finished with a placing of 26th.

On the more serious side of sport our senior NCOs and officers thoroughly trounced the rest of the Squadron at a 'friendly' rugby match by 21 points to 8.

I, the writer, have never been initiated into the arts and laws of the game; and after having had the ball (?) thrust at me, only to be immediately impregnated with metal stud marks on my backside, still wonder what I did wrong. However, judging by the roars from the touch-line we are given to believe that our full-back, **S.S.M. Frank Atkins** and **Sergeant Chas Arundel** 'up front' played well. As a result of the match the peasants revolt no more.

### 2 SQUADRON

OC .. .. .. **Major R. S. Mansfield**
S.S.M. .. .. .. **W.O.2 D. Patch**

To show that old signalling habits die hard and that there is still a place for the cleft stick, the squadron organised a relay event along the Hermannweg. This ancient thoroughfare runs along the Teutoberger Ridge for some 150 kms.

A team of ten was found to attempt the run, each leg being give a bogie time of 90 minutes per 15 hilometers. Clutching the message **Lieutenant Murray Martin-Rhind** was first to leave, and plunged into the woods at 0500 hours, unfortunately the terrain is difficult to negotiate during the hours of darkness, and a little time was lost in the early stages! Throughout the day the 15km legs were taken up by **Corporal Del Swanson, Signalman Wally Walton, Corporal Mick Simpson, Y. of S. Bernie Smith, Corporal Simon Maylor, Signalman Bill Parker, Signalman Noel De-Bruce, Signalman Paul Smith** and **Major Bob Mansfield.** Darkness arrived again which made the route difficult to follow and after a few wrong turnings we were well outside the time limit, however, the course was completed at 0200 hours. Members of the team have since remarked that in future they will stick to Tarif.

The squadron would like to say farewell to **Lieutenant Peter Neale** who has left to join 12 Mechanised Brigade. During his short stay with us he was actually seen in the Squadron; between courses! Congratulation are in order for **Lance Corporal Parrotte** who recently gained promotion and a son, both he feels were overdue.

### 3 SQUADRON

OC .. .. .. **Major D. M. O. Miller**
S.S.M. .. .. .. **W.O.2 E. T. A. Webster**

Recently we seem to have had lots of new arrivals in the squadron and very few departures (shshsh NOT FOR MANNING AND RECORDS), some say it has been recognised how hard we have worked in the past.

Our new line chief is **Sergeant Mike Annis** who replaced **Sergeant Dave Osbourne** who leaves for 8 Regiment. Other new arrivals include **Corporals Dave Stone, Smiler Grant, Ed Sutherland** and **Lance-Corporal Richard Greene. Signalmen Jock Carr, Alan Thornton, Dusty Miller and Olly Oliver.**

We bid them all welcome to the Squadrons and to Bunde.

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

### THE SPORTING SIDE

THE late spring is a particularly busy time of year from the sporting point of view. The dying phases of the winter season's rugger, soccer and hockey are still being played with great enthusiasm by their adherents. At the same time the organisers of athletics, swimming, cricket, sailing, shooting and tennis are trying to get their activities off to a good start. Throw into this mixture a good dash of squash, badminton, basketball, golf, orienteering and canoeing which all appear to have very flexible seasons and you have the makings of a good spring sports 'cocktail' guaranteed to give any programme planner a hangover. This comment is not intended to establish our claim as the most sporting unit in the Corps—its merely a plea for sanity in our sporting arrangements.

Turning from the general to the particular, and to keep our readers up to date we have some sporting successes (and failures) to record.

The squash team, whose success in winning the BAOR Inter Unit Championship was mentioned in our last report, were not so fortunate in the Army Final, being beaten by the Royal Herbert Hospital team from Woolwich.

The badminton team have distinguished themselves by winning the Divisional competition and now go forward to the BAOR final to be played in mid May.

The orienteers have gone from strength to strength and on 24th April swept the board at the Divisional meeting in the following very convincing manner:

Winning Team:—Regimental 'A' Team.
Runners-up:—Regimental 'B' Team.
1st Individual—**Sergeant Ken Suckling**
2nd Individual—**Major Keith Powell**
9th Individual—**Sergeant Mick Stocks**

The fact that the 'B' team were less than 8 minutes behind the 'A' team on aggregate times shows the depth of talent throughout both teams. It has led to a fierce struggle developing between individuals for selection for the Army/BAOR event on 16th May for which we may enter only one team.

ORIENTEERING

Sergeant Stocks and Major Powell look on as Colonel J. M. Palmer, Colonel G.S. 4th Division presents Lieutenant-Colonel Westlake with the Daily Telegraph Trophy (and replica) for the winning team

DETERMINATION!

Sergeant Ken Suckling shows the determination that helped him finish as 1st individual in the 4th Division Orienteering Championships

### THE WORKING SIDE

Exercise Flying Falcon saw us playing host to 300 of 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment who came out from UK to join in the fun. We bedded them down in all sorts of odd corners and eating was in shifts. Over the weekend following the exercise we took them on at a number of sporting activities, from which we emerged overall the winners. However in the matter of fires during Flying Falcon they took the honours, managing to completely roast a trailer mounted C 50 RR installation during a spectacular barn fire. So fierce was this that it is reported the local fire brigade took one look on arrival and then got out the beer! Our own efforts in losing one SLR and minor items of personal kit in a fire in one village look fairly small beer in comparison.

On 29th April we were visited briefly by **General F. Valentin,** Commander 1st French Corps, during his tour of 1st British Corps. He came to us to see Bruin equipment and was given a short presentation on the working of the BRUIN system during his visit. The preparation for this presentation included much "Now will he understand what we mean by a step up?"—"I wonder how good his English is?", and similar nail biting type speculation. In the event all went remarkably smoothly and the General's English was idiomatic. However all our work to simplify the subject was obviously not wasted as one very very senior officer who accompanied **General Valentin** was heard to say at the end "Well, that's the first time I've really understood what BRUIN is all about!"

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

### REGIMENTAL PAGE TROPHY ATHLETICS AND TUG-OF-WAR

THE annual Page Trophy athletics and tug-of-war competition was held on April 18–19 in the Elverdissen Stadium (by kind permission of the Stadt Herford). Two glorious days of sunshine (specially ordered) and excellent organisation by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay** and **Q.M.S.I. Peter Seddon APTC,** under the watchful eye of the Regimental athletics officer, **Major Paul Webb,** ensured that the meeting was enjoyed by all—competitors and spectators alike.

The first day was run as a 'Standards' meeting, with each competitor attempting to score a point for his Squadron and to gain a place in the finals. The high turnout of athletes meant, for example, that we had nine heats of seven runners each in the 100 m and a staggering 51 runners in the 1500 m (Yes, some of them did stagger down the home straight).

Day two started with the 5000 m event, which was won by **Lance-Corporal 'Mic' O'Hare,** and this was followed, for the first time ever, by a German Sportabzeichen competition in which members of the Regiment were invited to compete for a bronze, silver and gold medal (dependant on age grouping) in five events—jumping, running, throwing, endurance and swim-

CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Sergeant Ian Holdane receives the championship cup on behalf of 6 Squadron from Mrs. Gordon Oehlers

ming. With only the swimming standards to be passed, it is hoped that the 26 volunteers, so far, will all become proud holders of this medal. Incidentally, the Bundeswehr consider this competition so important that soldiers are allowed to wear the medal with uniform. The afternoon saw the competition really get under way, with the finalists in each event doing battle. Soon the individual winners began to emerge and, although space does not permit mentioning all of them, **Corporal 'Johnny' Gumbs** took both the discus and shot putt, whilst **Lieutenant Mark Riley** proved that he can reach the dizzy heights, other than by standing up, by winning the high jump. **Q.M.S.I. Peter Seddon,** 'doing his inevitable thing' won the hammer competition; **Lance-Corporal Sammy Grandison** had a great run in the 200M; and **Corporal Worth** won the javelin. The discovery of the day, however, was in the pole vault competition where **Signalman Hamilton** and **Lance-Corporal Lambert** (1st and 2nd respectively) provided an exciting afternoon's entertainment (no longer must we face the forthcoming competitions with only one pole vaulter). The winning height was 3·025 m—a commendable effort.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the tug-of-war competition had been going on under guidance from below by **Major Owen Richards,** Royal Australian Signals and the well drilled 3 Squadron team, led by **Sergeant 'Ollie' Aldridge,** gained maximum points to become the winners. **Mrs. Oehlers,** the Commanding Officer's wife, kindly agreed to present the prizes at the end of the day and congratulations go to all winners and especially to 6 Squadron, our 1974 Athletics Champions. A big thank you to all the many officials and orderlies who helped to make this a memorable event.

INTER SQUADRON TUG-O-WAR CHAMPIONS 1974
3 Squadron—pulling it off again!
*Coach:* Sergeant 'Dougie' Poultney. *Judge:* W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) H. Cole
*Right to left:* Corporal 'Biff' Bailley, Corporal Barry Longland, Sergeant 'Ollie' Aldridge, Sergeant Roy Smith, Sergeant Ivor Noble, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frank Worrall, Lance-Corporal 'Kev' Bickerstaffe, Signalman 'Big John' Cavanagh

### CANOEING—BAOR SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BAOR canoe slalom championships were held on Sunday, April 28 on the River Else at Bendemuhle near Hildeshiem.

The course was difficult and had 17 gates spaced over a total length of approximately 150 metres. An additional hazard was the heavy water which caused five of the competitors who capsized to have their canoes wrecked beyond repair.

There were three events in the competition; the team event and the experts and novices individual events. Two of the three Regimental teams for the team event were placed 4th and 5th respectively, whilst it would appear that a third team is still paddling. **Signalman Pete Doughty** of 2 Squadron is to be congratulated on winning the novices individual event in a time of 2 minutes 22·5 seconds; a very creditable performance considering that it was only the second slalom course that he had ever completed. In the experts individual event, **Corporal Coker** of HQ Squadron was placed 4th, though he won't admit to his time for the course.

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Write in strictest confidence, giving all relevant details, to **David Elsbury, Managing Director, Racal-Mobilcal Ltd, 464 Basingstoke Road, Reading, Berks, RG2 0RY, England.**

Preliminary interviews will be set up at convenient locations.

RACAL
The Electronics Group

# 10 Sig Regt
# Hounslow

### "THE CAVALRY AT CAVALRY"

"BUZZ, buzz". Things invariably begin taking on a new and higher key here, once heralded into being with the old "buzz buzz". On this occasion it was no different. It turned out to be the opening move, at Regimental level, of a visit to us of the 'White Helmets'. But no ordinary visit this. We were asked to provide facilities for a big publicity putsch to get the White Helmets season off to a grand start. Attending would be V.I.P.s in abundance, both military and civilian, the National Press and Television and in addition the barracks would be open to the public. The attendant celebrity coming along to delight the spectators would be **Dick Emery** of TV fame.

My simple task in all this high level business was 'The security of the barracks and everyone inside during the visit of the Display Team and their guests'. I am sure it is not necessary for me to go into any detail at all on the implications of that order. Suffice to say that it was only 72 hours after the event that the twitch I had developed under my right eye disappeared. In the event all went off very well; the team were as dynamic as ever, the Corps Band managed to blend in well with the continuous roar of jet planes and 8th Regiment seemed quite happy with the way everything went off.

### IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME

"Let's do something different", he said.

"Let's go camping and mountain walking in Inverness", he said.

"Let's strike while the iron's hot", he said. This was the interchange between **Corporals Steve Graham** and **Al Finney** of SWS Troop, 10th Regiment.

As a result, when we got out of the train at Aviemore station at the unearthly hour of 07.30 hours on the morning of the 2nd February, we had no one to blame but ourselves.

With the help of the members of 50 AYT and the Q.M. of the WLAS, **Conductor Brock,** and of course the excellent resources of 10th Regiment, we had acquired two Bergens, a 'bivvy' and a 10-man ration pack (compo?), and with the intention of getting away from the rat race of London and all its vices, we caught the 20.15 hours train from Euston to Aviemore.

Finding a compartment with one occupant was a fairly easy job. The occupant turned out to be one of 'yer actual' oil riggers returning home after turning down a job in London that only paid £4,850 a year, 'My life my boy'.

After arriving at Aviemore we walked up the A9 in the direction of Inverness for about 4 miles, where we made our camp in a wood. After cooking our breakfast, by courtesy of 'Supercook page 19', we walked back into Aviemore.

Has anyone ever noticed how soldiers in uniform attract a certain type of person. We attracted an ex-commando of Boer war vintage who claimed he had personally dealt with Hitler. He was now No. 1 on the local mountain rescue team and during our conversation he asked where we were staying; when we replied that we were camping in a tent just off the A9 he turned a little pale and said in a Highland accent, "you camping in Scotland in February", and, muttering something about a wee dram to steady himself, he left us.

In the afternoon we decided to climb a 27,000 foot peak—well it was quite a steep hill. During the course of the climb **Steve Graham** said that he was sure he had just seen a wolf, probably due to too many 'cups of tea' or the rarified air.

After our meal, which once again was taken from 'Supercook page 72', we set off for the next village up the A9 for some light Saturday evening refreshment. The first village we came to was Boat of Garten and there we found an atmosphere that would be hard to match anywhere. For a couple of strangers, we were made very welcome, and our thanks must go to **Mr.** and **Mrs. Evan Fraser** for giving us a most excellent supper and running us back to our tent after a very enjoyable evening.

Sunday found us in Inverness, and after exploring the town, we decided to brush up on our history and visit the scene of the Battle of Culloden Moor. That evening on walking through the woods to our tent **Al Finney** heard a growling noise; **Steve Graham** assured us it was not his stomach grumbling, and so we retired to the tent for safety.

Next morning disaster struck, **Steve Graham** broke his finger nail, so rather reluctantly we decided to give up the happiness of chipping ice off our mess tins and head back to the harsh realities of centrally heated bunks and foam mattresses and to put an end to what seemed 'a good idea at the time'.

### "ALDERSHOT ANNOTATIONS BY RUSHMOOR"

### SOUTH EAST, LONDON AND EASTERN DISTRICTS WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY RACE 12th FEBRUARY

With the increase in interest in cross country running for women, it was decided to hold a WRAC event this year. The race was held at Blackdown over a 2½ mile course on 12th February. The underfoot conditions were appalling with pools of water one foot deep and 20 yards long.

3 Squadron 10th Regiment entered a small team of three runners, **Corporal Andy Westmore, Private Karen Broughall** and **Private Maggie Gray.** As the race went by the first marker, all three members of the team were well up with the leaders. The conditions and a particularly punishing hill with 600 yards to go took their toll of the team. **Corporal Andy Westmore** was still with the leading group with the finishing point in sight and was able to finish a very good sixth. **Maggie Gray** finished 14th and **Karen Broughall** 16th overall.

The training for the event was organised by the Squadron Second-in-Command, **Captain Pippa Jarman,** who took the girls on early morning runs.

The Squadron also supplied some of the markers for the event including **Lance-Corporal Alice Williams** and **Lance-Corporal Jackie Vickers.**

### IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

**Mr. J. A. Poulter** of Sherfield on Loddon, who has been a 3 Squadron Government Telephonist at Arborfield for many years, returned to his old place of employment on 7th February to be presented with his Imperial Service Medal. The presentation was carried out by **Brigadier J. M. Kneen,** Commandant REME Training Centre, in the presence of the staff of the Exchange.

### SOUTH EAST DISTRICT ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH

3 Squadron were well represented in the WRAC event of the championships. The day was cold and windy. First home for 3 Squadron was **Corporal Andy Westmore,** PTI, who came 3rd overall in a time of 1 hour 14 minutes. **Private Elaine Bolton** came 9th and **Private Karen Broughall** 14th. **Sergeant Pat McNeil** was the fourth member of the team.

The event was held at Bramshott Common south of Aldershot. Your reporter considers this a good effort for a first go at this type of event.

### 3 SQUADRON COMSTAR AWARDS

The following commcens of 3 Squadron have won Comstar awards so far in 1974. We list them with pleasure.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arborfield | Silver | March | **Miss F. P. Atkinson** |
| Ashford | Bronze | March | **Mr. D. M. Batty** |
| Reading | Silver | April | **Miss D. B. Munday** and **Miss V. Woods** |

### QUICKSILVER

By **Signalman Tony King**

Time again for our chance to let the rest of the Corps into that golden posting in the sky!

Firstly, on the tour side, "Quicksilvers Flying Tour of Scotland" took us to Aberdeen, Elgin City, Dundee, Glasgow, Perth and Edinburgh.

4th December. It's all present and correct, and off we go to the land of the fast flowing cheaper beer. Members present include:

*Bosses.* **Captain 'Oscar' Gale, F. of S. Matt Campbell, Corporals Glen (MF) Morgan, Jim ('Sniffer') Long, Roy ('Slurp') McAlister.**

*Workers:* **Signalmen 'Boom' Moore, 'Lofty' Dean and Tony (AMF) King.** (First stop photo at border. Bosses noted for their absence).

Too much happened to cover all our stops, but those noted were Elgin City where **F. of S. Matt Campbell, Corporals Jim Long** and **Roy McAlister** were greeted by an irrate landlady with the now famous words:

"It's a fine thing, first night in a place and you're out till midnight!" This was the result of a visit to the famous Elgin City Widows Ball.

On to Perth. Is there truth in the rumour **Corporal Roy McAlister** is returning in the New Year? Is it love we wonder?—it was.

The last call was to Edinburgh and, thanks to **Major Paddy Ford** (Q.M.), it proved to be the most enjoyable. Our thanks from **Captain Oscar Gale, Corporals Jim Long Roy McAlister** and **Signalman Tony King** for the constant flow of beer and dancing partners.

So ended the tour and on the 15th December we returned with aching heads to Hounslow.

Now on to a brief summary of our Home Front:

Since the last notes, five more members have joined the ranks of the newly weds. **Signalmen Phil Lee, Tony King, 'Boom' Moore, Mick Sherwood** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Murray.** Is it "Join Quicksilver and get a wife" we wonder?

On the promotion side best wishes to:

**Lance-Corporal Nat Pass** and **Lance-Corporal 'Boom' Moore** now firmly established on the promotion ladder.

Also to swell our dependents file four bounding babies:

Congratulations to: **Corporal Glen Morgan, F. of S. Matt Campbell, Captain Oscar Gale, Signalman 'Lofty' Dean.**

Its a boy–boy–boy–girl respectively.

Now on to a sad note with the loss of four of the long serving members: **Staff Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell**—posted, **Signalman Phil Lee**—posted, and to join the ranks of the unemployed **Corporal Jim Long** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Murray.**

Finally a rousing welcome to the new members: **Staff Sergeant Gil Harding, Corporal Mick Kidd, Signalmen Colin Misra** and **Jackie Barry.**

Well that's all now; members old and new will be delighted to hear that the confessions night has passed and that **Corporal Jim Long** and **Lance Corporal Nat Pass** have refused to give permission to go to press on the grounds they may well be incriminated.

### LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT

During **Brigadier Clinch's** farewell visit to the RHQ he was asked to present to **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling** his LS & GC medal. After bidding farewell to the assembled company in the regimental club the Brigadier moved on to the Garrison Sergeants Mess. It was here that the presentation, in time honoured style was made. As our picture shows everything went off without a hitch, looking at **Norman's** face perhaps the caption should have read. "How about that then", but it's all academic now, the velvet cushion is back in the R.S.M.'s safe keeping, brushed off and ready to be hauled out for the next 'William Tell'. One S.N.C.O. was heard to ask the R.S.M., "When are you getting yours sir?" "Soon" muttered someone else.

THE EIGHTEEN YEAR HANDSHAKE

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling with the "I've made it look" and his shiny L.S. & G.C. Both the Brigadier and the Yeoman are old comrades from Borneo days

# 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### PASS OFF PARADE

TALES of 11th Signal Regiment Pass Off Parades appear in THE WIRE with monotonous regularity, however the parade of April 5 had many features that distinguishes it from all others. **Lieutenant 'Andy' Widdett** led 1 Troop onto parade after 10 weeks under training on the new common military syllabus recruit training programme. The troop of 37 men showed in their appearance and bearing the benefits of an extra two weeks training. The SO in C, **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** inspected the parade, the Corps Band and took the salute.

During the parade he presented **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Peter Gray, B.E.M.,** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. **S.S.M. Gray** has since left the regiment on promotion to W.O.1 (R.S.M.). A new arrival in the squadron has been **Andrew Nicholas Widett** born on April 9, to **Lieutenant Andy Widdett** and his wife **Marie.** Unfortunately he was 3 days late and missed his father's pass off parade.

### CONTINUATION TRAINING IN SCARBOROUGH

On completion of their basic training recruits are now spending two weeks in Scarborough engaged in an introductory course to adventurous training. **Lieutenant 'Willie' Brewin** took 4 Troop through one of these courses in May.

Most mornings began with a run round the beach and local park. A singularly boring activity you may think, unless you happen to meet a bear! No, not a streaker, but a young wild brown bear which had escaped from Scarborough Zoo. **Sergeant Harland,** the regimental training NCO at Scarborough, donned his Davy Crocket hat and tackled the animal. Assisted by the whole of 4 troop he managed to recapture it.

### ORIENTEERING—THE ROAD TO GERMANY

On 16th May the Regimental Orienteering team are competing in the Army Orienteering Championships for the second successive year. This year the competition is being held in BAOR. The road to qualification for this event has been one of sparkling success. In the Northern Area Championships held at Delemene Forest on 10th March the Regiment won a convincing victory with **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** in 5th place. This success led to the UKLF Army Championships which were held near Thirsk Yorkshire on 7th April. Again the regiment won the minor units event with an economic 1 minute 25 seconds to spare from the Para Squadron RAC. In this event **Lieutenant Robin Hill** finished first to gain the UKLF individual championship, **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** was 26th, **Lieutenant Dick Gittings** 41st, **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** 59th and **Lieutenant Ewen Cameron** 63rd. This is the team that will defend the Army title we won last year.

### RUGBY

Another season of rugby in 11th Regiment has ended with relief for the older players and some frustrations for the regular members of the team. Some thirty fixtures were played but unfortunately losses rather outnumbered success. Another rugby captain **Lieutenant 'Chris' Donaghy** has left decidedly wiser about the efforts required to run a rugby fifteen and remembered by all forwards for his pack leadership and recognition of opposition line out signals i.e., "Watch out lads there's a nine in it". The season was brought to a close as usual with the holding of the Regimental sevens for the "Jackson Cup" which was played for under the usual Arctic conditions that this competition has enjoyed since its inauguration some eight years ago. Some ten teams took part in the competitions with players of all shapes sizes and ages displayed skills which some forgot they possessed. The final was eventually fought out between Instructors Squadron and the Sergeants Mess with the Mess finally doing down to dare we say it "superior fitness and youthfulness". The cup was presented by **Mrs. Pratt** to **Captain 'Ollie' Hackett** WFR (a direct descendant of the well known sauce makers and Robin Hood) and those who had survived the cold repaired to the Corporals Club to end the season in traditional style.

## 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL TEAM—A SUCCESSFUL SEASON (see notes)

*Back row, left to right:* Staff Sergeant Dempster, Sergeant Irvine, Staff Sergeant Groves, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Taylor (due to play Rugby!), Staff Sergeant Fitzsimmons, Signalman Middleton, Signalman Pritchard, Lance-Corporal Harrison, Corporal Liston

*Front row, left to right:* Corporal Wolstencroft, Signalman Gilsennan, Staff Sergeant Hall, Corporal Ford (Capt.), Signalman Manger, Sergeant Clay, Lance-Corporal Marshall

### MUSICAL CHAIRS

APRIL has been a month of "Musical Chairs" in RHQ. Firstly **Captain Jennie Flake WRAC** who has been our A/Adjutant since March 1972 has departed for a tour at the RAOC Trade Training School at Deepcut. **Captain Flake** was replaced by **Captain Ruth Henderson WRAC** who joined us from Guildford. **Captain Henderson** only stayed a few days before moving on to take over as Admin Officer 2 Squadron.

**Lieutenant Nigel Cory** returned to his chair as Admin Officer HQ Squadron after a spell of six months in Northern Ireland, only to find his chair had been removed during his absence and the only one available was that of A/Adjt—so he sat in it.

Then as the climax of the operation **Captain Allan Jackman** handed over as Adjutant to **Captain John Roberts** late of 604 Troop, before departing to take up his new post at the School of Signals.

### JUNIOR RANKS CLUB

This month things began to swing again after the post Christmas blues.

We kicked off with a games night between 'B' and 'D' Troop which (we have it on good authority), ended in a draw with **Bob Harrison** winning (we're not sure for what) a chess set. Rather unfortunate as he can't even play draughts!

So far we have had two darts matches one against the Swalman team and the other in Eddies Bar, Roermond. Unfortunately losing both, 8–1 and 7–2! Very nauseating, considering we taught them the game 12 months ago!

**Steve Rostron** was the Folk Club guest on 10th who enchanted us with his singing and aroused us with his monologues! On Friday they perform again, in the Quicksilver Bar this time a local night, entertaining a few guests from the surrounding clubs.

Easter Sunday was celebrated in fine traditional style, with a classic egg rolling contest. No one knew exactly what to do but our own **Sergeant Major Wally Lockwood** got us cracking with a few good 'yokes'. Actually, for those who had forgotten to hard boil their eggs it wasn't very funny! However, cheating apart, we all learnt a few things about eggs, chocolate ones too, as we were shown up by the kids, who walked off with the Easter Egg prizes.

Last Saturday a Cheese and Wine Party was thoroughly enjoyed by all (those who remembered anyway).

**Additions to the Club**—a new £130 stereo cassette setup for the bar and a new manageress!

No—joking apart, **Miss Cindy Fury** our new lady in the hot seat, has done a pile of good for the Club what with bar extensions and a lot of hard work behind the scenes.

**Further Events**—In two weeks we are holding an auction for Wireless for the Blind. All sorts of contributions are pouring in—hats, polo mints, ear mufflers and someone even donated her boyfriend! (Can't really blame her, he had ears like Jumbo).

Regimental weekend is looming nearer at the end of May, with all sorts of activities planned. Also summer trips to Paris begin in May for club members and their families.

How about a bed race? Crazy tug of war? Treasure hunt of £50 prizes! World record mini contest? All in the air for the summer months in Birgelen.

### BASKETBALL 73/74

This sport probably came to the notice of members of the Regiment during the latter months of 1973 by the lack of it! However, after a few words from the Second in Command to certain people, the Regimental basketball squad was reborn and thanks mainly to the efforts, both coaching and playing, of our resident Clerk of Works, **W.O.2 Nick Ferguson,** the squad had quite a good season.

League wise, the season was spoilt by the petrol shortage, with us only being able to play five games. However, the squad had a good run in the Army cup, ending up as Rhine Area runners-up and losing in the quarter finals of the BAOR section to the eventual BAOR champions.

Most of this Season's squad will still be with us in the autumn, so here's hoping for an even better season 1974/75.

### 2 DIVISION AND RHINE AREA FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS (INDIVIDUALS)

On 7th April, **Corporal Joe Pearson** and **Lance Corporal Barrie (MGB) Jackson** left camp for Sennelager with the intention of sweeping the floor with the other competitors in foil, sabre and epee. However, it didn't quite work out as planned. In the foil event both **Corporal Pearson** and **Lance-Corporal Jackson** reached the final pool of 6. **Corporal Pearson** trying to be D'Artignian did wipe the floor with his first 4 opponents,) then along came **Second-Lieutenant (Athos) Burr,** who took him to the cleaners and won the foil event leaving **Corporal Pearson** runner-up. **Lance-Corporal Jackson** obviously feeling ill from the previous night's session was placed 6th.

**Lance-Corporal Jackson** did not enter the epee event, leaving **Corporal Pearson** to fly the flag of 13 on his own. Having reached the final pool again battle commenced with **Corporal Pearson** feeling very confident (what a let down) he only managed 5th position.

In the final event sabre, 13 were back at full strength with **Lance-Corporal Jackson** ready to make amends for what happened in the foil (help) **Lance-Corporal Jackson** failed to reach the final pool but **Corporal 'D'Artignian' Pearson** came to the rescue by qualifying comfortably, still flying the flag of 13. It must have been his off-day because he only reached 4th position. Never mind, we'll take them next year.

### FOOTBALL

If the people of Leeds and Liverpool had a nail biting finish to their Soccer Season then we of 13 Regiment know just how they feel. Competing in the North Rhine inter services football league division II. We started off with a bang winning the first ten games. The only team to stay the pace with us was RAF Wildenrath who at Christmas break were three points behind with a game in hand. Then came the crunch, four of our top players were injured and out of the game for the rest of the season plus we had our usual quota on detachment. Special tribute must be paid to the reserves who were drafted in at this vital stage for we still had twelve games to complete the league programme. Two games were lost in quick succession and it looked like the excellent start to the season was to no avail. Thus it was the turn of the reserves to show their mettle, this they did and performed like seasoned veterans and although RAF Wildenrath were still pressing strongly, our lads completed the league programme without losing another game to take the title from the RAF so in spite of all our critics on the touch line, the Regiment brought the title home and I must say the following record looks impressive.

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 16 | 2 | 3 | 81 | 27 | 34 |

(One game forfeited due to lack of transport unable to fulfil fixture —2 points awarded to opponents).

Behind every successful team there is the hard work that goes on unnoticed so a big thank you to our soup and tea lady **'Sheila'** and our stalwart lady supporters who followed us home and away and never lost faith in the lads. The immaculate turnout of the team was always remarked upon by our opponents (thanks **Staff Sergeant Dave).** To all the supporters and heads of departments a big thank you for your co-operation and to the players my thanks for making hard work a pleasure.

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sergeant Clay, Corporal Ford** and **Corporal Pearson** on their selection for the Rhine Area Select Eleven. Nice one lads! **Alex Middleton** was selected but injured at the time.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

Life in the Sergeants' Mess continues at the hectic pace to which we have all become accustomed. Socially the month has been highlighted by a variety of events.

On 30th March the Mess Soccer XI took on and defeated a team comprised of the Borussia Monchengladbach Junior Team Managers. The result of a less serious competition held in the bar after the game was a draw!

The Regiment's performance in the Sergeants' Mess football league this season has been a real 'success story'. In the last game of the season on Sunday the 28th we inflicted a 3–1 defeat on the favourites, 28 Regiment and now await the result of the 16 Signals v 28 Signals game on the 11th May which will determine the championship. Fine goals from **Sergeants Rick Irvine** and **Trevor Ryan** and the Tor des Jahr from our eversmiling coke liaison officer **Staff Sergeant Jack Hall** took the Mess Team to the top of the table. 28 Regiment require one point from their last game to take the title—so we'll be shouting for 16 on the 11th!

Our Easter dance this year, which was a most enjoyable function, incorporated the traditional Easter bonnet competition and **Mrs. Loraine Fowler** finished up top of the 'Hat Parade'.

On Thursday the 25th April the Mess bade farewell to our Adjutant, **Captain A. J. R. Jackman** and for the occasion the Officers of the Regiment were entertained to a curry lunch in the Mess. The meal prepared under the careful supervision of our new master chef **Staff Sergeant Fred Lima,** was a further example of **Fred's** amazing culinary capabilities and was greatly appreciated by all present. As a token of our recognition of the hard work and devoted service to the Regiment by **Captain Jackman** during his two years with us, the Mess presented him with a fine crystal whiskey decanter and glasses. We welcome our new Adjutant **Captain J. H. Roberts** and trust his tour of duty here will be a happy and successful one.

This month we have also said farewell for the present, to **Sergeants Bob Eastmond** and **Hal Shackleton** who have left for a spell in the Emerald Isle. Haste ye back! April has also heralded the safe return of **Sergeants Jim Claffey** and **Chris Elliott.** Good to see you back.

## 14 Sig Regt Worcester

### TURNOUT

THE cancellation of overseas exercises has forced the Regiment to adopt a new approach and devise UK based training which will practise personnel in all aspects of mounting an overseas exercise. The first of these was Exercise Turnout.

**Captain Sandy Lovatt** and members of 'E' Troop produced a very ingenious exercise which nearly succeeded in meeting all the requirements. **Staff Sergeant Ray Heeley** the troop Staff Sergeant reports that they failed on only one vital aspect, there was no duty free allowance. Could his indent to the QM for one mile of narrow gauge copper pipe, a 50 gallon oil drum and 10 tons of potatoes be designed to repair this omission?

To promote interest **Captain Lovatt** planned a very spectacular re-enactment of the wartime glider landings. The mechanics of this were beautifully simple, he drove stakes into the grass area used by the gliding club at South Cerney. Unfortunately these were discovered and we apologise for failing to produce some really unusual photographs. Who knows, these might even have included an impromptu lynching.

More mundane extra mural activities had to be devised, these included visits to the Swindon Railway Museum, BAC Concorde and the water park which contains the source of the Thames.

During the last visit **Sandy Lovatt** made a momentous discovery which must rank alongside Livingstone's discovery of the source of the Nile. His signal to the Regiment announcing it read: "Visit to water park not successful, source of Thames no longer exists". We can only deduce that the crews of Oxford and Cambridge perpetuate a massive confidence trick annually.

### TRANSIENT—MOST TRAVELLED MAN IN THE CORPS?

**Major Roy (Have Bag Will Travel) Simmons,** OC 1 Squadron is now in the process of preparing for his move to 34 Regiment (Volunteers). During his tour with the Regiment he admits to having covered 112,000 miles by plane, boat, mule and taxi; note no mention of foot slogging.

His travels to visit detachments, command exercises and carry out recces have taken him to: Antigua, Ascension Isles, Australia, British Honduras, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, France, Gan, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Kenya, Nassau, New Guinea, New Hebrides, Norway, Seychelles, Singapore and the Solomon Islands. In transit he has passed through: Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Uganda. The squadron has an almost unused office ready for his successor, **Major Tony Edmonds.**

After a recent visit to Singapore **Roy** has acquired the habit of burning joss sticks in the office. This appears to fit in well with his personality. Remarks overheard between members of the squadron suggest that they consider him to be a perfect Buddha.

### MINOR MAYHEM

"Tackle low", hack him", "take his legs", "bring him down", "gouge his eyes" and "drive him into the ground". The air was rent with these imprecations and ear splitting screams as appro-

priate action was taken. No, this was not our rugby team bent on destruction, it was the cries of sweet demure little girls exhorting others of their sex to ensure that the boys did not prevail in the Easter Egg Hunt organised by Woodfarm Families Club. Fathers blanched and retired swiftly to the bar to anaesthetise themselves against the sight of total carnage.

The committee, **Corporals Chick Moir, Brian Cocoran** and **Mick Campbell,** leapt bravely into the fray and with Herculean effort restored order, miraculously avoided homicide and convinced all 71 children that everyone would get an egg. Our genial host, **Sergeant Bill Duffy,** had performed similar feats in the bar for the fathers.

Two of our younger wives **Sandra Corcoran** and **June Palladini** had courageously volunteered to judge the girls Easter Bonnet Competition. Having witnessed the egg hunt they wondered at their temerity in taking on a task so obviously fraught with danger. They resolved their problem with a solution worthy of Solomon. The hats were laid out so that the judges had no idea who owned which one until the winners were selected. The girls then paraded in the creations for the benefit of the company. The winner **Gaynor Cox** proved to be a very popular choice, followed by **Jacqueline Heaps** and **Sandra Moir** in second and third places.

For the boys there was a more robust competition, an egg race. In this the boys were required to push a hard boiled egg with a hockey stick varying distances depending on age. This produced a mountain of scrambled egg and **Michael Hales** emerged as winner closely followed by **Colin Moncaster** and **Jimmy Guthrie.**

Finally the CO's wife, **Mrs. Hales,** presented the prizes and eggs for the hunt. The children greeted each presentation (all eighty of them) with thunderous cheers which nearly raised the roof. Before the presentation was half way through **Sergeant Bill Duffy** was frantically searching the Yellow pages for a Pied Piper, alas to no avail. DOE are strengthening the roof next week.

The Committee are now busy preparing for next year by applying for APCs, flack jackets, a battalion fresh from Ulster, ear defenders, a resident Pied Piper and postings out.

### TRAUMATIC

Recently whilst carrying out the duties of orderly sergeant **Sergeant Jack Finn** suffered a severe coronary arrest. During night hours, whilst checking RHQ, he noticed that the door of the cipher store was unlocked. Cautiously he pushed the door open, then gasped in horror, as his startled eyes surveyed a totally empty room. Rapidly he considered the consequences of losing the whole of the Regiment's cipher equipment. What possible excuse would exonerate him?

Failing to find a plausible excuse, he mentally checked if his life insurance was up to date and whether there was a section in the Army Act designed to punish suicides. Finally before hurling himself from the Keep he crept to the phone, called the guard commander and whispered weakly "I've found the cipher store open". The guard cheerfully informed him, that the custodian had vacated the store to allow DOE to complete works services. Unfortunately the custodian had omitted to inform the orderly sergeant.

**Sergeant Finn** has now removed **Captain Heaps** from his Christmas Card list, and when he has fully recovered his faculties he will write a short article on life after death.

### HEARTS OF OAK?

A whiff of salt air, the crack of wet sheets, a good following sea and a lively craft underfoot, all things which are guaranteed to stir the soul of any true red-blooded Englishman.

Recently a notice on Regimental Orders announcing that the Corps Yacht, *Quicksilver,* had been booked for a week, and that our Second in Command **Major Colin Bunce,** was searching for a crew, has proved that the Nelsonian spirit is still strong in the Regiment. Yes, You've guessed it, we need a Press Gang.

### NO REDUCTION

In an effort to produce a sylph life figure **Staff Sergeant John Chambers** has placed himself on a rigid diet. Mess members are amazed that there is no apparent change, in spite of **John** eating three times the quantity of Limmits recommended by the manufacturer with his fish and chips each lunchtime. Having failed to lose an ounce **John** is now contemplating complaining to the trades description board.



## 16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

### PER ARDUA AD DISASTA

"WHEN the angle of attack increases beyond the stall, the airflow over the wing becomes turbulent and the centre of pressure moves aft. Recovery involves restabilising the airflow, and increasing its velocity. That's clear enough, isn't it?"

"Er—yes."

And with that, 16 Signal Regiment became airborne in the skies over Krefeld. To be precise (and RHQ insists on precision), those listed below formed up as a course under **Major M. R. Pack-Davison** and **Lieutenant I. M. Cross,** and began to learn the subtle art of flight—**Sergeant 'Concorde' Hill; Corporal 'Plastic Bag' Badwi (REME); Signalman 'Red Baron' Harris; Signalman 'Wings' Miller; Signalman 'Mach I' Reid** and **Signalman 'Red Arrow' Fox.** Loosely associated with this mob was a motorised glider—an SF 25B 'Falke' of the Krefeld Aero Club.

The aim of the course was to introduce its members to the sport of gliding with a period of intensive flying instruction. Bad weather partly thwarted this aim, but after a few days, things got organised and on several occasions the aeroplane was seen to be under control. By the end of the period it had ceased emulating a demented bat, knuckles clutching the control column were no longer blanched white, and eyes had recovered their normal blinking rate. A very satisfactory state of competence was achieved by all the students, and as he was led away to Netley (to be fitted with a new nervous system), **Major Pack-Davison** said "It was all very adventurous."

"IT WAS ALL VERY ADVENTUROUS"
*Left to right:* Signalman 'Red Arrow' Fox, 'Mach I' Reid, Major Pack-Davison, Signalman 'Wings' Miller

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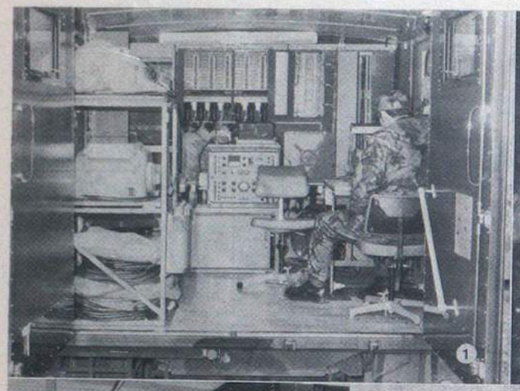
# TASKS OF 21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

## *2 Squadron in the Field*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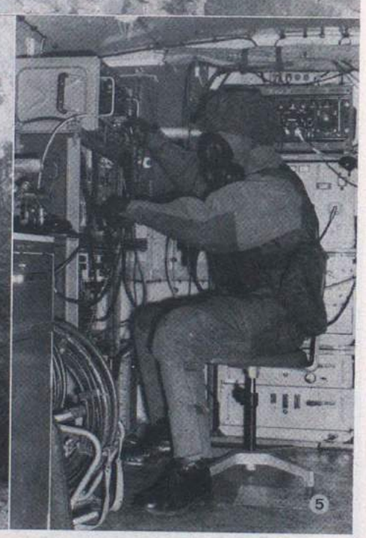
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**Provision of Communications for the Harrier Force—Radio Relay and VHF net radio**

**Provision of communications for 18 Squadron R.A.F. (Wessex)—VHF and HF net radio**

1. **Message Centre**
2. **C42 radio operator**
3. **Field Telephone exchange operator**
4. **C.70 mast erection**
5. **C.70 radio operator during N.B.C. threat**
6. **C.42 mast erection**



## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

### ROYAL VISIT

THE headlines this month are that **His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh** is to visit RAF WILDENRATH on 17th May. Naturally, the programme includes the Regiment's contribution to the Harrier Force, and everyone is involved to some extent in ensuring that the appearance of the Station is worthy of so distinguished a visitor. A report will be included in the next edition.

### BLOW TO ATHLETICS PROSPECTS

Having lost 12 members of last season's unbeaten athletics team on routine posting we have to report the misfortune of a well known athlete having incurred a broken leg—**Sergeant Bill Venus. Sergeant Venus** was playing football for 'F' Troop in the hotly contested inter troop competition, and was one of two players whose feet disputed the direction in which the ball should travel. The ball refused to burst and something just had to give! Athletics officer **Lt. Neville Illman** is now relieved that these tough winter sports are completed. It would be rash, however, to write off the Regiment—new talent is being developed, and in a Regiment where every soldier does 30 minutes physical training each day new discoveries are not unusual. And don't 'write off' **Sergeant Bill Venus**—he is always capable of the miraculous. Certainly he's the fastest man on crutches in BAOR.

### SUB UNIT SPORT

A very fine 'J' Troop team won the inter troop football knockout competition beating 1 Squadron (who because of their size are afforded troop status for these competitions) by 5 goals to 1. 2 Squadron HQ won the inter troop orienteering competition, held in terrain approaching 2,000 feet in the Northern Eiffel, with RHQ second. Individual winner was **Lance-Corporal Geoff Graham.**

### ANOTHER RHINE AREA CHAMPIONSHIP

We are pleased to relate that no mistake was made in this year's Rhine Area Orienteering Championships, the trophy being satisfactorily recovered from 'you know who', who had an unusual victory last year. The Regiment's team secured the first three places, and had five competitors in the leading seven. Individual winner was **Sergeant John Turvey.**

HIGH POWERED HANDLING

Air Vice Marshall P. J. Lageson, D.F.C., A.F.C., R.A.F., Deputy Commander Royal Air Force (Germany), checking the pulse rate of Army junior cross country champion Signalman Phil Madden whilst attending a demonstration of the Army P.F.A. test during a visit to 21 Signal Regiment

Man at the top

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## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

### DENMARK VISITED

EXERCISE Elsinore Link is now under way. It is an inter-allied exchange training exercise in Denmark. This year a composite squadron of the Regiment accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards went to Denmark to 'sport' with IV Slesvigse Fodregimentet.

And now down to the important business—SPORT.

### SOCCER

The latest soccer scene is "Tag der Auslandischen Mitburger". For those not acquainted with the local BAOR dialect, the rough translation is "Day of the Foreign Born Lippstadters". Teams representing Italy, Greece, Iberia, Jugoslavia, Portugal, Spain and, of course, United Kingdom have been formed from people actually working in our home town of Lippstadt. The teams are in two groups, with the first two in each group qualifying for the semi-finals.

Results so far:

British 2 : 1 Italian

British 4 : 1 Greek (abandoned after 85 minutes when the Greek No. 11 hit the referee and refused to leave the field!)

British 2 : 1 Spanish.

**Lieutenant Harry Bell** (liaison) and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Graham** (the 'Ham) **Griffiths** (team manager) are having to work even harder than the team!

### GOLF

For the first time ever, our team of **Major Mike Louden** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Geordie' Hall** won the Regimental Greensomes at the Royal Signals spring meering held this year at RAF Bruggen. The pair finished with a net 63 (8 under par). Now, at last, the Yeoman has something worthwhile to talk about!

### SKI-ING

The winter months again saw the jet set element of the Regiment safely billetted in Oberstdorf; Exercise Snow Queen rides again. **Captain Peter Dick,** ably assisted by **Sergeant Mick Croot** and **Sergeant Michael Hill, RAPC,** did the initial setting up, welcoming the instructors **Corporal Paddy Galagher** and **Lance-Corporal Chappie Tunks** just before the first course on December 19, 1973. **Pandy Chubb** (accompanied by her husband **Captain Brian Chubb**) arrived with the New Year and saw the remaining courses through to the end. A total of seven courses, each of twenty soldiers, attended this year. Each course had its complement of naturals, mediocres, buffoons and jokers so that no single soldier deserves special mention. Regardless of his standard, each student took part in a downhill race on the last day. This provided many feet of interesting movie film, mostly of gritted teeth, white knuckles, shaking knees and incredible acrobatic 'feets'. The relief of safely completing the race promoted most students to say that they had thoroughly enjoyed Snow Queen 1974.

### PADDY'S PRIZE

The OC of the newly formed 'Z' Troop (**Captain (Tfc) Paddy Stringer**) found time to complete the three month general knowledge quiz in sixth sense and actually won! Well, at least we now know what he does in that office locked behind bars.

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### FOOTBALL

ONCE again the football team has brought back the honours, by winning Division 1 of the Rhine Area Football League. **Staff-Sergeant 'Bunny' Rea** was presented the trophy on 20th April in Rheindahlen as Captain of the 1st XI. All the football squad deserve our thanks for providing such entertaining football games throughout the season.

OUR PUTTING GREEN

*Left to right:* R.Q.M.S. 'Slim' Mullaney R.P.C. (Ex-Regt.), Captain A. R. G. Holmes, Lieutenant-Colonel Carnie, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Harris, Sergeant Lennon

### INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS

It was a sunny day on Friday 19th April when the inter-troop athletics competition took place in St. Tönis stadium. This competition provided a chance for the more unathletic among us to have a stab at athletic pursuits. It also gave the potential Regimental team members an opportunity to flex their muscles before the season starts in earnest. After a day of sweat and toil 'Alpha' Troop 1 Squadron emerged as winners, but all individuals participating deserve praise for their fine performances

### POSTINGS IN-OUT

This month has seen many characters from the officers of the Regiment leaving for pastures new. **Major Peter Chilvers,** who has filled the post of RMTO, is now retiring from the Army after many years of service all over the world. He has left behind him many friends, and also a reorganised MT square to bring at least some semblance of order to camp life! **Major Mike Ham,** who was QM (Tech), has left behind him a miniature 18-hole putting green. After months of loving care **Mike** finally opened the green to the public and our photograph shows user trials taking place with **R.S.M. Harris** telling the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie,** and **Captain Arthur Holmes** what to do with their! ! Also missed will be **Captain Arthur Holmes, RPC** and **Captain John Stuart,** both of whom have left this month.

We welcome to the Regiment **Major Ken Ward, Captain Bob Pierce, RPC, Captain Mike Crane** and **Captain Jerry Mann.** Here's hoping that their posting to the Regiment will be a happy one.

### GENERAL

Other activities which started this month include sailing courses in the Baltic. These one week courses run by the British Yacht Club in Kiel will have a large attendance from the Regiment.

Led by the Commanding Officer and the Second-in-Command, **Major Mike Allen,** many members of the Regiment are taking part in the German Army award scheme. This award includes tests in athletics, swimming, marching, shooting and first-aid and is helping to foster many contacts between the Regiment and our German friends in NORTHAG.

### SHOOTING

The shooting team took part in the NORTHAG shoot at the end of April and under their team Captain, **Captain John Woods REME,** practically swept the board, with the whole team achieving high scores in every event. The main team competitions won were:

Rifle championship, SMG championship, visiting team competition and overall unit championship.





## 30 Sig Regt

**BLANDFORD CAMP**

### SWAN SONG OF A *WIRE* CORRESPONDENT

SITTING in my office thinking pleasantly of my departure to Rheindahlen I was rudely awakened out of my reverie with the words 'Don't forget Wire Notes for next month please' So I thought, what can we do this time that's new and doesn't deal with the minutiae of Regimental life? What would ex members of the Regiment like to hear about?

Then I thought, well how about an up-to-the-minute report on all the things we are doing but if I were to do that I could be describing almost any Signal Regiment anywhere "with only the names and places disguised to avoid embarrassment to innocent parties".

Well if there's one thing that 30th Regiment isn't—that is ordinary. The world is our oyster and we certainly explore the whole of it so anybody who likes the travelling life should put in a posting preference to come to Blandford now. We should be able to fix you up with a nice trip to the sun. We don't have travel brochures available so please don't write but 1974's tours include: The West Indies (21 days of surf, sun and sand, accommodation in the latest lightweight mobile homes (tents)). Six months in Cyprus with the international jet set (UNFICYP). Norwegian winter holidays: book now for an exciting exhilarating experience —at no extra charge we will give you a short course in igloo building. For those of you with a partiality for Kerry Gold butter we can of course fix up a trip across the water to the land of rainbows, leprechauns and the amazing maze prison. Several of our satisfied customers have recommended the cuisine but the night life is somewhat restricted (although not exactly quiet). If you feel like a trip to the exotic orient we have a South Sea Island tour planned for later this year, but the bookings are now almost complete for this rather expensive trip. How would you like to make an attempt on Mont Blanc? This too can be arranged—we have a month's expedition in July to this Alp. Finally for those of you who prefer to stay in good old England we can offer you a varied selection of exercises with plenty of exercise thrown in.

One final word on travel. We can absolutely guarantee that there will be no fuel surcharge and our foreign currency exchange rates are the best that are obtainable anywhere.

### FAMINE RELIEF IN NIGER

The Regiment is engaged in providing the communications for a British famine relief expedition to Niger. This is one of those interesting and worthwhile tasks which we always enjoy helping in and **Corporal Geoff Lindsay** and **Signalman Bob Fryer** of 1 Squadron certainly have plenty of work to do keeping the convoy on the Algerian desert guard net, keeping in touch with Malta and controlling the communications (VHF) in the convoy.

### 1 SQUADRON—HF TROOP

**Second-Lieutenant Iain Robertson** writes:

As the commander of the only troop which hasn't yet featured in THE WIRE, I have been duly elected to write this month's contribution. At the moment HF Radio Troop consists of small detachments enjoying the sunshine in various places round the world. **Corporal Ted Gough, Signalmen 'Mac' McCafferty** and **Pete Smith** are enjoying 6 months in the British Honduras. **Sergeants John Butler, Jack Corbett, Mick Roberts, Mick Reed, Corporals Brian Armstrong, Graham Reynolds, Signalmen Willie Hutchinson, Rob Thomson, 'Ossie' Osborne** are all savouring the delights of Nicosia, with 644 Troop in Cyprus. The troop Sergeant, **Staff Sergeant Ken Griffiths,** *HAS CHOSEN A FOUR WEEK* Mediterranean cruise calling at Malta, Crete, Greece and Sardinia for his annual holiday. He has taken along, for company as he puts it, **Corporals 'Wally' Halstead, 'Butch' Butcher** and **Signalman Tony Coulthard** on the cruise ship *Sir Lancelot.*

We also have a few men who do some work. **Sergeant Pat Hodgkinson** and **Corporal 'Chick' Thomson** are both in Northern Ireland. **Corporal Geoff Lindsay** and **Signalman Bob Fryer** have both joined 47 Air Despatch Squadron RCT in driving across the SAHARA on Operation NIGER. (More about that later we hope). **Sergeant Mike Radford** is also off on his travels again after only 6 weeks at home.

All that's left now is the rear party at Blandford which usually seems to consist of only myself and my storeman **Corporal Mick Stewart.**

We welcome **Major Peter Brunton** and his wife **Anne** who have wrenched themselves away from Trials Squadron to join us in the Regiment. **Major Brunton** is taking over where **Major Ron Clayton** left off—in 3 Squadron. We wish **Ron** and **Joan** all the best and thank them for all they have done in the Regiment, and for Corps badminton which under his eye have gone from strength to strength. It seems only yesterday that they arrived and this gives credence to the 3 Squadron motto "Dont time go quick when you're enjoyin' yoursen".

We say farewell this month also to **Captain Ron Reid** who, after a long and distinguished career, has given up being one sort of Traffic Officer to become another sort, proprietor of a Sub Post Office near Gloucester. Wish wish him and his wife **Susan** all the best and thanks for everything. We welcome his replacement in the Regiment, **Captain Brian Abbiss.**

Finally we welcome our new Second-in-Command **Major Malcolm Wise** and his wife **Susanne.** We hope that they will have a happy and interesting time in the Regiment.

As readers may gather we also say farewell to **Major Bob Martin** who with his wife **Billie** have contributed greatly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Blandford and now go to a well-earned overseas tour in BAOR.

# News from Squadrons

## 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 102

### EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

LIKE most other Signal units in BAOR the Squadron took part in Exercise FLYING FALCON during March. Com pared with last year it was uneventful in that the weather was much kinder. Many useful lessons were learnt especially on the BRUIN side and we were also able to give field experience to members of 229 Squadron who joined us from the concrete jungle of Berlin.

Most of the exercise was spent in isolation—our only visitor being our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier D. K. Neville,** who visited our main and step up headquarters, paid a flying visit to Commcen Alfa and returned to us for lunch in time to see the cookhouse burst into flames.

### EXERCISE QUOTES

Heard in the Radio Site .. "Dinner is at a quarter to Zulu"
Heard in Signals Command "Relay to C/S lunch"

### EXERCISE ROVING RAM

After the rigours of Flying Falcon and before the Squadron's rigorous military training in Denmark later in the year, it was decided that the three troops should go away individually on a 'Summer Camp' starting in April!

On April 24 'Bravo' Troop set off for their week of adventure training, some 80Km south of Kassel. The weather was bad, the river too shallow for canoeing and the hills too steep for **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Snowdon.** However, the beer was good and an enjoyable week was had by all. We are now waiting to hear how 'Alfa' Troop got on, but rumour has it that **Sergeant Eddie Turner** 'fell' in the river on their first day.

### SPORT

The hockey XI finished the season by at last winning a game against 20 Armoured Bridge HQ and Signal Squadron 2–1 and then went on to reach the semi-finals of the losers plate in the 1 Division Six-a-Side tournament without scoring a goal! We wish them better luck next season.

Congratulations to the newly formed basketball team who finished 3rd in the Soltau Garrison minor units league.

### DEPARTURES

This month we say farewell to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Richardson** who is off to 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment to take up post as R.S.M. (OC 'B', look out!). **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Dave Snowdon** is off to 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal

Squadron on promotion. **Corporal Ray Garner,** who we believe is now an 'old hand' on Commcen 'Alfa'. We wish them all the best of luck.

### ARRIVALS

Welcome to **W.O.2 Jim Akehurst** as the new S.S.M. **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Chapman, Corporal Len Hunt, Lance Corporal Thompson** and **Signalman Thompson.** (That gives us 4 **Thompsons** in all—someone in Records must have a twisted sense of humour).

### NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to **Corporal 'Polly' Perkins** and **Corporal Mick Lilley** and their wives on the birth of their daughters.

### HILDESHEIM SOLDATENTAG

On Sunday May 5 the 1st Panzergrenadier Brigade, our neighbouring Bundeswehr formation, put on a large display of equipment—from tanks and helicopters to a clothing store—on the local training area. The Squadron was invited to take part and put on a display of radio relay, radio and line laying equipment. Despite the very bad weather many people came to view the display and **Lance-Corporal Walt Moir,** despite being a Combat Powerman, did an excellent job as interpreter for the equipment we had on show.

In the evening the Officers and S.N.C.O.s attended a 'Herren Biwak' which entailed the consumption of vast quantities of bratwurst, beer and schnappes round a camp fire. A most enjoyable evening was had by all and our thanks go to our German hosts for their hospitality.

P.S. If anyone sees a Bundeswehr officer or S.N.C.O. wearing a Royal Signals Side Hat please let **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton** or **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Chapman** know ! !

SAFETY BRIEFING HELICOPTER TRAINING (1)
Sergeant Bob Bootes, R.E.M.E., Corporal Geordie Bestford, Royal Signals, Lance-Corporal Mick Armsby, Royal Pioneer Corps and Signalman Geordie Kennedy listening to the crewman's briefing

HOW TO GET OUT IN AN EMERGENCY—
HELICOPTER TRAINING (2)
The crewman mentions this with a joke to Corporal Stan Bell, Craftsman Jock McClafferty, Signalman Jock Grant, Corporal Fred Peebles and Corporal Mick Tasker
"After all I wouldn't fly in the thing if it would fall out of the sky"

## 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

### THE FLYING FIFTH

SINCE the last contribution from the Squadron we have continued our policy of doing as many things as we can simultaneously. We have carried out the normal exercises which most units are involved with but in addition we specialise in the unusual.

In February we had Exercise Eye Opener in the Brecon Beacons. This included several expeditions through the mountains at their snowy best. The weather offered rain, howling gales, blizzards and brilliant sunshine. Most members of the Squadron found time for inner contemplation while walking through waist deep snow on the sides of Pen-y-fan. The days were long and the action was fast and furious. We are indebted to assisted we obtained from **Sergeant Major Garrigan** of the 1st Battalion Prince of Wales Own who showed he could operate a radio as well as instruct in weapon training most competently.

On the sporting front we have forged ahead in the 'Salisbury Plain Area' football league, with the result that promotion to the First Division will be on us next season. With the arrival of summer our swimming team is being reformed but other commitments will prevent us from trying to win the Army minor units' cup again.

Exercise Whirly Bird was the rather uninspired name for a period of helicopter training organised by our UEO, **Captain Rex Stephenson.** In the event, we had an entertaining time practising our skills, as can be seen from the accompanying photographs. As has been said before in these pages "Come fly with us".

## 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 37

MUCH has happened since our last contribution to THE WIRE. We are well into the 'season' with Flying Falcon, Morning Glory and Double Stretch under our belts. Hurst Park is very imminent then perhaps a breather. These notes are being written from the rarified atmosphere of Bavaria, Exercise Berg Rat 74.

Exercise Flying Falcon was started with an inspection by the Commander 7 Armoured Brigade, **Brigadier M. B. Farndale,**

VISIT OF CORPS COMMANDER
Lieutenant H. Ham being introduced to Lieutenant-General Sir Jack Harman, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C. Commander 1st British Corps. Also in the photograph Major R. F. L. Cook, OC Squadron, and 2nd Lieutenant I. Thompson who joined for the exercise from 38th Signal Regiment (V)

at which he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to **Staff Sergeant Harry Culver,** RCT and the Commander in Chief's Commendation for Courage to **Corporal Alan Kite,** Royal Signals. **Corporal Kite** rescued a fellow serviceman from his burning car following an accidnet. During Flying Falcon we were visited by CCR Signals and the Corps Commander who expressed considerable professional surprise when **Lieutenant Howard Ham** called his 432's 'Panzers'!

### SPORT

An equally busy scene, our basket ball team represented the Division at the BAOR final after easily winning the Divisional minor units league. We have an excellent athletics team once again and feel reasonably confident for the coming meetings. The Squadron athletics meeting was held on 20 April, this proved that **Corporal Steve May, Corporal Clint Mogg** and **Sergeant John Woolley** are in fine form. 'Bravo' troop 'easily' outpointed allcomers and the 'veterans' race was won by **R.S.M. Frank Rogers** after overcoming strong challenges by **Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell** and the OC, **Major Bob Cook.**

We were invited to 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment to participate in six/seven a side hockey, football and rugby on 10th April. It was an interesting tournament during which we only mastered them at Rugby, due mainly to some fine running by **Sergeant John Woolley** and **Corporal Alan Kite.** We thank our hosts for the opportunity and look forward to the return.

Although the F. of S. and 'techs' are excused sport they have been frolicking lately. **Viv Gordon,** wife of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Gordon,** celebrated her birthday recently. The following members of that department frolicked:—**Corporal Steve ('Pongo') Hooton, Corporal Alan Kite, Sergeants 'Stew' Holmes** and **Jim Lennon.** The site chosen for the occasion was apparently an area of local ground punctuated with ponds. A Bar-B-Q was held and much frolicking in and out of the ponds in temperatures that were far from high. Goldfish and trout were reportedly 'streaking' from pond to pond. **Y. of S. Vaughan Rayner** has said for years that these gentlemen were species of 'pond life'! The birthday will no doubt be remembered.

We say goodbye to **Y. of S. Pete Sharp** (Super-Yeoman) and thank him for all the good work he has done whilst in 'Alpha' Troop, **Sergeant Ron Griffiths** who, so rumour has it, has gone to the Army Air Corps to run the Folk Club! **Signalman McDonald** has also sprouted wings.

We say 'hello' to **R.S.M. Tony Williams** who 'looked us over' during Double Stretch and who relieves **R.S.M. Frank Rogers,** shortly off on his KFS course!

## 7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 20

**PERSONALITIES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| OC .. .. .. | **Major P. A. Treseder** |
| Admin Offr/SSM .. | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) T. A. Perkin** |
| RQMS .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. N. Nichols** |
| Radio Sergeant .. .. | **Sergeant W. D. Close** |
| Tech. Sergeant .. .. | **Sergeant A. Logie-Campbell** |
| Pay Sergeant (Ex Corps) | **Sergeant M. Samphier,** RAPC. |
| Squadron Clerk .. .. | **Corporal C. J Bell** |

IT has been brought to our attention that the Squadron has not appeared in THE WIRE since 1963 (is this a record? ! ! !) and strict instructions have been issued to rectify this oversight "post-haste". Your wish is our command Sarn't-major!

We are a small Brigade Signal Squadron with a strength of 57, including officers, only 23 of which wear the Jimmy Cap badge. The Squadron is responsible for the administration and provision of communications for Headquarters 7th Artillery Brigade.

The Squadron 'enjoys' four exercises a year and a 'Summer' Camp in September/October where we forget the hardships of communications and the rigours of married life in Dortmund.

An important part of the Squadron social life is our own Jimmy Club which organises many socials throughout the year, the most notable being our last Christmas dance. We owe a great deal to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frank Jepson** and **Corporal 'Chick' Kinnear** whose inexhaustible gluttony for work has made the club the success it is. We say farewell to both these stalwarts who depart us for AFCENT and 1 Division respectively. We wish them and their families every success for the future—and thank you! In turn we welcome **W.O.2 'Tony' Perkin** to the helm and hope he has an enjoyable and eventful tour with us.

A final note is to congratulate **Signalman 'Geordie' Ashton** who, with three of our RA numbers, **Lance-Bombardiers Lord** and **Foster** and **Bombardier Burgess** came first in their class in the Kamener Volkslauf walk, This walk is sponsored and the proceeds go to all the Sports Clubs in Germany. Well done lads!

## 11 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

### FLOTATION TRAINING

DURING the last week in April the Squadron went on the traditional yearly flotation exercise at Ohr Park, on the River Weser south of Hameln.

This visit is always looked forward to by one and all as it allows a complete break from the normal routine work of barrack life. A total of seven 432s and about thirty men including the officer in charge, **Second-Lieutenant Proctor,** drove from Minden to Hameln.

A regimental camp site was set up under the watchful eye of **Sergeant Pete Wall.** All vehicles were made ready for a 'swim' the first day, and during the following three days there was always a constant flow of 432s through the river. Due to the concentrated build-up of the week prior to the exercise there were no troubles with leaking screens of stalled engines.

Unlike the previous year when the Squadron had returned to work with everyone except the cook sunburnt, the reverse occurred; constant hail and rain poured down throughout the second and third days, but was kind enough to stop when the night flotation started.

When the crews arrived the hardmaster gave a quick rundown on the damage to vehicles over the past season. It was not until the night float that the Squadron made its mark. As **Corporal Walker,** the Commander, explained afterwards, "I thought it was impossible to throw two tracks at once especially on a steep bank in thick mud."

All in all the exercise turned out to be a huge success with plenty of laughs and a great increase in experience. Even the OC, **Major Ian Sprackling,** managed to drive a 432 up our steepest incline with ease.

FLOTATION EXERCISE
Enjoyed by all despite constant hail and rain

## 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 41

### EXERCISE PIPE OPENER

EXERCISE PIPE OPENER 1974 saw us located in the Soest area. In our first location Hercules (G Ops 432), decided to throw a left hand track whilst travelling on the main road, near Husten, ending up in a newly planted corn field. At that moment in time, **Signalman Scouse Tiernan** departed from the vehicle in a somewhat reluctant manner, landing on his head in the field We are, however, pleased to record that being a good scouse he is still in one piece. It is interesting to note that he was Casevac from the same exercise in 1973 after falling off a static 432. It therefore goes without saying the exercise went according to plan, with us completing a total of 5 moves during the 3 days we were in the field.

### SPORT

**Basketball.** The unit basketball team have just completed a successful season, winning the 4 Division Minor Units trophy, beating 71 Field Workshops last years winners by 42 points to 41 in the final and achieving runners up in the BAOR Minor Units championships.

**Football.** Due to exercise commitments over the last few months it has not been possible to play as many matches as we would have liked. However, we did manage to complete our league programme, finishing as runners up in the Detmold minor units league, losing only one match all season, and that was to the eventual league winners. We also reached the semi-final of the 4 Division minor units competition only to go down to 44 Support Squadron, RE by four goals to one in a replay, having drawn the first match one-one after extra time.

**Sergeants Mess Football.** A very successful season, playing twenty seven matches, winning nineteen, losing seven and drawing one. In the Bielefeld league we finished third behind 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and 3 Royal Anglian respectively. This was no mean achievement bearing in mind that 90 per cent of the teams in this league are of Regimental strength, almost 3 times the strength of our own mess. In cup competitions the Mess team also proved their worth reaching 2 finals and 2 semi-finals. In both finals they were beaten by the very strong 3 Royal Anglian team 3–1 and 4–1 respectively. Of the two semi-finals I think the less said the better. A total of 105 goals were scored for and 53 against. **Sergeant Geordie Forster** was the leading goal scorer with 22 goals, followed by **Sergeant Ted Appleby** with 21 and **Sergeant Rick Cawley** with 18. Now that the season is over, the team are still debating which was their greatest achievement. Some say the 2 cup finals, others say the position in the league. Perhaps the greatest achievement of all was the persuading of **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Colin Markie** to come out of retirement for the last 2 games of the season. He surprised many fellow team members who had never seen him play before. Although he disagrees, he will certainly be playing more than 2 games next season.

**Orienteering.** The orienteering team achieved second place in the 4 Division minor units competition and now go forward to the BAOR minor units competition. The team consisted of **Lieutenant David Beare,** (22) **Sergeant Trev Stevens,** (43) **Sergeant Dai Rees, Corporal Jeff Young** (7) and **Signalman Tom McDowell.** Figures in brackets indicated final position. **Signalman McDowell** lost his card and had to return to the start. **Sergeant (I lost my card three times) Rees** came in approximately 5 hours and 30 minutes after starting, this in itself must be something of a record. The 13km course was well laid out and was only marred by bad weather.

## 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

WE have been kept fairly busy during the last few months, as the following notes will show. In this world of ever changing values, and the Trades Description Act, we can rightly say that when we offer potential para volunteers a varied life, we mean exactly that! Sometimes it is difficult to know what's around the next corner!

### RECRUITING TOUR BAOR

Two teams consisting of the OC, **Major 'Ron' Roberts,** the Adjutant, **Captain 'Clem' Palmer, M.B.E., Staff Sergeant 'John' Newman, Sergeant 'Ray' Cardwell, Corporal 'Peter' Whitehead** and **Corporal 'Maxie' Williams,** visited all the major Corps units in BAOR and attempted to put over the Airborne signallers image to as many Corps members as possible. Back in Aldershot we await the results of their sales-pitch with bated breath. There is no truth in the rumour that certain members of the party tried to persuade **Captain 'Clem'** to defect when they were visiting Berlin.

### VISIT TO GERMAN PARACHUTE SCHOOL

A motley crew (their words not mine!) from HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and 216 visited the home of the Fallschirmjager, with the intention of going through the German jump training. Inclement weather put the kybosh on many of the jumps so the hosts laid on some skiing outings. Cementing of Anglo-German relations were carried out in the Kantine over the odd bier or three. The weather cleared sufficiently, at the end of the course, to enable a few 'jumps' to be made and so the crew were presented with German Para Wings, and another interesting chapter ended.
Note: Various members of 216 are entitled to wear the para wings of the French, German, Canadian and American Airborne Forces, all awarded at some time or another during the past few years. After his one year at sea, **Corporal 'John' Tovey** is NOT entitled to wear the insignia of a 'three-badge stoker' as permission was refused by the Admiralty!

### EXERCISE NIGHT RIDER V

HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and 216 mounted a para assault onto a strongly held Salisbury Plain, where they fought magnificently and routed yet another Fantasian army.

### EXERCISE ROMAN TRACK

This exercise was the brainchild of **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Paddy' Boland,** who despatched four radio detachments to Newquay (Devon), Chester, Scarborough and Brecon (S. Wales) respectively. The aim was to practise the younger members in all manner of HF communications and to see how the Detached Commands coped with various problems. Communications were continuous which provided many a bleary eyeball, and caused some operators to think twice, never mind send words twice!

### EXERCISE SECURE ONE—NORWAY

HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and 216 (wot again?) mounted a para assault on a Norwegian DZ near Trondheim. This was to further practise the JATFOR role and further our experience with entirely manpack equipment. No chiefs with 'petrol feet' this time! A41's provided internal communications, while A16's worked to a Locon nearby, and a Hicon about 50 miles away on the coast. After 36 hours the Fantasians (a cowardly shower) surrendered, and the 'Britiske Fallschirmjegere' as the National Press dubbed them, retired to Lanke Camp for a clean-up and night out in Trondheim. History was made on the bus returning to Lanke that night, would you believe an Airborne streak? No names and no autographs, if you please. The para party flew back to the UK next day, and as for the sea party . . . well, that's another story, which should be in this issue as well.

### EXERCISE DAWN PATROL—SARDINIA

As this is being written, preparations are being made for a Royal Marine exercise in Sardinia, for which HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and 216 have been given the task of umpiring. The advance party sailed last week on an LSL the *Sir Lancelot*, and should by now be erecting tents and things in sunny Sardinia. The main body flies out shortly, and a full report on the exercise will be included in the next issue.

### SPORTING ACTIVITIES...FOOTBALL

Semi Final of Army Minor Units Cup : 216—4, HPD (RE)—2
Final of Army Minor Units Cup: 216—1, JLRRA—2.
**Sergeant McBirney** and **Corporal Aspinall** were both casevac'd during the latter game, but are both recovering well.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Sergeant 'Matt' McBirney** on passing out top of his Staff Sergeants Course.
**Corporal 'Kevin' Barratt** on passing out top of his Det Cmd's Course.
**Corporal 'Chopper' Aspinall** on passing out top of his Det Cmd's Course.

### VIP VISITS

**CGS General Sir Peter M. Hunt, G.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.** visited HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and 216 under exercise conditions at Long Valley, near Aldershot.
Commander, 2 Signal Group, **Colonel 'Henry' Hild, M.B.E.,** visited the base detachment of Exercise Roman Track and saw another detachment at Old Sarum on their way home.

### ARRIVALS

**W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'Dave' Harvey** to replace **W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'John' Kirton,** who is soon to don his hats, bus conductor and depart for damper climes.

### DEPARTURES

**Corporal 'Jock' Lumgair** (gypsies' dog of the MT) to SHAPE HQ.

### FUTURE INTENT

After Sardinia we shall probably have a few hours off before the onslaught continues, and we shall have detachments, if not the whole caboodle, visiting places like Jamaica, Ulster, Bristol, Germany, Salisbury Plain, and with a bit of luck . . . Aldershot! Still, that's life in the Paras, and some of us wouldn't have it any other way.

### SPECIAL MENTION

**Corporal 'Taff' Roberts,** who has been with the Squadron for seven years, and has not had his name in print in all that time. Here you are **'Taff',** this is your chance for fame!

## 259 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 53

THE Squadron's last notes were published in November 1973, since then the Squadron has undergone a change of personalities at SHQ.

Gone are the fishing tackle and grease paint from the Squadron Commanders Office (**Major Peter Valder**—fisherman extraordinaire, and budding Sir 'Larry Oliver') and the golf clubs and pistol targets from the QM's Office (**Captain Robbie Burns**—who appeared to have a cross between Wild Bill Hickock of the West and Tony Jacklin of Cyprus.)

Now we have a Squadron Commanders office decorated with skis and ski boots, horse whips and a hunting horn, whilst outside SHQ there appears to be a requirement for a hitching rail for the "fastest horse in the West" (of Cyprus, of course!). The Quartermaster's Office now represents a cross between the store room of the National Army Museum and the store of Henry V before Agincourt—with a clutter of long bows, arrows etc.

From this the reader will no doubt realise that **Major Peter Valder** has handed over the command of the Squadron to **Major Mike Chandler,** while at the same time **Captain Robbie Burns** has handed over the duties of Q.M. to **Major Alan Harfield.**

Leading up to this change January and February saw two cars speeding across Europe towards the port of MERSIN, in Southern Turkey. The first was that of the Q.M. who with his wife and daughter departed from Dover on Sunday 27 January and from Zeebrugge travelled through Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey. Time was taken to visit various military museums en route and eventually arrived at Mersin, where the ferry departs once a week to Cyprus. The Q.M. arrived there after a 3,000 journey with just *FOUR* hours to spare. (Note for MT Section of 244 Squadron—this shows that the route card and timings were correct—it was NOT just luck!).

The second vehicle—that of **Major** and **Mrs. Chandler** who motored out from BAOR via Italy, Greece and Turkey, taking time out to ski in Turkey and to visit the Turkish military riding academy. They also travelled from Mersin to Cyprus via the 'once per week' ferry.

Since the arrival of the new Squadron Commander we have seen a few changes at 'managerial' level which is now:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Officer Commanding | .. | **Major M. E. G. Chandler** |
| CSE and 2 i/c | .. | **Captain J. C. B. Simpson** |
| QM, AO and MTO | .. | **Major (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield** |
| OC East Troop | .. | **Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose** |
| OC Mountain Troop | .. | **Lieutenant T. M. Martin** |
| Unit Training Officer | .. | **Lieutenant I. R. C. Brown** |

The Squadron Commander was heard to comment that perhaps the Directorate might consider renumbering the unit to '15 Signal Squadron'! He has noticed, with some alarm that SHQ have virtually been the subject of a 'take-over-bid' by personnel from 244 Squadron, who appear to have penchant for wearing 'Red Hand' ties. The AO's Orderly Room Team of **Messrs. McKittrick** and **Barlow,** assisted by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Keohane** form a fairly formidable 'Red Hand' block! The inference being, of course, take 244 from 259 and you are only left with 15.

The Squadron has, also, said farewell to **Captain Peter Pritchard** and his wife, and wishes them good fortune in their new posting.

## 261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

### CYPRUS WALKABOUT

AT the beginning of the year, in spite of all the other activities taking place the Squadron entered three teams in this annual event.

**Staff Sergeant Dave Jolly** of Mountain Troop, Troodos, took charge of the training and the three teams got down to the hard slog.

The teams were:

| 'A' Team | 'B' Team | 'C' Team |
|---|---|---|
| W.O.2 Homewood | Sergeant Dixon | Sergeant Young |
| Staff Sergeant Jolly | Staff Sergeant Leggett | Lance Corporal Callaghan |
| Signalman O'Connor | Signalman Whitelock | Signalman Beecham |

If you were to ask any of the teams they would tell you there is no easy way up to Troodos. We have, however, had some lighter moments, like running into a Cyprus National Guard exercise, the 'B' team being terrorised by an alsatian dog at Kebab Corner and pathfinder **Kev O'Connor** managing to find a path that adds miles to our efforts.

Finally in the actual event our 'A' team crawled home in about 23 hours with the 'C' team just behind. Unfortunately the 'B' team had to withdraw 12 miles from home. However the result made the Squadron the top Royal Signals Squadron team in Cyprus.

### CO's CUP

If the Squadron was to keep in touch with the St. John school staff and the combined Limassol units team a good result in the competition shooting was essential. Our team consisted of **Staff Sergeant John Phillips, Corporal Keith Ellison** and **Signalman Derek Hannan,** ably supervised by **Lieutenant Gordon Raku.** After a very close shoot we were to be the eventual runners up, which puts us back into second place overall.

Our congratulations go to **Staff Sergeant Keith Zoing** and **Sergeant John Burgess** as two outstanding sportsmen, having both been chosen to captain the Army Cyprus rugby and soccer teams respectively. Both **Keith** and **John** have had successful careers up to present having regularly played for Royal Signals (UK) and BAOR in their respective games.

Finally the Squadron was well represented in the Army hockey when for the first time ever the Army (Cyprus) beat the RAF (Cyprus) 2 goals to nil. Our men with the sticks were **Sergeant Mick Raybould, Sergeant Eddie Mulvana** and **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Nick Scott.**

TWO OUTSTANDING CORPS SPORTSMEN

Staff Sergeant Keith Zoing (*left*) of rugby fame—he captains the Army (Cyprus) side and Sergeant John Burgess equally prominent in the soccer world who currently captains the Army (Cyprus) football team

### FAREWELL

February saw the departure of the Commander 3rd Signal Group **Colonel C. O. Bound.** During his final visit to us he 'walked about' the Episkopi part of the Squadron and stopped to chat to as many men as possible. Before leaving the Squadron the Commander presented the LS & GC Medal to **Staff Sergeant Bob Woods** and in turn was presented with an ancient 'bulled-up' (working!) candle-stick telephone (GPO type 150).

## News from Troops

## 605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan
## B.F.P.O. 180

### MOVEMENTS

DURING the past month three of our more 'experienced' members have left for 'greener' pastures. **Corporals Pete Monteith** and **Sam Coltman** have been lost to 259 Squadron in Cyprus, and **Lance-Corporal Ken White** has gone to 30 Regiment. We welcome **Corporals Dave McKay** and **Brian Hutchinson,** and hope they both have a pleasant and enjoyable tour here on Gan.

### SPORT—DHONI RACE, EASTER

On UK Public Holidays an inter-section boat race is held over a one thousand yard course round some mooring buoys in the lagoon. The boats used are native fishing boats known as Dhoni's. A crew consists of eight oarsmen and a coxswain, with the Maldivian boat owner at the helm and also 'guarding his own interests'.

In the Easter Dhoni Race the Troop was represented by coxswain, **Signalman Bob Lane** and the oars manned by **Sergeants Paul Hill** (RE Postal Service) and **Pete Smith, Corporals Alan Taylor, Mick Taylor, Brian Fenton,** and **Bill Stadius, Lance-Corporal Ken White,** and **Signalman Nigel Grant.**

After a 'Le Mans' style start and allowing for the disadvantages of a bad draw for start positions we succeeded in getting under way. The congestion of boats as we rounded the marker buoys was reminiscent of Tattenham Corner on Derby Day, and our Dhoni seemed to be on the receiving end of quite a lot of the ramming that was taking place, obtaining a broken oar in the process. Following a 'running battle' with an RAF Police crew going 'into the home strait', during which the Officer in Charge Police Flight got rather wet, we crossed the line in ninth position out of twenty-one starters.

The Troop are claiming a representative in the winning boat as **Corporal Sam Coltman** was rowing for Hittadu Flight, the unit to which he is detached.

As a measure of our confidence of greater success in the Whitsun Dhoni Race, we have extended an invitation to the Station Warrant Officer to take him water skiing that afternoon.

DHONI RACE, GAN ISLAND, EASTER SATURDAY 1974

A photograph showing the close competition and near collisions in the Dhoni Race. (Chay Blyth beware!)





### CHARITY WALK

On Friday 12th April **Sergeant Gavin Newman** of the RAF carried out a sponsored walk of 50 miles. The Troop raised fourteen pounds and ten pence for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

### VISITS

We welcomed the OC and F. of S. of 28 (UK) Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, **Major Ian Graham** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Lynn** for a 'good neighbourly' visit on 16th/17th April. We hope they both enjoyed their stay and extend our best wishes for success in their newly formed Squadron.

### HOW THE RAF SEE US

The attached letter was received from an RAF Master Pilot with the request that it be forwarded for publication. THIS IS A GENUINE LETTER!

It may be of comfort to those travelling by courtesy of the RAF that **Ken Shardlow** does not 'drive' RAF passenger aircraft.

**Master Pilor Shardlow K.**
Sergeants Mess,
RAF GAN.
BFPO 180.

dear mr wiRe

i seed iN wun ov yUre magazeens a aRtikle abowt 605 signal trOop; i serVe/swerve with the rAf in gan wat is run by 605 siGnal troop. theiR is many off them and they is kwite reesonable blokes if we keap them welL fed,

heRe in gan with no wars to fiTe u wood tHink soldjers)we call them ponGoes) wood not be wanted; but we the crEme do hour hour probleMs from time to tymE. these is solvde on the spot By the soldjers wat terns up: i mite also add that apart from lAddersin the rufe and blokes wat fall Throo the rufe; life are goibg along very nise tHank yuo—

In a more serious vein, they (605 Troop) do a great job, and should be congratulated on their perseverence in face of great odds. (This applies to all 'Pongoes' serving with the 'Penguins').

**K. Shardlow,**
Master Pilot.
Hon. Pongo Extraordinaire.

p.S. i am fareley Well edUcated but tHis tie-pryter is u|S?

### NOTE TO EDITOR.

If these notes do not arrive by 12th May, one or more of the following are at fault:—

(1) N.C.O. i/c Postal Section, RAF Gan (most unlikely).
(2) Air Movements, RAF Gan.
(3) Staging Aircraft Servicing Flight, RAF Gan.
(4) 'Sticky' VC10 pilot Gan to Akrotiri.
(5) Staging Aircraft Servicing Flight, RAF Akrotiri.
(6) Air Movements, RAF Akrotiri.
(7) 'Sticky' VC10 pilot Akrotiri to Brize Norton.
(8) Air Movements, RAF Brize Norton.
(9) GPO (more than likely).
(10) 605 Troop (definitely not).

## The Volunteers

### 38th Signal Regiment (V) Officers visit Cyprus

**A REPORT FROM MAJORS IAIN McCULLOCH AND ALAN RIPLEY**

WE were fortunate in obtaining an attachment for 15 days to 3 Signal Group at Episkopi in Cyprus. The Commander of 3 Group, **Colonel Curl** had previously been the CO of one of our sister Regiments in 2 Group and his staff had prepared for us a varied and interesting programme with flexibility being the keynote.

During our first week we visited and were looked after by 259 and 261 Squadrons. They gave us the opportunity not only to see the types of job carried out by each squadron, but also to visit different parts of the island itself. One of these visits was particularly memorable in that the Cypriot driver who took us to a Radio Relay Detachment on Troodos mountain was determined to be at the existing track record set up by **Lieutenant Iain Brown,** our excellent escort. We are not sure whether he succeeded or not as we were almost pronounced DOA.

Our thanks must go to **Major Mike Chandler** who as OC 259 gave us a splendid briefing on the work of his squadron, complete with diagrams which sprang to life at the touch of a button. The performance was enhanced by the remote controlled curtain falling, complete with rail, on the unsuspecting heads of his audience.

We are also indebted to **Captain P. I. M. Meaning** who as acting OC of 261 devoted some considerable time to showing us the work of his squadron and also involved us in Saturday morning sports activities where we narrowly avoided defeat at the hands of his tennis representatives—we remain unconvinced that it was the first time they had played.

The weekend was spent in a visit to Paphos and a journey through the mainly Turkish sector of the island—or at least that was the original intention. Unfortunately we were turned back at a check-point because of lack of identification and also, or so **Major Alan Ripley** says, because the other half of the party was beginning to look like a Greek after some afternoons of sunbathing

Our second week started with a visit to 262 Squadron at Dhekelia where the OC **Major Laurie Woods** filled us in on the activities of his squadron. Back then to Episkopi for a splendid Beating the Retreat ceremony by 1st Royal Anglian Regiment followed by a reception.

Our two weeks finished on a high note with an informal party in the Nearelf mess. The occasion was Easter Monday but it also coincided with out last night, or more correctly our last morning. We must not finish without commenting on the hospitality shown to us not only by the Commander and Staff of 3 Group and by the Squadrons themselves, but also by the members of the Nearelf mess. We would like to mention in particular the officers of 1st Royal Anglian Regiment to whom we send our best wishes in their move to Tidworth.

We returned to the UK not only with a suntan but also with a little more Signal knowledge and certainly a greater understanding of the Regular Army. It is hoped that the exercise can be repeated for others who have lived and worked only with a UKLF role for more years than they care to remember.

## Sport

### Army Golf Meeting

THE 1974 Army Golf Meeting was held on the prestigious links of the Royal St. Georges and Royal Cinque Ports Golf Clubs between 4th and 10th May and saw a round dozen of the Corps' golfers taking part. **Major General E. S. Cole** unfortunately couldn't play through a previous bout of illness but as President of the Army Golfing Society spent more time on the course than most of the players. There are, regrettably, no success stories to report. **Major Dick Carroll** was the only Corps golfer to qualify for the Army Championship, being placed 3rd in the qualifying event, but losing his first match in the Championship proper. For the first time for about 20 years two teams represented the Corps in the Ordnance Challenge Cup. This satisfactory state of affairs was only partly justified by the results however. In the Ordnance Cup teams of five play Match play singles over the full eighteen holes, the number of holes up and down over all five matches giving the result. The 'B' team won its first two matches, against the Army Air Corps and RAOC 'B' and in each match the result depended on the very last putt—in the match against AAC **Lieutenant Willy Brewin** had to hole a long putt to win and in the match against RAOC 'B' their last player had to miss his putt—it was good cliff-hanging nail-biting stuff. The 'B' team was finally beaten by RAPC 'B' by three holes, at the quarter-final stage of the competition. The 'A' team had a comfortable win over RCT in its first match, the margin being 19 holes, but then went down to the formidable RAMC 'A' team by 5 holes in the second match, again this being at the quarter-final stage. The Corps representatives were:

| 'A' TEAM | 'B' TEAM |
|---|---|
| **Major R. B. Carroll** | **Brigadier A. J. Jackson** |
| **Lieutenant R. G. Heaney** | **Colonel (Retd.) D. D. Fairman, O.B.E.** |
| **Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) S. Schofield** | **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.** |
| **Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Hales** | **Major J. D. Potts** |
| **Captain P. V. Dixon** | **Lieutenant W. E. Brewin** |

## The most successful Minor Unit Hockey Team in B.A.O.R.?

6 ARMOURED BRIGADE HQ & SIGNAL SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM

*Standing, left to right:* Captain Browne, Y. of S. Donaldson, Signalman Viegas, Lance-Corporal Kirby, F. of S. Smart, Corporal Clement, Captain Cook

*Sitting, left to right:* Sergeant Jones, Captain Woodhouse, Sergeant Kernohan, Corporal Soaris, Major Swan

THIS year, 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron has had a very successful season having won a trophy in every competition they have entered for as a full team.

The season started with the Soest Garrison Minor Units League where five teams were entered. This league provided the ideal opportunity to get together a team for what was to be a very full season.

A squad of players was chosen who were hockey players only so that we did not have to worry about sports fixtures constantly clashing which is so often the case with a minor unit.

We were undefeated in the Soest League and ended up with a goal average of 13 for and 3 against after four matches.

Next came the new Western League which was for major and minor units. As an incentive for goalscoring, an extra point was awarded for scoring three goals or more in a match irrespective of the result.

In our pre-christmas matches we were unbeaten but had dropped 2 points from two 2-goal wins. After the break things hotted up especially after our 1–0 defeat at the hands of 22 L AD Regiment R.A. The top position was constantly changing between ourselves and 4 Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron whom we finally met on 9th March at Munster. We came from behind each time to earn a 3–3 draw.

The pressure was so great at the top that, with one match left to play, we had to win and score three goals to win the title. This we did with a 5–1 win over the Royal Irish Rangers and so became the first unit to win the Western League challenge cup.

4 Guards Brigade finished in second place with 36 points to our 37 points.

Whilst all this was happening, we were also keeping ourselves busy in the BAOR Minor Units knockout cup. Having won the earlier rounds, the Divisional final was played on the 27th Feb. We emerged as 4th Division champions after defeating 4 Field Workshops REME 2–1.

In the BAOR semi-finals, we met RE Ratingen on a shale pitch at Rheindahlen. At the end of extra time, the score was 1–1 and so a penalty flick competition was staged to decide the result. The pitch played havoc with the flicks and, combined with some good saves by both goalkeepers, it was not until we went into 'sudden death' that we emerged victorious. Both teams would have preferred a replay as opposed to this unsatisfactory way of winning.

The BAOR Final came and went with our team having to settle for the runners up trophy. We met a very good 1 Division Aviation Regiment side and although opening the scoring in the second half, we eventually went down to the fitter side 1–4.

Our seasons record in league and cup matches reads as follows:

| P | W | D | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 82 | 21 |

Scorers: **Sergeant Kernehan**—35, **Corporal Soaris**—18, **Major Swan**—15, **Captain Woodhouse**—6, **Captain Cook**—4, **Sergeant Roberts**—2, **Sergeant Reilly**—1, **Signalman Veigas**—1.



## Corps Football

### CORPS 4 v. RAPC 3

THE last game of the 1973/74 season was played against the RAPC at Catterick on Wednesday 24th April. This strong team, with an enviable reputation for playing strong football, held the Corps Team to a 2–2 draw at half time. A third goal by the RAPC soon after play was resumed, caused long faces along the touchline. Those were soon removed with two more goals by the Corps. The 4–3 score held until the end of the match.

Scorers were **Corporal Ruffer,** two, with one each for **Signalman Yates** and **Signalman McArthur.** Their determination and opportunisn assured the Corps victory in a very clean, fast and hard fought game that required all the home team had to avoid a defeat.

The team was selected from **Staff Sergeant Smurthwaite,** AAC Harrogate (Captain), **Sergeant Gallagher** (8 Regiment), **Sergeant Beston** (11 Regiment), **Corporal Reilly** (8 Regiment), **Corporal Pickersgill** (28 (BR) Regiment), **Corporal Ruffer** (10 Regiment), **Corporal Pinkus** (602 Troop), **Lance Corporal Boyd** (8 Regiment), **Lance Corporal Keegan** (11 Regiment), **Signalman Yates** (24 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), **Signalman Cardwell** (216 Squadron), **Signalman McArthur** (8 Signal Regiment), **Signalman Rosslee** (19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron), **Lance Corporal Chandler** and **Signalman Welsh** (5 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron).

## Corps Badminton—End of Season Report

THIS season followed the now familiar pattern of four week-end matches in the Army Badminton League and the Corps Tournament. Because of postings a very limited number of players was available to play for the Corps but considerable support was forthcoming from the Army Apprentice College Harrogate.

### ARMY BADMINTON LEAGUE

The result of the league was decided on a count of games. The matches and rubbers won were drawn between the Corps and the RAOC. Unfortunately we lost by 79 to 78 and were therefore second on this points count.

The second team were placed bottom in the league and are relegated to Division Two. This, however, hides a very good performance by the Apprentices and the gaining of much invaluable experience.

### CHANGE OF SECRETARY

The Secretary for the Corps Badminton is now **Captain E. Holland, W.O.2 Stan Hargreaves** of 30th Regiment, Blandford is assisting him and correspondence should now be addressed to him. He is eager to hear from players who feel they could represent the Corps next season.

## Target Rifle Shooting

### INTER SERVICE PRONE, STANDING AND KNEELING (PSK) MATCH, 28th APRIL.

**MAJOR D. C. N. GENDERS,** Royal Signals, GSO 2 Ops/SD HQ South East District, was appointed Captain of the Army Team in the above match. The Army won the match, beating the RN and RM into second and third places respectively. **Major D. C. N. Genders** was the highest individual scorer with 496 points. There were no other Royal Signals competitors.

### NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATON (NRA) TARGET RIFLE TEAM

**Major D. C. N. Genders** was appointed Vice Captain of the NRA National Team touring the Channel Islands in late May. There were no other serving military members of the team.

LATE NEWS

## Corps Successes at N.R.A. Meeting

The Captain of Corps Shooting reports:

Delighted to inform you of the following successes at the N.R.A. Meeting at Bisley. The Royal Signals team won the cup for aggregate of sitting and standing matches. In standing match **Corporal Jacques** was first, **Major Golding** was second, **W.O.2 Smith** was third.

## Orienteering

THE School has had a fairly successful season during 1973/74. Most of the team regularly turned out with local civilian clubs, but the major aim was the SW District competition held in March. On the day we were kept in suspense until the last man booked in, but unfortunately we were beaten to 2nd place by a mere few seconds by 20 Medium Regiment RA. However, this result qualified for a place in the Army (UK) Championships held near Ripon in early April. The team did tremendously well to finish fourth against very strong opposition, but at the same time soundly trounced the team that beat us in the District competition. We are now confidently looking forward to even better results next year.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS ORIENTEERING TEAM

*Back row:* Major Brunton, Sergeant Letts, Captain Farrimond

*Front row:* Major Bushell, Sergeant Higgins, Captain Vines

## Corps Sport—50 years ago

In 1924 your Corps won:—
—The Army Team Boxing Championships
—The Army Team Athletics
—The Army Team Cross Country
—The Sussex Senior Football Cup
—The South of the Thames Cross Country.

They were third in the London to Brighton road relay against the pick of the English clubs.

Our great athlete, **Joe Cotterell,** in the same year won:
—The English Cross Country Championship
—The International Cross Country Championship
—The four mile event at the Amateur Athletic Association meeting.

Not bad going when you come to consider it!

**OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN**

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

# Association News

## Cardiff Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. G. Jones, School House, Senghenydd.

WITH the election of a number of serving W.O's and Sergeants of 53rd (W) Squadron (V) to our Committee for 1974, a new and ambitious air seems to dominate. **Gill Jones** is now supported by **Brian Murby** (Mess President), **Gordon Baker, Jack Evans, Jim Lister** and **Mac Lott.** We are hoping to re-kindle support in the branch members who have strayed.

**Flo** and **Glen Stevens** were Guests of Honour at a St. David's Day W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess function when they were presented with tokens of thanks from the Mess and from the Branch to mark their retirement after many years of service as steward and stewardess of the Mess bar. The presentations were made by **Lieutenant-Colonel Morris Flynn,** Commanding Officer and Branch President.

**May Rolls,** a supporter and ardent worker for the Branch for many years has been awarded Associate Membership of this Branch in recognition of the work she has done, particularly in organising raffles in the Mess and at Branch functions.

## Jersey Branch

Hon. Sec.: **E. A. Strutt, Esq.,** 106 La Collette Green Street, St. Helier, Jersey, C.I.

GREETINGS from the most Southerly Branch of the Royal Signals Association in the British Isles.

Although small in number we are very active, meeting every month in a local historic pub the 'Cosy Corner' (formerly called 'The Cock and Bottle') one of Jersey's oldest public houses.

The highlight of the year so far was Ladies' night when we entertained wives and lady friends to dinner. This year it was held on Saturday, April 27 at the Savoy Hotel, Jersey, and an excellent meal was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the dinner we enjoyed listening to a very amusing and instructive talk by our guest **Raoul Lempriere,** local author, historian and advocate of the Royal Court.

Our photograph shows our worthy Chairman, **Captain John Rudkin** speaking before the toast to the Ladies, his charming wife **Pia** on his left replied to the toast.

A most pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Note for any ex-members of the Corps living in Jersey—we will be pleased to hear from you, or see you at the 'Cosy' first Tuesday each month.

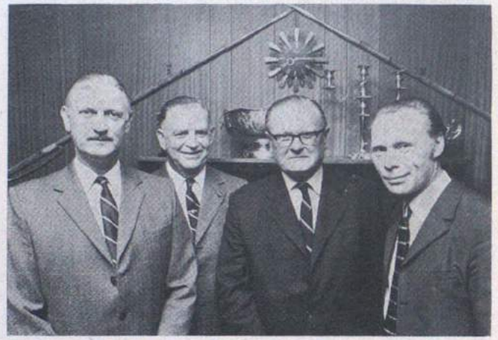
Chairman of the Jersey Branch, Captain John Rudkin says a few words at the annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel

## Sheffield Branch

Hon. Secretary: **F. S. Stockdale, Esq., B.E.M.,** 21 Blackstock Close, Sheffield.

On 19th April we were very honoured to have **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary of the Association as a guest at the Annual Dinner. Some 70 members, wives and friends enjoyed a splendid meal and dance. We are now looking forward to the annual pilgrimage to Catterick on 29th/30th June and hope to meet many of our yesteryear friends.

The Branch meets at the Sergeants Mess, 39 Regiment (V), Manor TAVR Centre, Intake, on three Thursdays of each month. An enjoyable social evening is held monthly.



AT THE SHEFFIELD BRANCH DINNER

*Left to right:* Major Pat Lafferty, Mr. Frank Stockdale, B.E.M. (Secretary), Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. Mr. Fred Powell J.P. (Chairman)

# Welfare

## THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

**APRIL 1974**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially:** .. | **15** |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** .. .. | **45** |
| **Amount Spent** .. .. .. .. .. | **£482·75** |

**WAR MEMORIAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of grants** .. .. .. .. | **9** |
| **Amount Spent** .. .. .. .. .. | **£173·00** |

### One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, 15 years' service. For the last 4 years, he has been very ill, and his wife has cared for him devotedly. They had become deperately short of bedding and clothing, and the Association made a grant of £40 to provide much needed replacements.

### One of the Month's Letters

AM writing to thank you for your most welcome letter, telling us of the grant you have given us so that we can go away for a holiday. It will be a pleasure to get away from here (Belfast), even for a few days, just to get peace and quiet. It will be really something to look forward to. So will you please say a big Thank You to the Committee. They have been very kind and generous to us.



## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during March, 1974.

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding, 38 Signal Regiment (V) .. .. .. | 17·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 223 Signal Squadron (Radio) .. .. | 3·15 |
| Hon Secretary, Reading Branch, Royal Signal Association .. .. | 20·00 |
| Hon Secretary, Northampton Branch, Royal Signal Association .. | 5·00 |
| Hon Secretary, Hartlepool Branch, Royal Signal Association .. | 3·00 |
| Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford .. .. .. .. .. | 10·00 |
| Mrs. M. R. Morgan .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 5·00 |
| Major (T.O.M.) V. J. King, In memory of the late Major G. H. R. Flynn .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 3·00 |
| Mrs. E. Flynn .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 2·00 |
| C. K. McLennan, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1·05 |
| R. N. Houston, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1·00 |
| F. Winter, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 53 |
| J. Cochran, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 53 |
| S. Pratt, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 |
| H. G. Smyth, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 |
| Major M. Gordon-Wilson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 |
| J. Lothian, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 |
| Various small donations .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 2·20 |
| Total .. .. | £75·46 |

## Promotions

The Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the "Blue Book"

| *Name* | *Initials* | *Rank* | *Trade* | *New Sen. Date.* | *Old Sen Date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Jones, | R. A. | A/W.O.1 | | 21 Nov. 73 | 1 Jan. 70 |
| Wallace, | W. G. | A/W.O.1 | | 14 Dec. 73 | 9 Jan. 70 |
| Cooley, | A. E. | A/W.O.1 | | 2 Jan. 74 | 22 Feb. 69 |
| Wheeler, | D. N. | A/W.O.1 | | 2 Feb. 74 | 25 Feb. 69 |
| Davis, | K. O. | A/W.O.1 | | 3 Feb. 74 | 10 May 71 |
| Hammond-Haley, | W. K. | A/W.O.1 | | 4 Feb. 74 | 12 Feb. 68 |
| Arnold, | H. G. | A/W.O.1 | | 5 Feb. 74 | 23 Feb. 68 |
| Winning, | J. P. C. | A/W.O.1 | | 29 Mar. 74 | 13 May 70 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Robinson | B. F. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Lmn | 6 Nov. 73 | 1 Sep. 66 |
| Fernie, | P. J. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 2 Jan. 74 | 16 Jun. 69 |
| | | STAFF SERGEANT SENIORITY ROLL | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Costigan, | C. | Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 8 Jan. 74 | 31 Jan. 66 |
| Muxworthy, | P. | A/S/Sgt. | Data Tg. | 1 Feb. 74 | 10 Jul. 68 |
| Leech, | R. A. | A/S/Sgt. | Clk Tech. | 2 Feb. 74 | 1 Dec. 55 |
| Abson, | M. J. | A/S/Sgt. | Clk Tech. | 4 Feb. 74 | 4 Sep. 70 |
| Bryar, | E. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 5 Feb. 74 | 31 Jan. 62 |
| Harlick, | K. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 6 Feb. 74 | 9 Mar. 69 |
| Young, | J. C. M. | Sgt. | Clk Tech. | 3 Mar. 74 | 31 Mar. 65 |
| Harding, | T. T. F. | Sgt. | Clk Tech. | 4 Mar. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Holcombe, | N. J. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 6 Mar. 74 | 20 May 64 |
| | | FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Yates, | G. E. | W.O.2 | | 1 Dec. 73 | 9 Mar. 69 |
| Thornber, | P. A. | W.O.2 | | 1 Jan. 74 | 17 Jul. 71 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Jepson, | B. | W.O.2 | | 15 Mar. 74 | 15 Mar. 68 |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Hall, | A. J. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 22 Oct. 70 |
| Patton, | N. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 25 Sep. 69 |
| Catley, | M. E. R. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 13 Nov. 67 |
| Offord, | R. C. | Sgt. | TE Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| Huey, | H. A. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 31 Mar. 69 |
| James, | R. M. | Sgt. | R Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 14 May 64 |
| Connor, | H. E. | Sgt. | TE Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| James, | R. A. | Sgt. | R Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 11 Apr. 68 |
| Watson, | J. A. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 19 Dec. 69 |
| Shawyer | P. D. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 17 Dec. 69 |
| Bruce, | P. | S/Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 30 Sep. 72 |
| Logan, | J. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 12 Aug. 70 |
| Wells, | J. P. | Sgt. | TE Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 13 Mar. 70 |
| Bannister | G. A. | Sgt. | RR Tech | 17 Nov. 73 | 13 Aug. 69 |
| | | SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Casey, | S. T. | S/Sgt. | | 1 Feb. 74 | 2 May 70 |
| | | YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Ross, | J. M. | S/Sgt. | | 2 Jan. 74 | 2 Apr. 70 |
| Rice, B.E.M. | B. A. | S/Sgt. | | 1 Feb. 74 | 26 Nov. 70 |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Altham, | M. | S/Sgt. | R Tg | 9 Aug. 72 | 30 Nov. 68 |
| Chisholm, | R. C. W. | S/Sgt. | R Tg | 6 Aug. 73 | 5 Nov. 69 |
| Calvert, | J. F. | Sgt. | R Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 23 Mar. 73 |
| Lister, | D. C. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 3 Sep. 72 |
| Isherwood, | J. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 9 Feb. 70 |
| Naylor, | N. J. H. | Cpl. | Data Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 31 Mar. 69 |
| MacQueen, | C. H. F. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 18 Dec. 72 |
| Bell, | R. J. | Sgt. | R Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 5 Jul. 73 |
| Gilhooly, | B. J. | Sgt. | R Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 2 Apr. 72 |
| Alway, | B. J. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 22 Nov. 73 | 6 Sep. 72 |

*(Continued overleaf)*

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TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Hume, | J. A. | Sgt. | 12 Dec. 73 | 8 Jan. 65 |
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Reardon, | K. P. | Cpl. | 8 Oct. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Murray, | K. A. | Cpl. | 13 Nov. 73 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Spence, | D. M. | Cpl. | 23 Jan. 74 | 14 Dec. 68 |
| Copeland, | A. S. | Cpl. | 23 Jan. 74 | 14 Dec. 68 |
| Vanparys, | B. C. | Cpl. | 23 Jan. 74 | 25 Jun. 70 |
| Sutherland, | E. M. | Cpl. | 24 Jan. 74 | 29 Nov. 68 |
| Newlands, | J. D. | Cpl. | 19 Feb. 74 | 17 May 67 |
| Andrews, | D. S. S. | Cpl. | 21 Feb. 74 | 10 Jun 69 |
| Melia, | B. M. | Cpl. | 14 Mar. 74 | 5 Apr. 72 |

RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Roberts | R. J. G. | Cpl. | 27 Sep. 73 | 7 May 69 |
| Platts, | C. M. | Cpl. | 30 Oct. 73 | 15 May 70 |
| Jones, | S. M. | Cpl. | 6 Dec. 73 | 29 Oct. 71 |
| Harvey, | R. | Cpl. | 18 Jan. 74 | 20 Apr. 67 |

RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Billsberry, | B. K. | Cpl. | 19 Nov. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Inglis, | B. | Cpl. | 17 Jan. 74 | 15 Jul. 71 |
| Mather, | D. | Cpl. | 7 Feb. 74 | 21 Jan. 71 |
| Ellis, | R. J. | Cpl. | 13 Feb. 74 | 12 May 68 |
| Prebble, | D. A. | Cpl. | 1 Mar. 74 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| West, | G. A. Y. | Cpl. | 4 Mar. 74 | 18 Jun. 71 |
| Randerson, | B. L. | Cpl. | 7 Mar. 74 | 11 Feb. 71 |
| Higgins, | E. | Cpl. | 18 Mar. 74 | 20 Nov. 71 |
| Payne, | D. F. | Cpl. | 21 Mar. 74 | 6 Oct. 71 |
| Whitbread, | P. O. | Cpl. | 22 Mar. 74 | 15 Jul. 71 |

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANICAL ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Muir, | J. | A/Sgt. | 1 Mar. 74 | 31 Jan. 69 |
| Buttery, | V. M. | Cpl. | 2 Mar. 74 | 31 Jan. 70 |
| Hawkins, | R. G. | Cpl. | 5 Mar. 74 | 31 Jan. 66 |
| Pettie, | W. L. | Cpl. | 6 Mar. 74 | 31 Dec. 63 |

DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Muxworthy, | P. | A/S/Sgt. | 1 Feb. 74 | 10 Jul. 68 |
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Brians, | L. J. | A/Sgt. | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Broadbent, | L. | A/Sgt. | 2 Apr. 74 | 4 Oct. 61 |

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Rowlings, | D. | A/Sgt. | 3 Apr. 74 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Beharrel, | K. | Cpl. | 8 Apr. 74 | 1 Apr. 71 |
| Jack, | H. F. G. | Cpl. | 9 Apr. 74 | 1 Apr. 71 |

CLERK TECHNICAL (R. SIGNALS) ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Leech, | R. A. | A/S/Sgt. | 2 Feb. 74 | 1 Dec. 55 |
| Abson, | M. J. | A/S/Sgt. | 4 Feb. 74 | 4 Sep. 70 |
| Young, | J. C. M. | Sgt. | 3 Mar. 74 | 31 Mar. 65 |
| Harding, | T. T. F. | Sgt. | 4 Mar. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Jackson, | F. | Cpl. | 4 Jul. 73 | 28 Feb. 66 |
| Hancock, | R. | Cpl. | 3 Aug. 73 | 31 Dec. 66 |
| George, | E. M. | Cpl. | 1 Feb. 74 | 30 Apr. 71 |
| Ross, | D. G. | Cpl. | 2 Feb. 74 | 30 Apr. 68 |

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Costigan, | C. | Sgt. | 8 Jan. 74 | 31 Jan. 66 |

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Bryar, | E. | A/S/Sgt. | 5 Feb. 74 | 31 Jan. 62 |
| Harlick, | K. | A/S/Sgt. | 6 Feb. 74 | 9 Mar. 69 |
| Holcombe, | N. J. | A/S/Sgt. | 6 Mar. 74 | 20 May 64 |
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Ozanne, | B. G. | Cpl. | 3 Jan. 74 | 30 Sep. 70 |
| Middleton, | G. D. | A/Sgt. | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Dec. 68 |
| Oliver, | R. A. | A/Sgt. | 17 Nov. 73 | 31 May 70 |

## *Goods available from Association HQ*

| | |
|---|---|
| Corps Ties—Woollen | 75p |
| Terylene, Type A | 55p |
| Terylene (narrow) Type D | 55p |
| Terylene (narrow) Type E (Horizontal Stripes) | 45p |
| Corps Scarves—Woollen | £1·32 |
| Corps Squares—Rayon | £1·05 |
| Corps Cuff Links | £1·05 |
| Association Badges, Brooch Type (Members only) | 22p |
| Corps Blazer Badges (Silver 'Jimmy', Crown and Motto in gold, as approved by the Corps Committee) on Black or Dark Navy Blue background | £1·80 |
| Blazer Buttons—Large (each) | 18p |
| Small (each) | 16p |
| Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours) Bumper or Radiator fittings | £2·20 |
| Motor Car Badges—square plastic | £1·50 |
| Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours) | 75p |
| Corps Plaques with 'Royal Corps of Signals' Scroll or Scroll left blank | £2·36 |
| Key-Rings with Corps Badge Tag (each) | 16p |
| Glass Ash Tray embossed with Corps Badge (each) | 55p |
| Driver Licence/I.D. Car Holder with 'Jimmy' Crest (each) | 15p |
| Corps Clipper Board Folders in Blue Vinyl with 'Jimmy' Crest in gold (each) | £1·10 |
| Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers: | |
| Large (10" × 7½") each | 44p |
| Medium (7½" × 5⅛") each | 35p |
| Small (3" × 2⅛") each | 30p |
| Corps table mats (set of six) | £4·80 |
| Corps cocktail mats (set of six) | £1·32 |
| Corps diaries (1975) plannertype | 35p |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| 4th | 229 Signal Squadron | 52 pts |

## *Late Rugby News*

**AWARD OF CORPS COLOURS FOR RUGBY—SEASON 1973/74**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Signalman T. Aitken** | 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| **Sergeant K Durkin** | 11 Signal Regiment |
| **Signalman F. Fallon** | 7 Signal Regiment |
| **Corporal A. Hickling** | 3 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| **Sergeant A. J. Lowry** | 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| **Signalman S. Peacock** | 8 Signal Regiment |
| **Sergeant F. A. Williams** | 7 Signal Regiment |

**RE-AWARD OF CORPS COLOURS FOR RUGBY—SEASON 1973/74**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lance-Corporal E. Abbott** | 7 Signal Regiment |
| **Captain W. H. Backhouse** | RMA Sandhurst |
| **Captain R. F. Baly** | HQ UKLF |
| **Sergeant I Cairns** | AA College Harrogate |
| **Captain S. Coltman** | School of Signals |
| **Lance-Corporal H. Elkan** | 11 Signal Regiment |
| **Corporal K. L. Gilder** | 7 Signal Regiment |
| **Lance-Corporal D. Higgins** | 7 Signal Regiment |
| **Lance-Corporal D. A. James** | 7 Signal Regiment |
| **Sergeant T. Johnson** | 8 Signal Regiment |
| **Sergeant R. G. Marshall** | 8 Signal Regiment |
| **Signalman W. A. McConnell** | 7 Signal Regiment |






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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*July-August 1974*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

# 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. 4RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

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☆

**JULY/AUGUST • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 7**


# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month features the Corps in a Norwegian setting. The photograph, which recently came into our possession, unfortunately omits the name of the soldier in the foreground and various enquiries made by us have not been successful in finding out who he is. However the main point of the picture is to underline one of our Wire slogans—"The Corps gets around"

Despite the loss over the years of many overseas stations it is quite remarkable how many parts of the world still see the Corps cap badge. In this issue of *The Wire* alone mention is made of Corps soldiers in Canada, Denmark, Mexico, Sardinia, Italy, France, Algeria, Nigeria, Norway, Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Without doubt—the Corps still gets around!

## Army Benevolence in Action 1973/74

What follows summarises the great work being done by the Army Benevolent Fund and why we, as a Corps, give it our full support:

- Overall the Army Benevolent Fund and Corps and Regimental Associations spent **£925,000** in relief work during the financial year 1973/74. Of this sum **£494,000** came from the Army Benevolent Fund.
- Ex-Soldiers and their dependants in adversity were helped by Corps and Regimental Associations with grants totalling **£501,400** to which the Army Benevolent Fund contributed **£69,000.**
- Grants totalling **£102,700** were made to National Service Charities such as S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society and others to help general welfare, the cost of investigations and assistance in Army casework.
- The Regular Forces Employment Association, who found civilian employment for **3,032** soldiers, was helped by a grant of **£21,400.**
- National Service Charities dealing with the care and retraining of disabled ex-soldiers received **£82,500.**
- Children of ex-Soldiers in need, such as orphans, or only having one parent from broken homes were helped, directly or indirectly, to the extent of **£50,800.**
- Aged ex-Soldiers and their wives or widows, were helped by grants totalling **£43,000,** while National Charities caring for the aged received **£85,700.**
- Aid was given to the dependants of Soldiers killed in N. Ireland or directly to those discharged because of wounds, to a total of **£25,100.**
- Other soldiers in need were given grants totalling **£12,500.**
- Serving soldiers approaching the end of their Service were helped with interest free resettlement loans which added up to **£200,000.**

Very little of the above could happen were it not for the Day's Pay Scheme. We are glad to record that the Corps supports this scheme in no uncertain manner. There is still a small minority who do not contribute. The scheme is voluntary and it is not in the spirit of the scheme to bring pressure on those who do not see their way to help. Recently, the Association assisted a serving soldier with a loan who at the time was not a contributor. His length of service and the compassionate background to his application were the ultimate deciding factors in a doubtful case. Nevertheless, the fact remains that it was only possible to help him because the vast majority of his comrades were contributors. We feel that this is an aspect of the scheme that may cause non-contributors to give their support.

## From our "In" Tray

### Incorrect Title

Sir,

I feel it my duty to all REME Armourers to correct a mistake on behalf of **Corporal Baxter** of Bravo Troop, 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, BFPO 15.

The term 'Armourer' is a hard earned and justly coveted title and also happens to be the oldest trade in the history of the British Army. After the disbandment of the Corps of Armourer Sergeants the trade passed into the RAOC and with the formation of REME we again changed Corps. We also to my knowledge are the only trade to put our trade title before our rank, i.e. Armourer Lance-Corporal etc. It is, therefore, an insult to have another Corps take on the title in the case of **Corporal Baxter.** He is presumably an Arms-Storeman which is an entirely different role as I hope he appreciates.

Yours faithfully,

**A. R. Buckland, Armourer Lance-Corporal**

REME LAD,
13th Signal Regiment,
BFPO 40.

### "Specialisation"

*Reproduced by kind permission of the Editor "Gan Island Post".*

YOU learn something new every day, for example I was just reading the story of **James Thurber's** in which he recalls his grandmother's belief that electricity leaks out of an empty light socket if the switch has been left on. From this I gather—judging by the context—and the fact that **Thurber** was a humorist—that it doesn't. I was never taught electricity at school, nor was it often a topic of dinner table conversation between my parents. But what with reading **Thurber** here and having to change light bulbs or tune in a transistor radio there, I have picked up a pretty sound working knowledge of electrical matters. It's not comprehensive, God knows. I still can't fully understand why you can't boil an egg on an electric guitar, but when I jot down a summary of what I have learnt, I note that I have never been asked to write for the Electrical Journal. For instance:

- Most electricity is manufactured in power stations where it is fed into wires which are then wound around large drums.
- Some electricity, however, does not need to go along wires; that used in lightning for example. This kind of electricity is not generated, but is just lying about in the air, loose.
- Electricity makes a low, humming noise. This noise may be pitched at different levels for use in doorbells, telephones and electric organs.
- Electricity has to be earthed, that is to say it has to be connected to the ground before it can function, except in the case of aeroplanes, which have separate arrangements.
- Although electricity does not leak out of an empty light socket, that light socket is, nevertheless, live if you happened to shove your finger in it when the switch is on. If it is not leaking what is it doing?
- Electricity is made up of two ingredients, negative and positive. One ingredient travels along a wire covered with red plastic, and the other along a wire covered with black plastic. When these two wires meet together in what we call a plug, the different ingredients are mixed together to form electricity.
- Electricity may be stored in batteries. Big batteries do not necessarily hold more electricity than small batteries. In big batteries the electricity is just shovelled in, whilst in small batteries (transistors) it is packed flat.
- Incurious people are content to take all this for granted. They press the switch, and the light comes on—and that is all they know about the miracle in their homes. This has never been enough for me. I have to know how things work, and if I cannot find out from some technical handbook, then I combine such information as I already have with simple logic! Thus it is easy to deduce that the light switch controls a small clamp or vice which grips the wires very hard so that the electricity cannot get through. When the switch is flicked on, the vice is relaxed and the electricity travels to the light bulb where a bit of wire, called the element, is left bare. Here, for the first time, we can actually see the electricity, in the form of a spark. This spark is enlarged many hundreds of times by the curved bulb, which is made of magnifying glass.

Why, is our next question, do these light bulbs have a limited life? As any schoolboy knows, the heat converts the oxygen into moisture. When all the oxygen in the light bulb has become liquified in this manner, it naturally quenches the electric spark. I have not yet touched on the fuse wire. It has always amazed me that an industry which is so enterprising in most respects—the invention of colour electricity for use in traffic lights and the harnessing of negative electricity for refrigeration are two examples that come to mind—should still, 299 years after **James Watt** invented the electric kettle, be manufacturing fuse wire too thin. I pass on a hint for what it is worth. There is available from hardware stores a sturdy wire used mostly for making chicken runs, and this is far more durable than the stuff sold by electricians (who must, I appreciate, make a living). By using chicken wire I now have a fuse box which—even when the spindryer burst into flames because of too much electricity having been fed into it—has for six months been as impregnable as the Bank of England. But why have a fuse wire at all? I completely understand that the fusebox is the junction at which the wire leading from the power stations join, or fuse with, the wires belonging to the house, and these two sets of wires have got to be connected somehow. But what is wrong with a simple knot?

In some respects, I know, my knowledge is imperfect. I have not yet explored the field of neon signs—how do they make the electricity move about? And the pop-up toaster—how does it know when the toast is ready? What is the difference between electricity and electronics? Is electronics just a smart word to use now? Logic would answer these questions and many more of a technical nature, but the light over my desk has just gone out; a valve blown somewhere I expect!

BRITISH DESIGN COUNCIL AWARD FOR CONSUMER GOODS GOES TO CORPS OFFICER

We are pleased to announce that one of the above, much coveted, awards has been won by a serving officer of the Corps

Captain (TOT) John Jupe, at present with 227 Signal Squadron, won the award for the design of an artificial ski surface

Based on a pattern of interlocking sorbo modules which connect with adjustable clips the effect is to produce an all weather surface which can adapt to any irregularities of the ground over which it is placed. Much interest is being shown in this design by a number of countries including Japan and Iran

The picture shows John Jupe receiving the award from H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in London

S.O.-IN-C., INDIA VISITS

Lieutenant-General K. S. Garewal, Signal Officer-in-Chief, Indian Army, taking a look at Britain's communications industry, called at the Ministry of Defence on Wednesday, June 12th to meet his opposite number in the UK—Major-General Max Sawers

In the picture, General Garewal is seen handing over a plaque—the gift of all ranks of the Indian Corps of Signals to all ranks of the Royal Signals. The Indians' Mercury badge is similar to ours but with a five-pointed star in place of the crown. General Garewal's programme included visits to the School of Signals, and the Training Brigade

## Book Reviews

**THE BRUNEVALD RAID BY GEORGE MILLAR**

Those interested in individual operations in the last war will find this book enthralling and exciting. It describes not only the raid itself but also the background leading up to the raid on the German radar station at Brunevald in 1942 and the importance of radar to both sides. It is written in easily assimilated terms and is well illustrated. Published by the Bodley Head, 9 Bow Street, Covent Garden, London at £2·50.

**THE HUNDRED DAYS OF DARIEN BY RUSSELL BRADDEN**

This is a book well worth reading particularly for those interested in all the problems involved in reconnoitring, planning, administering and executing a major expedition in virtually untraversed country, the physical conditions of which are some of the worst in the world and where the time element was crucial. In any major expedition communications are essential in this case many problems existed but they were overcome. As **Major Blashford-Snell,** the leader of the expedition, said at the launching of the book, "Without good signals it could not have been done". Communications and administration were under the control of **Major Kelvin Kent** who was also deputy leader of the expedition. **Sergeant J. Murtagh, Lance-Corporal S. Holmes** and **Signalman N. Davies** were also members of the expedition. The book is exciting, easy to read and well illustrated. It is published by Collins, 14 St. James's Place, London at £3·25.

## Were you there? Waziristan/Spinwan 1936–1939

Ex-**Signalman W. G. Richardson** of Viaduct House, The Street, Brecon writes;

"On my medal ribbon is a clasp for 1936–1937 and above that is a bar with a second clasp 1937–1939 for my service in two different actions, i.e. Waziristan District 1936–1937 and the Spinwan District 1937–1939. I know a large number of Signals took part in these engagements on separate occasions but very few took part in both the engagements and I am trying to get in touch with any of these men.

Could you kindly put this request in THE WIRE"?

## Welfare

### THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of cases assisted financially in May | 32 |
| Number of clothing parcels sent ... ... | 61 |
| Amount spent .. .. .. .. .. | £1,014·94 |

**WAR MEMORIAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of grants ... ... ... ... ... | 16 |
| Amount spent ... ... ... ... ... | £304·00 |

### One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, 10 years' service in Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Gordon Highlanders, and Royal Signals. Married with 6 children. He has been unable to work for over a year, owing to ill health. Rent arrears had begun to accrue, and there was an Electricity bill which could not be met. Royal Signals Association made a grant of £30, and the Gordon Highlanders' Association also helped, so that these two debts could be cleared in full. Clothing parcels have also been sent for all the family. The man's letter is printed below.

### One of the Month's Letters

I'M afraid letter writing is not much in my line, but I'm so full up with what you've done for me. The circumstances I've been faced with this last twelve months have left me in such a confusion that I can't express my gratitude for the help I have received. Perhaps some day I might be able to give a helping hand to other people in need. One doesn't realize until these things happen just what wonderful people there are about, who do such good service and help where it is needed. Please accept grateful thanks from a thankful family.

**THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN**

## Thank You!

Since the beginning of April, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Mr. A. W. Smith, Mr. A. Walsh, Major P. R. Davies, Colonel A. L. Dowell, Staff Sergeant G. H. Little, Miss G. Wood, R.S.M. T. Keany, Major E. F. Prockter, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Milton, Mrs. Barrett, Mr and. Mrs. A. V. Ient, Mrs. B. A. Riley, Anonymous parcel of ladies' clothing (postmark illegible), Lieutenant-Colonel I. E. Simpson, Captain A. H. Wright, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Palmer, F. of S. and Mrs. N. Crowder, Mr. W. E. Osborne, 4 parcels from Defence Signal Staff, Ministry of Defence, Lady Rance, Sergeant J. A. Lund, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Harding, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Doze, Staff Sergeant F. Stevenson, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, Mrs. C. Rodgers, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. D. G. Perry, Major-General and Mrs. C. E. Page.

## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during May.

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| The Treasurer, Wives' Club, 262 Signal Squadron .. .. | 50·00 |
| Commandant, Royal Armoured Corps, Signal School .. .. | 25·00 |
| H. R. W. Marsh, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 10·00 |
| Colonel T. W. Vigurs, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L. .. .. .. | 2·10 |
| Colonel A. J. G. McNair. In memory of the late Major G. H. R. Flynn | 2·00 |
| W. R. Harmsworth, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1·65 |
| J. O. Buchanan, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 |
| Various small donations .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 77 |
| Total .. .. | £92·02 |

# THE ALAMEIN MEMORIAL CHURCH

Our photograph shows an interior view of the Alamein Memorial Church which was recently consecrated at Enham Alamein near Andover. Under the inspiring leadership of the **Reverend Leslie Pettifer** (formerly a Major in the Corps) an appeal committee was set up to raise funds to convert the existing Church of St. George into a national shrine in memory of the Battle of Alamein—a turning point in the second world war. Contributions both in cash and kind flowed in from military establishments in the U.K. and from many other parts of the world. The Corps played a full part in this. The two choir stalls were provided by the Association, the Chapel altar rail by the 13 Regiment, a pew by the 9th Regiment, carpeting by the 1st Armoured Division Signals Reunion Club and a chair by the Dorset Branch of the Association. In addition many units and branches of the Association made cash donations. All contributions have been recorded in a book of thanksgiving or by Corps/Regimental badges on the article presented.

View of Alamein Memorial Church as a whole

## Special Mention

**SERGEANT JOHN DAVID WELCH, ROYAL SIGNALS**
**8th REGIMENT**

AT 0030 hours on 4th February **Sergeant Welch** was returning to duty by car along the M62 motorway when he came upon the wreckage of a bus blown up at the side of the motorway near Dewsbury. He immediately tended to the injured using the first aid kit, blankets and sleeping bags from his car, and his own clothes. He organized assistance from other motorists and survivors of the explosion and continued to render immediate first aid to the wounded until the arrival of the police. He then helped to remove those dead and injured still trapped in the wreckage of the bus.

He later accompanied the police to a motorway service station where he telephoned his unit with the first report to the military authorities of the outrage. He stayed with the injured at the service station and returned with the survivors in a relief bus in the morning.

Throughout the period, **Sergeant Welch** showed initiative and clear thinking of the highest order and rendered considerable assistance to the victims and to the civil authorities.

The Commander-in-Chief UKLF has commended **Sergeant Welch** for his action and directed that an entry be made in the relevant documents, in accordance with Queen's Regulations paragraph 1633 (m).

## The White Helmets report in

ALTHOUGH the White Helmets haven't had a mention in THE WIRE for at least two issues, we'd just like to let you know that we're thrilling crowds all over Britain. Highlights of the year are the Royal Tournament in July (hope to see some WIRE readers there), and the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto in August.

The new Team members are making their mark (almost) on the great British public, notably at Preston Army display, where **Signalman Roger Charlesworth** found the heat of the fire a trifle warm and headed off at full throttle towards the VIP enclosure then veered off towards the commentator—no less a person than the OC himself. **Captain Jim Blake** stood his ground with full confidence in his man, but the same could not be said of his neighbours . . .

OH—YOU ARE AWFUL!
Dick Emery was special guest at the White Helmet's open show at Hounslow. He is seen here in 'uplifted' mood





The car jump started the season with a few problems caused by the height of the new Dolomite Sprint but now we have a new ramp, the jump is even more spectacular (although **Signalman Bob Barkess** swears it ruins his married life). Talking of marriage, **Second-Lieutenant Fifi Richards** has finally hooked **Captain Graham Elliot** of 11th Regiment but they're having difficulty in finding a date to get round to it . . . so busy is the Team this summer.

Avid followers of the White Helmets can rest assured that more notes will be submitted for favour of publication after the Tournament and Canada, but until then . . .

## Royal Signals Christmas Cards 1974

Corps Christmas Cards, size 4 in. x 6 in. landscape (102 mm. x 152 mm.) consisting of a cover diestamped with the Corps badge in full colour (5 colours) with an insert printed page 3 with greetings only. Each card tied with Corps ribbon and supplied with matching envelopes.

| | |
|---|---|
| UK price, including VAT and postal charges .. | 8p per card |
| Overseas price, including postage by ordinary surface mail .. .. .. .. .. | 6p per card |
| (In the event of the need to despatch by air mail this will be an extra charge to the customer) | |
| Extra for printing a brief address on greeting page | |
| Minimum charge up to 100 cards .. .. .. | £2·00 |
| Additional cards ordered at the same time and in excess of the first 100 cards .. .. .. | ·01p per card |

Individual orders, accompanied by the correct money, should be sent direct to the Forces Press NAAFI, Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hampshire.

## Kiel Sailing Course

**A NOVICE'S IMPRESSIONS**

**by SIGNALMAN O'DEA of 2 Div HQ & Sig Regt**

SIGNALMEN **Corness, Pearce** and I were selected for a sailing course at Kiel. Our skipper was **Gunner Chris Silk** and our boat was a Cutlass 27 ft. sloop with 4 berths. It was well equipped, and the only uncomfortable aspect being the condensation that formed when we were sleeping or cooking. Once we had settled in we got down to learning some of the essentials of sailing, knots and safety procedures. After a 2 hour stint we settled down to more serious business in the bar.

On the Monday we got into the swing of things, raising flags and cleaning the decks down. We then underwent more instruction about the yacht and basic navigation. Later we had a practice sail round Kiel bay.

Tuesday saw the whole fleet slip moorings by 0930 hours for the beginning of training voyage. As the wind was about 6–7 and rising it was very choppy out of the Kiel Bucht. We had been out for about one hour and a half when **Signalmen Corness** and I felt sea-sick and **Signalman Pearce** was almost there. We were doing a steady 7–8 knots and making good way when the skipper decided it would be too dangerous to go with an unfit crew, so he returned to Kiel.

On 2nd May we set off early for Eaaborg with two other yachts from the Club. We were all entranced at the scenery on route. We had a quiet time in Eaaborg and met the course OC **Major Don Campbell,** RE.

Next morning, Thursday, we set sail for Aeroskobing. We had an un-eventful sail with all of us taking turns on the helm. Once we reached port we met many other yachts from the club and I think this is why the Harbour Master decided to come and take some harbour dues from us.

We decided to tour Aeroskobing for a few hours. The people here were by far the friendliest I've met, and it was like real old Denmark when you looked at the quaint houses and cobbled roads. We had a good night out there and slept through the force 6–7 winds.

The plan for Friday was to sail to Dam 2000 and do a night sail from there later on. Several other yachts did set off early in a 2–3 wind but we decided to set sail at midday and sail throughout the night to Kiel. We would have all liked to stay longer at Aeroskobing but we had to be back for Sunday. Anyway, we set sail for Kiel in a 2–3 wind and lovely sunshine. We headed north around the tip of Aero and as we went the wind got stronger. We headed back down south towards Kiel. The wind was now about 5–6 and rising fast. Our skipper who seemed to be able to read the weather well ahead of time decided to reduce sail which was just as well since we were coming into some very big seas and doing over 10 knots at times. There were three boats behind us when we reduced sail and they all soon caught us up, but as none of them had changed sails they were finding it very rough going.

The waves were sometimes over 20 feet and getting bigger. We were all enjoying it very much and listening to the F.A. Cup final on the radio when we could. At times the wind was between 8–9 and with very heavy seas, several waves did break over us. It was freezing cold but we really enjoyed it and at about 1730 hours I spotted Kiel lighthouse.

It was getting dark and the weather was still at gale force when we sailed into Kiel bucht and prepared for mooring up. We moored up safely and all rushed for a hot bath.

Next morning, Sunday, we cleaned the boat completely and handed it back. We drove back to Bunde, with the knowledge we had achieved something worthwhile and a great time as well as passing the course.

## Obituary

### Major G. D. M. Pocock

Duncan Pocock enlisted into the Corps in 1941 and was commissioned in 1942. He served during the War mainly in divisional signal units in the Middle East and India and after the war was in France, East Africa where he was mentioned in despatches for services during the Mau Mau operations, and BAOR. Duncan was a very useful cricketer and played for the Corps on numerous occasions. He retired in 1964 on medical grounds and after his retirement suffered from a series of illnesses. He died suddenly on the 28th May at the age of 52. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

### Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Goddard

Leonard Douglas Goddard who was affectionately known as Sam died suddenly in Yorkshire on 1st May. Sam was born in 1898 and commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery from RMA Woolwich in 1918. He saw active service in France during the closing stages of the First World War with an artillery brigade and was wounded and gassed in April 1918. After the war he served in Gibraltar whilst being seconded to the Corps before transferring in 1924. Between the wars he served with Divisional Signals and was adjutant of 56 Divisional Signals from 1930–1934. He went out to France in 1939 as Assistant CSO at HQ 1 Corps and was mentioned in despatches. From 1940 to 1946 he commanded successively 1st and 3rd Holding Battalions and No. 2 Depot Regiment. His last appointment, before retiring in 1948, was Commandant of a German prisoner of war camp. After retirement he farmed successfully at Gallows Hill, Wykeham near Scarborough. He was for 29 years President of the 3rd Holding Battalion and Mobilization Centre Reunion Club and was President of the Scarborough Branch of the Royal British Legion. Sam was a kindly individual who was always interested in the welfare of others. We extend our deep sympathy to his wife and sons.

### Major H. V. Wattley, B.E.M.

We are sorry to have to report the death on the 9th March of Major Harold Victor Wattley at the age of 74. He enlisted in 1914 and transferred to the Corps in 1920, being commissioned in 1939. He saw active service during the First World War and also in Palestine in 1936. During the Second World War he served in Palestine, Greece, Egypt, the Middle East and North West Europe mainly with higher formation Signals. After the war he served in Hong Kong for three years from 1947–1949 eventually retiring in 1952 after a total of 38 years continuous service. He was awarded the B.E.M. in 1932 and was a life member of the Association.

## Colonel A. E. Barton, O.B.E.

Colonel Arthur Emerson Barton died on 6th May a few days before his 77th birthday. 'Sammy' as he was universally known was commissioned in the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1916 and saw two years active service on the Western Front where he was wounded in the arm and eye. After the war he was seconded to the Corps and transferred in 1924. He served in Ireland and the Army of Occupation of the Rhine from 1921 to 1928. On returning to the UK he held the appointment of adjutant in 44 Divisional Signals and then served with other divisional signals in the UK until going out to India in 1934, returning in 1938. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was a company commander with GHQ Signals and served with this unit with the BEF in France. After Dunkirk he remained in the UK for the rest of the war as commander 1 Special Wireless Group, later becoming CSO Special Wireless, these duties called on him to make frequent visits to France in 1944 and he was mentioned in despatches in 1945. His last appointment was commanding officer 1 Wireless Regiment in BAOR. 'Sammy' was a kindly individual of the highest integrity and was dedicated to his job and the welfare of those who served under him. During his leisure hours he enjoyed riding and sailing. He retired to Sussex in 1947 and we would like to express our deep sympathy to his family.

## Captain (Q.M.) D. M. B. Shields

As we go to press news has come in of the death some months ago of Captain D. M. B. Shields. After long service in the ranks (1936–1960) he was commissioned as a S.S.C. Q.M. and posted to the 4th Regiment, BAOR. From there he moved to 242 Signal Squadron at HQ Scottish Command, Scotland subsequently serving with the 52nd Lowland Signal Regiment TA and 32nd Regiment in Glasgow. He made a host of friends during this long period over the border where he will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes to his family in their loss.

# Movements

## Officers

JULY 1974

| | |
|---|---|
| Captain (Q.M.) R. Adams | To 39 Infantry Brigade & Signal Squadron |
| Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E. | „ MOD |
| Lieutenant I. D. Binham | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant R. F. Bingham | „ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain A. W. Bird | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Major B. A. Blackwell | „ MOD (ASD 22) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Buchanan | „ Qatar Security Force |
| Major B. C. Carpenter | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Captain D. J. Case | „ 602 Signal Troop |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull | „ UK Delegation to Live Oak |
| Captain J. C. Chambers | „ HQ 3 Signal Group |
| Lieutenant E. C. T. Crampton | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Cuerden | „ School of Signals |
| Captain G. Davies | „ No. 2 Cadet Training Team |
| Lieutenant J. L. Davies | „ 1 DW HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) A. C. Earl | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Major K. W. E. Ferguson | „ School of Signals |
| Lieutenant L. Fox | „ 8 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major C. H. Glyden | „ DADPTC |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. Hall | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Lieutenant G. S. Hand | „ 19 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major A. J. Hervey | „ 3 Division HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Hills | „ 32 (Sc.) Signal Regiment (V) |
| Second-Lieutenant R. A. Holland-Smith | „ 1 DW HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain B. J. Hughes | „ HQ 1 (BR) Corps |
| Major (TOT) R. W. V. Hutley, M.B.E. | „ HQ DEME (A) |
| Major K. B. S. Kent | „ 5 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain (TOT) J. C. Kirton | „ 39 Infantry Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Major P. B. Leonard | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Major J. H. Lowe | „ Tels Branch REME |
| Lieutenant A. McVittie | „ 48 Gurkha Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain G. P. Maddren | „ RMA Sandhurst |
| Captain R. Marriott | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Major R. T. Martin | „ HQ NORTHAG |
| Major S. W. Mawson, M.B.E. | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major J. C. Milford | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Captain D. Munro | „ RMC of S |
| Major W. C. Nicoll | „ HQ NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron |
| Lieutenant D. F. Palmer | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pedley | „ CICC (UK) |
| Lieutenant A. J. Poppleton | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft | „ Royal School of Artillery |
| Lieutenant A. J. Raper | „ 1 Artillery Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Captain (Tfc) G. E. Rawlins | „ HQ 3 Division |
| Captain F. D. Rogers | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc) A Sawyer | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Lieutenant A. J. Schuler | „ 7 Armoured Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant B. J. Scott-Morton | „ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant M. J. Sinton | „ 2 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) R. E. Smithard | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Major P Stanley | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. D. Stokoe | „ 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment |
| Major D. W. Stubbs | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Captain D. G. Thomas | „ 4 UDR |
| Captain M. J. Walker | „ Attached RAPC Training Centre |
| Captain (TOT) N. Walker | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (Tfc) W. Weir | „ MOD (PE) (EQD) |
| Major A. J. Welch | „ School of Signals |
| Lieutenant A. P. R. White | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain D. A. Williams | „ 5 Airportable Brigade HQ & Signal Squadron |

## W.O.s and Sergeants

JUNE 1974

| | |
|---|---|
| W.O.1 (F. of S.) M. J. S. Pankhurst | To 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O. 1 (Y. of S.) J. A. Higgins | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.1 J. H. Izzo | „ School of Signals (Cadre) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) G. W. Emslie | „ HQ Defence Communication Network |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) R. M. Limb | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. A. Wraith | „ 223 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. J. Whydell | „ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 L. A. Jeffrey | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 B. Ellis | „ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 F. C. Pope | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 A. Williams | „ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 F. Laverick | „ MOD (AD) DSS |
| W.O.2 (Supvr (R)) D. E. Cheyne | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) V. W. Rayner | „ HQ DCN |
| Staff Sergeant W. R. Jones | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant H. P. Emraz | „ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant V. B. Selby | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Young | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr (R)) G. Harle | „ 223 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant A. Spencer | „ SHAPE HQ & Command Support Unit BEA |
| Staff Sergeant T. Jarrett | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant W. Baldwin | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. G. Taylor | „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| Staff Sergeant T. E. Trent | „ 632 Signal Troop (RAGW Range Hebrides) |
| Staff Sergeant P. J. Bunting | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant J. W. Brand | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) J. N. Gelling | „ 633 Signal Troop |
| Staff Sergeant B. P. Neillings | „ 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. Logan | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant W. P. Peebles | „ School of Signals |
| Staff Sergeant B. Harrison | „ 5 Army Youth Team |
| Staff Sergeant G. M. Harrison | „ 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Sharp | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant A. Russell | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| A/Staff Sergeant G. Cheyne | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant W. Taplin | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. Ramsden | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Williams | „ SHAPE (BAE) |
| Sergeant R. J. Underhill | „ SHAPE (BAE) |
| Sergeant M. K. Wilmot | „ 602 Signal Troop (Special Communications) |
| Sergeant L. Payne | „ School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. H. Cadman | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. P. Vincent | „ 242 Signal Squadron (Mossy Hill) |
| Sergeant G. Clement | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant I. H. T. Green | „ 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant S. Gray-Cowans | „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| Sergeant M. G. Newall | „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| Sergeant A. R. Hickman | „ 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant A. W. Blackwell | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. B. Miller | „ SHAPE HQ & Support Command (BAE) |
| Sergeant G. I. Maroney | „ 35 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant R. Holmes | „ Army Apprentices College (Cadre) |
| Sergeant K. R. Kennard | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. W. J. Aston | „ 605 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant J. Crawford | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant E. A. Howell | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant K. B. Stevens | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Jeffery | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. S. Smith | „ 575 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant A. E. Nex | „ 224 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant N. Brown | „ 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) |
| Sergeant D. Wooff | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. J. Dagless | „ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. Smith | „ 17 Cadet Training Team |
| Sergeant W. Banks | „ HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant T. H. Thomas | „ HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant C. A. Thackwell | „ 588 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant P. J. Lowe | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. M. Hosey | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| A/Sergeant C. M. Anderson | „ 4 Division Signal Regiment |



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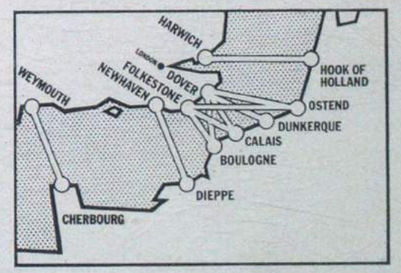


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# REPORT FROM CYPRUS

## 9th Regiment heavily involved

### A WAR IN OUR BACK GARDEN

SO much has happened in Cyprus and the Regiment during this month that 9th Regiment could, with little difficulty fill this issue of THE WIRE from cover to cover.

July in Cyprus is normally a month when, off duty, we sample the delights the tourists come from far and near to enjoy, sun drenched beaches, picnics and swimming in the cool clear blue waters around the Island. Instead, we have experienced and witnessed, in many cases with our own eyes, all the horrors of a war fought quite literally in our own back garden.

It all began on the 15th July when the Greek Officered National Guard overthrew the Government of **Archbishop Makarios** and he was forced to flee for his life. The story behind this escape is now common knowledge and was given world-wide coverage in the National press.

### NUMEROUS COMMITMENTS

From the moment the coup took place, life in the Regiment underwent a dramatic change. With the majority of families in hirings in Famagusta, and all roads sealed off by National Guard barriers, shift workers could not get to and from work, added to which contingency plans drawn up for just such an emergency were put in motion. This meant that severe constraints were placed on all available manpower in order to carry out IS duties, man defensive positions around the garrison, and perform the countless mundane tasks normally done by locally enlisted labour. If all this was not enough, an Island-wide curfew was ordered by the military and anyone out after dark risked the possibility of being shot on sight. It took some time before the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** acting in his capacity as Garrison Commander could liaise with the local Greek Commander and arrange for safe conduct for the shift buses to and from work.

During the week following the coup, one could almost feel the tension mounting and we all watched with more than a passing interest, the rapidly changing political scene. It was very evident that the Turkish Cypriot community were under no illusion as to who was behind the coup, and when Nicos Sampson, a self-confessed murderer and fanatical EOKA supporter took over the presidency, old animosity and suspicion which had lain dormant for some years, again reared its ugly head.

### INVASION

On Saturday, 20th July our worst fears were confirmed, the Turkish Army invaded Cyprus and fighting immediately broke out throughout the Island between the Greek and Turkish communities.

Famagusta has since the sixteenth century been inhabitated by quite a sizeable Turkish population mostly living within the huge Venetian walls and around the perimeter of the Old City, and it was here that the fiercest fighting in Famagusta took place. Unfortunately, quite a number of our families were in hirings in this area and it was for their safety we were particularly concerned. Families woke up to find machine gun and mortar positions set up on roofs and patios. One husband was even asked to "look after my machine gun" whilst the owner answered the call of nature! Tragically, is was in this area that **Michael Farley** the young step-son of one of our RPC Privates was hit by a stray shell and died on the way to Hospital, the same day we suffered another casualty when one of the RAF element, **Flight Sergeant Theedom** was hit in the foot by shrapnel but fortunately not too seriously and he is now up and about. Obviously the immediate problem was to withdraw families as quickly as possible into the comparative safety of the SBA and it was this task and its associated logistical nightmare that occupied the CO and his Staff during the first days of the war. By Saturday evening more than half of our families had been rescued and transported to Dhekelia, and early on Sunday another convoy departed to bring out the remaining families. It was during this withdrawal that they were caught in another Turkish air raid and a Coldstream Guardsman and an RCT Driver in the convoy were injured.

### EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION

It is, I think, appropriate at this moment to record our appreciation to those troops who came under our command during the withdrawal from Famagusta and who have put in so much hard work since then, namely men of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, 41 Commando RM, 3 RRF and currently 40 Commando RM. It should also be recorded that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the Commanding Officer is suffering from delusions of grandeur merely because his staff car is now flying the largest Union Jack on the Island!

It was a strange experience to view from the relative security of Camp, the Turkish Super Sabres and Phantoms as they flew overhead and then peeled off to bomb and strafe the town and it was only on reflection that the reality of the situation was appreciated. The realisation that homes and possibly friends were being destroyed and killed only a few miles away was a sobering thought.

### A DRAMATIC CONVOY

Elsewhere on the Island, radio reports were coming in of fierce fighting continuing particularly in the Nicosia and Kyrenia areas where Turkish paratroopers spearheaded the invasion and were obviously intent on securing a bridgehead between the two, thus giving the invastion forces a seaport for resupply and reinforcements. It was in Nicosia that worldwide attention was focused when the dramatic convoy organised by the CBFNE, **Air Marshal Sir John Aiken, K.C.B.,** RAF rescued some 4,000 tourists and refugees of all Nationalities under most hazardous conditions and brought them safely to the SBA at Dhekelia.

### 4,000 DEPENDANTS, REFUGEES, TOURISTS RESCUED

Whilst not receiving the publicity of the Nicosia convoy, in Famagusta more than 4,000 of our dependants, refugees and tourists were also rescued and withdrawn to Ayios Niklaos and Dhekelia. We are particularly proud of the way our soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians pulled together to effect this humanitarian rescue, carried out as it was under fire, in the most hazardous circumstances.

### WIVES AND FAMILIES DO THEIR BIT

From the start of the troubles our wives and families have responded magnificently and words cannot adequately express the admiration we all feel for the way they have selflessly volunteered their services for all sorts of tasks ranging from dishwasher, waitress, and cashier, to nurse, landlady and a dozen other vital but often tedious and unglamorous jobs that enabled the Regiment to continue working around the clock.

To list personalities and relate personal stories would take page after page and we are not out of the woods yet. Both sides have brought in reinforcements and although the Geneva peace talks have resulted in a cease fire having been agreed, there continue to be almost daily violations. Some of our families have already been evacuated to the UK, as they had less than three months to do, the remainder of our families are today, as I write, returning to their homes in Famagusta—home sweet home.

### MORALE AT A PEAK

**In conclusion, without being presumptious I can say with certainty that the British Forces in Cyprus have as expected, acted in the highest traditions of their Service and Corps and in 9th Regiment morale has never been higher.**

(In order to publish this interesting report as soon as possible we have had to omit supporting photos which would have delayed it—Editor.)



# Catterick Reunion 29/30 June as popular as ever

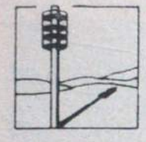
SATURDAY EVENING

1. Old friends meet again. 2. Serving and retired get together. 3. The buffet supper was clearly highly appreciated. 4. The 'Boys of the Old Brigade' were there too!

SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE

5. The Corps Band leads the parade. 6. Branch Standards and Escorts march past the Master of Signals in solid phalanx.

## —News from Headquarters—



### School of Signals
### Blandford Camp
### Dorset

#### SYSTEM'S DIVISION

**TERMINAL GROUP ON PARADE**

THIS month it is Terminal Group's turn to write the Systems Division notes and in spite of our title we would like to remind our many friends that we are still alive and well! A short resume of some of the Group's personalities will give our readers some idea of our activities.

Headed by **Major Mike Priestley,** the Group initiates a wide variety of students into the mysteries of telephony and telegraphy and a host of related subjects, and striving desperately to match his golf handicap with a BRUIN auto level is **Captain Ray Windmill,** shortly to leave us for the delights of Ulster.

Recently acquired by the Group are a pair of digital auto exchanges. These are now engaged in daily conflict with **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Ray Saunders** who is the Group's W.O.-in-Charge (Integrated Circuits).

Remembered by many for his vivid description of 'two-stage dropback' is **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Phil Waldock,** our telephony expert and maintaining our auto exchanges with loving care is **Sergeant Bob Archer,** shortly to become a Dad, whilst our teleprinter king or Corps cricketer is **Sergeant Mick Richards.**

**Sergeant Roger Stevenson,** when not winning golf competitions, looks after our numerous training aids and demonstrations.

The one with the starched pullover is **Sergeant Phil Evans** our line section boss, fresh from his success on a Staff Sergeant's course.

We would like to mention all the other members of the Group who go to make up the team but as always space precludes this.

**DATA SYSTEMS GROUP—NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM OPENED**

On 18th February, the new computer system was officially opened by the Commandant, **Brigadier A. C. Bate, O.B.E.** The system consists of 2 Hewlett Packard 3000 computers which can be linked by a number of transmission paths. Each computer is capable of independent working, with a number of students sharing the facilities, and most course students will pass through the Group.

For old readers, the old Elliott 803 has finally been pensioned off and is going out to pasture with the RAF.

As a light relief from the daily grind, the system came with an interesting number of games that could be played on the machine.

The OC **Major John Newman** seems to have a slight frown when he comes upon **Major John Potier** frantically trying to beat the computer with 'Fiverow', which is an updated form of noughts and crosses, his latest idea being to try to get computers to play each other! This upsets our tame technician **Sergeant Alan Forrest** who insists that this will cause each to have a nervous breakdown.

The computer manager **Lieutenant Dave Maxted** just shrugs his shoulders and sits quietly in a corner muttering nasty remarks about computers that cannot understand Military Date/Time groups. This seems to amuse **Captain Simon Gadd** who has his own worry about things military, in trying to find the best way to change his gas mask filter in under five minutes whilst in the gas chamber.

None of this worries our civilian number **Mr. Peter Clarke** (with an 'E'), whose main problem is trying to reassure **Lance-Corporal Grahame Howard** that he has definitely not eaten his coffee cup.

#### TRAINING SUPPORT DIVISION

**CCTV GROUP**

In the CCTV Group, (Have camera, will travel), **Herr Direktor Major Bill Gallagher,** RAEC, reigns supreme and assisted by **Sergeant Arthur Bradshaw** and **Sergeant Ray Hunter,** have at last successfully tamed, the only sane civilian member, **Mr. George Murro,** who all too often switches off. However, the tables are turned when it comes to darts. The tranquility of the Stour Inn, Blandford, that arena of many verbal battles, is regularly shattered by the querrulous quartet as **George** plus arrow, equals treble twenty with monotonous regularity.

As for work (that four letter word), the Group is to improve its present facilities. By the time that this is published (however did it manage to pass the censors?), we shall be a small, all singing, all dancing, monochrome CCTV production and relay unit, with some of the most modern equipment obtainable to the Services. The thanks are mainly to the efforts of the Group's taskmaster **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter MacGillivray,** SO1 Training, who is a staunch supporter of CCTV; **Sergeant Doug Poultney,** the ex-resident TV Technician, now posted to 7th Regiment BAOR and **Captain Rex Stephenson** (now at 5 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron) and a pioneer user of CCTV as an instructional aid within the School.

The future use of CCTV will also be linked with the new computer system recently installed in Data Systems Group.

#### RADIO DIVISION

**VISIT FROM FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE COMMUNICATORS**

On Tuesday, 5th March, we were delighted to have a visit from **Mr. Edgar Harrison,** the head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Communications Division, and his Deputy **Mr. Arthur Green.**

After a nostalgic look at the Corps Museum, which revived memories of their early days in the Corps, the visitors saw and heard something of our present radio equipment as demonstrated in Radio Division, and how we teach antennas and propagation with **Captain Chris Urquhart's** formidable array of models. They then paid a visit to the many activities of Trials Squadron and EMC Division.

We enjoyed their company at lunch, and heard something of the problems of communicating from Embassies abroad—including those which share buildings with rival concerns and have to erect their antennas on odd-shaped roofs—and were sorry they could not have stayed longer.

## *Notes from the most westward Detachment in the Corps — B.A.T.U.S., Canada*

OUR CO is Worcester and Sherwood Foresters, the OC is QRIH, the RSM is SCOTS DG, our SSM is 17/21 Lancers and so on. Now where in the world would you expect to find a mixture like that: try British Army Training Unit Suffield, Alberta. Amongst this mixture there are six members of the Corps, forming the Royal Signals Detachment BATUS.

Two of the Detachment are here as permanent staff, and the others on loan from units in BAOR for the summer training period.

The PS being **Sergeant John Williamson** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Alves**—on loan from BAOR we have **Corporal 'Hammy' Lindsay** (7th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Steve Cooper** (16th Regiment) and **Signalman 'Nobby' Clark** and **'Howie' Haughton** (both 22nd Regiment)

**Sergeant Williamson** is the HQ Squadron BATUS Admin. Sergeant and **Lance-Corporal Alves** is our store minder and vehicle fitter. **Corporal Lindsay** supervises the range safety net and the other three work the shifts on the net.

In his spare time, **Sergeant Williamson** runs the village ·22 shooting for teenagers. **Pete Alves** plays football for Medicine Hat United (Medicine Hat being the nearest town, some 25 miles from the camp). After seeing himself on the local TV sports show, he considers himself some sort of TV star, incidently the 'Hat' won their first league game 21–0, **Pete** refuses to admit that they won by 21 lucky goals.

The other four, in pairs, are interested in outsmarting each other by seeing how far they can get into America in six days (and back of course). **Signalmen Clark** and **Haughton** have just finished their attempt, they gave up after covering 250 miles into

*(Continued on page 215)*



*(Continued from page 214)*

Montana to the city of Great Falls where they say they had a ball! **Corporal Lindsay** and **Lance-Corporal Cooper** are going to try their hand at it some time in June.

**Corporal Lindsay** is going to start wearing two cap badges just like Monty as most of his spare time is spent scrounging drives on tanks—so far he has driven a Chieftan, Centurion and assorted 432 things.

Finally it is rumoured that when you leave this place you get a blood donors card, as the 'mossies' are the biggest and hungriest in the world.

## 70 Army Youth Team, Maindy Barracks Cardiff

THE wheel has now turned full circle with 70 Army Youth Team, as the original team, who took over this area for the Corps from the Royal Regiment of Wales, start to change over with their successors. The first to go was the OC, **Lieutenant Bob Hussey;** his successor, **Lieutenant Tony Elford,** takes command at the end of May. **Lieutenant Hussey** is off to 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, and we wish him and his wife **Louise** the very best of luck. **Lieutenant Elford** has arrived from the thrills and spills of 244 Squadron, and it is rumoured that he thinks he is in for a rest! Both **Lieutenant Elford's** wife **Judy,** and **Lieutenant Hussey's** wife are expecting babies in August, but future team members should note that this is not a pre-requisite for 70 AYT!

Next to go, always following close in the footsteps of the OC, **Corporal Dave Sully** is off to 8th Regiment in July. His replacement, **Corporal Meirion Thomas** (known as 04 to his friends) is now with the team, and is preparing for a long series of courses to qualify him for the activities we offer. **Corporal Thomas** has come to the AYT from 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, and we wish him all happiness. Our heartfelt thanks to to **Corporal Sully** whose inimicable sense of humour has often meant the difference between being miserable and downhearted, and being full of the joys of spring!

Congratulations to **Sergeant Barry Doughty** who has been selected as one of the final 14 volunteers from whom the team will be selected for the 1974/5 Joint Services West/East Sahara Expedition. He is busy trying to improve his driving!

Since our last notes appeared in WIRE the team has been very busy, the whole period culminating in the organization of this year's 'Adventure Into Education' weeks at the Butlin Holiday Camp at Barry Island. In all, seven AYT's and six WRAC girls attended the camp for each week of its three week duration, and we regret, as organizers, that we were the only Royal Signals representatives. The weeks were an unqualified success, due in part to the fine weather, and in no small measure to the professional competence and enthusiasm of the AYT/WRAC instructors who attended. We can only hope that other Royal Signals AYT's who may be reading this article ensure that they do not miss this opportunity next year. Full details can be obtained from 70 AYT.

Finally, we extend a welcome to any Royal Signals personnel who may be in Cardiff to drop in and see us at Maindy Barracks. We cannot always guarantee to be in, but if we are, you will be most welcome and assured of a cup of tea!

## News from Regiments

### 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
### B.F.P.O. 32

**A KIND OFFER FOR ANNUAL CAMP**

BY kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg, the Regiment spent two very enjoyable weeks at Hemmelmark which lies near the old fishing port of Eckernforde. This estate comprises 500 hectares of arable land and is owned by Barbara, wife of Christian Ludwig and grand-daughter of Prince Heinrich, the brother of the last Kaiser Wilhelm II. It is through this family tree that the Duchess is related to H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II.

A HAPPY VISIT

Captain K. H. E. (Kate) Meacham, WRAC, from 4 Signal Group visited Verden from 14th–16th May to carry out a Signal Planning assignment with the use of helicopters from 651 Aviation Squadron. She is not the first WRAC pilot in the AAC but borrowed a flying suit from Captain Nigel Knight, AAC for her flight (albeit 10 sizes too big)

With such an attractive area at our disposal for summer camp the scene was set for the Regiment to enjoy the numerous activities on the programme. The camp was split into two phases with approximately 80 soldiers each who were involved in all the following activities:— fishing, boating, off shore sailing, visits to Schleswig, canoeing, swimming, LMG firing, orienteering and estate help. The camp was visited by the Bundeswehr officers from our sister Regiment in Hannover and our GOC, **Major-General J. W. Stanier, M.B.E.**

It was an opportunity for the Regiment to function collectively on a summer camp basis and offered all participants the chance to 'spread their wings'.

**ADVANCE PARTY**

2 Squadron, as the Regimental Advance Party under the eagle eyes of **Major Ed Mulley** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Keith Childs** arrived at a strip of wasteland called Eckernforde with over 600 duckboards, tents and assorted camping gear. After 3 days of force 9 gales, lashing rain and much hard work the camp was erected, sand bagged down and ready for the main party. At the sheltered end of the camp (less than gale force 8) **Corporal 'Nobby' Noble** and **Signalman Bill Gold** could be seen leading members of A3 Troop into their own war against the elements with **Desrosches** and his cousin **Du Jardin.** When the main party did arrive they discovered to their chagrin that swimming meant becoming tangled in tent guy ropes and that nobody had brought skiing equipment.

**ESCAPE AND EVASION**

The main event of summer camp was undoubtedly the escape and evasion exercise. This took place on four separate occasions over the two week period. The aim was to give everyone the opportunity of using their initiative and endeavour to remain free

—and unmolested—for 36 hours whilst following an escape route. Meanwhile, plotting behind the closed doors of camp RHQ were two dedicated fifth columnists heavily disguised as **Second-Lieutenant Peter Hryhoruk** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Pete Williams;** their aim was to arrange the capture and subsequent interrogation of all escapees.

Day 'one' started with a film entitled 'They Escape', which, it was hoped, would inspire all who watched it to do great things. However, it was found to be more of an entertainment value. This was followed by the 'prisoners' being suitably indoctrinated, loaded onto four ton vehicles and being driven off into the unknown . . . **Staff Sergeant John Kirkham, Staff Sergeant Bob Bates** and **Sergeant Mick Kynaston** escorted the prisoners and demonstrated their skill—at this early stage—in quelling the most boisterous of prisoners.

The prisoners were allowed to escape and were soon being chased over the exercise area but most of the groups managed to arrive at their first RV on the shore of the inevitable river. Here they were met by the boating party commanded by that capable 'admiral ov de fleet' **Lieutenant Alan Armstrong.** Unknown to the escapees the Baltic boatmen were of questionable loyalty and low moral fibre. Instead of assistance being offered by way of a trouble free crossing the escapees' morale was quickly dashed as they were ferried into the waiting arms of the ambush party. The scene on the far bank was a mixture of flailing arms and legs and improvised wrestling holds. There was one escape however, and that was 'to swim for it'—a chilly alternative which few prisoners took.

So, tired, bruised and blind-folded the unlucky prisoners were escorted to the interrogation centre. The reception committee consisted of **Captain Jim Esson** alias 'The Padre', **Lieutenant Ken Hadfield** alias 'The Red Cross Officer', **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) 'Paddy' McLoughlan** alias 'The Friendly Irish Voice' and **Corporal Fred Bryson** alias 'The Nose Breaker'.

Conflicting reports about interrogation 'methods' are still being discussed although spine chilling rumours of beatings, water torture and electrocution have been hotly denied by the interrogation team—despite there being an electric cow fence near the site of the alleged atrocities.

Those who survived the night were seen to be armed with clubs etc. on the following morning to deter any possible further 'kvestions'. It was not an uncommon sight during the last day to see the hobbling figures (with or without boots) yelling curses and threats as they thankfully covered the last few miles to the safe refuge of camp. Confirmed reports show that the majority of the participants enjoyed the exercise because a 'touch of realism had been introduced'.

### LMG RANGES

Another highlight of Summer Camp was the ranges. 165 all ranks fired the alternative personal weapon practice on the LMG ('Shoot to Kill' Appendix 19A to Annex E refers). **Major Graham Saunders,** Training Major/Unit master coach ably assisted by **Staff Sergeant Ray Norris, Sergeant Cliff Brumfield** and **Sergeant John Duddridge** (All master coaches) spent eight sunny/rainy/windy days on the Bundeswehr ranges. Only bursts of 3 to 5 rounds were allowed so it was very much to **Lance-Corporal Pete Smith's** credit that he hit the target every time and won the pewter tankard for the champion shot. The standard of shooting was good and 148 firers achieved a pass. So already our 'Shooting Record Books' are in use.

### ORIENTEERING

The 12 km. course (illusions of grandeur after the Divisional meeting) was set out and put to the test by **Lieutenant 'Big M' McKinley, Second-Lieutenant 'Hairy' Cary** and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Ron Botham.** The course was made more interesting as it included a couple of river crossings and some thick woodland. The orienteering activity was planned as a half day event which allowed up to 3 hours to complete the circuit. Some teams, however, were taking up to 4 hours to return home so it was either no lunch or no tea . . .

Overall the results were promising and the individual winners were **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Mansley** and **Signalman 'Fritz' Haylette** with times of 2 hours 23 minutes and 1 hour 39 minutes respectively. Team winners were led by **Staff Sergeant Pete Robinson** and **Lance-Corporal Chris Pederick.** The aim of the orienteering exercise had been achieved—now, more than one third of the Regiment can read a Silva compass.




# SULTANATE OF OMAN

Ex-Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Royal Signals under age 50 and with suitable experience are invited to apply for the following contract appointments in the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces.

## MAJOR

**(Squadron Commander)**

To command Signals Squadron and to administer a Signals Training School. Applicants must have a good knowledge of British Army administrative procedures and experience of commanding troops in the rank of Major or above.

## CAPTAIN

**(Technical Officer Telecommunications)**

To command the Technical Maintenance Troop of the Regiment including the control of the base repair of equipment carried out by contractors and the field repair of equipment by unit technicians. Applicants should ideally be Ex-Technical Officers (Telecommunications), but Warrant Officers with appropriate technical qualifications will be considered.

## CAPTAIN

**(S.O.3 - Signals)**

To plan and supervise the liaison required between the Armed Forces and Local Communications Authorities during the introduction into Oman of two large telecommunications schemes. Applicants must have a good knowledge of telecommunications including automatic telephone systems and high powered long distance radio.

## STAFF SERGEANT

**(Yeoman of Signals)**

For Cypher duties and supervision of signals centre. Applicants must be Ex-British Army Yeoman of Signals or Staff Sergeant Radio Telegraphists.

**The appointments are uniformed and unaccompanied, carrying attractive emoluments (local tax free), and terminal gratuities for three years' service or more. Mess accommodation and services are free and there is generous home leave with air fares paid.**

**Apply with brief details to Box No. 21, c/o CSP, 67/68 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6NZ.**




## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 46

### REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

ON the 10th May the Regiment participated in the Regimental athletics day 1974 organized by the 2 Squadron dynamic duo of **Major Bob Mansfield** and **Lieutenant Moray Martin-Rhind.** At which, RHQ Squadron led by yours truly, the author, swept aside all opposition to finish first with fine performances from **Captain Roger 'Kamikaze' Breese, Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Asquith** and **Signalman Bill Deacon,** with HQ Squadron as gallant runners up. In the 'Old Timers' race **W.O.1 Joe Izzo** (Superintending Clerk) stormed in first (yet again) closely followed by **Captain Benny Goodman** (TOT), both naturally from RHQ Squadron.

### CO's TRAINING DAY

The 13th of every month, to the uninitiated, is the Commanding Officer's training day. On the 13th May our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davies,** decided with commendable forethought to be in England, so by chain of command, the author of this piece found himself running the show. With a flash of genius, however, (some say his only flash of genius) he presented the problem to D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers, better known as **R.S.M. Tony Pfeiffer, R.Q.M.S. Mike Prince, R.Q.M.S. Mike Kinrade** and **W.O.2 Dennis Baron,** the small task of organizing a regimental orienteering competition over the Lubbecke ridge. This they achieved, aided by superb weather and enthusiastic teams, with great success, and also succeeded in amusing the locals watching the groups of 'squaddies' criss-crossing the ridge. In the end, the winners, a 1 Squadron team, won by a short head led by **Y. of S. Garth Letori** and consisting of **Corporal Iain Cranny, Signalman Martin Ennels, Lance-Corporal Allan 'Taff' Willis** and **Signalman Benny Martin.** A 2 Squadron team came second, led by **Sergeant Dan Harewood;** 2 Squadron also won the Squadron prize of a half day off. When OC 2 Squadron, **Major Bob Mansfield,** protested that his Squadron could not afford to take time off, **Adjutant Captain Derek McLean** suggested that the rest of The Regiment work on Saturday morning so 2 Squadron could have that off!

### SWIMMING GALA

On the 30th May we had the **Captain Dick Thwaites'** spectacular—the Regimental swimming gala. **Captain Dick Thwaites** and his henchman **S.S.M. Frank Atkins** devised a fiendish obstacle race in which the author found himself trying to put socks on in water (try it sometime). 2 Squadron won most of the events with boring regularity, but not being biased RHQ Squadron put up a magnificent fight and, led by their implacable Captain, **Staff Sergeant Dave Northcott,** came second.

In the Ladies Race, **Miss Diane Izzo** cruised in first, and **Miss Lieutenant Richard 'Flaky' Skaife** managed with the addition of a couple of appendages to put up a sterling effort, though she did appear to have a buoyancy problem!

As a follow on to the gala, all the subalterns found themselves on parade at the Bünde Freibad at 0730 hours 31st May, jumping off the top board, for failing to throw the Adjutant in during the gala!

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF 7th REGIMENT'S 1973-74 RUGBY TEAM WITH THEIR TROPHIES

*Standing—left to right:* Staff Sergeant Tunney (Coach), Lance-Corporal Abbott, Lance-Corporal Doak, Lance-Corporal Lee, Lieutenant Riley, Sergeant Haldane, Corporal Gilder, Captain Davis (Team Manager)

*Sitting—left to right:* Corporal Ewing, Sergeant Smith, Signalman Fallon, Sergeant Williams (1st XV Captain), Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers (Commanding Officer), Signalman Cameron, Signalman Williams, Corporal Higgins, Sergeant Soqo

*Trophies—left to right:* Runners-up Army Cup, 4th Division League, 4th Division Army Cup, BAOR Army Cup, BAOR seven-a-side Cup, Double Diamond Cup, 4th Division Cup

### RUGBY SEASON IN RETROSPECT

THE disappointment of losing the Army Final was made up for by the regimental seven-a-side A team winning both the 4 Division and the BAOR seven-a-side Cup competitions. Also the B side distinguished itself by reaching the Plate Finals in both competitions, and it should be noted that this is the second time that the regiment has won the BAOR seven-a-side Cup.

At Easter we had a very enjoyable visit from Wimborne (Dorset) RFC who were only just prevented from drinking the club dry. It was a pleasure to be able to repay some of the hospitality that has been afforded by Wimborne RFC to Royal Signals teams visiting Dorset in past years.

It is worth putting on record some of the achievements of the past season:—

1st XV: Played 30; Won 25; Lost 5.
2nd XV: Played 26; Won 12 Lost 13; Drawn 1.
3rd XV: Played 15; Won 9; Lost 6.

Also worthy of a mention are the individual achievements of some of our club members; **Signalman Bill McConnell** has played 4 games for the Army, and 7 other club members have played for BAOR. These are **Sergeant 'Taff' Williams, The Reverend Alistair Heagarty, Signalman Vince Fallon, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins, Corporal Al Ewing, Corporal 'Q' Gilder,** and **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott.** Further to these individual achievements, the club has been well represented in 4 Division and Royal Signals Corps fixtures.

Work is now under way to develop a fuller fixture for next season, particularly for the 3rd XV. It is also hoped to have weekend tours to Berlin and to Holland, and to repeat the very successful UK tour that we had at the beginning of this past season. Apart from these tours we are scheduled to hots visits from an Army Berlin team, and from Cumbrian and Rhymney RFC's.

## 9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

THE last 4 weeks have been busy ones for the Regiment and our activities have covered numerous fields. The major event must have been the Ayios Nikolaos Garrison fete. **Major John Radford** and his overworked committee managed on Saturday, 1st June to provide us with a feast of entertainment. In addition to all the normal sideshows (of which there were many) visitors to the fete could hardly complain about the variety and standards of the main attractions. Air enthusiasts stood in awe as a Lightning aircraft of 46 Squadron RAF provided a dramatic curtain raiser to the afternoon. High winds favoured a skillful display of gliding by **Chief Technician Bill Dickson** the senior instructor from the Adventure Training Centre at Dhekelia. Alas the same winds forced the cancellation of a free fall parachuting display. The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots impressed us all and the traditional colour and pageantry of their highland uniforms was only matched by an exciting display of Turkish folk dancing kindly arranged by the local Turkish community. The fete made £C800·000 all of which is distributed to local and Service charities and all who worked so hard deserve our thanks for a super afternoon.

### NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

**W.O.2 Joe Seddon** at last persuaded **Jenny Gifkins** (a local school teacher) to marry him and they are now living happily ever after! **Lance-Corporal Chris Perkins,** WRAC has also decided to change her status and the lucky guy this time is **Lance-Corporal Steve Turnock,** we know he must be sincere for he's agreed to sell his motorbike. Their big day is in August. 2 Squadron cricket team are again emerging as the strongest side in the Regiment. Regretably their skipper, **Captain Reading,** has injured an angle and will be absent from all sports for six months. The Regiment have recently hosted Sheffield United, the English first division side, who are having a well earned rest in Cyprus. **John Harris** their team manager predicts great things for the Yorkshire side next season. The visit was arranged by **Alan Hodgkinson** the ex-England (and Royal Signals!) goalkeeper who is coach to Sheffield United. Famous footballers positively abound at the moment, **Francis Lee, Geoff Hurst** and **Gordon Banks** have all been in and around the Regiment recently. **Tony Currie** is thinking about joining up! Finally a few words about our current athletics progress.

With the all island major units athletics championships almost upon us we can be justifiably pleased with 9th Regiment's performance so far this season.

We were off to a fine start with the garrison and inter-squadron championships taking place on 26th April. It was an excellent afternoon's sport and thoroughly enjoyed by spectators and competitors alike. 2 Squadron once again retained the inter-squadron trophy followed by 1 Squadron and 3 Squadron in that order.

On 1st May we held our own Royal Signals 'May Day' parade at Episkopi with the three Squadrons competing in the 3rd Signal Group athletics championships against teams from 259, 261, and 262 Signal Squadron. Right from the start the Regiments' athletics showed their superiority and the final result placed the three Regimental teams in 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions.

The 22nd May again saw the three Squadrons team at Dhekelia for the important island wide minor units championships. With a total of eighteen teams competing we realized that competition would be superior to any we had yet encountered. The weather as usual at this time of year was not to the athletes advantage, with hardly a breath of wind and the sun beating down from a cloudless sky (oh! to be back in Catterick), also because of the number of teams competing the programme was scheduled to last all day. However despite the intense competition, by mid-afternoon 2 Squadron were in the lead, and eventually, after a thrilling finish in the 4 x 100 m. relay when 1 Squadron raced home the winners, they proved too strong for the rest of the field. The final results were 2 Squadron, winners, 1 Squadron in a creditable 4th position and 3 Squadron in 9th position.

All three Squadrons are now training as a team for the island major units championships that take place on 12th June at RAF Episkopi, and as soon as the results are known we shall include it in the next issue of THE WIRE!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10th REGIMENT SUPERVISOR'S CONFERENCE

*Back row—left to right:* W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Morrison (Salisbury), Mr. Kelso (Shrivenham), Mr. Brown (Bovington), Mr. Williams (Salisbury), Mr. Fenner (Salisbury)

*Centre row—left to right:* Mr. Hayes (Aldershot), Mr. Hampson (Bulford), Mrs. Schmidt (M. Wallop), Mr. Bray (Hounslow), Mr. Smith (Aldershot), Mr. Pulham (Marchwood), Sergeant Ledgard (Salisbury), Mr. King (Exeter), Mr. Taylor (Bulford), Captain Adcock (Salisbury)

*Front row—left to right:* Mr. Hodges (Taunton), Mrs. Stride (Marchwood), Mr. King (Taunton), Mrs. Gorrett (Exeter), Lieutenant-Colonel Galbraith (Hounslow), Major Carroll (Salisbury), Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell (Taunton), Mrs. Maxfield (Old Sarum), Major Brandreth (Hounslow), Mrs. Raymond (Netheravon), Mrs. Saunders (Bovington), Mr. Cutt (M. Wallop)

## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### 1 SQUADRON

### VISIT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF UKLF

ON Monday, 3rd June we were pleased to receive a visit from the new Commander-in-Chief UKLF, **General Sir Roland Gibb, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.** After a briefing by the Squadron Commander **Major Dick Carroll,** the General was escorted to the Wilton communication centre and telephone exchange where he was met by the CDSO, **Captain Brian Adcock.** Having been introduced to some of the personalities involved, including the DSO, **Second-Lieutenant Dorothy Platts,** WRAC and the supervising Yeoman of Signals **W.O.2 John Morrison,** the General showed a keen interest in the various aspects of message handling and followed through in detail the despatch procedure of numerous signals. At the telephone exchange the General met the supervisor, **Sergeant Kath Ledgard,** WRAC, and noted with some amusement the usual telephone activity of staff officers near the close of a working day. The General completed his tour with a visit to the workshops where he met **Sergeant Jim Moore** and **Corporal John Steer;** the latter's interest in bird watching (the real thing) went down very well as the General is President of the Army Ornithological Society.

### ANNUAL SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, 5th June the Squadron hosted the annual Supervisors conference for communication centres and exchanges within South West District. In addition to our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Galbraith,** we were particularly pleased to welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Mitchell** from HQ South West District and **Messrs. Smith** and **Hayes** from HQ 2 Signal Group. After the conference all concerned retired to the canteen for well earned liquid refreshment and photograph. The result of which can be seen . . .

### SPORT

Once again the Squadron has been active in the sporting world, this time in the swimming pool. On Monday, 3rd June two members of the Squadron formed part of the team to represent HQ UKLF in the West Area ladies swimming championships at Bulford. The relay team proved to be most efficient and won by a clear margin thus proving to be successful both in and out of water!

**Private Anna Thompson** won the beginners one length free style and **Lieutenant Sandra Strong** was second in the 100 m. freestyle and has qualified for the Army swimming championships at a later date.

**Private Sue Godwin** represented the Women's Army athletics association in Germany from 17th–25th May in the javelin and discus at which she proved to be most successful.

### DEPARTURES

Finally the Squadron will shortly be losing **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling** on posting and promotion to 633 Signal Troop in the sunny Caribbean. Some people have all the luck!

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### 1 SQUADRON

THERE were three Pass Off Parades in the month of May. The first was a double Pass Off, involving No. 6 Troop and No. 8 Troop commanded respectively by **Lieutenant E. C. Cameron** and **W.O.1 Penman. Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Pell,** DWR, the GSO1 at HQ North Eastern District took the salute and presented the prize to the best recruits **Signalman M. I. B. Keith** and **Signalman P. Dignum** and the best rifleshots, **Signalman T. J. Upex** and **Signalman P. Whitehouse.** On 17th May, No. 3 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant M. R. S. Stanners,** completed their training. The Regimental Quartermaster, **Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) P. H. Johnstone** took the salute on this occasion. **Colonel Johnstone** is leaving the Army after 34 years' service. The best recruit of No. 3 Troop was **Signalman N. M. J. Jefferies,** and the best rifleshot was **Signalman H. Johnson.**

The last parade of the month took place on 31st May. This time it was the turn of No. 7 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant R. J. Gittings.** The Commandant of the AA College Harrogate, **Colonel W. G. Neilson** took the parade, and prizes were presented to **Signalman A. Skortis** and **Signalman J. G. Wojnarowicz.**

### FAREWELLS

This month we bid farewell to our second-in-command, **Major Patrick Templeman-Evans.** He will be taking with

AFTER 34 YEARS SERVICE
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) Peter Johnstone plants a tree in 11th Regiment to mark his retirement after 34 years service

him a special presentation dart, to remind him of throwing the winning dart for the Officers' Mess in a match against the Sergeants' Mess.

We also say goodbye to our QM, **Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) Peter Johnstone,** who is retiring from the Army after 34 years' service. He is going to live in Cyprus. Before departing he presented a tree to the Regiment.

### ORIENTEERING

Qualifying by winning the UKLF Orienteering Championship the regimental team went to Lubbecke in BAOR for the Army championships on 16th May. Although the preceding days were wet, on the day the sun shone brilliantly and the teams were in good spirits. First home was **Lieutenant Robin Hill** in 1 hour 49 minutes 19 seconds, a time that made him 8th in the competition and 6th in the Army championship. **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** was closely followed by **Lieutenant Dick Hoyle** in 2 hours 18 minutes 55 seconds and 2 hours 19 minutes 14 seconds respectively. However the overall time was not fast enough and the team finished 3rd to Para Squadron RAC and 1 Regiment AAC. The event marks the climax of an excellent orienteering season in both civilian BOF and army events. **Major Pat Templeman-Evans** leaves for Cyprus and **Lieutenant Robin Hill** for the School of Signals, to attend a Captains' Course.

### ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF SERGEANTS' COURSE NO. 85
### 22nd APRIL–24th MAY

All Sergeants of the Corps who have not yet had the pleasure of attending a 'Staffies' course, you have our deepest sympathy. However on completing the course you can honestly say that you have been on the most worthwhile and interesting course that you are likely to attend during your career.

Highlights of the course were numerous, providing light relief during our extremely arduous but interesting training programme. Perhaps the best remembered incident on the course was **Staff Sergeant 'Taff' Duffy,** after being told to "make safe, ready to move" with his LMG, left the classroom at a high rate of knots, only to return holding just the barrel having failed to secure the barrel locking nut. Appropriate comments were then passed by **Sergeant Mick Kenning.** Our riot drill really was a riot. On being told to don respirators **Sergeant Ted Dudding** was seen to be going deep purple and had difficulty with his breathing. **Staff Sergeant Andy Keenan** duly investigated and found that **Sergeant Ted Dudding** had omitted to remove the seal from the canister intake valve.

The customary football match between the mess and course was held and as usual the course won. **Sergeant Dave Bell** the 'hard man' of the team played a captain's game at the back, this coupled with some very enthusiastic play from the rest of the team and goals from **Sergeant Mick Smith** (2) and **Sergeant Dave Osborne** saw the course run out deserved winners by three goals to two.

The final week was spent at Otterburn training area participating in the dreaded section attacks and other rather strenuous exercises. **Sergeant George Crellen** whilst leading a night patrol was seen to be standing on his head in the middle of a river having lost his footing negotiating the obstacle. **Sergeant Tom Smith,** (all four foot of him), was heard to mutter "I'm not going in there if it's that deep".

All things must come to an end and so after five enlightening weeks as guests of 11th Regiment nineteen slimmer, fitter and more knowledgeable sergeants returned to their respective units ready to preach from the good book according to 11th Regiment.

## 14 Sig Regt Worcester

### DEVON GLORIOUS DEVON

IN an effort to assist in the compilation of 14th Regiment's "Guide To The Training Areas of Great Britain", **Captain Ron Abbott** recently organised Exercise 'Fallback 4' at Okehampton in Devon. This occupies the finest inland site in the country and caters for all tastes—or so the guidebook says. 'B' Troop decided to check on the veracity of this statement and savour every delight of this West Country resort.

**Corporal Colin Phillips** found the village completely unspoiled and likely to remain so. He visited the local travel agency to enquire about train times and found the staff to be extremely helpful. Nothing was too much trouble and they provided him with sufficient information to write a sequel to Bradshaws. Whilst shopping he enquired where the railway station was located, only to be informed that the railway had been closed for some considerable time. He assures me that the village is accessible on an English summer day by horse or foot by any determined traveller.

**Captain Ron Abbott's** Tours looked like being very popular until the troop discovered that Ron's Tors were massive blocks of granite situated in the most remote parts of the moor. The approach to these involved a long hard hike. His men are now firmly convinced that he has a plethora of police constables and mountain goats amongst his ancestors.

His suggestion that the troop should sample the local spirits promised to restore his reputation and the troop thought that perhaps they had misjudged their OC. That was, until they discovered that the spirit in question was one Binjie Gear, the ghost of an ex-Mayor of Okehampton who is reputed to haunt Cranmere Pool. Local legend has it that the ghost spends his time trying to empty the pool with a sieve. The troop are only sorry that he has not succeeded, because as you have probably already guessed the pool is in a remote part of the moor and can only be approached by a long hike.

In the best traditions of Colditz the troop now formed an escape committee. Attempts to disguise as locals and walk out failed miserably due to passing sheep dogs rounding them up and driving them back to camp. After seeing the huge piles of granite chips around Princetown, tunnelling was also eliminated from the list. Finally it was decided to try pony trekking as a means of breaking out.

On arrival at the stables the troop's leading expert on equestrian techniques **Corporal Colin** (No relation to Mark) **Phillips,** demonstrated the art of mounting. The horse in this case being **Signalman Dave Flynn,** whose six foot four frame seemed a much less terrifying height than the three foot six inch Dartmoor ponies the greenhorns were given to ride.

The necessity of tightening girth straps prior to mounting was well illustrated by **Corporal Terry Whittaker.** He nonchalantly leapt into the saddle without deigning to check. The troop were then treated to a very spirited imitation of a Don Cossack as **Terry** inspected the hooves of his horse on the move. Friends of **Terry** will be relieved to learn that he is quite alright, he landed on his head. **Staff-Sergeant Keith (Broncho) Russell** entrusted **Lance-Corporal (Dobbin) Birch** with the task of tightening his girth strap. This proved his undoing, for before very long he first demonstrated the art of riding side saddle before deciding that the moment was propitious for studying the underside of his mount. After a very brief Australian view of Dartmoor, **Keith** and mount also parted company.

**W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson** is reputed to have been transformed into Don Quixote on mounting his steed. Fortunately both windmills and damsels in distress are rare on Dartmoor, so the Claims Commission have not been inundated with repair bills.



As the 14th Cavalry Unit continued on their wild ride over the moor the cook, **Private Kev Savage,** demonstrated every conceivable method of involuntary dismounting. **Corporal Dave Butler** decided to swap his own docile mount for **Kev's** firebrand. **Dave** then demonstrated the art of adopting the prone position from a trotting pony.

After two hours of hanging on for dear life and feeling as if they had gone over Niagara in a barrel, the guide enquired whether they should return or go on. An almost unanimous plea to return was then vetoed by **Captain Ron Abbott,** who decided that the troop's first and last episode of Rawhide should run its full span.

After a further half hour of excruciating agony, they returned, like Lord Cardigan's Six Hundred, in absolute shambles to the stables. The evening was then spent rubbing down thighs, rumps and comparing wounds as pony trekking was also crossed off the escape list.

To relieve boredom the troop took along a D13/R234 station which was used quite successfully to work anchor stations in Malta and Cyprus.

### ALARMED

Our Custodian Officer **Captain Colin Heaps** is now sporting some very impressive bites on his neck. No, he has not managed to switch on some young Dolly Bird, he simply forgot to warn the guardroom before opening his secure store.

This has an alarm system connected to the guardroom which should be switched off before the door is opened. The custodian entered the store and heard a sudden flurry behind him. Before he could turn he found himself eyeball to eyeball with a vicious Alsation guard dog which was obviously weighing up his jugular vein and debating whether 33 was a good year for blood. This was followed very closely by a very red faced, breathless RPC dog handler who stood in the doorway shouting "Heel, Heel". **Captain Heaps** is still trying to decide whether this was a command to the dog, or an opinion being expressed on traffic officers who cause Regimental Policemen to race across camp for no good reason. Needless to say, **Colin** now has a new respect for guard dogs and the security system.

A few days later **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Mick Golledge** proved that he is a potential traffic officer by emulating the feat.

**Sergeant Tom Fowle** (RPC) reports that the dogs have suffered no ill effects. A reliable source informs me that **Sergeant Fowle** and his Pioneers, who form the Regimental Police, have made some very scathing remarks about the intellectual prowess of Traffic Officers and Yeomen of Signals.

### A DOGS BEST FRIEND

Recently **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Trevor Spence** and a party from 'A' Troop provided a D13/R234 demonstration detachment for the Worcester show. This, in conjunction with **Staff Sergeant Peter Cain** and the Regimental recruiting and information team, proved to be a very popular attraction. The local dolly birds all seemed suitably impressed by the suave charm of the crews. Visitors were allowed to send messages to BAOR via the anchor station at Krefeld and their children were delighted with teleprinter pictures ranging from Concorde to Yogi Bear which were distributed to all.

During the show **Trevor Spence, Sergeant 'Taff' Assender,** and two or three others, were stood in the centre of the showground when a dog of very dubious parentage was observed racing towards them with an expression of acute anxiety. On reaching the combat suited party, it singled out **'Taff' Assender,** sniffed, balanced on three legs, then a look of pure unadulterated bliss spread across its face. **'Taff'** reports, that he had the distinct impression that he had been caught in a very localised rainstorm.

**F. of S. Spence** has now recommended that **Sergeant Assender** be nominated for an award for outstanding service to canines. He also considered that the incident provides conclusive proof of the efficiency of the camouflage on combat suits.

### WELL TIMED

Alarm and consternation were rife when a notice on orders concerning obesity in soldiers was followed by a report that **R.Q.M.S. Ted Brant** was scouring the local shops for fifty, three minute egg timers. Our more rotund members had visions of being subjected to the Mayo Clinic diet which entails eating 56 eggs in a fortnight. Their fears were eventually allayed when it was discovered that the timers were required by the Belize Telephone Exchange to time calls. This must now be the only exchange in the world to produce accurate calls and soft boiled eggs simultaneously.

**Ted** is now wondering whether the stationery office will be able to supply working instructions and CES for egg timers whilst he awaits his next unusual request.

### REALIZATION

The following was overheard at dinner in a conversation between young officers: "I was worried about all the chaos and confusion I was causing, until I read this book and discovered that it was a management technique".

## 16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

### SILLY SEASON

WE enter the silly season again when uniforms are exchanged for swimming trunks, track suits, and shorts PT and training takes precedence over 'flu, leave and courses as the 'man eater' on the squadron availability returns.

On a recent visit to West Park, a sports field adjacent to the camp, a party of heaving, perspiring young men were seen trying to raise some heavy object from a deep hole by means of a pulley and rope. While thinking it was an odd place to dig a well, let alone allowing something like that to fall down it, the penny dropped . . . good luck to the Tug-o-War Team!

At this point may we wish all the Regimental sportsmen every success this year and hope their efforts will be well rewarded.

### SMALL BORE

The photograph by our Regimental Cecil Beaton, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Brian Connor** shows the Regimental Smallbore Team, winners of the Army Smallbore Championships 1974. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Tony Cole** came second overall in this competition being beaten by only one point.

16th REGIMENT SMALLBORE TEAM
*Left to right:* W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Tony Cole, Corporal Colin Harris, Lance-Corporal Bill Cowie, W.O.1 (F. of S.) Brian Maltby

### REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

16th Regiment held their Regimental athletics Meeting on 2nd May, when 2 Squadron showed its lust for silver and all things shiny by coming away winners of both the Inter Squadron and the Tug of War trophies.

3 Squadron covered themselves with glory in the chain of command obstacle relay race when the OC, **Major Bob Stark** was carried shoulder high through the winning tape by **Lance-Corporal Jimmy Johnson** and **Signalman Pete Woodward.**

A special mention should be made of **Signalman Terry Long** of 2 Squadron who, never having run in anything before, showed great spirit by volunteering for the 400 m. hurdles when he found his team a man short. **Signalman Long** stands 5 ft. 2 in. tall and was doing very well with his tactics of kicking the hurdles down

until he met an unusually firm one in front of the stands where he did a spectacular somersault and landed on his face. However, he is a game lad and got up again to finish fourth.

4 Squadron were prompted to break their fourth month silence when they read in the March/April issue of THE WIRE that 1 Squadron manned the only Commcen in Europe still run by the British Army. They may have meant Tape Relay Centre but even they should have specified Primary or Major! 4 Squadron has the responsibility of manning Bielefeld Commcen (mainly by WRAC Commcen Operators with an occasional Royal Signals Data Telegraphist on each shift to boost morale). Sennelager Commcen and the little known Handorf Commcen are also part of their responsibility. Bielefeld and Sennelager qualify for participation in the Comstar Award Scheme but at present have only one award to their credit—a bronze won by Sennelager. They were well on their way to another award with nil errors in the first two months of the year but unfortunately the tapes for the second two months were lost in the post!

## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42

THIS month we feature 3 Squadron, the line Squadron, who are the best known element of the Regiment, certainly by the Royal Air Force whom we support. The Squadron, commanded by **Major W. A. C. Griffiths,** has its headquarters at RAF Laarbruch and one troop lives and works on each of the four airfields—Wildenrath, Bruggen, Laarbruch and Gutersloh. The complexity and volume of their work is ever increasing and the linemen and telemechanics seem to thrive on hard work and hard play. Somehow the Squadron found the time to win both the inter Squadron athletics and swimming competitions this year as well as providing many sportsmen to their respective Engineering Wing teams. It is not unknown for a line troop to provide 50 per cent of the Engineering Wing team although they are only 5 per cent of the Wing's manpower. In all the Squadron has earned the respect and confidence of the RAF stations that it supports.

### EXERCISE 'PEG OUT'

May has been a quiet month for exercises in the Harrier Wing but each airfield has practised its on base alert measures and resistance to enemy attack in a series of MINEVAL exercises.

18 Squadron RAF, based at RAF Gutersloh deployed to the Moselle area with their Wessexs and J Troop accompanied them and provided their communications. 2 Squadron took this opportunity to do some military training, including helicopter drills and wine tasting competitions which proved both useful and enjoyable.

### VISITS

Three very important visits took place during the month. Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier H. C. Illing, C.B.E., M.C.** visited the Regiment and as part of his visit presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to **Staff Sergeant Hill** who works in A Troop in Rheindahlen. RAF Wildenrath has been a hive of industry for weeks preparing for the annual inspection by the Air Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Germany which took place on 3rd May. As well as being the RAF's equivalent to our FFR Inspection this visit acted as a rehearsal for the visit of **H.R.H. The Prince Philip,** who visited the station on 17th May. His Royal Highness met many of the officers and men of the Regiment, particularly 2 Squadron who participated in a demonstration of Harrier Force deployment. Unfortunately the press party was not allowed to follow this part of the visit so no photographs are available.

### SPORT

The full range of sporting activities continue. The Rhine Area hockey league ended in a draw between ourselves and RAF Wildenrath. In a hard fought play-off we were unable to stop a strong RAF Wildenrath team from scoring 3 goals and we therefore finished the season as runners up.

A Regimental golf day was held on 30th May on the Wildenrath 9 hole course (only the RAF could build an airfield round a golf course) and provided good fun and some good golf for about 30 entrants. The morning Stapleford competition was won by **Sergeant Scriven** and the afternoon stroke play competition by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Smith.**

Commander Rhine Area presenting Staff Sergeant Hill with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Our athletes continue to train hard, sights set on the Army Shield for one more year. We provided most of the 'Anglo' team in the Anglo-German Athletics event held in Rheindahlen on 25th May. In a much closer match than last year the German team won by only 4 points. The BAOR individual athletic meeting on 29th–30th May confirmed that our training is up to schedule. Look for the results of the Morrison Cup and the Rhine Area athletics in the next issue.


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## *Tasks and Equipment that come the way of 3 Squadron, 21 Signal Regiment*

**1. Corporal Morris and Signalman O'Connor route clearing. 2. Not all trenches are dug manually—Signalman O'Connor on the digger. 3. Laying 30 pr. cable—Signalman Pitwood guides the cable into the trench. 4. Cable laying—Corporal Morris and Signalman Pitwood. 5. Routine cable jointing—Lance-Corporal Fielding. 6. Emergency cable repair—Corporal Marsden**

## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

### BIRTH OF A SCRIBE

UNSUSPECTINGLY I walked into HQ Squadron Office hopefully clutching my leave application. A smile flitted across the usually passive face of **W.O.2 S.S.M. Denis Holder,** alas my leave application was allowed to fall onto the pending tray with the remark "As soon as you let me have this month's WIRE Notes" and as an afterthought, "By tomorrow morning".

### ATHLETICS

Much to the delight of our resident sadist namely **Sergeant Instructor Alan File,** the 17th of the month dawned bright and clear, Field events in the morning, Track events in the afternoon. Once again 4 Squadron ruled the day with our own beloved Headquarters Squadron coming a close third. Although none of our regimental records were broken an enjoyable day was had by all.

Beware 4 Squadron, conspiracy is afoot, our other three operating Squadrons declare that you do not stand a chance in the forthcoming communications competition—Exercise 'Eagles Flight'—Results and details in the next issue.

### AUSLANDER TAG

Football, athletics and table tennis competitions are being held with combatant teams being drawn from foreign nationals resident in Lippstadt, Great Britain being represented by a team picked jointly from our neighbours 27 Medium Regiment RA and ourselves.

To date football has figured predominantly, the semi-final being played on 19th May between 'Juventus Espana' and ourselves a goal by **Sergeant Jimmy Gilmour** put us in the lead and the final result was 1–0, giving the British a place in the final, against the Italian club 'Internazzional' to be played on June 8th.

### EXERCISE 'ELSINORE LINK'
**by Sergeant Smith (ACC)**

After a bumpy ride down the autobahn with a twisted wheel we arrived at Kiel training area 2 hours ahead of the first convoy to prepare an evening meal and breakfast next morning for the Squadron. An old incinerator was placed at our disposal to be used as a kitchen and we promptly succeeded in blowing up the concrete floor with the Hydro Burners.

On arrival at Haderslav we were greeted by a sumptuous repast prepared by **Signalman 'Yorky' Moore.** Then work really began cooking for the 130 Officers and men from all squadrons of the regiment. Apart from four days spent in the middle of a pine wood our kitchen was situated in the middle of the main drive to the Commandant's quarters. This necessitated swearing in low voices and fitting silencers to the burners. However only once did the Commandant complain and that was when a certain party pinched **Signalman 'Yorky' Moore's** cottage pie he had put to one side for lunch.

It is now rumoured that the OC 1 Squadron is now addicted to tinned turnips and **Lieutenant Dibley** is a diabetic.

After 16 days of pretty hard work and uneventful happenings it finally came time to say good-bye to Haderslav camp and return to Lippstadt. Our packet being the slowest left the camp first and we were expecting to be overtaken by everyone else but with map reading being what it is we managed to arrive back in Lippstadt complete and an hour ahead of everyone else.

### RECEIPTS AND ISSUES

This month we say 'Bon Voyage' (Who says our Hierarchy are sailors come part time soldiers) to **Major Bill Mawson, M.B.E.,** his wife **Annette** and family on their departure to 10th Regiment for a short stay prior to their debut into Civvy Street.

Our very own Bayerische, **Harry Whenman,** has also said farewell and taken up residence here in Germany. Another foreign National in Lippstadt.)

A warm welcome is extended to **Major Ron Acott** (new OC HQ Squadron) his wife **Marjorie** and family wishing them a happy stay with the Regiment.

Have you heard the one about the officer who asked AG11 to make his next posting somewhere near the Rhine? (16th or 21st Regiment). Our Acting Adjutant **Harry Bell** saw his wish come true with a posting to 21st Regiment, and consequently delegated to take command of the airfield troop at RAF Gutersloh, just 20 miles from Lippstadt!


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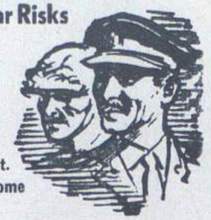

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## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

HAVING just concluded our first bout of exercises this year, our NATO allies are all heavily involved in training their national service soldiers. As a result, apart from one exercise, the month of May saw the Regiment catching up on one of the more important aspects of soldiering—enjoying itself. This month we report on a selection of activities all packaged together by our ever hard-pressed Adjutant who wishes to remain anonymous in the hope that he will get a 'plug' next month.

### ENJOYING OURSELVES ONE WAY AND ANOTHER FRANSUD 1974

Fransud is just one of our many adventure training exercises during which we try to get as many soldiers as possible off into the hills. The whole exercise was ably organized by our Training Officer **Major Ray Etheridge** under the auspices of STC Silberhutte, however some people, as the report by one party leader, **Lieutenant Jon Henderson** shows, went off with very mistaken ideas:

"When I heard I was going on Exercise 'Fransud' I immediately thought of the South of France with its long sandy beaches and long legged blondes. I should have known better. After a gruelling six hour journey in the inevitable Army 39-seater, made worse by hairpin bends and steep hills, myself and 35 others found ourselves inspecting our 'home' for the next six days. We were at Torfhaus Hut, one of the many owned by STC Silberhutte in the Harz mountains, and about four kilometers from the East/West German border.

We were there to take part in an adventure training programme, which included trekking, orienteering, abseiling and, although it wasn't actually written down anywhere, drinking! After a few lectures on basic first aid and survival the groups of four set off into the low cloud—Torfhaus is at about 800 metres—wondering if they would ever find their way back.

Luckily it was still possible to read the signposts and all the groups got to their campsites in time—although not without some mishaps. **Corporal** (Katie to his friends) **Turner-Howe** was renamed 'Just round the next corner' by his group. **Signalmen Dave Toulson** and **'Taff' Hughes** were two of the many who went around muttering 'Won't' when told they had to climb yet another hill. Luckily after two days the weather cleared and it got very hot which was fine as long as you weren't walking; when everyone tended to need more to drink which meant longer lunch time stops.

Saturday came-many hills (and beers) later and we all headed into Braunlage to visit the border. We discovered a 12 foot high fence which meandered up a valley and having wandered along it for a few kilometres wondered whether or not we were at the border. Then we saw a tower which on closer inspection with binoculars revealed an East German guard looking at us with binoculars. We all waved and he waved back—who said they weren't friendly?

We headed back on Sunday taking with us memories of long roads and steep hills—maybe next year we will have Fransud in the South of France?

### BALTIC SAILING

Not to be outdone our CO, **Lieutenant-Commander**—sorry **Colonel Dudley Carnie,** took a motley crew of cut-throats around to the Island of Fyn in a boat called *Osprey*. The 'crew' consisted of **Sergeants Peter Johnson, Mike Shaw** and **Corporals Peter Underwood** and **'Mac' MacKown.** Judging by the report and poem they produced, they certainly enjoyed themselves.

After the usual hand-over of the boat at the BKYC the crew settled down to the task of sailing it under the eye of the skipper. As none of the crew had sailed before it was quite surprising how quickly they all became efficient in this task.

Once on the open seas a course was set for the Island of Fyn—that's the middle one for land lubbers. The first day turned out to be the most memorable, because whilst negotiating some narrow channel ways, the skipper while at the tiller, had the misfortune to run the boat aground as he tried to take a short-cut from one channel to another. This certainly brought laughter from the crew. The boat was eventually brought to deeper water with the aid of a helpful Dane.

The crew made its way around the island during the rest of the week calling in at a number of ports such as Sonderborg, Nyborg and Augustenberg, naming just a few, finally returning back to Kiel.

All in all the trip was so enjoyable we composed a poem as a memento.

Colonel Carnie seemed a killer
as he was standing near the tiller.
He tried a short-cut and he found
that his boat had run aground.

Mac McKown was so shrewd
to cook good meals with compo food.
He had a trait which we liked less
to leave the place a holy mess.

Dudley Carnie in a fashion
had 'Alpen' breakfast for a passion.
One morning as he looked around
there was no 'Alpen' to be found.
Michael the greedy gut
had eaten all the 'Alpen' up.

Pete Underwood was very cunning
to fetch the beer he did the running.
He got them drunk and full of cheer
until they all bought him a beer.

Peter Johnson, 'Scroogie-Honey'
did not like to spend the money.
Although belonging to Army Funds
the money never left his hands.

We saw the Baltic in 'Osprey'
and wished we had more time to stay.
We had much fun
in the sun
but back to work we had to come.

### PISTOL FEST

Every year as part of our international social round we invite the officers of the other units that make up NORTHAG Signal Support Group to a Pistol Fest. This year, apart from ourselves, teams representing 840 German Signal Battalion, 13 Belgian Radio Company, HQ NORTHAG Signal Support Group and St. Tonis town all participated. The competition was split into two halves with the first half devoted to standard snap shooting. By the time brockwurst, pommes frites and even more beer came the Regiment had established a clear lead.

The second half of the evening was in some respects a 'fun' competition as each team of 3 had 12 Balloons to 'kill' with a combined 18 rounds in 30 seconds. The Regiment shot first and achieved the next to impossible score of all balloons 'killed' in 19 seconds and handed back 5 rounds—the team captain still doesn't know who to blame for dropping that one shot. No team came anywhere near the Regiment's effort, the other teams unfortunately still had balloons left at the end of the 30 seconds or ran out of ammunition.

The Burgermeister of St. Tonis, **Herr Beckers,** presented the prizes to the winning team and also the best CO's prize which again, without embarrassment, went to our own CO. The Burgermeister surprised us with his command of the English language when he gave a very humourous speech.

Just to prove that we do sometimes work, it is perhaps fitting to close with a report by our Chief Clerk **W.O.2 Cliff Webb,** who with the rest of our reluctant RHQ, eventually took to the field for the first time in their collective military careers, or so you would believe if you had seen the panic!

### ECHELON—RHQ STYLE

On 2nd May RHQ deployed in the field on its twice yearly exercise, that is **W.O.2 Cliff Webb, Lance-Corporal Bob Walton, Corporal Dennis Braithwaite, Sergeant Rupert Lund, Signalman Terry Goodwin** deployed, the remainder of RHQ found a multitude of reasons why they shouldn't, each valid.

The day prior to deployment arrived and so did one vehicle, a rusty old Bedford box-body.

Quickly though, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, and inevitably, the brew kit, were installed.

The four days on deployment were spent carrying out our normal peace-time role in the field, along with weapon and NBC training, ending in a night exercise under the able eyes of OC HQ Squadron **Major Jimmy Robinson** and **W.O.2 Bob Swaine.**

One amazing incident was **Corporal Dennis Braithwaite's** night attack on a defensive position with his RPC soldiers, culminating in he alone charging the position, his troop arriving some five minutes later muttering something about synchronising watches!

## 30 Sig Regt
### BLANDFORD CAMP

"THE time has come", we in RHQ decided, "to let other people do the work and for us to sit back and enjoy the rewards of being overseers". So, after numerous memos and words had flown up and down the steps to RHQ, each Squadron wrote its own autobiography for the month. The resultant influx of information has firmly convinced us that this month has been an exceptionally busy one for the Regiment as I think you will agree when you have read all about it. So, read on!

### 1 SQUADRON

Exercises galore explains what we in 1 Squadron have been doing recently. People have been dashing off hither and thither on all kinds of interesting tasks.

Exercise 'Cold Meece', which, after an indent for fine weather had been refused, would more aptly have been named 'Soaked Soldiers', was held on Swynnerton Training Area with eight of our men from VFH Troop taking part. With **Sergeant Vic Shuttleworth** and **Sergeant John Hodgkiss** in charge, they spent three exciting days watching the RAOC ammunition experts blow boxes of all shapes and sizes to smithereens—between providing the radio backup, that is.

Exercise 'Dawn Patrol' involved four men from HF Troop. **Staff Sergeant Ken Griffiths, Corporal Wally Halstead, Lance-Corporal John Butcher** and **Signalman Tony Coulthard** set off on Easter Monday to join the RFA *Sir Lancelot* at Marchwood, hoping for four weeks of bliss idling on board deck in the Mediterranean sun with occasional visions of bikini-clad, bronzed young ladies whilst in port.

Such rare moments were treasured in between providing ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications for the exercise.

After first tasting the delights of port at St. Antioco in Southern Sardinia and passing by Malta, Cyprus appeared on the horizon. Only **Signalman Tony Coulthard** was free to go ashore, so off he went, happily unaware of what lay in store. Gradually, the once calm water was tossed up into quite a stormy sea; so much so that the ship had to depart, leaving one stranded Signalman to face the perils (and delights) of Cyprus alone!

After this incident and two weeks of hard work, the fearsome four were lifted by helicopter on to *HMS Fearless,* bound for Naples. Such sights as the ruins of Pompeii, and the world-famous Cameo factory had to compete with the beaches of Sorrento for their attention on those last few days.

The 16th May saw these four sun-bronzed heroes back at Brize Norton, bound for Blandford again, where they were met with green-tinged cries of "How was the cruise then?"!

You may already have heard about Operation Niger in the newspapers and on TV. A convoy of vehicles from Britain travelled through France, across to Algeria, and down to Nigeria with the purpose of delivering the vehicles for use on famine relief there. **Corporal Geoff Lindsay** and **Signalman Bob Fryer** were the lucky men chosen to provide the communications for the whole operation.

Numerous tales have been heard from them about experiences on the journey. One of these describes how, due to taking a wrong turning up a dead end road in France, a large part of the convoy had to back all the way out again through a small village called 'Macon'. Reactions—the mad English again!

However, in Algeria, soil gradually gave way to endless mounds of sand, and roads gave way to potholes. The heat was almost unbearable at 140°F in the shade, with little relief at night. It makes you wonder how the desert people live out a full life in these conditions.

At one point, when the convoy was ahead of schedule and they stopped for a few days, they were offered the use of a swimming pool! What a surprise in the middle of a sea of sand and scrub. Eventually, together with men from the UN and the Nigerian Army, the handover was effected, all duly monitored by BBC television cameras. Then it was time to relax and recover from this strenuous journey before flying by Hercules back to the very welcome and damp green fields of England.

### 2 SQUADRON

In truly glorious weather (a debatable point between the competitors and the spectators), the 30th Regiment inter squadron annual shooting competition took place at Chickerill ranges near Weymouth on Tuesday, 14th May. There surely has never been a more smoothly organized meeting and credit for this must surely go to **W.O.2 Eric Smith** with help from a host, too many to name.

By lunchtime the rifle section had been decided, with 2 Squadron narrowly winning the team event from 3 Squadron 'A' team. **Captain Dick Hood** won the individual prize for the best rifle shot. Special mention must be made of **Sergeant 'Paddy' Garrahey** for some really consistent shooting for 3 Squadron 'A' team in making it such a close event. The lunch break was then taken while all enjoyed a superb cold salad provided by **Captain John Dowd** and his ACC staff. The afternoon went very much the same way as the pre-lunch competition with 2 Squadron winning the team prize for the SMG and **W.O.2 Eric Smith** claiming the trophy for the best SMG shot after a countback with **Captain Dick Hood.**

In the falling plate a great deal of interest was stimulated (spectator-wise) by a running commentary from the Commanding Officer and all else was forgotten as a crate of beer was the prize. 3 Squadron were the favourites to take the prize and indeed it looked as if they would do it, but once again the experienced old hands from 2 Squadron finally 'killed' their challenge by putting them down in double quick time.

The Squadron now have a monopoly on all the Regimental Shooting prizes kindly presented by **Mrs. Jarrett.**

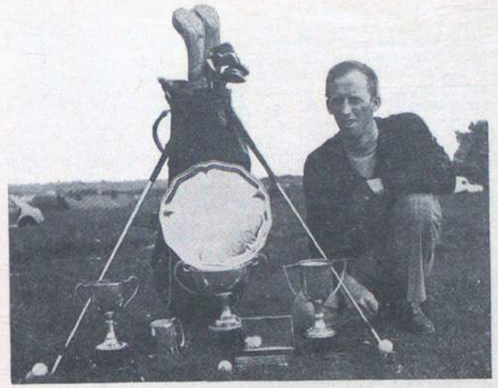
30th SIGNAL REGIMENT ANNUAL INTER SQUADRON SHOOTING COMPETITION WON BY 2 SQUADRON
*Left to right:* Captain Hood, Signalman Copley, Staff Sergeant Honor (Team Captain), Signalman McNair, W.O.2 Smith

Being the truly versatile Squadron that we are, we have also been active in the field of golfing.

**Lance-Corporal Chris Carveth** joined 30th Regiment in March and has already won many honours. In April he won the South West District championships with a score of 71–71–142, 4 shots ahead of his nearest rival. He then went on leave in early May and won the Cornwall amateur championship which consisted of two qualifying rounds and then four match play rounds and the final over 36 holes which he won by 6/5 Next came the Royal Signals championship at Catterick. He won the Royal Signals open championship cup for the fifth time in succession, with a score of 151, the Royal Signals individual handicap for the fourth time (score 145) and the Royal Signals individual Stableford cup also for the fourth time. He then went on to win his own club championship at Northbourne with a score of 149. He has been selected to play for the Corps in the Inter Corps trophy at Tidworth and also been selected to represent the A.G.A. team which visits BAOR later this month for a Triangular tournament against RAF Germany and BAOR.

We heartily congratulate **Lance-Corporal Carveth** on these fine achievements and wish him the very best of luck in his forthcoming evenis.





CORPS ACE GOLFER
Lance-Corporal Chris Carveth and some of his recently won trophies

### 3 SQUADRON

It has been a busy month for the Squadron in many ways, with fitness training, refurbishing of vehicles, continuation training, and of course preparing for our voice procedure exercise in Belgium.

The highlight of the fitness training for C Troop, our rebro troop, was when our Yeoman, **Staff Sergeant Colin Eastland,** gave the map, on one of the walk about exercises to **Signalman 'Paddy' McIlvenny,** who proceeded to take the troop round Bradbury rings, instead of past it. The look of disbelief on his face when the troop arrived back at the start point, needed to be seen to be believed.

On a sad note, we have said farewell to our OC, **Major Ron Clayton,** and welcome in his place **Major Peter Brunton.** We hope his stay with us will be a happy one.

The Officers and senior NCO's of the Squadron dined out **Major Clayton** at the Anvil Inn in Pimperne. A very enjoyable evening, and **Major Clayton** was presented with a tankard from those present, suitably inscribed with the Squadron catchphrase, "Don't time go quick when you're enjoyin' yoursen".

We have at the moment members of the Squadron led by **Lieutenant V. T. Smedley** away on a KAPE tour in the South of England, complete with two Volvo snowcats and full winter kit. As it has been quite seasonal of late, they have had a very warm time of it, dressed in their full winter kit. The KAPE team are **Sergeant Million, Corporal Lord, Corporal Southworth, Lance-Corporal Grant, Signalmen Miller, Wilson** and **Hendry.**

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## News from Squadrons

## 7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
### B.F.P.O. 20

### OC AWAY—SOLDIERS AT PLAY?

A GREAT hush has befallen Squadron Headquarters, greatly assisted by our OC's absence on leave and the majority of the lads basking in the sun on the annual exercise with 103 Lt AD Regiment RA TAVR. We are providing the communications and the enemy for these Liverpool lads, the rebros being the responsibility of **Corporal 'Holly' Hollingsworth** and 'Mountain Man' is **Corporal Bob Wyse,** while the raiding parties are being led by **Sergeant 'Geordie' Close.** Anyway, more of that in the next WIRE contribution.

### KINDLING ENTHUSIASM

The Squadron, under the new management of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tony Perkin,** are enjoying a guaranteed weekly sports afternoon, the likes of which have not been seen for three years and he is kindling our enthusiasm in the adventurous training world with proposed weekend visits to our training area, the first of which is to take place shortly which comprises canoeing, climbing, walking and the usual remedial activity which follows such strenuous pastimes. This is particularly popular with the Corporals of the Squadron as it gives them the chance to show their unlimited potential as 'leaders'! With fitness and survival being very much in the minds of all we hope to avoid a repetition of last year's summer camp when **Corporal Dave Hutchison** passed out, either on a run or at the suggestion of one, we are not quite sure.

Our good neighbours 260 Squadron, who have their summer camp in the summer, took with them **Corporal Jim Freeburn** and **Signalman 'Taff' Macey** where, with the Americans they were taught much in the way of rigorous physical exertion and of course how to drown their sorrows afterwards.

We count ourselves very fortunate in having one of the World Cup stadiums about 3 km. away so all our Scottish brethren will be very much in high spirits when they go and cheer Scotland playing Zaire in the first match to be played in Dortmund. Being very amenable Sassenachs we will be going with them and cheering too. By the time this reaches the pages of THE WIRE Scotland should be the World Cup holders! (Sorry—it didn't work out this way!)

### COMING AND GOING

We say goodbye to **Sergeant Bob Sellwood** who for many months has ably controlled the Squadron MT. We wish **Bob** and his wife, **Yvonne,** every success in their new posting to 36 Heavy AD Regiment RA, 3 km. down the road!

We welcome **Sergeant Brian Washer** and **Gunner Brown** and hope that they have an enjoyable tour with us.

## 11th Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
### B.F.P.O. 29

### UNIT SAILORS ENJOY COPENHAGEN TRIP

SOME of the sailors of the unit made an early start to the season with a 7 day charter of the yacht *Tern* from the Yacht Club at Kiel over the period 20th–27th April.

The party was made up of **W.O.2 John Scrutton, Staff Sergeant Joe Brand, Corporal Mick Barnett, Corporal**

**Alan Whitehead, Signalman 'Yank' Gerhard, Driver Phil Beach.** The port of Copenhagen was chosen as the target.

The crew arrived at Kiel a little after mid-day on 20th April and *Tern* was taken over, charts and navigation equipment collected from store. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in Kiel Fjord getting to know the boat.

The following morning saw us leaving Kiel with a NW wind on a course to take us to the Danish port of Rodby. This was reached late afternoon after a day spent on instruction for the 'First Timers'.

Monday saw another early start to the day's proceedings. The wind being from the WNW a course was set for the tip of the Falster Peninsular. This was rounded at 1215 hours and a course set to round Mon and bring us to Rodvig Havn our next port of call. After some good sailing this was reached at 0100 hours.

We took our departure from Rodvig Havn after breakfast on 23rd April and Copenhagen was reached at 1830 hours. After a very hard day of tacking and sail changing shore leave was granted and all hands prepared to 'do the town'.

After a morning spent shopping we departed from Copenhagen at mid-day on 24th April for the homeward leg of the chrater Early evening saw us smarting along with a SSE wind. We sailed on through the night and again arrived off Rodby at 1600 hours on 25th April.

0900 hours the following morning saw us departing Rodby for the final leg back to Kiel. The wind held SW force 2–3 all day and Kiel was reached shortly after the club bar opened!

After a most enjoyable charter the only problem remaining is when can we go again.

P.S.—We never did see "OOOEEE".

OFFSHORE SAILORS

*Left to right:* Corporal Whitehead, Signalman Gerhard, Corporal Barnett, Staff Sergeant Brand

## MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

A restful leave came to an abrupt end to be told that an intensive military training period was to start at once. The cream of military ability in the Squadron was selected and two teams formed. These teams were to stop at nothing in order to obtain equal first place in the forthcoming military skills competition.

Brief details of the skills we would be tested in were given, After a period of good food and festive cheer it was decided that a priority course of action was to get fit and so a daily morning run appropriate jerks and log tossing routine commenced.

The MTO, **Captain Mike Lake** was chosen to drive the teams and arranged a programme including weapon handling, tactics, rangework, NBC, first aid, map reading, pyrotechnics and assault course. This was manfully and spiritedly followed for three weeks creating two teams who had not only supreme confidence in their abilities, but an overwhelming desire to win, outsiders not even being considered.

When the day arrived at last the outsiders comprised of 8 teams from 7 Field Workshop REME, HQ 1 Division, 29 Field Ambulance, 11 OFP and 11 Field Workshop REME. The weather was mercifully warm and overcast, wet underfoot.

The first obstacle was the inspection, weapons by REME, bodies by the Brigade Staff. Points were awarded for dress, weapons and equipment and both our teams scored well.

Once the inspection was completed, the team leaders were briefed on the tactical situation and plans for a border patrol (not, for a change, with Redland) were prepared. The patrol was over five miles and observed by an attached DS. Patrol drills were actioned as perfectly as possible throughout with a constant eye on the time. An ambush had to be dealt with and a sniper neutralized, points being allocated for alertness, control, reaction, movement and formations, as well as those already given for preparation and orders.

The next immediate task was a demoniacal stream crossing initiative test of the short planks, rope and oil drum type, using far more determination than initiative and a variety of methods ranging from a horizontal version of the Indian rope trick to a good old fashioned run and jump.

A welcome stand up lunch was followed by a short approach march to an admin area where extra equipment was issued by the administrative teams and thence to recce and establish a base camp hide for the night. Here the emphasis was on concealment, security and control along with administration, hygiene and alarm preparation.

The team led by **Lieutenant P. J. Bowles** with **Sergeant Colin Smith, Corporal Pete Ling, Corporal Charlie Rodgers, Lance-Corporal John Howe, Lance-Corporal Denny Clegg, Signalman John Grey, Signalman Tommy Hawkwood, Signalman 'Tiny' Latham, Signalman John Paine, Signalman Terry Naylor, Signalman Les Wood and Sergeant 'Taff' Callear** administrating, was at this stage well in the lead and relatively dried out after their interesting river crossing. The points gap was being closed gradually however by **Second-Lieutenant Proctor's** team lying second. A rumoured move of location had seemingly made them the only undiscovered team during the night although it is strongly denied.

A quick tactical breakfast and clean up after a frosty night and a link up again with the admin party started day two. There followed a tour of stands where thorough test of individuals' (yes even officers!) weapon handling, CW drills and knowledge and map reading skill were carried out whilst the admin party were examined for driver maintenance, tidiness and manoeuvring ability. A first aid problem was then encountered where under the keen eye of **Lieutenant-Colonel Swinhoe** RAMC the victims of a car crash were treated and evacuated whilst acting their hearts out beneath grease paint and tomato ketchup.

The final and as it proved deciding part was a most novel team battle shoot with SLRs at 300 metres. The first practice was harrassing fire at one figure twelve target, with ten exposures of three seconds, the target appearing at random points on the butt frontage and at varying time intervals.

As if this was not sufficiently difficult, a rapid defensive shoot followed 30 seconds after the last exposure in practice one, during which time magazines had to be changed and respirators fitted. Three sets of two figure eleven targets were then exposed for 30 seconds for all to shoot at.

It was at this final stage when frenzied activity occurred around the score board. It appeared that due to a record shooting score for the day, that **Second-Lieutenant Proctor's** team had won, a point ahead of our other team. However our teams won the cup and a handsome tankard.

The joyous victors were **Second-Lieutenant Proctor, Sergeant 'Bede' Welsh, Corporal Norman Cawthra, Corporal Trev Williams, Lance-Corporal Nigel Henriques, Lance-Corporal Trev Thomas, Driver Steve Stephens, Signalman 'Geordie' McHale, Signalman Ian McKnight, Signalman Jim Paine, Signalman Colin Williams, Signalman 'Chippy' Wood** and **Sergeant 'Stu' Bromidge** as administrator.



# 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
# B.F.P.O. 41

MAY has been a very busy month for the Squadron with a mixed bag of Exercises, Sporting Events and other assorted crises. Despite this however the Squadron Commander, **Major Roger Garlick,** managed to slip away for a few days' leave; confident that we could all keep our heads above water.

## FLOATATION TRAINING

On the subject of water, at the beginning of the month the Squadron held its annual floatation training at Ohr Park, near Hameln. A few days were spent preparing the 432's to be used and 'dip testing' them in a large tank at Lemgo. It was during the dip test that one of the APC's started to sink and it is verbally reported that the vehicle commander, **Corporal Keith Palmer,** had to place his boot firmly on the driver's head, **Signalman Bill Laurie,** to prevent him from abandoning ship.

The actual training at Ohr Park went very smoothly under the direction of **Captain Leslie Reason,** RCT and **Sergeant 'Ted' Wray.** All in all a very useful and enjoyable day. Most people found that taking a 432 across a river isn't quite as easy as it looks. That, of course, was the point of the exercise!

## SPORT

There has been a great deal of lobbying by the respective managers of the swimming and athletics teams for those members of the unit who shine in both spheres. Both camps are very hard pressed for training time, but our swimming coach **Corporal 'Steve' Dunnings,** hopes to take the team to Berlin and repeat last year's very creditable performance.

Other budding Mark Spitz's in this year's team are **Signalman Ken Durkin, Corporal Ken Pearce, Lance-Corporal 'Stew' Saunders, Lance-Corporal Liam Buckley** and **Corporal 'Bruce' Forsyth.**

The athletic team took third place at the Brigade athletics meeting with fine performances by **Y. of S. George Stubbings** (Discus) and **Corporal 'Chippy' Wood** (1500 m.).

Unfortunately, the lack of training became apparent in the Morrison Cup, when the Squadron took seventh place. We look forward to the Divisional championships at Sennelager on 12th June.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To **Signalman** and **Mrs. Terry Johnson** on the birth of their first child.

## CHANGES

Welcome to **Sergeant Martin Hardy, Corporal Bob Fowler** and **Corporal 'Dusty' Miller.**

## VW VISIT

Members of A Troop spent a most enjoyable day at Hannover visiting the VW factory. Although the tour took only 2 hours, a distance of 4½ km. was covered and most were ready for the superb 3 course lunch supplied by Volkswagen.

Despite constant persuasion the troop received no free samples, although one or two did come away with a few useful spares.

The afternoon was spent at Hannover Zoo where **Signalman 'Jock' McGowan** gave a most convincing performance as a gibbon in the Monkey House. The inmates were most impressed and he received a standing ovation.

# 216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

## NORWEGIAN INTERLUDE

OUR previous notes mentioned Exercise 'Secure One', but only briefly. This more detailed account is from the sea party's point of view. Not all our assaults are airborne!

Our intrepid mariners, who numbered amongst them such salty names as **Tovey, McGovern, Pritchard** and **Haslam,** to mention but a few, set sail from Newcastle on the regular tourist run to Bergen, with all vehicles secured below decks. On the second leg, from Bergen to Trondheim, the vehicles were casually stowed on deck, but luckily the weather held out. This also enabled us to sample the delights of the truly magnificent scenery, whilst gliding through the fiords, past sheltered inlets, with their wooden houses dotted about the mountain side, and the fresh, bracing air of a new clean world, away from it all. There were toy farms on hilltops, and snow capped mountain peaks reaching up to an azure sky. All this and para pay too!

When we finally landed at Trondheim one party set up camp at Vaernes, near to the DZ, while the other party drove to Orland airfield, on the coast, to provide the rear link.

In both cases we were shown every hospitality by our respective Norwegian Army, and Air Force hosts, who were very helpful indeed.

We played our various parts throughout the exercise, maintained our radio links, and met up again at Lanke Camp just before the air party flew back. Once this happened, the troops clutching 'duty frees' in their hot sticky little hands, we cleaned up and handed back the camp to our hosts.

Some sight-seeing was organized, ditto the odd night out in Trondheim, and in the nearby village of Sjordal, where they experienced the first airborne disc-jockey in their new night-club. We also visited Hell, (a place our OC said some of us will doubtless reach later in our careers), but this one was a sleepy little village near Lanke Camp.

However, our sojourn was over all too soon, and we left for Bergen, journeying back down the fiords once more, landrovers lashed to the deck, and our 'lot' lashed to the bar! Sailing times forced us to stay in Bergen for a couple of days, in a hotel no less, and dining on such delicacies as reindeer steaks. When the time came to leave, we were most reluctant, and any future pools winner has plans to return to this land of beauty, in more ways than one.

Two flashbacks on this trip recall one small NCO (no names by request) dancing on the boat deck with an Aberdeen trawlerman's wife, or was it her mother(?), and the crowd of tourists returning to Newcastle who, silly people, tried to outdrink and outsing us. An airborne rendition of 'Wild Rover' caused three old dears to take to the lifeboats. Well . . . almost!

**We had a wonderful time in Norway and look forward to our next chance to visit our new haunts and friends.**

## SARDINIAN SORTIE

Scarcely had we handed our parkas into the RQ's when a new boat party departed for Sardinia, this time on board the LSL *Sir Lancelot.* The main body followed on a few days later by Britannia aircraft, and we set up a tented camp on the southern end of the island, adjacent to the exercise area.

With us was HQ 16 Para Brigade, who organized the camp amenities, to wit, daily road runs, a barber, and an extra supply of boot polish. The road runs, up and down a nearby hillside, liberally adorned with thistles, produced some of the fastest press-ups on record. Shower facilities, aprés run, consisted of hurling basins of cold water over each other, much to the amusement of the locals as they drove past.

Quote of the first week must surely belong to our SSM, **W.O.2 Gordon Haughie,** who spoke to the troops thus: "I have some good news and some bad news. The good news . . . tomorrow is a day off. (loud cheers). The bad news . . . road run as usual at 0600 hours. (stunned silence)".

The weather during this week was abysmal to say the least, rain, high winds, and more rain, e.g., not many Tech Workshops have a stream running through them! However, we soldiered on, and some managed to find the nearest civilisation and sample the vino and pizza pies we had heard so much about.

At this time also, **Ken Buchanan** fought for the European Lightweight Championship in Cagliari, the capital city. This event was well supported by Brigade members, and led to some highly spurious remarks in the British National Press. We must however, take credit for the Union Jack waving supporter, who led the Buchanan team into the ring. It was our tame VM, **Lance-Corporal 'Ginge' Lindup,** REME spanner basher supreme.

The exercise proper started during the second week and the 'comms' went well. The seaborne assault came ashore with the usual verve, vigour and vitality of the RM Commandos, while the USMC had a more laconic approach. With the beach-head established, the 'enemy' put up a strong defence. 'They' were a company of the 509 (US) Airborne Battalion and a platoon of 1 Para.

While the battle raged on, the Squadron operators maintained their usual cool, and comms were solid 'all the way'. Some sterling work was done by the RRB detachment, under **Lance-Corporal Norris Clanachan,** some spine-bruising journeys done by the

rover detachments, and last but not least, the stalwart base-wallahs refused to crack-up, surrounded as they were by chiefs of all sizes!

Eventually a truce was arranged and 'endex' was given, allowing us to pack up for the return to UK.

The action replays this time were numerous, but a few will give you an inkling. There was an impromptu 'Kung Fu' exhibition by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Paddy' Boland,** who astonished us all, and split his trousers. Then **Signalman 'Jock' Graham** tried to 'beam' himself through a glass door in a local tavern, but without the usual Startrek expertise. There was the remark from an All American Airborne Soldier, after our inter-unit cross country race, quoth he, "I was in the lead . . . 'til someone shouted GO!" And finally, the Voice Procedure of a senior officer, which led to "reference my last, cancel my next, over". No more, my career is at stake.

We returned to blighty, laden with 'duty frees' and in varying shades of brown tan. **Signalman Fred Hutchinson,** normally fair haired, looked like a photographic negative, and we await his development with interest.

Our vehicles and equipment returned by sea, and as soon as they arrived we cleaned, checked and repaired them for the next trip, this time Exercise 'Foreground', a para assault onto Salisbury Plain at the end of May. "Will it never end?"

### NORTHERN IRELAND TOURS

On tour with 3 Para recently have been **Lance-Corporals Birks, Brummell, Signalmen Aitken, Jones, Ward** and **Hatchman.** They frequently come into contact with **Lieutenant Dave Harris,** late of the Squadron, who is more or less enjoying his job as a platoon commander in the battalion.

### ARRIVALS

Fresh from Parachute School at Abingdon, **Signalmen Hope** and **McHale.** Also we have 5 men 'in the pipeline' at Abingdon, 7 men actually on P Company and 5 more preparing themselves for the test. Our recruiting team did do some work after all!

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Captain Craig Treeby** and **Janice,** on their marriage on 18th May, duly witnessed by a deputation of seniors, clad in mess dress, and attending the reception like a swarm of locusts.

To **Staff Sergeant Dougie** and **Joyce Baikie,** on the birth of their firstborn, wee **'Jamie Scott',** who entered this world with a side-left landing on 20th May.

To **Lance-Corporals Don Milton, 'Taff' Finn, Tony Giles** and their respective good ladies, on their new arrivals. The airborne life is not only a healthy one!

### WARNING

The strains of 'Colonel Bogey' on car horns, around the Aldershot area, heralds the approach of **Second-Lieutenant Bill Edwards.** Landlords lock up your pumps and ladies watch your daughters!

### FUTURE EVENTS

A radio detachment to visit Jamaica with 2 Para.

A detachment to join the Para Squadron RAC on a UN Tour in Cyprus.

A Squadron R & R period at Garelochhead in Scotland, travelling by C130, courtesy of the RAF.

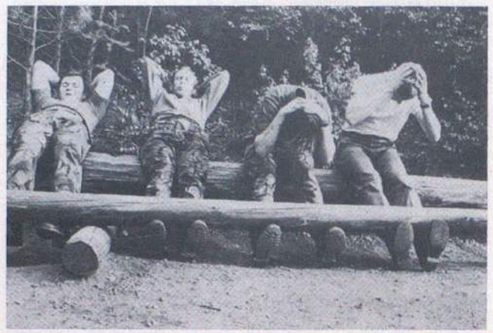
## *A truly splendid fortnight!*

### *260 Sqn are hosted by 8 U.S. Signal Battalion at Annual Camp*

### JOINT US/BRITISH PARTICIPATION

WINTER cobwebs and Dortmund smog having settled in liberal quantities over the Squadron, it became apparent that remedial action was necessary. The OC, **Major Alan Stutchbury,** chaired a meeting and decided unanimously that a summer camp was the answer.

Summer came early to the Squadron and 29th April a dark and dismal day, saw the Squadron depart for Bad Kreuznach in the American sector for two weeks training. The Squadron was hosted by 8th (US) Signal Battalion and the plan was to cement Anglo-American relationships by joint participation in all training activities. The training programme was an extremely full and active one, including PT, BE Tests, weapons classification, fieldcraft, orienteering, rock climbing, canoeing and various sporting activities.



TORTURE?—NO ONLY KEEP FIT EXERCISES

Lance-Corporal 'Tommo' Thomas, Signalman 'Geordie Hume, Signalman 'Rasputin' Turnbull and an unnamed suffering G.I. Signaller on one of the keep fit exercises

### A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

For the purpose of training the Squadron was reorganised into four troops of twenty men and each of these troops had ten American soldiers attached to them for training purposes. Training started at 6 a.m. with a vigorous run, or once over the local "Keep Fit" course located in a nearby "Wanderweg" area. At 9 a.m. our American cousins joined us and training commenced. **Lieutenant David Case,** who incidently never wants to see a canoe again, supervised canoeing and assault boat activities on the River Nahe where each troop frolicked for a day, trying their hardest not to be plunged into the icy waters! **Second-Lieutenant Gerry Corbet** who never before believed that 6 o'clock occurred twice a day, organised the orienteering very successfully from his sleeping bag, only to be disturbed once when his able assistant **Staff Sergeant Dave Meredith** injured his ankle when he missed his footing on a tricky bar stool! **Sergeants Duncan Innes** and **Jim Downie** instructed field craft and having devised a very difficult night movement exercise, had to abandon the activity when **Sergeant Innes** discovered a far less effective but much more painful way of firing a Shermuley flare. **Corporal Pete Tarrant** instructed rock climbing to the willing and pushed the others up and down the rock faces, and we hope to see **Corporal 'Steve' Stevenson** back with the Squadron just as soon as his leg mends. 'Other activities' were supervised by **Captain David Dobson** and the whole exercise presided over by **Major Alan Stutchbury,** both of whom spent the whole exercise searching for **Captain Steve Bloom** who is alleged to have been with the Squadron during the period.

### SPORTS—NOT FORGETTING A MOBILE BEER BAR

Friday, 3rd May was Anglo-American sports day which started off with great gusto when 8 Signal Battalion and the Squadron pounded over the "Keep Fit" course as a warmer for the day's sporting activities. But before the sports, **Lieutenant-Colonel Donald J. Callahan,** CO of 8 Signal Battalion, had a little surprise for the Squadron members, for after a suitable refreshment and a ten minute breather, he led his Battalion and the Squadron on a 4 mile run back to his barracks. On reaching the barracks the waiting band of the 8th (US) Infantry Division broke into "Its a long way to Tipperary", to the cheers of seemingly untired soldiers. Already in high spirits the soldiers were delighted to see a jeep heavily disguised as a beer bar from which copious amounts of beer flowed, until every man was revitalised enough to take part in the sports. The order of the day was two games

RIVAL COMMANDERS SHOOT IT OUT

Major Alan Stutchbury and Lieutenant-Colonel Donald J. Callahan getting the feel of the SLR. At centre rear a somewhat astonished Sergeant Gerry Lilley

BADGE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

8th (U.S.) Signal Battalion march onto parade prior to the badge presentation ceremony

each of softball, basketball, volleyball and soccer—the result was as expected, British honour only being saved by our footballers.

However, the results proved unimportant as friendships were made or renewed and players swapped sides to even up the various teams where necessary. The run, sports, splendid Bar-B-Q lunch and wonderful hospitality made the day and ended the first week of the exercise.

### RANGE WORK AND A PRESENTATION

Week 2 saw both units on the range firing and classifying on each other's weapons, also the Squadron had the opportunity to inspect American communication equipment. The last day saw the combined troops on the road for their BE Tests and classification. The weather had by now changed, and was sweltering hot for this event. In the afternoon the Battalion came to our tented camp area and with both units formed up both **Lieutenant-Colonel Callahan** and **Major Stutchbury** took the opportunity to address the parade. Then, after a neat drill movement which placed every American signaller opposite his British counterpart the Americans presented each British soldier with a Battalion crest.

**The parade ended a truly splendid fortnight and the Squadron returned to Dortmund taking with it many, and we hope long lasting, friendships and memories of 8 Signal Battalion.**

**We were honoured to be given the Purple Heart awarded to Sergeant Joseph W. Gloodt, USA for gallantry in Vietnam, which we are now proudly displaying in our unit lines.**

**Our sincere thanks go to Lieutenant-Colonel Donald J. Callahan for all the assistance that he and his Battalion gave us, to Second-Lieutenant Bill Pope for all his hard work as Liaison Officer, to Captain Randall Skinner for coordinating the training programme, to Lieutenant Marvin Nephew for organising the Sports Day and to all members of 8th Signal Battalion who helped to make the exercise such a tremendous success. We congratulate them on their spirit and professionalism and commend to them their Battalion motto "DRIVE ON". Thanks also to those members of HQ 8th (US) Infantry Division and 8th Supply and Transport Battalion who did so much behind the scenes to help us.**

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(ARMY)

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## News from Troops

### 605 Sig Tp, Gan Island

**AN EXAMPLE OF MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN**

RAF Gan is situated at the southern end of the Addu Atoll which is, itself, at the southernmost end of the Maldivian Islands, some 500 miles from Sri Lanka (Ceylon to the unitiated). Under the terms of the lease for the airbase on Gan, members of the British Forces here are restricted to Gan, and a small area of the neighbouring island of Hittadu, which houses the transmitter station. Hence relationships with the 'locals' tend to be somewhat restricted.

Due to the environment some 'jokes' come through the system about dances and outings to the neighbouring islands—especially for a Saturday night out.

Quite recently one member of a visiting detachment from 30th Regiment in Blandford, decided he would like to visit the neighbouring island of Willingilli, on which according to rumour, disco's are run by nurses from a local hospital. Dutifully armed with a carrierbag containing a bottle of vodka and half a dozen lemonades he reported to 1125 Marine Craft unit duty room to await the 2000 hours boat to the neighbouring island.

To cut a long story short, at 2045 hours he was rather amazed, or annoyed, at being rescued by members of 605 Troop and could not understand why, with over 600 men on the island, he was the only one waiting for the boat. Some mothers do 'ave 'em!

**SPORT**

The Troop continues to surprise many members of the RAF, since we are the smallest section on the station we succeed in fielding teams in most inter-section competitions. Our success rate is not quite as high as we would like but we hope to correct this in the forthcoming five-a-side football tournament.

The Dhoni Race due to have been held on the Spring Bank Holiday Saturday was cancelled. It is suspected that the RAF were concerned over our invitation to take the Station Warrant Officer water skiing during the race!

**SPECIALISATION**

The article on 'Specialisation' (see page 206) appeared in a recent issue of the Gan Island post permission has been obtained from the Editor of GIP for its publication in THE WIRE.

**ARRIVALS**

We welcome **Lance-Corporal Brandon 'Bob' Lake** from 16th Regiment and hope he has a happy and enjoyable stay on Gan. **Bob** replaces **Lance-Corporal Ken White** who left last month for 30th Regiment, and is taking over our stores from **Sergeant Brian Bartrum,** who will now be 'free' to perform his normal daily tasks. The Troop wishes him a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 1975! (RHE 11th February 1975).

### 633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

**A REPORT FROM THE CARIBBEAN**

**INTO 1974**

IN January we said goodbye to **Captain Mike Vest** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Curly' Couperthwaite. Mike Vest** is now a civilian and we wish both he and **Irene** luck in the future. **Yeoman Couperthwaite** is currently losing his sun tan in BAOR!

The new 'management' is **Captain Mike Taylor** who came to us from BAOR and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment** from UK. Both have now acquired sufficient sun tan to wear shorts without blinding the older inhabitants!

**VISIT OF COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP**

**Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.** visited Belize in early February soon after taking up his appointment. He spent a fairly hectic 5 days at work, fitted in a visit to Goff's Cay with the troop and a social event each evening!

**SPORTS**

Somehow we manage to be represented in every competition, albeit with varying success!

The football team, under the leadership of **Signalman Jim Scope** has done particularly well in reaching the finals of the Belize six-a-side football championship. Both **Jim Scope** and **Sergeant 'Nobby' Clark** have represented British Forces Belize.

Volleyball is not our most successful game but **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len Sant** has the team in 'strict training' and is optimistic about the future. Groaning under the 'strict training' are **Sergeants 'Nobby' Clark** and **Ian Brydon, Corporals Mick Holland, 'Taff' Mugford, Tom Haddock** and **Signalman Jim Scope** (again!).

Our newly formed shooting team put up good scores against 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers but were narrowly defeated. The team comprises **Corporals Jim Hindle** and **Bob Hooper, Signalmen 'Chippy' Wood** (30th Regiment) and **Danny Barnett.**

**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment** and **Signalman Jim Scope** (yet again!) keep the troop well represented in the Garrison badminton competition.

**VISIT OF H.M.S. NUBIAN**

H.M.S. Nubian paid a courtesy visit to Belize in early May and the troop was, of course, responsible for establishing 'Ship to Shore' communications. A litrle ingenuity was required to instal the equipment on board, for example feeding cables through the bridge voice tube! All was successfully accomplished, however, and **Signalman Danny Barnett** was instantly promoted to Chief Petty Officer to accompany **Yeoman Jim Rayment** to the CPOs' Mess to sample real keg beer—the first (or should that be thirst!) for 4 months!

**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

Frequent trips to the offshore Cays continue to provide a day's sunshine, sea air, swimming and barbecue (not to mention the ice cold beer!). **Signalman David 'I Never Burn' Armstrong** learned the hard way that the sun is a little more fierce in the Caribbean than in Blyth, Northumberland!

**Yeoman Jim Rayment** is busy sharpening his harpoon after (true story) it bounced off a shark that approached while he was snorkelling!

**Captain Owen Lewis,** Royal Signals, our Staff Captain AQ is also a keen underwater fisherman. Rumour has it that he will shortly open a stall in the local fish market!

**Expeditions**

**Sergeant Eric Jones, Yeoman Jim Rayment** and others recently drove to Mexico City (not entirely without mechanical mishap). Both of them claim that "it's all lies about Green Stamps being given away with Tequila in the Cantina"—all they got were hangovers!

**Corporal Pete Green,** together with **Signalmen 'Mad Harry' Harrison** and **'Edge' Connal** took time off to visit the Mayan Indian ruins at Altun-Ha. They agreed that if the new Trade Training School at Catterick is in as good condition in 2,000 years then the builders are to be congratulated!

**AMATEUR RADIO**

**Captain Mike Taylor** (VP 1 MT), **Yeoman Jim Rayment** (VP 1 JR) and **Signalman Jim Graham** (VP 1 DW) all hold Belize licences and operate the 2 stations in the camp. Regular schedules are held very successfully with **Sergeant Colin Harvey** (DA 2 YR) of 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in Detmold. Contact has also been made with the Headquarters Station (G4 RS) in Blandford.

Very shortly an expedition is planned to English's Cay to set up a special station for a weekend—but more about that in the next notes!

**THE FUTURE**

We are now in the throes of preparing for the coming 'Hurricane Season'. We all hope that our preparations will not be put to the test, but you never know. The troop provide emergency communications within Belize and also with the outside world. In addition we provide and man communications in the central police operations room, the Governor's hurricane headquarters and the various military command posts. As you can see, we have a vital role to play in any disaster operation.




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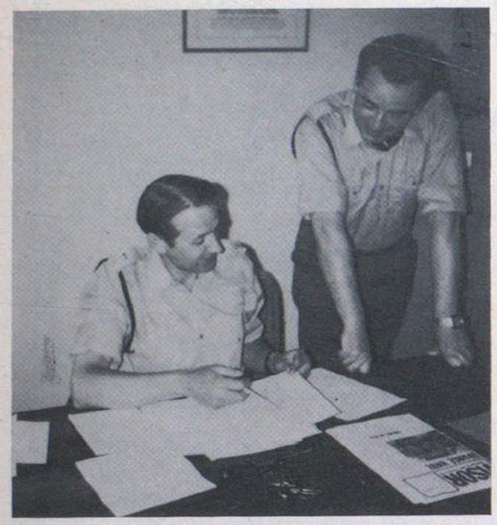
## The Volunteers

**40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast**



Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Gillespie, T.D., Commanding Officer, discusses a point with one of his staff

### THE LORD MAYORS SHOW

THE Regiment took part in the Lord Mayor's Show in Belfast on 18th May, during the general strike. The theme of the Show was 'Your Ulster, Your Future', and the number and the high standard of the entries in the difficult conditions prevailing reflected a good deal of credit on all concerned. Like all the brighter aspects of Ulster, it failed to get the publicity it deserved, but those who lined the route were immensely cheered by this excursion into normality, and showed their appreciation.

### NATO THEME

The Regiment's entry took the form of a cheerfully decorated float bearing recruiting messages for the TAVR, and for 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in particular. The message conveyed was "The TAVR helps Ulster take her place in the defence of the NATO Alliance". To support this, in addition to the uniformed recruiting staff, five WRAC volunteers accompanied the float in national costumes of some of the NATO countries.

### COMBINED BANDS

We were led in the Parade by the combined Silver Band of D (North Irish Horse) Squadron, RY and our own Pipes and Drums, behind mace bearer **Sergeant Wenborn.** The hard work put in by **W.O.1 Callum** and **Pipe Major Evans** made this first combined appearance singularly successful, and we look forward to similar events in the future.

### CHEERFUL FLOAT

Behind the band, the float took its place between the line laying landrover, carrying **Captain Adrian Scott,** Officer-in-Charge, with a second landrover bringing up the rear with a smartly turned out armed escort.

The Regiment was followed by the smart vintage Rolls Royce from which the lovely Queen of the Show took the cheers of the crowd.

### THE EXCELSIOR DANCE CLUB

### SUCCESSFUL FIRST SERIES

The Club marked the close of a very successful and enjoyable first course by holding their own dance. A lively affair, it was too, with plenty of evidence that the standard of dancing had improved considerably since last December.

The last session of the series was held on 14th May, when the ladies (as ever) did sterling work to produce a buffet and lend the session even more of a party atmosphere than it normally has.

### BRONZE MEDAL AWARDS

During the evening the first dancing awards to be gained by club members were presented to **Corporal Heather Butler,** WRAC, and associate members **Billy** and **Maisie Moorhead.** All three received the warm congratulations of their fellow members as they stepped up to take their bronze medals and certificates for the waltz and quickstep.

**Corporal Butler's** achievement in gaining the award was all the more creditable, in that, halfway through the series she succumbed to an old sporting injury, and had an operation to her knee.

### FAREWELL

For **Heather,** sadly, there was another presentation the same evening, when she received a going-away present subscribed for by the Junior Ranks Club. The Dance Club and indeed the Regiment will miss **Corporal Butler,** whose cheerful activity in all spheres could be depended upon. The 40th's loss is a gain for 71st Regiment (V) at Bromley, to whom she has applied for transfer in her new life across the water.

### SECOND SERIES IN SEPTEMBER

The Excelsior Dance Club will start another series in September, and we expect it to be every bit as successful as the first.

### EXERCISE 'CRAVATS GALORE II'—85 SQUADRON

Undaunted by the continued unrest in the Province the Squadron planned, prepared and carried our Exercise 'Cravats Galore II' over the week-end 26th–28th April.

On Friday evening elements of **Lieutenant Brian Mitchell's** Radio Relay Troop and **Lieutenant Ian Henderson's** Commcen Troop were provided with a 'red beret' escort for their journey from Belfast to Larne Harbour, prior to embarking on the ferry to Stranraer where, on arrival, **Corporal 'Chippy' Woods** and **Signalman Doak** proceeded to set up their new Commcen trailer, with tails and locals laid by **Staff Sergeants Jimmy O'Brien** and **Gordon Bailey**—they never had it so good!

Next morning, back at the 'sharp end' in Belfast and Lurgan, Volunteers from **Lieutenant Bill Malone's** and **Lieutenant Jim Simpson's** Radio Relay Troops arrived and were deployed to their exercise locations.

By 1445 hours on Saturday, 27th April teleprinters were chattering and telephones singing from Stranraer to Belfast, and later from Belfast to Lurgan via a relay.

The OC, **Major Jim Brown** and **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Mitchell** sailed over early on the Saturday morning to visit detachments in S.W. Scotland, and had time for a well prepared compo lunch by **Lance-Corporal Hamilton,** ACC, before catching the 1420 hours sailing (only just) to Larne.

Not far away **Lieutenant Andy Trimble's** boys were well established at a relay site, but were kept on their toes due to a stranger wandering around the site with a shotgun—the only 'enemy' we encountered.

Meanwhile back at our TAC in Belfast, **Second-Lieutenant Jenny Trevithick** and her DIG's were coping admirably with an impressive number of messages being transmitted and received.

Over at Lurgan our resident PSI, **Sergeant Gil France,** managed to emerge from his MQ now and again to earn his pay by keeping an ever watchful eye on a radio relay terminal and message centre.

All in all a highly successful and enjoyable exercise and just the preparation we needed for the Regimental exercise to be held in June.



### NEW ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Welcome to **Sergeant Barbara Hawes,** WRAC who joined us from 10th Regiment at the beginning of May, she lost no time in doing a 'wreckie'! She leaves on 10th July posted back to 10th Regiment. Farewell Barbara.

## Sport

### Corps Badminton Tournament 1974

The Corps Badminton Tournament for 1974/75 is to be held at Blandford Camp from 1st–5th October 1974.

This tournament is used as a prelude to forthcoming badminton season within the Army League and enables the selectors to pick the Corps First and Second Team.

Details have been circulated to all Units but further information may be obtained from:

**W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) S. Hargeaves,**
Assistant Secretary Corps Badminton,
30th Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RP.
Telephone: Blandford 2581 Ext. 413.

### Corps Sports Results

**TENNIS**

**Royal Signals v. Shrivenham — Lost 7–2**
**Royal Signals v. RAEC — Lost 7–2**
**Royal Signals v. Welbeck College — Lost 6–3**

**CRICKET**

**Royal Signals v. RCT—Drawn.**

RCT—268 for 5 declared.

Royal Signals—155 for 9. (Carr-Smith 42, Campbell 26, Coltman 22).

**Royal Signals v. REME—Won by 4 wickets.**

REME—198 for 5 declared.

Royal Signals—200 for 6. (Parrish 51, Coltman 30, Lawrence 27, Carr-Smith 26, Howie 24).

**Royal Signals v. RAPC—Won by 5 wickets.**

RAPC—95.

Royal Signals—98 for 5 wickets. (Coltman 45 n.o.).

The Corps teams were found from the following:

**Major S. Carr-Smith** (MOD(A)MS6), **Captain S. Coltman** (School of Signals), **Captain J. Howie** (School of Signals), **Captain J. Speake** (63 (SAS) Signal Squadron (V)), **Sergeant J. Willcock** (8th Regiment), **Sergeant M. Richards** (School of Signals), **Corporal R. Lawrence** (8th Regiment), **Corporal S. Hussey** (30th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal S. Parrish** (223 Signal Squadron), **Signalman N. Scott** (8th Regiment), **A/T C. Marshall** (AAC Harrogate), **Lieutenant N. Franks** (School of Signals), **Lieutenant J. Shaw** (3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment), **Sergeant P. Baldwin** (School of Signals), **Lance-Corporal B. Campbell** (8th Regiment), **Corporal R. Chen** (8th Regiment).

Officials: **W.O.2 K. Coker** (AAC Harrogate), **Corporal K. Orton** (11th Regiment).

### Inter Corps Target Rifle Match 1974

THE Inter Corps Target Rifle Match (the 'TR Methuen') was fired at Bisley over the weekend of 18th/19th May.

The team practice on Saturday was attended by six officers and one warrant officer, who fired zeroing and familiarisation practices at each range to be used in the Match. Several weapons were found to be well below the standard required, irrespective of the 'nut behind the butt'. In particular, a No. 4T rifle used by **W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith** of 30th Regiment, in several appearances in the Army Long Range team in earlier years, was found to have broken down badly, and on inspecting its bedding, it was clear that the 'draws' had been so badly chiselled out by the original finisher at Enfield that it was a wonder that the rifle had survived so long.

Disappointments were nobly borne by the less lucky, or skilful, and the Team which finally fired was successful.

We had a poorish shoot at 300 yards, allowing the Gunners (under an old enemy, **Roland Greenwood**) a clear lead of six points when we fell back. Careful wind coaching at 600 yards clawed these points back, with four to spare, but at this stage, a new and unexpected challenger came from behind. The Parachute and Airborne Forces team, found from 2 Para, had been practising at Bisley throughout the winter, and ably led by **Major H. J. Orpen-Smellie,** Captain of the Army Eight and a noted Great Britain shot, they finished at 600 yards level with us, but ahead under 'counting-out' rules with a higher score at longer range.

'Over the Hill' on Stickledown after a light lunch, we settled down to a long afternoon's shooting in lightish but very changeable wind—from 3 minutes left to 2 or 3 right was not exceptional between shots, and a change of this magnitude undetected by the wind coach makes a sure fire miss—if not a hit on your neighbour's target at 1,000 yards. The wind-coaching of Genders and Gilbertson was not without its errors—but we drew slowly further ahead and finished the day 21 points clear of the Paras, and 25 ahead of the Royal Regiment, a highly satisfactory result which brought the trophy back to Blandofrd for the second year running.

Scores of the Royal Signals Team:

| | 300x | 600x | 900x | 1000x | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Colonel R. H. Gilbertson** | 48 | 44 | 45 | 44 | 181 |
| **Major D. C. N. Genders** | 45 | 43 | 45 | 45 | 178 |
| **Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Jarrett** | 42 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 174 |
| **Major J. Cox** | 42 | 45 | 44 | 43 | 174 |
| | | | | | 707 |
| Reserves: | | | | | |
| **W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith** | 41 | 41 | 44 | 40 | 166 |
| **Major G. A. S. Exell** | 41 | 35 | 42 | 40 | 158 |
| 2. Parachute and Airborne Forces | | | | | 686 |
| 3. Royal Artillery | | | | | 682 |
| 4. RAPC | | | | | 677 |

Fifteen Divisions of Infantry, Arms, and Services took part in the Match, with first appearances from the King's and Scottish Divisions, and from the Brigade of Gurkhas.

## Promotions

**JUNE 1974**

The amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the 'Blue Book.'

| *Name* | *Initials* | *Rank* | *Trade* | *New Sen. Date* | *Old Sen. Date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Davies, | A. | A/W.O.1 | | 4 Feb. 74 | 1 Dec. 71 |
| Boyle, | J. | A/W.O.1 | | 30 Mar. 74 | 22 Jun. 70 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Patterson, | A. | S Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 5 Nov. 73 | 4 Sep. 71 |
| | | STAFF SERGEANTS SENORITY ROLL | | | |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Peake, | L. A. | A/S Sgt. | Clk Tech | 2 Nov. 73 | 31 May 63 |
| Edison, | J. P. | Sgt. | Tele Mech | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Jan. 66 |
| Messenger, | I. M. | A/S Sgt. | Clk Tech | 2 Mar. 74 | 3 Jul. 64 |
| Gracie, | T. | Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 5 Mar. 74 | 23 Jan. 64 |
| | | FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Walker, | M. A. | W.O.2 | | 20 Feb. 74 | 12 Mar. 72 |
| | | SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Whelpton, | J. M. | S Sgt. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 31 Oct. 70 |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Rigley, | D. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 20 Jun. 73 |
| Jones, | W. R. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 3 Apr. 70 |
| Grisdale, | A. E. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 1 Dec. 71 |
| Sharp, | P. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 7 Aug. 69 |
| | | YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Palmer, | D. P. | A/S Sgt. | Data Tg | 16 Nov. 72 | 14 Nov. 70 |

| Name | Initials | Rank | Trade | New Sen. Date | Old Sen. Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Russell, | R. T. J. | Cpl. | | 13 Jun. 73 | 1 Jul. 71 |
| Firth, | B. | Cpl. | | 19 Sep. 73 | 8 Dec. 70 |
| Edwards, | B. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| Heppenstall, | R. G. | Cpl. | | 20 Sep. 73 | 1 Jul. 71 |
| Hudson, | W. G. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 18 Oct. 67 |
| Smith, | F. | Cpl. | | 20 Feb. 74 | 20 Oct. 67 |
| Caldwell, | D. A. | Cpl. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| Fleming, | C. | Cpl. | | 5 Mar. 74 | 8 May 69 |
| Millward, | R. | Cpl. | | 5 Mar. 74 | 4 Feb. 71 |
| Conlin, | J. P. | Cpl. | | 13 Mar. 74 | 4 Sep. 70 |
| Hunt, | A. G. | Cpl. | | 19 Mar. 74 | 5 Aug. 69 |
| **RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Town, | P. J. | Cpl. | | 30 Oct. 73 | 19 Feb. 70 |
| Dodd, | D. P. | Cpl. | | 26 Nov. 73 | 17 Apr. 70 |
| Thompson, | K. | Cpl. | | 19 Mar. 74 | 13 Apr. 68 |
| Smedley, | P. | Cpl. | | 20 Mar. 74 | 14 Mar. 68 |
| Urquhart, | N. R. | Cpl. | | 25 Apr. 74 | 1 Apr. 71 |
| **RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Taylor, | W. G. | Cpl. | | 31 Jul. 73 | 3 Mar. 71 |
| Hobbs, | P. A. B. | Cpl. | | 17 Oct. 73 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Falconer, | C. J. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 21 Jan. 71 |
| Nowell, | C. P. | Cpl. | | 13 Nov. 73 | 17 Dec. 71 |
| Davies, | M. R. C. | Cpl. | | 12 Dec. 73 | 17 Sep. 70 |
| Ratcliffe, | J. I. | Cpl. | | 18 Dec. 73 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| Mee, | R. W. | Cpl. | | 13 Feb. 74 | 10 Jan. 70 |
| Bowler, | C. | Cpl. | | 18 Feb. 74 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Ramsay, | C. | Cpl. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| Cook, | R. W. | Cpl. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 8 Oct. 70 |
| Byrne, | P. | Cpl. | | 5 Mar. 74 | 15 Jul. 71 |
| Hayward, | V. R. | Cpl. | | 27 Apr. 74 | 27 Oct. 72 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Edison, | J. P. | Sgt. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Jan. 66 |
| **DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Gerrard, | D. P. | A/Sgt. | | 22 Apr. 74 | 30 Jun. 70 |
| Wallace, | D. M. | A/Sgt. | | 23 Apr. 74 | 11 Oct. 61 |
| **RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Forster, | J. A. | A/Sgt. | | 22 Apr. 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| **SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Goddard, | R. J. | A/Sgt. | | 19 Apr. 74 | 1 Jun. 67 |
| **CLERK TECHNICAL (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Peake, | L. A. | A/S Sgt. | | 21 Nov. 73 | 31 Mar. 63 |
| Messenger, | I. M. | A/S Sgt. | | 2 Mar. 74 | 3 Jul. 64 |
| **COMBAT DRIVER ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Martin, | W. R. | Cpl. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 31 Aug. 70 |
| Harris, | A. H. | Cpl. | | 2 Mar. 74 | 30 Apr. 68 |
| **COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S Sgt. | | | | | |
| Gracie, | T. | Sgt. | | 5 Mar. 74 | 23 Jan. 64 |

## LATE SPORT

### *Royal Signals Yacht Club*

RESULTS of Corps matches sailed so far this season are as follows:

Triangular Regatta sailed at Seaview Yacht Club on 13th/14th June:

1st RE
2nd Royal Signals
3rd RA.

The RE won both their matches against RA while Royal Signals managed to beat RE and RA once each. The RA only managed one win against Royal Signals.

RSYC v. REYC sailed at Dover on 8th June. The RE unfortunately won both races easily (5¾ to 15 and 6¾ to 14).

RSYC v. RCT sailed at Whale Island on 17th July. The RCT won by 2 races to 1. Two of the races were very close indeed with each team winning by only ¾ point. The third race looked a victory for Royal Signals by 8¼ to 12 but unfortunately a protest against a Royal Signals boat was upheld so we lost the race and the match.

RSYC v. RAF sailed at Whale Island on 24th July. The Royal Signals team won easily obtaining 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the first race and 1st, 2nd plus a boat retired in the second.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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*August-September 1974*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

**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. 4 RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
*Individual: Yearly* **£1.80;** *monthly* **15p.**
*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1.20;** *monthly* **10p.**
*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

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**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 8**

# *Editorial*

### *Our Cover Picture*

**GUARD OF HONOUR FOR THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF**

On the 15th July, 1974, the Chief of the Defence Staff, **Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** visited Germany and on his arrival at JHQ Rheindahlen inspected a guard of honour provided jointly by the British Army of the Rhine and the Royal Air Force, Germany. 16th Signal Regiment provided the Army division of the guard of honour which was commanded by **Captain Gareth Mann.** The right and left guides were **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) B. Connor** and **Staff-Sergeant T. Gainford.** The soldiers forming the guard were from 3 Squadron and, as always, they achieved the extremely high standard of turnout and drill one would expect for such an occasion. Escorting the Chief of Defence Staff were the C-in-C BAOR **General Sir Harry Tuzo, G.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.** and the C-in-C RAF Germany, **Air Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.**

## *Catching up!*

Most, if not all our readers, will appreciate that we have had a very difficult year over publishing THE WIRE. We refer, of course, to lateness in publication brought on by the three-day week and other difficulties in the printing trade. We have for many months now been running six to eight weeks behind schedule This has resulted in news when it finally appears in THE WIRE being out of date and stale. In addition, a great deal of correspondence has been engendered between your Editor and WIRE correspondents who find it difficult to understand why something they have written does not appear in THE WIRE until at least three months later—remember that even when THE WIRE is published on schedule there is a lag of five weeks or so between the receipt of an article here and its final appearance in print.

We are glad to say that Messrs. Parsons, our printers, are taking energetic steps to catch up on our present backlog and there is now a distinct hope that we will be back on our normal timings for the October/November issue of THE WIRE. We would thank all our readers for their forebearance during this difficult period and especially those contributors who have kept their articles and unit notes short so as to lighten the load on our printers. While things should be back to normal in October we would once again ask those who write for THE WIRE to curb undue verbosity as the problem of ever increasing printing and postal charges is still—and always will be—very much with us.

## *New Corps Car Badge*

The Association now stocks an attractive new type car badge in full Corps colours with silver Jimmy. The badge is in the modern square design (about 2¾ inches square) similar to the A.A. badge which it would nicely balance off. It is designed for radiator fitting but might be adapted for bumper fitting by a D.I.Y. expert.

Price £1·50 including V.A.T. and postage.

Money will be refunded if recipient finds the badge unsuitable and returns it unused.

## *Major-General C. E. Page, C.B., M.B.E., B.Sc (Eng), C.Eng., F.I.E.E.*

**MAJOR-GENERAL Charles Edward Page** retired on 10th May after just under 34 years service. He was born on 23rd August 1920, the son of the late Sir Charles Page, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. and was one of five officers in the Corps who were educated at Marlborough and subsequently reached Major-General's rank. After attending Trinity College, Cambridge he enlisted in the Corps in 1940 and was commissioned in 1941.

During the war he first joined Guards Armoured Division in the UK and became adjutant in 1943 and then OC 1 Squadron and went over to Normandy with the Division in 1944 when he was appointed M.B.E. and mentioned in despatches. The next year he went out to South East Asia and took command of 20 Indian Divisional Signals at the age of 25. After the war he attended courses at the Military College of Science, the Staff College and NATO Defence College, subsequently alternating in appointments on the staff and with field units, seeing service in the Middle East and BAOR. He was an instructor at the Staff College and commanded 1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment from 1963 to 1965. He was then promoted to Brigadier as CCR Signals HQ 1 (BR) Corps before becoming Secretary of the International Military Staff at NATO. His last appointment was Director of Combat Development (Army) at the MOD, when he was appointed C.B. During this period whilst attending an International Defence conference in Canberra he received a letter bomb which fortunately failed to explode. Charles was not only highly efficient technically but also regimentally. He had unbounded energy and enthusiasm and was never afraid to improvise when the occasion demanded. For example when CR Signals 1 Division he was issued with three new on-line crypto machines which were designed for one to one working, this did not meet his needs and with the co-operation of his TOT he modified the equipment so that it would work from the divisional headquarters to the brigades on a net basis and installed it in vehicles all in a matter of 36 hours. He was an officer who never spared himself and set extremely high personal standards and demanded similar standards from those he commanded. He was one of those fortunate individuals who seemed to be able to work a 24 hour day without flagging, but in spite of this he was always a very attentive and generous host and whenever possible indulged in his main hobby of shooting. Whilst in BAOR he had the major task of being responsible for the introduction of the Bruin System. With his understanding of what commanders and staff require as well as the technical signals problems and with his drive and energy no one could have been better cast for this job. To a man of his character the job with the NATO Military Committee, which demanded a mailed fist well concealed in a velvet glove, must have been very frustrating. Nevertheless he was, through the exercise of great tact and patience, a highly competent and well respected International Secretary. Charles is now working with Shell (UK) as a consultant. He will not however be losing touch with the Corps as he has been recently appointed Colonel Commandant. We wish him and his wife Betty, whom he married in 1948, the best of good fortune in their new environment.

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

Next meeting 1430 Thursday 7th November after Field of Remembrance Service 11.45 at Westminster Cathedral.





## *Visit by Major-General A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.,*

**MAJOR-GENERAL** and **Mrs. Woodrow** visited this delightful island from 22nd June to 6th July. The General, during the first week, combined his duties as Director of Security (Army) with that of Representative Colonel Commandant, and during the second week took a well earned holiday in lovely Kyrenia.

The first surprise for the **General** and **Mrs. Woodrow** was the personality of his driver—non other than **Sergeant Ted George** who had been the General's driver for 10 years prior to his retirement from the Army.

The official visit to Royal Signals began early on 27th June with a short briefing at HQ 3 Signal Group by the Commander, **Colonel Godfrey Curl,** and afterwards he met all members of the staff. This was followed by a visit to SHQ 259 Signal Squadron **(Major Mike Chandler),** where the General met all the personnel in the Quartermasters Department, and took a keen interest in the organisation and functioning of the system control which controls the island wide radio relay. This was followed by a quick visit to SHQ of 261 Signal Squadron (Air Support) **(Major Peter Rowland),** the General appeared to be surprised at the cable configuration in the Headquarters and the amount of underground cable in the Joint Headquarters.

The Signal Squadrons in Cyprus by the nature of their role are well spread out between the Sovereign Base Areas and the various retained sites. The General then went by car to visit the Akrotiri Airfield Troop 261 Signal Squadron visiting a radio relay detachment of 259 Signal Squadron on the way. After calling on the Station Commander **Air Commodore D. P. Hall, A.F.C.** the General visited the Airfield Troop **(Captain Brian Turner)** and presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Staff Sergeant Vic Selly.** This was followed with a photograph with the Tug of War Team who incidently are the Army Cyprus champions for the second year and who will represent the Army in the Inter Services Championships. After talking to the soldiers, the General joined the troop in the canteen for a well earned drink, and to celebrate the award of the LS and GC.

Whilst this was going on **Mrs. Woodrow** accompanied by **Mrs. Curl** attended a coffee morning, at **Mrs. Rowland's** house, where wives of 259 and 261 Squadron had gathered.

After Akrotiri the General went by helicopter to Troodos to visit Mountain Troop and a detachment of 9th Signal Regiment. The General saw some superb scenery from the air, and the little Greek and Turkish villages and the fruit plantations were clearly visible. The journey enabled the General to cool down, and the temperature at Troodos was in marked contrast with that on the plain. The General was met by **Lieutenant Terry Martin,** OC Mountain Troop, and **Captain George Fulton** of 9th Signal Regiment. The General took a particular interest in all he saw at Troodos and then adjourned to the Mercury Club to meet all the Royal Signals personnel informally. After lunch the General went by helicopter to Dhekelia where he and **Mrs. Woodrow** stayed as guests of Commander Dhekelia Area **(Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E.,** late Royal Signals).

In the evening **Major-General** and **Mrs. Woodrow** attended a dinner dance with the W.O.s and Sergeants Royal Signals serving in Cyprus. This was a splendid affair, and it was noticeable that the Commander had great difficulty in persuading the General to leave in the early hours.

Friday was an equally hectic day with the General visiting 262 Signal Squadron **(Major Laurie Woods)** at Dhekelia and it was obvious that he was delighted to meet **Corporal** and **Mrs. Munro** again, they had been part of his personal staff when GOC Wales. The WRAC at the Commcen were, as usual, in cheerful form and the General had a word or two not only with each one of them but also all the soldiers he met. After visiting East Troop 259 Squadron **(Lieutenant John Ambrose)** the General departed by helicopter to visit the Troop at Cape Greco and was met by **W.O.2 (F. of S.) George Turner, B.E.M.** who had been awarded his BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. This compact troop showed the General their complex equipment, and pride in their station and efficiency radiated throughout the visit. A very pleasant helicopter journey along the coast to Dhekelia was followed by a car journey to Nicosia where the General visited the Royal Signals elements of HQ UNFICYP. After a briefing by **Major Ted Baxter,** FSO and a visit to 644 Troop, the General had lunch with Commander UNFICYP **(Major-General P. D. Prem Chand)** and the Chief of Staff **(Brigadier Frank Henn)** an old friend.

Major General A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E., talking to W.O.I Tom Neal, 9th Signal Regiment and Sergeant Ted George

Mrs. A. J. Woodrow chats to 9th Signal Regiment Wives

During this time **Mrs. Woodrow** was not inactive and was attending a meeting of the Wives Club of 262 Squadron.

In the evening a dinner was held by all Royal Signals Officers Cyprus in honour of the Representative Colonel Commandant and **Mrs. Woodrow. Brigadier** and **Mrs. Robertson** were also guests. The Commander in a short speech thanked the **General** and **Mrs. Woodrow** for coming to Cyprus and proposed their health and happiness. The General suitably replied.

Saturday was the last day and was devoted to visiting 9th Signal Regiment. The General was greeted by **Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Johnstone, M.B.E.,** Commanding Officer and then inspected a very smart Quarter Guard. In 1 Squadron **(Major Bob Aitken)** the General saw a physical fitness assessment in progress (he even tried some of the tests himself), and also saw a highly competitive volley ball match in progress. It was extremely hot and the General enjoyed his break in the Harewood Club where he spoke to a large number of men and women off duty.

Then followed a visit to the air conditioned technical block, and it was noticeable that **Major Ben Bolt** had managed to preposition a large number of trophies that 2 Squadron had won this year. The General presented the LS and GC to **Chief Technician Kavanagh,** RAF. **Mrs. Woodrow** at this time was attending an informal wives meeting arranged by **Mrs. Johnstone,** and from all accounts the occasion was a huge success.

Finally to the last item and very appropriately, drinks at the Sergeant's Mess of 9th Signal Regiment. The General was obviously enjoying himself, so much so that he and the Commander arrived 30 minutes late for a luncheon party at Dhekelia House.

We did enjoy **Major-General** and **Mrs. Woodrow's** visit, they were so kind and interested in everything they saw. We hope they left us knowing that Royal Signals in Cyprus are upholding the traditions of our Corps not only in morale, officiency, and sporting procedures but as one large family. They are welcome to return at any time, because they won the hearts of all who met them.

*(The above report was written before the recent Cyprus events brought sadder news from Cyprus—Editor.)*

## *The Corps loses one of its star recruiters*

**W.O.2 BOB STEIN, B.E.M., M.S.M.**

IN September, **W.O.2 Bob Stein,** who is well known to many Scottish soldiers, will finally retire at the age of 53 after 33 years service.

**Bob Stein** has been in the recruiting business in Scotland for the past nine years, most of which time he has been in charge of the Army Careers Office in Hamilton. During this period he has personally enlisted over 1,200 recruits, some 150 of whom have joined Royal Signals. This represents a percentage share for the Corps of the All Arms total of about 13% which is more than twice the national average and a performance to be admired. He is regarded in Scotland as a father figure among recruiters and many young NCOs of all Arms, on first joining the recruiting organisation, have been very grateful for his kindly words of advice and encouragement and have been better recruiters because of it. He is not a man of gimmicks but one who believes that the best way to encourage potential recruits is by establishing good personal relations, by hard work outside the recruiting office and by encouraging his products to return as satisfied soldiers and so continue the process.

**Bob** started his service in 1941 at No. 3 Depot Battalion, Royal Signals, at Ossett in Yorkshire. The writer of these notes also joined at Ossett some six months later and vividly recalls the conditions there—living in a rat-infested Shoddy warehouse, sleeping on a straw palliase, marching two miles three times a day to and from meals; and the bitter cold! No hot water was available for washing and shaving and baths could only be had through the generosity of the local towns-people. Those who survived five weeks at Ossett were well prepared for what was to come.

After completing his trade training at Huddersfield he was drafted to Malaya but whilst on route Singapore fell and the draft was diverted to India where **Bob** spent the rest of the war, mostly 'roughing it' in New Delhi where he worked in the Central Operations and Intelligence Centre. After a short spell in N.W. Europe he took his release but immediately re-enlisted as a regular soldier, retaining his war substantive rank of Sergeant. During a tour with Singapore District Signal Regiment in 1955, **Bob's** devotion to duty in connection with the transit and evacuation of families earned him a Certificate of Good Service from the Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces and in the New Year's Honours List in 1962 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for service as Chief Clerk (W.O.2) of Signals 5 in the Signals Directorate at the War Office.

In July 1965 he came to Glasgow and started his distinguished career as an Army Recruiter and in 1968, in recognition of his services to the recruiting organisation, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He leaves to start a new career in the Civil Service and goes with the gratitude of the Corps for his devoted service and best wishes in his future life.

# From our "In" Tray

## Time marches on

**FROM EX-FOREMAN OF SIGNALS, G. W. COOK**

Sir,

The snapshow below may be of some interest to your 632 Signal Troop, RA Range, Hebrides correspondents (THE WIRE, March-April, p. 100–101). It shows the Benbecula terminal of the original radio communications link across to St. Kilda. Compare this 'Model T' with the Cadillac pictured on page 100!

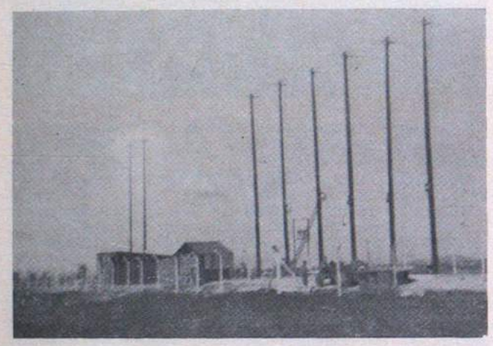
The installations at Benbecula and at St. Kilda were planned and executed in 1958/59 by **Major Ben Robins,** Royal Signals, OC No. 1 Light Installation Troop, **F. of S. Jack Cordey, Sergeant Mick Bright** and (yours truly) **F. of S. George Cook** (no relation at all to the **F. of S. Paul Cook** referred to on page 101).

Sic transit gloria mundi!

Yours faithfully,

**G. W. Cook**

Communication Command HQ,
Canadian Armed Forces,
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A OK2.
21st June.



## Dubai Defence Force

Sir,

We would be most grateful if you would insert the following in the next copy of THE WIRE.

"Forces Signals Officer required for DUBAI DEFENCE FORCE. Salary free of all tax is £3,960 p.a. plus free accommodation and car allowance. Write Deputy Commander, DDF P.O. Box 854, DUBAI, UAE including recent photo and military experience."

**G. F. B. Temple, Major**
for Commander

## First Army Unit on new North Sea Ferry

**FROM: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. B. BOOTH, ROYAL SIGNALS**

Sir,

You may be able to find a corner in THE WIRE to include some of the attached letter to the SO-in-C which I sent on our return from Annual Camp.

Yours sincerely,

**John Booth**

33rd Signal Regiment (Volunteers),
Huyton,
Liverpool.

"I'm sure you will be interested to know that the Regiment, returning by sea from Annual Camp on the Continent on the evening of 21st June, was the first Army unit to sail in the brand new North Sea Ferries vessel, *M.S. Norland*, now in service between Hull and Rotterdam (Europort). Accordingly, a representative number from the Regiment presented themselves to the Captain on the bridge and a Royal Signals plaque was handed over by the junior soldier in the party to the Ship to mark this occasion, both for the Corps and the Regiment.

Presentation of Plaque to Captain Bodden, Master of *M.S. Norland* on 21st June by 33rd Signal Regiment (V) first Army Unit to embark on the Ferry when returning from annual camp on the Continent
*Left to right:* Corporal Walker, Captain Bodden, Sergeant Griffiths, Major Brown, W.O.2 Nuttall (mostly hidden), Signalman De Burgh
Lieutenant-Colonel Booth

The party consisted of myself, the Second-in-Command **Major Peter Brown,** ERD, **Captain Chris Clark** representing 42 (Manchester) Squadron, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) F. J. Nuttall** from HQ Squadron (Huyton), **Sergeant C. H. Griffiths** of 59 (Liverpool) Squadron, **Corporal W. Walter** representing the Birkenhead element of 80 Squadron and **Signalman R. D. De Burgh** from 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Squadron stationed at Chester.

**Captain Bodden,** Master of the *Norland*, said that he had met many servicemen and women during his earlier days on the Harwich to Hook run and he was now more than pleased to welcome the Army onto the new Ship. He and his staff showed us around the well equipped bridge, a tour which included a short lesson in navigation following a question from someone present! It was generally agreed that the right place for the plaque was in one of the two bars and although no doubt it will soon be joined by many of its kind I am glad to report that 'Jimmy' was the first to join the Ship's Company, beginning his 'watch' within 12 days of the *Norland's* maiden voyage!

The ship is a great improvement on the *Norwind* and *Norwave*. She can carry about 1,170 passengers and 520 cars as against 235 passengers and 70 cars on the smaller vessels. She will be joined by a sister ship *Norstar* in December when it is planned that these two ferries will ply between Hull and Rotterdam (Europort) and both the original ships will switch to the Hull/Zebrugge service".

## Teleprinter Pictures

14th Regiment have a good selection of teleprinter pictures tape which are used very extensively on demonstrations and recruiting drives. We are anxious to enlarge this collection with other good quality pictures. Our present holding consists of:

Lady-in-Waiting, Bridget Bardotte, Post Office Tower, French Canadian, Andy Capp I, Andy Capp II (Lamp post), Santa Claus, J. F. Kennedy, QE 2, Bugs Bunny, Churchill, Madonna and Child, Easter Cross, Alpine Scene, The Queen, Tribute to Walt Disney, Horses Head, Fang (Siamese cat), Yogi Bear, Tele Type World, Ballerina, Concorde, Adeste Fidelis, Corps Badge, 3 Choir Boys, Map of Great Britain, Babycham.

There are obviously many more in existence which will be held by Signal Troops and Regiments. We are willing to exchange tapes with anyone who requires copies of the ones we hold.

Any unit wishing to take us up on this offer of exchange or who has tapes which they are prepared to give us should contact:

14th Signal Regiment,
Recruiting and Information Team,
Norton Barracks,
Worcester WR5 2PA.



# CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA

10,000th MEMBER OF ARMY DEPENDANTS ASSURANCE TRUST

Corporal Harry Waugh of the Corps is recruit No. 10,000 to the Army Dependant's Assurance Trust, the Army's insurance scheme launched last October. To mark his joining he was recently a lunch guest of Stewart Wrightson Assurance Consultants Ltd., who manage the trust, and received a pen set as a memento. In the picture (*left to right*) are Major-General Peter Martin, recently Army Personal Services chief, Mr. David Rowland, managing director of Stewart Wrightson Ltd., Corporal Waugh and Mr. Leonard Grouse, managing director of Stewart Wrightson Assurance Consultants Ltd. Corporal Waugh is with the 30th Signal Regiment

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF IN AUSTRALIA

During his recent visit to Australia the S.O.-in-C., Major-General Sawers, planted a commemorative tree in 6th Signal Regiment lines at Watsonia Barracks

THE CORPS AFLOAT—HMS *ARK ROYAL* WELCOMES 3 MEMBERS OF 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Communications Department of HMS *Ark Royal* were pleased to welcome 3 members of 30 Signal Regiment on a liaison visit during a recent Joint Comms Exercise Sergeant George Coles (1st left), Lance-Corporal John Wilson (2nd from right) and Signalman Peter McMahon (1st right), are pictured during a replenishment-at-sea, being shown some of the ship's aerials by JRO Marsh (centre) and RO3 Moore (2nd from left)

CORPS TO THE FORE AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL.

At a recent ceremonial parade at the Duke of York's Royal Military School our photograph shows: The inspecting officer talking to the Drum Major on the left with the Headmaster, Colonel K. W. Farrier on the right. Between them are S.U.O D.P. Lafferty, son of Major (Q.M.) Lafferty, who commanded the parade and who is destined to enter the regular Corps shortly and Brigadier Douglas Pringle (late of the Corps) Bursar of the School, who has now returned.

NO. 1 OFFICERS COMMUNICATIONS QUALIFYING COURSE 24th JUNE–6 DECEMBER 1974

*Back row, left to right:* Second-Lieutenant Bowering, Lieutenants Collins, Cornforth, Second-Lieutenants Costello, Cumming, Lieutenants Fraser, Grieves, Second-Lieutenant Griffiths

*Front row, left to right:* Second-Lieutenant Harrison, Captain Heck, Second-Lieutenants Lane, Lord, Lieutenant Martin-Rhind, Second-Lieutenants Proctor, Robertson, Lieutenant Symonds

This is the first course under the new system of Royal Signals officers training introduced last year. Young officers, after spending two weeks at the School, on an introductory visit immediately after leaving RMAS, come back for this 21 week qualifying course during their first 2½ years at regimental duty

# *Scotland's last Chief Signal Officer*

**"Strike their long spears with a staff and you will disarm the Scots"**

BEFORE oil was found in the North Sea there was a misconception among the English that Scotland was a remote, barbaric place somewhere to the north of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The idea that it extended northwards beyond the Forth/Clyde valley was difficult to conceive and was considered of no practical importance anyway. That this remains the view in certain spheres of military influence is evident from a glance at the 'United Kingdom Land Forces Boundary Map', Edition 2, dated February 1973, which stops short just north of Perth. Apparently those who, quite rightly, appreciate the qualities and excellence of Scotch Whisky are unaware of the fact that the best of it is produced on Speyside, over 100 miles north of Perth, by dedicated people who malt the barley and distil the low wine with loving care (and a watchful eye on the revenue). Yet the popular idea of the Scots embraces the romantic notion of hairy men in kilts, of the heather and the bagpipes and the quaint idea that there is a monster in Loch Ness (though the actual geography of Loch Ness is a matter of little conjecture and less significance)

The Norman invaded Scotland in the 11th Century, encouraged by Margaret, Wife of Malcolm III Canmore, and an Englishwoman to boot. Walter Espec, a youthful friend of David, Son of Malcolm and Margaret and an adherent to the Norman cause, is believed to have said:

"Who would not laugh rather than fear when the wretched, bare-breached Scots come up against such adversaries. Strike their long spears with a staff and you will disarm the Scots".

These words have some significance 900 years later, but in 1973 it was not the Norman invader who laughed at the Scots; they were English and they came from Whitehall; they came ostensibly in peace and they were received in peace. But they struck with the Staff, the Staff of the Inspectorate of Establishments, and they disarmed the Scots. In the course of that battle the Chief Signal Officer, Scotland, fell.

The erosion of the presence and prestige of the Corps in Scotland has taken place gradually over the last ten years and the final blow has now been struck. The post of Chief Signal Officer, Scotland, has been deleted from the establishment and will shortly be replaced by a SO2 (Signals).

The present CSO is the 22nd and last in the line of succession. The first was **Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.,** who held the appointment from 1920 to 1924. The oldest holder of the office still living is believed to be **Brigadier F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C.,** who served as CSO Scottish Command from 1944 to 1946 and who now lives in retirement in Somerset at the splendid age of 81, but the officer who perhaps derived the most benefit from the appointment was **Charles Wheeler** who assumed the post in 1936 as a Lieutenant-Colonel and vacated it in 1942 as a Brigadier. Scotland was really swinging at that time—perhaps it only achieves prominence in times of war and pestilence—for it was discovered that it had tremendous virtues. The Western Highlands and the Great Glen provided splendid training ground for Commandos and the memory of their wartime achievements and sacrifices is perpetuated in the impressive Commando War Memorial at Spean Bridge. The Firth of Clyde and its ports were ideal for the assembly and despatch of Naval Convoys (there must be many who vividly remember setting out to War on a troopship from the Tail of the Bank) and the threat of a possible Nazi invasion from Norway 'through the back door' resulted in thousands of troops being stationed in the Shetland Islands.

More recently there were other well known names who occupied the chair—**Jock Linton,** that intrepid Scot; **Don Fairman** who played on every golf course in Edinburgh and its environs (and there are 18 within the city boundaries alone); **'Tig' Gray** who remained for a very short time before being elevated and **Basil Hayles** who was the only man known to have landed a duck with a fly rod.

Of course there were senior officers responsible for Signals in Scotland long before the formation of the Corps. A study of the list of Chief Engineers in Scotland is rewarding and one finds that one hundred years ago, in 1874, a **Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Gordon** was "The Commanding Royal Engineer, North British District". Even in those days the Military hierarchy in Whitehall refused to recognise the existence of Scotland and referred to it, patronisingly, as "North Britain". We wonder what the reaction would be if England were referred to as "South Britain"!

The geographical area of Scotland is about one third of that of the entire United Kingdom. This is not insignificant. Its population is 9% of the total yet it produces between 12% and 14% of the annual intake of recruits for the Army. Although 50% of all males recruited must, by tradition and local decree, go into the Scottish Infantry, about 6% are enlisted in Royal Signals. This compares favourably with the rest of the United Kingdom and is achieved against greater odds.

The Corps is represented, though in small numbers, throughout the country, ranging from a single Royal Signals NCO in the far south in Kirkcudbright to a small detachment at Saxa Vord in the far north of the Shetland Islands. This is the most northerly point of the British Isles (apart from the small island of Muckle Flugga which contains only a lighthouse) and, as the crow flies, is 160 miles north of John O'Groats. It was here that a young soldier, on filling out an indent for stores, entered in the appropriate space for the name of the nearest railway station, "Bergen Norway"—and he was right! Over in the west there is a Royal Signals Troop in the Outer Hebrides with a detachment on the uninhabited Island of St. Kilda, 50 miles further west in the Atlantic Ocean and inaccessible by sea, due to the extremely rough weather, for the entire winter.

Communications, in terms of getting about the country, are difficult. When visiting the Islands it is essential to go by air (when aeroplanes fly, and they often don't) and even on the mainland distances are so great that many weeks could be spen visiting the various representatives of the Corps. When the present CSO took up his appointment he was handed a directive which required him to make regular visits to Army Careers and Information Offices throughout Scotland. Having some knowledge of the country, his second reaction (the first is unprintable) was to sit down and work out a time and distance study. This produced some interesting results, the most significant being the discovery that the distance between the northernmost office at Wick (offices on the islands were discounted) and the southernmost at Stranraer was 408 miles, roughly the distance between Edinburgh and London, and that if he were so misguided as to attempt to visit them all in one go he would have been involved in a round trip of some 1,200 miles.

For a time, even when the rest of the UK had been reduced to a number of Districts, each with an SO2 (Signals), Scotland managed to retain its autonomy and independence—and its CSO. The independence was lost in January 1973 when Scotland became just another District under the control of HQ UKLF—but it still kept its CSO. The final battle was fought in the summer of 1973 when the English sent their bowler hatted warriors to Scotland to bring it to heel. It was a hard fought fight but Scotland lost. So the last Chief Signal Officer for Scotland will soon depart and bring to an end an era which began a hundred years ago with the Commanding Royal Engineer, North British District. But the Corps in Scotland will continue to serve loyally, and Scotland will continue to produce young men for the Corps.

Finally, in case readers might detect a certain amount of nationalistic feeling and sentiment in these notes, it might be as well to point out that the writer is a Welsh-Lancastrian who loves Scotland, who has spent nearly a third of his service in Scotland and is proud to consider himself an adopted Scot.

### CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICERS, SCOTLAND
### HEADQUARTERS SCOTTISH COMMAND

| | |
|---|---|
| 1920–1924 | **Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Prickett, D.S.O.** |
| 1924–1925 | **Lieutenant-Colonel E. St. J. Yates** |
| 1926–1928 | **Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O.** |
| 1928–1931 | **Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Tomlin, C.B.E., D.S.O.** |
| 1931–1933 | **Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. M. Firth, M.C.** |
| 1933–1936 | **Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Snatt, M.C.** |
| 1936–1939 | **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Wheeler** |
| 1939–1941 | **Colonel C. Wheeler** |
| 1941–1942 | **Brigadier C. Wheeler** |
| 1942–1944 | **Brigadier R. E. Barker, C.B.E.** |
| 1944–1946 | **Brigadier F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., M.C.** |
| 1946–1949 | **Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E.** |
| 1949–1953 | **Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E.** |
| 1953–1955 | **Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E.** |
| 1955–1958 | **Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.B.E.** |
| 1958–1960 | **Brigadier J. W. Barker, O.B.E.** |
| 1960–1962 | **Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E.** |
| 1962–1964 | **Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E.** |
| 1964–1965 | **Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E.** |
| 1965–1966 | **Colonel T. I. G. Gray** |
| 1966–1968 | **Colonel B. R. M. Hayles** |

### HEADQUARTERS SCOTLAND (ARMY)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1968–1970 | **Lieutenant-Colonel J. Y. Ferguson** |
| 1970–1973 | **Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Le Gassick, M.B.E.** |
| 1973–1974 | **Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Lloyd** |

# Movements

## Officers

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| Major J. Barrett | To MOD (D124(A)) |
| Captain H. Bell | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Blake | „ NICSMA |
| Lieutenant T. Bushell | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain I. N. Carruthers | „ 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major P. D. E. Chase | „ HQ 4 Signal Group |
| Captain P. A. Cooper | „ 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Major R. B. H. Cox | „ Tels. Branch, Technical Group REME |
| Major L. D. Edinger | „ HQ 38 Group RAF |
| Major G. M. Finney | „ MOD (Signals 36b(2)) |
| Second-Lieutenant T. P. V. Fletcher | „ 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles |
| Major E. M. Fox | „ HQ 2 Signal Group |
| Lieutenant N. E. Franks | „ 1 RRF |
| Captain F. J. Garrod | „ HQ 3 Signal Group |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R. Goodwin-Jones | „ School of Signals |
| Lieutenant I. N. Greig | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major W. A. C. Griffiths | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Captain T. T. Hallchurch, M.B.E. | „ HQ Northern Ireland |
| Lieutenant R. G. L. Hill | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Major R. A. Hoghton | „ HQ AFCENT (227 Signal Squadron) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holefield, M.C. | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) to retire |
| Major P. D. Jones | „ HQ 11 Armoured Brigade |
| Captain J. H. Lawrence | „ Attached HQ Training Brigade |
| Captain (Q.M.) G. S. MacDonald | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant M. J. McKinlay | „ 4 Army Youth Team |
| Captain T. F. Moncur | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. P. Mannery | „ 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant I. A. Noble | „ 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major M. R. E. Pack-Davison | „ School of Signals |
| Captain (TOT) G. H. Paul | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Major M. J. Pickard | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Riding | „ SHAPE |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. A. Ridley | „ Attached HQ Training Brigade |
| Captain B. Robinson | „ HQ Training Brigade |
| Captain J. R. Selby | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. R. Smith | „ 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major V. S. Smith | „ SHAPE |
| Major (QM) D. Spence | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Captain M. R. Stone | „ 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Major J. F. Storr | „ RN Staff College |
| Major C. E. R. Story | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Captain A. Sugdon | „ 3 Div HQ nad Signal Regiment |
| Colonel I. G. Swan | „ MOD M2(A) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Swindells | „ MOD Signals (Pol) 2 |
| Captain A. M. Wallace | „ 1 Canadian Signal Regiment (Exchange appointment) |
| Captain (TOT) J. A. Wilkins | „ School of Signals |
| Captain P. Williams | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Major S. Wood | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant T. J. P. Bryning | „ RMC of S |
| Lieutenant M. D. Crowther | „ RMC of S |
| Second-Lieutenant A. T. Evans | „ RMC of S |
| Second-Lieutenant N. F. Fisher | „ RMC of S |
| Second-Lieutenant A. J. Grey | „ RMC of S |
| Second-Lieutenant D. W. McKenzie | „ RMC of S |
| Lieutenant D. J. Wills | „ RMC of S |
| Captain A. R. Martin | „ RMC of S |
| Captain M. J. Ridlington | „ RMC of S |
| Major M. Allan | „ 262 Signal Squadron |
| Captain W. J. Armstrong | „ HQ DA Aviation |
| Second-Lieutenant R. W. Blum | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. Byrne | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Carnie | „ MOD (Defence Ops Centre) |
| Second-Lieutenant R. A. Clague | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel G. Corden | „ NICSMA |

| | |
|---|---|
| Major J. Cox | To SHAPE (BAE) |
| Major (Tfc) R. Davidge | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Colonel G. L. Davies, O.B.E. | „ HQ AFCENT |
| Second-Lieutenant P. R. Day | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Major K. G. Doyle | „ 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| A/Captain P. Durrant | „ School of Signals |
| Major T. R. Eamey | „ National Defence College |
| Major S. G. Falla | „ School of Signals |
| Second-Lieutenant A. D. Forster | „ 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith | „ IMS NATO |
| Major D. W. Gent | „ 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Major G. J. H. Grist | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Major E. R. Hardy | „ North East District |
| A/Major T. J. Hendren | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Second-Lieutenant N. C. Jackson | „ 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| Major G. N. Jenkins | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant R. J. Kinnaird | „ 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. E. F. Kirby | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Major P. F. Larrington | „ MOD (CGWL) ACP21 |
| Major (QM) W. T. Leeson, M.B.E. | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Second-Lieutenant M. A. Little | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Mac-Gillivray, O.B.E. | „ HQ CENTO |
| Major M. J. Macklin | „ MOD (PE) EQD |
| Major (TOT) N. W. Merrifield | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Milton | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant C. H. Moody | „ 3 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant N. T. Moore | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Major W. A. F. Morgan | „ 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major J. D. Morris | „ National Defence College |
| Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Nice | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (QM) C. W. Palmer, M.B.E. | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant T. P. Rimmell | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant J. W. Rollins | „ 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron |
| Major M. W. Simms-Reeve | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Second-Lieutenant P. Smith | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Captain W. J. Spiers | „ Attached RPO Chester |
| Second-Lieutenant M. R. G. Stockdale | 2 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant G. K. Thompson | „ Army Air Corps Centre |
| Captain M. A. Thorne | „ School of Signals |
| Major R. Trelawny | „ MOD (Camp Commandant) |
| Captain B. Turner | „ 19 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Captain (QM) J. G. Turner | „ 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| Leiutenant H. H. Van Praag | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Major B. A. Watson | „ 35 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Wheawell | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Major P. J. F. White | „ School of Signals |
| Second-Lieutenant C. J. Whittaker | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Second-Lieutenant J. M. Willis | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Captain R. L. Windmill | „ 8 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Captain J. C. Wollaston | „ 260 Signal Squadron |

## W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---|---|
| W.O.1 R. Copland | To HQ 1 Signal Group |
| W.O.1 F. Thomas | „ HQ 1 BR Corps |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) M. J. Boland | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 E. D. Duncan | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 E. A. P. Chambers | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. J. Field | „ SHAPE HQ Command |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. N. Rogers | „ 242 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. P. Pettifer | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Supvr(R)) H. Parkinson | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 J. B. Bartlett | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 C. A. Coultish | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 A. P. Drugan | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 W. Forrest | „ Forward Scatter Station Mossy Hill |
| W.O.2 P. Hardwick | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 J. R. Nicoll | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 D. R. Parker | „ 227 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 J. W. Piper | „ School of Signals |
| W.O.2 D. Speirs | „ 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 R. G. Vale | „ 233 Signal Squadron |
| A/W.O.2 B. Law | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant B. Greatorex | „ 261 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant G. J. O'Sullivan | „ Royal Military College of Science |
| Staff Sergeant J. M. W. Richardson | „ 234 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant G. C. Blood | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant J. L. Harrison | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant R. Hughes | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant P. W. Lees | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant G. S. L. Markwell | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant A. McMillan | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant A. G. Parker | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant F. Stevenson | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant R. A. Walker | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant B. Young | „ 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) K. D. J. Donaldson | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr(R)) R. C. Armstrong | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr(R) D. J. Byrne | „ 224 Signal Squadron |
| A/Staff Sergeant D. G. Longhurst | „ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst |
| Sergeant T. Padden | „ 551 Signal Troop (MSL Regiment) |
| Sergeant W. D. Close | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. Black | „ 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. E. Turner | „ 605 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant N. Hughes | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. Ricketts | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. L. Carr | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. A. Mapletoft | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. E. Meredith | To HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant L. R. Birrell | „ 36 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant N. R. S. Wilson | „ 642 Signal Troop (Gibraltar) |
| Sergeant D. J. R. Callear | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. S. Henderson | „ HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. L. Kemp | „ 11Signal Regiment (Cadre) (For employment in Junior Soldiers' Wing) |
| Sergeant M. Lavery | „ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant J. Benson | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. R. Yallop | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. J. Flint | „ 35 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant J. E. L. Celino | „ 36 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant J. Felstead | „ 653 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant R. W. B. Carpenter | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Preston | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. G. Cooper | „ 262 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. A. Wright | „ 224 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant S. Kemal | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. A. Gouldsmith | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant T. J. Squire | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. C. Inglis | „ Communications Project Agency |
| Sergeant D. B. P. Usher | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. Hamer | „ MAT Gulf |
| Sergeant A. J. R. Richardson | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. D. Colley | „ 229 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant H. J. Hughes | „ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. B. Vallance | „ 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. Spencer | „ School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant L. C. Westgate | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. J. Moorhouse | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant V. E. Irons | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant K. A. Pennington | „ 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant D. Lodey | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. S. Jennings | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant T. G. Barwick | „ 608 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant I. W. Davies | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant N. Valentine | „ 227 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. Barron | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Thory | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant T. A. Lovell | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant C. F. Simpson | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant I. McAuliffe | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. L. Carratt | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant K. L. Bennett | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant W. E. Scott | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant M. Brierley | „ 4 Communications Unit |
| Sergeant R. Standley | „ 533 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant D. H. Audsley | „ 536 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant T. Large | „ 580 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant C. D. Whall | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant K. Rodgers | „ 21 (SAS) Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant D. A. Beresford | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant K. Beharrell | „ 525 Rear Link Detachment |
| Sergeant G. A. M. Chapman | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. L. Norrie | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. Walker | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. B. Flockton | „ 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. Barratt | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. T. Powlesland | „ 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant B. E. Young | „ 227 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Collison | „ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/Sergeant B. Robinson | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant J. W. Drake | „ 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant D. J. F. Chalmers | „ 223 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.1 J. Howker | „ 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.1 G. Penman | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.1 F. T. Toole | „ 32 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.1 J. G. Mays | „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| W.O.2 A. B. Gould | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 D. H. Carr | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 W. J. Crumbie | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 E. P. J. Kellett | „ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 T. Kerr | „ Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch |
| W.O.2 D. H. Leggott | „ 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 N. Papanicolaou | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 A. E. Phillips | „ 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) G. Lile | „ 244 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. A. Meachin | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) E. J. Adams | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| A/W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. E. Lovell | „ 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron |
| A/W.O.2 (Y. of S.) D. J. Tunmore | „ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. D. Rayment | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| A/W.O.2 (Supvr R) A. J. Newman | „ School of Signals |
| Staff Sergeant J. Armstrong | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant T. S. Langley | „ 224 Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant W. V. Miles | „ 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant P. Muxworthy | „ 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant P. H. M. Toovey | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant G. S. Spearpoint | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. G. Watts | „ 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. Zoing | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) M. Campbell | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Hand | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff Sergeant (Supvr R) R. W. Wells | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. H. Waugh | „ HQ BAOR |
| Sergeant W. L. McAlister | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. E. Wells | „ School of Signals |
| Sergeant H. Adey | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. Smith | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. L. Bartrum | „ 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Conde | „ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |

(Continued on page 245)



(Continued from page 244)

| | |
|---|---|
| Sergeant M. L. Stevens | To 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. S. Burley | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. Lloyd-Williams | „ 639 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant R. D. Dixon | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. E. Gill | „ 26 Cadet Training Team |
| Sergeant M. E. Woodbridge | „ School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant C. A. Swift | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. W. Gray | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. P. Smith | „ 262 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant P. W. Fisher | „ 262 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant K. Barnes | „ 259 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. B. Burns | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. Young | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. J. Brown | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant W. T. Paterson | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Courses) |
| Sergeant O. McGinness | „ 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Sergeant A. McComb | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Gipson | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. J. Simpson | „ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. J. Rideout | „ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. D. McKechnie | „ HQ Inteligence Centre |
| Sergeant B. W. Richardson | „ Army Apprectices College, Harrogate |
| Sergeant J. W. Brister | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. R. M. Krikorian | „ 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. Hodge | „ 31 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant P. W. Cole | „ 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. J. Mills | „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| Sergeant T. J. Nelson | „ 8 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. W. Green | „ 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant T. C. Winsor | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. Wells | „ 229 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant B. J. Aldridge | „ 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. M. Evans | „ 11 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. Maybank | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. Kaye | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant C. F. Speed | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant R. F. Clay | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant T. Welsh | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| A/Sergeant M. C. Leitch | „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |

# Obituary

## Major-General V. J. E. Westropp, C.B., C.B.E.

It is with regret that we report the death of Victor John Eric Westropp on 8th June at the age of 77. He was one of three brothers, the elder of whom was Colonel of the Devonshire Regiment and is still living, the other was City Editor of the *Sunday Express* and was killed in a road accident in 1962. Victor Westropp was commissioned into the Royal Engineers from the RMA Woolwich in 1916 and saw active service in France with the RE Signal Service during the First World War. After the war he was posted to the SSTC Maresfield, and in 1921 he transferred to the Corps and became the first Royal Signals officer to be an instructor at the RMA Woolwich. Between 1930 and 1934 he served in India and saw active service in the 1930/31 operations on the North West Frontier. It was at this time that he began a life-long friendship with Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck. He again saw active service in Palestine whilst on the staff of 1st Division in 1936 and 8th Division in 1938 when he was mentioned in despatches. In 1939 he raised and commanded the Anti-Aircraft Training Battalion (Militia) which later became 1st Army Signals on the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1940 he was appointed AAG (AG11) and in 1941 became Deputy Director Personal Services. In 1942 he was selected for special duty at HQ US Army in North Africa. On his way out his ship was torpedoed and sunk and he arrived at Algiers minus all his kit much to his annoyance. He later filled senior staff appointments in Italy and India when he was DAG. He was appointed CBE and an Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA) in 1943. After the war until his retirement in 1951 he was President of the War Crimes Court at Ravensbruk, Chief of the Military Division of the Control Commission in Germany and later Deputy Chief of Staff. He was appointed CB in 1947. Victor Westropp was a very capable and distinguished staff officer with a clear and logical brain. He had a charming personality allied to an even temper and a great sense of humour. After retirement he settled in Warfield where he became a parish councillor and was for many years treasurer of the local church. He was a keen gardener and created a magnificent garden at his home. He was also an expert model maker, the trains and sailing boats and toys which he built were not only enjoyed by his two sons and daughters and later his six granddaughters but also by his brother officers when he was stationed at Aldershot in 1936/37. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family in their loss.

## Brigadier G. St. J. Martin, C.B.E.

Geoffrey St. John Martin died at the age of 78 at his home in Monmouth on 25th July. He was commissioned in the Royal Rifle Brigade in 1915 and saw active service on the Western Front during the First World War until he was invalided home in 1916. In 1918 he went out to India and was seconded to the Indian Signal Corps until he transferred to Royal Signals in 1972. He remained in India for nine years where he served with the Signal Service Depot, STC (I), 'C' Indian Divisional Signals and 1st Indian Divisional Signals. During this time he held three appointments as adjutant, was Brigade Major of Jabolpur Brigade area and took part in the operations on the North West Frontier which terminated in 1924. On returning to the UK in 1927 he served with Anti Aircraft Signals at Blackdown before attending the Staff College at Camberley, after which he was posted to 2nd Divisional Signals before being appointed to a staff job at the War Office. After this he held the appointment of Staff Captain at HQ 1st Division. In 1937 he returned to India where he remained for five years in staff appointments at GHQ and as Commanding Officer of Western Independent Signals. In 1942 he was posted to Iraq as Colonel GS at the headquarters of the base areas. For the rest of the war he alternated in various staff appointments in India and Iraq finally becoming CSO L-of-C on the Burma front when he was appointed C.B.E. He returned to the UK in 1947 as DD (Tels) at the War Office before retiring in 1948. After retirement he took up poultry farming. He was a keen and able tennis and hockey player and was a competent wood carver. His wife pre-deceased him and we send our sincere sympathy to his relations.

## Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, D.S.O., C.B., writes:

To your obituary notice on the death of Brigadier Ralph Chenevix-Trench, may I add an appreciation of his considerable services to Corps sailing in the early days. He was the moving spirit behind the formation, in 1939, of the Royal Signals Sailing Association and he was its first Commodore. At that first meeting, somebody proposed that the title should be Royal Signals Yacht Club. Characteristically, Brigadier Trench commented "It will be soon enough to call ourselves a yacht club when we have demonstrated our seamanship; for the time being it will be more appropriate to call ourselves a sailing association".

The immediate result of the birth of the R.S.S.A. was the gift by Major Bolitho of the Corps' first yacht *Certa*. Later when the war ended, certain ex-German yachts were handed over to service yacht clubs; had it not been for Brigadier Trench and the R.S.S.A. the Corps might not have been in a position to accept *Cito*.

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# SHRIVENHAM LETTER

GRADUATION DAY, ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Brigadier Tighe meets graduates, their wives and parents. We were fortunate to have Les Fox's parents, Major and Mrs. E. M. Fox along for the day. The concentration of staff on the right lacks only Brigadier Jimmy Jackson, busy elsewhere. Not in the picture—Lieutenant and Mrs. Ted Crampton (missing believed posted)

AS our photograph shows, we have recently launched another batch of graduates. Graduation Day was 5th July and in spite of the forecast, better than average (for this Summer) weather attended our celebrations. Sporadic showers and blustery winds abated for the ceremony and the tea which followed on Beckett Lawns; wives, mothers and girlfriends in all their finery were rewarded by a sunny and relatively warm afternoon while the peacocks of 26 Degree Course strutted about, academic garb clashing violently with everything except itself. **Brigadier Tony Tighe** represented the SO-in-C at the ceremony and took the opportunity to meet not only the graduands and their families but also students from 28 Degree Course and the Army Staff Course and their wives. During two fairly hectic (and social) days he managed to meet a high proportion of the junior officers of the Corps, and was happy to lie back in his staff car on departure, to recuperate.

Since graduating, the following units have benefited from a rush of new blood:

7th Regiment—**Lieutenant Ian Bingham.**
22nd Regiment—**Lieutenant David Palmer.**
2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment—**Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton.**
4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment—**Lieutenant Bob Binham.**
7 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron—**Lieutenant Adrian Schuler.**
14th Regiment—**Lieutenant Ted Crampton.**
8 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron—**Lieutenant Les Fox.**
49 Gurkha Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron—**Lieutenant Alan McVittie.**

And several College teams are looking for new members. We wish them all luck in their new 'hats'.

While we stand by with bated breath for the arrival for the Freshmen of 29 Degree Course in September, students of 27 and 28 Degree Courses are about their lawful occasions around the world. **Lieutenants Nick Mansfield** and **Charles Le Gallais** are off to climb Mount Kenya on a joint RE/Royal Signals expedition; **'Paddy' Crowley** has gone to Brunei, attached to **Major Spooner** (his words not mine!); **Philip McDouall** and **Peter Parfitt** have attachments to 48 Gurkha Brigade; **Tony Wood** is on an expedition to Norway; **Gordon Hughes** and **John Macfarlane** have gome camp counselling in America; **Martin Bevan** is sailing; **Bob Hope** is canoeing; **Dave Lynam** is with 11 Brigade and **John Fletcher** with 19 Brigade; **Jim Stabler** has gone instructing at JSMTC Towyn; **Bob Axton** is (as normal) playing tennis and **Neil Stewart** is sailing first and then off to Singapore to play squash; **Bob Holmes** is working with Elliott Avionics; **Tony Manders** with the Admiralty Research Labs., **Mike Podmore** with Ferranti and **John Snowdon** with the BBC; **Michael Fisher** is with 11th Regiment. All in all Shrivenham appears to be a good jumping off point, once you have satisfied the examiners.

Meanwhile the overworked and underprivileged students on the Army Staff and Guided Weapons Systems courses labour on; **Rodney Payne, Peter Chaddock, Mike Payne** and **Nigel Wood** on Division 1: **Mike Ayrton, Mike Carson, David Cook, Martin Lance, Hywell Thomas, Keith Turner** and **Tim Waugh** on Division 2; and **Bill Legge** on the Guided Weapons course. For them the Summer vacation is merely a semi-colon. However, they all manage to get in their fair share of sport, and golf handicaps are being pared right down.

**Captain Don Munro** has arrived to study for two years for his M.Phil., such a complicated topic I cannot even begin to spell it out—but I am assured *he* knows what he is doing.

That just leaves the even more overworked and underprivileged members of the permanent staff, from Deputy Commandant to Foreman of Signals, holding the ring. All in all quite a concentration of Royal Signals personnel; after RE and REME the third largest group in the College and surely the largest group of Royal Signals Officers outside the Corps.

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# KOHIMA FEST—JUNE 1974

## REPORT FROM 2 DIV HQ AND SIG REGT

### KOHIMA BACKGROUND

BETWEEN the 14th to 19th June the Regiment celebrated Kohima week. To those who do not know why, Kohima is the 2nd Division's Battle Honour which was won in 1944 against the Japanese in Burma. The Division was rushed across India to help stem the Japanese attack which reached Dimapur on 11th April 1944. The battered garrison at Kohima was relieved on the 20th by units of the 6th and 161st Indian Infantry Brigades, only 31 days after the orders were issued, involving a move of 2,000 miles to reach Kohima. Then the battle began in earnest; the fight lasted from the 4th until the 16 May. It was a bitter battle, fought over appallingly difficult country, no quarter being given or expected. In the hand to hand fighting in a perimeter of no more than 350 yeards each way, everybody was involved. Our casualties included two Brigade commanders killed and two wounded. The 31st Japanese Division suffered 2,800 dead out of a total of 3,000 casualties. With the fall of Kohima and the decimation of the crack Japanese troops, the road to Imphal was opened and India saved.

Our regimental celebrations started on Friday 14th June when **Brigadier the Reverend Charles Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** who was Commander Royal Signals of the 2nd Division at Kohima, enthralled the Regiment with his tales of the Regiment's escapades at Kohima. His references to the 'Hairy's' exploits ahead of the infantry delighted our line troop. The Brigadier pointed out that in all the histories of Kohima there is no mention of Royal Signals, but that this is in fact the highest accolade the Corps can receive. The reports that **Major-General Grover** (the GOC at Kohima) talked to his Brigade Commanders, or to his Corps or Army Headquarters, proved in themselves that the communications never failed. This talk was followed in the evening by a highly successful All Ranks dance at the Shutzenhof Bunde.

REMEMBRANCE—A SOLEMN MOMENT

*Left to right:* Rev. G. G. Holman and Brigadier the Rev C. Nettleship. The latter commanded 2 Div Signal Regiment at the battle of Kohima. The Kohima Memorial replica is in the background

The Kohima Ball was a great success.

SWEETIE DROP

Clearly a popular event for the youngsters—and one or two older spectators as well

THEN AND NOW

In-pensioner Smith of the original unit is flanked by W.O.I Joe Izzo and W.O.I (R.S.M.) Tony Pfeiffer of the present day Regiment.

## ANGLO-GERMAN FETE

On Saturday, 15th June the Anglo-German Fete was a roaring success and our new Chaplain, **Padre Dan Hurley,** passed his trade test by producing the hottest day of the year! Over DM10,000 was raised which is to be divided equally between British and German charities. The fete was opened by **Richard Astbury** of 'Asters' fame from BFBS who was an instant success with the wives. Sideshows and static displays were provided by: 14th/20th Kings Hussars, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 7th Field Ambulance, 29th Amphibious Squadron RE, 2 Division Regiment RCT, Bunde Fire Brigade, and 12 Mechanised Brigade Signal Squadron who ran two APCs for children's joy rides—when they could get the adults off them!

We were treated to displays from the BAOR Parachute Freefall Team, 2 Tactical Air Force Dog Handling Team, our own Silver Helmets (who did a creditable imitation of a well-known demonstration) and the Holsen Girls Band. The Band of 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment provided background music. The prize for the best stall went to the Wives Club and second prize to 2 Squadron's ducking stool which proved a major attraction. The closing touch, a 'Sweetie Drop', was carried out by a Scout of 652 Squadron AAC. The Wives Club stall provided an additional spectacle as during the sweetie drop the helicopter's down-draught caused the stall to collapse around the Adjutant's wife, **Mrs. Lil McLean,** much to the amusement of the onlookers.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, 16th June the Kohima Memorial Service was held at Lubbecke. In superb sunshine the Regiment paraded in the open air for the Service which was conducted by the **Reverend G. G. Holman, A.K.C., C.F. Brigadier the Reverend Nettleship** delivered the Address and **Major-General Desmond Mangham** read the lesson. The centre piece of the occasion was a replica of the memorial at Kohima, on which are carved the immortal words:

"WHEN YOU GO HOME
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY
FOR YOUR TOMORROW
WE GAVE OUR TODAY"

On Monday, 17th June we sadly said goodbye to **Brigadier the Reverend Nettleship** as he had to return to his busy parish in Warwickshire, where he is also the Honorary Colonel of 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (TAVR).

## BALL

On Wednesday, 19th June, we had the final function of the Fest, the Sergeants' Mess spectacular 'Kohima Ball' which was an exhausting though thoroughly enjoyable experience, immediately following two days of Exercise 'Active Edge'. **Sergeant Andy McBain** was welcomed to his first day in the Sergeants Mess in full NBC Kit!

Throughout the Fest we had the privilege of the presence of **Inpensioner Smith,** the only member of the Royal Hospital Chelsea to have served at Kohima who, apart from telling what really happened, taught us what stamina was all about

# *Round the World Yacht Race*

## 4th Leg—Rio de Janeiro to Portsmouth

### SUBMITTED BY MAJOR LEE EDINGER

"Does the road wind uphill all the way?
Yes to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night my friend.'

*(From 'Uphill' by Christina Rossett)*

**Saturday, 16th March Lat. 1326 S Long. 3600 W Day 8**
**Log 1031; Speed 7 knots; Course 050 Mag.; Wind E 20**

0001 *On watch.*
0010 *Wind increasing. Changed down to No. 2 Genoa. Put in one reef.*
0045 *Took in second reef. Down mizzen.*
0100 *Down Genoa. Up Yankee. Wind gusting 35 knots. (gale force).*
0140 *Up Genoa. Down Yankee. Shook out second reef.*
0220 *Up mizzen, shook out first reef, changed to No. 1 Genoa.*
0400 *Off watch. Haven't touched the wheel. Absolutely shattered. What a graveyard watch, I can do with my four hours of golden kip.*

## SOME DUCK POND

SO we entered the second week on the last leg of the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, from Rio de Janeiro back to Portsmouth. The easy leg someone said to me, "you've only got to sail back across the duck-pond". Some duck pond! But how were we? . . . We'd been at sea a week, the ship was clean and in good working order. The crew were settling down well with good humour, much repartee and few grumbles. On that seventh day we at last had a free wind after a solid week on our beam ends. It may not sound long to the uninitiated but it proved to be very wearing on the nerves, continually fighting for a hand hold, always balancing food and drink and attempting to stop one's meal rocketing to the floor, fighting to climb into a bunk, trying not to step on your ship mates. Nevertheless the week had passed incredibly quickly for us all, perhaps because it was such hard work and because it was such a change from the gay life of Rio.

## ACTING TEAM MANAGER

Although we had sailed together as a crew whilst training, and despite having witnessed the wonderful spectacle of the start at Portsmouth, the venture for me only seemed to come alive when one afternoon in November last year **Major Neil Carlier** RE, the team manager, rang me up and asked if he could hand over a few details about our move to Rio. We met a few days later and before the afternoon was over I had unexpectedly taken over as acting team manager whilst **Neil** left to Skipper 'British Soldier' round the Horn. Little did I realise what I had taken on. The telephone never seemed to stop; anxious wives, mothers and sweethearts, chandlers, the press, race control officers, air movements, shipping managers, crew members, embassy officials, rival team managers, well wishers and even enquiring school children. And they were only the incoming calls!

The outgoing ones were just as frequent and many were the cryptic but good humoured comments from my compatriots at work. However the culmination of my efforts saw the crew assembled one evening in late February in the VIP lounge of British Caledonian Airways at Gatwick, and at their invitation quaffing a fair quantity of gin. An excellent start!

## RIO!

The following morning we landed at Rio and promptly wondered whether we would survive even the first taxi journey. Overtaking on the inside appeared to be commonplace, speed on the roads the essence of life.

Having settled into our accommodation we barely had time to unpack before being whisked off, this time by courtesy of our main sponsors, Stewart Wrightsons Ltd. to eat a splendid Brazilian meal followed by a cabaret. Southern ITV cameramen were present, and as some of you may have seen in the film 'The Race Apart' their presence made the belly dancers shake their bellies with even greater gusto than they otherwise might have done.

The following two weeks were gruelling. The previous crew had scrubbed *British Soldier's* bottom and done much of the work before we arrived, but there was still a lot to be done and the hot and humid conditions of Rio made it seem all the harder. The lavish hospitality didn't help our work schedule, though naturally we were loath to refuse any invitations.

## OFF

Eventually 8th March dawned and ready or not we had to start. Final farewells, final camera shots, last minute gifts and to the sound of klaxons and with streamers and banners flying we left for the line. A few moments were spent at prayers led by the Skipper, an emotional moment for us all, and at 1300 hours we started, second over the line to *Adventure,* the Royal Navy entry, which soon shot up to windward in the light airs.

Whilst in Rio we had spent some time plying a few of the Brazilian Olympic helmsmen with whisky and picking their brains on local conditions. This paid off and after 24 hours we crossed tacks with *Adventure,* having kept inshore whilst she had put out to sea. The short inshore tacks also served the purpose of getting us used to the yacht again and we felt as though we were racing round the buoys at Cowes instead of starting on a 6,000 mile





venture. Not only were we tacking frequently but wind conditions were such that we had sail changes without fail during every watch. However it was warm, and even on deck at night the attire was normally bathing costume and safety belt. A full moon and clear starry skies gave us some glorious night sails about which there is always a fascination, and many were the times when from amongst the chatter on deck could be heard, "all this and paid too".

## TWO NOTABLE EVENTS

It was during this first week that two notable events occurred. One when we crossed tacks with *Pen Duick III* after five days, the last time we identified another yacht in the race during the whole voyage and secondly when **Andrew Whitfield** made contact with **Sergeant John Worth** at the School of Signals via our Clansman 320 radio. Notable not only for the distance but more particularly, as I discovered later, that he had accidentally been using a piece of very wet string only, as an antenna.

Other items noted in my log during that first week included, "Local storm. Everyone on deck having a good wash in birthday suits. Skipper in his, whisky in hand, saying 'I'm glad the RHA can't see me now'. (As I write this I wonder why he was having a tot at 1045 hours, his humble deck hands were only allowed one during the evening dog watches). And later, "many dolphins about and our first flying fish aboard". "Highly pleased when the Skipper decoded my first CANAL message taken from Washington and plotted it on the chart. Two people with grins from ear to ear". I should perhaps explain that CANAL is a weather forecast transmitted by most countries in the form of a morse five figure group international code. When decoded, the pressure systems with their position and speed can be plotted on an oceanic chart

**Monday, 18th March. Day 10.**
**Lat. 0820 S Long. 3417 W.**

"*Last of the oranges and pineapples eaten, the latter with one of our luxuries, a tin of cream. The wind really has freed at long, long last and we are roaring along; if we can keep this up we shall be north of Recife by this evening*".

The following day we achieved a 24 hour run of over 200 miles for the first time, a great morale booster. Later in the day the wind dropped and by 1830 hours we were becalmed for the first time. 30 minutes later the wind came up from the south west though the Admiralty Pilot shows that westerly winds have not been reported in the area since 1911! What a day for our record book.

## CROSSING THE LINE

**Thursday, 21st March. Day 13.**
**Lat. 0000 Long. 3620 W.**
**1315 hours. Log 1961. Course 340 Mag. Wind NE 20.**

"*What an anti climax. My vision of the Equator has always been one of blue skies, and warm gentle breezes. In the event the sun is hidden by rain threatening clouds, we are once again on our beam ends with a very fresh wind and it is comparatively cold*". However this did not deter us and we crossed 'The Line' with due ceremony. Our sailmaker **Staff Sergeant Jack Doherty** was splendidly attired as King Neptune whilst our chief chef, and youngest member of the crew, **Lance-Corporal Colin Bye,** had to undergo the indignity, not of being shaved in accordance with custom, but of having his hair washed and rinsed with bilge water; all we could manage in the prevailing wind conditions. **Colin** later forgave us and cooked one of our 'special' meals, chicken, ham, mushrooms, all the trimmings and a delicious apple pie.

**Colin** was not there purely as cook. The three watches were arranged so that after a watch on deck a sleeping watch followed, and then a 'stand-by'. During the latter the watch cleaned a nominated part of the yacht, cooked, carried out repairs, and were available to assist the watch on deck. Thus, all took a hand at cooking and many became quite proficient at making bread, buns, pastry and other delicacies.

**Saturday, 23rd March. Day 15.**

"0400 *hours. Very wet in my bunk. Skylight jammed and lumps of water kept landing on me. Escape and evasion a waste of time so finally gave up and slept in a pool.*
0730 *hours. Gusting gale force. Very overcast.*
1230 *hours. Trying to rain. A noticeable drop in temperature before gusts.*
1800 *hours. Whilst reading his met. books the Skipper found notes about a 'Lee Depression'. Very apt today. A black day. All very tired*".

**Wednesday, 27th March. Day 19.**

On this day we reached our farthest point West, 39° 25′. We had sailed through the Doldrums without stopping and by plotting the CANAL had been able to skirt the west of a high pressure system. Nevertheless we were still and it seemed interminable, over on our beam ends. I was particularly affected by this angle as my kit locker was high up on the starboard side. Every time I opened the locker unless I was very lucky and careful, the contents would be scattered round my feet! I was also amused to note that on the cover of the Radio Operator's Log in the line reserved for 'Operating Position' some wit had inscribed '30° from vertical wedged between work bench and coachroof support'. But how true it was.

## ELBOW GIVING TROUBLE

It was also on this day that I became one of the doctor's patients with a very swollen elbow. Light duties were prescribed and I was thankful that having been removed from a watch I could at least make myself useful by taking the CANAL and other useful morse broadcasts which the Skipper asked for in ever increasing quantities, and which from a tactical point of view seemed to be paying dividends. It transpired that at this time we were lying in third position, though at the time we didn't realise we were quite so well placed.

The following day the doctor nearly had more patients. As an amateur doctor (he was in fact an RAF dentist) he was becoming concerned about my elbow. We sought professional advice on the radio from the doctor at Blandford who was most helpful but had the crew absolutely convulsed by advising us to stop the next passing liner and see their doctor. As we had seen nothing on the vast ocean for at least two weeks, let alone a liner, the suggestion to us had a more than ludicrous ring about it.

**Friday, 29th March. Day 21.**

"0330 *hours. Wind gusting to 28 knots. On an even keel at long, long last. Attempted to set spinnaker but prudence deems we wait until dawn.*

0545 *hours. Prudence rewarded. Spinnaker up, sneaker up, main, mizzen staysail, and mizzen. The makings of a fabulous day. Going like a train. At least few others will catch us at this speed.*
1230 *hours. Our best day yet. Noon to noon 224 miles*".

Then followed the best days of the whole voyage. The sun shone whilst we dried out the boat and our clothes, and morale rose rapidly. We restowed the stores to get a better trim and though news of the remainder of the fleet was hard to come by we knew we were in a good position. We had worked our way round to the North West of the renowned High pressure system always associated with the Azores whilst many of the fleet were becalmed.

## THE LAST LAP

Thereafter we waited for the South Westerly winds which always, but always, blow in that part of the Atlantic in April. We waited in vain. Another high pressure system moved in from the West to be followed by a 'low' moving south from U.K. Some events at this time were interesting as we reported in our daily sitreps back to U.K.: "Had an exciting gust of 47 knots. It caused us to: down main, change headsails, down mizzen, down staysail. Soon passed and so back through the same drill; all in time for breakfast coffee". Another, a few days later recorded, "a busy night as the cold front went through, wind gusting to 30 knots. Lost our big spinnaker but two more to go. Enough sails to lose one a day".

By 7th April we had begun to think in terms of being home for Easter Monday. The elements thought of other things. From then until we finished we were beating to windward almost non-stop. The weather was turning increasingly colder, we had a good Atlantic gale, and the cry became "good character building exercise". We realised that we were slowly but surely losing our position near the head of the fleet and even our stalwart skipper's spirits began to flag under the strain of once more being on our beam ends or as it was more coloquially phrased "on our ruddy ear 'ole again". Some duck pond!

It was during our Easter service that **Staff Sergeant David Leslie,** our electronics wizard, instead of a lesson, read out the poem 'Uphill'. The first two lines became the catch phrase for the remainder of that last tiring week.

### A GREAT WELCOME

After the gale it was the sublime to the ridiculous; we kedged in the Channel! However spirits soon began to rise and at long, long last at 0835 on Thursday, 18th April we finished. A splendid band of loyal supporters came out to meet us having been up half the night, nobly led by the ASA Commodore, none other than our own **Major-General Sawers.**

**So ended a wonderful venture. We all got on very well together in such a confined space. The Clansman 320 worked magnificently despite a few sea water duckings. I learnt quite a lot about myself and even more about some of the things that really matter in life. Would I do it again?—I look forward to 1977!**

**6,193 Nautical miles. 41 days.**

**"Does the road wind uphill all the way?**
**Yes to the very end!"**

FARAWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS (1)

## *Detached to Diego Garcia*

**REPORT FROM 14th REGIMENT'S TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT**

### A SOUTH SEAS PARADISE

I WOULD imagine most readers will be scurrying for an atlas to discover the whereabouts of this remote island. A small party from the Regiment have recently added it to the already long list of out of the way places in which detachments have served.

The island is located approximately 900 miles SWS of India, 400 miles south of Gan at the southern end of the Chagos Archipelagos in the British Indian Ocean Territory. It has no indigenous population. The island is controlled by the Representative of the Commissioner British Indian Ocean Territory, **Lieutenant-Commander P. J. Canter, D.S.C., R.N., J.P.** To assist him in his civil duties, he has one constable, a Petty Officer, RN. I feel sure that Gilbert and Sullivan must have organised these appointments.

The island is a V shaped coral atoll approximately 37 miles from tip to tip. It has everything required for a South Seas paradise. Soft warm golden sand, feathery waving palms, clear blue skies, constant sunshine, warm blue sea, but no dames. The only birds on the island are chickens, which are protected by law. In view of the fact that the rooster crows reveille every morning at 0500 hours protection in his case is essential.

When our party flew out there were over 1,000 Americans, 16 British naval ratings and numerous wild donkeys populating the island. We are assured that the arrival of our 8 NCOs swung the balance of power, in favour of the British. The Americans felt completely out-numbered by this 50 per cent increase in British strength.

Our party arrived with a lasting impression of American "get up and go". This was acquired at Mildenhall on the journey out. Shortly before the aircraft they were travelling in reached the end of the taxi-ing area, it filled with smoke. The pilot managed a laconic "All Out". Our party rose and enquired politely whether they required hand baggage. Before they could resolve this problem, they were afflicted with pounding headaches as the crew trampled over their heads on their way to the door. After an orderly withdrawal our party were amazed to discover crowds of asbestos clad fire fighters with every conceivable appliance. Fortunately it turned out to be a minor electrical fault and the party were soon on their way.

### EATING—AMERICAN STYLE

On arrival they very quickly assimilated almost all the American habits of eating sweet cherry potatoes, sweet corn, pretzels and burgers. They were introduced to Schlitz and Olympus beer. Olympus cans have a slogan which states "Its the water that makes this beer so good", they found the water but no beer. This was, of course, a taste they did not acquire.

On switching on the radio they were intrigued by the announcer who informed them "This is the American Forces Radio and TV Broadcasting Network, broadcasting from downtown Diego Garcia in British Indian Ocean territory, outside Leisure Palms Golf Course." A two day search revealed no TV and a postage stamp size nine hole putting green. It appears that American announcers have fertile imaginations and poetic licence runs wild.

They were entertained nightly by Sea Bees (American Chunkies) who emerged from their huts and headed straight for the Diego burger stall. A beach chair is clasped firmly under one arm and 15 cents are clasped firmly in the other hand. On arrival left hand grabs roll, right hand places 3 or 4 Hamburgers in it, moves along, right hand grabs 2 or 3 frankfurters, roll placed in left hand, right hand seizes 2 or 3 steaks which are placed adjacent to left hand. Right hand gives up 15 cents for coke and free ice cream. He then proceeds to hammer hamburger with sweet pickle, douse frankfurter in tomato katsup, murder steak with sweet mustard. He then grabs a few pickled dills for garnishing. These are all placed on table. He then proceeds to sample hamburger, frankfurter, steak, ice cream and coke in that order. Process is repeated continuously until the whole mountain of food is demolished. Total time required 3 minutes. Exit well satisfied Sea Bee.

### CO-OPERATION WAS GOOD

**During the period the detachment spent on Diego Garcia they worked very closely with the Americans on communications. They very rapidly won their respect for expertise and high standards of professionalism. A good spirit of co-operation existed between both nationalities and each side learned a lot from their counterparts.**

FARAWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS (2)

## *Expedition to English Cay*

**CORPS AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIASTS SET UP IN REMOTE CARIBBEAN ISLAND**

**SUBMITTED BY 633 SIGNAL TROOP**

### 15 MILES OFF COAST OF BELIZE

ON Saturday, 15th June our OC, **Captain Mike Taylor** and **Yeoman Jim Rayment,** together with **Signalmen Jim Scope** and **'Chippy' Wood,** set out in two motor launches for the tiny Caribbean island of English Cay. The island, co-ordinates 17° 20′ N, 88° 2′ W, is located in the Barrier Reef some 15 miles off the Coast of Belize. With the party were rations for three days (both liquid and solid!), a portable generating set and a complete single sideband amateur radio station with mast and rotatable beam antenna.

The aim of the expedition was to stimulate world interest in terms of culture, tourism and commerce in the emerging nation of Belize. To this end official backing was willingly given by the Government of Belize in the form of accommodation on the island, allocation of a special callsign, special QSL cards depicting the new Belizean flag and both press and radio publicity. Advance news of the expedition was given by the BBC World Service and also in amateur radio magazines published throughout Europe. The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society handled most of the prior publicity and were responsible for such a wide circulation.

### HARD PRESSED OPERATORS

As soon as the station, callsign 'VPIB', went on the air the two operators were hard pressed to keep pace with the large number of stations throughout the world who wanted to make a contact with Belize. As many as 30 to 40 stations could be heard calling at the same time—an excellent example of the cocktail party effect.

### RARE STATIONS CONTACTED

Unfortunately, with only two licenced operators, it was not possible to operate for more than 15 hours per day! However, during the two days on the island some 244 contacts were made which accounted for 54 countries. Some rare 'DX' Stations were worked, including Fiji, Tahiti, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, St. Andres Island, New Hebrides, New Caledonia and American Samoa. Many contacts were made with Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and most South American and European countries. Regrettably only three contacts were made with Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society Stations (G4RS—where were you?!), two of these in UK and one in BAOR (DA2YR, **Sergeant Colin Harvey** in Detmold).

HOW REMOTE CAN YOU GET?
W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment and Captain Mike Taylor take time off to pose for the camera while operating amateur radio station "VPIB" on faraway English Cay Island in the Caribbean

### A GREAT SUCCESS

The event was a great success in that it fulfilled its aim and also provided much enjoyment to all those who took part. More important, it has provided a sound basis for future expeditions. Next time we intend to invite two Belizean radio amateurs to accompany us. This will enable us to operate continuously with, we hope, two complete stations and thus make DXCC (100 contries confirmed) a possibility during a weekend's operation.

**Our grateful thanks to the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society for arranging such successful advance publicity and for handling the inevitable rush of QSL cards!**

## THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially in July** | **33** |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** | **39** |
| **Amount spent** | **£1,945·25** |

**WAR MEMORIAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of grants** | **12** |
| **Amount spent** | **£272·00** |

## One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, suddenly discharged from the Army on medical grounds early this year after 3 years' service. To make matters worse for his wife and himself, their only child is very seriously ill. The Signalman at once found himself a job, and the Local Council has now given the family a flat. Royal Signals Association and the Army Benevolent Fund made a joint grant of £400 to provide the necessary furniture, etc., and establish the family in their new home.

## One of the Month's Letters

SAYING Thank You seems very inadequate in the face of such kindness and practical help, but it comes from the bottom of my heart. I realise just how lucky we are to have received so much help, and my wife and children and I are extremely grateful.

**THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING**


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**SELECTION.** There is a deal of difference between Companies and between various types of Policy. Therefore, do NOT deal direct with any Company or its representatives. You need the unbiased advice of a Broker specialising in Service problems. I offer this advice without fee or obligation. I am not tied to any Company, and select the most favourable for each type of risk.

**INFORMATION REQUIRED.** May I suggest you should let me know your date of birth, whether married or single, dates of birth and sexes of children, rates of pay and next increase, and how much you can afford in addition to any existing outlay. If you have any Policies in force, I recommend you to let me inspect them and tell you whether they are good value. In any case they may affect the type of new Policy you should consider. With this information, I can give you recommendations which you can accept or reject as you please.

**RETIRED or RETIRING OFFICERS** are advised to consult me in regard to House Purchase, Investment of Capital, and the advantages of commuting half Retired Pay.

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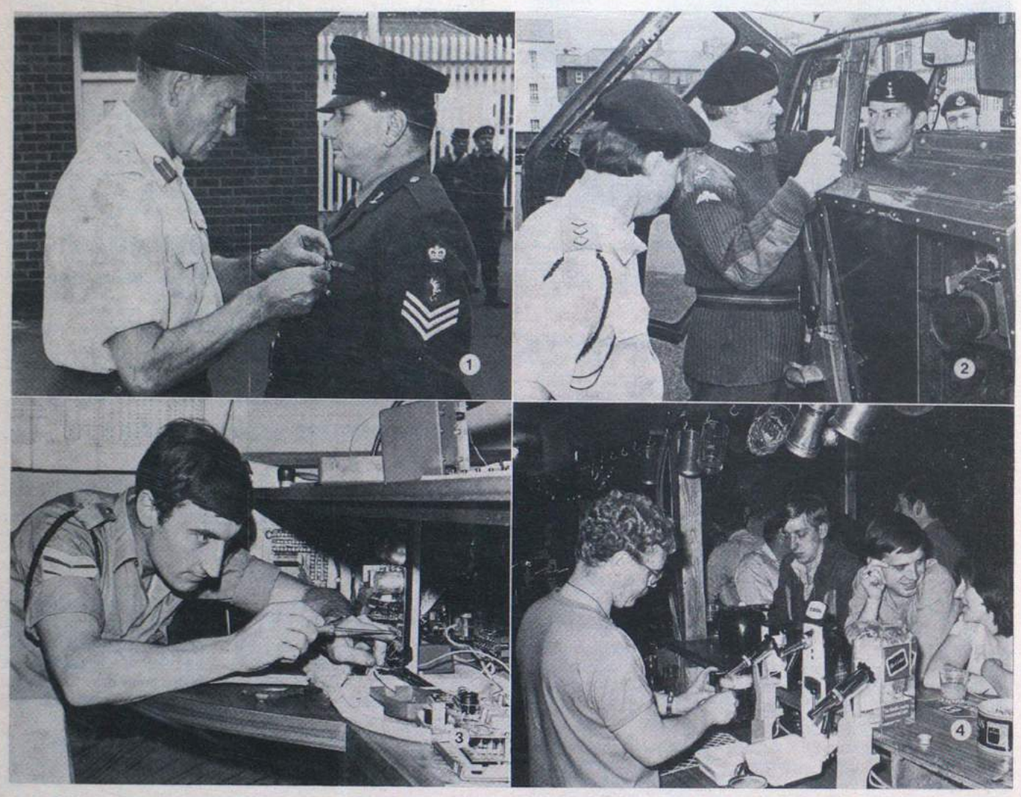
# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## *Focus on 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, N. Ireland*



1 Staff Sergeant Bob Jones, B.E.M., our NCO i/c Line Section receiving his very well deserved British Empire Medal from Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, K.C.B., M.B.E., General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. There is no truth in the rumour that Bob (or Jones the Phones as he is commonly nicknamed) has had numerous prints of this photo made

2 Corporal Archie Hambling explaining the complexities of the Hele-Tele to Major-General P. J. H. Leng, M.B.E., M.C., Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland. Just making sure that gets it all correct is Captain Noel Harrison our Second-in-Command

3 Sergeant Bernie Luby, our one and only Tele Mech at work on the new Brigade operations room which, it is hoped, will win the war for us

4 'An average night' in the Squadron Oyster Club. Pulling the pint is Lance-Corporal Percy Richardson. Seeing how it's done is a member of the resident Battalion and doing the chatting up is Corporal Pete Cooper. The Club has recently been completely renovated by members of the Squadron

In addition to the events and activities depicted above The Queen's Birthday Honours list included the names of W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jack Wraith who was awarded the M.B.E. and F. of S. Bob Wherry (now on the strength of 37th Regiment (Volunteers)) who received a Mention in Despatches. Our heartiest congratulations to them both.



## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

### CONGRATULATIONS

ALL members of the Squadron were very pleased to receive news of the following awards and congratulate the recipients.
**W.O.1 (R.S.M.) D. Connell**—M.B.E.
**Captain (TOT) J. Wilkins**—Mention in Despatches.

### GENERAL STRIKE

Once again we are in the thick of it. This time it was the General Strike called by the Ulster Worker Council. Once again the Brigade was up to Divisional strength with a reinforcement of two infantry battalions. Once again the Command Nets expanded rapidly and the Commcen's statistics soared. Once again it was all hands to the pumps issuing kit, introducing newcomers to commercial radio systems, setting up Ops rooms, more SDS, more escorts, more everything. As the political and industrial situation worsened so the sobering effect of life without electricity in an urban environment was felt—particularly sobering when communications systems depend on it.

### GENERAL HELP

Welcome and farewell to **Captain Ron Coaker** who came to us as our temporary Admin Officer in order to bridge a gap between postings in and out. Many thanks 241—he nearly stayed. The gap occurred when **Captain Grahame MacDonald** left for BAOR with our best wishes for the future, and **Captain Joe Adams** arrived.

### DEPARTURES

**Staff Sergeant Mumford, Staff Sergeant Downes, Corporal Sinclair, Corporal Reid, Lance-Corporal Wainwright, Lance-Corporal Lee, Signalman Cooper, Guardsman Banks, Private Morrison, Private Moult, Driver Sumner.**

### ARRIVALS

**Staff Sergeant Barrow, Sergeant Carter, Sergeant Fraser, Corporal Knaggs, Signalman Ledger, Signalman Taylor, Private Denman, Private Taylor.**

MORE CONGRATULATIONS
Last but not least W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. K. R. French receives his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal after 18 years service from the Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. F. Richardson, O.B.E. Well done lad!

LIGHTER MOMENTS
Having walked backwards across the Irish Sea Harry Secombe dropped into the Horseshoe Club for a pint after the CSE show. Also in the picture are: Corporals Morgan, Pittaway, Smith, Griffiths, Arnold, Lance-Corporals Franklin, Lewis, Thacker, Hine, Signalmen Needs, Thompson, Edgecombe, Archibald, Private Smith. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Needs


# OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

*Why not contact*

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

**P.T.S., a former L/Cpl, Royal Signals did, and he writes:**

" It's not so easy finding work in civi-street as you well know and although I was a Radio Telegraphist in the Army I was finding it pretty hard to get on my feet.

" On the off chance I decided to try the Three Tees Agency, thinking at the back of my mind that there were probably catches in it and I'd end up paying them a tremendous fee, but I had it all wrong.

" Three Tees made me feel at ease right from the start. They gave me free tuition and a lot of help with commercial aspects of the trade. After arranging several interviews for me (all of them good positions) I have now started a new career in Telex, with an American Bank (good salary, interesting work, security and easy hours). So for anybody leaving the forces with experience in Teleprinters or Telex my advice to them is why not give Three Tees a try too?"

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## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### MAJOR BLACKWELL'S FAREWELL

NOW that what appeared to be a never ending round of farewell parties has finally come to an end and our erstwhile Squadron Commander, **Major Brian Blackwell** and his wife **Margaret** have finally left our shores the time has come to record what for us is a sad loss.

It must be the years of Rugby training that gave him the stamina to survive an incredible round of parties firstly given by all the Troops of the Squadron each saying farewell in their own inimitable way. This was followed by a ladies' dinner night given by all the officers, WOs and senior NCOs, this event was a tremendous success and **Captain 'Paddy' Henry** even managed a short speech as he presented **Brian** and **Margaret** their farewell present. How anyone managed to dance in the disco afterwards is still a mystery after the excellent meal provided by the officers' mess.

As if this was not enough it was the turn of **Brian** and **Margaret** to thank everyone else, it was almost as if they were getting their revenge on us for calling them back prematurely from their holiday in the South of France. Anyway the final send off was in great style, the whole Squadron was present in the Squadron Club as **Brian** and **Margaret** were given their final presents, sad farewell speeches were made and **Brian** was towed away by all our weary Warrant Officers puffing and panting their way round the camp.

We wish **Brian** and **Margaret** all the very best for the future and hope that they remember us as fondly as we remember them. At the same time we say "hello" to **Major Mike Walker** and his wife **Pauline** and hope that their stay will be just as enjoyable and rewarding.

Major Brian and Mrs. Margaret Blackwell being presented with one of their farewell gifts by Corporal 'Steve' Stevenson

### GENERAL STRIKE

The events culminating in the Ulster Workers Council calling a province wide strike are now past history, but to servicemen serving in Northern Ireland it was a period of considerable uneasiness as the effect of the long expected Protestant 'backlash' was a matter of considerable conjecture.

Contingency plans had been made to cover all aspects of a breakdown in civil co-operation whether it was by intimidation or by natural disaster so the security forces were by no means caught unawares. In fact the gradual escalation went so according to plan that the military build-up and period of preparation was easily capable of keeping abreast of the situation.

Communications Troop of this Squadron were in a unique position to be a part of this contingency plan and were able to witness at first hand all the trials and tribulations of this troublesome period. At the first hint of trouble contingency radio relay shots were put into the Brigade Headquarters and RAF Aldergrove, as this is a regularly rehearsed procedure the move was carried out slickly and efficiently. As events progressed the Bruin Squadron from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment came out to reinforce us enabling us to deploy to other locations. By the time the strike was at its worst a total of 17 radio relay shots had been put in, tested, proved and working by only 12 combat radio men ably assisted by a small cadre of radio telegraphists. This considerable task was carried out using what must be considered obselescent equipment and as such, much credit must be given to the standards maintained by both the Operators and Technical Troop who somehow managed to cope with the fast input of repairs.

Putting in these radio relay shots produced no end of interesting anecdotes and whilst members of the troop were asked to record these for posterity it was considered that the majority would not get past the editor's red pen. One of particular interest involved one of **Lance-Corporal Alec Carmichael's** two deployments, he was sent to the RCT who at the time were requisitioning petrol tankers for the distribution of essential fuel oils.

As such, his comms were vital. He was driven there and left with a pile of B70 radio relay equipment as well as the terminal equipment. From these humble beginnings he had to work via a relay to the Headquarters in Lisburn, which he achieved easily, but then his problems began. His equipment kept going on and off and it was only when he realised that the outages co-incided with the time it takes a kettle to boil that he discovered the source of all his problems. A staff officer could not quite sort out his priorities, whilst he understood at the time the importance of the phone on his desk he was at regular intervals overcome by the desire for a cup of coffee and as they shared a common power point he insisted on a compromise. This was not all his problems, as the operation progressed complaints were being received of the system not working, this is just another way of saying that someone was not answering the phone. True enough this was the case, twice the ever patient **Lance-Corporal Alec Carmichael** was aroused from his slumbers only to trace the fault to the phone hanging by the cable outside the window. Unbelievable though it may seem the phone had been thrown out of the window—a better example of Signals Staff co-operation could never be found!

Throughout this difficult time there were two pillars of strength and wisdom whose work should not go without mention. These were **Sergeant Pete Franks** and **Corporal Jim Wagstaffe** who for a fortnight survived on a stable diet of fried egg sandwiches as they toiled tirelessly engineering these complicated circuits at the terminal.

### DEPARTURES

Royal Signals: **Staff Sergeant Emraz, Corporal McSkimmings, Corporal Jones, Corporal Bartlett, Corporal Scully, Corporal Power, Lance-Corporal Neil, Lance-Corporal Gallacher, Lance-Corporal Ward, Signalman Scott, Signalman Wallis.**

Our thanks and best wishes go with you and your families.

### ARRIVALS

WRAC: **Sergeant Owen, Sergeant Jackson.**

Royal Signals: **Staff Sergeant Evans, Sergeant Hague, Sergeant Knisley, Sergeant Roissetter, Corporal Harker, Corporal Jones, Corporal Fleck, Corporal Webb, Lance-Corporal Barton, Lance-Corporal Duncan, Lance-Corporal Whitehead, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Cook, Signalman Gardiner, Signalman Bibby** and **Signalman Smurthwaite.**

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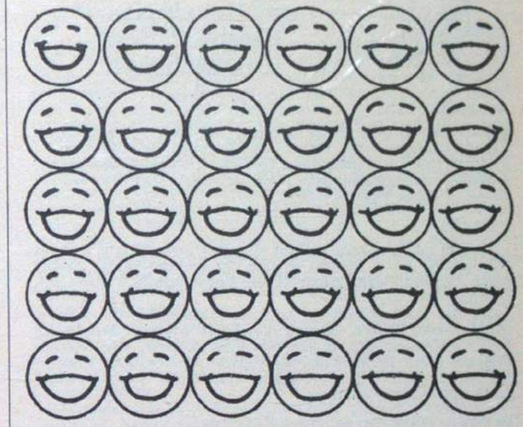

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# —News from Headquarters—

## Signals Research and Development Establishment Christchurch

### NO MOVE YET

SRDE is still here in Christchurch. So often we meet friends and colleagues who say "SRDE? I thought you had moved". To allay those misconceptions, the latest pronouncement on the proposed amalgamation with RRE Malvern is that there will be no move before February 1977.

### SAILING

We are taking a keen interest in sailing now. This is perhaps only natural being situated so near the sea and having **Major Mike Miller,** Yacht Master of the Royal Signals Yacht Club, with us.

We had good success at the Royal Signals Regatta in May. **Major Mike Miller,** crewing for **Major Stewart Read** (HQ MOD PE) came first in the Sea View Regatta. **Lieutenant-Colonel John Brian** and **Major Mike Miller** came third in the Dinghy Whale Island Regatta with **Major Tony Seward** ninth out of thirty starters.

### FLYING VISIT TO FLYING FALCON

**Lieutenant-Colonel John Brian** escorted a party of scientific officers to CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps Exercise 'Flying Falcon'. They lodged with Regiments throughout the Corps for a few days and returned duly impressed and educated in BAOR field service conditions.

We fully appreciate the inconvenience caused by visitors on exercises and are very grateful for the forbearance and help from hosting units. These visits do have real value for SRDE scientists and have an impact on the design and development of equipment. Our thanks to HQ Royal Signals and the 1 (BR) Corps Signal Regiments for enabling this visit to take place.

### OUR MEN IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

May we remind you that Telecommunications Branch REME is a military unit separate from SRDE. However, we are co-located and work very closely with each other.

On Monday, 29th April one of our men in Telecommunications Branch—**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Terry Brabon** received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal during the Telecommunications Branch Annual Technical Review and Administration Inspection. We congratulate him on this fine achievement. **Brigadier T. J. A. Hughes, O.B.E.,** Brigadier Engineering Services, HQ REME Support Group presented the Medal. **Staff Sergeant Brabon** (VHF Clansman) and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Frank Jones** (HF Clansman) have been in Telecommunications Branch since Autumn 1971. They are involved with ease of maintenance reports, trials, special-to-type test equipment and EMER production. They work very closely with SRDE scientists and it is very encouraging, consistently to hear of the high regard for the abilities of our two Foremen of Signals.

Both make the most of a unique opportunity to see equipment procurement and development at eye level with industry. **Staff Sergeant Jones,** for example, has just spent three months with MEL Crawley on VRC 322 development while **Staff Sergeant Brabon** is in constant contact with MSDS Portsmouth on the VRC 353 and 354.

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

Brigadier T. J. A. Hughes, O.B.E., Brigadier Engineering Services, HQ REME Support Group, presents Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) T. Brabon, Royal Signals with the LS and GC medal in the Sergeants' Mess

### THE WEDDING

Saturday, 27th April saw the wedding of **Lieutenant-Colonel John Brian** (GSOI(W) and Military Commanding Officer) to **Mrs. Barbara Hook.** It brought a very happy gathering to the United Reformed Church in Christchurch and to the Officers' Mess (Christchurch) afterwards for a fine reception.

It was only discovered, shortly before the wedding that **Dr. Bradshaw,** head of Radio Division, was to be the organist. **Dr. Bradshaw's** comment was that just for this time he would be playing the tune and pulling out all stops!

We sincerely wish **Colonel John** and **Barbara** all the best for their future happiness.

### AT YOUR SERVICE

As usual we are at your service and always pleased if we can be of assistance with any technical problems.

## *Major Bob Edwards*

### AN APPRECIATION FROM THE ARMY APPRENTICES COLLEGE, HARROGATE

SOMETHING of an era is destined to end on 31st July with the retirement of **Major Bob Edwards** after more than 46 years' service in and with Royal Signals.

*[Photo: Major R. E. Buckee, R.A.E.C.*

Born in St. Albans on 27th July 1909, at the age of 13, he left school and stowed away on a ship bound for Hamburg. On his return, he joined *HMS Arethusa.* He then served for five years with the Union Castle Line, completing a general apprenticeship, which included a stint as stoker on a coal-fired ship sailing through the Red Sea!

In January 1928 he sailed from New York reaching home, via the Cape, in March—to find himself one of the victims of the aftermath of the 1926 strike. On 16th April 1928, **Bob Edwards** joined the Royal Corps of Signals. As a recruit, he won the Commandant's Whip for Best Recruit, as well as the PT Medal.

1930-35 was one of the most fascinating periods of **Bob Edward's** long career when he joined Waziristan District Signals on the North-West Frontier of India. Here, his troops were equipped with No. 1 sets operated from the back of a mule—probably the first 'mobile radio' in India. He is the proud owner of two coveted solid silver Championship medals, earned in 1935 when his unit won the British Army in Waziristan competitions in both hockey and soccer, with himself in both teams.

In February 1939 he became one of the original Desert Rats, joining the Signal Troop of 6th Battalion, Royal Tank Corps, as it then was, part of 7th Armoured Division. During Wavell's campaign in the Western Desert he fought with the 2nd Battalion RTC, and after the Battle of Beda Fomm he went to Base Area Signals at Benghazi, whence he was chased out by Rommel to Buq Buq via Tobruk.

At the end of this **Bob Edwards** transferred to the Support Group of 7 Armoured Division and was with it when the Commander, **Brigadier 'Jock' Campbell** won the Victoria Cross. From here he was posted back to India where he received his Commission.

After the war, in 1945, he was posted to UK, after seven years overseas, and recalls with pride his participation in the Victory Parade of 1946, when the Commonwealth Signals contingent was commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Hobson,** now General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, and reviewed by **HRH The Princess Royal** as Colonel-in-Chief of Royal Signals.

In 1948 he joined the Gold Coast Signal Squadron, first as CDSO, then as CO. Three years later he went to MELF as OC 3 Squadron, 3 L of C Signal Regiment, and thence in 1956 to Northern Ireland.

January 1960 found him with 24th Regiment, first as OC 2 Squadron, then as Second-in-Command; in May 1962 he became PS Adjutant of 49th (Yorks) Signal Regiment TA. In 1966 he transferred to the TAVR and came as Technical Stores Officer to the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and on the 15th April 1968, he retired after exactly 40 years in Royal Signals, continuing his duties as TSO as a Retired Officer.

**Major Bob Edwards's** interests are many, particularly sport. At hockey he played his last match for the Corps, against Welbeck College, at right wing, in 1962, when he was a mere stripling of 52½! He is also an Army Class I Star, Combined Services, Southern Counties, Irish Hockey Union and Yorkshire County Umpire. He fulfilled the ultimate ambition of all Combined Services umpires when he umpired RN v. RAF at Hillingdon, and of all Army umpires when he was appointed to control the Army Cup Final.

He coached the Irish Schoolboys from 1956–59, and it was very nearly entirely due to his efforts that the Army Apprentices College won the Army Junior Hockey Cup in 1972–3.

At soccer, he played his last game, in goal, in 1961; he is an Army Class I, ASCB India Class I, Egyptian FA, Gold Coast FA and Ulster FA referee.

He ran his last Cross-Country race in 1947, for 3 OTB; in his last 3-miles race—the Holkar State Championship in 1945—he finished second; he is an AAA and Army starter.

He also captained the Cricket team of 24th Regiment which won the Northern Command and Training Brigade trophies in 1961.

In his spare time he enjoys a game of tennis. It is sad that desperately severe illness in 1971–72 forced him to curtail his sporting activities.

Another of **Bob Edwards's** loves, since infancy, has been the Church. He joined St. Martin's Church, Catterick, choir in April 1928, when the Bandmaster (as he was then known) of the Royal Signals Band (Bandmaster Ricketts) was also Choirmaster. He was appointed Choir Leader and Crucifer in 1960, and since then has carried the Cross every year at the Old Comrades annual church service. He was delighted this year to have the support of the College Choir at this function.

He has been a devoted member of the Royal Signals Association for 46 years, and is about to retire from the Association's Central Committee. He is, also, Chairman of the Leeds Branch, with 200 members. One of the things he is reluctant to mention is the amount of charitable work that he does in connection with the Association.

Of his impending retirement, **Bob Edwards** says "I am, of course, very sad to be going, but I've had a good run for my money. Highlights I can't possibly choose—there have been so many—but I know that I could not have done half the things I have, without the 100 per cent support of my wife **Mary,** both of whose brothers served in the Corps. I have always thought of the Corps as a family, and I don't feel that I'm leaving it, because I shall still be in touch through the Association."

To look through **Bob Edward's** immaculate photograph albums is to turn the pages of history; there can be few still serving with Royal Signals whose career began with a lamp and a flag, a heliograph and a horse.

The College, and indeed the Corps, owes **Major Bob Edwards** a great debt of gratitude: he will be much missed.

**If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!**

## *Central Volunteer Headquarters, Catterick Garrison*

### FIRST EVER TAVR RECRUITS COURSE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

ON Saturday, 6th July, at Hellas Barracks, Catterick Garrison, there assembled the first TAVR Recruit's Course to be run by 11th Regiment. Thirty eight recruits drawn from 31st, 33rd, 34th, 35th and 36th Regiments (V) and from 55 and 81 Squadrons (V) checked in with some trepidation. Their fears were soon put at rest with the news that very short hair was not demanded and that the instructors were more interested in their performance than their short back and sides. A surprising number did have tidy hair and the others soon joined the club.

The Course TAVR Officer was **Lieutenant John Gillies** of 32nd Regiment (V) and the Course NCO, **Staff Sergeant Ron Simpson** also from Aberdeen. **W.O.1 Gordon Penman** led the team of instructors and the Course were most fortunate in having such an experienced and enthusiastic team.

The first week went by with hardly time to draw breath and culminated in a fieldcraft exercise on Gandale Moor. **Signalman 'Big' Rae** from '33' excelled himself as a swamp locator and **Signalman 'Sailor' Parkinson** '34' (ex-RN) found his true vocation with a shovel.

The second week saw classification on both SLR and SMG and their performance on TOET's is reputed to have put the regular recruits in the shade. As the week drew to a close, the RSM, **W.O.1 Walton** breathed fire over the course as the Pass Off approached.

**Lieutenant John Gillies** found that officers' swords were drawn on parade and under the RSM's guidance, acquitted himself well on the parade.

The Pass Off Parade was taken by the Commander 12 Signal Group (V), **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.** on Saturday the 20th under a blue sky. Despite not having a band, all on parade gave a very good display of drill and bearing and the spectators broke into applause as they marched off.

At the end of the parade, the Course planted a tree at the side of the parade ground to commemorate their visit and as a mark of their appreciation to the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson Pratt** and the Permanent Staff of 11th Regiment.

**Signalman Brian Flett** '34' was awarded the prize for the Best Recruit and **Signalman Tony McAuley** '35' the Best Shot.

**All the men on the Course appeared to thoroughly enjoy the Course and only regretted that it was so short and that they could not fit in more drill and other training. Their instructors were all delighted with their TAVR enthusiasm and look forward to the day when all TAVR recruits go through their Course at 11th Regiment.**

## *British Army Training Unit, Suffield, Canada*

### CORPORAL LINDSAY WRITES:

### CORPS SOLDIER BITTEN BY MR. NIXON

NO not that Mr. Nixon but an Australian sheep dog, belonging to an American family who picked me, **Corporal 'Hammy' Lindsay,** up in Idaho whilst hitching back from Tijuana, Mexico.

Tijuana, that's where **Lance-Corporal Steve Cooper** and myself reached in our quest to win a crate of beer. Altogether we made a round trip of 4,600 miles in just under seven days. The first 2,800 miles we flew courtesy of the US Air Force from Montana, to Los Angeles via South Dakota. From Los Angeles we hired a car and drove down into Tijuana through San Diego.

The return journey to Alberta was made by thumbing our way back up through California into Nevada, north into Idaho and Montana then finally back to Alberta.

During our trip we met some really fantastic people and I would require the whole of the magazine to tell of our experiences.

As for the remainder of the detachment news. By the time this is published **Lance-Corporal Steve Cooper, Signalmen 'Nobby' Clark** and **'Howie' Haughton** and myself will be back in our units in BAOR—leaving **Sergeant John Williamson** and **Lance-Corporal Pete Alves** to soldier on in mosquito ridden Alberta.

LINE TROOP I DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

"We are as good looking as any other Troop in the Corps" they claim. We agree—hence the photo

*Back row, left to right:* Signalmen Cooke, McStein, Smart, Campbell

*Centre, left to right:* Lance-Corporal Beeley, Signalmen Patterson, Williams, Schofield, Lance-Corporal Fletcher, Signalmen Ayres, Pickles, Clair, Ling, Johnson, Lance-Corporal Cassidy, Signalmen Green, Revill, Milne

*Sitting, left to right:* Lance-Corporal Leech, Corporal Wymbs, Porter, Brooks, Sergeant Townsend, Second-Lieutenant Cary, Corporals Nicholson, Gray and Candon

*Missing from photo:* Corporal Laing, Lance-Corporals Edwards, Dorricott, Grey, Fowler, Signalmen Helliwell, Dillon, Whytock, Edwards, Wallace

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 32

### HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LEAVE

ON 12th April **Corporal Hamer** and **Signalman Pike** decided to spend their leave in an adventurous fashion. After all there are eight countries which surround Germany and all within easy reach.

So our intrepid wanderers set off for the Berner Oberland (Swiss Alps) with aspirations of climbing the North Wall of the Eiger. "Unfortunately", **Signalman Pike** reports, "we never quite made it . . ." But the next 10 days were spent climbing and sightseeing in an area of Europe where some of the scenery is the most picturesque to be found.

Their first achievement was to reach 8,000 feet on the North face of the Wetterhorn and the rock was in perfect condition. Bad weather prevented any further climbing for the next few days so a well earned rest was enjoyed at the campsite in Grindelwald. Suitably refreshed the climbers again eagerly considered the challenge offered by the Eiger and eventually set off in high spirits. They reached Kleine Scheiding after a four hour climb and stood at the start point for all climbers who attempt the famous North Wall. The panoramic view was excellent and the Eiger, Monch, Jungfrau and many other impressive mountains could be clearly seen.

Several hours later found our climbers on the summit of Lauberhorn at 11,100 feet. Then the Jungfrau was visited on the last day where the highest railway station in Europe is situated at 11,312 feet.

On 22nd April it was time to return to sunny Verden after a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding venture. "So" concludes **Signalman Pike,** "if you want to use your leave warrant in a more exciting way then pack your bags and visit one of the interesting countries which surround us".

### ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORDS TO THE RESCUE

Thirty nine soccer enthusiasts from the Regiment travelled from Verden to Frankfurt to cheer on the United Kingdom's last surviving national team in the world cup, Scotland v. Jugoslavia. After the match our supporters, disappointed but not downhearted, returned to the waiting coach for the trip home. Standing by their transport was a **Mr. Mackay** and his girlfriend who had just missed their transport to the airport and felt sure that they had no chance of catching their flight back to England. No problem—they were given a lift by the soldiers. On the way to the airport one of our NCOs was admiring **Mr. Mackay's** Scottish football jersey while **Mr. Mackay** liked the look of the NCO's jacket. Mutual admiration caused the inevitable—they 'swopped' tops.

Either **Mr. Mackay** found the car keys in the jacket pocket first when he arrived home in Reading or **Lance-Corporal Urquart** wished he had never parted with his jacket. A difficult situation but Royal Signals Manning and Record Office came to the rescue. **Mr. Mackay** gave them a ring and asked for help. The Balmore House staff, with very little to go on, started the search for this NCO who was 'stationed somewhere in BAOR'. A letter to HQ BAOR triggered off the many telephone calls to all units in an attempt to trace 'an NCO who had lost his car keys'. It was just a few days later when **Captain Jim Esson,** the custodian officer handed the car keys to a very grateful NCO. **Lance-Corporal Urquart** has written to **Mr. Mackay** and expressed his gratitude to Royal Signals Manning and Record Office for their considerable efforts on his behalf.

### 1 SQUADRON

### STALWART MARCHES

A team from the Squadron took part in the Black Watch Marches in Hoogeran, Holland and 11 teams entered for this 30 km. march. Points were awarded for leadership (follow me I'm right behind you), style (left-right-left-right) and traffic control (carry straight on). The team did well to come third and are looking forward to next year in the hope of a better result.

### INTERNATIONAL RIFLE MEETING, RENDSBURG

The Squadron can take full credit for providing the team from the Regiment for the annual International Shoot at Rendsburg. Many teams are attracted to this event and this year 76 NATO teams were present including a contingent from Turkey. Weapons and ammunition were provided and the leisurely programme was a blend of shooting and being hosted by the town. The Squadron party consisted of **Staff Sergeant Ray Norris, Sergeant John Duddridge, Sergeant Bill Olive** and **Sergeant Roy Mason**—a high powered team. Tactics were also used of course. Opposing teams were alarmed to see our team break open a bottle of sekt just before each match. Seeing is believing. The regimental team tied for second place with a civilian team from Rendsburg and were then narrowly beaten into third place on the reshoot. We feel that the result will be better next year—without the sekt too!



### 2 SQUADRON

The satisfactory passing of Exercise 'Summer Sales' has heralded the ending of the summer exercise season. Howling winds, torrential rain and thick mud proved just how difficult it is to give an exercise the right name.

We say "Farewell" this month (we think) to **Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay** who will be leaving us for 11th Regiment (he thinks). **Sergeant Barry Mills** has decided that his talents are wasted as a technical soldier of today and is changing to the MPSC where he can jangle large key rings. **Signalman 'Jonah' (007) Jones** has passed his parachute course and is now attached to 216 Parachute Squadron at Aldershot. We wish them all every good fortune.

### 3 SQUADRON

**Captain Bob Jenkins,** Squadron Admin. Officer, is acting as conducting officer for visiting officers and officer cadets from the University of London OTC. He admits to being in his element again with his 'brothers' around him 24 hours a day.

### THE HEART OF THE MATTER

On the final evening of Exercise 'Summer Sales', Main Division in the field was visited by CCR Signals **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle.** The majority of Royal Signals officers were assembled in the officers' mess, diamond 7 and the evening was going well. **Captain Mike Johnson,** CELE and **Captain Bob Drake** were halving apples by twisting them and handing the neat halves around the assembled officers. The CCR Signals noticed this diversion and joined the group. This brief conversation followed:

**CCR Signals:** "What's going on here?"

**Captain Johnson:** "Well, Sir, we're halving apples and handing them round."

**CCR Signals:** "I haven't been offered an apple."

**Captain Stock:** "Never mind Sir, you can always have the core . . ."

### A FOND FAREWELL

At a most enjoyable Dinner Night held in the Sergeants' Mess on Friday, 21st June the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of the Regiment welcomed the new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Alexander, M.B.E.** and expressed the wish that his second tour with the 'Fighting First' would be a happy one.

The Mess also bade farewell to **Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Blake** who was handing over the reins after two years and four months. During the customary after dinner speeches **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Eric Le Quesne** presented the departing Commanding Officer with the 'Critical Eye' which **Lieutenant-Colonel Blake** had worked so hard to develop in others. This was a personal gift and took the form of an artificial eye within a glass paperweight and it was both given and received with great humour. Subsequently a presentation was made on behalf of all Mess members to our departing guest. This was a fine watercolour, suitably framed and depicting a typical North German barn and associated buildings. That the artist was **Staff Sergeant Barry Gargan,** Royal Engineers is in keeping with our integrated nature.

At midnight **Lieutenant-Colonel Blake** was formally invited to leave the Mess and this brought another surprise. Outside a fine German landau was drawn up and waiting only for the guest of honour to settle himself comfortably aboard. The RSM rode 'shotgun' with **Sergeant Chris Rogers** and **Corporal of Horse Dunn** as mounted outriders. The route to the Main gate was lined by Mess members bolstered by 120 junior NCOs and soldiers from the four squadrons. The flaming firebrands made a bright avenue. Thus the departing Commanding Officer was seen off in style. He took the opportunity of thanking the 'street liners' when he joined them for a beer shortly afterwards on the Mess lawn.

Discretion prevents the actual time of **Lieutenant-Colonel Blake's** departure being disclosed but the evening was unanimously voted a huge success. Certainly it was feathers in the caps of the PMC, **W.O.1 Alan Steene** and **W.O.2 Jeff Warburton** and his cooks for their hard work.

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING C.O.

Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Blake demonstrates the critical eye


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## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

### EXERCISE 'SUMMER SALES'

ONCE again the Regiment rumbled out of the gates for yet another Hollywood extravaganza in the guise of Exercise 'Summer Sales'. The comheads deployed to the relative comfort of the valleys whilst the commcens moved onto their relative hills where, because of the weather, it looked as if they might remain long after the exercise had ended. **Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell,** who was detached from the LAD to 2 Squadron, was heard to remark on one occasion that vehicle recovery on the exercise was rather like taking indigestion tablets—three times daily after meals. Nevertheless, in spite of the weather which was some of the worst on record for the exercise everything seemed to go well and honour was satisfied.

### REGIMENTAL TUG-O'-WAR

This year the Regimental Tug-O'-War team leapt from total obscurity to the high tension of Army class competition.

The season began with the usual four or five enthusiasts wondering where the rest of the team would come from. This problem was soon solved by the Officer-in-Command Tug-O'-War, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frank Worrall,** who rounded up a few willing volunteers (YOU, YOU and YOU). A team captain and trainer was selected in the shape(!) of **Sergeant 'Ollie' Aldridge,** and training began in earnest.

Our first competition was the Morrison Cup in which we finished runners-up to 16th Regiment in a very spirited and hard fought competition. It was about this time that the coach **Q.M.S.I. Pete Seddon** made the remark "If I could teach the last three to pull instead of push we might get somewhere". Well something clicked, and we won the 4 Division Competition without dropping a pull, and were then through to the BAOR Finals at Bunde.

The team was now settled and pulling well together; No. 1 was **Corporal Gary Mayers,** No. 2 **Corporal Barry Longland,** and No. 3 **Sergeant 'Ollie' Aldridge,** all of whom were old hands saying that the strength was at the front. No. 5 **Sergeant Roy Smith,** No. 6 **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frank Worrall,** No. 7 **Signalman Clive Strange** were the newcomers who reckoned it was all at the rear. No. 4 **Sergeant Ivor Noble** in the middle being abused by all and sundry, the sundry being **Lance-Corporal Vince Borda** the anchor man. The two hard working reserves, **Corporal Bob Todd** and **Signalman 'Taff' Williams,** were ready to step in should weight or injury prove a problem.

The day of the BAOR Competition arrived and after some hard pulling, including beating 16th Regiment, the Regiment emerged runners-up to 39 Medium Regiment RA, whose greater experience at this level of competition gave them the edge. We are now through to the Army competition at Aldershot on the 23rd July, so its "On with the liniment, out with the whip, and back on the rope again".

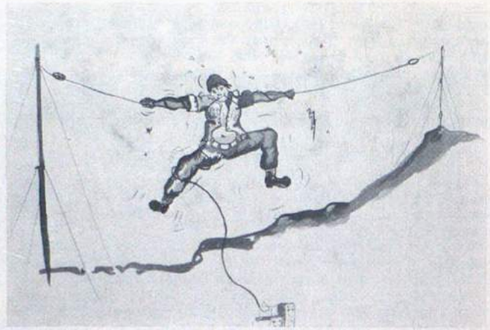
## 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### 3 SQUADRON

### COMMCEN PROCEDURE GROUP

DO you enjoy self-inflicted pain?
Can you stand and talk for up to six hours?
Have you the patience of Job, coupled with stamina, willpower and dedication?

If you can answer yes to all these questions then you are in the wrong type of employment. Your niche is here in the Trade Training School, 8th Regiment, instructing Telegraphist Trades. Your day would be varied and interesting; you could find yourself instructing basic students as Data Telegraphists, Radio Telegraphists and Commcen Operators WRAC; plus upgrading students and potential Yeomen of Signals. In addition you may even find that you have TAVR personnel on a short two week course to learn the rudiments of JMH and Tape Relay. "Boring", you may say, but I have not yet mentioned the natural breaks that are programmed in; these are visits which range from the SO-in-C Indian Army and CSO Kuwait to British Railway Officials and school children from various types of schools in the area. Oh! just in passing, for schoolgirls' visits you must have



knowledge of the world of Pop. This is required so that you can explain the function of the MUFAX and prove that even Gary Glitter can become bearable after the MUFAX has done its thing, and of course MUFAX copies of the stars go down well as souvenirs of the visit. There are of course breaks that are not programmed. Such events as fire practices and bomb scares, and normal procedure here is to get out as soon as you can through the nearest exit. When this happens you can understand why the Trade Training School is nicknamed the Ant Hill.

Are there types like this you may ask? Surprisingly enough the answer is "Yes"; let us name a few, you may know them:

**Sergeant 'Mel' Kemp,** famed for his dexterity on the electric organ, and known for giving his time to playing the piano at senior citizen's functions. Responsible for teaching JMH, Tape Relay and associated subjects to potential Yeoman of Signals and upgraders. He is due to leave the service in the near future—don't all rush for the vacant position.

**Sergeant Derek Bassford,** known in the Regiment for lying on the moors at every opportunity and in all kinds of weather. I suppose that should be clarified, he is a member of the Regimental shooting team. His main function in the School is within the indoor exercise set up.

**Corporal Tom Reilly,** goal keeper extraordinary. Last season he was first choice for both the Army and the Corps. When on station he can be found instructing in indoor exercises. By the way there is no truth in the rumour that Willie Ormond is after him for Scotland.

**Signalman Wilce,** an 'immigrant' from Welsh Wales, although not officially on the books as an instructor is employed within indoor exercises, and will be remembered by all students both basic and upgraders who have passed through the Trade Training School during the last couple of years for his contribution to their success on courses.

For our female readers we have **Sergeant Jenny Mann** who has recently joined us. No dossier has yet been compiled on her, but she is closely watched by all members of the male staff, and **Corporal Kathy Haughey** who amongst her many valuable assets is the expert on the operation of TASS.

Of course its not all work and we do have the odd social function. The last being a farewell dinner on the 7th June at the Vintage Hotel, Scotch Corner, for **Sergeant 'Mo' Sibbert,** who after spending the last couple of years instructing decided to go recruiting. So instead of training Commcen Operators WRAC, she is now supplying the raw material.

Interested? You can see yourself instructing up to 16 students who basically are just like you—well the answer is to apply. Don't be discouraged if you are not accepted, not every one can have job satisfaction.

**If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!**

9th REGIMENT ATHLETES NOTCH UP CONVINCING WIN OVER LOCAL RIVALS IN CYPRUS TEAM ATHELTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
(See Score Board)

## 9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 53

AS the '74 Athletics Season draws to a close, 9th Regiment athletes can look back with justifiable pride on their outstanding achievements having won every major and minor units competition held in Cyprus this year.

Of particular note were the successes of the 2 Squadron team, who not only won the 3 Signal Group and army minor units championships, but also formed the nucleus of athletes representing the Regiment in the army major units competition.

The major units competition was held at RAF Episkopi and the teams represented were the 1st Battalion Royal Scots, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, combined minor units Cyprus and ourselves. It was apparent from the start that we were facing opposition superior than any we had met previously during the season, but all our athletes rose to the occasion and produced the extra effort that makes all the difference between winning and losing.

Perhaps the most thrilling events from the spectator's point of view were the 100 and 200 metre relays. In the 200 metres we were trailing by some five yeards as our last man **Signalman John Scott** took over the baton, but he ran a superb leg to just break the tape inches ahead of the combined minor units team. The 100 metre relay was never in doubt with **Sergeant John Kirk** off to a flying start and this lead increased at each handover with once again **Signalman John Smith** breasting the tape, this time well clear of our nearest rivals. This was the final event of the afternoon and by winning we made sure that the major units trophy would return with us to 9th Regiment.

Everyone was particularly pleased because this was the one major unit trophy that had eluded us since the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals arrived in 1972 and it was fitting that we should win during his last athletics season as CO of the Regiment.

## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### HEATH TROPHY—SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION

THE Regiment held the Safe Driving competition for the Heath Trophy on Saturday, 22nd June at Hounslow. The winners of the Trophy were the 3 Squadron team of **Lance-Corporal 'Ronny' Ronald, Private Anne Jones** and **Private Josephine Waldron.** In second place was the Signals Works Services team led by **Major Ken Risby.** Sports car owners were pleased to note that the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Galbraith,** adapted himself to military transport to the extent of winning the Individual best driver award. The Submariners prize went to **Signalman Neil Kessel.** The trophy was presented by its donor our late MTO **W.O.1 Reg Heath** who had very kindly come down from his present unit 34th Regiment (V) to attend.

### IT'S A KNOCK OUT—ALDERSHOT FASHION

On 15th May 3 Squadron held their annual 'It's a knockout'. This year the hosts challenge was taken up by 2 Squadron Hounslow, and 10 Company WRAC, Aldershot. The weather was kind

ALDERSHOT FEATURES "IT'S A KNOCKOUT"
3 Squadron team and supporters look confident

and the three teams each of 12 competitors tackled the eight events with plenty of enthusiasm and good humour. **Second-Lieutenant Tombs** of 2 Squadron is obviously 'galloping gourmet' material. As she gave an expert showing of how to make a sandwich whilst wearing boxing gloves. With everything depending on the last event, a bicycle obstacle race, a stewards inquiry was necessary to ascertain whether certain cycles had been doped. After a re-run 2 Squadron ran out winners by a single point from 10 Company with the hosts one point behind.

### SPORTING SUCCESSES

Just in case readers are wondering what they have been up to in Wilton we are happy to report that two members of 1 Squadron were first in their events at the Army Athletics Championships at Aldershot. **Privates Sue Godwin** and **Elizabeth Obeng** won the Discus and 800 metres respectively. Both have been selected to represent the WRAC in the forthcoming Inter Services Athletics Championships at RAF Cosford later this month.

ANOTHER COMSTAR AWARD

The Longmoor Commcen staff, Miss D. Munday (right), and Miss V. Woods (left) are seen being presented with their latest COMSTAR Award, a Bronze, on the 1st April.

The presentation took place outside the HQ Army School of Transport, by Brigadier Heptinstall, Commander Longmoor Bordon Garrison.

It may be of interest to our readers to know that Miss Woods started life as a Telephonist with the Longmoor Telephone Exchange of 3 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment. She then regraded to Telecommunications Operator and moved over the square at Longmoor to the Commcen

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### BUSY JUNE

JUNE was a very busy month for the regiment.

On the 22nd and 23rd of June, we were providing side shows and displays for the Catterick Army Open Days, and only a couple of days later on 25th June we organised and took part in the Freedom of Richmond March.

The following weekend again brought many visitors to Catterick for the Royal Signals 'At Home' to the Old Comrades. The Corps Band played Retreat on Helles Barracks drill square, on Saturday evening and the grass is still suffering from the pyrotechnics which accompanied the 1812 Overture!

On the Sunday a squadron from the regiment took part in the Church Parade and march past. In the afternoon again we provided side shows and displays to entertain the Old Comrades. The Sergeants' Mess also contributed to the weekend's activities.

### FAREWELLS

We bid farewell this month to our Padre, the **Reverend Bruce Hay,** who leaves us to go to Germany. We wish him good luck and extend our greetings to **Reverend Eustace Annesley** who is our new chaplain.

### 1 SQUADRON

There were two Pass Off Parades in the month of June, the first taking place on the 14th. This was No. 4 Troop, under command of **Lieutenant W. E. Brewin. Major-General I. G. Gill, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** Colonel 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, took the salute and presented the prizes to the best recruit, **Signalman Smith,** and the best rifle shot **Signalman Thomas.** We had another parade at the end of the month, on 28th June, when 1 Troop finished training. **Lieutenant R. H. Hoyle** was the troop commander and the inspecting officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Olds,** Commanding Officer of 34 Regiment (V), who presented prizes to **Signalman Smitheman** and **Signalman Fisher.**

The Squadron this month extends a warm welcome to two Warrant Officers, **W.O.1 Hunt** and **W.O.1 Hall,** who join us as troop commanders.

### 2 SQUADRON

2 Squadron (Depot) is to disband in its persent form on 1st August and reform as the Depot Troop under command of HQ Squadron. The troop is to be relocated in D Spider adjacent to Helles Barracks and the troop commander is **Captain George Harrison.** In order to assist anyone passing through the Depot in transit the following sketch may prove a useful means of recognition.

HARRISONS RETREAT

The postal address is:
Depot Troop Royal Signals,
Helles Barracks,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 4HH.

2 Squadron reforms on 1st September as the Junior Signalman Squadron.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SQUADRON

Instructional Squadron is very pleased to announce the marriage of **W.O.1 A. Irons** on the 28th June. We offer congratulations and best wishes to Bert and Caroline.

### GOLF

Showing that practice during the winter period is certainly a good thing, 11th Regiment have started this season off in tremendous form. At Strensall during May the Regimental team, comprising **Lieutenant W. E. Brewin, Lieutenant P. Jones, W.O.2 H. Moore, Mr. H. Butler** and **Mr. K. Brookes** carried off the North East District team trophy. To emphasise their superiority **Lieutenant Brewin** won the individual handicap first prize, **W.O.2 Moore** won the individual gross score first prize, **Mr. Butler** and **Mr. Brookes** won the Stableford Greensome with **Lieutenant Brewin** and **W.O.2 Moore** a couple of points behind in third position.

During June the team, this time composed of **Major M. Ham, Captain W. K. Paige, Lieutenant W. E. Brewin** and **Mr. K. Brookes,** showing depth as well as skill in the regiment, won the Training Brigade Royal Signals Trophy at Catterick Golf Course. Once again first prize in the individual event went to **Lieutenant Brewin** and in the afternoon **Captain R. Whitehead** and **Lieutenant Brewin** won the Stableford Greensome with **Captain Paige** and **W.O.2 Stoneham** in second place.

### RSSSC (TAVR) No. 3— REPORT FROM A COURSE MEMBER

On arrival at 11th Regiment, and having been very hospitably received, we renewed our acquaintanceship with the Regular Army, on Sunday, 6th May. The re-introduction was performed by the RSM **(W.O.1 Alan Walton)** who proceeded to inspect our 'best' uniforms—and us inside them. When he had finished with us we all felt that our efforts to impress had certainly succeeded, but not in the way we had intended—not by a long shot. They then proceeded to test our weapon handling—Oh, dear, oh dear. "Handling" it certainly wasn't. Worse was to follow in the afternoon. Much, much worse. PE tests. Headed by a trim young man in a black track suit, and followed by an ambulance we hurtled out of canp. We continued to hurtle for the next seven miles. When we got back (pant) we 'hurtled' in all sorts of places.

However, then they gave half of us a rest, while the other half carried the first half of us for a nominal 200 metres (Catterick metres must be all of 78 inches!). Then we all changed round, and the other half got a rest. (Some rest). Then came more hurtling—over ditches and walls before the rags and tatters remaining were permitted to drag themselves wearily away. And this was only the first day.

The following morning brought M of I . . . It also brought **Captain Alan Alfred.** Oh, yes it certainly brought **Captain Alan Alfred.** He instructed us on "instruction" and drilled us on a blackboard (blackboards are square aren't they?).

On Tuesday, they took our poor civilian type bodies down to the gym and assessed our physical fitness. The implication being that someone, somewhere had assumed that we had some fitness to assess. Whatever there had been soon vanished under the battering we received. Step up, jump up, heave up . . . fall down. **Captain 'Olly' Hacket** WFR then took us in hand, and, after showing us films and lecturing us permitted us to go out and practice what we had been filmed and lectured about. Active people Infantrymen. Section in attack, section in defence, section on the fence (getting its breath back).

The remainder of the week was spent in lectures, drill, PT, weapon training etc. and produced, if nothing else, red hot pens, scorched paper and a large pile of hand-outs. On Saturday the RSM inspected a less scruffy (slightly) band of mendicants, and we had a half day off. On Sunday we were transported by the RCT Bus and Breakdown Service to the military centre of Northumberland (Otterburn). There we fired more ammunition than we would normally expect to fire in years. We were kept going day and night. We did shooting of a type most of us had never shot before, and fired and threw things that had previously only been rumours and pictures in a pamphlet. After a lung-breaking session on Thursday we were sent back to Catterick looking like a load of rejects from the Black and White Minstrels (right through the middle of Newcastle too). We arrived back in time to appear spick and span in the Mess for dinner. Weary —yes, unhappy—no.

On Friday, we all said our piece (teaching practices) and received our gradings; and so finished our 15 days training. It was an interesting and enjoyable experience, which once the initial shock was over, none of us would have missed. Congratulations to **Sergeant Ron Edwards,** 31st Regiment (V), on being top student, and condolences to those who weren't, and our greetings to those who were on Course 85. Nice to have met you.

**Our thanks and appreciation goes to all who had anything to do with the organisation and operation of our course. It must have seemed a very up-hill task to put across anything in the time allowed. However, be assured that an awful lot was got across. And again—thanks.**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## 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

WE started the month of June as we meant to go on, that is to say with the very welcome respite of Whitsun.

### ATHLETICS TO THE FORE

The rot started when those unfortunates who succumbed to the cajoling of the Regimental athletics Officer were led away to face the horrors of events field and events track at the 1974 Morrison Cup athletics meeting. Despite the awesome reputation of the Signals Branch of Royal Air Force Wildenrath our gladiators showed more than willing and many were the 'own best times' that were bettered.

Later in the month the good work was carried on at the Rhine Area athletics meeting where **Sergeant Dick Holman,** RAPC had a convincing win in the 5000 metres race and was later to repeat this performance at the BAOR meeting

At the same meeting the nubile young ladies of the Regiment did extremely well. The outstanding success being scored by **W/Lance-Corporal Emma Neil** who won the 200 metres event and later went on to be placed 3rd in the Army womens' 100 metres event.

It is impossible to name everyone who gave of their very best but the whole team can rest assured that their efforts were appreciated and applauded by the whole Regiment.

### REGIMENTAL PARTY

The Regimental cocktail party took place on the 20th June and turned out in the event to be even more of a success than usual. Without a doubt the principal reason for the added success of the function was the brilliant stratagem of preceding the event with a "Beating Retreat". The splendid music and military precision of the Band of the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment thrilled all who watched them. Our invited German guests naturally exhibited their expertise in tapping their feet in time to the music and were unashamedly enthusiastic in expressing their admiration of the performance.

The climax of the entertainment was the ceremony of lowering the flag which was performed with great dignity by **Staff Sergeant Norman Mortimer** assisted in a very soldierly manner by **Sergeants Jim Claffey** and **Neville Cox.**

It was feared that the cocktail party proper might be an anti climax, however the Officers of the Regiment, finding their guests who were suitably impressed by the preceding events, thirsty for conversation as well as for the usual prerequisites of an occasion of this type.

Even the flower beds remained undamaged by the depradations of the local rabbit population all thanks to the tireless efforts of **Major David O'Connor,** RA, who actually went to the trouble of applying (albeit very tastefully) cam-nets of gargantuan proportions to the floral display for some days in advance. It is not certain whether the rabbits were fooled by this ploy or too hysterical with laughter to contemplate a taste of any of the appetising flora so cleverly disguised.

### HASH HOUND HARRIERS

We regret to announce that an alledgedly desperate band of rather villainous looking characters known as the Hash Hound Harriers have been seen deploying in the local woods uttering such infamous expletives as "On On" and "Checking". It is apparent that the hierarchy of the Regiment have found yet another excuse for deserting the draughty corridors of power and in order to disguise their usual undignified haste to reach the Officers' Mess have invented the unusual behaviour pattern as set down above to convince the rest of the Regiment that they are in fact embarking on some gentlemanly sporting activity.

The Regimental cricket team have put up a very creditable performance so far this season. **Corporal Jimmy Green** being one of the star batsmen and the brunt of the bowling being borne by **S/Sgts Frank Dempster** and **John Groves.** The results of these and others efforts are shown below. One game having been lost by the very narrow margin of only one run.

| *Played* | *Won* | *Lost* | *Drawn* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

The Regiment have entered a team of five men in the Rhine Area orienteering league, the first meeting of which took place at Arsbeck. Regrettably two check cards having been lost and the Adjutant, **Captain John Roberts** taking time out for a mud bath 'en route' our overall result was not inspiring. However great things are expected in the future and we hope to be able to report success at a later date.



## 14 Sig Regt Worcester

### GLOUCESTER FREEDOM WEEKEND

ON Sunday the 26th May men of the Regiment exercised their right to parade in Gloucester with bayonets fixed and banners flying. A right bestowed in 1966 when the unit was granted Freedom Of The City.

The Regiment were invited by the Lord Mayor Alderman **Fred King** and the Aldermen of the City to participate in the opening function of the 1974 Gloucester Festival.

This was a church service in the cathedral where a packed audience were given a musical treat as the Corps Band, organ and choir performed arrangements by the director of music **Major Keith Boulding.**

**S.S.M. Joe Frost** prepared a guard of honour which paraded on the cathedral forecourt under the command of the Adjutant **Captain Rodney Clare.** This was an ideal setting for the ceremony with the huge ancient cathedral towering over the troops and civic dignitaries. The colourful uniforms of the band, the precision drill of the guard and the civic dignitaries in their traditional robes provided a memorable picture for tourists and visitors.

CEREMONIAL AT GLOUCESTER
The Adjutant, Captain Clare, escorting the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Hales, and the Lord Major of Gloucester, Alderman F. King, whilst they inspect the Guard of Honour during Freedom Weekend

The Lord Mayor accompanied by the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hales,** inspected the guard of honour. On completion of this, the civic dignitaries and members of the unit made their way to the Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor held an informal reception. This provided an opportunity for renewing the strong bond of friendship which exists between the Regiment and the citizens of Gloucester.

On Monday the 27th May the Corps Band entertained a large audience in the Gloucester Guildhall. The band once again demonstrated their versatility and mastery by producing a programme which moved easily from classical to comedy numbers.

The audience were very appreciative and the hall rang with enthusiastic applause at the end of each number. The success of these two functions augurs well for the overall success of the Gloucester Festival.

### STUNNED

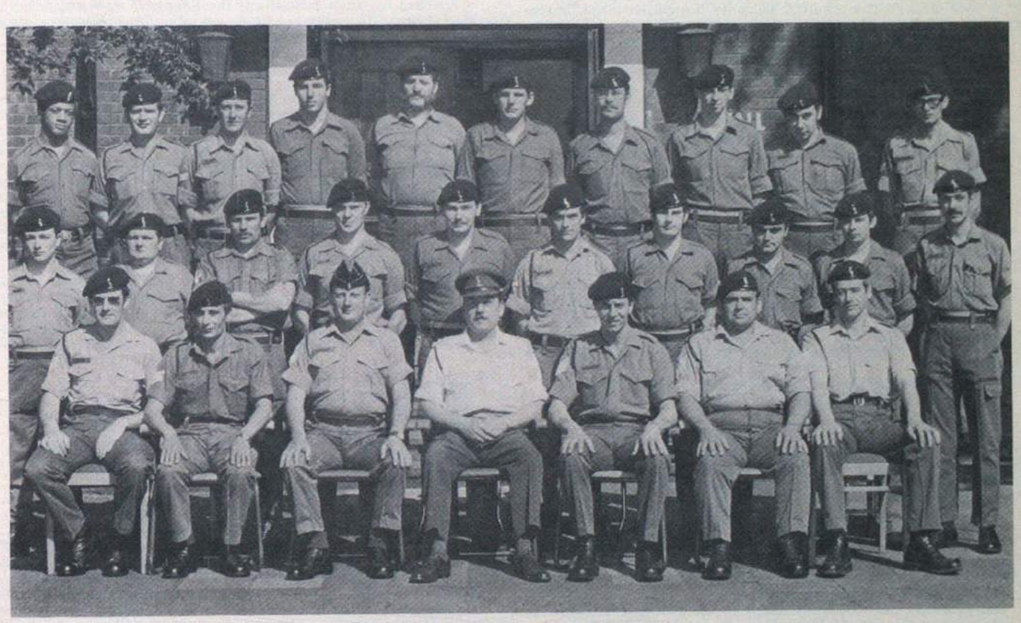
In a recent cricket match the regimental team captain **Sergeant Terry Wood** was batting with **Sergeant Tom Fowle,** our RPC Provost Sergeant. **Tom** was facing the bowling when he stepped out, opened his shoulder and drove the ball straight down the wicket. **Terry** gazed in open mouthed admiration until the ball made contact with his head and cannoned off into the outfield. His world exploded in a riot of psychedelic colour as he sank gracefully to the ground with a bemused expression.

An age appeared to pass before oblivion faded; as his eyes began to focus he realised that **Tom** was leaning over him with a look of concern on his face as he shouted "Run, **'Chippy'** Run". Such a ruthless will to win deserves success. However, as our Captain was prone to lie down on the job we lost by a convincing margin.

**Terry** has now fully recovered, we think, the sports storeman reports that the ball will never be fit for further use. **Terry** has promised to recount the exploits of the regimental team when the Oxford Dictionary produces more superlatives to describe his prowess.



## 21 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 42



SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT
Captain Ron Marriott and his' Troop

### RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN RON MARRIOTT

AFTER 32 years in Corps **Captain Ron Marriott** finally retired on 3rd July. He completed his final tour in the Army in 21st Regiment where he was the Airfield Troop Commander in RAF Gutersloh.

Between the RAF and the Regiment the farewell functions were numerous, but without doubt the two most notable were organised by 'N' Troop which he has commanded for the last five years.

On Friday, 21st June the Troop converged on the RAF Gutersloh Sports and Social Club and the traditional 'knees up' ensued. The high spot of the evening was the presentation to the OC of an engraved silver tray and a pewter pot, by **Corporal Les Collins** on the behalf of the lads.

The merriment finally ceased at about 0200 despite **Staff Sergeant Terry Stacey's** attempt on the record for the world's longest speech.

On Thursday, 27th June, **Ron** and his wife **Val,** were guests of the Troop SNCOs at the 'Datscha' restaurant in Gutersloh. After being suitably wined and dined the OC was presented with an Arabian fighting pistol, circa 1846, very professionally mounted by **Sergeant Sahari-Bin-Ubu.**

Both occasions reflected the respect with which **Ron** and **Val** were regarded by all members of the Troop and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement. He has found himself a job with the Rank Hovis concern, and, without question, he will be as successful in his new career as he has been in the Corps.

No doubt the Troop will function without you Sir, but we will all miss that wonderfully articulate phrase heard at 0830 every morning, "Where's the . . . . . tea?!"

## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

### W.O.2 (S.S.M.) BOB VALE ON LEAVING THE REGIMENT LEFT THIS TALE OF HIS TIME HERE

### FOUR YEARS BEFORE THE MASTS (40ft and 70ft)

**THE Beginning.** It all began with a ROPO which simply stated that I was posted to 22nd Regiment. This caused the first IA (initial anxiety)—where is it, what is it, who are they? These questions were answered by a friendly Foreman—Lippstadt—Bruin—don't know! It must be clearly stated that even as a very youngish Sergeant my RD (Reigning Dictator) qualities were coming to the fore and so "Bruin" sounded like "Brewing". Hence, the initial picture of snug office, beautiful secretary and tea every five minutes. So, the date was set, MFO packed and away I flew with the world looking bright and beautiful through my rose tinted glasses.

**The Awakening.** The smiles faded as on the first day of joining the Regiment I was shown into a cell which contained a desk and telephone. "The prisoners have it a bit rough" says I to the soldier conducting me on tour, to which he replied "But this is your office!" The beautiful secretary turned out to be **Lance-Corporal Steve Armitage** who by no stretch of the imagination could be described as beautiful. Then came a formal introduction to the then OC, a **Captain Barrett.** This was a fleeting interview as he was going sailing. Things have not changed in four years because I have just had a final interview with the new OC, **Major Cross,** who is just off sailing.

The next confusing point in my introduction was the description of the Bruin vehicles (I still had not seen the brewing vehicle). Using my RD terminology I soon came to grips with such vehicles as TRV (Technicians rest vehicle), Tech control (a cage from which techs are sometimes released), Auto Exchange (an automatic quartermaster), Traffic Office (MT Sergeants' Office).

These descriptions all proved to be false, but as only **Signalman 'Dusty' Miller** knew what they were all about, I realised that it didn't matter whether I knew or not.

**The Change.** It soon became apparent that there was and still is a system within the Regiment—confusion. Working on the principle that if everyone in the Regiment changed jobs every three months then the outside world could easily be convinced that the reason for any lapse would be due to a chap being new in the job.

This system has a three fold advantage:

Higher elements are happy something is happening
No-one has the chance to become bored
Nobody gains more knowledge of the system than the CO, so he can always be right.

The only complaint against this system was when **R.S.M.** (Regimental Sideboards Monitor) **Gordon Wallace** found himself responsible for WIRE Notes twice on the trot.

Prior to one such change I was called to the Adjt. (Administrative Director of jaunts and trips) and was asked whether I spoke German I replied "Ja" in my best accent as it was the only word I knew. Having been earmarked as a bilinguist I found myself Troop Sergeant of a mixed collection of British/German soldiers, British/German/Canadian vehicles and equipment. This was comhead Eagle, and my happy union with such stalwarts as **Bob Evans, George Gallant, Dave Sadler** lasted for 18 months.

Change sometimes brings rewards and after three years I found myself returned to the Squadron where it all began, as SSM (Squadron Social Manager). The fact that I still haven't found out what Bruin is all about no longer matters. Having now become fully fledged my reply to any technical question is "I'm RD mate, don't ask me!"

**The Final Phase.** Having just handed over to my successor **W.O.2 Robin Stanley-Jones** in 1 hour 14 minutes I can look back with some sense of achievement in four short years. When I joined the Regiment there was only one squadron which dealt with Bruin and they were somewhat un-informed (as indeed they still are today). Today we have the whole of rear corps confused, an achievement indeed.

NB—I still haven't had a decent cup of tea!

### FOOTNOTE

**All Officers, soldiers and families would like to wish S.S.M. Bob Vale,** his wife **Rosemary** and family all the best for the future.

### NOW THE LATEST NEWS

### EXERCISE 'SUMMER SALES'

The Regiment again provided excellent comms for the annual 'Summer Sales' Exercise. It was commented on that eight man shifts in the Training Term vehicle seemed excessive, however, such operators as **Lance-Corporal Stan Harvey, Signalmen Des Gwynn, Tony Marriner, Davy Clare,** and **'Scouse' Wilson** would disagree, especially as that vehicle had the TV in and the World Cup soccer was showing.

As is usual on this exercise the linemen of 1 Squadron were fully employed and a good job was done by **Staff Sergeant Dick Hughes, Corporals John Collett, Don Taylor** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Deeming** at Rear Corps.

### ESSEX

During Exercise 'Summer Sales' trials of a new intercom system were held at Rear Corps. ESSEX—Electronic Solid State Exchange—is a 20 subscriber system. A team of engineers from SRDE including **Major Mike Miller** of the Corps came out to the Regiment with the proto-type.

Assisted by the technicians of the Regiment it was installed at Rear Corps. The enthusiastic co-operation and assistance given by the SRDE team greatly contributed to a successful trial.

### MILITARY TRAINING

Now there is a gap in between exercises the squadrons are making full use of the break. Summer Camps have been planned and are under way. To get the soldiers of 2 Squadron into the right frame of mind it was decided to hold a military day. During this day the majority of the Squadron did its battle efficiency tests, NBC training and range classification. **Sergeant-Instructor Alan File,** APTC and his two helpers, **Corporal Les Martin** and **Signalman 'Cassius' Parris** soon had the Squadron sweating, and we are not sure that the TOT, **Captain Des O'Connor,** has forgiven either them or **Sergeants 'Base Wallah' McMahon** or **Pete Dyson** for dragging him along.

**Second-Lieutenant John Hudson** and **Sergeant Brian Smith** ran the range and are still recovering from the fact that **Captain Dick 'Dead Eye' Drew** scored a maximum on the pistol classification. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Bob Vale** and **Corporal Chas Irwin** put everyone through the agonies of the gas chamber.

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### BAND DISPLAY AND EFFICIENCY AWARDS

THE Regiment gave its annual band display on the evening of 21st June. The weatherman was extremely kind to us, (padres of various denominations were invited) and the display took place during a beautiful summer's evening. The band of the 1st Battalion, The Queens Own Highlanders, gave an excellent exhibition of marching. The band's flamboyant arrangements of well known military airs and a very moving presentation of the Last Post and evening Hymn provided the spectators with enjoyable evening of music.

During the display our principal guest, **Major-General L. Domrose** kindly presented Bundeswehr Efficiency Awards to qualified members of the Regiment. The German Army Efficiency Award is presented to men of the Bundeswehr who are above average efficiency at duties and sport. The award is in three degrees, Bronze, Silver and Gold. In order to qualify for the award the candidate must pass a first aid examination, march 20 kms. across a variety of terrain at 6 kms./hour, pass a Bundeswehr annual range classification, achieve set standards in the following athletic events: 100 metres, long jump, 5,000 metres, shot-put and swimming. Finally the candidate's annual confidential report must show that he has reached a satisfactory level of professional and technical efficiency. As may be seen from the above the Bundeswehr does not part with these awards lightly.

Our sister unit, 840 (GE) Fernmelde Bataillon, within NORTHAG Signal Support Group sponsored us in this enterprise, and we are justifiably proud of the efforts of 17 of our soldiers, including our CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie** and Second-in-Command, **Major Mike Allen,** who received their awards from **General Domrose.** We also have a number of soldiers who need only pass a few more tests to gain the award.

### I MUST TO SEA AGAIN . . .

Whitsun saw the upper deck of the Regiments' off-shore sailing fraternity take to the sea again. The CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie,** the Adjutant, **Captain Mike Shaw** and **Captain John Woods** of the LAD trundled up to Kiel to take part in the BKYC Whitsun Regatta. In this event the team from the Regiment was singularly successful, achieving first place in two of the five individual races and second overall. It is also reported that they left their mark as entertainers of note, demonstrating some unusual tactics whilst spending 45 minutes mooring in the Olympic Harbour.

### EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES!

The period from mid-June until early September finds the Regiment freed from its more usual commitments of providing communications for NATO exercises and the training Major, **Major Ray Etheridge** comes into his own.

At this time of the year he may be found thrusting bodies of troops onto training ventures here, there and everywhere. To date Exercise 'Fransud' has been launched, 'Franfist' is imminent and 'Franfrance' is very much in its final planning stages. It is believed that the training office will only desist from these practices when *they,* alone, are left in camp.

## News from Squadrons

## 4 Guards Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 17

### CORPORALS' MESS BARGE

NOT all Squadron activities are work. One of the more enjoyable functions in the past months was the Corporals' Mess barge outing that took place on Saturday, 22nd June. At 7.0 p.m. after a lot of hard work and arrangements by the PMC, **Corporal John Scullion,** the Corporals' Mess accompanied by several officers and their wives, left the MT apron for the Munster Wasser Schleusse, with the express intention of meeting a pleasure barge, and drinking and making merry thereon.

At the Wasser Schleusse disaster struck—no boat—tragedy, 85 expectant and thirsty men and women began to mill around the PMC and his committee. Finally, **W.O.1 (A.S.M.) Joe Cotton** had the bright idea of sending all away to a useful nearby public house to wait, until the barge came.

The barge eventually arrived, an hour late. Everyone boarded leaving behind a worn publican (was he in league with the boat owner?). The barge set sail through the meandering uncharted canals and at midnight arrived at the Riefiuberg where the Hotel Stratman fed the travellers with wild roast pork and ice-cream. At the end of the meal it was noticed that **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller** was complaining of sea/canal sickness and was looking very pale. Could it have been a Mickey Finn?

After the meal the officers returned to Munster by mini-bus. There were two reasons, one being that some of them had to play cricket the following morning but the generally accepted one was that they could not stand the pace!

At about 0115 hours the return journey to Munster was started. The barge meandered down a straight canal carrying the revellers, and arrived at about 0500 hours. The tired but happy revellers completed their journey back to camp by bus having thoroughly enjoyed a new way of having a party. Our thanks to the PMC and his committee for all their hard work.

### FREE FALL PARACHUTING BY SIGNALMAN 'NICK' McGIBBON

On Sunday, 26th May a party of four set out from Munster for Sennelager for a three-week free fall parachute course. The free-fallers were and still are: **Corporal 'Ali' Finn, Lance-Corporal Brian Haggerty, Signalman John Essex** and myself **Signalman 'Nich' McGibbon.**

After final documentation we were introduced to the course by **Captain Tom Oxley** who said that with 56 students it was the largest course he had seen. How many were to complete the course remained to be seen. The next three days were spent on ground training where we learnt how to get into aircraft, and then how to get out, aircraft drills, canopy steering, landing and packing the parachutes. Since we were to use the parachutes that we packed we were all very careful, and naturally anxious, but as it happened all went well, except for one minor incident.

Jumping with static lines started on Thursday, a day that had no wind whatsoever. This led to a reduction in course numbers through bruised ankles, and even a compressed cartillage. At this point a few words to the two WRAC girls who joined us on the course. Well done girls, you were very brave, but get well soon.

The course progressed onto the free-fall part, with a few more people dropping out saying that this was not their idea of fun. Those that continued were all aiming to get to see delays, though few students managed to do this. At the end of the course seven people had succeeded, one of them doing a 20 second delay. However, members of this Squadron are still waiting to do the free-fall part. We say that we have more sense than those seven!

The course though, was an excellent one and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. Our special thanks are due to the course instructors who made it so . . . enjoyable? It is certainly a course that we shall never forget.

### VOLLEYBALL

A fairly new, but popular sport in the Squadron is volleyball. In May **Corporal Frank Charles** arranged a competition. All Troops and departments were represented and additionally invitations were sent to 115 Provost Company, 40 PCCU and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. They all accepted the invitation.

Throughout, the competition was keen, and if at times, more enthusiastic than expert. The final was held on 29th May and was between 115 Provost Company and the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Both sides were extremely good and played a very hard and exciting match. The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards eventually won by two sets to one. It has been rumoured that their UNFICYP tour was merely to practise their volleyball. The competition aroused so much enthusiasm and interest that it was decided to arrange a volleyball league and hopefully this will start in the very near future. Our thanks are due to **Corporal Frank Charles** for arranging an excellent tournament.

### TAIL NOTE

On the way home to our quarter areas in Munster the overworked football squaddies called in at an establishment so that they could ease their thirst from a day's work. Depending on what capbadge you wear it is called:

'The Honkey Tonk'—2 RTR
'Halfway House' —5 Innis DG
'Heppers' —The Squadron.

If you asked any of the above-mentioned worthies where Gastatte 'Rommerwirt' was situated you would be met with a vacant stare.

## Thoughts on a Harbour Party

### SUBMITTED BY 4 GUARDS ARMOURED BRIGADE HQ & SIGNAL SQUADRON

### AIM

The aim of a Harbour Party is to provide the creature comforts required for a Brigade Headquarters in the field, and this aim is fulfilled by a recce party known as the Harbour Party. Before discussing the Harbour Party properly it must be decided what creature comforts the Headquarters need. Their first requirement is, needless to say, comfort, but that does not get us far. Their second requirement is full overhead cover for all vehicles, hard standing under that cover, a hotel for the officers, a bigger hotel for the soldiers, a properly constituted Officers' Mess, complete with bar and waiters. All these are to be on the highest point in the area for communications, but away from high spots for defence and concealment. Again we do not seem to be getting far. Perhaps, and here I come to a universally accepted conclusion, there is no way of satisfying our desk bound staff.

### DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS—PARTY MEMBERS

Having failed to elucidate the requirements of the staff we had better look at the Harbour Party. What do these men need to be like? Well, they lead the Brigade Headquarters, and are the first into any new location. They therefore need to be tough, 'Captain Battle' type soldiers with a strong sense of mission, a steely determination, initiative, an extra ordinary flexibility, (mainly because the staff work on changing any plans that they make, and in any case a final plan is usually only adopted by mistake, or because an exercise ends while they are changing the plan). They need to be diplomats, linguists, estate agents. In fact they need to be, in modern parlance, super!

The only people in this Squadron who fulfil all these characteristics are **Captain Mike Alden,** the gallant leader, **Sergeant Sam Bondin,** the Maltese interpreter, **Sergeant Ray Galway,** who translates our Chinese and Malay, **Lance-Corporal Ron Dickinson,** who translates anything else, **Signalman Joe Malloy,** who interprets everything else, and **Signalman 'Cannonball' Smith,** who only just does . . .!

All the above-mentioned though are only small in stature against our leading light, our master of ceremonies, our one and only MSO, **Superintendent Nick Nikolich.** He is the man who finds where we go, who, in a variety of languages, not always good, finds little rooms for our armoured vehicles, and generally ensures that the Brigade Headquarters get their needs.

The qualities already outlined are only minimal requirements. There are some less obvious but very practical requirements that each member of the team must have. These are:

*No sense of smell whatsoever.* This is important because the Brigade staff realise that not only must they be camouflaged visually, they must also hide the aroma of after shave, coffee, and expensive soap. It is therefore necessary to search for heavy aromatic areas, and these are normally found near silage, pig pens and in the more highly seasoned barns.

*An extremely good sense of taste.* One of the main aims of any good Harbour Party is to find an Officers' Mess, which must be a Gastatte of the highest standards. It is incredible how many Gastattes get turned down because our standards are so high! (Note: It is thought that the Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Ted Butterworth** would be a very valuable member of the Harbour Party for this very reason.)

*Eye for camouflage.* In many cases the farms are just too small to get all the vehicles under cover. There are, however, several items on a farm that can be used, an example being silage pits and towers. The contents of these, when flung dexterously over vehicles can be surprisingly effective. We have been told that the security of the vehicles that have been hidden in this way is also good as no one wants to visit them! and finally,

*The members must be stone deaf.* This requirement, we are loathe to admit as it shows a certain amount of deviation from our basic qualities of determination etc. However, we admit freely that Staff Officers can shout, and seem to spend much of their time shouting at us. We do not understand why.

The reader will now have gathered most of the essential qualities needed for an effective and worthwhile Harbour Party—we hope!

## 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

NOTES this month were written by **Corporal 'Paddy' Fallon** of Bravo Troop with the assistance of an Irish/English dictionary. Naturally they are all about Bravo Troop.

### SOCCER

Congratulations to **Corporal Derek Chandler** for being selected to represent the Corps soccer team on two occasions this season, also **Signalman Ray Nash** and **Signalman 'Jock' Grant** for representing the Brigade soccer team in a very successful season, eventually winning the area league.

### SQUASH

A new brigade squash ladder has commenced and all 12 names on it came from Bravo Troop with the exception of our Squadron Commander **Major Peter Jones.**

### GOLF

Our Troop Sergeant **Gordon Philbrook** can be seen every morning of the week at 0600 doing his exercises on Tidworth Garrison Golf Club circuit. (Rumour has it he is practising for the John Player Open competition next year.)

### TENNIS

The majority of the troop can be seen leading the way towards the Officers Club most afternoons to learn the gentlemanly arts of tennis under the expert eye of **Corporal Harry Hirst**

### DEPARTURES

We sadly say farewell to our Y. of S. **Bruce Graham** on his posting to 610 Signal Troop who will be missed mainly by the soccer team of which he was the mainstay. Also **Corporal Derek Chandler** and **Signalman Alan Buckley** leaving for a 3 month tour in Northern Ireland. **Corporal Brown, McIver** and **Edgington** to the sunnier climate of Catterick (T1 Course), and last but not least **Signalman Dave Grant** who has left us for a non eventful tour with the T & AVR in Bristol.

### ARRIVALS

We welsome **Y. of S. Bob Burrows, Corporals Norman Collis, Dick Jewitt, Ken Fisher, Signalmen Phil Lee** and **Bob Pickstock.**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to our Troop OC **Lieutenant Harry Ross** on his recent marriage to **Captain Linda Mary Barber** (QARANC). Also to **Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Dave Dalton** on the birth of a baby boy and **Corporal** and **Mrs. Mick Tasker** on the addition to their family of a baby boy.

### WELSH 3000 RECCE

Once again 5 Brigade were tasked with carrying out the Welsh 3000 recce. A party of 45 departed from Tidworth in the early hours of Sunday, 12th May.

On arrival at our base camp in Capel-Curig we were briefed for the following days' activities.

HIGH UP THE WELSH MOUNTAINS

Taking a breather during the Welsh 3,000 Recce are: *Left to right:* Signalman Watson, Corporals Fallon, Chandler and Turnbull.



The Bravo patrol consisted of our mountain goat leader **Sergeant Gordon Philbrook** and was brought up to strength by **Corporals 'Paddy' Fallon, 'Ginge' Turnbull, Derek Chandler** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Watson.** We were tasked with climbing Glyder Fawr (3,279 feet).

On arrival at the summit we established communications with the remainder of the patrols on the other peaks and had our compo brew up which was most welcome even though the sun was shining, there was still snow on the summit.

The second day was more enjoyable from the foot slogging point of view as our Second-in-Command **Captain Rex Stephenson** had arranged for two Pumas from 38 Group RAF to pick the patrols up from base camp and drop them on the appropriate peaks, and then lift them off when communications had been established.

On Wednesday 30 odd members of the party had the pleasure of flying back to Tidworth in the Pumas, and the remainder were conveyed back by our faithful 4 tonners. So ended a most enjoyable 3 day exercise, in some of the most scenic countryside in the world.

## 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 36

### DIVISIONAL OFFSHORE REGATTA

OUR salt water specialists **Corporals Chris Othen, Mick Wilton, Bob Cobb** and **Jim Denehy** entered for the 2nd Division offshore regatta at Kiel at the beginning of June. **Corporal Othen,** probably more used to the warm waters of Cyprus, skippered the Daw-class boat in the 13-boat race. The race took them round the Baltic, from Kiel to Aeroskobing and then to Faarburg.

In a very close race, which was won by HQ 1 (BR) Corps, the Squadron boat came fourth overall.

### BAOR CANOE LONG DISTANCE AND SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP

This race was held on the upper reaches of the River Ruhr at the end of May. We entered three K2 boats, hoping to retain the team cup which we won last year. The first race was a tiring 5 km. sprint, upstream and **Craftsman Mick Ikin** and **Signalman Billy Tindall** were the second boat in, but first in their class. On the second day, the three teams took to the waters for a 25 km. race down stream. **Tindall** and **Ikin** were first off the mark, closely followed by **Corporals Alan Rippon** and **Dave Orange.** There were nine portages on the course and with well-practised drills, the team gained valuable minutes. **Ikin** and **Tindall** came in first overall. **Rippon** and **Orange** were third and our novice crew **Signalmen Ken Knaggs** and **Benny Bentley** did very well, coming in only a few minutes later—and that, over a distance of 25 km. was good going.

Having won the BAOR Cup we are now looking forward to entering a canoe in the Army Championships on the River Wye in July. Watch this space for more news.

### EXERCISE 'SUMMER SALES' 1974

The third of our water-borne activities was in fact on land, miles from the sea at a height of 1,000 feet. Ottenstein was chosen for this year's 'Summer Sales' and 12 Mechanised Brigade was to be the Control Headquarters. The QM staff and the linemen under **Sergeant Charlie Brown** had been up there for weeks, bathing in glorious sunshine. The Squadron arrived en masse on the 18th June and we then had a week of sunshine before the exercise started in earnest. As the first staff land rover was passing through Hameln on the way to Ottenstein, the clouds opened and it did not stop raining for 10 days.

Everyone was soaked, the roads were lakes of mud joined by class 30 trackway. Despite the weather, everyone enjoyed the exercise as it was something completely new to most of the members of the Squadron.

A Dutch NCO came to us just after one of our worst storms and said his radio vehicle had been struck by lighning (true—11 vehicles in all were struck)—his tent had been blown away (also true—but it wasn't one of ours!)—and could he please go home!

Last but not least the Squadron would like to congratulate **Lance-Corporal Clunie** and **Teresa** and **Y. of S. Fisher** and **Linda** on their recent marriages.

## 227 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 18

IN an attempt to find a fresh approach to WIRE NOTE journalism, **Sergeant J. D. 'Taff' Evans** was asked to do an article on Exercise 'National Pastime'. The following is a completely unabridged, unexpurgated edition.

### EXERCISE 'NATIONAL PASTIME'

Exercise 'National Pastime', an informed source close to the seat of power said today "was intended as an exercise in which the British contingent of our happy little Mobile Communication Centre, here in down town Maastricht, NL, could all be together in one lump, and subjected to those British type regimes that we all know and love, and not the usual alleged 2½ year tour of International NAAFI breaks.

### WHIP 'EM UP, MOVE 'EM OUT

And so, it came to pass that orders were printed, the steely nerved office boys waiting until the last moment before distributing them, wagons loaded, Elsans disinfected, then on the stroke of 1400 hours, Wednesday, 15th May, those of us who had failed to contract gastro-enteritis or some equally abstruse but nevertheless bed-downable disease, bade goodbye to our loved ones and/or wives or both, mounted our British racing green Bedford type bus, complete with Union Jack sticker (upside down). Our ETD was 1400 hours, so after the usual half dozen or so roll calls with the usual cries (sick, on leave, advance party etc.), we were soon speeding across Holland towards Germany and our date with destiny.

### WELCOME TO BUTLINS

The camp was pitched in a delightful woodland glade, full of oak, aspen and those other interesting items that one often finds scattered about in secluded dells in this permissive age. One edge was also bordered by an interesting small lake containing green and brown stuff upon which frogs chorused. Our 'Q', **Sergeant 'Pat' Fraser,** had organised everything perfectly, from giving us a camp bed each, to ensuring that the tastefully draped loo had an electric light to do crosswords by.

### HELLO CAMPERS

**Captain Speight** gave us a short, sharp briefing, in his own inimitable way and, within a few minutes, our original knees glistening in the setting sun, we leapt about our sporting business under the direction of the chief Redcoat, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Brian' Cumming.**

### SPARTA AND ALL THAT

The following morning at 0630, to a cacophony of birds tweeting, cuckoos cuckooing and frogs throwing in their ten pfennigs worth, we mustered the strength necessary to undo our sleeping bag zips, leapt spritely into our PT kit, and went for walkies lead by our veritable spartan amongst signallers, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Mick' Killick.** Watched only by a few grinning farm animals we did a grand pedestrian tour of the early morning countryside and were back at our encampment for eight o'clock and our king sized breakfast. This prescription for fitness was repeated daily.

### SOLDIERING MADE EASY

Later, under the direction of **Sergeant 'Joe' Souley,** our chief hairy, we were inducted into the mysteries of IS duties and, having had these secrets revealed, duly ambushed, road blocked and searched each other, much to the amusement of those elderly ladies one seems to find strolling through the woods on warm days in Germany. We have not yet discovered how one team managed to smuggle three hand grenades, a pistol and a whole bunch of ammunition past a checkpoint manned by our group of steely eyed searchers, but we did note strained looks and interesting gaits during the next few days.

### THINGS THAT WENT SNORE IN THE NIGHT

And so it went, more assorted sports and then, the climax of our training, a night exercise. The night air was warm, the pine

trees gave off a balmy fragrance, and with twinkling stars for a cover, who could resist a quick check of the eyelids for holes? Not **Sergeant 'Fred' Blake,** alias **Noddy",** that's for sure. His impression of a tree being sawn down reverberated across the defence perimeter where the grim lipped defenders were dug in.

That bit of fun came to an end when upon being poked several times with a sharp stick, he leapt to his feet, shouted "bang-bang" and was declared dead by our impartial umpire, **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) 'Robin' Dodman.** He later stated that he felt pretty much that way anyway. The attackers did their best to find the defenders and the crate of beer, they challenged trees, owls, walls and each other in their effort to arrive at the point where the attack would really start. Unfortunately, it gets dark at night in Germany, and if you've seen one tree you've seen 'em all, thus it was that the attackers only found the defence area in small numbers, or small number really, and he crawled over one of the defenders. And so at 2 a.m. we all mounted our four tonners and went home tired but happy.

### THE JOYS OF ORIENTEERING

Clutching our luminous Silva compasses and large scale maps, we rushed around an interesting course on a fine warm day. The basic principles of this skill were lucidly propounded by our ace 'orienteeror' **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Sandwich' Spearpoint.** Many veils dropped from our eyes as we learned of compass orientation, map references and how to treat blisters. These lessons in pedestrian navigation did not help everyone to the same degree. A search party was already groaning to their feet, when **Sergeant 'Terry' Dodson's** lost patrol loomed out of a clump of trees rather later than the other patrols. Nevertheless they showed pluck and determination by marching to attention along the lined route. The other patrols offered much advice on how the lost patrol went wrong, and what they could do to rectify their mistakes, but chirpy as ever, **Sergeant Dodson's** patrol cheerily offered various anatomical places to put the advice proffered.

### A LESSON WELL LEARNED

We all now know how to be a complete 'orientator'—its easy really. For example if you want to get from point A to point B or anywhere else, place your map under your see-through Silva compass with the luminous dots, spin its rotating bezel a few times, point the hour hand of your watch at the sun, inspect a nearby tree for moss, and rubbing two boy scouts together wet your index finger and hold it up in the air. This last tip is very useful in long grass and so on. With luck a passer-by will see your finger waving and go to investigate. This is your chance, for in a clear voice you can then ask "Excuse me sir or madam, but you wouldn't happen to have noticed any 'Englischer type Soldatens' lurking about in bushes etc. clutching a millboard and watch would you?" This usually provokes some kind of reaction, often resulting in the questioner being told exactly where to go and what to do when you've got there. And what more do you require than that?

This, dear reader, was only the first day. On our second day in the German outback, our sensitivities were assaulted by a vicious attack of that dreaded disease, 'The compo syndrome'. Most of you will know just what this is, but to those inexperienced few let me elucidate. After a day or so of eating compo rations the sufferer will notice a fluctuating pressure on the abdomen. The pressure, starting at zero pounds per square inch can build up to a quite intolerable level, whereupon the pressure is vented away in a loud bugle call. This disease can also be noted in Catterick Camp after a night on the Newcastle Brown with an Indian nosh up to follow. We are led to understand that **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Brian' Watts** earned several standing ovations for his trumpeting, followed in all cases by a bolt for the tent flap and the open air. Still, orders did state that respirators were to be carried.

After stacks more sporting and militarying, we arrived at the prize giving ceremony.

### LAST NIGHT REVELS

This started with **Captain Speight** awarding **Sergeant 'George' O'Mara's** troop of operators the champion troop cup, **Sergeant 'Taff' Evan's** stalwarts being runners-up but with the volley-ball and soft ball trophies as compensation. The order of the chocolate energy booster was awarded to **Sergeant 'Terry' Dodson's** sporting diehards—somebody had to finish last. Next, was the joke contest, but I really cannot go into that at the moment without using that American phrase, "Expletive deleted", nor will I linger on the first Regimental streaker, the beer squirting contest with pickles and fire pumps. Suffice it to say we all had a good time and went to bed damp but happy.

The only complaint of the exercise was heard from the AFCENT mess hall, when the gentleman politely asked, "Whose expletive deleted idea was it to store the food dixies in these here honey-buckets?" We'll never know folks. But if you ever visit AFCENT and have a meal, try the fried eggs, its safer.

### SQUADRON GOSSIP

Congratulations to:

**Corporal Malcolm** and **Yvonne Wright** on their marriage, **Lance-Corporal Gordon Beckley** who married **Tiny** and was promoted all in one week and to **Sergeant Bob** and **Chris Branson, Sergeant John** and **Linda Morgan, Sergeant Ken** and **Yvonne Murray, Corporal Dave** and **Alison Myers** and finally **Lance-Corporal Danny** and **Pauline Crosbie,** all of whom produced potential signallers for the Corps.

## 229 Sig Sqn, Berlin

TEARING ourselves away from the active service of Berlin to write notes for THE WIRE seems to be a greater problem than it should be—so we will start again by apologising at the delay since last reporting. There is a lot of ground to make up with a probability of missing lots of past details and a concentration on recent events.

### BAND AND DISPLAY TEAM PERFORM ADMIRABLY

Whatever else might be said about Berlin it certainly is busy. We get many VIP visitors to the extent that listing them is difficult but for a Royal Signals magazine one should mention that we were honoured by visits of **Major-General Sawers** and **Roper** at the tail end of last year. The latter's visit coincided with the Berlin military tattoo in which the Corps band and Display Team performed admirably. It was an honour to host them and made us especially proud to wear the Royal Signals cap badge in the light of their performance.

The winter ticked over with a few exercises and an FFR inspection which went well with the exception of one insuborinate fire extinguisher which failed to go off at the critical time despite successful testing 24 hours before and 15 minutes afterwards. There was also our periodic REME examination, and we can bless the mild winter for making our preparation an easier task than it might have been in what is known as a typical Berlin winter.

### WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS GO WRONG

In fact, some credit, as opposed to praise, can be taken from our ability to control weather. After a week of snow last winter we wrote an exercise 'Snow Prince' which was to consist of tobogganning and ski-ing races of various types on the Teufelsberg in Berlin. The exercise was to be initiated on any suitable day after snow had fallen but since writing it in mid December no snow has fallen. We have done a similar thing with the summer weather by working tropical hours from 0700 to 1300 hours daily. This was to overcome the hot sticky summers which have been typical for the last three years at least. Since starting these hours in mid May the weather has been nearer to Arctic than tropical. Readers might wish to apply to our weather bureau for advice on how not to control the elements.

### SUB AQUA FANS SEEK MEDITERRANEAN SUN

Some of the Squadron have been lucky enough to experience Mediterranean weather at government expense. These were those members of the Berlin sub aqua club who went down to Juan Les Pins to practice high visibility diving and upgrade their skills. They came back beautifully browned and raving about the underwater flaura and fauna and the above water birds of the non-feathered type.

Another water expedition took place when the Squadron hired a boat and took out a party of 40 youngsters from a local children's home. The OC, **Staff Sergeant Ainge, Lance-Corporal Howe, Signalman Mullan** and one of our civilian clerks, **Frau Heck,** made up the party. The boat trip round the Havelsee only lasted three hours and was reasonably peaceful for the first hour but then warmed up with an end result of five worn out adults. It's doubtful whether our inveterate bachelors **Lance-Corporal Howe** and **Signalman Mullan** ever pictured themselves with six children sat on knees and shoulders all at the same time. Still —they survived.



### ALL'S WELL ON THE SPORTING FRONT

Our sporting prowess remains satisfactory. We finished the winters season as Berlin minor champions in football and hockey. Our athletic team has won the Brigade and Divisional meetings and come runners-up in the Morrison Cup. All the meetings have been very exciting and close, and we look forward to renewing our rivalry with 4, 6, 7 and 11 Brigade Squadrons in the BAOR finals on 6th July. In swimming this year we have so far only competed in our Brigade meeting but that was a promising start which augurs well. The Squadron came first in every event and now has the satisfaction of holding all the Brigade minor units records. It is with optimistic eyes that we hope to qualify again for the Army finals where we look forward to trying to reverse last year's closely fought position with 5 Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

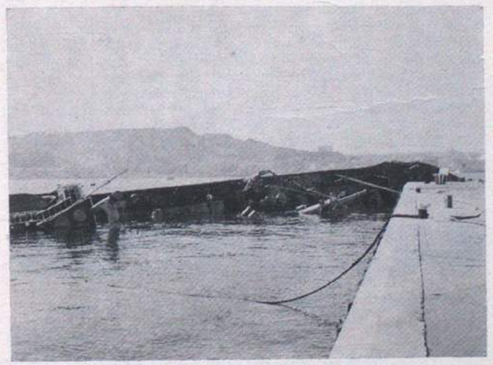
## 234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

THE hazy crazy summer has not yet gained momentum and so we just have time to pop in this quiet edition before it hits us with a bang.

### M.V. TUDOR PRINCE

Just to prove to readers that there is such a vessel as the underwater calamity *Tudor Prince* we attach photographic evidence to show that all ain't what it ought to be. Note the size of the vessel, however, and you will see that she could by no means be responsible for the shortage of stores that NAAFI (Cyrpus) alone seem to believe they owe to her demise.

Beware—only four of the dozens with MFO on board had taken the trouble to insure their belongings.



M.V. *Tudor Prince* which came to grief carrying Army and NAAFI stores as well as personal baggage

### INSTALLATION TEAM

The Project Installation Team Communication Projects Agency (PIT CPA) has recently returned to UK after an eventful stay with the Unit.

The Team arrived after many delays and problems with their OC **Major Phil Mootham** supposedly in time to off load the terminal equipment which had been refurbished in the UK. The arrival of the equipment was somewhat spectacular, however, with the ship's crew throwing a line ashore at the J.S.P.U. whart just in time to avoid the technicalities of marine salvage. This time the *Tudor Prince* can be blamed for the loss of equipment. All that fuel oil and salt water—ugh!

By this time **Major Phil Mootham** had moved on to prepare for the next job and **Captain John Falks,** REME had the problem of scouring Malta for suitable replacement equipment. This was then refurbished and installed to meet the original time table. The attached photograph shows members of the Installation Team prior to their departure from Malta; note the over hung hop leaf effect.

PROJECT INSTALLATION TEAM AT MALTA

*Left to right:* Sergeants Bob Barker, Dave Rogers, Bob Edwards (R.E.M.E.) and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Coley

## 244 Sig Sqn, R.A.F. Benson

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major J. D. Cathcart** |
| Second-in-Command | **Captain Q. Vigurs** |
| Admin. Officer | **Captain (Q.M.) J. Dean** |
| OC 'A' Troop } | **Captain H. B. Bennett** |
| OC 'B' Troop } | |
| OC 'C' Troop | **Sergeant B. H. Gatehouse** |
| OC 'D' Troop | **Lieutenant R. M. Burrows** |
| OC 'E' Troop | **Captain M. C. Wilkinson** |
| OC 'M' Troop | **Captain (TOT) T. McK. Stoddart, M.B.E.** |
| RSM | **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. S. Bresloff** |
| RQMS | **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) J. M. P. Whalley** |
| Y. of S. (Plans) | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. C. T. Tasker** |
| (Designate) | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) G. Lile** |
| Y. of S. (Training) | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) I. Sleightholm** |
| F. of S. | **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. P. Pettifer** |
| Chief Clerk | **Staff Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) S. J. Long** |

Continuing our theme where by the troops produce their own WIRE Notes, this months' rendition comes from 'M' Troop.

### INTRODUCING 'MIKE' TROOP

In the happy band known as 244 Signal Squadron, 'M' Troop could, due to their earnings,be called the brass section. Anyhow, here is its chance to blow its own trumpet.

The conductor is **Captain (TOT) Tom Stoddart, M.B.E.** He sets the tempo by which we work, and play, and usually it is the quickstep. The Foreman, **W.O.2 Ted Chambers,** could be called the arranger, although the CRA of 3 Division reckons he is the highest paid driver in the Army.

This is an unusual 'M' Troop. Its strength of 32 all ranks is high for a squadron, but the amount and diversity of the equipment for which we are responsible justifies any extravagance by Officer i/c Manning. For easier administration the Troop is split into departments. The workshop is run by **Sergeant Brian Stow** and processes such 'funnies' as C 15, PRC 47, C 11, SSB, as well as the more conventional light radios. Spare parts for these and other equipments are the headache of our FATSO man **Sergeant Eric Stevens.** The D11/R234 department is bossed by **Sergeant Rich Harvey** with **Sergeant Paul King** as his very silent partner. Terminal and associated equipment comes under the scrutiny of **Sergeant Phil Davies,** ably assisted by **Corporal 'Chippy' Wood** and **Lance-Corporal Charlie McDonald.** Also under our tender care is a trio of high power transmitters called, by the RAF, TGRI 26058. These are the responsibility of **Sergeant Danny Abbs** and his crew. Since one of our objectives is to improve the standard of communications wherever possible we have a project staff—of one, namely **Sergeant Dave Woffenden,** whose mind bender of the moment is an enlarged Yagi

antenna, for use in the 20–30 MHz band. The prototypes worked extremely well over that awkward 50–60 mile range and further tests are in hand.

The troop is well represented on the playing fields of RAF Benson. **Sergeants Pete Hewitt** and **Trev Alderton, Corporals (Ducky) Donald, Bob Walton** and **Pete Sinclair** and **Lance-Corporal 'Ali' Tallack** were ever present in the Squadron soccer teams last season. **Corporal F. G. ' Friendly Giant' Abrons** played Rugby regularly for RAF Benson. **Captain Stoddart** and **Sergeant Trev Alderton** are stalwarts of the Squadron Cricket team and for the followers of hockey in the Corps, you will be pleased to know that **Captain Stoddart** still plays Sassenach Shinty for the Squadron and for RAF Benson. Our prize athletes are **Sergeant George Crabb** and **Corporal Bob Legge,** both of whom represented RAF Benson in the 38 Group RAF athletics championships, **George** bringing home the winner's medal for the Hammer. The troop holds the following Squadron trophies: Gentleman's League Soccer, Six-a-Side Soccer, Six-a-Side Hockey and Orienteering.

The academic record of the troop is extremely high. Out of seven attempts at the F. of S. entrance examination, five have passed and of these five, one is now on Course No. 36 while a further two are attending a selection board in July. Besides this EVERY member of the troop is as fully qualified in his trade as the current time/trade/rank structure permits.

We welcome to the fold **Sergeants Vince McGarry, Dick Sims** and **John Harper,** and at the same time offer best wishes to **John** on his forthcoming marriage to **Miss Jane Tryner,** in Sheffield on 8th June. At the same time we bid a sad farewell to 'Top Cat' **Sergeant Tony Claffey,** known to the TOT as 'the BSM' for his efforts as Troop Administration Sergeant. Good luck **Tony** with the flashing lights and ticker tape of Project WAVELL. Our immediate future is still in quick tempo with exercise 'Trout Call' 7 in Denmark for 3 weeks followed by summer camp in Scarborough for 2 weeks followed, no doubt, by other globe trotting.

Finally a greeting to all ex-members of this establishment, many of whom at present grace the halls of the Glass Mountain, the TTS Catterick. Why not let us know how you are faring now that you are loose in the world.

## STOP PRESS

### FFR INSPECTION 1974

It is not usual to read about mundane matters such as FFR inspections in THE WIRE nowadays but we thought the following exchange would raise a few laughs:

*Scene:* Squadron Commander's Weekly Conference 3rd June. (The day before our FFR inspection).

| | |
|---|---|
| Squandron Commander: | "John" (turning to our Admin. Officer **Captain J. Dean).** "Have you any further points for the conference"? |
| Admin. Officer: | "Yes sir, there is an FFR inspection tomorrow". |
| Squadron Commander: | "Really"! ! (with an astonished look on his face). |
| RSM: | Sitting in the background, falls off his chair. |
| The Rest: | Fall Out. |

Interesting isn't it?

## 259 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 53

### APHRODITE'S OWN

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding | **Major M. E. G. Chandler** |
| Admin. Officer | **Major (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield** |
| Chief Systems Engineer | **Captain J. C. B. Simpson** |
| Training Officer | **Lieutenant I. R. C. Brown** |
| OC East Troop | **Captain J. D. Ambrose** |
| OC Mountain Troop | **Lieutenant T. M. Martin** |
| OC West Troop | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. Keohane** |

AT long last 259 return to the pages of THE WIRE despite the pressures of providing 24 hours a day communications, world paper shortages and the inclement weather. Yes, it actually rained in Cyprus on the 5th of June.

Although the pages of THE WIRE are not the place to relate at length sporting achievements, mention must be made of **Sergeant 'KP' Preston's** excellent performance in the Cyprus Walkabout Team. **Sergeant Preston** completed the 60 plus mile course in under 20 hours despite setbacks and long delays due to the injuries sustained by the other team members. **Sergeant 'Jerry' Whelan** is to be congratulated on being voted ' Sportsman of the Year' 1973–74.

On Thursday, 27th June the Squadron was honoured by a visit of **Major-General A. J. Woodrow, M.B.E.** the Representative Colonel Commandant of the Corps (see page 238).

At this point we must say farewell to the SSM, **W.O.2 'Boots' Davis** who leaves us for the easy life of 'Civvy Street'. **S.S.M. Davis** is going out to try his hand at the management of a fish and chip shop, and we wish him all the best in his new profession.

### SPORTS NOTES

Sport in the Squadron during these months was very scarce as only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun in Cyprus. Cricket is the only regular sport being played at the moment with the Squadron at present lying in second place in the league to a very strong St. John's School staff team. The Squadron team this year has done extremely well with limited talent, after losing old stars in **Sergeant Gray, Sergeant Barwick** and, **Sergeant Kannard** the situation looked bleak but under the expert leadership of **Sergeant K. P. Preston** and the team selection of **Sergeant Mower** an attractive looking side has been turned out each week. This was emphasised in the Squadron backbone of **Sergeant Preston, Sergeant Gray, Sergeant Butler, Sergeant Van Ross, Sergeant Wilkins** and **Sergeant Whitbread** winning the RAF Episkopi six-a-side competition in convincing style, a fine achievement.

Our departing SSM—**Dave Davis**—has done a great deal to make our Squadron the number one basket-ball squadron in Cyprus, winning the Army Minor Units competition this year and completing the double in winning the RAF Episkopi K.O. cup and basketball league for the second year in succession. The Squadron will miss his drive both on and off the courts. Another sportsman of note that is leaving us is **Sergeant Martin Prior. Martin** has been a permanent member of the Army hockey team here in Cyprus, touring in Singapore with them last year and this year defeating the RAF in a fine inter-Service game.

Sportsmen come and go rather rapidly in this Squadron and already last year's football team is one of the past but with new faces arriving every day, we have confidence of writing of success in the forthcoming season, so if you want to play for a good team then apply for Cyprus.

# News from Troops

## 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
## B.F.P.O. 65

### NOTES BY SERGEANT TONY DENNE

AMONGST the exotica listed by Royal Signals Records is the luxuriant island of Masirah. For the last three weeks I have been savouring that delicious sense of humour which issued me with a posting labled 603 Troop.

Having sruvived **W.O.2 'Knobby' Hill's** introduction to the bar I met the remainder of the troop and began the local language course "Yimkin comprehend the agro floating between Blue Jobs and Pongos prior to the scalybacks monking on", if you see what I mean.

Workwise there is a Rurax exchange complete with piston wheels and furnaces and miles of cable which D of E keep finding for us. (Where *is* the line party?). So mornings are spent between maintenance and faults.

Despite the present monsoon, no rain though lots of wind (that sounds like a Blue Job) there is plenty of activity.

A few days after I arrived we had a visit from **Colonel G. J. Curl,** Commander 3 Signal Group and **Major P. J. Rowland,** OC 261 Squadron, who brought with them **Sergeant Jack Lavery,** now deadeye of the darts team, and **Lance-Corporal Dave Patten** who has taken over as our Quartermaster. Also newly arrived is **Lance-Corporal 'Rommel' Carter,** who makes his way through miles of bondoo to chat to the sexiest camel on the island. There is a great deal of truth in the rumour that





**Signalman Paul Jennings** as i/c fishing should, by rights, be catching fish himself and not just helping **Signalman Cliff Kerry** to beach his 3 foot long (10 lb) catches of shark. Tomorrow we are going to catch a man-eater.

A mention should be made of our Salalah Detachment. Having just despatched **Sergeant 'Chas' Peach** and **Corporal 'Ena' Sharples** we are making preparations for the farewells of **Signalman 'Al' Pocock** and **Signalman Charley Beck.** Lucky they arrived here in time to join us for a military training weekend, which should say farewell to departees, in a traditional 603 Troop manner.

### FURTHER NOTES BY LANCE-CORPORAL 'ROMMEL' CARTER

Regular readers of our notes in THE WIRE may often wonder, (apart from how much we pay the Editor for all the space he allows us) what the Troop works at when it is not fishing, swanning about in the blue or teaching the 'Blue Jobs', who share our island, how to play sports. As Troop Clerk I still wonder what the rest of the Troop do between morning works conference and NAAFI break. I see the 'Labourers' (Tele Mechs and Techs) depart with drums of cable, tool boxes and ancillary kit to various posts on the station and then, peace. At NAAFI break they re-appear, and over coffee chat about the morning's work. The jargon they use is laced with local Anglo-Arabic works like 'HARRY', 'ARTHUR NEGUS', and 'BEAUTY': I can not give any translation, but listening to conversations on the island I note that these words have a significance to the troops here.

The Troop continues to amaze and confound the 'Blue Jobs' with its high sporting capabilities. In any sport or game, from Basket Ball to Volley Ball, 603 Troop—pongo power—is a front runner.

The Volley Ball team, captained by **Bob Sharp,** with fellow team mates **Paul Jennings, Cliff 'Hanger' Kerry, Tom Daly, Paul 'Bondi Rat' Hames, Andy Funnel, Dave Patten, 'Fiji' Allen,** and of course **F. of S. W.O.2 Hill** are the current undefeated league leaders, and look like repeating last season's triumph of league champions. The team, with the 2nd line reserves practice most afternoons under the eagle eye and stentorian voice of the F. of S., who is team and Station coach.

The five-a-side football team, captained by **Cliff 'Hanger' Kerry** continues to hold its place in the top part of the league and the team of **'Ty' Taylor, Paul Jennings, Tom Daly, Tony Crampton, 'Fiji' Allen, Dave 'Hot Shot' Patten** and F. of S., plus the occasional guest appearance of **'Rommel' Carter** in goal, are the biggest crowd pullers in the league, but whether this is due to the attractive football we play or just that the 'Blue Jobs' want to see us get beaten is open to debate.

## 605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan
## B.F.P.O. 180

### MOVEMENTS

THIS month has seen two of our 'old' hands leave us for the land of 'having'. **Corporal Mick Taylor** has left us for the RAF Buchan detachment of 242 Squadron and **Corporal Fred Dey** has exchanged the solitude of Hittadu for 30th Regiment in Blandford, prior to civvy street.

We welcome **Sergeant Ted Aston** who has joined us from 22nd Regiment and **Corporal Tony Craddock** from 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.

### PONGO POWER

It was decided in the dim and distant past that members of 605 Troop would adopt the pink 'Pongo' as the Troop emblem as used by a well known paraffin company.

Quite recently the 'Pongo' has been the subject of some 'distinction' here on Gan especially in a 'friendly war' between members of the Troop and the Senior Air Traffic (Confusion!) Control Officer and his staff.

During the last fortnight in May, while the SATCO was off on leave, we received a work's order to install six additional telephones in his office. This was completed well before his return from leave. On his return he visited 605 Troop to complain that we had waited until he went on leave before turning his office into our 'excess telephone store'.

When he went to work the following morning the SATCO was puzzled about the new sign on his door which read "SATCO AND 605 SIGNAL TROOP EXCESS TELEPHONE STORE", with of course the pink 'pongo' emblem giving the perpetrators away.

In way of retribution, SATCO announced over the station tannoy that 605 Troop were giving a free party the following weekend, and everyone on the station was welcome, providing they phoned the Foreman the following day so that numbers attending could be catered for.

The following morning the Foreman's telephone extension was jumpered through to SATCO's office!

On his next visit to the Troop he requested an audience with the Foreman and pleaded that the campaign be halted, stating "I give up. Its pongoes two—ATC nil; I admit defeat!"

It was decided by Troop members to emblazon 'pongos' in all places on the station frequented by the Troop on both work and social occasions. The result of this has been most surprising. Among the places where 'pongos' have appeared are the Sergeants' mess, the Airmen's mess, on marine craft unit launches, and on most bicycles seen around the station. Things have now reached the state where we are continually being asked to supply 'pongos' to various sections in the station. One such request was from 1125 Marine Craft Unit itself who requested we supply them 3 pairs of 'pongos' of sufficient size to emblazon the bows of their deep sea launches. We hope to supply photographs of these at a later date. (A pink 'pongo' also adorns a wall of THE WIRE editorial office—Ed.)

**More news on page 282**

## 633 Sig Tp, Caribbean

### HURRICANE PRECAUTIONS

JUNE has been a fairly quiet month with only the annual hurricane precaution exercise as the major military event of note. The exercise took place over a 48 hour period and was designed to check command and control systems in the event of a hurricane. In addition every man must know to which hurricane shelter he must go and what job he must undertake. In our case the provision of emergency communications is a vital task and one which is practised throughout the long hurricane season.

### SPORT

We once again showed our mettle on the sports field by winning the British Forces Belize Six-a-Side Soccer Competition on 22nd June. After gaining a bye into the second round, we met the favourites—2 Platoon, 1 RWF and, although the final score was 1–1, we went through to the next round on corners. Our team won the next round by 3 goals to nil and so made it to the final where we met the Signal Platoon, 1 RWF.

The final was an evenly matched game until the Signal Platoon conceded two penalties which were swiftly turned into goals by **Signalman Jim (Alf Ramsey) Scope.** The team continued to fight hard and **Signalmen Paul Ellis, Ray Sant** and **'Chippy' Wood** (30th Regiment), ably assisted by **Sergeant 'Nobby' Clarke** soon made the final score 3–1. Our goalkeeper, **Signalman John Miekle,** made some brilliant saves and so ensured that the hard earned beer went to the best team!

## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during June, 1974:

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Congleton Carnival and Tattoo | 10·00 |
| W. J. Trott, Esq. | 5·00 |
| Colonel R. G. L. Giblin, O.B.E. | 1·00 |
| Major F. C. Forbes, T.D. | 25 |
| Total | £16·25 |

## Thank You!

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. D. Purser, Major W. Farmery, R.S.M. and Mrs. J. Maher, Captain P. F. Soward, Major J. F. Bedford, Mrs. D. H. Collins, R.Q.M.S. J. R. Nicoll, 10th Signal Regiment, A. Lord, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Colonel and Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Mrs. M. P. Walker, Major J. Bayfield, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Mrs. V. A. Heath, Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Smith, W.O.2 W. J. Clark.

## 31 Sig Regt (V), Hammersmith

ONCE again, as is our custom in June of each alternate year, the Regiment camped in N.W. Europe, utilising as before, unused Barracks as their staging and base camp. Camp 74 however, was a considerable development on previous years as our role had evolved into a partnership with 33rd Regiment (V) with HQ 11th Group (V) also deployed in control of both Regiments on the exercise which was the central feature and reason for the camp.

This exercise involving many NATO headquarters and organisations lasted a whole week. The Regiment was deployed basically into its normal organisation in six main locations.

### 83 (LONDON SQUADRON (V)

In the centre of things naturally was Commcen I. They occupied a pleasant site in a wood about 2,000 feet up. With their usual attention to detail the Recce Party ensured that two good inns and hot shower facilities were within easy walking distance. To compensate for this undeserved luxury Mother Nature arranged for the Commcen to experience sun, rain, wind, hail, snow, and lightning at various times through the week. The 33rd Regiment detachment **(Second-Lieutenant Helen Loh, Corporal George Brown** and **Privates Angela Ruske, Muriel Phelan** and **Margaret Jones)** all had close escapes from lightning strikes but not one of the three strikes, which all occurred within 24 hours managed to catch the Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Thompson!**

For entirely different reasons **Corporal 'Ali' Matabdin, Lance-Corporal 'Pady' Maher** and **Private Tina Lowther** were also spared in their cookhouse shelter where they had quickly established themselves as a hard working and most successful cooking team.

The Padre—**Major Eric Essery** who is traditionally upbraided at every Camp whenever the weather falls short of continuous sunshine, this year found the complete explanation. He is, after all, 'sales' not 'management'.

The relays (or some of them) also benefitted from the recces of **Captain Richard Ives** and **Lieutenant Paul Whittle** carried our privately during the Spring bank holiday. **Lance-Corporal Eric Froggatt** and his detachment were sited in the back garden of a luxury weekend cottage. The vehicle itself was camouflaged under a large cherry tree, just ripe for picking and not ten paces from a brand new swimming pool. **Corporal Chris Wright** and his detachment did not do quite so well—only a corner of the grounds of an imposing chateau. **Corporal Roy Challiss** and his detachment were presented with unrivalled opportunities to supplement their compo with pheasant and hare.

The unlucky ones however were **Lance-Corporal Philip Fowler's** detachment on loan from 47 Squadron who seemed to be sited on a rubbish tip from yesteryear and **Corporal Barry Wood's** detachment who shared their sleeping tent with a friendly pony while their antennas suffered constant depradations from a herd of frisky bullocks.

### 47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SQUADRON (V)

The major part of 47 Squadron plus various attachments and the Regimental Command Post were sited near a remote US Army Post. A sharp reminder of the vast differences which exist between US and British terminology was received on arrival when a four ton cargo vehicle was put into a ditch with a modest £10·00 dent in the wing. An American recovery vehicle arrived to render assistance and we then learned why the Americans refer to their recovery vehicles as 'wreckers'.

The association of the Middlesex Yeomanry Squadron with the SHAPE Mobile Headquarters is an historic one, since the last close involvement and deployment into a field location was in 1965—the last operational camp of the former 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Regiment. Remarkably a number of people who were involved on the earlier occasion are still serving in the present Squadron one of whom is **Captain Colin Stenning** who was a very young Corporal at the 1965 Camp.

1974 is the first Camp that members of our WRAC have been deployed at Pruem. We believe that six girls who were so employed enjoyed the experience. We know the American soldiers there did and it is said the German firemen at the Post enjoyed it even more!

The remaining element of the Squadron under **Second-Lieutenant Bill Morris** was deployed not far away in a quarry —the site of Commcen Y found by 59 Squadron of 33rd Regiment.

Brigadier D. G. Baynham, G.M. (Comd 11 Sig Gp(V)) holds an early morning conference with Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield, Major P. A. Thompson, Lieutenant-Colonel Allan Jones US Signal Corps and Lieutenant-Colonel Dale Stuart US Signal Corps. Major Peter Thompson, shortly leaving the Regiment has been *Wire* correspondent for several years

'G' Troop were quite unanimous in their praise for the 59 Squadron Cooks. Since this opinion was fully and unequivocally endorsed by **Sergeant Ian Lindsay** then it must be true.

### 41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SQUADRON (V)

This Squadron was also deployed over a number of locations. 'J' Troop in particular provided detachments at three, between which they established rapid communication under the direction of **Captain Don Grocott** (late of 35th Regiment) and **Sergeant Peter 'Mobey Dick' Thornbury** who 'went native' with a most realistic Bronx Bark, "Sergeant Thornbury here". At 'N' Troop's location **Corporal Chris Mahoney** took his detachment Commander's duties exceptionally seriously and was most affronted when the PSI **Staff Sergeant Bill Miles** suggested that he had not noticed the rain while he sat for over an hour in a field struggling to get his remote working.

'K' Troop under **Captain James Allan** had to endure the rigours of the Base Camp as a site. Here **Sergeant Jim Makinson** made the interesting discovery that the British TAVR does not have the entire monopoly in antediluvian equipment as is generally supposed.

However, the accolade for serving under the most rigorous conditions must surely go to 'N' Troop whose OC, **Lieutenant James Mill** once had to wait 15 minutes for the bus into the local town. Regular technicians of the '60 vintage would have been interested to see **Sergeant Alan Lafferty** (TAVR) taking on the role of chief cook and bottle washer in addition to his normal duties. **Signalman Donovan Roach** learned a lot in the process.

### HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

The Administrative Echelon was deployed under **Captain (Q.M.) Bob Stilwell** in a site near to Commcen I and so shared their extremes of weather. There was an almost entirely new team carrying out this important function. **Captain (TOT) 'Pip' Quick** now is OC 'M' Troop, **Lieutenant 'Fred' Enga** is OC LAD, **W.O.1 'Lootenant' Winning** is MTWO, **W.O.2 Don Gunther** is SSM and **Staff Sergeant Frank Smith** is SQMS. With 280 Field Workshops in support the Echelon really 'got off the ground' this year. This was particularly gratifying to **Captain Stilwell** at his last Camp as a Volunteer QM. In August he takes over as the PSO/Administrative Officer of 83 Squadron.

Meanwhile back at the Base Camp (which we are happy to record becomes smaller in strength each year) the Paymaster—**Major Martin Whipp-Goode** limbered up for his next session of young officer training ("Young man! When passing a senior officer in his bath robe, kindly avert your gaze". And the young man did!).

General Sir John Mogg (DSACEUR) talking to Corporal Maria Holmes. Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield, Brigadier D. H. Baynham and Captain Gary Craver (US Signal Corps) look on.

Also at Base Camp were those Data Telegraphists employed in the SHAPE Relay. They included a high proportion of young trainees and our thanks go to **Squadron Leader Bob Willis** and **Sergeant Doug Friend** for taking so much trouble with them.

On Monday, 17th June while still deployed on the exercise the Regiment was honoured by a visit from DSACEUR **General Sir John Mogg, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.** The weather was not at all good with intermittent heavy rain and thunderstorms but nevertheless he still flew to base camp and Commcen I and met most people in these two locations. This day was in fact the main visitors day for the exercise and the Regimental Command Post camouflaged most excellently in a pine wood became not only a briefing room but an officers' Mess where the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Eversfield** entertained eight visitors to lunch and four members of the Regiment showed the instant flexibility expected of all true Volunteers.

**Lance-Corporal 'Bonzo' Barr** discovered that we had not been joking when we told her to bring her little black dress and best white apron to Camp. **Staff Sergeant David LeFebvre** discovered a new metier as head waiter ("Wine Sir??"). **Second Lieutenant Veronica Edwards** became an instant catering manageress (again!) and **Captain Chris Reynolds-Jones** showed instant flair as PMC of the Regiment's 'A Mess'.

This was therefore a most successful Camp which was enjoyed by all.

### DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Since our last WIRE Notes we have said farewell to the following members of the permanent staff, **Captains Stanley Arden,** and **Tim Timbrell,** both PSOs' **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) John Holland, Sergeant Peter White** and **Sergeant Roger Clutterbuck** all to retirement and **Staff Sergeant Ian Ryder, Staff Sergeant Tom Langley** and **Staff Sergeant Bill Miles** to fresh postings. In their place we welcome **Captain Eileen Carter,** WRAC, **Captain Bob Stilwell** (as mentioned elsewhere), **Staff Sergeant Dave Lewis, Sergeant Alf Croft, Sergeant John Thomson, Sergeants Pennington, Townsend** and **Hodge** and **Corporal Davidson.** Finally by the time these notes appear **Major P. A. Thompson** will have handed over as Training Major to **Major D. W. Gent** and there will be another correspondent for the WIRE.

## 34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesborough

AT 12 GROUP RECRUIT CAMP

Recruits and instructional staff pose for the camera

A NUMBER of notable events have taken place in the Regiment since our last appearance in THE WIRE and brief reports on these follow:

### 12 SIGNAL GROUP (V) RECRUIT CAMP

The 1973/74 Training year saw 34 (N) Regiment responsible for organising the 12 Signal Group recruit camp at Scarborough Training Centre. **Major G. J. Malcolm, T.D.,** OC 49 (WR) Signal Squadron (V), was in command, supported by an excellent team from the remainder of the Regiment and a few idividuals from the other two Regiments of the Group. The camp was made worthwhile by the number of recruits who attended but many more could have been accommodated without a fall in the high standard of training given. We were blessed with superb 'shirt-sleeve' weather (those who know Scarborough in March will be surprised) and the 2 week camp was a real success. A passing out

parade was held on the final Saturday in front of **Brigadier O. J. Peck, O.B.E.** the Group Commander, who presented trophies to the best recruits, **Private J. C. Drury,** WRAC and **Signalman P. B. Fox.** We all had a fine time and the recruits were turned into an efficient bunch of soldiers. The instructional staff too learned a great deal.

The 'character' of the camp was undoubtedly **Sergeant 'Taffy' Lewis** of 36 Regiment, an old soldier, who had endearing habits such as practising drill in the Sergeant's Mess corridor at 0500 hours, and bursting into song at the slightest excuse.

Lastly a word for our friends from Northern Ireland who took on guard duties for the entire camp and with their special kind of experience made sure that the barracks were secure at all times.

### 345 CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

Headquarters Training Brigade Mess was the setting for this year's Annual 345 Club Dinner at which past officers of the Regiment and their ladies dined with the serving officers of the Regiment.

Among the 80 strong gathering were **Brigadier Sir George Walton,** and the Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather.** Previous commanding officers of the Regiment numbered six and our guests included **Brigadier** and **Mrs. E. J. Hellier** and **Brigadier** and **Mrs. O. J. Peck.**

For those present it was a nostalgic evening, in the Mess remembered by many as Headquarters Mess Royal Signals which they had known over the years. The Regiment are indebted to **Brigadier Hellier** and his officers for making us all so welcome in Catterick.

### REGIMENTAL WEDDING

Take one WRAC Sergeant, one Royal Signals Sergeant, the CO, RSM, Padre and a crowd of Volunteers on Cup Final Day and what do you have? A wedding of course, at Hull, when **Sergeant Margaret Tully** married **Sergeant Colin Dadson.** Our Padre **Captain John MacAdam** officiated with the Commanding Officer and a smiling RSM looking on. Guards of Honour from the troops of both bride and groom completed yet another weekend activity. We allowed the happy pair a week off before they were required on exercise the following weekend.

After the honeymoon **Sergeant Margaret Dadson** remarked it was only a short one and she wished it could have been a little longer!

### EXERCISE 'SPRING FEVER'

A weekend with a difference was the verdict of the Volunteers after Exercise 'Spring Fever'.

With Squadron Commanders relegated to umpiring duties, and Seconds-in-Command throughout flexing their muscles, the Regiment took on a new role of Internal Security Duties in the mythical kingdom of Mulldivia situated in the Feldom Training Area at Catterick.

From midnight Friday to Sunday noon Squadron groups bivouacked, were harrassed by guerilla groups, advanced to contact, attacked and finally cornered the enemy. The final attack was delivered with vigour and enthusiasm and if some well proven tactical principles were ignored in passing, it mattered little to the Volunteers. It would be wrong not to mention our WRAC party who did their own thing in exactly the same setting.

## 40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

### OFFICERS' MESS BALL

### EXERCISE 'SPACESHOT'

THE Officers held their Summer Ball on 14th June in somewhat unearthly surroundings. For the occasion they had turned the Drill Hall into a lunar setting, complete with space probes, moondust and even a dalek!

### TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER!

The dalek was the brainchild of the QM, **Captain Dougie Rumsey,** whose improvisation lent much to the decor, and whose hard-working wife, **Pam,** spent many hours preparing and hanging the drapes. The dalek owed much of its finish to disposable egg trays (but was frighteningly real), was fitted for sound, and was all but automated. Sound effects were provided by the QM, relieved occasionally by **Lieutenant Ian Henderson.** 'Relieved' is probably the appropriate word, since what **Ian** invoked were more symptoms than sounds, and would probably have responded to treatment with alka-seltzer.

### MOONSCAPES

Very creditable murals were painted by both Training Major, **Mike Adams** and Adjutant **Ken Goulding,** the latter achieving a remarkable effect of meteors and astral bodies seen glowing in the darkness of outer space beyond the stark profile of the moon's surface.

### LIGHTING

The use of ultra-violet lighting in conjunction with irridescent paint added greatly to the effect, and we look forward to using the same process in future years for other settings on other occasions.

### CONTROL ROOM

It helped, too in adding realism to the Exercise Control Room, the central feature of which was a television screening of outer space dominated by 'Jimmy' in the foreground gliding in from distant planets bearing the caduceus in one hand and the Regimental flying XL symbol in the other (with apologies to the traditionalists murmuring darkly "Don't muck around with 'Jimmy' "). 'Jimmy' at any rate is now positively confirmed as the first streaker in outer space!

### SELECTIONS

The programme of the Flamingoes, a group from the Royal Regiment of Wales, was very well presented, with just the right balance of old and new to build the tempo into a real storming, stomping swingeroo for the officers and their guests.

### EXERCISE 'ROYAL AVENUE'

**Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Gillespie** our Commanding Officer ordered a Regimental Exercise on the 28th/30th June in Scotland.

Training Major **Mike Adams** selected choice mountain tops and told the Squadrons they would operate from them.

**Major 'Bunny' Scott,** OC 66 Squadron, discovered on recce the only permitted access up Beneraird was across a B - - - - Y Marsh impassable to all but amphibious vehicles, which unfortunately have not been proposed in our new establishment (12 Group please note!). For Ulstermen—no problem!—a road across the marsh. On 22nd/23rd June the road was constructed, without Engineer assistance. The photograph illustrates progress during its construction. In the best tradition of road building an opening ceremony was held—**Corporal Maguire's** streaking has to be seen to be believed. The mountain ewes still cannot believe their eyes!

The road was a complete success and 66 Squadron now claim the title 66 (Engineer) Signal Squadron!

HOME MADE ROAD

Members of 66 Squadron at work on their home-made road which was soon carrying normal unit M.T.



# Royal Signals win BAOR Golf Championship for second year

BAOR GOLF CHAMPIONS

*Back row, left to right:* Captain Don Reed, W.O.2 Peter Barnett, Signalman Chris Dennis, Major Ken Bicknell, W.O.2 'Geordie' Hall, Major Pater Tidey

*Front row, left to right:* Captain George Heaney, W.O.1 Charles Lightfoot, Captain Jim Lane (Non-playing Captain), Staff Sergeant Joe Smith W.O.2 Reg Simpson

THIS year the BAOR Inter-Corps Golf Championship was staged at the British Army Golf Club, Sennelager on the 18th/19th July. Since only two of the Corps team of 10 were members of that club we could fairly be described as playing away from home.

This was certainly not the case in 1973 when the Corps won this Championship at RAF Bruggen. On that occasion we had the advantage of being able to select our team largely from players who knew the course well and had all recorded good performances there. Thus this year's victory without such an advantage is even more noteworthy than that of 1973.

Those who know the testing back nine holes at Sennelager will appreciate the importance of local knowledge. Those who don't know this course must visualise narrow fairways bounded by dense intimidating trees.

As current Champions the Royal Signals were probably just lukewarm favourites to win again, but all were aware of the threat from the Royal Artillery who were looking very strong and well organised.

There were 10 Corps teams entered in all. The first round was medal play, the eight best gross team scores being seeded for the match play knock-out stages, the others to be eliminated. The Royal Signals objective was to be seeded number one and thus open up an easy route to the final. This was achieved with an average team gross score of 85. This score looked pretty formidable made in wind and rain, nevertheless the Gunners were already at our shoulder, with an average score of 86 they were the second seed.

In the match play we easily disposed of a combined Infantry team before thwarting a brave challenge from the RCT. Like us, the Gunners had progressed comfortably to the final and were exuding confidence all over the place. Nobody wanted to finish second and the final struggle was a dour one from which Royal Signals, showing great team spirit, emerged victorious by the narrow margin of 8 holes.

Our team not only won the trophy but also earned the respect and admiration of all the other sides for their fine golf, determination and sportsmanship.

The following represented the Corps:

1. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. Simpson,** 16th Signal Regiment.
2. **Signalman C. Dennis,** 13th Signal Regiment.
3. **Captain R. G. Heaney,** 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
4. **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) P. C. Barnett,** 16th Signal Regiment.
5. **Captain D. A. Reed,** 227 Signal Squadron.
6. **Major P. D. Tidey,** HQ BAOR.
7. **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) C. N. Lightfoot,** 7th Signal Regiment.
8. **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. M. Smith,** 21st Signal Regiment.
9. **Major K. Bicknell,** HQ NORTHAG.
10. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. Hall,** 22nd Signal Regiment

Non-playing Captain—**Captain D. J. Lane,** 16th Signal Regiment.

CORPS METHUEN TEAM, BISLEY 1974

*Left to right:* Lieutenant R. J. Evans, Corporal R. G. Kingham, W.O.2 E. R. R. Smith, Corporal G. L. Jaques, Staff Sergeant R. T. Parnell, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. Hassall (Reserve), Sergeant K. Evans

## *Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting Bisley, 4-13 July, 1974*

**REPORT BY MAJOR G. A. S. EXELL, CAPTAIN OF CORPS SHOOTING**

62 Royal Signals competitors from seven major units and one minor unit attended Bisley this year. Following the successes of our Nishan Team it would have been pleasant to report that our efforts in 1973 had lead to improved standards in 1974. Unfortunately this was not so and is due to a number of reasons. Chief of these was the cancellation at short notice of both our Squadron Level and main Corps Skill-at-Arms Meetings. We were thus deprived of the build-up of competitive experience which has produced such excellent Corps results over the past few years. Secondly, the weather at Bisley during the meeting provided a variety of rain, poor light, blustery winds and dust storms which had a dramatic effect on scores of firers who were unlucky enough to get caught in the worst of the conditions. Thirdly many of our teams were sadly lacking in practice due to universal increased pressures on range space and limitations on the ammunition available for training. Thus they were handicapped in trying to cope with the difficult conditions against other teams, notably infantry, who had apparently much more practice by getting priority in range allocation over the preceding vital few months.

Fourthly and, perhaps, most disappointing of all was the participation of only 20 of our original squad of over 80 NISHAN trainees.

Lastly we reverted to our LMGs in machine gun matches instead of the GPMGs with which we had accumulated such a depth of talent during our NISHAN training. This was reflected in the very poor results of Royal Signals teams in the two matches which involve machine guns.

31 of our competitors qualified for the second stage of the Championship (the Roberts) and six of these shot in the Army 100 finishing as following:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Corporal Gerry Jaques** (21st Signal Regiment) | 26th |
| **Staff Sergeant Reg Parnell** (8th Signal Regiment) | 48th |
| **Sergeant Robbie Burns** (attached RSME) | 57th |
| **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham** (7th Signal Regiment) | 62nd |
| **Lance-Corporal Mick Bushell** (School of Signals) | 91st |
| **W.O.2 Eric Smith** (30th Signal Regiment) | 96th |

Other notable individual achievements were:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham** | 3rd in SMG Match<br>4th in Old Contemptibles<br>14th in Roupell<br>20th in Roberts |
| **Corporal Gerry Jaques** | 9th in Whitehead |
| **Lance-Corporal Mick Bushell** | 4th Class B in Association |
| **Lieutenant Jim Evans** (attached QDG) | 19th in Association |
| **Staff Sergeant Reg Parnell** | 14th in SMG Match |
| **Captain M. A. Payne** (RMCS) | 26th in Pistol Match |

Team results were generally disappointing for the reasons outlined above. However, 7th and 28th Signal Regiments fought a close contest for the best Royal Signals team. Eventually 28th Signal Regiment (lead by **Captain John Woods**, REME) just nosed in front being placed 26th in the KRRC Cup (out of 69 teams) to 7th Signal Regiment's 27th (lead by **Captain Tim Smith**).

16th Signal Regiment had their moment of glory by getting 3rd place in the SMG Team Match.

With very little statistical evidence available the selection of the Methuen Team provided a very knotty problem especially as many of our known shots were 'out of form'. It was not therefore unexpected but nonetheless disappointing, that we finished well down the field. It is significant that virtually the same team at the NRA Meeting, a few days later, produced a score better than the winning Methuen Team under similar conditions. The extra competitive experience gained at the NRA meeting showed how much our Corps meetings were missed. There is surely a moral here.

It must be admitted that the Meeting produced a lean time for the Corps. We know from NISHAN that we have the talent but we can only compete against the very strong opposition if shots are allowed the time and opportunity to train. For example eight Corps members who shot in the Army 100 in the past two years were 'absent' in 1974. We can ill afford to lose such talent.

The Corps has painstakingly built up a tremendous shooting reputation over the past decade. Let us ensure that the warning signs of 1974 are heeded so that we revert to our rightful position in 1975.



**SERVICE WEAPON EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING, BISLEY 15th–18th JULY**

A team of six was retained for this Meeting. The team proceeded to hit the form that had been so lacking in the Army Meeting and 'struck silver' by winning the Hythe Cup for the aggregate scores of the Sitting and Standing Matches. The Standing Match itself produced a result that is unique for Corps shooting in that we took the first three places. **Corporal Gerry Jaques** was outright winner after a reshoot with **Major Ken Goulding** (40(V) Signal Regiment), both of them having scored 'possibles' of 50. **W.O.2 Eric Smith** was third with a score of 49. This was a great start to the meeting and was followed by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Barry Hassall** tieing for first place in the Secretary of State Match for the 500 to 100 yards run down. **Barry Hassall** also showed great form by scoring 175 in the Queen Mary 1st stage and finished a very worthy 18th in the Match.

**Staff Sergeant Reg Parnell** shooting as Class 0 did consistantly well and was placed 33rd in the Championship collecting seven bars on the way. **Staff Sergeant Hassall** shot at Class T and amassed nine bars in coming 53rd in the Championship. **W.O.2 Smith, Corporal Jaques** and **Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham** all shot as Class X and as is always the case, found bars hard to come by in that class. **W.O.2 Smith** distinguished himself by getting a 48 in the sitting match but even that only earned him a 12th place.

We just failed to retain the Hamilton Leigh Cup which we won in 1973. 10 Gurkha Rifles pipped us by a mere 0·2 of a second in the run over obstacles and snap shooting. We reckoned to have a moral victory by knocking down eight snap targets with nine rounds compared with the Gurkhas' seven targets with 14 rounds but had to be satisfied with the runner-up bronze medals.

Even with these high spots in the individual and team matches we just failed to retain the Africa Cup for the Team Championship which we also won in 1973. However, the results of the NRA Meeting did much to restore morale after our poor showing at the ARA Meeting. It is hoped that the lesson that competitive experience is vital before meeting top class opposition will not be lost on all those concerned.

## *Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Championships 26-29 June 1974*

**GENERAL**

The Championships were played on the three courts by the Headquarters Officers' Mess. The entry of 21 men and 5 ladies was 10 less entrants compared with last year. An extra event, the Singles Saucer, was included this year to give those eliminated in the first rounds of the Singles Championship and Plate events a further chance to play and win a prize.

**FINALS**

The finals were played in the following order:

**Doubles Plate Competition**
**Lieutenant Gittings** and **W.O.2 Dedashty** beat **Majors Penny** and **Chase** 6–2, 4–6, 7–5.

**Singles Saucer Competition**
**Major Smith** beat **Lieutenant Gittings** 6–4, 6–3.

**Singles Plate Competition**
**Lieutenant Smith** beat **Major Chase** 6–0, 4–6, 6–0.

**Open Doubles Championships**
**Major Siderfin** and **Corporal Ruffer** beat **Lieutenant Podmore** and **Staff Sergeant Adlington** 6–8, 6–4, 6–1.

**Singles Championships**
**Corporal Ruffer** beat **Major Siderfin** 3–6, 6–3, 6–1.

**Inter Unit Doubles Championships**
**Lieutenants Podmore** and **Axton** (RMCS Shrivenham) beat **Major Smith** and **Corporal Ruffer** (10th Regiment) 6–3, 8–9, 6–1.

**Mixed Doubles Championships**
**Corporal Ruffer** and **Mrs. Phippen** beat **Major Siderfin** and **Mrs. Chase** 6–4, 6–0.

**Presentation of Prizes**
**Brigadier** and **Mrs. A. A. G. Anderson** attended the finals, and **Mrs. Anderson** presented the prizes.

## *Corps Golf*

**v. R.A.F. Signals**

The annual golf match took place at Sleaford Golf Course on Friday, 12th July.

Results are as follows (Royal Signals names first):

**Singles**
**Carveth** beat **Morels**
**Dixon** beat **Elliott**
**Peck** beat **Clements**
**Harvey** lost to **Fishwick**
**Jones** halved with **Sorbie**
**Brewin** lost to **Kelly**
**Kavanagh** beat **Duckmanton**
**Bateman** lost to **Delaney**
**Adams** lost to **John**
**Banham** halved with **Lynch**
Result 5 each.

**Doubles**
**Carveth** and **Dixon** beat **Morels** and **Elliott**
**Peck** and **Adams** halved with **Clements** and **Fishwick**
**Jones** and **Harvey** lost to **Kelly** and **Duckmanton**
**Bateman** and **Kavanagh** halved with **Soar** and **Delaney**
**Brewin** and **Banham** halved with **John** and **Lynch**
Result 2½ each.

Overall Match Result—halved.

Originally the team chosen was quite strong but was possibly weakened by two withdrawals at the last moment, one due to illness, the other to duty.

However, all enjoyed themselves and the weather was kind. The RAF proved as always, good hosts.

**v. ROYAL ARTILLERY**

Lost 2½–9½.

In the singles the score was 1–7. Several matches were decided in the last two holes. In the afternoon the Corps managed to score a further 1½ points. **Schofield** won both his matches.

**v. REME**

Won 7½–4½. A lead of 3 points in the singles was held in the foursomes.

**v. RAOC**

Draw 6–6. Two even teams despite the absence of a Corps player.

## *Corps Cricket*

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT 1974 SEASON**

Last year was the most successful season in the Corps history and it was expected that this year would represent an anti-climax especially as over half of last year's side was not available. Yet in spite of this and an availability problem the season was not unsuccessful.

**MATCH RESULTS**

**Played 7; Won 4; Drawn 2; Lost 1**

The games won were against REME, RAPC, RAOC and RAF Signals. The drawn games were against the RCT and RE and the only defeat was against the RAC by 11 runs which was our first defeat for 3 years.

**Batting.** The batting was very variable and only five scores of 50 or more were recorded. The top score was only 62 and in several games the batting was poor with only one batsman standing between defeat or safety.

Batting averages:

| *Name* | *Innings* | *Not out* | *Highest Score* | *Total Runs* | *Av.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Captain Coltman** | 9 | 2 | 62 | 222 | 31·7 |
| **A/T Marshall** | 8 | 3 | 52 n.o. | 124 | 24·8 |
| **Major Carr Smith** | 5 | 0 | 54 | 122 | 24·4 |
| **Sergeant Richards** | 5 | 1 | 22 | 87 | 21·75 |
| **Lance-Corporal Parrish** | 6 | 0 | 51 | 130 | 21·7 |
| **Signalman Scott** | 7 | 1 | 45 n.o. | 118 | 19·7 |

**Bowling.** The bowling of the team was predictably weak but **Signalman Scott** proved during the season that he is a class spin bowler and it would be fair to say that he ought to be playing army cricket in a few years. **Scott** took most wickets and was well supported by the other bowlers. **Lieutenant Franks** only played

in three games but proved that he is still a fine fast bowler by taking 6 wickets against the RAC and the RAF Signals.

Bowling averages:

| *Name* | *Runs* | *Wickets* | *Average* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sergeant Richards** | 88 | 9 | 9·8 |
| **Staff Sergeant Lawrence** | 102 | 10 | 10·2 |
| **Signalman Scott** | 241 | 22 | 10·9 |
| **Lieutenant Franks** | 167 | 14 | 11·9 |
| **Sergeant Willock** | 277 | 16 | 17·3 |

**Fielding.** The standard of fielding varied. At times the catching and fielding was excellent, at others appalling. Some of this was due to individuals but there is no doubt that catches win matches and this was proved again and again during the season. **Signalman Scott** topped the catching league with 8, two other players held 5 each.

**Season's Reflections.** The season was fairly successful but we lost our first match for three years. The greatest problem was the age of players of corps standard and this was made worse by the lack of availability of players for sometimes good reasons. The batting was weak and bowling adequate. The two best things to come out of this season was firstly the extremely good team spirit that existed which is envied by other Corps, and the emergence of two potentially fine cricketers in **Signalman Scott** and **A/T Marshall.**

## *Royal Signals Gliding Club*

Royal Signals Glider Pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Royal Signals Games Fund for the period December 1973–November 1974.

Applications are required by 20th November and should be addressed to:

**Major D. H. Scarfe,** Royal Signals,
Signals Branch,
Headquarters,
United Kingdom Land Forces,
Wilton,
Salisbury, Wilts SP2 0AG.

Details *are* required. Grants will not be made unless the claim states:

a. Flying fees paid in 1974 (no other expenses), less any sum received from other sources in this respect.
b. Number of launches in 1974 and total launches.
c. Cross-country kms. 1974 and total.
d. Results of competitions or badge attempts.
e. Qualifications held.
f. Full address of claimant, including regimental number.
g. Confirmation that you subscribe to Corps Funds under the Day's Pay Scheme, or similar.

The limited funds available will be allocated in the order in which applications are received.

## *Versatile Regiment*

MUCH admired during the Old Comrades Reunion weekend at Catterick was a fine display of cups and trophies in the 8th Regiment's W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess. Unfortunately, photographs of these have not turned out too well and cannot be reproduced.

These cups were:

The Swedish Trophy—Inter Army Motor Cycle Trials Cup 1974
The North East District Rugby Challenge Cup 1974
Catterick Garrison Inter Unit Basketball Cup 1974
The Orde Powlett Cup—North Yorkshire Amateur Football League 1974
The Army Motor Cycle Champions—Viscount Gort Cup 1974
North East District Inter Unit Cricket Challenge Cup 1974

Similar trophies for orienteering, yachting, water polo, seven-a-side rugby, football and basketball were away for engraving at the time.

A Regimental spokesman says: "We show them to make the point that our Trade Training Regiment is prepared to have a go at just about everything—and with success".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# THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, 30th June, 1974**

*Present:*

**Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** President; **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., C.B.E.,** Chairman; **Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D.,** Vice-Chairman; **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary; and some 120 members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying that he had received apologies from **Brigadier Gribbin,** Vice-Chairman, who was unable to attend.

He went on to say how pleased all would be that the Master of Signals, who was also President of the Association, was attending the A.G.M. and all other events during the day. He warmly welcomed all who had come to Catterick for the weekend. All told some 550 odd members, wives and families were attending and 32 branches were represented. He also welcomed the **Reverend Leslie Pettifer** who, as an ex-member of the Corps, was known to many present and who had preached such a fine sermon. In this connection he said he would like to thank the choirs of the Army Apprentices College and Risedale School for their much appreciated contribution to the Service at St. Martins.

Finally he conveyed the deep appreciation of all present to **Brigadier Hellier,** his staff and all members of the Training Brigade who had made such excellent arrangements for the reception and entertainment of all attending. This was supported by loud applause from all present.

### MINUTES OF THE 28th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were put to the meeting for formal approval and having bee duly proposed and seconded were approved by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on Association affairs as follows:

**"Branches.** There are currently 44 active Branches in the UK. In addition there are 4 affiliated Branches. These include the Hong Kong Signal Company 1939/1945 Association which we were very pleased to welcome into the fold last year. Total membership of Branches has increased during the year. Branch activities on the whole seem to be flourishing and in a number of cases appear to be even better attended than they have been in the past. A number of Branches in the same locality as TAVR units are very well supported by them both as regards membership and use of facilities. Branch committees are to be congratulated. The continuing existence of a strong Association is entirely in their hands and they are making an excellent job of it.

**Membership.** Since the last meeting 404 new life members have been registered of whom 302 were regular soldiers leaving the Corps for civilian life. Sadly only a few of these join Branches despite being given full details of their nearest local Branch. Branches are to be congratulated on enrolling 102 life members under their own steam during the period under review. 115 annual members joined the Association at the same time.

**Welfare.** Calls on our welfare funds showed a falling off in 1973—possibly due to increased State benefits. During the year £12,238 was spent on 459 cases compared with £14,622 on 567 cases in 1972. In addition nearly £1,000 was spent on 190 special Christmas grants to our most needy cases. These, as usual, were much appreciated. Our average grant per capita was £27—the same figure as in 1972. Over and above this, 669 clothing parcels were sent out in 1973—a record. These, of course, augment our welfare expenditure and had we sent out cash in lieu our average per capita grant would have been increased by at least £5–£10. Apart from helping ex-members of the Corps we have been able to provide substantial assistance to serving members. This has mainly taken the form of loans to help towards house purchase and furnishing when nearing the end of active service. During 1973, in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund, we were able to make loans totalling £15,755 for this purpose. In addition we made loans and grants to serving soldiers totalling £970 from our own resources. We have been giving consideration as to how we might do something more positive in the way of welfare assistance for the serving Corps to mark our appreciation of their generous support through the Day's Pay Scheme. To this end we have earmarked £10,000 to be available for two purposes:

Loans to help serving soldiers set up homes on leaving the Service on easier and more extended terms than the Army Benevolent Fund scheme, and

Grants to units or detachments of the Corps serving under active service or isolated conditions to help towards provision of Welfare amenities.

The loan scheme has resulted in a few requests since it was notified at the end of last October. Unfortunately we have had to turn down several as there was no convincing welfare reason behind them. This is essential if we are not to compromise our charitable status by becoming a money lending organisation. On the other hand we have been able to make some effective and much appreciated welfare grants to units and detachments serving under isolated conditions. These have taken the form of colour TV sets; gramophone records and, in one case, an outboard motor. We also donated £280 to CR Signals, Northern Ireland to distribute among our units there for Christmas welfare. Apart from these grants we have met the cost of Reredos curtaining in Blandford Station Church; renewal of the Altar frontal in St. Martins Church Catterick Garrison and the provision of two choir stalls as the Corps contribution to the Alamein National Memorial in the village Church of Enham Alamein near Andover, Hants. We had also contributed to the Army Apprentices College Choir cassock fund—we understand their Choir will be a regular feature of our Services in future years. We also sent a donation of £50 to the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School—an excellent establishment—where a number of sons of members of the Corps receive their education. We feel that by making grants such as these we have contributed in a worthwhile and positive manner to the benefit of the Corps as a whole. Finally we have made our usual substantial donation to the Army Benevolent Fund amounting to £15,000 for 1973.

**Finance.** We have recently had our accounts for 1973 audited. They show that our accumulated funds stand at £192,049 while the market value of our investments on the 31st December 1973 was £179,993. Our general fund showed a surplus of £6,987 and our benevolent fund one of £15,280 for the year thus giving an apparent overall cash surplus of £22,267 for 1973. £10,000 of this is the earmark for special grants and loans for the serving Corps. £5,000 was awaiting investment at the end of the accounting year. During the audit the auditors suggested that £4,000 made in share transactions should be shown as income and not, as in previous years, as a capital item. This leaves £3,000 set aside to meet forecast losses on THE WIRE in 1974.

**The Wire.** THE WIRE continues to be well supported but ever escalating printing and postage costs mean that if it is to continue at the same size and quality it will require an increasing measure of subsidy in 1974. This is a problem confronting all service magazine editors. A number are being forced to publish on a two monthly basis or to reduce the size of their publications. It is a serious situation and one which has been represented to the Director of Public Relations—the service magazines' official sponsor in the MOD. Since Christmas THE WIRE has been involved in considerable publishing delays due to the three day week as well as industrial trouble in the printing world. As a result it has been going to press many weeks late and at a much reduced size. It will probably take some months before this situation rights itself due to the heavy backlog of work at our printers

**Staff.** Our staff continues to render their usual loyal and efficient service. They are, of course:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Miss Hyde-Parker**, **Miss Cook** | Welfare. |
| **Mr. Shelbourn**, **Mr. Nazarin** | Accounts. |
| **Mr. Greenbrook** | Assistant to the General Secretary and i/c Records Section. |

**Mr. Wood** — Assistant Editor of THE WIRE.
**Mr. Walsh** — WIRE mailing list and post.

Some of you probably know already that our General Secretary is due to retire in January 1975. We are busy looking for a replacement which will not be easy. I propose to ask him as our guest to the 1975 reunion so that we can officially say goodbye to him with many of our members present.

**Future Reunions.** The whole question of future Association reunions had been discussed at the Branch Representatives Meeting earlier in the year. The upshot was that it was the clear wish of the Association to hold their annual reunion at Catterick every year with the same type of programme as they had enjoyed in the past. In addition, provided the School of Signals could undertake it, a one day reunion at Blandford was always very welcome—the one held on the 16th June being a great success and very much a family day out. It had also been agreed that some payment should be made for attendance at these reunions.

**Conclusion.** The Association continues to flourish. As is usual, some Branches are going through difficult times while others seem to be gaining in strength. We are well supported by TAVR membership but we are not gathering in all the ex-regulars we would like—this is a problem to which we do not seem to have found a solution. Our reunions are well attended and popular and the fact that we now have two centres at which these can be held gives us, we believe, the edge over other Associations. Our welfare work continues at a high level and we believe we live up to our slogan "The Corps cares for its own" effectively and with human understanding. Our finances are in a strong position and it has been a pleasure for us to be able to do something positive and worthwhile for the serving Corps in return for their generous support under the Day's Pay Scheme."

At the end of his report the Chairman asked if there were any questions on the accounts which had been circulated to all Branches and were available in the hall. As there were none, having been duly proposed and seconded, the accounts were passed by a show of hands. (See page 284.)

## ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Meeting was asked to elect or re-elect the following to the Central Committee:

Chairman and Treasurer: **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.** (Re-election).

Vice-Chairmen: **Brigadier K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E.** (Re-election); **Colonel L. W. Wright, T.D.** (Re-election).

Branch Representative (Zone 'A'): **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Gould** (York Branch) vice **Major R. O. Edwards** (Leeds Branch) retiring in rotation.

There being no other proposals the above mentioned were duly proposed and seconded en bloc and elected or re-elected by a show of hands.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that special ceremonies and functions would be held in 1975 to mark the 50th anniversary of the move from Maresfield to Catterick and 50 years of training 'Signalmen' in Catterick. These arrangements were still under active consideration and it was hoped some would coincide with next year's reunion. At the moment, for various reasons, it was impossible to go firm on dates and so the date of next year's reunion was not yet fixed. It was hoped that we might be able to hold it at our usual time, but this would depend on the final dates agreed for other items in the 1975 programme. One of the proposals for 1975, which was now firming up, was the erection of sculpture work which would be located at a suitable site in the Training Brigade. This sculpture work envisaged two figures—a 1925 soldier and a 1975 one dressed in the appropriate uniform of the day. Each would be depicted carrying out some simple signalling activity—the main emphasis being on the soldier himself rather than on what he was doing. The total cost was likely to be in the order of £2,600 and an approach had been made to the Association for a contribution. As the period which the statuary was marking went back over the 50 years with which most members of the Association were closely associated he personally felt that a sum of £1,000 should come from the Association. The Chairman enquired whether Branches would wish to be included in raising this sum rather than that the whole amount should come from the Association central funds. The meeting clearly indicated that Branches were in favour of the scheme and would wish to participate. The Chairman said that the General Secretary would be sending out a letter on this subject. He also stressed that Branch subscriptions should be of a modest nature dictated by what they could reasonably afford.

The Chairman then went on to say that there was some difficulty in deciding how the figures could best be shown to be those of Signalmen. In the case of the 1975 figure the proposal was that the soldier should be holding a microphone. In the case of the 1925 figure it was suggested the figure should have a signalling flag in his hand. The Chairman said he would be interested to have comments on this latter suggestion at the conclusion of the meeting or later in the day.


# WHY MR. SACCONE TURNED A HOSEPIPE ON MR. SPEED.

The incident occurred around the turn of the century when Mr. Saccone and Mr. Speed owned rival companies, each one determined to outdo the other in the quality of the wine they supplied to the British Fleet.

Mr. Saccone was aboard a warship, conducting his business when Mr. Speed came on board.

To deter the rival supplier, Mr. Saccone suggested to one of the sailors that he turn the hosepipe on the newcomer.

The sailor complied.

Now the point of this story is that incident was the last of its kind, because shortly afterwards Saccone and Speed joined forces, and ever since have enjoyed an excellent reputation for supplying the armed forces and the civilian population with fine quality wines.

And we certainly don't turn hosepipes on our rivals anymore.

**SACCONE & SPEED LTD.**

In association with Charles Kinloch & Co. Ltd.

KINLOCH HOUSE, 17 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW10


## *Late News — 605 Tp Gan Island*

THIS month **Sergeant Pete (The Porky Pongo) Smith** has been relieved of writing these notes by **Second-Lieutenant Peter (T.C.) Parfitt** of 3 Division fame who has been stuck in transit for nearly 25 days.

First of all I will start with a plea for help. Due to the lack of aircraft through the Island (remember Cyprus) a few of the lads have been a bit worried about writing home. **Corporal Brian Fenton,** the Troop NCO i/c post has despatched several bottles containing messages. Anyone finding these please send your reply by the same means as soon as possible as he is still sitting on the beach waiting for an answer.

## MOVEMENTS

Apart from the chaps suffering from 'Gan Tummy' the only movement has been the posting out of **Corporal Bill Stadius**—the Troop will never be the same again.

## SUMMER APPEAL—RED CROSS PARCELS

The Hudson Bay Company, sorry NAAFI, has been waiting for several months for supplies to come in by boat. For this reason we appeal for anyone with brown paper and string to fill it up with jam and Mars bars and send it to 605 SIGNAL TROOP, RAF GAN, BFPO 180. A handwritten reply will be sent to all contributors and a six inch Pongo sticker will be enclosed.



## SPORT

The Troop five-a-side football team under the eagle eye of **Corporal Brian Hutchison** is doing well at the moment. They've won their first two games by 2 goals to 1 and 5 goals to 1 and look good to win the trophy. The matches only last ten minutes each way, which is not surprising as the temperature hovers around the 90's and the humidity can be pretty bad. There is no other sporting news at the moment as the Troop are still waiting for the plane load of Swedish netball girls to arrive (and I believed them!).

## THE REST OF THE NEWS

That well known accident, waiting for a happening, **Signalman Nigel Grant** had his happening last week. Late Friday night he was cycling along quite innocently when a four foot drainage ditch deliberately got in his way. Apart from minor abrasions he is suffering from jibes from the Troop because he still maintains he was sober despite the need for a sweep of the Island for the bike the following day.

While spending an enjoyable day fishing **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick (The Boss) Catley** lost his glasses over the side of the boat. A few days earlier one of the RAF guys here lost a fishing rod and a pair of false teeth. The marine police are looking for a short sighted, toothless shark sucking a fishing rod. There is no truth to the rumour that the Troop underwater expert, **Sergeant Ted Aston,** has acquired any of these items but for some reason he will not smile or wear his glasses in front of the Boss.

## Promotions

(Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the 'Blue Book')

| *Name* | *Initials* | *Rank* | *Trade* | *New Sen. Date* | *Old Sen. Date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Higgins, | J. M. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 5 Oct. 73 | 1 Apr. 70 |
| Perkin, | T. A. | S-Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 1 Apr. 74 | 9 Jun. 72 |
| Hill, | A. B. | S-Sgt. | Data Tg | 2 Apr. 74 | 2 Feb. 72 |
| Goodman, | J. H. | S-Sgt. | R Tg | 4 Apr. 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Harrison, | C. N. | S-Sgt. | Clk Tech | 5 Apr. 74 | 4 Oct. 72 |
| Kerr, | W. M. | S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 6 Apr. 74 | 2 Oct. 71 |
| Morgan, | A. G. | S-Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 7 Apr. 74 | 7 Jan. 72 |
| | | STAFF SERGEANTS SENIROTY ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Tunney, | J. P. | Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 3 Apr. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| Brand, | J. W. | Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 4 Apr. 74 | 2 Dec. 66 |
| Beale, | K. S. | Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 5 Apr. 74 | 18 Dec. 67 |
| Wringe, | M. R. | Sgt. | Tele Mech | 6 Apr. 74 | 1 Jul. 72 |
| Miles, | W. V. | Sgt. | R Tg | 7 Apr. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| | | FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Harvey, B.E.M. | D. K. | W.O.2 | | 29 May 73 | 17 Jul. 71 |
| Jackson, | J. H. | W.O.2 | | 19 Feb. 74 | 17 Jul. 71 |
| Potter, | D. F. | W.O.2 | | 1 Apr. 74 | 17 Jul. 71 |
| | | SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Smith, | D. D. | S-Sgt. | | 1 Apr. 74 | 31 Oct. 70 |
| | | SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Thomson, | S. T. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Watson, | R. G. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Derrick, | P. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| May, | C. F. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 3 Sep. 73 |
| Ward, | B. | Sgt. | S Tg | 19 Apr. 74 | 22 Jun. 73 |
| | | YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Llewellyn, | D. T. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Feb. 74 | 23 Feb. 68 |
| Greenhill, | W. E. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Mar. 74 | 12 Sep. 69 |
| Gurr, | R. H. | A/W.O.1 | | 24 Apr. 74 | 20 Apr. 69 |
| Price, | R. D. | A/W.O.1 | | 25 Apr. 74 | 19 Apr. 69 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Locke, | A. | S-Sgt. | | 1 Apr. 74 | 6 Nov. 71 |
| | | CHIEF CLERK ROLL | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Lee, | F. R. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Jun. 73 | 10 Feb. 70 |
| Adamson, | R. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Jul. 73 | 1 Jan. 70 |
| Copland, | R. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Aug. 73 | 14 Dec. 65 |
| O'Neill, | B. | A/W.O.1 | | 29 Oct. 73 | 11 Feb. 67 |
| | | CHIEF CLERK ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Belton, | B. J. | A/S-Sgt. | | 15 Jul. 73 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Weston, | M. I. | Sgt. | | 1 May 74 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Dempster, | F. M. | A/S-Sgt. | | 2 May 74 | 4 Nov. 71 |
| Pengelly, | T. J. | Sgt. | | 3 May 74 | 3 Jul. 72 |

| *Name* | *Initials* | *Rank* | *Trade* | *New Sen. Date* | *Old Sen. Date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Clark, | G. | S-Sgt. | | 2 Apr. 74 | 3 Mar. 72 |
| Schneider, | A. J. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 May 74 | 29 Aug. 71 |
| Hargreaves, | S. | A/W.O.2 | | 15 May 74 | 1 Jul. 69 |
| Derrick, | K. P. | A/W.O.2 | | 30 May 74 | 13 Jun. 69 |
| Russell, | A. | S-Sgt. | | 2 Jun. 74 | 12 Feb. 73 |
| | | TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Huxtable, | R. V. | Sgt. | | 6 Feb. 74 | 12 Apr. 67 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Moore, | J. | Cpl. | | 28 Mar. 74 | 19 Jan. 69 |
| Endean, | C. F. P. | Cpl. | | 2 Apr. 74 | 16 Apr. 70 |
| McGovern, | T. J. | Cpl. | | 10 Apr. 74 | 15 Dec. 70 |
| Sims, | B. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 21 Jul. 60 |
| Knisely, | P. W. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 15 May 68 |
| Parsons, | K. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 9 Jan. 70 |
| Roissetter, | F. C. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| Hunt, | A. S. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 1 Feb. 71 |
| Ball, | K. F. | Cpl. | | 26 Apr. 74 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Hunt, | W. J. | Cpl. | | 20 May 74 | 14 Aug. 69 |
| Muir, | A. J. M. | Cpl. | | 20 May 74 | 24 Apr. 70 |
| | | RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Blackmore, | E. J. | Cpl. | | 4 Mar. 74 | 1 Apr. 68 |
| Fox, | C. | Cpl. | | 9 Apr. 74 | 12 Dec. 69 |
| Emery, | W. G. | Cpl. | | 1 May 74 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| Law, | R. A. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 13 Nov. 70 |
| | | RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Chard, | A. S. | Cpl. | | 1 May 74 | 16 Dec. 66 |
| Wharton, | J. | Cpl. | | 30 May 74 | 15 Jul. 71 |
| | | TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Wringe, | M. R. | Sgt. | | 6 Apr. 74 | 1 Jul. 72 |
| | | DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Gorham, | A. | A/Sgt. | | 31 May 74 | 16 Jul. 66 |
| Winsor, | T. C. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Jul. 74 | 11 Nov. 66 |
| Smith, | A. R. | Cpl. | | 2 Jun. 74 | 22 Dec. 66 |
| | | RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Miles, | W. V. | Sgt. | | 7 Apr. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Wright, | D. G. | A/Sgt. | | 30 May 74 | 1 Dec. 71 |
| Stuart, | M. A. | A/Sgt. | | 31 May 74 | 15 Jun. 65 |
| | | CLERK ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Cartwright, | B. J. | Cpl. | | 1 Oct. 73 | 1 Sep. 71 |
| Falconer, | D. B. | A/Sgt. | | 2 Oct. 73 | 30 Apr. 69 |
| Cudd, | B. F. | A/Sgt. | | 3 Oct. 73 | 31 Dec. 69 |
| Shelton-Smith, | R. | Cpl. | | 1 Nov. 73 | 31 Oct. 67 |
| Beston, | C. W. | Cpl. | | 2 Nov. 73 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| Williams, | R. J. | Cpl. | | 1 Dec. 73 | 30 Apr. 67 |
| Smith, | R. | Cpl. | | 2 Dec. 73 | 31 Aug. 68 |
| Hancox, | R. J. J. | Cpl. | | 1 Jan. 74 | 31 Jul. 69 |
| McKittrick, | A. D. | A/Sgt. | | 2 Jan. 74 | 31 May 70 |
| Waller, | R. C. | Cpl. | | 3 Jan. 74 | 31 May 70 |
| Morgan, | J. N. | Cpl. | | 1 Feb. 74 | 31 May 66 |
| Stuart, | D. | Cpl. | | 2 Feb. 74 | 30 Apr. 67 |
| Yallop, | M. R. | Cpl. | | 15 Feb. 74 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Powles, | J. M. | A/Sgt. | | 1 May 74 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Sharp, | J. T. | A/Sgt. | | 2 May 74 | 30 Apr. 70 |
| Roberts, | J. G. | Cpl. | | 4 May 74 | 31 Dec. 67 |
| | | CLERK TECHNICAL (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Phillippi, | T. W. | A/Sgt. | | 4 Oct. 73 | 11 Jul. 72 |
| Hyland, | N. | A/Sgt. | | 5 Oct. 73 | 31 Dec. 68 |
| Sloman, | W. J. A. | A/Sgt. | | 6 Oct. 73 | 31 Mar. 67 |
| Duffield, | B. G. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Nov. 73 | 31 May 69 |
| Henley, | D. E. C. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Dec. 73 | 31 Jul. 69 |
| Bradbury, | B. W. | Cpl. | | 2 Dec. 73 | 31 Jul. 67 |
| Turner, | R. | Cpl. | | 1 Feb. 74 | 31 May 68 |
| Watson, | B. G. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Mar. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| Davidson, | J. | A/Sgt. | | 15 Mar. 74 | 21 Jul. 64 |
| Collyer, | W. A. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Apr. 74 | 31 Jan. 68 |
| Stevenson, | J. | A/Sgt. | | 4 Apr. 74 | 30 Apr. 70 |
| | | COMBAT DRIVER ROLL | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Archer, | B. W. | Cpl. | | 1 Apr. 74 | 30 Apr. 69 |
| Jinman, | T. A. | Cpl. | | 2 Apr. 74 | 30 Dec. 70 |
| | | COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Brand, | J. W. | Sgt. | | 4 Apr. 74 | 2 Dec. 66 |
| | | COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL | | | |
| To S-Sgt. | | | | | |
| Tunney, | J. P. | Sgt. | | 3 Apr. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Holverson, | G. H. | Cpl. | | 9 May 74 | 1 May 71 |

**INSERTIONS**

TO COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sgt. | | | | |
| Thomas, | A. J. | from RR Tech | 25 Jun. 70 | |
| | | REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | |
| Cooley | A. E. | | 2 Jan. 74 | 22 Feb. 69 |

(deleted in error May/June Wire)

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

## Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1973

| 1972 | | | | | 1972 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| £ | £ | | £ | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| | | ACCUMULATED FUND | | | | OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION | | 270 |
| 154,287 | | Balance at 1 January 1973 | 169,782 | | 301 | INVESTMENTS AT COST | | |
| 15,495 | | *Add:* Excess of income over expenditure for the year | 22,267 | | | Quoted (Market value £179,993, 1972—£235,093) | 166,666 | |
| | 169,782 | | | 192,049 | 161,335 | Unquoted—Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited | 4 | |
| 6,335 | | Sundry Creditors and accrued charges | | 3,260 | 4 | | | 166,670 |
| | | NOTE: Included in bank balances is an amount of £3,000 deposited with Royal Bank of Scotland as security for a loan made by the bank to a member of the association. The loan is expected to be repaid in 1974 and the deposit together with accumulated interest will then be released. | | | 161,339 | STOCKS IN HAND, at cost | 1,470 | |
| | | | | | 1,337 | *Less:* Provision for slow-moving stocks | 80 | |
| | | | | | 80 | | | 1,390 |
| | | | | | 1,257 | | | |
| | | | | | 3,331 | SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS | | 12,624 |
| | | | | | 1,992 | INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE | | 1,709 |
| | | | | | 7,897 | CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND | | 12,646 |
| | | | | | | *Chairman:* M. D. PRICE<br>*Secretary:* P. M. P. HOBSON | | |
| £176,117 | | | | £195,309 | £176,117 | | | £195,309 |

**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 affairs of the Fund at 31 December 1973 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

3, Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry,
London, EC2R 8DB.
12 March 1974

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
*Chartered Accountants.*

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1973

### GENERAL

| 1972 | | | | | 1972 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| £ | £ | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | | ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | | 289 | SUBSCRIPTIONS | | 244 |
| | | Salaries, national insurance, superannuation contributions | 606 | | 33 | RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES | | 47 |
| 1,140 | | Pensions to former employees | 468 | | | SUNDRY INCOME | | |
| 468 | | Other administrative expenses | 2,019 | | | Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and diaries | 641 | |
| 2,061 | | | | | 494 | *Less:* Provision for slow-moving stocks | 80 | |
| | 3,669 | | | 3,093 | 80 | | | 641 |
| | | DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE AND FITTINGS | | 30 | 414 | | | |
| 33 | | COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS | | 2,180 | 6,827 | INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS | | 8,869 |
| 1,529 | | CONTRIBUTION TO COSTS OF PUBLICATIONS | | 2,821 | 9,858 | PROFIT ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS | | 4,115 |
| 2,274 | | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | | 6,987 | | PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT—COST OF INVESTMENT WRITTEN BACK | | 549 |
| 9,946 | | | | | 30 | BANK DEPOSIT INTEREST | | 646 |
| | 13,948 | | | | | | | |
| £17,451 | | | | £15,111 | £17,451 | | | £15,111 |

### BENEVOLENT

| 1972 | | | | | 1972 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| £ | £ | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| | | ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | | | DONATIONS | | |
| | | Salaries, national insurance, superannuation contributions | 4,408 | | 850 | Individuals and local branches | 550 | |
| 3,808 | | Postage of welfare parcels | 240 | | 1,241 | Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals | 1,308 | |
| 322 | | Sundry expenses | 119 | | | | | 1,858 |
| | | | | | 2,091 | | | |
| | 4,130 | | | 4,767 | 6,480 | RECEIPTS FROM CORPS FUNDS | | |
| | 13,853 | BENEVOLENT GRANTS | | 11,935 | 34,798 | Officers | 7,444 | |
| | | DONATIONS | | | | Other ranks | 37,750 | |
| 20,000 | | Army Benevolent Fund | 15,000 | | 41,278 | | | 45,194 |
| | | All Saints—Blandford | 466 | | 1,027 | BENEVOLENT GRANTS REFUNDED | | 1,225 |
| | | CR Signals—Northern Ireland | 280 | | | | | |
| | | Alamein Memorial | 200 | | | | | |
| 240 | | Star and Garter Homes | 80 | | | | | |
| 624 | | Others | 269 | | | | | |
| | 20,864 | | | 16,295 | | | | |
| | 5,549 | EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | | 15,280 | | | | |
| | £44,396 | | | £48,277 | £44,396 | | | £48,277 |

### SUMMARY

| 1972 | | | | 1972 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| £ | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*September-October, 1974*


# 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, SW3 4RH. Tel. Nos.* 01-730 4129 *and* 01-730 3477. *Ext.* 143.

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
*Individual: Yearly* **£1·80**; *monthly* **15p.**
*Bulk (six or more copies): Yearly* **£1·20**; *monthly* **10p.**
*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

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**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 9**


# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

### TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Our picture features the sharp contrast between the leisurely and picturesque days of the 16th century exemplified by the two Yeomen Warders and the modern air age indicated by the helicopter background.

The picture was taken during the Corps publicity exercise 'Signal View' staged by 14th Signal Regiment and the two Yeomen Warders are Jack Head and Len Harvey—both ex-members of the Regiment. The pilot is Staff-Sergeant Nimmo.

## The Regular Forces Employment Association

This Association is officially recognised by the Government and the armed forces as an employment agency for the Services. It works in close co-operation with the Department of Employment.

The Association exists for the express purpose of assisting men and women who have not taken commissioned rank and who leave with good characters, to find suitable employment; that is to say, employment which suits their qualifications and capabilities as well as meeting, as far as possible, their personal needs.

The Association is supported by the benevolent and welfare funds of the three Services and from public funds.

The Association's services are entirely free and no payment is accepted from those who register, or from employers. Furthermore, registration with the Association involves no obligation.

There are, throughout the United Kingdom, 42 Branches of the Association each run by an employment officer whose job it is to advise ex-regulars on resettlement matters and to assist them in finding employment. These employment officers are in close touch with employers to whom they are always ready to recommend suitable applicants. The employment officers are kept fully informed about vacancies notified to the Association and occurring all over the country. They are, therefore, equipped with a great deal of national and local knowledge. They normally attend Resettlement Boards in the UK and are ready to interview and advise men and women at any time during or after their service and to register them during their terminal leave. Moreover, the Association preserves a long-term interest in ex-Regulars and they may use its services as often as they wish.

The Association is a recognised channel of recruitment for certain government appointments, and many other employers, knowing the qualities of men who have been in the Services, keep the Branches informed of vacancies which they would like to fill with ex-regulars. In the majority of cases, the ex-regular will be more satisfactorily placed in employment with the help of the Association than if he seeks employment himself.

In 1973 the RFEA found employment for 304 ex-members of the Corps which, incidentally, is represented on the RFEA management committee by the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.

The head office of RFEA is at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN. Tel.: 01-637 3918. Branches in other main centres of the U.K. can be found in local telephone directories.

# CYPRUS SITREP

**We are more than fortunate to have 'come by' several letters written by Brigadier Peter Robertson of the Corps to a friend, on his experiences as Commander Dhekelia Garrison during the Cyprus troubles. We have put Brigadier Peter—who is a modest man—on the spot by saying that we propose to publish extracts unless he lets us know otherwise. Being a kind man he has not, at the time of going to press, said no.**

### WITHDRAWAL OF FAMILIES AND CIVILIANS FROM LARNACA AND NICOSIA

"In the early hours of Saturday morning the order came to evacuate our families. We cleared Larnaca by early afternoon but by this time Famagusta was in the midst of a battle round the Old City with sporadic Turkish air attacks at this time mainly directed at the Greek installations. By Saturday evening we had to call a halt to operations in Famagusta and had evacuated about 50% of the families. On the Sunday morning we had, by midday, completed the extraction of the balance of our families although in one area, now known in our minds as the 'triangle', this had to be done by using Saracen armoured cars and very much under fire. The remainder of the afternoon we carried out the task of completing the withdrawal of tourists and by this time the air attacks had spread to the hotel area. At the same time we now had to mount the rescue operation to Nicosia.

The Nicosia convoy left Dhekelia at about 1100 hours, was in Nicosia by 1245 hours and by 1400 hours the first batch of 300 cars plus 4-tonners was pouring into Dhekelia. By that evening we had housed all our own families in other quarters in Dhekelia, had filled Alexander Barracks with 1000 refugees documented ready for evacuation, had put another 2500 in the open on the playing field and a further 2000 temporarily staged at Ayios Nikolaos. Fortunately 40 Commando had arrived three days before. They kept all-in-stew going for 24 hours a day; by Monday morning had erected a tented camp and the Sappers had dug the usual services.

From midnight on the Sunday the RAF flew a Hercules on the hour every hour for 24 hours a day from Kingsfield, a most encouraging noise to the many that by now awaited their turn to fly out.

We moved about 360 US citizens by helicopter to ships of the 6th Fleet and an Eastern bloc ship called to take off Russians and other Eastern bloc people.

Phase 2, of course, came with the evacuation of the Kyrenia party who came into the Area by helicopter from Hermes, and Shirley (Mrs Robertson) spent a long evening driving them down in batches to Alexander Barracks.

We are now left with about 160 people still to fly to the UK, having already flown out over 7000. There also remain the hard core of about 120, mainly from Kyrenia and Nicosia, who are still waiting to see what to do next. 40 Commando have now been replaced by 3 RAF who will be replaced soon by 10 GR on a six months tour. Needless to say we are thrilled by this particular news.

### LIGHTER MOMENTS

Some flashes of humour: there was the lady who having fought her way to the top of the queue enquired where she could get her duty-free cigarettes and whisky. There was another lady who, after the rush had died down, appeared and asked to be flown immediately to Zurich within 12 hours. When told that the best we could offer was a flight to Brize Norton some time within the next 36 hours, she said that if this was the best the Army and RAF could do it wasn't good enough and demanded to know the name of the man in charge. She was told firmly 'Sir John Aiken!'

As you may know the High Commission itself was very much in the front line and alternated between being in Turkish and Greek posts. Fortunately we had got a Royal Signals detachment in there at an early stage. At one time the High Commissioner had issued strict instructions that nobody was to leave at all. There was, however, a problem. There were three dogs inside who wished to spend the usual pennies. The resourceful Royal Signals detachment found a new use for D10 cable, tied it to their collars, opened the door just sufficiently to let them get out and after a suitable time hauled them back to safety".

### LATER

### FURTHER WITHDRAWALS

"On the evening of Sunday, 11th August, it became apparent that we had, once more, to be ready to snatch our families from the dormitory towns and this time possibly in even more difficult circumstances. By the morning of Monday, 12th August (the glorious twelfth!), we were poised ready to complete the evacuation of Larnaca within an hour and a half, and Famagusta within three hours—all being well. I think we all felt that that was one of the longest days in our lives as we sat waiting for the word 'Go' and knowing full well that if it had not been received by nightfall we might be faced with an even greater problem. My main concern, of course, was Famagusta, which had already received its share of air attacks in Phase 3. What was essential was to try and get out, if we could, before the stream of refugees which we knew would pour out of the town. When the order was finally given at first light on the 13th fortunately all was still quiet and we had safely completed our operations within the time schedule and without any casualties. A sigh of relief!

From then on we began, in some ways, to feel like a control headquarters watching both sides of a battle which we could not control. Our major problem was that south of the line between us and Famagusta were at least two, possibly three, Greek National Guard Battalions and it caused some concern to us to wonder how they would fight and when they would withdraw. As professionals we were watching the extremely slow advance of the Turks with interest and pictured the Defence Commanders beating their Brigade Commanders about the head for not getting on with it.

### A DELICATE OPERATION

Finally, as the Turks grew closer to Famagusta we started to see the problem that we had anticipated—the request from the Greek National Guard to withdraw through our positions back towards Larnaca. This caused a flurry of activity and in the end my orders were to let them through Platoon at a time, with their weapons in the bottom of their trucks. At some stage in the middle of the night, my ideas about the strength of a Greek National Guard platoon got a bit hazy, but by dawn the majority were safely through us.

### CONFRONTATION

The next drama was the arrival of a long line of the Turkish tanks around Ayios Nikolaos. We had been assured at the highest level that the Turks had been notified of the exact position of the Sovereign Base Areas and that they had promised not to violate our territory. What, of course, was in our minds was whether these orders had got down to the leading Troop Commander. The crunch came when the leading tank appeared to be crossing the north-east tip of the Ayios Nikolaos Garrison. We put forward a scout car accompanied—unofficially so far as we were concerned—by Richard Dimbleby and his TV team. Three rounds were fired at them, all of which missed; we could then see a consultation amongst the Turks and finally were able to establish contact with them. Resulting from this it soon became clear that they had no intention of violating our territory and eventually they moved across to the north-east. A few hours later a tank having travelled up the road from Famagusta towards Ayios Nikolaos stopped about 100 metres away. The Troop Commander got out, looking rather disturbed. On investigation we found out that he had run out of diesel, used up all his main ammunition, the machine-gun had jammed and the radio was broken. Without Command Secretary's permission, we filled up the tank and invited him to withdraw in the direction from which he had come.

Yesterday the same drama occurred on our Western flank near Pergamos Camp. Once again an advance formation pressed on almost to the border. OC 'A' Sqn 16/5L went forward to 'parlez'. He was reinforced by Turkish LOs from Famagusta and once again it became apparent that the leading commander's map-reading was not very good. He withdrew to the west and yesterday there was considerable activity in and around the village of Troulli which is too close to our border for our liking.

### STILL MORE REFUGEES

Simultaneously with all this, of course, we had an influx of refugees which has made our previous 7,000 look like chicken-feed. We have, as you may recall, two villages belonging to the Republic within the Sovereign Base Area and these now contain, to our estimate, about 10,000 refugees each. We have another 10,000 in our own refugee camp in Akna Forest, and on the outskirts of the SBA and to the east we estimate another 40,000 refugees. Famagusta is, of course, now a deserted town although yesterday by arrangement with the Turks we went in and have secured our quarters and placed a Union Jack upon them. They have also allowed us to go in and collect further supplies of meat and rations from the NAAFI warehouse. So far as we know there are still a few Greek National Guard between us and Famagusta but not enough to make it a potential danger. The present threat to Larnaca also makes it most unlikely that many of our refugees will drift back in that direction.

Yesterday was a day of meetings with the District Officers and Mayors to try and see what we can do to help the plight of some of these people and today we are going to start distributing to them bread, flour and baby food.

As you will now know by World News, the British High Commission is now located under my Headquarters and the High Commissioner and his wife are staying in Dhekelia House.

What we are not quite sure about is whether we are still in Phase 4 or if we are about to start on Phase 5 and, if so, what shape is it going to take?"

## *CAMERA REPORT FROM 603 SIG TP, MASIRAH*

This remote Corps Troop makes our front pages because of an unexpected spare column and a half. We feature a few camera shots of their daily life—but note arm-twisting approach in photo below!

BLACKMAIL!

"Good propaganda—now will you put our pictures in The Wire?" W.O.2 John Hill (I/C Troop) and Sergeant Charlie Peach pose as avid readers of a certain publication. Naturally we gave in!

THREE'S COMPANY

Cable meggering is all the rage. Signalmen Tony Gardner and Tony Crampton on the job while Sergeant Charlie Peach records results. Incidentally Tony Gardner is ex-R.N. but saw the light we are told

THIS IS THE WAY YOU DO IT

Old soldier Signalman 'Bondu' Hames instructs newcomer Signalman Jock McLay—not in the Troop long enough to take his shirt off

## From our "In" Tray

### Corps Cyclist raises DM3,500 for RAF 'Launch a Lifeboat' Scheme

R.A.F. Wildenrath has concentrated its charity work this year on a scheme to 'Launch a Lifeboat'. A series of sponsored events have taken place and are to take place throughout the year in an effort to raise DM25,000. This money will buy an inflatable lifeboat for inshore rescue work to be used by the Royal Naval Lifeboat Institution, which depends entirely on public support for its existence.

In July **Signalman Alan Armstrong,** of 'K' Troop, 21 Signal Regiment, the line troop on the station, completed a 500km cycle ride from Wildenrath to Amsterdam and return in two days. Backed by a two-car team provided by 'K' Troop, he left Wildenrath early on Thursday morning and returned, exactly on time to a tumultuous welcome, the next evening. He was met by **Mrs. Tetley,** the wife of Commander Base Wing, RAF Wildenrath, who had waved him on his way the day before. The efforts of **Signalman Armstrong** and the many members of 'K' Troop who organised the sponsorship have netted some DM3,500, the largest single contribution to the fund so far.

Signalman Armstrong being cheered on his way by Mrs. Tetley and members of 'K' Troop, at the start of his 500km sponsored cycle ride

### An Ex-Apprentice College RSM Looks Back

by

**Signalman Keith Thompson**

I JOINED the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, at the age of 16 as a budding technician. Whilst at Harrogate I rose to the dizzy heights of College Regimental Sergeant-Major. Imagine the pride felt both by myself and my parents as I took an hour-long parade of almost 900 apprentices as a finale to my two years at the college.

I then moved to Catterick, where, after interviews with the Army's version of the Citizen's Advice Bureau, I was guided into another trade better suited to my capabilities. In the space of nine months I was retrained as a Telecommunications Mechanic and posted to 21 Signal Regiment (RAF Bruggen), where I had a thoroughly enjoyable tour working on the airfield and making good friends.

Almost a year later I volunteered to fill a vacancy in Malta and three weeks later, much to my delight, I was told to start packing. So it was, after five weeks' leave, that I arrived in Malta to serve with Airfield Troop, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta).

Once again I found myself working on an airfield, only this time getting a good sun tan for my efforts. So far during my two months with the Troop I have taken part in many activities, including basketball and volleyball for the Army in Malta and athletics (Javelin) for Electrical Engineering Wing, RAF Luqa. I have recently completed a volleyball coaching course run by the Royal Navy, and I have just started to water ski behind the Squadron boat. Contrary to popular opinion, we do have to find time to fit in the odd period of work.

A scene from the Blandford Station Music and Drama Club production 'Cat Among the Pigeons' *Left to right:* Brian Whitely, Lilian Williams, Hugh Bonaker, Helen Walter and Mary Bonaker

### Blandford Camp Music and Drama Club

A correspondent writes:

The Drama Section of the Club presented the north-country comedy 'Cat Among the Pigeons' by Duncan Greenwood in August.

The play scored many firsts, not least of which was the fact that we had a lady producer. **Sylvia MacGillivray,** the wife of **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter MacGillivray,** having made her mark as a stage performer, turned her hand to production. She clearly has a flair for this work as well as being a fine actress. Much of the success of the show must, therefore, go to **Sylvia.** Sadly the **MacGillivrays** have now been posted to Turkey.

In picking out two of the cast for special mention it is not because the other players did not contribute enormously to the overall performance, but rather because these two not only had the best of the comic material but they knew how to use it.

**Mary Bonaker** gave a quite delightful performance as Grandma, her movements and timing being exactly right. It was no mean feat to play with such conviction a character twice one's own age, but the fact that she did so was undoubtedly due to her considerable previous stage experience.

Her performance was matched by that of **Brian Whitely** as Alfred. His portrayal of this down-trodden husband was a joy to watch; his ability to glean a laugh from the most mundane line of dialogue merely reinforces what we have always suspected, that he missed his vocation as a stand-up comic!

Of the other members of the cast, some newcomers to the Blandford Stage, **Sergeant Peter Stuart,** gave a sound performance, highlighted by a most life-like scene when he was the worse for drink. (Not, we understand, from real life experience—Editor.) He under-played this scene with striking effect, whilst **Helen Walter** vamped him with a love dance from the Orient in most convincing style. This scene, difficult enough for amateurs, was a high point of the production.

**Val Tusler** and **John Cordey** (an ex-W.O.1 Foreman of Signals) gave most promising 'first appearance' performances, as did **Major Hugh Bonaker,** press-ganged from his normal task as stage manager.

The case was completed by **Lilian Williams** and **Kay Everett. Lilian** gave her usual confident portrayal—yet again of an unsympathetic character—and **Kay** was convincing both as the spurned fiancee and in the difficult scene when 'she makes it up' with her boyfriend—another situation which amateur groups seldom achieve the conviction attained in this particular production.

Briefly going backstage to mention some of the real workers, the set, which was constructed by **Major Richard Sprague, R.A.,** and **Len Tusler,** was acclaimed as the best ever seen in Blandford. **Sergeant Dave Pugh** and his wife **Carole** did the husband and wife stage management act with **Flight-Lieutenant Stuart Brayshaw** producing sound and light at appropriate times.

In sum, an excellent evening's entertainment which certainly maintained the high standards of drama in Blandford.



## Obituary

### Major A. M. Keeling, OBE, TD

Major I. B. C. Jones, TD, writes:

We are sorry to have to record the death of Max Keeling, who died suddenly at his home in Bath on the 24th June.

He was a founder member of the Bath and District Branch of the Association, serving as vice-chairman and welfare member. In addition, he gave wholehearted support to the Bath Branch of the Royal British Legion, serving on the executive and service committee, and was President of the South-Western Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. His voluntary interests included several local social services and pensions committees and his services with the Ministry of Defence (Navy) were recognised with the award of the OBE.

Max was appointed to a commission in 48 (SM) Division Signals TA in 1937 and on the outbreak of war he served in that unit with the BEF until the evacuation at Dunkirk, during which he was mentioned in despatches, later being promoted and appointed Adjutant. In 1942 he became Adjutant of 78 Division Signals and served with the unit in North Africa before going to the Staff College at Camberley in 1943. On leaving the College he held various staff appointments as GSO2 in UK and NWE. After the war he continued in TA service with 63 Signal Regiment TA and 43 (W) Infantry Division Signal Regiment TA, eventually transferring to TARO in 1952.

Max was dedicated in his services for the welfare of former members of the services and gave us all a splendid example of 'service not self' and his passing will be mourned by his former comrades in the Corps. An estimation could be made of the affection and esteem in which he was held by the attendance of so many ex-comrades, civil service colleagues, friends and relatives at his funeral where the standards of the Association, Royal British Legion, and Dunkirk Veterans Association combined in the moving farewell to one who lived respected and died regretted.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, Greta, who supported him so well in all his interests and to his family.

### Major W. W. Young, MSM

William Wright Young, who died on the 24th May, 1974, was commissioned in the Corps as a quartermaster in 1943 and served in the Middle East during the Second World War. After the war he was employed almost entirely in the Ministry of Supply as a technical officer until he retired in 1957.

### Captain C. W. Gibbard

We have recently learned of the death of Charles William Gibbard on the 30th May, 1974, at the age of 73. Charles Gibbard enlisted in the Corps in 1920 and was granted an emergency quartermaster commission in 1941. During the war he saw service in India, the Middle East and Burma. At the end of the war he was posted to an anti-aircraft signals unit, his last appointment before retiring in 1947 being adjutant of 2nd Anti Aircraft Group (M) Signal Unit.

### Major T. B. Ferriday

Thomas Bennett Ferriday was born in 1894 and commissioned from the RMA, Woolwich, into the Royal Engineers in 1915. He served in France and Mesopotamia during the First World War and transferred to the Corps in 1921. He specialised in wireless communications and gained a BA at St John's College, Cambridge, in 1923. In 1925 he served with No. 2 W/T Company at Sarafand and then went out to India, where he served at Rawlpindi, Karachi and Meerut. He retired on returning to the UK in 1939 and was recalled at the outbreak of the Second World War, when he was appointed adjutant of Cambridge University Contingent Senior Training Corps until 1941. He was then posted to No. 3 STC. He finally retired in 1942 and died on the 18th April, 1974.

### Major R. Scrase

Reginald Scrase enlisted in the Corps in the mid-twenties and saw active service on the North-West Frontier in 1936–37 and 1937–39. He was commissioned whilst still in India in 1940 and served in various units in India and Ceylon for the rest of the Second World War. He returned to the UK in February of 1945 but went back to India in September, where he remained until 1948. From 1949 he served in BAOR until retiring in 1953. He died on 23rd May, 1974, at the age of 66.

### Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Pain, MC

We have just received notification of the death of William Evelyn Pain on 7th May, 1974, at the age of 87. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, into the Royal Engineers in 1908. He served with the RE Signal Companies in Ireland before the First World War and with the BEF in France. He was wounded in 1915, was twice mentioned in despatches and was awarded the MC in 1916. At the end of the war he attended a Junior Staff course at Cambridge and was then posted to 214 Infantry Brigade as brigade major, later serving on the German Polish Boundary Commission in Paris. In 1921 he qualified at the Staff College, Camberley. He transferred to the Corps in 1922 and held various staff appointments at the War Office and in Constantinople between 1921 and 1926. He then had short spells with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine and at the STC before going out to India in 1927. He retired in 1928 after a brief period of staff officer to the SO-in-C India. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was recalled and served as DAAG AG11 and AAG ATS Directorate until 1942. For the rest of the war he served with anti-aircraft units and command signal units in the UK, his latest appointment being CO London District Signals until his retirement in 1945.

### Mr. Lesley Price Lowe

News has just been received of the death of Mr. L. P. Lowe, generally known as Len Lowe

Len joined the Corps in the early twenties and served in Rawalpindi about 1925. After eight years with the Colours he returned to the Reserve but was called up again in 1939. After a period at Bulford he was posted to Catterick for the remainder of the war until demobilisation, when he returned to civilian life.

A native of Hull he was an inaugural member of the Hull Branch of the Association and remained a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the branch up to his death. He was also well known to members of the York Branch. At the funeral the coffin was draped with the Branch standard and the pall-bearers were all branch members. The Reverend Dearden (ex-major Royal Signals and Branch Chaplain) conducted the service. Len will be sadly missed by a host of friends in Hull and York. Our sympathy goes to his widow at 38 Carden Avenue, Bilton Grange, Hull.

### Major J. M. Drake

P.C.T. writes:

Despite a protracted illness it was none the less a great shock to all who knew him to learn of the death of Major John Mills Drake at the early age of 35 years.

John was born on 19th October, 1938, in Leeds and educated at Giggleswick School, Welbeck College and the RMA, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1959.

A keen sportsman who represented Welbeck College at rugby, cricket, gymnastics, shooting and boxing and later at the RMA, Sandhurst, at boxing and shooting. His inability to continue playing the games he so enjoyed, because of his illness, was probably one of his greatest disappointments in life.

After completing his 'Q' course and following a winter training exercise in Norway, John joined 3 Division Signal Regiment in Bulford, where he served as a troop commander and later assistant adjutant.

In 1962 he was posted to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon, Scotland, where he was appointed the Signals Training Officer. It was at Troon, whilst awaiting a secondment to the Malaysian Army, that he contracted the illness from which he subsequently died.

I first met John in 1965 at 11 Signal Regiment in Catterick, when I comanded No. 1 Squadron and he was my second-in-command.

He was by then having to attend Millbank Hospital at regular intervals, but no one who did not know him very well would ever have guessed the extent of his ill health. He seldom lost his cheerfulness and his sense of humour never deserted him.

Restricted to home stations, he was posted to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, in 1969, having completed four years with 11th Signal Regiment.

It was during this tour in Harrogate, in October 1969, that he and Miss Barbara Ann Foat, of Chigwell, Essex, whom he had first met during his tour in Troon, were married. My wife and I had known Barbara since Catterick days in 1965 and later

we were frequent visitors to the beautiful home that she had made for themselves at Holly Cottage, Hartwith, Nidderdale.

In 1971 I returned to UK and the Army Apprentices College and learned to my pleasure that once again John was to work with me, initially as the Deputy Chief Instructor and then, on promotion, as the Officer in Charge of the Technician Training Wing. The characteristics that first caught my attention in 1965 and endeared him to all who met him were still there; his keen sense of responsibility, his loyalty to his family and the Corps and his humour. However, he was now showing the signs of his long and energy-sapping illness and the pain that he had endured with such fortitude.

Over the 10 years that spanned our friendship I came to know John very well and looked upon him as one of my closest friends. One of the few pleasures left to him was the enjoyment of food and it was fitting therefore that the last time I saw John was when he, Barbara and my wife and I dined together on my last night in Harrogate. He was as I shall always remember him, cheerful, amusing and very good company.

A mere eight months later I learned of his untimely death, in Harrogate, on 8th April, 1974.

I am sure that all who knew him would wish to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to his widow, Barbara, his brother Robert and his parents. We shall miss him.

# ROUND BRITAIN YACHT RACE—1974

by

***Lieutenant Robin Burrows***

*'FUN DAYS IN THE COLD AND WET*

*'They are already tired, wet, cold, underfed and maybe a little frightened. Not one of them will have had a decent night's sleep. Indeed most of them will have been awake all night in a turbulent boat with danger on every quarter. They are either idiots or a superior breed of human beings'.*

So started an article in *The Observer* on the 7th July, 1974. On the 2nd August another article began:

*'Home is the soldier, home from the sea—with tenth place in* The Observer*—Royal Western Round Britain yacht race and the memory of a 38-foot fall to prove his participation'.*

I was 'one of the idiots'!

**A MAJOR SETBACK TO START WITH**

Involvement with the Round Britain race started early in 1973, as I searched for someone to provide the financial backing for an entry. Success arrived in July, when a 26ft trimaran appeared on the scene. A hard six months of preparation followed, pushing the boat to the limit in a series of offshore cruises and races. However, disaster struck in March 1974 when the boat—only just returned to the water after a refit at Marchwood—either broke up or hit a floating object as it was sailing at 15 knots in the Channel. It sank without trace, but happily was fitted with extensive safety equipment and radio, so no human injuries were sustained.

The sky turned blue again fortunately two days later when a multihull designer, **Tony Smith,** telephoned to say that he wanted a co-skipper for a boat he was building. So followed a rush to meet the completion date in mid-May. Sea trials were completed successfully and so the 35ft cruising trimaran *Superstar* appeared on the start line at Plymouth on the 6th July. There had been no time for any work that was not absolutely essential to be carried out or even for self-steering gear to be fitted.

**THE COURSE**

The course consisted of a circuit round the British Isles, except the Channel Islands and Rockall, with four compulsory stops on the way where the two-man crews took a 48-hour break each time. *Superstar* completed the 1,900-mile course in 15½ days sailing time, logging 2,207 nautical miles. After climbing up through the fleet we finally achieved tenth place overall (there were 67 entrants) and third place in the under 35ft class. *Superstar* was the first of the 12 boats with serving officers aboard to complete the course.

**A NEAR THING**

Despite the rough weather, perhaps best shown by the fact that at least 21 of the 61 starters dropped out, we experienced little gear trouble. To counteract this the wind swung so that part of every leg was spent tacking. Memories remain of broken halliards, jib hank and stitching repairs, and the fall from the masthead while trying to rethread a halliard that had parted when a forestay fitting broke. In the darkness a wave broke on the boat while we were 100 miles off the east coast of Scotland; I was whipped off the mast, lifeline and all, fell to the coach roof and bounced into the cockpit. There was nothing to show for it but an irate **Tony Smith** worrying about the boat—and still no halliard mended!

**A REAL TEST**

The Round Britain is an extraordinary race—it means taking a yacht out deliberately into a force 9 gale (the strongest seen this year), the experience of the last one fresh in mind; knowing that one is once again going to have to keep the boat going as fast as possible, changing sails or even raising a spinnaker alone while still maintaining dead accurate navigation night and day. Perhaps, as **Donald Parr** in a newspaper report said, '. . . it is a real test. But best of all, when you're 70 you can look back and say you've done it!'

**(Comment by father, Colonel A. T. Burrows: 'From now on I hope he will be content to sail round the Isle of Wight instead!')**

The sponsor for the original 26 foot trimaran has offered to produce the financial backing for a new racing trimaran to Lieutenant Burrows' specification. The design will be aimed at the 1976 Trans-Atlantic race.


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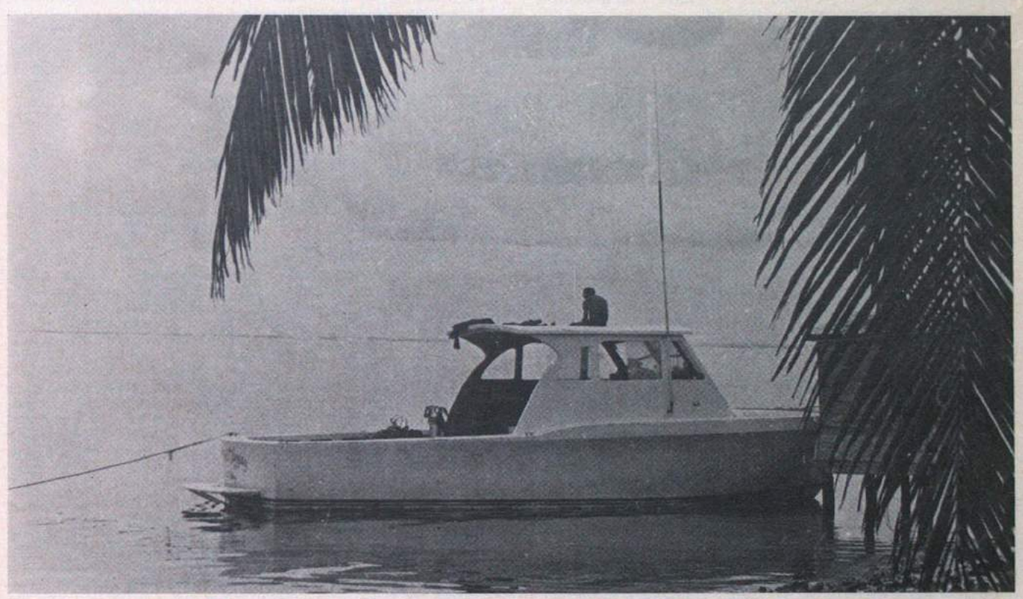
# COCONUTS AND CORAL

*A CARIBBEAN ODYSSEY*

*by*

SIGNALMAN JIM WILLIAMS

14 SIG. REGT. DET.—BELIZE



END OF DAY SCENE AFTER DIVING EXPEDITION IN ONE OF JACQUES COUSTEAU'S BLUE 'HOLES'

**You may have seen a series of films by Jacques Cousteau, the world-famous diver, concerned with the so-called 'Blue Holes' in the Caribbean Sea. One of these seabed 'holes' is just 50 miles off the coast of Belize and a party from Belize Garrison Sub-Aqua Club recently spent some time diving and exploring the area. The party included Signalman Steve Garner and myself. The following is an account of our adventures**

For those interested in sub-aqua, one of the best postings the Army can offer must be Belize (formerly British Honduras) in Central America. A few miles from the coast of this country lies the second longest reef in the world, the longest being the Australian Great Barrier Reef.

The famous 'Blue Hole', about which Jacques Cousteau made his film, is also a part of the reef. To our knowledge the area had not been dived by a team of Army divers, and so the combined Sub-Aqua Club of British Forces, Belize, decided to launch a four-day expedition. We left ourselves plenty of time for preparation and training as the idea started some months earlier when we had watched Cousteau's film. During this period we found ourselves thinking, 'If he can do it, why can't we?'

The hole is situated nearly 50 miles east of Belize, inside Lighthouse Reef, and was only discovered about 10 years ago. The reef is a large plateau about 12–15ft deep (surrounded by sea over 2,000ft deep), with the exception of the 'Blue Hole', which lies some seven miles north of Halfmoon Cay. The Hole itself is 412ft deep and 900ft across. It was formed some 12 million years ago, when the whole area was above sea-level. Cousteau proved this when he found stalactites and stalagmites inside the hole, which, of course, can only form in the air.

Our aim was to see these stalactites for ourselves and also to explore Lighthouse Reef in general. Our training consisted of regular 'deep dives' of 100–120ft plus, of course, all the necessary lectures on deep diving and the associated medical aspects.

Eventually we set off, our boat having been loaded the night before with what seemed like 10,000 tons of supplies and air

SOLDIERING IN BELIZE HAS ITS POINTS

The 'Blue Hole' diving team pose for the camera. Signalman Ian Williams—front row, 2nd from left. Signalman Steve Garner—back row, 6th from right

bottles. Or that's how it seems when only four people load 16 people's worth of gear for four days!

We lived on Halfmoon Cay, which is a veritable tropical island paradise. Most of our meals were freshly caught grouper and crayfish, followed by enormous helpings of coconut.

The dive in the 'Blue Hole' itself was quite incredible. The stalactites started at about 80ft and reached some 40ft in length. Unfortunately our dives were restricted to 130ft because of decompression problems and 'bottom time' allowed us only 14 minutes for each of our three dives per day. By the time one reached 130ft, however, visibility was only about 20ft because of the large overhang near the top of the hole.

Life on top of the reef was also quite fantastic with its coral gardens as yet untouched by man. Even the marine life didn't seem to mind divers and it was easy to swim up to the large grouper fish before they eventually moved away. Over the weekend we saw just about everything a diver can see in the region —sharks, barracuda, rays, moray eels and turtles. All this in addition to normal marine life too numerous to mention. This was quite a feat for **Signalman Steve Garner** because he took up Sub-Aqua to overcome his fear of marine life!

All in all, we had a fantastic four days exploring the beauty of the ocean floor and its marine life. Perhaps the only disappointment was that we didn't find 'the monster' which the locals believe lurks in the 'Blue Hole'. But perhaps it was asleep.

# ALDERNEY TIES RENEWED

## *30th Regiment support a number of Island projects*

THE Regimental summer training camp was held on Alderney, in the Channel Islands during the first half of July. The advance party under the RSM had their boat 'confiscated' by the TA and eventually arrived by air in penny packets to prepare for the main party. The vagaries of RPL engines and the channel weather made the movement plan an hourly changing problem but eventually all personnel were shipped by the RCT from Portsmouth and Marchwood to Alderney—although there are some of us who are now really convinced that any life is better than going to sea.

**HEY HO! HEY HO! IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO**

**R.S.M. McMahon,** for those who know him, still suffers from insomnia and the daily fitness training for everyone began with a three-mile run along the cliff tops at 0600 hrs each morning. These runs, I am sure, will be remembered by not a few. After a hearty breakfast cooked by **W.O.2 'Compo Jim' Hastie** the morning was spent in and around Fort Tourgis on military training, with the afternoon spent in carrying out projects for the island authorities as below.

**LOCAL PROJECTS**

The hospital has had a new set of stone and concrete steps made. The steps down the steep Telegraph Bay were refurbished and this year it was the turn of the RC church cemetery to be cleared. The Southampton University archaeological dig was also assisted in their activities on the island and we also repositioned the antenna on the Harbour Master's newly extended office. We now have some experts with a pneumatic drill as this equipment was provided by the PWD to help the team who repaired some of the storm damaged cobbles in the inner harbour.

**GOVERNOR ENTERTAINED**

The Commandant of the Army Apprentices College kindly allowed **Pipe Major Cross, A/T Pipe Major Laing** and some pipes and drums to accompany us. They played at the Island School, where a mini-recruiting campaign was staged, at the senior citizens' home and at the reception given for the President of Alderney and the members of the states and jurats. We were also fortunate to be able to entertain **HE the Governor** and **Lady Mills,** who were paying a farewell visit to the President. A church parade was held on the Sunday morning and the fine acoustics of St Anne's Church were well tested by the playing of the pipes for 10 minutes before the service by **A/T Pipe Major Laing.** This was followed by a *vin d'honneur* in the island hall to say farewell to the resigning Governor and a concert at the senior citizens' home.

**REGIMENT TAKES OVER VALLEY**

The highlight of the camp was the presentation of the Val du Sud to 30th Signal Regiment by the local Beauties Committee. The intention is for the Regiment to enhance this wild but beautiful valley over a period of three or four years by planting trees, clearing the scrub and building steps and a pathway down the valleyside and along the stream side. We have already cleared the steps and have planted some 60 trees. The valley is yet to be christened, but, as you might expect, the name Swan Valley and Signal Valley are high on the list.

# *News from Regiments*

## 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford

**DAY-BY-DAY LIFE IN A BUSY REGIMENT**

IT would be too much to ask you to believe that it was an average period and so we will not try, but the following account for the first half of July will give some indication of life in 3 Division Signal Regiment.

**Wednesday, 3rd.** The new GOC, **Major-General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** visits the Divisional HQ on exercise 'Staff Ride 12' for the first time.

**Thursday, 4th.** The exercise ends early to allow preparation for exercise 'Signal View' at Worcester and half of Alfa Troop therefore begin the task of bringing their vehicles up to recruiting team standard. The full-time recruiting team meanwhile, having finished the Aldershot Tattoo, pause briefly, draw breath and then disappear towards the Exeter Air Day. In Northern Ireland OC 2 Squadron, **Major David Morris,** ruefully surveys the battered remains of a ¾-ton FFR from which **Staff-Sergeant Dave McGurk, Signalman Phil Couchman** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Maskell** had emerged cut and bruised. What is left of 2 Squadron (mainly Sappers) are instructed on the intricacies (?) of the A41 prior to exercise 'Morris Dance'.

**Friday, 5th.** In a dusty plain in the Middle East **Lance-Corporal Dave Morton,** the senior member of a six-man detachment, stares out across the desert at the distant Jebel and wonders whether the last shout he heard was 'Come and get it!' or 'Incoming!'. A few miles down the road **Captains Nick Steven** and **Ben Higson** are engaged in a take/handover and **Captain Steven** wonders, for the first time, if he should have listened to the CO.

Back in Bulford the 'Signal View' detachment, clean, painted and inspected, leave for Worcester.

**Saturday, 6th.** Exercise 'Signal View', a recruiting drive involving many other signal regiments besides our own, swings into action. Led by **Captain Mike Anderson** with **Sergeant 'Chip' Standley** and some 12 soldiers, hundreds of Army cadets are taken through a mobile radio exercise in the Worcester area.

**Sunday, 7th.** By now over 500 have wriggled into the back of our FFRs, sweating inside their battledresses (and long hair?). At 1700 hrs the eight vehicles are on their way back to Bulford and from Bulford exercise 'Morris Dance' deploy to Weymouth



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to begin the task of providing communications for the International Flying Dutchman championship. This involves line-laying along Weymouth sea front, operating man-pack sets at sea and enjoying the sunshine (and other attractions) of the seaside.

**Monday, 8th.** In Northern Ireland the work of patrolling the streets continue for 24 members of the Regiment attached to 20 Medium Regiment RA. **Staff-Sergeant McGurk,** as part of **Major Morris's** team, emerges from hospital with a scar from hairline to top lip and in the HQ Northern Ireland Comcen **Corporal Roy Duncan,** who is there on a third and entirely different detachment, gets on to the engineering circuit to **Sergeant Danny Traynor** in our detachment across the water. At this location perched on its windy eminence **Sergeant Traynor,** after a month on post, prepares for handover to **Sergeant Jim MacDonald.** Back in Bulford the Oxford University OTC arrive and settle in for a week's training.

**Tuesday, 9th.** A dark-skinned, hirsute officer fresh from the desert arrives and is despatched abroad again (on leave) before his hair length is noticed. **Captain Higson's** desert companion, **Lance-Corporal 'Duke' Sivewright,** is meanwhile improving his suntan in Weymouth and **Sapper Dick Crouch,** a regimental dinghy helm, is in his element assisting the race officer.

From Malawi, where **Sergeant Chris Platts, Lance-Corporal Mick Godfrey** and **Signalman Kev Moran** are supporting an Engineer Squadron, comes the following signal:

*From: 20 Fd Sqn.*
*To: 3 Div HQ & Signal Regt.*
*From OC to CO. This being the thousandth message passed by the Rear Link Det, I commend their excellent work to you.*

Back in Bulford the Regiment comes second in the Divisional water polo (in a field of two) and third in the swimming championships. The CO is assured that but for the absence of **Signalmen Phil Harland** and **George Dinsdale** in Northern Ireland the swimming result would have been much better. Apparently we would also have done better in the Divisional tug-of-war that day but for the swimming.

**Wednesday, 10th. Signalman Harry Byers,** injured in an explosion whilst with 20 Medium in Northern Ireland, is transferred to hospital in UK and in Bulford we compete in the District tug-of-war and the Garrison fete.

**Thursday, 11th.** The CO flies to Northern Ireland, whilst back in warmer climes **Captain Steven,** wrestling with the intricacies of the Arab mind, mentally consigns him to somewhere even warmer. In Northern Ireland it is not raining enough to dampen the spirits of the men with 20 Medium and the new 'slim line' **Corporal 'Jock' Rennie** emerges from his OP, with professional care, to talk to the first of his two COs. It is also raining in Malawi and Bulford.

**Friday, 12th. Major Morris's** troop (?) prepare to leave Northern Ireland for Bulford; **Second-Lieutenant Brian Jackson's** half squadron (?) prepare to leave Bulford for Edinburgh to guard the castle, and the CO is fed up with 'The Sash' after the twentieth time of hearing. It is raining in Northern Ireland and Bulford.

**Saturday, 13th.** The CO moves to Scotland by ferry to the strains of 'The Sash' and is met by **R.S.M. Rod Mathieson.** In Cyprus **Sergeant Bob Burnett** wonders if he is still a member of the Regiment as he has not seen it for 11 months. It is raining only in Northern Ireland.

**Sunday, 14th.** On a bright, sunny but windy day, CO and RSM inspect the detachment which works to Northern Ireland and **Sergeant Jim McDonald** wonders why he had to be NCO IC at this particular time. It has stopped raining as the Edinburgh Castle guard motor north to meet up with CO and RSM at the castle, passing **Major Morris** and his crew fresh from Ireland on the M6 coming down.

**Monday, 15th.** It is now raining in Edinburgh but not hard enough to dampen the enthusiasm of **S.S.M. Jim McElvogue, Sergeants Ron Roberts** and **Pete Mills** or dull the shine on 35 'hand-picked' volunteers who are mounting guard on the castle. It is not raining 4,000 miles away in Salalah, where **Corporal Dave Taylor** sits beside his C45, in an outpost in the desert, wondering if Christmas will ever come.

**Tuesday, 16th.** CO back in the office. All quiet whilst he has been away except for two chaps to go to Belize and the Spearhead det to organise. In London the Strand recruiting office is taken over by us, whilst the main recruiting effort is in Newton Abbot. **Captain Chris Wollaston** prepares for the Garrison children's camp and apart from the catering inspection we look set for a quieter time at last.

Meanwhile in Cyprus . . .

As a footnote it is worth noting that most of the detachments mentioned above were filled by volunteers.

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 15

### 3 SQUADRON—TROOP ACTIVITIES

IT began at a Squadron Commanders' Conference when the OC, **Major Colin Brown,** gave each troop a project to complete during the summer. Reports on two of the tasks follow and the third, an adventure training expedition into the mountains of Austria, is still taking place. It is hoped the Staff MT Troop will provide a report in the next issue.

### BRAVO TROOP

Our task was to enter a team in the Nijmegen marches. That sounded very straightforward, but then we found there was not a single member of the troop with any experience of long marches, let alone any particular interest! Back in April the OC, **Lieutenant Jim Cadwallader,** started 'encouraging' the Troop to form a team and undertake some training. Before long a team of 15 were happily plodding around the Herford lanes, preparing to harden their feet for the 25 miles a day march at Nijmegen.

On the 13th July the team left for Holland with **Corporal Phil Tettersell** being selected in the hot seat as the bicycle man (14 others had volunteered for the job!). On the 16th July we joined the other 14,000 marchers to begin our four days' ordeal. Before long we were well into our stride with **Signalman 'Jock' Hughes** and **Signalman Graham Lamberton** leading the singing. The buzz soon went around the team that 'the Yeoman's got blisters'. This lifted morale and the pace was seen to increase. However, **Yeoman Rod Rayner** kept smiling and marching.

We all felt a sense of achievement to reach the last day without any member of the team dropping out. **Signalman 'Scouse' Wilson** had muscle trouble on the last day, but to his credit he kept going. The climax of the week was the final march through the town watched by thousands of spectators. As we were all smartening ourselves up, and stepping off on our left foot, a stranger from the crowd rushed forward and pushed a bunch of flowers into **Corporal 'Manny' Knight's** arms! What does a technician do with a bunch of flowers?

Although in April we did not have any experience of marches, we now have a keen and very enthusiastic team. We are looking ahead to two more marches this year, with one being in Paris.

BRAVO TROOP SET A GOOD PACE AT NIJMEGEN

*Left to right:* Lieutenant Cadwallader, 3 Squadron Flag, Signalman Wilson, Signalman Millar, Corporal Knights, Signalman Cameron, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Raynor

## LINE TROOP

When the Troop OC, **Second Lieutenant Tom O'Brien,** came back and said the Troop had to produce a tug-of-war team to represent the Regiment there was utter silence. Produce a soccer team, but who wants anything to do with tug-of-war? Certainly not Line Troop. That was in January; by May the only subject worth talking about in the Cable Store was tug-of-war. The Troop was really hooked on the training and sport. **Corporal Mick Renwick** lost so much weight around his waist that he looked a new man. Under the guidance of **Sergeant John Ackers** and **Corporal Bill Pitt** a tripod was erected to carry out practical pulls on a rope.

By early June the squad of 14 'dedicated' tug-of-war men were ready for action. Our first competitive pull was in the Morrison Cup, where we began to learn what it was all about. We were pleased to come fourth, but even happier with the experience we had gained. The following week saw the Troop team in ammunition boots and as a 640-kilo team taking part in the 4 Division championships. Here we really were encouraged by our supporters and had six straight pulls with the other teams, until our final pull of the day against 7 Signal Regiment, where we lost 2—0. However, the team came second and so qualified for the BAOR Championship. **Signalmen Steve Clayforth** and **Tom Small** just could not believe it.

The Troop team had reached the 'big time' and again we are all proud to take part as a Line Troop team with the eight finalists of the major units in BAOR. The team gave of their best and finished a very creditable sixth place out of the eight. We are already waiting to start training for next year.

LINE TROOP TUG-OF-WAR TEAM
THEY SURPRISED THEMSELVES!

*Back, left to right:* Signalman Millar, Signalman Small, Lance-Corporal McArdle, Signalman Hewitt, Signalman Vivian, Lance-Corporal Mair, Signalman Horton, Lance-Corporal Dunn
*Front, left to right:* Signalman Clayforth, Lance-Corporal Pitt, Second Lieutenant Obrien (with Divisional Runners-up Shield), Lance-Bombardier Milne, Corporal Mitchell and Corporal Renwick

## CANOEING

It seems a long time since canoeing last featured in these notes. In the competitive field we were represented in a White Water event on the River Erft on the 4th and 5th of April. In the team event the Regiment were unplaced, the complete team failing to finish the course. In the individual event **Signalman John Robertshaw** finished a very good second, well ahead of a number of far more experienced paddlers. **Corporal Frank Kelly** was fourth and **Signalman 'Blue' Linnett** ninth in a field of 19 competitors.

On the 27th and 28th April the first slalom event for a number of years was held at Binden Muhle on the River Innerste. In the team event the Regiment were placed fourth (out of 10). In the novices event **Signalman Linnett** finished second, **Signalman 'Jonah' Jones** ninth, **Lieutenant Mike Collins** thirteenth and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams** fifteenth in a field of 20. In the open event **Lance-Corporal Roy Jarvis** was placed sixth and **Signalman Linnett** seventh out of 18 competitors. It was most encouraging to have 45 competitors participating in the meeting.

At one stage it appeared that through lack of qualified instructors canoeing was likely to die (at least temporarily). The recent arrival of **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) 'Lemmy' Lomas** from his Yeoman's course and the successful completion of a Norway instructor's course by **Lance-Corporal Roy Jarvis** thankfully mean that canoeing will continue.

# 10 Sig Regt
# Hounslow

## SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION

THE Regimental safe driving competition for the Heath Trophy, which was presented by **W.O.1 (Ron) R. Heath** upon his departure from the Regiment in 1973, was held at Hounslow on Saturday, 22nd June, 1974. Eight teams of three took part, representing most sections of the Regiment. The course consisted of various obstacles and a Highway Code quiz. The standard of driving was very high and the competition keen.

The Heath Trophy was won by a WRAC team entered by 3 Squadron.

The prize for the best driver was won by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Galbraith.**

The Submariners Trophy was awarded to **Signalman Kessell** of MT Troop, who was awarded the most penalty points!

## 1 SQUADRON—WILTON

The focal point of the past couple of months must be the Squadron concert which took place on the 20th June in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Most of us went up to the civilian canteen on the great night with mixed feelings—many weeks of hushed-up rehearsals, furious activity centred on the Commcen and overheard snatches of script (frantically being practised during NAAFI breaks) had alerted everyone.

However, we were pleasantly surprised and impressed by the high standard of the acts and all the hard work that had gone into them.

**Sergeant Kath Ledgard** as Marlene Dietrich successfully overcame the handicap of being tone deaf and sang (?) 'Underneath the Lamplight' while fighting off the attentions of **Corporal John Steer** as Fritz. **Private Janet Taylor** and **Private Frankie Pritchard** produced an amusing sketch featuring that catastrophic TV couple, 'Frank and Betty', while, on a slightly less hilarious note **Private Elaine Kear,** accompanying herself on the guitar, sang a couple of songs that had recently been in the charts.

FINALE—BLACK AND WHITE MINSTRELS STYLE AT I SQUADRON CONCERT

A motley crew including Corporal C. McGregor, singing 'Sonny Boy' to Private J. Pickford on her lap, and the supervisor of our Telephone Exchange, Sergeant K. Ledgard, kneeling on the right in her Marlene Dietrich costume

The acts were too numerous to name individually, but it was obvious that both the cast and audience enjoyed themselves immensely. (Our players were so pleased with their success that they are now threatening a Christmas concert!)

On 2nd July the senior ranks and officers of the Squadron and their wives 'got together' for a beer and skittles evening at the Silver Plough in Pitton, off the A30. It was the first evening of its kind to be held and everyone agreed that it should not be the last.

Various team competitions were arranged, in one of which the female contingent beat the men decisively. The individual competition, which carried a kitty to which all had contributed money, was won by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) John Morrison.** Although there was much debate as to whether he had received outside help, he was given the benefit of the doubt!

On the sporting side HQ UKLF entered a rounders team for the South-West District rounders tournament consisting of the following girls from the Squadron: **Corporal 'Babs' Taylor** (captain), **Lance-Corporal Barbara Malham, Private Carol Hoban, Private Terry Sewell** and **Private Anna Thompson.** The team are congratulated on winning all their matches and being placed first. They now go forward to represent South-West/Midland District in the inter-unit finals at Camberley.

Now, on a more serious note, our OC, **Major R. B. Carroll,** does not wish the hard work by the Squadron during the recent Cyprus crisis to go unnoticed. Petrol rationing had to be flung out of the window, but messages reached their destinations on time and the long hours put in by the Commcen were appreciated by the staff.

## 3 SQUADRON—ALDERSHOT

### SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE—TUESDAY, 9th JULY, 1974

From all the corners of the 3 Squadron empire they came to gather for the annual supervisors conference on the 9th July at the Duchess of Kent Barracks, Aldershot.

The meeting was opened by **Major Grist,** the Squadron OC, who said what a privilege it was that the Commander 2 Signal Group, **Brigadier P. A. C. Baldwin,** was able to attend and address the conference.

The rest of the morning was spent in the bread and butter discussions of the problems that affect the static communication system in South-East England and the staff who run it. The meeting ended at lunch time and the supervisors retired to their many locations.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL AWARD

Mrs. E. Moore, long-serving member of 3 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment, at the Didcot military telephone exchange, was presented with her ISM by Major-General J. T. Stanyer, C.B.E., on 21st June, 1974

## 'GET AWAY FROM ALDERSHOT', SAID THE OC

**Captain 'Pippa' Jarman,** 2IC 3 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment, tells the story of a fortnight in Norway with a canoe.

On the evening of Monday, 24th June, 1974, 28 women (a combination of WRAC, QARANC, WRNS and WRAF) arrived at Hanover transit camp from all corners of the UK and BAOR ready for the long trek to the British Outward Bound Centre (BOBC) near Kristiansand, Norway. (Even **Sergeant Sue Taylor,** who had had a never-ending determination to fly to Gutersloh, arrived!).

We were all bound for the second Women's Basic Canoe Course at Isfjaer (pronounced Issfeer), henceforth to be known as 'Canoe Survival Course!'

The journey to Isfjaer involved an 11-hour coach journey to Hirtshall's Port in Denmark, a four-hour ferry trip across the Skagerrak to Kristiansand, followed by a 40-minute drive in a 4-ton vehicle to the BOBC, during which we all eyed each other suspiciously, wondering which of the Services each one was in.

Once at Isfjaer we were led straight to the much-needed canteen for stew and mash washed down with a mug of tea. Half an hour later we were in the lecture room for the introductory talk and sorted into patrols, patrol leaders, and assigned to somewhat wary-looking instructors.

Inn Patrol was instructed by RAF **Corporal Pete Sands,** Leven Patrol by **Corporal Dave Blackall,** Rhone Patrol by **Lance-Corporal 'Scotty' Scott** and Otra Patrol by **Sergeant 'Art' Wheeler.** We remained in our patrols throughout most of the course.

We spent the two weeks in 'field conditions' sleeping in four-man tents on concrete slabs (72 steps up a pretty steep slope), so after day 1 no one forgot to leave anything at the top that could possibly be required at the bottom during the day!

We were issued with paddles (not oars), canoes, cagouls, wet suits, life-jackets, crash helmets and a list of 'patrol' duties, i.e. spud peeling, collecting and washing up after meals, cleaning out the showers, loos, etc., picking up outside rubbish (Womble duties) and cleaning the chapel. So, as you can see, the 28 of us were left in no doubt as to the extent and nature of the course! After the first evening the Centre also knew its fears were realised, but not in the way they anticipated; the girls drank more beer on the Tuesday evening than any male course, and even worse by the following week—the canteen had run out of stock (temporarily).

During the course we had three days of sea canoeing, in stretches of approximately 15 miles each day, which did nothing to promote the general well-being and happiness of a number of us, as it was rather a case of two-strokes forward, three yards backwards, then burst into tears of uncontrollable rage.

We camped on islands on the two nights of the second sea trip, but at 4 a.m. of morning 2 four tents began to float away, one containing **Corporal 'Babs' Bovers,** who then decided if she wasn't going to be able to sleep, nor was anyone else, and so proceeded to do rather an early reveille.

I think the two days enjoyed most were up at Servet, where we were introduced to White Water canoeing. This is particularly exciting and exhilarating and would have been a great deal more frightening if we hadn't had the superb instruction and guidance of **Captain Mike Wright,** the chief instructor, whose confidence in us dispelled the fears we would otherwise probably have had.

Nine people were awarded their British Canoe Union Proficiency Certificate as well as their Army Canoe Proficiency, having successfully survived Grade 4 White Water.

Tuesday was assessment and test day, and even **Lance-Corporal 'Woody' Woodend,** who showed rather too much enthusiasm in her 'slap for support' and ended up upside down shouting 'Capsize!', passed. In fact all 28 girls passed, one or two on their second attempt, which was a good excuse for the splendid disco on Friday night in the canteen. We were lucky that there was an advanced course in as well as the BOBC permanent staff and instructors, so number were fairly equal, and the dancing, drinking and buffet were all well supported (despite cans of beer at three kroner).

Unfortunately all good things come to an end and Saturday saw us packing up and saying our farewells, all with pretty enviable tans.

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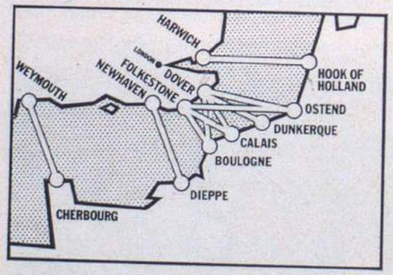


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11 SIGNAL REGIMENT DRILL DISPLAY SQUAD

They stole the show before an audience of 75,000 at the Catterick Army Display for the public

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### THE SHOW STEALERS

FOLLOWING many requests after last year's Catterick Army Display, the organisers decided to include a drill squad display in this year's programme. The specialist drill teams were approached but were unable to attend on the dates they were required. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt,** volunteered to put on a display from the Regiment. **Captain Alan Alfred** and **R.S.M. Alan Walton** selected a team of NCOs from the regimental cadre and in the early hours of the morning in the winter and spring began to put them through their paces. They practised for four months, always in their spare time, to achieve perfection in a display of drill which earned the highest praise on the day from the acknowledged experts.

The result of their superb efforts was a magnificent performance which stole the show in front of an audience of 75,000 people. The squad went through an intricate routine of drill movements without a word of command and without a fault on both days of the show. They achieved the high standard of excellence that its members had striven for during those many hours of practice and eclipsed the performances of all the other arena events.

To the public and soldiers who watched their display this was an example of the dedication of the instructors in the Regiment and of the high standards that they set both for themselves and the soldiers they train.

To **Captain Alan Alfred** and his magnificent squad of 'show stealers' is due the highest credit and praise, not only for the degree of excellence that they achieved, but for the manner in which they achieved it.

### GOLF

Having won the North-East District summer golf meeting and the Training Brigade Royal Signals annual competition, the Regiment decided to enter the Army inter-unit competition. In the northern zone qualifying competition we worked our way through to the final, where we met and defeated 8 Signal Regiment. We now go to Tidworth on 19th September to compete in the Army quarter-finals.

### 1 SQUADRON

The steady decline in recruits joining for basic training continued in July and only one out of the three troops scheduled to start training actually got off the ground. The average number arriving weekly from the Recruit Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield has been 10. A year ago it was 20, two years ago 35.

But we have not been idle. The first TAVR recruit course for Royal Signals arrived on Saturday, 6th July, and passed off on 20th July. **W.O.1 Penman** and his troop cadre of **Sergeant Sharp, Corporals Air** and **Nixon,** assisted by **Lieutenant J. Gillies** and **Staff-Sergeant Simpson** of the TAVR, produced 38 trained soldiers for the TAVR.

**Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. Welton,** Chief Instructor of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, was the inspecting officer for 6 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant R. A. Wannell,** when it 'passed off' on 26th July. After the parade the inspecting officer presented prizes to **Signalman Hill** (best recruit) and **Singalman Beswick** (best shot).

## 14 Sig Regt, Worcester

THIS month we donate our space to an account of exercise 'Signal View', the CSO UKLF's annual demonstration of signal equipment from Regular and TAVR units throughout the UK. This article describes our efforts which seem to have been very successful from the number of firm career inquiries; we also mention those units which came to Worcester to help us out!

### SIGNAL VIEW 1974

After days of almost incessant torrential rain, squalls, howling winds and all the outward manifestations of a typical English summer, the day dawned for the opening of 'Signal View'. The 2IC, **Major Collin Bunce,** has obviously been working overtime on his hot line to the Almighty; the clouds rolled back exactly on cue, the sun emerged and perfect weather ensued.

### A PERFECT SHOP WINDOW

The Royal Signals units of UKLF combined to show with consummate skill an ability to produce a perfect shop window for the Corps. The stands and activities illustrated every conceivable facet of military duties, sports and adventurous training. These ranged from **Yeoman Warders Len Harvey** and **John Head,** both ex-members of 14 Signal Regiment, to the ultra-sophisticated TSC 500 satellite station.

Army cadets, schoolchildren and the general public arrived in droves and were all impressed with the diversity of career prospects offered by the Corps. Many teachers concerned with careers advice admitted that the weekend had succeeded in giving them a new appreciation of the advantages of a military career.

The favourable impressions were eloquently illustrated in the number of positive enquiries received. These included:

Royal Signal Commissions, 4; WRAC Commissions, 4; Royal Signals ORs, 6; QUARANC, 2; WRNS, 1; Welbeck, 1; Others, 7. No doubt local ACIOs will reap the benefits of this weekend for some considerable time.

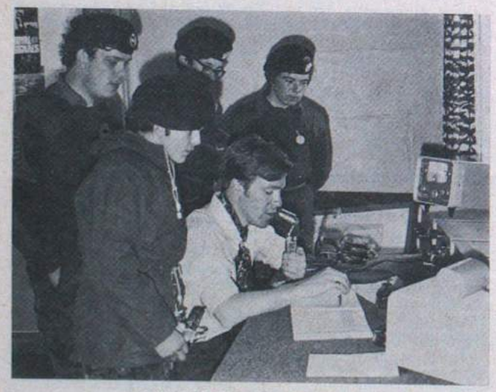
SPANNING THE YEARS

The RSM, W.O.I Bill Scott, illustrates the progress made by linemen in 104 years. Yeomen Warders Len Harvey and Jack Head were taking a brief respite from instructing him on guarding the Crown Jewels

## SATELLITE COMMS TO THE FORE

Throughout the weekend the camp echoed to shrieks of delight as FFR Rovers crammed with excited children raced off on radio exercises. The girls were particularly enthusiastic about this activity. Women's lib? Or the opportunity to talk perhaps.

The Regiment's demonstrations proved an attraction for the technically minded. 2 Squadron's TSC 500 illustrated the Army's satellite communication capability, including a model of a communications satellite. A whole host of very knowledgeable technicians, under **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Brian Holder,** were on hand to explain all the intricacies of the station.



WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Army Cadets listen in as Sergeant Worth talks 'across the pond' to the USA

## HELLO MALTA!

In the HF radio section **Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt** with **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Paul Cook** and team provided an E21 station which provided teleprinter circuits and a Lincomplex radio telephone circuit to Malta. This gave the opportunity for audience participation. Our liaison team in Malta proved equal to all demands as they chatted on any and every subject. During his tour **Colonel Hild,** Commander 1 Signal Group, put his seal of approval on this link as he had a brief chat over the circuit. He also took the opportunity to congratulate **Captain Lovatt** on passing his BSc Eng in the recent examinations.

THAT'S THE GUY !

Colonel Henry Hild, Commander I Signal Group, congratulates Captain 'Sandy' Lovatt on obtaining his degree, whilst W.O.I (F. of S.) Paul Cook looks on.

Part of this display consisted of a T100R exploded on a board, designed to enable visitors to appreciate the complexity of the equipment. One avid souvenir collector sidled surreptitiously up to the table, stealthily his hand reached behind him and groped for a component, finding what he sought he seized it and lifted. Embarrassment ensued as the whole board rose with it. FOS Cook, knowing his boys, had taken the precaution of wiring everything down.

## TELEPRINTER PICTURES FOR SOUVENIRS

The D13 station provided by **Captain Ron Abbott** with **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Trevor Spence** and team attracted their fair share of attention. Telegraph circuits to 16 Signal Regiment were available to all who wished to demonstrate their prowess on the keyboard. This stand was supplemented by a large variety of teleprinter pictures which were given to all young souvenir hunters.

Our answer to Tony Blackburn kept the show moving with some very snappy announcements. One particularly noteworthy effort was 'Would visitors try to avoid bumping into the arrows when passing the archery range'. We are delighted to report that no one got the point.

Helicopter rides were also available and lucky children were selected in a lottery. James Bond paled to insignificance against active participation in such militant activities.

## FREEFALLING APPRENTICES CAUSE HEART THROBS

'That's me at four thousand feet'. No, this was not our 2IC describing his altitude throughout the weekend, it was a young A/T from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, drawing attention to a spectacular free-fall photograph. The boys' effervescent enthusiasm was infectious as they extolled the benefits of joining them. The young dolly birds were obviously impressed by them. Judging by the gleam in some of the girls' eyes, the boys have not lost the art of seizing the main chance.

## COMMANDER OF SIGNAL GROUP TAKES OFF

Members of 216 (Para) Signal Squadron provided a stand showing the more thrilling aspects of life with the paras. This included the opportunity of strapping on a parachute and getting the feel of it. The Commander 1 Signal Group tried this during his visit. A mischievous gust of wind filled the chute and a very energetic struggle developed. For a few moments it appeared that he was in some danger of disappearing over Crookbarrow Hill. Finally he got the chute under control and continued his tour.



One of the more exciting activities for young daredevils was the abseiling under the guidance of the members of 66 AYT. In this the more adventurous children, after being helmeted and roped, were given a crash course in the rudiments of the art before descending 60ft down the smooth brick face of the keep. Embryo Hilaries were discovered in plenty as the children walked confidently down the wall.

Our cook sergeant, **Brian Blundell,** re-enacted the miracle of the barley loaves and fishes as he fed three times the number of children originally catered for. He has decided to leave the walking on water until he completes the special PT course designed for our more portly members.

## FINALE IN A PERFECT SETTING

The final event of a successful weekend was the playing of Retreat by the Corps Band under the Director of Music, **Major Keith Boulding.** The barracks provide a perfect setting for this ceremony, with the mellow red brick castellated keep, which dates back to 1880, providing a back-drop to the event. The late evening sun provided a warm glow which lent lustre to the scarlet jackets and sparkled on instruments as the band marched and counter-marched across the square. Old and young alike were stirred by a well-balanced programme of music which ranged from excerpts from the 'Messiah' through popular TV themes to the Corps March. **Colonel Mike Hales,** the officers of 14 Signal Regiment and their ladies then entertained their guests at a cocktail party in the Mess.

## SLOW BOAT

To round off the weekend **W.O.2 S.S.M. Joe Frost** organised a boat trip on the Severn. This had all the ingredients necessary for success: music, a well-stocked bar, numerous party-goers and a balmy evening. On arrival **Joe** discovered that the boat had decided not to participate. He placed two large boxes of crisps on the jetty and endeavoured to get things organised, without success. The battery was flatter than last night's beer. When **Joe** looked round, the party had dispersed and so had his crisps.

On returning to the Sergeants Mess he discovered that the story had preceded him and he had been christened 'Captain Joe No Go Pugwash'. Remarks such as 'Hello, Sailor!' and 'That's Crisp' or 'They can't resist Walker's crisps' soon lightened his gloom.

Recent observation has shown that **Joe** seems to have found the answer to moving boats. In company with the 2IC and other enthusiasts he has been seen moving the regimental boat with the aid of a tractor. If he continues in this vein we can see him being the first warrant officer in 11 Signal Regiment to organise a boat trip down the M1. He is due to join the Regiment shortly on promotion to RSM. We all look forward to reading of this innovation in the Catterick social whirl.

# 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

THOUGH the Regiment is based at Krefeld near the Rhine, various exercises have taken elements of the Regiment east as far as the Weser and south to the Mosel. Our sports teams have travelled to Berlin, Bisley and the Baltic.

## EXERCISE SUMMER SALES 1974—70 MILES CABLE LAID AND RECOVERED

The beginning of July found 3 Squadron with other elements of the Regiment under **Major Bob Stark** assisting 12 Mech Brigade HQ and Signal Regiment with control communications for the exercise. Though the wet and thundery weather made all who took part feel like the drowned rats of Hamlin, spirits were not dampened and communications were maintained at their usual high standard. The linemen under **Second-Lieutenant Paul Gorford** spent 30 hard days laying and recovering the 70 miles of cable required for the Control HQ.

## BRADBURY FAIR

Our regimental fete was held in July and though the day started damp and misty the sun soon came through once the LAD had taken their newly constructed noddy train and jet fighter round the camp circuit. With the sun came the crowd and an enjoyable time was had by all. The organisers, **Major Derek Copeland** and **Captain Arthur Bird,** were very pleased when it was found that 7,000 marks had been raised for various charities.

## SUMMER CAMP

With all this activity we have still found time to organise a summer camp. This was again set up on an island at Treis-Karden, a picturesque little town on the Mosel. Under **R.S.M. Colin Meredith** the advance party laid out an excellent tented camp for the rest of the regiment to use. Each of the field squadrons stayed in turn for two weeks and members of 1 Squadron came with their shift for a week at a time. Activities such as canoeing, trekking, assault boat trips and map reading were carried out with great enthusiasm by all ranks!? Though at times the weather was not always bright, the local wine kept spirits high. Although most of the activities were of a rigorous nature, it was a pleasant break from mundane barrack routine. For this we must thank the Squadron planners for their interesting training programmes and **Captain John Stroud** and his merry men, who fed and accommodated the Regiment so well during the period. Last, but not least, those two hard-working volunteer barmen, **Corporals Ron Cawtheray** and **Mick Ryder,** who did so much to keep us in good spirits.

## SPORT

The regimental swimming and water polo teams have had a very successful season under their coach **Staff-Sergeant 'Lee' L. Carpentier.** They started by winning both the Rhine Area swimming and water polo championships which qualified the teams for the BAOR Championships in Berlin. The regimental water polo team got through to the semi-finals, but were beaten by 229 Signal Squadron in a very hard game which was even till the last few seconds. The swimming team did even better by ending up as BAOR runners-up for 1974, having had a hard fight with 3rd Regiment, RA, for the second place. The team now go forward to the Army finals at Aldershot and our best wishes go with it.

The shooting team went to Bisley after some hard training and achieved second place in the Parachute Regiment Cup, the SMG team match, due to good shooting by **Sergeant Tom Wilson, Corporal Harris, Corporal Kendle** and **Lance-Corporal Bill Cowie.** Although the remainder of the team shot well and had an enjoyable time standards were very high and they were not as successful as last year.

The offshore sailing team of **Major Jimmy Golding, Lance-Corporal Gerald Parker, Sergeant Ted Savage,** with **Sergeant Webb** as skipper, took part in the Royal Signals Baltic regatta. The eight-day race was fought under arduous conditions and they did well to take third place.

## FAREWELL

2 Squadron said goodbye this month to their Squadron Commander, **Major Maurice Pack-Davison.** A farewell barbecue was held which, due to weather, had to be moved indoors. A good time was nevertheless had by all. The Regiment join with 2 Squadron in wishing **Major Maurice Pack-Davison** all the best in his new job at the School of Signals.

## STOP PRESS

The swimming team have arrived back from England slightly disappointed at only coming fourth in the Army finals, but they put up a very hard fight and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

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## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### SAILING

THE results of the Corps Regatta at Kiel have by now been publicised by radio and in the BAOR press and there is a full report elsewhere in this edition. However, this article would not be complete without a note of congratulation to **Colonel Dudley Carnie, Captain Mike Shaw, Yeoman David Watson** and **Sergeant Peter Johnson,** the crew of our number one boat. Also due for a mention are the crew of our second boat, **Lance-Corporal Ian Stewart, Foreman Andy Watson, Sergeant Rupert Lund** and **Corporal John Flynn,** who, although they didn't actually win anything (in fact, they were last, last and next to last), still had a most successful regatta. To add to the laurels of our sailors—only two out of the eight had sailed before joining the Regiment and **Ian Stewart** only received his skipper's ticket this year. By the end of the season we shall have had a total of 14 boats on courses and adventurous training expeditions from BKYC and will have introduced about 40 members of the Regiment to the sport, so we feel we have a good foundation for next year's regatta as well!

### FRANFIST

Although July is traditionally a 'slack' month, this has been anything but. The month started literally with a bang at Sennelager, when the Regiment, in two 100-man groups, donned its 1937 pattern webbing and took to the ranges. With the range allocation for an infantry battalion the fortnight was extremely exciting and varied and all participants were able to fire their weapons in defence, in close-quarter battle settings and by night, all proceedings being livened up considerably by plastic explosive rigged and detonated by **Colour-Sergeant Brian Chafer** to simulate artillery and mortar fire.

During our stay at Sennelager we were visited by the CSO, **Major-General H. E. Roper,** who was entertained by **Private John Campbell,** RPC, with his description of night patrolling. Also, under the guidance of **W.O.2 Bob Swaine,** the CSO and and CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie,** fired a close-quarter battle course. Both showed the lasting effects of good training by recording the two highest scores of the day. Our notes from Sennelager would not be complete without mention of the detailed planning of **Captain Keith Dewis** and the administrative back-up by the Sennelager Training Centre Quartermaster's Department in the shape of the R.Q.M.S., **W.O.1 'Harry' Hawke** of the Corps, without which the exercise would not have been the success it was.

### SHOOTING

Whilst battle shooting was being performed at Sennelager, the regimental shooting team, led by **Captain John Woods,** REME, was performing at Bisley. The team, **Foreman Dowie Treharne, Sergeants Mick Colley,** REME, **'Taffy' Meakes** and **Mick Everett, Corporal Alan Brookes, Lance-Corporals Steve Bushell** and **Eric Calvert,** returned with a selection of silverware, including the Corps Bisley Trophy for the best placed Royal Signals unit and three REME trophies won single handed by **Captain Woods.**

### EXERCISE GALLIC VENTURE

As I write this the advance party for 'Gallic Venture' is rumbling off the square towards the French border and eventually (one hopes) to La Courtine for a two-week military training exercise. In command of the road party is **Captain Mike Crane,** who appears to have his map folded correctly, and he will be joined by the air party consisting of **Major Robin Ingram** and 50 all ranks shortly. A full report will figure in our next contribution.

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## 30 Sig Regt
### BLANDFORD CAMP

### CANOEING SUCCESSES

HEADQUARTERS Squadron have taken to the water and fielded two participants in the Army sprint and long-distance canoe championships held on the picturesque River Wye at Monmouth. **Lieutenant Dorothy Killbery, WRAC,** on her fifth trip solo, gained a point in the sprint event and completed the seven-mile long-distance event in grand style, only falling out of the canoe once. She claimed this was to 'cool off'. She did, however, come fifth, a creditable performance. **Segeant Chris Fielding** competed in the arduous 14·5-mile long-distance event with members of the Olympic squad for company and showed a very determined and successful effort. The Royal Engineers took first place and Royal Signals came second out of 26 teams entered. The Squadron has also taken to the field, providing the wherewithal for RHQ to also take to the field on exercises 'Nightwatchman' I and II in June and July. Both exercises were AMF (L) type mobile communications exercises.

### DETACHMENTS AS FAR AFIELD AS SOLOMON ISLANDS

1 Squadron has continued with its normal 'travel agent' duties with the business concentrated on 644 Signal Troop in Cyprus. Business has also picked up in the Pacific with the Squadron providing men and equipment in the Solomon Islands on Exercise 'Duchy'. If you are fortunate enough to get posted to this Squadron don't bother about maps, just get yourself a good comprehensive atlas before you join.

### C.C.F. CAMP DUTIES

2 Squadron have had their share of activity too, but this time of year sees the C.C.F. camps in full spate. Christ's Hospital (the CO's old school) had a good innings, as did Elizabeth College from Guernsey. They spent many days on radio exercises, visits, classroom training and infantry training on the Martin Down training area. A total of four Officers, one Warrant Officer and 41 Cadets attended.

3 Squadron have continued their AMF (L) training with an unusual exercise called 'Ardent Ground' in Belgium. This involved training non-native English-speaking NATO Staff Officers in voice procedure. This was followed by excercices 'Nightwatchman' I and II.

The ever-popular Volvo Snocat and arctic warfare demonstration team under **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley** has visited schools in Southern England, the Aldershot Show, Signal View in Worcester, and the Royal Tournament in London. In between exercise 'Norman Quest' in the Channel Islands in July, the other mentioned activities and exercises 'Nightwatchman' I and II, the Squadron, under the watchful eye of their new Squadron Commander, **Major Peter Brunton,** and the Squadron Sergeant-Major, **Tom Friend,** managed to win the inter-squadron athletics trophy and athletics standards competition. A stop press note states that during this period a third of the Squadron also attended some form of career advancement course as well.

During this period we have also had five major regimental events, including the Dyers Company being dined at the Cygnet dinner in early June, the Officers Mess summer ball in late June and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess ball in late July.

Another event was the country fair held at Blandford on Saturday, 3rd August. The weather was kind and the day much enjoyed by an estimated two thousand visitors. The stalls included a brim-full white elephant stall that made £124 profit for no outlay. Other stalls included a fairground organ, game birds, the usual fairground competition stalls provided by the squadrons and a most impressive falconry display. Other attractions were the Dorset police dog demonstration, model aircraft displays, dog shows and the release of 10,000 racing pigeons to fly back to their lofts in London and the Home Counties. All profits are being donated to Army and civilian charities.

However, our main activity was summer camp in Alderney, where we renewed our now well-established ties of friendship (see article on page 392).

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## 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 102

OUR notes this month centre around a 'heavily' abridged report on our Exchange training in Hovelte, Denmark.

### COMING AND GOING

Before attempting to recapture some of the highlights of our stay, we would like to say a sad/relieved/thankful farewell to **Lieutenant** (I silenced those Danish horns!) **Brian Scott-Morton,** who leaves us to go to the hairless world of Herford and to extend a guarded welcome to his slightly older replacement, **Lieutenant Tony Raper,** who rejoins the 'Audie Murphy scene' after three years at Cambridge University.

### OFF TO DENMARK

The journey to an unsuspecting Denmark was undertaken in various forms: **Major Jim Crow** and Leading Seaman **(Signalman) 'Lofty' Dewis** braved the Baltic and sailed from Kiel in a 24ft yacht accompanied by **Father John Bradley,** who had abandoned his walk-on-water crossing; **Major (Q.M.) Mac McCarthy** led the highly trained 'Carlsberg-tasting' advance party; **Captain Patrick Dickinson** played the part of 'mother goose' for the rail party, with **S.S.M. Jim Akehurst** looking after the gaggle and **Lieutenant Chris Spencer** acting as head Sherpa. Needless to say, the various journeys were far from smooth and quiet.

The rail party eventually arrived at Copenhagen Station, where we were met by our hosts from the Zealand Telegraph Regiment, who escorted us to the camp, pointing out a few of the more interesting sights of Copenhagen—most of which appeared to be two-legged—on the way. At this point it is probably worth while stating the Squadron's intentions whilst in Denmark. We aimed to revise and practise field craft and tactics along with certain other related aspects of military training, including the various classifications, recognition tests and so on. Furthermore, we hoped to encourage Anglo-Danish relations at all levels as well as support for the Carlsberg Foundation. These we achieved not without a certain amount of over-indulgence.

### A HE OR A SHE—A LITTLE PROBLEM

Initially recognition of certain Danes presented a slight problem, there being both sexes on camp and a strong degree of male liberation with regard to hair length. **Major Geoffrey Dennis** asked one Signalman the sex of the Danish soldier in front of them:

Signalman: 'Female, sir'.
**Major Dennis:** 'How can you tell?'
Signalman: 'Well, sir, I saw more of it last night than you can see now!'

### GETTING THEM ON THEIR KNEES

These 'setbacks' overcome, the Squadron settled down to establishing a lasting convivial atmosphere, and to its training. We had three range days during which we fired the SLR, SMG, LMG, pistol and an assortment of Danish weapons, both old and archaic. During one particular shooting practice, **Father John,** on seeing the immediate response to the command 'Adopt the kneeling position', commented, 'Now I know how to get them down on their knees'. It may be of interest to note that our heavenly help turned out to be a good shot with the pistol and now has been taken on strength as a BIII combat priest.

The fieldcraft and tactics took the form of a crash revision session, followed by a few hard hours of section attacks across some fairly rugged countryside. It was agreed by most, including the DS thunderflash team, that the day had been worth while and that it's still better to be in the Corps even if some of us find ourselves sat with the enemy while giving our battle orders.

During the period of our stay the intrepid admirals **Crow** and **'Bloodnock' Dennis** managed to give about 20 members of the Squadron a brief insight into the art of sailing. Even **Staff-Sergeant Fred Brudenall** took to the high seas, but, alas, only on 'the morning after the night before', and so spent some time vainly searching for his sea legs and, to quote **Barry MacKenzie,** 'chundering in the ol' Baltic Sea'.

### CARLSBERG BREWERY WELL TESTED

A few trips were organised for the Squadron which were designed to be both interesting and educational as well as incorporating a little audience participation. This certainly applied on our afternoon visit to Carlsberg, where only 45 minutes of the two-hour tour were in fact devoted to looking around the 75-acre brewery, the remainder of the time being spent in one of the drinking halls 'sampling' the various products. By all accounts, the visit did little to curb the Squadron Carlsberg sales, but **Gunner Steve Taylor** took no chances. He asked to be excused from the vist:

**Q.M.:** 'Taylor, why don't you want to go to Carlsberg?'
**Taylor:** 'Sir, I visited the Double Diamond brewery and that put me off DD. I don't want the same to happen to Carlsberg'.

Our social activities were far too many to mention now, but if the reader is especially interested he should write direct to RD Enterprises, c/o 1 Artillery Brigade, for a fully uncensored and wholly incriminating version. This concern for the benefit of the Squadron is open to blackmail.

### POSTSCRIPT

Finally a special word must be included for one of our more outstanding personalities, **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Chapman,** known to all of us as Mr. Fix-It. Whilst in Denmark he succeeded in creating havoc wherever he went, but he, personally, put these minor setbacks down to the low cultural standard of the Squadron. (Does culture come with a Mercedes?). To highlight this point, he organised a trip to a local shopping centre. The vehicle was left in the underground car park. . . . Y. of S. entered the lift . . . selected button and pressed . . . his first three choices resulted in rides to different levels of the car park . . . once again he fixed it.

## 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 37

### SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major R. F. L. Cook** |
| 2IC | **Captain J. M. Sweetman** |
| Adjutant | **Captain D. B. Sullivan, 4/7 RDG** |
| OC 'A' Troop | **Captain J. Munnery** |
| 2IC 'A' Troop | **Lieutenant A. Schuler** |
| OC 'B' Troop | **Lieutenant H. H. Ham** |
| **RSM** | **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. Williams** |

### LOGIC

Scene OC's conference.
OC We need someone to write the next WIRE notes.
Conferee What about the new subaltern?
OC Good Heavens, no! We can't have a new subaltern write the notes. Yeoman, perhaps this is a good job for you.

Having, at the time, only been in the unit for a week I am still not sure what to make of this.

### COMSTAR HOPES RAISED?

The old Yeoman Training, **Vaughan Rayner,** has departed for HQ DCN. He left muttering dire threats of what he was going to do to some unsuspecting Flight Sergeant who writes nasty letters to the static commcen about Comstar awards. Suffice to say all those striving under adverse conditions for their Comstar awards now have a sympathetic 'brown job' in the controlling organisation.

**R.S.M. Frank Rogers** has also departed the Squadron on commissioning and is now somewhere in the wilds of Yorkshire. His dining out in the Sergeants Mess was an event to be remembered. We welcome **R.S.M. Tony Williams** and his good lady and hope their stay will be a rewarding and successful one.



### AIR RIFLES COME INTO THEIR OWN

The Squadron has recently purchased half a dozen air rifles and we have now opened an air rifle club which meets regularly and whose membership is growing. The club is run by our master coach, **Sergeant Pete Cole.** The venue is an old indoor ·22 range in an attic whose use had been banned because the floor was not strong enough to support the weight of the sand in the butt. The sand was not required for air rifles and we have substituted much lighter materials for the back stop. The range was officially opened by the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier M. B. Farndale** on 28th June.

The air rifles were put to good use at Summer Camp at Eckernforde on the Baltic coast. It was a relatively simple operation to build a safe range and the range was well patronised throughout the camp.

### CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES

Activities at the camp included canoeing, sailing and other aquatic pursuits. The Corps yacht *Petasus* was chartered for the camp and a lucky few managed a sail to the Danish islands. An initiative exercise and escape and evasion exercise were held during the camp. The latter exercise was written around the smuggling of a secret bomb and its mad scientist inventor through hostile territory. The exercise lasted 30 hours and entailed a lot of foot-slogging for those who could not bribe, cajole or con the local populace into providing transport. Some notable successes were achieved, **Corporal Ian Duncan,** REME, even persuading a German couple to go and collect his bomb from the agent. **Sergeant Steve Hooton, Signalman 'Ginge' Allen** and **Corporal Terry Houghton** were not so lucky. Having just got into a taxi they were chased a good 12km in the wrong direction by the 'enemy'. We never did find out how much that taxi ride cost! As a finale each section exploded its bomb. **Captain James Sweetman's** assurances that they really would go 'bang' proved somewhat false and the resulting silent puff of smoke was a bit of an anti-climax.

CORPORAL MAY'S SECTION AFTER THE INITIATIVE EXERCISE

*Standing, left to right:* Signalman Stroud, Corporal May, Driver Taylor, Signalman Nott, Corporal Young, Sergeant Martin
*Sitting, left to right:* Signalman Brown 411, Corporal Haley, Signalman Barrallon, Lance-Corporal Rutland, Lance-Corporal Birbeck

BFES School, Soltau, has now moved to brand-new premises and became the Jerboa School, while the old school has become the Jerboa Amenities Centre, containing bookshop, hairdresser, library, community hall, thrift shop, etc. This will greatly improve facilities within Soltau, especially for the families.

### BETTER BACK IN THE CORPS

Finally a word about **Sergeant Ray Portlock,** ex-technician in the Corps, who has just arrived with our co-located AAC Squadron on completion of his pilot's course. His first flight in BAOR very nearly ended in disaster when he had to make a forced landing because of engine failure. You should have stayed a tech, **Ray;** it is a lot safer and considerably more cushy!

## 7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 20

### OUT AND ABOUT

JULY is traditionally the hectic month when the Brigade goes wild in its preparation for and participation in exercise 'Whirly Gig'. This year was no exception and on a rainy day the Squadron left for Berge, near Osnabruck, to start a marathon of two weeks in the field. In Berge, we were overwhelmed by the friendliness of the natives and in spite of the bad weather the first week was very bearable. The last few days of the exercise were spent in Darup near Munster, a much quieter but nevertheless friendly village. Throughout the weather was not kind, although the sun shone quite fiercely for one day. Communications aside, the overworked echelon were tasked with providing raiding parties to attack the artillery locations and those of us who went on them had a great time, making the Signal Squadron thoroughly unpopular with those units who were attacked.

Whilst we are suffering the hardships of field life, our Signal Centre Detachment are hard at work back in Dortmund ensuring that the signals get through! However, we further increased their work load by giving them the task of writing a bit for THE WIRE, which follows below.

### REPORT FROM DORTMUND SIGNAL CENTRE

'The Detachment has on its strength six operators, all of whom are detached from 16 Signal Regiment. The Sigcen is run by **Corporal John Hutchings,** who has the assistance (sometimes) of **Lance-Corporal 'Spok' Evans, Signalmen Paul Alexander, Andy Dingle, 'Haggis' Millar** and **'Fingers' McAvoy.** We have recently said our farewells to **Signalman 'Penguin' Baillie,** who departs us for 39 Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron. The Sigcen provides the static TG for the staff of the Brigade HQ and also serves the regiments and sub-units in and around Dortmund. The in and out traffic totals per month averages about 6,000, which probably explains why we volunteer to remain in camp and work instead of roughing it with the Squadron'.

With August on top of us, we, who are not on leave, are doing all the jobs which have been the subject of much procrastination since January and have even found time to utilise our new volleyball court, the grand opening of which took place on Wednesday, 7th August. The court is a permanent structure and is very much welcomed because it takes up a little bit more of the very small square, thus effectively hindering anyone who cares to take the Squadron 'adrilling'!

BAOR units may be interested to know that we have our grand Christmas draw tickets on sale and this year is to be a bumper year as far as prizes are concerned, so if you want any just ask (Dortmund 239).

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

229 SQUADRON'S ATHLETIC TEAM
4th in closely-contested Army minor unit's team finals
*Back row, left to right:* Sergeant Edwards, Corporal Root, W.O.2 Percival, Signalman Burnett, Corporal Thursfield, Sergeant Berwick
*Front row, left to right:* Signalman Boyd, Sergeant Ferns, Sergeant Norgate (Manager), Major G. D. A. Mackay (O.C.), Corporal Reynolds, Sergeant Boast, Sergeant Metcalfe

## 229 Sig Sqn, Berlin

TO submit WIRE notes in two consecutive months must qualify as a 229 Signal Squadron record. It is not the only record we have broken in the past month. Hence these notes written in oscillatory journeys between Berlin and Aldershot for various sports contests. Sport has been the predominant feature of the last month and deserves to be mentioned first.

### SQUADRON ATHLETES IN GOOD FORM

July started well for us with a first ever victory for the Squadron in the BAOR Minor Unit Athletics Competition. The meeting was very close and reflects well on the current strength of Royal Signals athletics in BAOR. In the Morrison Cup our main opposition was 6, 7 and 11 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadrons. At the 2 Division meet we had a tussle with 4 Guards Brigade. In the BAOR it was 4 Guards and 6 Brigade who pushed us hardest. Fortune, which had smiled on us at these meetings, waned a little for the Army Championships at Aldershot on 24th July. Once more it was very exciting and close competition, with the result hanging in the balance to the very end. We came fourth, just one point behind the runners-up of the Home Postal and Command Courier and the third-placed team, 4 Guards Brigade. We were only five points behind the winners, the Depot of the Light Infantry. The ifs and buts flowed afterwards, but with five best performances and five up to par performances in the 10 events the team can only be congratulated for their effort.

### SWIMMING AND WATER POLO TEAMS PRODUCE RESOUNDING RESULTS

Any slight disappointment felt with our 'so near, yet so far' to success in the athletics was diluted by the success of the swimming team. Over a very hectic period from 15th July to 1st August the swimming and waterpolo teams produced resounding results. In the divisional meeting, when we were without our best swimmer, **Lance-Corporal Sandford,** we dropped one point only from the possible. We then went on to take maximum points in the BAOR and Army meetings by winning every event. Because there are new distances and events in the new team swimming format we have established new records as well as breaking some old ones and the Squadron now holds five BAOR and five Army minor unit records. **Lance-Corporal Sandford** was our only entrant in the Army individual competition. He had a very busy day, producing three very good results, winning the 400 metres free style, coming second in the individual medley (by a foot) and third in the butterfly. He has been selected for the Army, as has **Signalman Beasley,** who was selected for his performance in the breast stroke in the team championships.

Our water polo prowess was more of a struggle, but that is to be expected in what is essentially a major unit competition. We scraped into third place in the Divisional competition to just qualify for the BAOR finals. In the latter we were runners-up to the Coldstream Guards after beating 16 Signal Regiment 2—1 in a very tight semi-final. They held the trophy last year and we became the second Royal Signals unit to have our name on it. We then reached the Army semi-finals, where we found the strength of 36 Engineer Regiment too great and were knocked out at that stage.

### SQUADRON STANDARDS ARE AT THE TOP IN ALL SPORTS

It is a good time to analyse our prowess in all sports. So far this year we have won every minor unit competition in Berlin except for basketball. We have reached the finals of three Army sports, as already described, and have also been well represented at above unit levels, ie two Army swimmers and one Army water polo player, and the following number of Combined Services Berlin players: two athletes, three basketball, six football, three hockey, two rugby, and three water polo. To put that in perspective, Berlin is larger than a brigade and 229 is classed as a mini-minor unit.

### A GOOD NIGHT OUT

Away from the pressures of sport we found time to relax when we hired the MS *Deutschland* for a night cruise round the Havel See. A group and disco enabled us to ignore the pouring rain on the top deck and a thriving party took place amidships. Our scheduled finish at midnight actually took place at 1.15 a.m. and there was a very reluctant disembarkation.

### THANK YOU, 2 DIV, 7 and 22 REGTS

To round off these notes it is fitting to say thank you very much to 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment, 7 Signal Regiment and 22 Signal Regiment for providing some very cheerful, willing and hardworking reliefs who made it possible to send our sports team to the UK.






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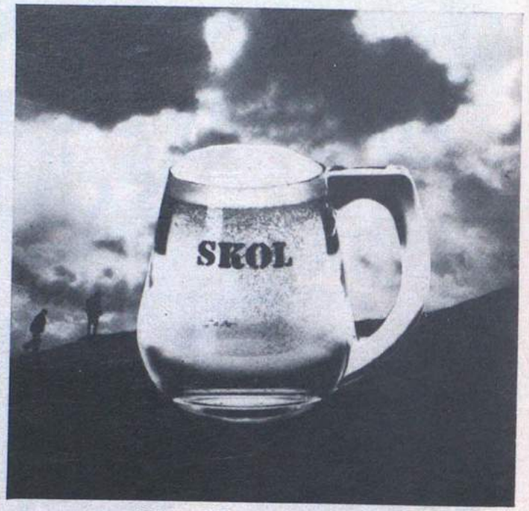


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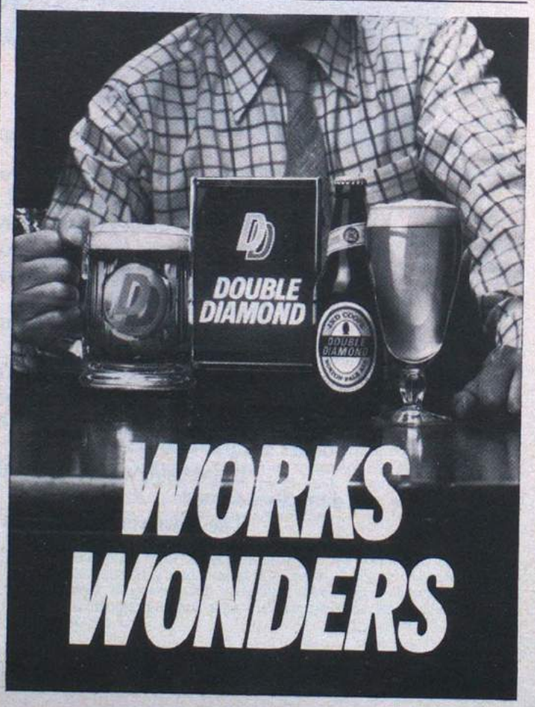


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## 234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

'MY goodness, is it May already?' queried the OC, **Major Ian Robinson,** in a pronounced Belfast brogue (a sure sign that the pressure is on). **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Roy Stark** called down from 50,000ft, 'Don't worry, sir, I've got everything under control'. And so the Squadron burst through the date barrier to enter May in full stride.

### FFR 15th-17th MAY

**Major Roger Pickard** was the first to come out from HQ 1 Signal Group and having conned us into revealing all he vanished home with his valuable data to collect three gold stars for his sinful lack of conscience.

Needless to say, when **Colonel Henry Hild** and **Major Gordon Schofield** arrived for the inspection itself they immediately laid on a full assault against the weakest parts of our system. **Signalman Joey Galea** fended them off with aplomb in faults control and **Captain Colin Richardson** added a couple more decibels to increase his distortion factor whilst he guided them through the admin chicanes of SHQ. **Captain David Case** slowed their advance by moving at his usual pace around the airfield, whilst **Staff-Sergeant Pat Toovey** strategically placed himself in Gladiator exchange with his finger on the kettle switch. **Sergeant George Furber** of TM Troop was so engrossed in his Hadley repair that he failed to notice his favourite spot being occupied.

Hopefully, all this infra-unit hotch-potch went unnoticed and the next morning, following an excellent ladies night in the Officers Mess, **Colonel Henry Hild** congratulated the soldiers and civilians of the Squadron on the work they were (and are) doing.

'THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SIR'
Captain Colin Richardson runs Colonel Henry Hild through a quick stock check

### INTER-SERVICE (MALTA) SKILL AT ARMS
### 16th-17th MAY

Whilst the remainder of the unit was blowing its well-polished trumpet at its various posts all over the island, **Captain John Reed** assembled his motley team of sharpshooters on the rocky wastes of Pembroke Ranges. There they joined battle with 41 Commando Royal Marines, the Royal Navy, Malta, and RAF (Luqa, Siggiewi, Benhaisa, Madliena) and surprised themselves by winning nearly all the pots in sight. Despite the ladies night and the FFR, **Captain John Reed** was able to increase his lead gained in winning the rifle cup to take the champion at arms trophy by a wide margin. This cheered him despite his unlucky jam after only two rounds of the pistol match, in which he then came only third.

The remainder of the team also achieved individual prizes, but the only other Royal Signals member to do so was **Sergeant Jim Lindsay,** who took runner-up in the SMG after a count out on bulls.

A fine meeting for the team culminated in a resounding win over 41 Commando in the falling plate and the only disappointment lay in the fact that, although the team won every match except the LMG, they lost the Inter-Service Cup by only 17 points in over 1,900 because of that failure. Note: we'll borrow some LMG's earlier next year and have **Corporal Tom Witherington** and **Signalman Joe Camilleri** out there practising 'lightning' moves between firing points for weeks beforehand.

### GEC RADIO RELAY—GRAND OPENING 29th MAY

It was all champagne and congratulations when **Rear-Admiral David Loram, M.V.O., R.N.,** officially opened the new radio relay system so efficiently installed by GEC. Progress on this system has been mentioned in earlier notes and many familiar faces were gathered at Siggiewi (pronounced Si-jew-ee) systems control for a grand hooley among the resistors. Putting the system to use since has mainly been a planning problem and by the end of the year things should be well under way with the systems control also taking on line and cable faulting as well.

**W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Gus' Ward** seems very happy about it all, but it is rumoured that this is because he spends all his time with the new Squadron speedboat. True or not, he certainly cuts a dash on a mono ski and he is rarely the one to take a salt water enema, unlike some other 'bum' skiers seen around. **(Captain Dick Sanders** seems indignant for some reason.)

### VISIT OF CDS, 30th MAY

Once again the indefatigable **W.O.2 Joe Grech, B.E.M.,** found himself acting OC Line Troop whilst **Captain John Reed** slipped away to Cyprus to be educated (and buy a few pouffes, I'll be bound). This time it was for the visit of **Field-Marshall Sir Michael Carver, C.B., O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** the Chief of the Defence Staff. **Sir Michael** was given a presentation on the role and organisation of the Army in Malta by the OC Squadron (wearing his other hat as OC Army Elements, Malta), and then spent a short time discussing the new pay banding with yet another poverty-stricken Chief Clerk, our own 'what about my responsibility?' **Staff-Sergeant Dave Perry.**

VISIT OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF
Sir Michael Carver discusses pay banding with Major Ian Robinson and Staff-Sergeant Dave Perry

The Squadron then sighed and slipped into June with visible relief and nothing more to do than check on the progress of its two groups of personnel on courses at Catterick: nine men led by **Sergeants Tony Parnis** and **Rafael Grech** on a Telemech BI conversion course and seven men led by **Corporal George Zammit** and **Lance-Corporal Freddie Parnis** on a BIII Telemech course. They don't realise their coming luck—World Cup in English on two channels at once, recognised bliss to those of us here who are hurriedly learning the Italian for 'Penalty!', 'Send'im orf, ref', etc. Perhaps Cruyff will emerge as a modern Jimmy yelling 'Certa Cito' as he bangs them home! No streaking at Munich, though.

## 244 Sig Sqn
## R.A.F. Benson

THERE was a strong rumour going around the Squadron as to who was writing this month's Wire notes. I naturally rang the RSM when it was inferred that I was to be the honoured journalist for this month. He immediately put this rumour right. 'You are', he replied, 'on my desk by Friday'. Being Wednesday I have just got time to run briefly through the Squadron highlights for this past two months.

### EXERCISE TROUT CALL 7

In June the Squadron sailed to Denmark, courtesy of LSL *Sir Belvedere*. For two weeks we practised our communications skills with the Danish Signals. The remaining few days were spent sampling the varied delights of Oksbol Rest Camp. **Staff-Sergeant John Lawrence** got his briefings down to a fine art every time he saw more than six men together, while **Captain Gus Vigurs** and **Sergeant Denis Wheeldon** continued to teach the Squadron Commander, **Major John Cathcart,** the joys of fishing. Judging by the amount of trout consumed at breakfast, the nights were well spent.

### ANNUAL SUMMER TRAINING CAMP OR GO WEST, YOUNG MAN

July saw the Squadron firmly encamped once more at Fremington Training Camp, North Devon. The theme this year was escape and evasion, consisting of a week's instruction in how to, followed by an exercise on how not to. The honours on the sports field were shared between the troops and a team from Alpha Troop, led by **Sergeant Mick Watson,** successfully escaping and evading the hunters. He was aided and abetted by **Signalman Bob Petrie** and **Mick Sutton. Sergeant Graham Nicol** carried on the Squadron fishing saga by catching 13 in the EWS (septic tank) tank. **Sergeant Mick Watson** actually caught one during a lecture on primitive fishing.

### SPORT

Despite the Squadron's heavy commitments, we still manage to play the usual sports plus a few more of the unusual.

**Lieutenant Robin Burrows** successfully completed the Round Britain Yacht Race, being the first Serviceman to finish and tenth overall (see page 390).

**Staff-Sergeant John Lawrence** and **Corporal Tony Chew** have both played for the Corps cricket team this season.

**Corporal Geordie Burton** continues to pole vault higher than most in the Army. He recently won the 3 Div Championships and has represented the Army at Crystal Palace and Cardiff.

Finally, **Corporal Bill Hutton** received his Corps Colours for squash.

### ANNUAL CHARITY WALK—HOLYHEAD TO BENSON—230 MILES

On Friday morning, 28th June, **Corporals Bill Hutton** and **Andy Fyvie,** together with **Signalmen 'Muff' Steele, 'Geordie' Knox** and **Mick Lee-Hansen** and **'Jason' Wood,** set off from Holyhead on a 230-mile sponsored walk, in aid of the Chipping Norton Disabled Children's Home and the Wallingford Old People's Welfare Association. They were backed up by an Admin team consisting of **Sergeant 'Paddy' Elliott, Corporal Harry Butler** and **Signalmen Steve Dale, Dave Best** and **'Tous' Cameron.**

The walkers split into two groups of three, with a gap of about 100 yards separating them. **'Muff', 'Jason'** and **'Geordie'** had brought along a cassette tape recorder and proceeded to play heavy rock full blast, which didn't really go down very well with the other three.

Although the walk seemed easy at first, it was apparent in the afternoon of the first day that lunch stops brought problems. Trying to set off again after a break of an hour or so was very painful to some, and nearly impossible to others. So future tactics were to walk as far as possible in the morning, leaving as short a distance as possible in the afternoon session.

**Bill Hutton** was struggling a little, due as much to **'Jason's'** voice as anything else, and it has been suggested that **'Jason'** be used as an additional means of communication should we ever have trouble with normal voice and CW systems.

The Admin staff were ready for our arrival at our first evening stop and each of the walkers was pampered to the extent of being sat down, boots removed and basins of hot water provided for their aching feet. Special mention should go to **Sergeant 'Paddy' Elliott** for his excellent choice of venues. It seems remarkable that one man has the ability to find so many pubs and discos in such desolate areas.

The weather wasn't very kind to the walkers, and the third day in particular produced very heavy rain and this had a lot to do with the average mileage dropping below the 35 miles per day which had been planned. However, the fourth day provided a great effort from the walkers, and 44 miles brought the average soaring back up.

There were incidents galore during the walk, much too numerous to mention, but included the photograph of the week, taken by **Corporal Harry Butler** and showing **'Geordie' Knox** with his pants down, displaying a certain bareness, due to completely worn out underpants. There was the occasion when **Corporal Andy Fyvie** visited a pub reeking of liniment, much to the disgust of the local population. A quick word to a local lass and the problem was sorted out. He disappeared and returned a couple of minutes later with one empty perfume bottle, much to the dismay of the local lass, who exclaimed that the perfume cost over a pound.

Then there was the evening when **'Geordie' Knox** gave a shriek of disgust on finding that he had at last developed a blister, much to the relief of the other walkers, who were beginning to think of him as some sort of alien.

The walk finished on the 5th July, much to the relief of everyone concerned.

### NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Squadron: **Captain D. C. Richardson, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Pettifer, Staff-Sergeant Cheyne, Signalmen Brackenbery, Barnet, Taberer, Miller** and **McCullough.** No doubt they will soon make their presence felt once they have their feet under the table.

### DEPARTURES

Always the saddest part of writing Wire notes, and this time certainly no exception, as we say goodbye and good luck to:

**W.O.2 (F. of S.) Ted Chambers. Ted** has been our man in Mike Troop, and Squadron mobile encyclopaedia. His generously given help on all matters will be missed, especially by the junior members of the Squadron.

**Staff-Sergeant Brian Young. Brian** has been the strong man behind the football team and a true sportsman on and off the field. Our social occasions will never be the same without **Judith** and **Brian,** but our loss is 1 Artillery Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron's gain.

**Corporal Bob Rylance,** long-distance runner extraordinaire. He actually enjoys it. He will no doubt run himself into 11 Signal Regiment's cross-country team.

**Corporal Gordon Macrorie.** Leaving us to join 7 Signal Regiment, his hair just as long as when he joined us.

### STOP PRESS

Yet another new arrival, a son, as yet not named, to **Lance-Corporal Rodger** and **Sue Fletcher.** As you can see, our turnover is slowly building up, so if you want to travel the Red Hand way come and join us. We can offer a most varied experience and, stationed on an RAF Station, quite often very light-hearted way of life.


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# News from Troops

## 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
## B.F.P.O. 65

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Greetings to the Corps from the 'pongos' of 603 Troop

*Back row, left to right:* Signalmen Kerry, Daly, Lance-Corporals Patten, Taylor (5 mins before departure) Signalmen Hames, Jennings

*Front row, left to right:* Corporal Carter, W.O.2 (F. of S.) Hill, Sergeant Denne, Corporal (now Sergeant) Funnell

### DIFFICULT TIMES BUT 603 IN GOOD HEART

JULY—a month of monsoons, compo meals, diminishing numbers and cricket victories.

When the SW monsoons hit the island of Masirah, and Salalah on the mainland, one can be virtually cut off from the outside world. Aircraft have difficulty in landing in sand storms which reduce visibility down to 25 yards, sport is forced to cease, and work becomes a constant battle with the elements. Distribution points, telephone and frame rooms become lost under mountains of sand—and morale goes down. Add to this the Cyprus situation, leaving our Tech Sergeant, **Sergeant Jack Lavery,** marooned in the Med. Fresh fruit and butter is in short supply, mail being held up or even lost in transit and the number of replacements diminishing due to lack of flights. One could have a disaster imminent and—in any other unit this could well be the case—**but not in 603 Signal Troop!** Morale and *esprit de corps* could never be bettered. Though reduced at times to 11 personnel, our achievements in the sporting field have astonished everybody. As The Wire is our newspaper, please allow us to boast a little of our achievements in a set-up as large as most overseas Royal Air Force Stations.

### NAME THE SPORT—WE'RE THERE

In the CO's competition for tennis—first place; swimming—first place; basketball—second place; rugby—finalists (match still to be played) and with only the hockey and cross-country still to come, we are virtually assured of first place. At cricket the batting of **Signalmen Cliff Kerry** and **Paul Jennings,** plus the accurate bowling of **Lance-Corporal Dave Patten,** have had a tremendous effect on the morale of the remainder of the team, and many recent victories have put a smiling face on the whole team.

**Sergeant Andy Funnell** and **Signalman Tom Daly** have fitted into the vacant volleyball slot and though it can now go on record that we have lost a match, the station coach and Troop Foreman of Signals, **John Hill,** is determined to prove that once is enough!

### AND IT'S RADIO PONGO TOO IN LOCAL BROADCASTING

The local radio station, Radio 65, broadcasting live throughout the Gulf Area, could easily be renamed 'Radio Pongo'. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill** runs the weekly quiz, 'A Class of Your Own' a visiting sections documentary, 'Down Your Way', and the 'Masirah Sports Roundup' (including live commentaries on rugby, soccer and cricket), while getting involved under the astute guidance of producer **Sergeant Tony Denne** in the 'Pongo Power Show', a weekly kaleidoscope of Blue Job baiting and mickey-taking, in which **Signalmen Paul Jennings, Cliff Kerry** and **Aussie Hames** and **Corporal 'Rommel' Carter,** the Troop Clerk, have discovered a natural gift in the entertainment field. **Tony** has also injected new plasma into the life blood of Radio 65 with his five words a second 'Top Twenty Show', and an insight into a field in which he has a brilliant understanding—that of classical music with his programme 'A Guide to Music'.

### SALALAH DETACHMENT VERY 'CERTA CITO'

The Salalah lads (gone but not forgotten) have less opportunity to boast of extramural activities due to their role and commitment, but under **Sergeant Charlie Peach, Corporal Mark Eaton, Signalmen Eddie Pluskota** and **'Hutch' Hutchinson** are doing a tremendous job of keeping 'Certa Cito' a going concern. For some reason or other, we seem to have failed to mention **Signalman Tony Crampton—**'ello, **Tone'.**

### NEWCOMERS

We have now our quota of six replacements, and though Roya Signals Records have failed to send in any sportsmen this time we accept the challenge. They, for the moment, are nameless; we need one month of 603's third degree treatment to turn them into super-athletes. A synopsis of their achievements will be recorded in the next edition of The Wire.

**Please excuse our boasts but we are jealous of other units' sporting prowess and feel that a little 'trumpet blowing' in the right place is a tremendous advert to attract 'would-be volunteers' to our island in the sun.**

## 633 Sig Tp, Caribbean

JULY has been a quiet month, the main event being the changeover of some senior members of the Troop. **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment** has departed to BAOR, leaving **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling** to start gaining his Belizean sun tan. We have also lost **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Len Sant,** who has returned to the 'Worcestershire Wombles' and large portions of mushy peas! In his place we have **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gordon Nickson,** who assumes the E21 det chair.

### SPORT

No major competitions this month, but we continue to enter teams for 'anything going' and, as a result, everyone gets a game. The Troop and Garrison football teams will sadly miss the talent of **Signalman Jim Scope,** who, unfortunately, has now left us for UK.

Our rugby players continue to exercise their skills, **Sergeant Eric Brydon** and **Corporal 'Taff' Mugford** being the mainstays of this warlike sport.

### MARRIAGE OF SIGNALMAN 'FUB' WILLIAMS TO MISS VILMA McLAUGHLIN

On 22nd June, 1974, at St John's Cathedral, Belize City, the Dean of Belize, the Reverend Gareth Lewis, married **Signalman 'Fub' Williams** to **Miss Vilma McLaughlin.**

Every available off-duty member of the Troop, plus many members of Force Units, attended the wedding and subsequent reception at Ladyville Village Hall. A local lack of confetti was overcome by the use of T100 Chads and the happy couple spent the following three weeks trying to get rid of the last trace of it!

**Signalman Williams** and his bride are now temporarily but happily settled in their bungalow at Mile 7, Northern Highway, enjoying the cool breeze from the Belize River on one side and the Caribbean Sea on the other!

*(See also article on page 391 about troop activities)*

# Sport

## ATHLETICS

## 21st Regiment pull it off again!

**ARMY TEAM ATHLETICS WON FIFTH YEAR RUNNING**
21st Signal Regiment athletic correspondent writes:

THE season of track and field is nearly over and what an outstanding year it has been for the Regiment. The team achieved the success for which we had all hoped and now the athletes reflect on a hard and long season but one where all their efforts were worth it.

**THE MORRISON CUP, 5th/6th JUNE**

This meeting always attracts a friendly and competitive atmosphere. It is a wonderful occasion for both Corps competitors and spectators to see old friends and to make new ones. The meeting was organised this year by 4 Signal Group and we were delighted that the Regiment finished first and 16 Signal Regiment third in the major units. The standard of performance was high and five Morrison Cup records were broken, two of the three records in the major units, by the Regiment. In the 4 × 100m, the team of **Signalman Alan Chapman, Lance-Corporal Rod Shaw, Corporal Charles Dowie** and **Lieutenant Neville Illman** lowered the record to 44·3sec. **Sergeant Dave Kuester** set a new individual javelin record with a throw of 56·32m, but our javelin pair were beaten by 7 Signal Regiment in a new record of 101·73m. The points gap between 7 Signal Regiment and ourselves was often very close, but our track athletes pulled out all stops in the relays and our final score was 175 points against 148 for 7 Signal Regiment. One sad note, **Sergeant Venus** broke his leg (playing football) early in the season and unfortunately missed not only the Morrison Cup, but also the BAOR and Army Championships. His dominating running, so admired by all, was missed this year.

**BAOR, 6th JULY**

The inter-unit meeting at Sennelager was our first test in the defence of our Army title. Once again we were up against 1 WFR, our old rivals. The weather was not at its best but we witnessed some wonderful performances. The Regiment won a total of 10 events, but 1 WFR stayed right on our tail throughout the meeting, closely followed by 7 Signal Regiment. Two highlights of the day were a magnificent throw of 60·52m by **Sergeant Kuester** in the javelin and the win by our 4 × 100m team in 43·7sec to equal the BAOR record set in 1947. The final scores were 129½ for the Regiment, 1 WFR 119 and 7 Signal Regiment 107. Unfortunately 1 WFR leave for Northern Ireland in the near future and therefore would not be available for the Army Championships. 7 Signal Regiment would therefore join us in Aldershot and the Corps would represent BAOR. Our success this year equalled the record set by 19 Field Regiment RA for three BAOR wins in a row.

**ARMY, 24th JULY**

After a short break and a few local competitions, the team moved to UK for final training. All of us were very conscious that this meeting at Aldershot was an important one. Could we retain the title for the fifth successive year? 233 Signal Squadron once again accommodated and assisted the team prior to the meeting and our thanks go to the Squadron for all their help.

The day itself and no one complacent or over-confident. Early in the day it was recognised that 2 Grenadier Guards were to be our closest rivals. The Guards team were strong in the field and hurdle events, but we knew that, provided there were no mishaps, our track athletes were favourites. Our faith was justified and **Sergeant John Turvey,** the current Army and Combined Services 800m champion, with a convincing win in the 800m, set the pattern for the rest of our runners. The 4 × 100m team equalled their BAOR performance of 43·7sec. In the individual events, **Corporal Charles Dowie** won the 100m and finished a close second in the 200m. **Signalman Alan Chapman** astounded us all with a superb win in the triple jump. The lead changed during the competition, but as so many times in the season the relay events were ours and we entered the last event, the 4 × 100m with a seven-point advantage. The win gave us a final score of 277½ against 262½ for the Guards. We had won for the fifth successive year and the champagne was produced. 7 Signal Regiment finished in third place to make it an athletic success for the Corps.

CORPS ATHLETE

Sergeant John Turvey—Army and Services 800-metres champion

**END OF SEASON**

Now it is over and our thanks go to everyone who has supported, encouraged and assisted us during the year. A special vote of thanks to our Athletics Officer, **Lieutenant Neville Illman,** who competed, assisted with training, coaching and handled most of the organisation and paper work throughout the season. Finally the team. We are proud of them for their hard work, competitive spirit and high standard of sportsmanship. Now what about next year?

## Morrison Cup 1974
## 21st Regiment Supremacy Challenged!

THIS year's Morrison Cup Athletics meeting was held on the 5th/6th June, 1974, at the Edelstahl Kampfbahn Stadium in Krefeld, under the sponsorship of 4 Signal Group, with the detailed organisation of the meeting being shared between 16 Signal Regiment and 21 Signal Regiment.

It is not always appreciated that this athletics meeting is the largest one held in BAOR (if not in the Army), with over 300 athletes participating over the two days, and it goes without saying that the time and effort required to organise a successful athletics meeting is quite considerable. This year was no exception for **Major Jimmy Fyffe,** 16 Signal Regiment, who conducted the administrative and social side, and for **Major Roy Shiner,** 21 Signal Regiment, who organised the athletics meeting itself.

No doubt these two experienced some sleepless nights during the period leading up to the meeting, but, ably assisted by an army of officials and helpers, it turned out to be a most successful Morrison Cup athletics meeting. Perhaps the best ever.

The weather for the meeting was mixed: brilliant sunshine on the first day, overcast on the morning of the second day, turning into rain for the afternoon session. However, this did not deter the enthusiasm and performance shown by the competitors from nine major units and 10 minor units.

As was expected, the major units competition developed into a tussle between 7 Signal Regiment and 21 Signal Regiment, the reigning Army and BAOR champions. Of the 14 events, nine were won by 21 Signal Regiment (six track and three field), four by 7 Signal Regiment (one track and three field) and one field event by 16 Signal Regiment. For most of the competition 7 Signal Regiment were within striking distance of 21 Signal Regiment and many thought that the form book might be upset, but the strength in depth on the track shown by 21 Signal Regiment eventually gave them an unassailable lead. As a result of such keen competition three new Morrison Cup records were recorded:

4 × 100m: 21 Signal Regiment, 44·3sec.

Javelin Individual: **Sergeant Kuester,** 56·32m.

Javelin Combined Distance: 7 Signal Regiment, 101·73m.

The minor units competition, with 10 teams competing, proved to be a far closer affair with the top four teams finishing within seven points of each other. After a most exciting competition 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron emerged as winners with 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and 229 Signal Squadron joint runners-up. Two new Morrison Cup records were recorded:

High Jump: **Lance-Corporal Holmes,** 225 Signal Squadron, 1·74m.

Shot: **Lance-Corporal Proctor,** 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, 12·43m.

Throughout the two days the large number of enthusiastic spectators spread around the stadium were kept well informed of the results and individual performances by the two commentators. **Captain Lesley Waumsley** in the announcer's box provided a continuous flow of results and live commentaries on the track events interspersed with the up-to-date Test match score, the result of the Derby and the odd joke. He was most ably assisted by **Captain Lionel French,** our 'roving reporter', who, with the aid of a radio microphone, provided up-to-the-minute reports from the field events and tug-of-war locations. What a difference it makes to have such enthusiastic and highly skilled commentators. The organisers of BAOR and Army athletics meetings would be well advised to try and hire their services.

Throughout the second day, to a fanfare of trumpets, Olympic style prizegiving ceremonies were witnessed. Gold, silver and bronze medals attached to Corps ribbon were placed around the necks of the victors in all events. The final medals and trophies were kindly presented by **Mrs. H. E. Roper,** who braved the rain, which by then was pouring down.

A full list of the results is to be found below:

**Final Overall Results**

*Major Units Trophy:* 21 Signal Regiment, 175 points; runners-up, 7 Signal Regiment, 148 points.

*Minor Units Trophy:* 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, 84 points; runners-up, 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron and 229 Signal Squadron, 78 points.

*Tug-of-war:* Major Units Champions, 16 Signal Regiment; Minor Units Champions, 6 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.

**MAJOR UNIT RESULTS**

| *Event* | *Winning Unit* | *Individual Winner* | *Time/ Height/ Distance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 × 100m | 21 Signal Regiment | | 44·3 sec |
| 4 × 110m | 7 Signal Regiment | | 1/9·6 sec |
| *Hurdles* | | | |
| 4 × 200m | 21 Signal Regiment | | 1/33·1 sec |
| 4 × 400m | 21 Signal Regiment | | 3/34·1 sec |
| 4 × 800m | 21 Signal Regiment | | 8/22 sec |
| 1,500m | 21 Signal Regiment | **Signalman Madden,** 21 Signal Regiment | 4/18 sec |
| 5,000m | 21 Signal Regiment | **Signalman Madden,** 21 Signal Regiment | 15/59 sec |
| Hammer Individual | 21 Signal Regiment | **Sergeant Henderson** | 35·63 m |
| Hammer | 16 Signal Regiment | | 63·18 m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| High jump Individual | 7 Signal Regiment | **Lieutenant Riley** | 1·80 m |
| High jump | 7 Signal Regiment | | 3·50 m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| Shot Individual | 21 Signal Regiment | **Corporal Vula** | 12·35 m |
| Shot | 21 Signal Regiment | | 24·04 m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| Pole Vault Individual | 7 Signal Regiment | **Signalman Hamilton** | 3·20 m |
| Pole Vault | 7 Signal Regiment | | 6·30 m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| Javelin Individual | 21 Signal Regiment | **Sergeant Kuester** | 56·32 m |
| Javelin | 7 Signal Regiment | | 101·73m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| Discus Individual | 21 Signal Regiment | **Corporal Vula** | 33·88m |
| Discus | 21 Signal Regiment | | 65·33m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |
| Long Jump Individual | 21 Signal Regiment | **Lieutenant Illman** | 6·29m |
| Long Jump | 21 Signal Regiment | | 12·34m |
| 1st and 2nd strings | | | |

**MINOR UNIT RESULTS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 × 100m | 229 Signal Squadron | | 47·1 sec |
| 200m | 1 Artillery Brigade Signal Squadron | **Signalman Christian** | 23·8 sec |
| 400m | 11 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | **Sergeant Smith** | 55·6 sec |
| 800m | 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron | **Lance-Corporal Verdon** | 2/06·1 sec |
| 1,500m | 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | **Signalman Wyles** | 4/22·8 sec |
| High Jump | 225 Signal Squadron | **Lance-Corporal Holmes** | 1·74m |
| Shot | 6 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | **Lance-Corporal Proctor** | 12·43m |
| Javelin | 4 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron | **Sergeant Taylor** | 49·00m |
| Discus | 229 Signal Squadron | **W.O.2 Percival** | 35·39m |
| Long Jump | 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | **Corporal May** | 6·11m |

## 7th Regiment's Athletics on up and up —even better next season?

**FROM INTER-SQUADRON PAGE TROPHY TO ARMY CHAMPIONSHIP ALDERSHOT**

IT all started on the 18th/19th April this year, when the annual inter-squadron Page Trophy and 'Standards' athletic meeting was held in the Elverdissen Stadium, Herford, under the watchful eye of our Regimental Athletics Officer, **Major Paul Webb,** and superb organisation by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Bob McKay** and **Q.M.S.I. Peter Seddon.** From this our regimental team was selected and the discovery of the day was none other than finding two good pole vaulters, **Signalman 'Hammy' Hamilton** and **Lance-Corporal Lambert.** Congratulations to 6 Squadron, who won the competition and became our new 1974 athletic champions.

The now serious business of training our regimental team got under way and before we knew it the first of several major events—the BAOR individual championships on 29th/30th May was upon us. **Signalman Glen Broome** emerged as the BAOR high jump champion along with our team captain, **Sergeant Ian Haldane,** taking two firsts in the 110m and 400m hurdles. On now to the annual Morrison Cup meeting at Krefeld on 5th/6th June, where our team put up a tremendous performance, finishing a close second to 21 Signal Regiment (current Army champions). All our athletes had done a personal best performance, winning the high jump, pole vault, javelin (new Morrison Cup record) and 110m hurdles.

Our hard work was about to be rewarded in full when on the 12th June our team became the new 4th Divisional athletic champions and we are all grateful to our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers,** who was there to fill the cup with champagne. **Signalman 'G G' Campbell** and **Lance-Corporal Mike O'Hare** did some fine team running, finishing first and second to win the 400m team race, and this was equalled by an excellent performance from our 200m sprint team, **Lance-Corporal Johnny Burdis** and **Corporal Tom 'Flyer' Dickinson. Corporal Johnny Gumbs** and **Corporal Norman Wath** also won the shot putt event.

It was back to hard work of a different kind this time; that of exercise 'Summer Sales' followed immediately afterwards by the BAOR team championships on Saturday, 6th July, at Sennelager. Another fine effort by the team gained us third place and for the first time ever a chance to compete in the Army team championships at Aldershot on Wednesday, 24th July. At last we were there and now we would really be up against it. However, with nothing less than a magnificent effort by every single athlete, we came out third in the Army. Some of the outstanding results were by **Signalman Jock Byiers** and **Lance-Corporal Barry Ross** in the 1,500m (4min 14sec), also **Signalman Andy Garlick** in the long jump (6·37m), all personal bests. Special mention and our congratulations to **Corporal Norman Worth** and **Signalman Andy Harvey,** who went on to become this year's Army champions in the javelin event. Our 4 × 100m relay team of **Sergeant Ian Haldane, Signalman Garry Lee, Lance-Corporal Bert Lockhart** and **Signalman Cameron** had their best-ever performance of 43·9sec.

**The overall result and team performance has been tremendous and we look forward to even better things next season. Look out, 21! Who says 7 can only play rugby!**

### TUG-OF-WAR

Tug-of-war in the Regiment started this year with the annual inter-unit tug-of-war competition. The winning team was 3 Squadron, under the able leadership of **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Frank Worrall** and **Sergeant Olly Aldridge.** So strong did their team prove to be that it was decided to build the regimental team around them.

Our first competition was the Morrison Cup, where we were to come runners-up to 16th Signal Regiment in a very spirited competition. It was here our coach, **Q.S.M.I. Pete Seddon,** was heard to make the remark, 'If I could teach them to pull instead of push we may get somewhere'.

Something must have sunk in because we emerged clear winners of the 4 Division competition.

With thoughts of another crack at 16th Signal Regiment we entered the BAOR competition and on the day, all went well. After a hard day's pulling we emerged second to a very strong 39 Field Regiment RA.

In the Army finals at Aldershot it was soon obvious that enthusiasm and fitness were not enough and the skill displayed by the UK-based teams was overwhelming. We eventually came seventh, but with the new techniques learnt all agreed the experience of pulling at such a high standard was well worth the effort and we look forward to next season. Our team consisted of the following:

Coach: **Q.S.M.I. Pete Seddon**
No. 1: **Corporal Gary Mayers**
No. 2: **Corporal Barry Longland**
No. 3: **Sergeant 'Olly' Aldridge** (team captain)
No. 4: **Sergeant Ivor Noble**
No. 5: **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith**
No. 6: **W.O.1 Frank Worrall**
No. 7: **Signalman Clive Strange**
Anchor: **Lance-Corporal Vince Border**
No. 1 reserve: **Signalman 'Taff' Williams**
No. 2 reserve: **Corporal 'Biff' Bailey**

## SAILING

### Good Sport at Corps Baltic Regatta

### 28th Regiment's Comfortable Win

28TH Signal Regiment took all major honours at this year's Baltic Regatta, which was held between 14th and 21st July.

The event included three races, Kiel–Copenhagen, Copenhagen–Helsingör and Helsingör–Kiel, via the Kattegat and Great Belt.

Racing began from Kiel Fiord with a 6 p.m. start on Sunday, 14th, and a fresh south-westerly blowing. There were problems on the line with the committee boat dragging its anchor, but the fleet got away to a good start with the Danboats making most of the running.

At about midnight the first mark, the Fernmahr Light, was rounded with 4 Dans in tight echelon ahead of the fleet. The fleet then ran down to the Gedser lightship and up to the Mons Klint. By this time 28 Regiment's *Merganser,* skippered by **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie** and **Captain Mike Shaw,** had established a mile lead over 16 Regiment's *Sandpiper,* skippered by **Sergeant Robert Webb** and **Lance-Corporal Ian Perkins.** Having established a lead, 28 Regiment held off a last-minute challenge by 7 Regiment's *Goosander,* skippered by **Captain Bob Middleton** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Bill Carr,** to win by 10 minutes in 28 hours 6 minutes. 2nd Regiment's *Mallard,* skippered by **Captain Bill Coxon** and **Major Keith Allwright,** was third. The Cutlass class was lead home in overall fourth place by 4 Regiment's *Sabre,* skippered by **Sergeant Ken Suckling** and **Lieutenant Nigel Cory,** in 30 hours 50 minutes, followed by 1st Regiment's *Claymore,* skippered by **Captain Martin Roberts** and **Major Ron Saville,** with 11 Brigade Signal Squadron's *Rapier,* skippered by **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) John Scrutton** and **Staff-Sergeant Joe Brand,** third.

On Wednesday a short race up the Copenhagen Sound was held. With the south-westerly wind still favouring the Dans, Race Secretary **Major Peter Gregory** put in a short windward leg to even things up for the Cutlasses. A delayed start followed *Goldeneye's* loss of a spreader and 28 were soon away with a clear lead only to be overhauled in the lee of the island of Ven by 7 Regiment, who went on to establish a good lead on the beat.

At the weather mark it was 7 Regiment ahead, with the rest of the fleet bunched well behind, but the wind dropped and in the calm that followed, by dint of concentration, 28 Regiment pulled back and after a neck-and-neck run in a freshening breeze it was 28 Regiment first across the line, with 7 Regiment a close second again.

In the Cutlass Class 5 boats finished within 2 minutes. First place honours were awarded jointly to 6 Brigade Signal Squadron's *Spear,* skippered by **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) William Blair** and **Sergeant Brian Mundy** and 4th Regiment's *Sabre.*

The following day the long haul back began with a 70-mile beat across the Kattegat. The wind favoured the Cutlasses, who did well in the fresh breezes, but a gale blew up fairly big seas and it was 28 Regiment who rounded the weather mark off Sjallands Rocks first in the Dan boat *Merganser.*

After that there was no holding *Merganser.* Pounding down the Great Belt at 7 knots, she soon lost the trailing opposition in the surf. Rounding the southern tip of Langlands 80 miles later and reaching across Kiel Bay in a moderating gale, *Merganser* crossed the line two hours clear of her nearest rival, the 6 Brigade Signal Squadron's Cutlass *Spear,* with 1 Regiment's Cutlass *Claymore* third.

With three wins in three straight races 28 Signal Regiment took the Mermaid Cup for the Kiel–Copenhagen race, a new trophy for the overall winning boat, an old German Cannon, Cito presented by **Lieutenant-Colonel Jimmy Blake,** and **Colonel Dudley Carnie** took the skipper's telescope from his mate, **Captain Mike Shaw,** who won it last year when skippering the 1 Division boat.

The prize for the leading Cutlass was taken by 4th Signal Regiment, whose two other crew members were **Lieutenant Martin Strong** and **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) John Richardson.**

In all a thoroughly good week's sailing.

## CRICKET

### Corps Score Fine Victory in BAOR

ROYAL SIGNALS succeeded in retaining the BAOR inter-corps cricket trophy this season. A strong side was fielded for the competition played in the Rheindahlen area over the last weekend in July under the auspices of 16 Signal Regiment.

In the preliminary league stage good wins were recorded over the Royal Artillery, Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Army Medical Corps. In the semi-final the Corps was drawn against the Royal Engineers and beat them in convincing style by seven wickets. In the final the opponents were the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for the fourth year in succession. It was a great occasion with a good crowd at Rheindahlen to watch. In the event it was a comfortable Corps victory by six wickets, but not before a few fingernails had been bitten to the quick. Heroes of the tour were **F. of S. Bert Taylor** with an unbeaten 67 and **Corporal Dave Taylor** with 35, who shared a three wicket stand of 100. A full report of this fine victory will appear in the next edition.

## Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

*The following donations were gratefully received during July* 1974:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Commander, HQ Training Brigade Royal Signals | 75·00 |
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| | £168·50 |



## MARCHING

1st DIV SIG REGT GAIN THIRD NIJMEGEN MEDAL

The picture above was taken when the 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment team was striding towards gaining its third medal in three years at NIJMEGEN. The team was well prepared for this annual four-day march as most members had competed in the 100 km European Championships at COPENHAGEN. The team leader, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Marsh, had already completed the NIJMEGEN marches in 1973 and used this experience not only to train the team for 1974 but also to lead it to a successful finish. The team now looks forward to taking part in the 100 km march at DORTMUND in September. Sights are set on achieving a fourth medal next year


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**Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.**


## Promotions

### AUGUST

(Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the Blue Book

| *Name* | *Initials* | *Rank* | *Trade* | *New Sen. Date* | *Old Sen. Date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Bresloff, | R. S. | A.W.O.1 | | 10 May 74 | 27 Feb. 68 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Groves, | R. S. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 7 Nov. 73 | 9 Mar. 69 |
| Smart, | M. C. K. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 3 Apr. 74 | 6 Aug. 72 |
| Fisher, | B. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Dvr | 1 May 74 | 10 Jan. 72 |
| Baldwin, | W. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 2 May 74 | 18 Jan. 72 |
| Papanicolaou, | N. | A/W.O.2 | Data Tg | 3 May 74 | 1 Feb. 72 |
| Parker, | D. R. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Pnn | 4 May 74 | 2 May 72 |
| Widdowson, | C. E. M. | S/Sgt. | Clk Tech | 5 May 74 | 12 Jan. 72 |
| Clark, | K. R. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Sig | 6 May 74 | 2 Apr. 72 |
| Foster, | M. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 7 May 74 | 6 May 72 |
| **STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Cartwright, | T. H. C. | A/S/Sgt. | R Tg | 4 Nov. 73 | 17 Feb. 70 |
| Eason, | B. E. | A/S/Sgt. | R Tg | 6 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Salter, | J. B. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Lmn | 8 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Garland, | G. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 1 Apr. 74 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Edmunds, | J. W. | Sgt. | R Tg | 1 May 74 | 29 Apr. 71 |
| Hannagan, | R. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 2 May 74 | 30 Sept. 71 |
| Lund, | H. | Sgt. | Data Tg | 3 May 74 | 25 May 72 |
| Spring, B.E.M., | M. A. | A/S/Sgt. | Clk Tech | 4 May 74 | 4 Aug. 71 |
| Mumford, | T. K. | Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 5 May 74 | 2 Apr. 72 |
| Creedy, | C. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 6 May 74 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| Hughes, | R. | Sgt. | Cbt Lmn | 7 May 74 | 4 Aug. 71 |
| **SUPERVISOR RADIO ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Cooper, | T. B. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Jan. 74 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| Neal, | T. B. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 Apr. 74 | 1 Apr. 71 |
| **CHIEF CLERK ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Jewell, | J. P. | A/W.O.1 | | 15 Apr. 74 | 2 Nov. 68 |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Hinton, | P. D. | Sgt. | | 1 June 74 | 13 Nov. 69 |
| Butterworth, | E. | A/S/Sgt. | | 3 June 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| **TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Jones, | J. M. | Cpl. | | 16 Oct. 73 | 6 Feb. 71 |
| Foote, | R. A. | Cpl. | | 6 Feb. 74 | 1 July 71 |
| Dyson, | P. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 7 June 68 |
| Coppinger, | R. W. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 27 June 69 |
| Davis, | J. I. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 27 July 72 |
| Morrison, | I. W. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 24 Nov. 68 |
| Shaw, | F. J. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 24 Apr. 70 |
| Lawrence, | R. A. | Cpl. | | 6 June 74 | 15 Mar. 69 |
| Toleman, | D. R. | Cpl. | | 6 June 74 | 11 Feb. 72 |
| Barton, | R. | Cpl. | | 10 June 74 | 14 Dec. 67 |
| Christie, | R. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 28 June 70 |
| Thain, | D. F. O. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Iddon, | R. D. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 1 June 71 |
| **RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Hawkins, | T. | Cpl. | | 25 Apr. 74 | 21 Jan. 71 |
| Studd, | R. F. | Cpl. | | 8 May 74 | 11 Aug. 67 |
| Tankard, | M. J. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 28 June 70 |
| Western, | M. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 18 Dec. 70 |
| **DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Garland, | G. | Sgt. | | 1 Apr. 74 | 5 Aug. 70 |
| Hannagan, | R. | Sgt. | | 2 May 74 | 30 Sept. 71 |
| Lund, | H. | Sgt. | | 3 May 74 | 25 May 72 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Crighton, | F. J. | Cpl. | | 1 July 74 | 1 Mar. 67 |
| Rolfe, | B. E. | A/Sgt. | | 2 July 74 | 30 Nov. 67 |
| Downey, | W. V. | Cpl. | | 10 July 74 | 29 Feb. 68 |
| Gipson, | R. E. | A/Sgt. | | 11 July 74 | 1 Aug. 68 |
| Ledwards, | M. V. | A/Sgt. | | 12 July 74 | 3 Nov. 69 |
| **RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Cartwright, | T. H. C. | A/S/Sgt. | | 4 Nov. 73 | 17 Feb. 70 |
| Eason, | B. E. | A/S/Sgt. | | 6 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Edmunds, | J. W. | Sgt. | | 1 May 74 | 29 Apr. 71 |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Crothers, | J. A. | A/Sgt. | | 28 June 74 | 1 Sept. 68 |
| Caffrey, | M. L. | A/Sgt. | | 29 June 74 | 1 Jan. 69 |
| Reader, | T. | A/Sgt. | | 30 June 74 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| Durrant, | I. | A/Sgt. | | 10 July 74 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| Wood, | I. | A/Sgt. | | 11 July 74 | 1 Dec. 69 |

SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Littler, | P. G. | A/Sgt. | 13 June 74 | 1 Nov. 69 |
| Clay, | R. F. | A/Sgt. | 20 June 74 | 31 Jan. 67 |
| Westwell, | I. | A/Sgt. | 1 July 74 | 15 Jan. 67 |
| Mead, | R. J. | Cpl. | 4 July 74 | 20 Aug. 72 |

CLERK ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Wade, | R. N. L. | Cpl. | 1 June 74 | 29 Feb. 68 |
| Leniston, | P. F. J. | A/Sgt. | 2 June 74 | 31 Mar. 69 |

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Heald, | R. S. | A/Sgt. | 10 Apr. 74 | 10 Oct. 61 |
| Spring, B.E.M. | M. A. | A/S/Sgt. | 4 May 74 | 4 Aug. 71 |
| Elliott, | D. C. | Cpl. | 1 June, 74 | 1 Nov. 71 |

COMBAT DRIVER ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Jinks, | V. D. | A/Sgt. | 1 May 74 | 13 Mar. 61 |
| Bell, | D. J. | Cpl. | 2 May 74 | 30 Sept. 65 |

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Salter, | J. B. | A/S/Sgt. | 8 Nov 73 | 1 Oct. 68 |
| Hughes, | R. | Sgt. | 7 May 74 | 4 Aug. 71 |

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Mumford, | T. K. | Sgt. | 5 May 74 | 2 Apr. 72 |
| Creedy, | H. | A/S/Sgt. | 6 May 74 | 1 Aug. 68 |

INSERTION—REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To W.O.1 | | | | |
| Cooley, | A. E. | A/W.O.1 | 2 Jan. 74 | 22 Feb. 69 |

(deleted in error May/June 74 *Wire*)


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| Corps Scarves—Woollen | £1·75 |
| Corps Squares—Rayon | £1·05 |
| Corps Cuff Links | £1·12 |
| Association Badges, Brooch Type (Members only) | 22p |
| Corps Blazer Badges (Silver 'Jimmy', Crown and Motto in gold, as approved by the Corps Committee) on Black or Dark Navy Blue background | £1·80 |
| Blazer Buttons—Large (each) | 18p |
| Small (each) | 16p |
| Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours) Bumper or Radiator fittings | £2·35 |
| Motor Car Badges—square plastic | £1·50 |
| Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours) | 75p |
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| Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers: | |
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| Corps table mats (set of six) | £5·75 |
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| Corps diaries (1975) plannertype | 35p |


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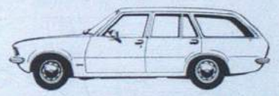

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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, SW3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730 3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, SW1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., Newspaper House, Great New Street, London EC4P 4ER. Hastings & Folkestone.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, SW1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*October-November, 1974*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

**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, SW3 4RH. Tel. Nos.* 01-730 4129 *and* 01-730 3477. *Ext.* 143.

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☆

**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 10**

# Editorial

## Our Cover Picture

Our front cover features **Corporal Jess Harper** of 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron with his formula Ford Royale RP16. He spends all his free time competing at Silverstone, Mallory Park and other circuits in the Midlands. For the motor minded the car consists of a Ford Cortina 1600cc GT engine together with a Hewland Mk 9 gearbox, which allows the gearing to be easily altered for various circuits. A top speed of 125 plus can be attained. For this class of racing only road tyres can be used, for economic reasons.

Although he has not yet got into the 'big time', it may not be too long before Royal Signals and the Special Air Service are represented on the Grand Prix grid.

## A Sportsman's Army

The subject of our front cover picture, mentioned above, is a striking example of the very wide range of sporting activities in which the modern soldier takes a steadily increasing part. It was not so many years ago that 'soldier' sport mainly centred on football, rugby, hockey, boxing, tennis, athletics and such like and it was only the officers—and by no means all of them—who were able to indulge in the less common and usually more expensive sports. Times have changed—and for the better. Today's soldier is far better found financially, while the Army goes to great lengths to encourage soldier participation in a remarkable range of sporting activities. Consider what is open to *any* Signalman provided he is in the right place and prepared to make the most of his opportunities—sailing, golf, ski-ing, canoeing, mountaineering, sub-aqua diving, squash, gliding, freefall parachuting, motor rallying are some of the activities that not so long ago were rarely available to the ordinary soldier. Over and above these sports the older traditional games continue to be as popular as ever.

It is pleasing to read in the pages of THE WIRE of the increasing and successful participation of Corps soldiers in a wide variety of healthy outlets, many of which they would probably have never contemplated or been able to afford were they not in the Army. It is also good to know that the Corps gives every encouragement to its soldiers to indulge in these very worthwhile activities. A good sportsman is almost always a good soldier.

## Westminster Field of Remembrance—7th November 1974

The Field will be opened on Thursday, 7th November 1974. This annual act of Remembrance on behalf of those in the Services who have fallen for their country is marked by a short Service outside the Cathedral at noon. Any past or present member of the Corps who can spare the time is invited to meet at the Corps plot (No. 203) on the right hand side of the path leading from the Victoria Street entrance. It is advisable to arrive not later than 11.45 a.m.

## From our "In" Tray

### The Corps does get around

Sir,

Ref your July–August issue of THE WIRE. The cover photograph of the soldier you were unable to name was yours truly—myself. The photo was taken during an exercise in the Norwegian Arctic in 1970. I was a member of the Allied Mobile Forces Troop which was raised in 30 Signal Regiment. A year before, I was in a small island in the Caribbean doing communications back to England for the Royal Engineers who were building an airstrip. So from + 120° to –30°. I can also say—The Corps gets around!

Yours faithfully,
**Robert Wilson** (Lance-Corporal)
24 Airptble Bde HQ,
and Sig Sqn,
Topcliffe, Thirsk,
Yorks.

### Civilian Instructional Staff at the Training Brigade Royal Signals

Vacancies occur from time to time at the Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, and at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3. Selection for appointment is by attendance at a Civil Service Selection Board. These appointments are attractive to Foremen, Yeomen and Class 1 Technicians and Telegraphists who are leaving the Service.

Write to the undermentioned for details:—

*At Catterick Garrison*
Mr. S. P. Halsey, Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

*At Harrogate*
Mr. P. Sharp, Army Apprentice College, Pennypot Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

### Old 40 Div Sig Regt Ties

The PRI of 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) is holding a number of 40 Div. Sig. Regt. ties which are offered for sale at a cost of £1·30.

Applications to the PRI, 244 Signal Regiment, RAF Benson, Oxfordshire.

### Tall Ships Sailing and Adventure Training

A number of adventure courses will be run in the schooner *Captain Scott* between February and December next year on the west coast of Scotland. The schooner (144ft long and 380 tons) is commanded by **Commander V. Clark, RN,** and has a permanent crew/instructors of eight and accommodates 36 trainees for each cruise, which lasts 26 days. In addition to the permanent staff, **Commander Clark** is looking for two temporary assistant instructors who should have had some experience of adventure training, not necessarily sailing. They must, however, be agile and 'willing to pick up the ropes', Anyone interested should apply for further details to **Commander V. Clark, RN,** Schooner *Captain Scott*, Achdalieu, Fort William, Invernesshire, PH33 7NN.

### Welfare

*The following donations were gratefully received during August* 1974:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| G. E. Bassil, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. | 0·75 |
| F. C. Forbes, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. | 0·25 |
| Captain R. Campbell, M.C. .. .. .. .. | 0·80 |
| | £1·80 |

### Thank You!

Since the beginning of August, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:

**Major P. R. Davies, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Dickson, Major and Mrs. M. P. Walker, Mr. J. L. Smith, Mrs. A. Wilkinson, Lieutenant and Mrs. D. Maxted, Major P. B. Leonard, Brigadier C. Vincent-Smith, Sergeant and Mrs. D. Fryer, Mrs. D. Evans, Major T. B. Woods, Captain R. F. Knight, Major and Mrs. R. A. Ellis, Major E. J. Buirski, Major-General M. S. Hancock, Yeoman Warder A. A. Copestake, Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. N. Lyons.**

### The Corps Cares For Its Own

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially in August** .. | **20** |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** .. .. .. | **43** |
| **Amount spent** .. .. .. .. .. .. | **£612·55** |

### Sixty Years of Memories come flooding back to Mr. Allwood

It was a great day of memories for eighty-year-old **Mr. Arthur Allwood,** of Crystal Cottage, Trinity Street, Shrewsbury, when he was given V.I.P. treatment by the Shropshire Yeomanry Signal Squadron recently. It was to commemorate the day—over sixty years ago—when he joined the Shropshire Territorials who were then mobilising in 1914. **Mr. Allwood** saw service in France, Belgium and Germany in the first world war and also served in the second world war when he was commissioned as a Lieutenant.

The Shropshire Yeomanry Signals Squadron invited him to take a look at the modern Territorial Army. He toured Sir John Moore Barracks at Copthorne, Shrewsbury; he also visited Belle Vue Army Depot and Territorial House, Sundorne, where he was shown round by **Captain Charles Baalham,** permanent staff officer of the Yeomanry Signals Squadron. At Territorial House he was presented with a copy of a book entitled "The Shropshire Yeomanry".

The event created a good deal of interest in Shrewsbury. **Mr. Allwood** appeared on TV and the press featured the visit. In an interview **Mr. Allwood** commented: "There are not many left of those who reported for duty on that memorable day 5th August 1914, but there are still one or two around. It was a grand day and the memories came flooding back".

#### BRIGADIER D. A. PRINGLE, O.B.E.

The caption of a photograph which showed Brigadier Pringle at a parade at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, in the August/September WIRE concluded with the words "... who has now *returned*". This was a printing error and should have read "... who has now *retired*".


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# MORE BACKGROUND TO THE CYPRUS EMERGENCY

**262 SIG SQN REPORT:—**

#### NORMAL ROUTINE GOES BY THE BOARD

MONDAY, the 15th July, seemed at first to be like a normal Monday morning anywhere in the world. It was hot, of course, but it always is out here at this time of the year. The Squadron was in the throes of preparing for the UEI on vehicles, which was to start at 0800 hrs, and within the next fortnight small arms, office machinery and tels inspections would all be taking place. By the 16th August the Squadron would be free of all aspects of the annual FFR and enjoying itself at summer camp. What, then, made this Monday morning different?

By 0815 hrs we had learned, via our switchboard supervisor, that there had been a military coup in Nicosia. By 1000 hrs we were at state 3 alert, the ops room at HQ Dhekelia Area was manned and our 4 HF dets were ready to deploy. However, because of the restriction of movement of vehicles outside the sovereign base areas and the confused situation following the coup, the detachment to 9 Signal Regiment was the only det to deploy, the remaining dets being placed at two hours' notice. During the following three days the only further deployment was a detachment with a Pye pallet set to HQ NAAFI warehouse in Famagusta. Radio Troop were, however, fully committed as comms vehicles on the now daily convoys between the SBAs. On the morning of the 18th July a further two HF dets were deployed, one to RAF Nicosia and the other to the British High Commission in Nicosia.

#### CONTINGENCY PLANS ACTIVATED

The local population began settling into the new routine and returning to as much normality as was allowed by the new government, who were now seemingly in full control of the island. After high-level international diplomatic action a more stable situation seemed to have been achieved when at 0300 hrs on the 20th July the Turkish landings at Kyrenia were reported.

By 0400 hrs the contingency plans for the activation of the military reception centre and the civilian reception centres had been implemented. As has already been well reported in the world's press, some 10,000 people were to be processed through Dhekelia in the next few days, not to mention the hundreds of Army families from the dormitory towns of Larnaca and Famagusta, who were billeted on to families living in quarters within Dhekelia. The stories of hours worked, help offered and problems shared throughout this period are legion and would require a separate epic to be written if they were all to be told.

#### UNDER FIRE!

At 0550 hrs the extent of the invasion was brought home to Dhekelia ops by a report from **Signalmen Bob Innes** and **'Rab' Lee** of bombing and strafing attacks by the Turkish Air Force on their location in Nicosia Airport. From this time until their withdrawal at 1130 hrs, 21st July, **Signalmen Innes** and **Lee** were constantly caught in the cross-fire in the battle for the airport. They remained in contact throughout that time, calmly giving frequent sitreps on the fighting. Damage to the vehicle and trailer was restricted to some shrapnel holes and a bent bumper caused by hitting a gate-post during the evacuation of the RAF compound during an air attack. On their return, carrying the nose cone of a Turkish fighter plane as a souvenir, they were seen in the 'Q' Stores trying to obtain a 12ft square Union Jack as the 4ft one they already had seemed to grow smaller with each air attack.

Not to be outdone our detachment at HQ NAAFI, Famagusta, **Signalmen 'Apples' Appleyard** and **Steve 'Boy Wonder' Molyneux** were also doing sterling work reporting on the situation in the town centre. They spent several hours under heavy mortar fire, which was perfectly audible over the radio, and brought back many pieces of shrapnel to prove it! They were eventually rescued at 1900 hrs, 20th July, still under fire, by a Saracen of 16/5 Lancers, which had to knock down the compound gate to let them out. **'Apples'** was heard to say that 'a 6ft wall on a BE test is one thing, but a 12ft barbed-wire topped fence under fire is another matter completely'.

Meanwhile our detachment at the British High Commission, Nicosia, **Corporal Graham Dyer** and **Signalman Nigel Nicolls,** were also having a hectic time. The Commission is situated almost on the green line in Nicosia, and so it was constantly in the cross-fire. Twice the antenna on the roof was either blown or shot down and had to be replaced at considerable risk to the detachment. Apart from maintaining HF comms, **Corporal Dyer** and **Signalman Nicolls** earned themselves many words of praise from the BHC staff for the cheerful way they undertook several other tasks. At various times they were switchboard operators calmly answering the sometimes frantic questioning of refugees and press men and at the same time operating the ALPHA net set, and at other times generally assisting the staff in their BHC duties. **Corporal Dyer** was, I understand, instrumental in solving the problem regarding the exercising and relieving of the three dogs also confined in the BHC. He simply tied long lengths of D10 to their collars and pushed them outside through the protective grills! **Corporal Dyer** and **Signalman Nicolls** eventually returned to Dhekelia on the 28th July and were quickly granted a whole 14 hours stand-down to recover from their exertions.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, AS USUAL, VITAL

The Squadron was also responsible for the comms on the now famous Nicosia convoy. **Lance-Corporal 'Rab' Galbraith** and **Signalman John Lewis** provided HF comms for the convoy commander and escorted by elements of 2 Coldstream Guards and 16/5 Lancers travelled to Nicosia and reported on the progress of the some 400 vehicles departing from the grounds of the Nicosia Hilton. One of the vehicles being evacuated was, of course, our RAF Nicosia detachment, **Signalmen Innes** and **Lee** and they assumed comms for the first 100 cars convoy to leave Nicosia, enabling as much warning as possible to be given to the MRC and CRC of the sudden influx of over 1,000 refugees.

Whilst Radio Troop have been doing their thing, the rest of the Squadron has been far from idle. Normal traffic figures for the Commcen trebled on both in and out traffic. This does not take into account that during the two-day evacuation period over 1,000 EFM telegrams were sent by refugees. As our locally employed operators were unable to get to work, we had also to man (or should it be woman?) the switchboards. **Signalman 'Scouse' Kelly,** whose convalescence from an appendicectomy was drastically curtailed because of the need for bed space at BMH, found himself back in hospital manning the switchboard! A press cell was also manned with **Captain Noel Clark** and **Staff-Sergeant Elaine Willacy** doing sterling work keeping the world's press up to date. Despite the tiring routine of a two-way shift, morale remained high.

#### A JOB WELL DONE

**Corporal Dave Brough** has kept the Squadron administration running smoothly through this trying period. The amount of returns, nominal rolls, etc, that the evacuation of families causes has to be seen to be believed. To date we haven't lost anyone—I don't think. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Dennis Hall,** whose 'mission impossible' cell is functioning on a 24-hour basis, is said to be trying to get each day extended to 30 hours—shades of NI.

**To do justice to the rest of the workers would require more space than I'm sure the editor could spare, so just well done all, especially to all the wives who not only put up refugees, but went out and assisted in the MRC, CRC and NAAFI, will have to suffice.**

**On the whole it has been a thorough and complete test of all the Squadron's SOPs and contingency plans and, judging by the congratulations and commendations already received, we have acquitted ourselves extremely well. Perhaps that 'have acquitted' should read 'are acquitting', for as we go to press it is all happening again. All our families living in the dormitory towns have been evacuated again, this time to the UK. In closing may we be the first to wish happy Christmas to all our readers!**


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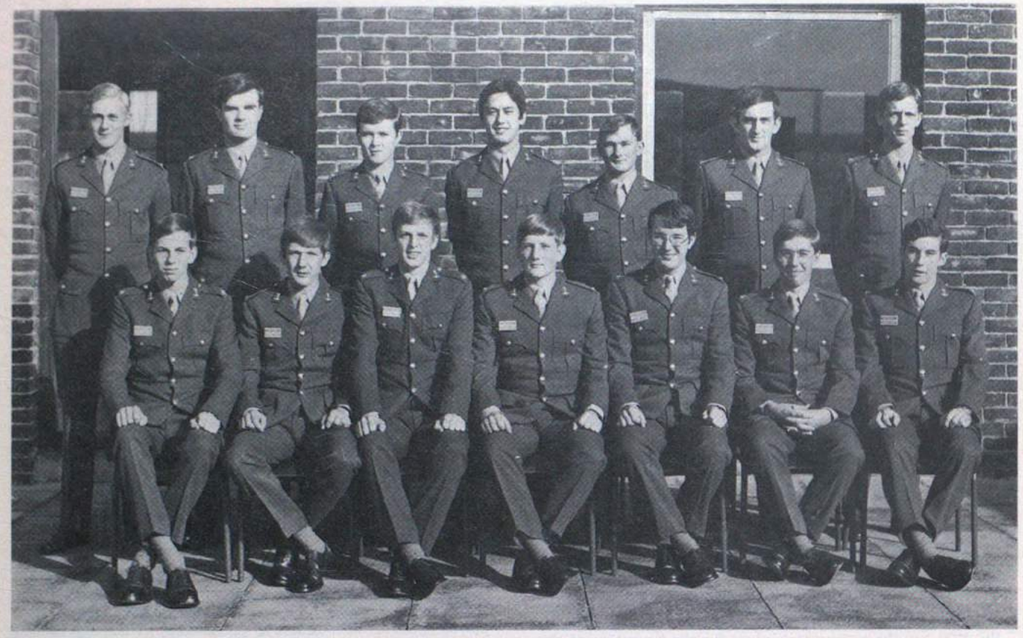

NO 4 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS, 8th to 20th SEPTEMBER 1974

*Standing (left to right)*: Second-Lieutenants Blum, Clague, Day, Forster, Kinnaird, Little, Moore.
*Sitting (left to right)*: Second-Lieutenants Morgan, Rimmell, Rollins, Smith, Stockdale, Whittaker, Willis

# HADRIAN'S WALL VISITED

## 11th REGIMENT PARTY TRAVERSE 74-MILE LENGTH

THE outstanding Roman antiquity of Hadrian's Wall dates back to the second century, when the Emperor Hadrian visited Britain in AD 122 and caused this frontier defence system to be built. Much can still be seen of the wall, and considerable excavation and reconstruction work has taken place in recent years. The defence system can be clearly seen along the route of the wall, with a milecastle and gateway to the wall standing at intervals of 1,620yd, a Roman mile. Each of these castles held barracks for 24 men. In addition, 17 forts were constructed as a permanent base for a cavalry regiment or infantry battalion of 1,000 or 500 men. Over the four-day period August 11th–14th members of the regiment, headed by a strong representation from RHQ of the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, RSM and Chief Clerk, walked the length of Hadrian's Wall. The walk started at Wallsend, Newcastle, and finished at Bowness, a distance of 74 miles.

## *Hadrian's Crawl!*

### A HIGHLY PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE EXPEDITION

### JOCKEYING FOR POSITION

My first conscious memory of exercise 'Hadrian's Wall' was being somewhat brusquely shaken by the Adjutant, still in the dark of the Sunday morning somewhere in darkest Newcastle. Having debussed, the walking party was split by a process of natural selection into those whose prime objective was to complete the course as if pursued by the devil himself, and those who intended to take things somewhat more sedately. For some reason the officers of the party complete with itinerant dog, by courtesy of the Adjutant, gravitated to the rear, and at the rear they stayed.

### SUNDAY MORNING ENCOUNTER

One of the most surprised people we met in Newcastle that early Sunday morning, was a lance-corporal in the TA, who on rounding the High Street was suddenly confronted by three officers in combat kit being towed along by a spotted dog. With great credit he saluted smartly, much to the amusement of a passing newspaper boy, and marched purposefully on as if he always met strange officers that early on Sunday mornings. On the Great West Road out of Newcastle our first Roman remain, set in a semi-detached housing estate, was a temple to one of the many Roman gods, with access gained through next door's front garden. A stranger setting for a Roman temple would be hard to imagine.

Onward we walked out of Newcastle and away along the line of Hadrian's Wall, keenly looking for traces of fortifications, ditches, turrets, etc, something like the 'I-Spy Book of Roman Britain'.

### TREADING THE PATH OF ROMAN SOLDIERS

This was to set the pattern for the remaining days and the total length of wall; a select party complete with guide books, maps, and guide dog, assiduously tracing the path trod by countless Roman soldiers, and wondering if the Romans looked upon a posting to Hadrian's Wall much as we look upon a posting to Catterick, literally as a far-flung outpost of the empire, that is cold (!) in the winter. Our attached Infantry officer, **Captain 'Olly' Hackett, W.F.R.,** kept us well briefed on Roman tactics, arcs of fire and defensive systems. The second and third days, as well as the much-needed and relaxing sojourns to the local hostelries, proved to hold the most interest, with the greatest lengths of wall intact and much more evidence of life and con-






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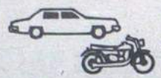

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ditions to be seen. Whilst visiting the Roman fort at Chesters the Adjutant was seen in deep conference with the Commanding Officer. They were overheard to be busily plotting the room changes they would make to what was shown as an RHQ block. The only room they could be certain of was one in which a flight of steps led to a small underground cell arrangement. This was immediately given as the Paymaster's Office with much mutterings of 'Gnomes of Catterick'. Apart from the rain, which helped to give the affair a somewhat soggy end, the venture was a great success and much enjoyed by the walkers. I started with my first memory; I will close with my last, walking the straight road along the estuary of the Solway, which seemed to stretch almost to infinity, in the drizzle and the rain, thinking 'I wonder what the discharge by purchase rate was like in the Roman Army?'

# WHITE HELMETS DRAW THE CROWDS

## SUCCESSES AT EARL'S COURT AND TORONTO

WITH a somewhat less busy season drawing to a close, we have a spare moment to write a few lines on the team's appearances at Earls Court and in the CNE Stadium, Toronto.

The team travelled early on Sunday, 7th July, to the Royal Tournament for the twenty-second time. A novel and much discussed ride of tricks down the Mall stole the limelight a little for the team and then two days of long hours and much hard work followed, preparing our stand and getting used, in two hours of practice, to the packed earth arena.

Wednesday, the 10th, saw the first show and the first of our collisions. After a long night previously on guard the team had two spectacular pile-ups, but in good Corps style got through the show. The evening show was taken more slowly and safely completed. Thursday, the 11th, produced a few more problems with a spectacular crash brought about by riding blind through foil screens into a pitch black arena. Four of the team had cuts and bruises, but only **Signalman 'Taff' Winter** was sufficiently badly injured to be hospitalised, and he could not sit down properly for over a week.

After these incidents members of the Press approached the tournament producer and asked when he was announcing our withdrawal from the show. He, in best showbiz tradition, was much taken aback and wanted to know why the team should be taken out, after what he described as 'a few minor incidents'.

The team rode more carefully for a few days, nursing their bruises. By the start of the second week all the speed and daring had returned, much to the relief of team Sergeant **Ray Hancock.** The only member of the team who suffered during the week was team Corporal **Pete Hallsworth,** who must have thought he was a marked man. His badly bruised foot, a legacy of the first show, was a constant target for bodies, bikes and falling props, and he had to drop out of the show, much to his dismay, for over a week.

The Royal visits came and went. Earl Mountbatten expressed great interest in the Corps and saw off the team OC with a quip about the Royal Signals Association, of which he is a member.

The team's own day came on the 24th, a Wednesday of worry and preparation for the visit of such notable personalities as **Major-General** and **Mrs. J. M. Sawers, Major-General** and **Mrs. A. J. Woodrow, Brigadier** and **Mrs. E. J. Hellier, Colonel** and **Mrs. J. P. Hart,** together with some of our sponsors, including **Lord Stokes** of British Leyland, **Mr. D. Poore,** chairman of Norton Villiers Triumph, **Mr. W. J. Smith,** managing director of Britax. Fortunately the show and dinner both went well and afterwards presentations were made to the two main sponsors.

So on through the week to the last night. All performers had been warned about 'overdoing the humour'. The team produced a display which can only be described as outstanding.

What with throwing bouquets from the top of the tableau and taking various tournament personalities in the show with the team, the team went down extremely well, and finished to a standing ovation and shouts for more.

### CANADA

Shows followed and then to Canada. Flying British Airways, who also flew out the RAF Central Band, we arrived in Toronto on 8th August. The welcome change in weather and the superb riding surface made up for the fact that the team were not receiving LOA.

The time passed quickly. All too soon five days had passed and the teams were riding before 300,000 to 400,000 Toronto citizens in a downtown parade and stealing most of the scene!

The CNE Stadium staff were worried about damage to their nylon turf and all stages of the rehearsal were carefully watched; a few tyre burns appeared, but the problems were soon overcome.

The shows went down well and the team did some excellent PR work. We also 'tore' the turf in two places, but fortunately the groundsman did not take umbrage. The groundsman did not appear to worry about **Evel Knievel's** leap over some 13 trucks, and the team had a chance to meet one of their idols when he was practising for his spectacular show. All too soon the fortnight had passed and the team were flying back, suntanned, nearly broke, but having enjoyed their stay.

A postcript is in order, however. The RAF were determined not to let us get away without problems and took about a third of our kit to Uxbridge with them. We have still not discovered which LAC thought our fire ramp was a musical instrument.

Finally, we also enclose the attached poem. We feel it is worthy of space in THE WIRE and it came into our possession at the Royal Tournament.

### DESPATCH RIDING· 1914-18

The FOO was perched up aloft, searching the target ahead,
When Fritz opened up with his presents from Krupp,
And cut off the telephone dead.
The guns behind were firing blind, and he couldn't get word to the crew,
So it's 'Get on your bike, there's no time to mike;
Those instructions have got to get through'.

It's dark dismal night, with a rain sodden sky,
As you grope your way sliding and slipping.
The clouds overhead are the colour of lead,
And the rain down your neck keeps a dripping.
You curse like the deuce, as all hell is let loose,
And the barrage gets louder than thunder,
As the shells burst ahead, scattering lead,
On a landscape that's blasted asunder.

But on through the night, without any light,
You ride with the rain and mud splashing,
Then a starshell on high would light up the sky
And into a shell hole you're crashing.
The front forks are bent, you feel nearly spent,
And you see you have finished with biking,
But you've got to get through, and it's up to you,
So you finish your journey by hiking.

The next time you go to a tattoo or show,
Where you see all those stunts that are tricky,
You'll agree, I am sure, that during a war
A despatch rider's lot can be sticky.

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# ROYAL SIGNALS IN THE SOLOMONS

**14th and 30th Signal Regiments send composite communications force to faraway Coral Sea Islands**

### BACKGROUND

FOR the uninitiated, the Solomon Islands, a British protectorate comprising six major islands and a number of smaller ones, stretch in a chain through the Coral Sea for a distance of a thousand miles and about the same distance again and parallel to the north-east coast of Queensland, Australia. The principal island of the group, where the centre of government is situated, is Guadalcanal, some 90 miles long and 30 miles wide with mountains rising to over 8,000ft. It may be remembered that during World War II Guadalcanal was the scene of perhaps the bloodiest fighting between American and Japanese forces. To this day the island still bears the scars of war and on visits to the scenes of battles one can still find rusting pieces of equipment and ammunition. The capital and indeed only town on Guadalcanal is Honiara, which has developed since the war from the site of an American base and is the centre of population. There are other villages, mainly along the north coastal plain and a few inland in the 'bush', as it is referred to locally. It is, in fact, mountainous jungle scarred by ravines and fast-flowing rivers, particularly after the torrential rainstorms that frequently occur.

### ARRIVAL AND SETTING UP

It is to this tropical paradise that a composite communications force comprising elements of 14 Signal Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment and 38 Group Royal Air Force, commanded by **Major Ray Lettin** of 30 Signal Regiment, arrived to establish and maintain communications in turn, and with various types of equipment, to 'anchors' at Melbourne and Townsville in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong. The journey out from UK was in two air lifts. The advance party, comprising the force commander, an admin team led by **Captain Stuart Moralee, W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Henry Higgins** and his initial contact team, all of 30 Signal Regiment, **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Alan Falconer** of 14 Signal Regiment and an RAF detachment, spent four and a half days travelling out in a bone-shaking, sleep-denying, eardrum-pounding, nerve-shattering Hercules, eventually arriving at Henderson Field, Honiara, in the early morning (or was it the evening?) of the 19th July to be met by a welcoming committee of the exercise project officer, **Mr. Gordon Edwards,** and local officials and our exercise transport (the term used very loosely) provided by the Public Works Department. Our one Land-Rover and trailer and the rest of the freight was quickly unloaded and we were guided to our final resting place in a disused Posts and Telegraph building on Vivaya Ridge overlooking Honiara. It was here that we spent the next two and a half weeks setting up the admin area, preparing tentage for the arrival of the main party and establishing local contacts. In addition, the initial contact team and the RAF detachment established communication to Melbourne and Townsville respectively from a field adjacent to Henderson Airport, some eight miles away. Occasionally **Foreman Alan Falconer** could be seen disappearing into the bush near Henderson Field in measured paces 'reccying' the blade of grass by which he was going to site his E21 when it arrived.

### LOCAL LEISURE FACILITIES ENJOYED

With the links working well and preparations complete there was time for sport, recreation and the acquisition of the all-important tan. Though swimming in the sea was forbidden due to sharks and other poisonous, carniverous or otherwise generally objectionable beasties, the use of the facilities of the Guadalcanal Club, which included a swimming pool, had been very kindly extended to all exercise personnel, as had those of the Yacht Club and Golf Club. **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Marr** was loaned a set of clubs and entered for a competition to discover that he was obliged to play off scratch—he is normally 24 handicap. Needless to say, he did not win, but the compensations offered by the 19th hole more than made up for his disappointment.

### MAIN PARTY ARRIVES

After much doubt raised by the Cyprus situation, the main party arrived on the 6th August and the exercise started in earnest. 14 Signal Regiment's E21 and the RAF'S equivalent were set up around Henderson Field and tailed into the combined communications centre tentage which had already been erected by the advance party. **Captain Colin Heap's** E21 detachment decided to stage an impromptu fire practice when the long grass near the receiver cabin and antennae caught fire, but was stopped just short of doing any real damage. The A13 detachments of 1 Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment, started their joint jungle training with the Honiara Police. This entailed a work-up period of short marches lightly loaded to a final four-day exercise with full kit and radios. The Solomons Police measure distances in day's march in the ratio one day for a Solomon Islander, two for a Gurkha and three for a Brit. It was with some pride that the planned four-day exercise in the final week was completed in three days and, as **Signalman George Best** remarked at the end of it, even the police were a bit shattered.

### SHARK FISHING

The Exercise Director, **Lieutenant-Commander 'Sandy' Sanderson, R.N.,** and the Force Commander went on a fishing trip. **Major Lettin** caught a kingfish head—that's all the sharks had left—but **Lieutenant-Commander Sanderson** exacted vengeance by hooking one of the sharks weighing 80lb. This was later eclipsed by **Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers** of 14 Signal Regiment, who landed a 117-pounder. He says he has a photograph to prove it.

### VISITORS

During the first week of the exercise proper we were visited by the chairman of the Joint Signal Staff, UKCICC, **Group-Captain Smith,** and the Commanding Officer of 14 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel M. Hales.** They were with us for four days, quartered at Government House and chauffeured by the Force Commander in a Humber Super Snipe that HM the Queen had used during her visit to the Solomons earlier in the year. It was during this time that His Excellency the High Commissioner and members of his government and staff also visited the various exercise locations. He was particularly delighted to see that, apart from the complex communications equipment on display, we still used the old 'tele L's' which he remembered from his days in the Army. His visit ended in the admin area canteen with a welcome glass, hastily borrowed from the Guadalcanal Club, of cold beer.

W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Higgins meets His Excellency the High Commissioner during exercise Duchy in the Solomon Islands

### A FAREWELL OCCASION

During the last few days of the exercise an official cocktail party was held in the Mendana Hotel, to which the High Commissioner, local dignitaries and all those who had assisted the exercise were invited. **W.O.2 John Marr** had constructed three punches, the most lethal of which he christened the 'Duchy Cocktail', and which, apart from inducing some animated conversation, would also be useful as a paint stripper.

### CLOSING DOWN—MANY FRIENDSHIPS MADE

The exercise eventually drew to a close and preparations made for the recovery airlift. The exercise had been a great success and, judging by the number of people who came to see us off from Henderson Field, many friendships had been made. As was mentioned in pidgin English in the final commstate sent from Honiara, quote wanfala exercise nem bulong hem exercise Duchy long Solomon hem finis nad pd Ologeta waitem fo aircraft fo go back long UK and cold weather bulong ologeta unquote. Loose translation is exercise 'Duchy' in the Solomons has now finished. Everybody is waiting for aircraft to return to UK and the cold weather.

## Movements

### Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Captain W. H. Backhouse | R.M.C. of S. |
| Captain R. F. Baly | R.M.C. of S. |
| Captain R. N. C. Harrison | R.M.C. of S. |
| Captain I. Turner | R.M.C. of S. |
| Lieutenant-Colonel K. S. H. Allwright | MOD( D. of Dors) |
| Captain (TOT) C. N. Armitage, M.B.E. | 4 Div. HQ and Sig. Regt. |
| Captain (TFC) D. Bees | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant C. J. Button | 2 R. Irish |
| Major W. G. A. Cathcart | 240 Signal Squadron |
| Captain (TFC) J. F. Chater | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant I. M. S. Cross | 2 Div. HQ and Sig. Regt. |
| Second-Lieutenant R. C. T. Cuthbert | 2 Bn. The Light Infantry |
| Captain C. J. Dakin | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Colonel A. H. Dennis | MOD (PE) AD/BCPI |
| Lieutenant W. T. Edwards | 2 Bn. The Parachute Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel G. Ferrier | MOD (DI 24A) |
| Major J. V. Fielding | 216 Para Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant N. E. Franks | Army School of Education |
| Captain (TOT) J. E. Grigsby | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant C. R. Harper | 5 Airptbl Bde. HQ and Sig. Sqn |
| Colonel R. S. Holbrook | HQ 2 Signal Group |
| Major (QM) C. W. Johnston | AAC Harrogate |
| Captain (TOT) B. A. Kimber | MOD (Sigs. 356) |
| Captain R. F. Knight, M.B.E. | 3 Div. HQ and Sig. Regt. |
| Lieutenant E. H. Lequesne | 234 Signal Squadron |
| Major W. R. Mayne | HQ York Garrison |
| Lieutenant K. K. W. Parsons | 6 Armd. Bde. HQ and Sig. Sqn. |
| Captain D. S. Pawlow | 20 Armd. Bde. HQ and Sig. Sqn. |
| Major C. J. Rayner | 2 Div. HQ and Sig. Regt. |
| Major R. Saville | HQ 1 Signal Group |
| Captain (TFC) F. P. Searle | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (TFC) C. A. Smith | 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant P. D. Studd | 225 Signal Squadron as Captain |
| Captain A. Sugdon | School of Infantry |
| Major P. A. Thompson | MCTC |
| Captain R. C. A. Thwaites | School of Signals |
| Second-Lieutenant J. W. Wedgbury | 10 PMO Gurkha Rifles |
| Major P. B. Wymbs | 40 Signal Regiment (V) |

### W.O.s and Sergeants

| *Rank, initials, name* | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| W.O. 1 (F. of S.) R. A. McKay | 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. M. Smith | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) B. Hassall | 603 Signal Troop |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. M. Hammonds | 9 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 G. G. Haughie | 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 F. J. Loveday | 40 Signal Regiment (V) |
| W.O.2 W. J. A. Naismith | 242 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) A. C. T. Tasker | 16 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 P. J. B. Tuppenney | 244 Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 R. Wade | 9 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 J. G. Widdicombe | 7 Signal Regiment |
| W.O.2 L. Arrow-Smith | HQ 2 Signal Group |
| A.W.O.2 B. Fisher | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant D. H. Ainge | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. W. Badger | Sultan of Muscats Armed Forces |
| Staff-Sergeant F. E. G. Hawkes | 11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop |
| Staff-Sergeant G. F. Leake | 4 Communications Unit International Corps |
| Staff-Sergeant J. N. Martin | 262 Signal Squadron |
| Staff-Sergeant N. E. Mortimer | 9 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant P. Muxworthy | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant D. G. Palmer | 8 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant R. J. Woods | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant T. Bowman | Royal Signals Manning and Record Office |
| Staff-Sergeant D. G. Perry | 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| A/Staff-Sergeant J. W. Hornby | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant M. G. Guyatt | 603 Signal Troop |
| Sergeant G. T. Wilkinson | 642 Signal Troop (Gibraltar) |
| Sergeant G. Puffett | HQ 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Troop |
| Sergeant C. W. Peach | 261 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant V. S. B. Johnson | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. France | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. R. Hadland | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant M. R. Bruton | 34 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant R. J. Whall | HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Troop |
| Sergeant V. M. Buttery | School of Signals |
| Sergeant D. H. Fountain | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. R. Oram | 11 Signal Regiment Depot Troop |
| Sergeant M. W. F. Prior | 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) |
| Sergeant G. M. Whelan | 35 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant K. M. Durrant | 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant K. V. Hawke | 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant N. Valentine | 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) |
| Sergeant J. D. Kinnell | Army Air Corps Centre |
| Sergeant D. F. Simms | 240 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. J. Lumb | Forward Scatter Station, Mossy Hill |
| Sergeant J. E. Setchfield | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. A. MacKay | SHAPE, BAE |
| Sergeant B. K. Crowden | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant J. C. Thompson | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant F. W. Martin | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. M. Ellis | 225 Signal Squadron (Radio) |
| Sergeant C. J. D. Brown-Greaves | 22 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. Palmer | HQ 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant N. D. Martin | 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. A. Berwick | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant D. A. Caldwell | HQ 28 Infatnry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant G. K. Barden | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. C. Braddon | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. R. Hindle | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. J. Williams | 261 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant N. Pegg | 11 Signal Regiment 2 Squadron |
| Sergeant J. H. Phillips | 10 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant S. P. Moore | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant T. P. Tiernan | 261 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant D. I. Scott | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. F. Lawrence | 1st Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. J. Bell | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant A. Benson | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Benwell | HQ 1 Signal Group |
| Sergeant M. Kennedy | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. Marlow | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. B. Howe | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant W. Walker | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. O'Halloran | SSO, Hereford |
| Sergeant D. A. Beresford | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. V. R. Levatt | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant P. G. Mercer | 522 Rear Link Detachment (FD Regiment) |

## Obituary

Major (TOT) W. A. FINNEY

**Major Wilfred Albert Finney** died on 29th June after 36 years in the Corps. He was born in 1901 and enlisted in 1920, being commissioned in 1939 and retiring in 1956. He was an outstanding athlete, particularly in the discus, and boxed for the Corps in the '20s. He was for some time employed as a PT instructor. He later saw service in Aden, Catterick, Singapore and with 3 Divisional Signals. During the war he served with various training battalions, holding battalions and command units in the UK and from 1943 to 1948 was on the staff of the Signals Directorate at the War Office. He then went out to B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment where he served for six years before returning to the UK for his last appointment at Western Command in Signals Works Services. After retirement he and his wife lived at Chester where he devoted his time and talents to wood carving and painting in oils. He had two brothers, both of whom were in the services, one was in the R.A. and transferred to the Corps in 1931. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL M. DUKE

**Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Duke** transferred to the Corps in 1926, having been commissioned from the Royal Military





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Academy, Woolwich into the Royal Field Artillery in 1917. He saw active service on the Western Front in 1917–18 and afterwards remained with the Army of Occupation in Germany before going out to India in 1921, where he was an instructor at the Signals School, Poona, and served with 'B' Divisional Signals and Cavalry Brigade Signals. On returning to the UK in 1932 he took up the appointment of adjutant at the Depot Battalion. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was adjutant of 55 Divisional Signals T.A. but was quickly promoted to command 4 Air Formation Signals, followed shortly afterwards by 11 Corps Signals. From 1942 to the end of the war he commanded 1 General Trades Training Battalion and was then posted to East Anglia District Signals as DCSO. His last appointment before retiring in 1947 was in the Middle East. He was a good golfer and competent linguist, being fluent in French and Arabic, and had specialised in Islamic principles and Mahommedan law. He married in 1942 and died aged 77 on 16th June, 1974. We extend our deep sympathy to his widow, Betty.

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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

SINCE we last appeared in THE WIRE there have been a few changes in the personalities within the Squadron. To update all our readers here is our present orbat:

OC .. .. **Major Rodney Dorrell**
2IC .. .. **Captain Mike Rowbory**
Admin .. .. **Lieutenant Gareth Jones,** Welsh Guards
Comms .. .. **Lieutenant Peter Richards**
Trg .. .. **Lieutenant Peter White**
RSM .. .. **W.O.1 Sam Bedwell**

The relentless struggle against terrorism goes on. Those of us on two-year tours have seen units in the Brigade come and go and have visited many of them in our efforts to ensure good communications in the Brigade area.

As far as we can gather from our friends in 8 and 39 Brigades, 3 Brigade Headquarters in Kitchen Hill Factory, Lurgan, is situated in the heart of 'Indian country'. Certainly the daily Nirep bears this out. Perhaps the most notable event of the past few months was the strike called by the Ulster Workers Council. Forced to rely on our emergency generators to supply power to all the TV sets in the factory, **Corporal 'Taffy' Bean** and **Signalman 'Joana' Jones** were a familiar sight crawling all over the building trailing power cables behind them. The cooks under **Sergeant George Finch, A.C.C.,** were forced to rely on No. 1 burners to feed the Squadron personnel and resident rifle company and were a credit to their corps. Indeed, some said (a little unkindly) they were better with No. 1 burners than they were with the normal gas ovens.

As a departure from our usual style of WIRE notes, this correspondent has tried to get the individual departments to write short notes. Some have claimed to be 'too busy', but we publish those that were received. We hope to have notes from the others in a later edition.

### BRIGADE HQ

As an initial contribution it is perhaps best that we should be introduced. Brigade HQ or, as we are better known by the Squadron, 'that lot upstairs'. We reserve the right to withhold the name we have for 'them'.

For starters there is the Superintending Clerk (known by many other names—not publishable), **W.O.1 Frank Coutts, R.A.O.C.** In the registry there are **Privates John Barnes** and **David Lawton.** Next in line is 'G' Branch, with **Staff-Sergeant Eddy Cook, B.E.M.,** as the Chief Clerk and his staff, **Sergeant John Hind, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' McDonald, Privates Allen Forster, David Milton** and **Robert Hunter** and, to add a touch of glamour to the office, **Mrs. Gillian Finch.** In the 'AQ' and Services Branch we have the BOWO, **W.O.1 Jim Gauld, R.A.O.C., A.Q.M.S. Stan Maddison,** BEME's aide, **Sergeant Peter Lee,** Chief Clerk AQ, **Corporals Alf Landless, Andy Vinicombe** and **'Mack' McClelland** and last, but not least, **Private 'Taffy' Sellwood,** the poor man's Harry Secombe. All RAOC, with the exception of **A.Q.M.S. Maddison** and **Corporal McClelland.** Oh! Almost forgot. This is for THE WIRE. We do have one Royal Signals officer with us in the HQ: **Captain John Neeve,** the GSO 3 Ops/Co-ord.

Despite the rumours that we are completely weighed down with paper work, the staff of Brigade HQ succeeded in winning the recent volleyball competition after hard matches with MT Troop and Bravo Troop.

With the introductions over, we believe we have taken up sufficient space for one month and will endeavour to record the main events and activities for subsequent issues.

### A SAD LOSS

Tragically **Private Philip Drake, R.P.C.,** Squadron D & E Platoon, was killed in a terrorist ambush a few miles from the factory on Monday, 26th August, 1974. All the Squadron send their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

### SHQ TROOP

The news from Supreme Headquarters is one of jubilation. We're currently the unit five-a-side soccer league and cup holders. The supreme double!

The team of **Staff-Sergeant ('Flying Cucumber') Peter Hilton,** goalie; **Corporal (Stop them at all costs') Eddie Callaghan,** full back; **Corporal ('Rocket Foot') Phil Platts, R.A.P.C.,** full back; **Sergeant ('Dainty Feet') Derek Crawford, 9/12L,** forward; **Lance-Corporal ('Hit 'em high') Trevor Byham,** forward, are riding high as the 'best' in the factory.

Everyone is out to beat us at all costs and it looks as though their chance has come. We unfortunately lose **Corporal Callaghan** to 1 Division Signal Regiment mid-September. As our stalwart captain and star player he will take some replacing, both at work and at play.

The same team plus the OC, **Major Rodney Dorrell,** are also the current Unit basketball champions. So all in all a very sporting troop.

Mind you, it's not all play. The Troop is worked very hard on the administration of the unit. Here the Movements Clerk, **Signalman ('Good-looking') David Gilfillan,** is essential. His contacts with the local travel agents are good and there's no truth in the rumour that he has shares in their business. He is due to leave us mid-September. **Corporal Pete John, R.A.O.C.,** is currently our 'female typist'. He types well but does not suit his mini-skirts.

We welcome two new arrivals to the troop, **Signalman David Levy** and **Lance-Corporal Kilford.** We trust they'll fit in with our sporting ways and enjoy themselves. At last the Chief Clerk can say he has less time to do than somebody.

### TM TROOP

And now a word from the Squadron's most overworked and underpaid troop. We are led by the effervescent Foreman of Signals, **Staff-Sergeant ('Vote SNP') George Hall,** late of 7 Sigs, GAN and the rugby field, who has declared that his new ambition is to go on leave as much as possible and sits repairing C42s and dreaming of Hong Kong and all points east of Suez.

Next we have **Sergeants Brian Jones** and **Dennis Southwick,** who between the two of them compete with each other for the honour of doing 'forward'. Needless to say, no one tries very hard to win.

Another stalwart member of the troop is **Corporal ('Don't give me a bantam') Ian Buick.** This rotund sporting character recently lost his place in the Troop five-a-side football team after missing nine penalty kicks on the trot. Ian sits patiently awaiting another chance at his T1 when, the foreman assures him, he will be able to change two sheets a week.

Our other Radio Tech Corporal, **Geordie Laidman,** recently arrived from 2 Div and walks around with a permanent smile on his face and muttering 'December, December', which is the time he departs to 8 Sigs on his T1. Our two TE Techs are **Corporals Bob McQueen** and **Graham Byrom.** Bob's had some good luck in his time, six months in the Gulf before being sent here for two years. Not everyone is so lucky, as we hasten to tell him. Graham is soon to depart to Sheffield TA for two years' rest and recuperation, where we wish him well.

### MT TROOP

The MT, with the help of the members of the LAD, manage to keep the vehicles on the road, to keep pace with too many details and too few vehicles. Most vehicles have clocked up more than 60,000 miles; some have reached this in only two years. However, a wind of change is taking place, not only with vehicles but with the personalities within the Troop.

**W.O.2 Phil Tuppeney,** the MTO, leaves in September bound for 244 Signal Squadron. This leaves only **Signalman Don Hamilton** to continue his services. We welcome **Corporal John Plumb** to the Troop from 227 Signal Squadron. He claims never to have been mentioned in THE WIRE in all his 18 years' service. Hence the photograph! The remaining changes concern our RCT element, namely, leaving **Sergeant Del Harris, Driver Steve Patterson,** who leave for Civvy Street, and **Corporal 'Taff' Jones',** who is going to Swansea as a recruiter. On 10th August the Troop held its own disco evening to say farewell to **Driver Steve Patterson.** It was a great success. We would like to welcome **Drivers Malcolm Baker** and **Graham Schofield** to the Troop and hope they enjoy their tour.

MADE IT!

Corporal John Plumb, who has not been mentioned in THE WIRE during 18 years' service, is featured at last

NEW RECRUIT

*Left to right:* Corporal Byrom, Sergeant Southwick, Signalman Campbell, Corporal Laidman, Corporal Buick, Lance-Corporal Levy (R.E.M.E.), Lieutenant Richards
*In front:* Miss TV Times, Miss Jennie Roberts

### FOOTNOTE

The Brigade has received many visitors ranging from the GOC and the CLF to the very lovely 'Miss TV Times', **Miss Jennie Roberts,** who is shown in our photograph posing with MT Troop. It is rumoured that the Squadron is looking for a pin-up. Applicants should send a photograph to Sqn Ops Room!

## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### EXERCISE 'MARRAKESH EXPRESS'—A FORAY INTO KINTYRE

BETWEEN 17th–29th July **Captain Noel Harrison,** the Squadron 2IC, ran exercise 'Marrakesh Express' in Kintyre, Scotland, for the combat radiomen of Comms Tp with the aim of retrieving a varied selection of voice procedures and returning them to the fold of Pamphlet 2. The exercise also involved familiarisation training with the civilian Pye equipments that are used by the Squadron.

Early morning on 16th July **Lieutenant Les Fox** led the party by road to meet the Larne–Stranraer ferry. Some 13 hours and 300 miles later they were in Kintyre—15 miles from the coast of Ireland! Phase 1 of the exercise was spent in the splendid accommodation provided by RAF Macrihanish. During this phase the instruction included several day exercises using A41s, Pocketfones, maps and feet. The OC and the DQ flew by helicopter to vist the exercise and the occasion was particularly auspicious for **Signalman 'Nicky' Nicolson,** who was promoted to Lance-Corporal during the visit. These initial exercises also provided an opportunity for **Drivers Tony Larkin** and **Dave Crisp** to show their mettle as RCT operators (the 'Dipsticks').

Enjoying the welcomed break from the restrictions of service in Northern Ireland, everybody found much in Cambeltown to occupy free afternoons and evenings and it was confirmed that Cambeltown Loch is water and not, as the old song goes, whisky!

### POCKETFONE—LONDONDERRY TO SCOTLAND

For pahse 2 the party moved to Lussa Loch and prepared for the remainder of the exercise under canvas. From here a UHF link was established back to Londonderry and provided a facility for the OC to communicate with the exercise using a Pocketfone from his quarter. How about that for service! Exercise 'Ravioli', a tactical 'game', gave OC Comms and **Staff-Sergeant John Turner** a chance to exercise their 'guerillas' in the rapid passing of tactical information. The 2IC, acting as DS, kept a close control over the enthusiastic rival factions and their undoubted talent in bending the rules. We recommend him to the UN! Apart from exercises using our Pye radios, the party made use of the recreational facilities available. **Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Shore** gave canoeing instruction to **Signalmen Tom Benson, 'Zak' Tracey** and **'Radar' Roberts; Sergeant Keith Essam** introduced **Signalman 'Mowgli' Rowley, Lance-Corporal Nicolson** and many others to sailing. **Signalman 'Boy' Bush** tested his angling skill against the local trout.



### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

In July **Lieutenant Les Fox** arrived to take over Comms Tp from **Captain Mike Walker,** who got married here in Londonderry prior to being posted to Worthy Down and a future career in the RAPC. We wish him the best of luck and trust that he will look favourably on our 1771s!

We welcome to the Squadron **Signalmen Fallowfield, McBain, Miller, Privates Mason, Reed, Alesbury** and **Driver Billings.** We say farewell to **Lance-Corporal Tanton** and **Signalman Clough.**

## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### THE GLORIOUS TWELFTH

ONCE again the Squadron was busy with a special net for the occasion. At 0600 hrs, 12th July, MIN (March Information Net) came to life in the capable hands of **Sergeant Henry Banks, Corporal David Stone, Lance-Corporal Pete Stemmer** and several others behind the scenes. All the marching, assembling marching, forming up, marching, drinking and more marching throughout the day was carefully monitored over this net. The parade stretched for about six miles out of Belfast to Edenderry Field and eventually back again. At the field, providing more communications and having the dubious pleasure of listening to the speeches, were **Lieutenant Ed Hounsell, Corporals 'Taff' Williams, Barry Cooke** and **Signalman Kevin Needs.** A faulty St John Ambulance radio soon saw that the crew were well looked after by the nurses for the day.

### THE BUCKS STOP

In March this year the OC was heard chuntering about Murphy's Law. After six years the Squadron was to have an FFR inspection. Now it's gone we can talk about what was, in the local jargon, a low-profile deep probe follow-up operation. On the day all went well, **Driver David Anson** survived a CS attack from the Inspecting Officer's personal aerosol, some brilliant groups were produced from the range (why can't they do it for the annual weapon test?), the SDS paraded, the stores shone (and were all there), the vehicles started, the pin-ups bemured and **Corporal Jamie James** had all his kit. The Ulster factor was there, however. Who the hell hid the Guinness bottles in a fire bucket?

### FORCES CHANCE

After an excellent series of contests held by **R.S.M. Colin French,** and assisted by **Staff-Sergeant Wally Cutler,** the final team was selected to meet a visiting team from the BBC. It consisted of **W.O.2 Dick O'Brien, R.E.M.E.** (team captain), **Yeoman Phil Daniel, Signalman Geordie Thompson** and, specially attached for the occasion, **Corporal Patricia Gara,** W.R.A.C. We won. The BBC visitors were beaten by the highest Forces score in the current series. You may have heard us on Radio 4 on 6th September.

### MORE BRAINS

This time it was the turn of **Signalman Mick Connellan.** He is shown here having beaten all contestants and won the *Daily Telegraph* Cup and the Churchill silver presentation ashtray in the Northern Ireland chess championships. Also in the photo is **R.S.M. Colin French,** who came fifth.

### ARRIVALS

**W.O.2 Whydell, Corporals Slater, Wishart, Lance-Corporal Dalton, Signalmen Lambird, Roberts, Logan, Baillie, Smitham and Holgate.**

### DEPARTURES

**W.O.2 O'Brien, Staff-Sergeant Cutler, Corporals Key, Murkin, Peat, Ker-Watson, Colwell** and **Signalman Smart.**

Signalman Mick Cunnellan—chess expert—being presented with his prizes


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**Government Communications Headquarters,**
**Priors Road, Oakley,**
**Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5AJ.**
**Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.**


### BANKER'S ORDERS FOR THE WIRE

If you have an annual banker's order for THE WIRE, do please let us know if you decide to stop it. Frequently we continue to supply THE WIRE for some months until after checking with the bank we find out the individual concerned stopped his order without telling us.

# —News from Headquarters—

## Shape Signal Support Group

SHAPE Signal Group, or SSG for short, is probably the most international unit in existence and as far as it can be ascertained no entry has previously been submitted to THE WIRE.

**WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS IT?**

The SHAPE Signal Support Group is a regimental-type unit manned by over 600 military and civilian personnel from 11 of the 14 NATO countries (plus some French civilians). The only NATO countries not represented in SSG are Iceland, Portugal and Luxembourg. It was formed in 1967, when SHAPE was transferred from France to Belgium, and is located in Casteau near Mons and 30 miles south-west of Brussels.

**WHAT DOES IT DO?**

SSG provides all forms of communications to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and the SHAPE staff. These communications include communication centres, telephone services, fixed and mobile radio, sound systems, photographic services and electronic supplies. It also provides its own internal administrative and logistics support.

DSACEUR, GENERAL SIR JOHN MOGG, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., VISITS SSG 1 FEBRUARY 74

*Left to right:* Major-General Buntrock, GE Air Force, ACOS C and E Division, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Jones, US Army, Commander SSG, General Sir John Mogg, Major E. F. Carrel, Royal Signals, Deputy Commander SSG

**ORGANISATION**

There are approximately 120 British personnel in SSG from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Army. Most of the Army personnel in SSG are Royal Signals and include Foremen of Signals, clerks, technicians, powermen, radio and data telegraphists, radio operators and a clerk technical. (Two Yeomen of Signals are scheduled to arrive soon.)

PERSONALITIES

SSG is commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan R. Jones,** US Army, and his deputy is **Major Eric Carrel,** Royal Signals. The other Corps Officer is **Captain John Elliott,** who is OIC radio. **W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Wally' Hammond** is leaving shortly for Cyprus on promotion and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) 'Nick' Nicholas** is our other Foreman. The Chief Clerk is **Staff-Sergeant Brian Dearman,** the Security Clerk is **Sergeant Richard Underhill,** who takes over from **Sergeant Geoff Marlow,** who is leaving for Hong Kong, and our Postal NCO/Clerk is **Lance-Corporal Ken Hughes.**

**31st (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)**

SSG depends on the 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) to provide augmentation and additional communications facilities to SHAPE during exercises. The Regiment deploys to Belgium and Germany every two years for joint training with SSG and other ACE Commands. During March this year an SSG officers training weekend was conducted in London and Crowborough with the 31st.

SSG OFFICERS' TRAINING WEEKEND—MARCH 1974 WITH 31 (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

This photograph taken in front of the Crowborough Training Camp Officers' Mess depicts the international flavour of SSG. Among the SSG Officers can be seen Lieutenant-Colonel John Eversfield, CO 31 Signal Regiment, and a few of his officers.

## HQ 11 Signal Group (V)

**'LEGS ELEVEN' TACKLE SNOWDONIA PEAK**

AS so often happens, a casual remark dropped by a senior officer among the lunch-time gin and tonics has far-reaching effects. Thus it was that **Brigadier Derrick Baynham's** comment about '. . . get the HQ staff out in the open air for a day . . .' and '. . . what about Snowdon or something like that? . . .' literally had all the regular members of Group Headquarters reaching the Llanberis Pass on 8th May. Exercise Cambrian Trail was on!

The B.M. had mugged up on the safety aspects of adventurous training and the expedition was fully equipped to withstand at least a 48-hour blizzard and a substantial, not to say staggering, load of brew-kits was distributed among the party.

It was undoubtedly this weight factor which enabled parties of lightly clad and unburdened school-children to overtake us at intervals on our assault on the summit. As **Corporal Terry 'Sherpa' Burton** was heard to remark above the screaming wind, 'Everything *and* the b—— kitchen stove!'. In the event, the glutinous mass originally labelled Chicken Supreme which the B.M. insisted on cooking, did nothing for the intrepid party that a couple of jam butties could not have done a great deal better. Good training though!

The Commander set a cracking pace throughout and **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) John 'Chamois' Burgess** surprised us with his display of stamina and sure-footedness. **W.O.1 (S.C.) Brian 'Snowdon-or-Bust' O'Neill** gave a gutsy display of determination to justify all those hours in the circuit-training hut. It was somewhat galling to have our Union Jack eaten by a passing Welsh Nationalist goat after it had been planted on the cruel summit to crown our heroic endeavours!

One of our number did, in fact, miss our epic climb, but he was having a baby at the time. Strictly speaking it was his wife who was expecting and our belated congratulations go to **Lance-Corporal George Devonport** and **Mrs. Devonport** on the arrival of their daughter, **Tracey.**

ALL SMILES, THE SUMMIT BEHIND US AT LAST

*Left to right:* Corporal Burton, W.O.1 O'Neill, Major Leonard, W.O.2 Burgess

# News from Regiments

## 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 32

**FAREWELL TO THE R.S.M.**

IN September 1974 we said good-bye to **R.S.M. Eric Le Quesne** and his family. **Eric Le Quesne** served with the Regiment for 2½ years and throughout that time he involved himself very much in every aspect of Station and Regimental affairs. From the very first day, when he was met at Hannover Airport with his exercise kit (minus boot-laces) to be driven straight to a field location, he has been in the thick of it.

He brought to his demanding role dedication, enthusiasm, organising ability of a high order, stamina and a great capacity for hard work. These qualities were tempered by a sense of humour, a shrewd understanding of men and the ability to get on with everyone. He ran a very successful Sergeants Mess and will long be remembered for his most entertaining and witty after-dinner speeches!

Mention must also be made of **Eric's** wife, **Hazel.** She involved herself deeply in Station and Regimental activities, being a leading member of both the Wives' Club and Station welfare committees.

**Eric** has left to go on his K.F.S. course, followed by commissioning and a well-deserved two years' 'holiday' in Malta. The Station and the Regiment said their farewells at numerous functions designed to test the qualities of stamina and enthusiasm mentioned above. They will be missed by the many friends they have made here who wish them all the best for the future.

**THEY SHOT LIKE 'WORLD CHAMPIONS'**

An invitation was received from our sister Regiment, Fernmeldebataillon 1 in Hannover for 30 officers and senior N.C.O.s to show their ability on the live firing ranges near Wolfsburg. The translation of the article which appeared in the 'Verdener Aller Zeitung' is proof enough of this successful occasion.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Alexander, Commanding Officer, receives the team prize for shooting against a German Signal Regiment

**EXTRACT FROM LOCAL GERMAN NEWSPAPER**

'A whole host of prizes fell to the Officers and Sergeants of the HQ and Divisional Signal Regiment of the 1st British Division in Verden. Thirty participants were guests of Fernmeldebataillon 1 on the ranges near Wolfsburg, where the shot for the lanyard with bronze medal took place.

Excellent shots at the start of the rifle practice soon showed that some of the blood of Robin Hood still flowed through the veins of the British. It was not surprising, therefore, that the requirements of the machine-gun practice also brought excellent results. Thirty participants—30 bronze awards—a real record.

The team prize, which was competed for at the same time, was also won by the British'.

## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 46

**FAMILIES DAY—150 WIVES/CHILDREN JOIN REGIMENT ON EXERCISE**

THE CO's promise to the wives and families of the Regiment for a day out on exercise with 'hubby' finally recently came true. At half-past eight on this very overcast Tuesday morning the Regiment rolled out of the camp gates heading for exercise locations.

The programme for the families day was centred around a normal regimental exercise in which the wives and children could mingle and sample some field cooking and true exercise living. The whole day hinged upon communications and admin areas being established before the families arrived 'in the field' at a quarter to twelve, after an introductory talk by the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** on the role of the Regiment and how it operates from a large number of different locations. He was ably assisted in this task by the acting RSM, **R.Q.M.S. Mike Prince,** and the father of all children, **Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton** (who used his powers of command to the extreme!).

After the CO's talk the families were conveyed by buses to the exercise locations, where the wives could meet their respective husbands and be shown around the complex in their own time.

FAMILIES ON EXERCISE

The picture features the Parkes' and McLeans' families at the regimental families day

*From left to right:* Sean McLean, Captain Derek McLean, Lill McLean, Dorothy Parkes, Jane-Marie Parkes, Annette Parkes and Major Bill Parkes

A GENEROUS ACT

The photograph shows Frau Rakab receiving the cheque of DM5,150 (£825), for the Children's Welfare Club in Bunde

From left to right are W.O.2 Mike Prince, W.O.2 Dennis Baron, Frau Rakab, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis and R.S.M. Tony Pfeiffer

### LIKE DUCKS TAKING TO WATER

Three months of fairly persistent rain had saturated the ground and it was no surprise to arrive at 3 Squadron's location to find the regimental recovery vehicle being manhandled out of the mud by that 'Mighty Mouse', **S.S.M. Eric Webster.** The recovery vehicle in turn had been called upon to dislodge the rest of 3 Squadron vehicles from a rather embarrassing situation. However, all had turned out for the best and the regiment was communicating by quarter to twelve. The wives and children took to the camouflage nets, cables, cooking pots, tin hats and mess tins as though these items were part of their normal kitchen utensils. The feeling that they were enjoying themselves was evident when **Sean McLean** appeared from behind the radio vehicle dressed for battle—tin hat on and pistol at the ready. **Lieutenant Eddy Scott** and his team of excellent cooks produced a superb lunch with a choice of four main courses; some of the children took great delight in eating out of one of fathers mess tins. OC 3 Squadron, **Major David Miller,** slightly made up for his sticky beginning by providing a commercial ice cream van for the kids. He could have completely wiped the slate clean by providing cartoon shows. However, the projector became faulty just before the show was about to begin.

About half-past three the CO called proceedings to a halt by asking the families to once again board the buses for the return trip to the gymnasium in Birdwood Barracks. Here he gave a final summary talk to the families before throwing the floor open for any questions. Only a timely intervention by the MTO, **W.O.2 Dennis Baron,** announcing that the buses were ready to leave for the married quarters prevented the CO from being put into one or two awkward situations.

The general feeling of the 150 wives and children who partook in the families day was of extreme enjoyment and that many more mixed exercises should be arranged for the future.

### DM5,150 FOR CHILDREN'S WELFARE CLUB

Just before going on his summer holiday the CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davis,** handed over to **Frau Rakab** a cheque for DM5,150 to financially help a children's welfare club in Bunde. The money was half of the proceeds from the Regiment's traditional Kohima Festival in June. Frau Rakab thanked the organisers of the festival, **R.S.M. Tony Pfeiffer, W.O.2 Mike Prince** and **W.O.2 Dennis Baron,** for this great financial help and promised that the club would use the money for the underprivileged children of Bunde. Next month the Regiment is continuing its link with the club by entertaining about 50 of the underprivileged children on 20th September—World Children's Day.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Since our last notes we have said goodbye to **Captain Gordon Hanley** (temporary Paymaster), **Major Dick Osborne** (QM Gen), **Captain Dick Thwaites, W.O.1 Joe Izzo** (Supt Clk), **Staff-Sergeants Hawkes** and **Fogg.** We have welcomed **Major Randal Cross** (Paymaster), **Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton, W.O.1s Len Jeffery** (Supt Clk), **Richard Limb (F. of S.),** and **Staff-Sergeants Terry Mumford, Peter Shotts, Jan Jasiok, George Stubbings** and **Ronald Ford.**

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

### SQUADRON SUMMER CAMPS

FROM the end of exercise Summer Sales until the middle of August the camp assumed a rather deserted air as the Squadrons disappeared off to the various summer camp locations for a couple of weeks' adventurous and military training in a non-communications environment. Each Squadron had its own base from which it made sorties out into the unsuspecting civilian population, either on such things as escape-and-evasion exercises or else visits to breweries or the BMW Museum.

### BOUNCING IN BAVARIA—1 SQUADRON

If there was any let up in Squadron activity as 1 Squadron swung out of a successful summer exercise season and into preparations for this year's Summer Camp, which had been arranged to take place near Fussen in Bavaria, no one noticed. After **Captain Sid Falla** had undertaken his exhaustive (he said exhausting!) recce earlier in the year followed up by **Lieutenant Mark Riley** amd **Staff-Sergeant Vic Towler,** the brunt of the preparation was borne by the S.Q.M.S. empire. To them fell the task of indenting for the usual rations, tentage, stores and sports equipment, and all the necessary summer camp comforts.

A recce into Fussen on the first night, undertaken by **Major Bill Kennedy** revealed a large funfair complete with bier-fest and oompah band—things were obviously off to a good start. **Corporal Jimmy Smart** and **Lance-Corporal Fred Hewlett,** both of 2 Squadron, discovered that life with 1 Squadron wasn't so bad after all and that the nasty rumours put about by their fellow members of 2 Squadron were completely unfounded.

After the arrival of the main party under **Captain Dick Farrimond** the organised activities of the camp soon got under way, and it was not long before the Squadron was fully involved in canoeing, orienteering, swimming, volley ball and numerous

(*Continued on page* 428)




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(Continued from page 426)

other activities. Amidst all the organised activity, time was found to play friendly soccer matches against a local village team, and a team from 623 Gebirges Artillerie Battalion, the Bundeswehr Mountain Artillery Regiment in Fussen. Both were spirited encounters, in which any shortcomings in skill were more than compensated for by an abundance of effort. The latter fixture set a fitting seal on the friendly help and co-operation we received during our stay. The famous Edelweiss badges with which we were presented after the game, will be cherished souvenirs of our stay in Bavaria.

On the social side, very enjoyable 'home and away' folk singing 'fixtures' took place with the instructors and leaders at a nearby schoolchildren's camp. **Lance-Corporal Charlie Abbott** and **Signalman Slip Skivington** provided worth-while choruses and off-stage entertainment respectively, backed up by **Signalman Steve Wilson, Corporal (now Mr.) 'Bleep' Phillips,** and **Major Bill Kennedy,** who showed no mean talent in leading the community singing. At the end of everything, after the camp site had been finally cleared, it was agreed that it had been a worth-while and enjoyable 10 days which should be repeated next year.

### EXERCISE BALTIC EXPRESS—2 SQUADRON

Once again the Squadron returned to its familiar haunts in Danisch Nienhof on the Baltic coast, not far from Kiel. In keeping with good administrative planning the advance party left a couple of days early to set up the camp site and check the availability of local amenities. Once the main party had rolled in the Squadron started on its programme of organised activities—watermanship training run by **Captain Peter Myatt,** and the making of a new map of the area run by **Captain Tim Smith.** The days were steadily filled up with cross-country marching, B.E. tests, running, map reading, and a 36-hour map reading and initiative exercise. In addition, time was found for a football match against a local team, a visit to the U-boat Memorial at Laboe, several visits to the mixed sauna at the Olympic Yachting Centre and, of course, trips to the night spots of Kiel for light entertainment. The highlight of the camp was a barbecue to which large number of locals were invited and from which several members of the Squadron have yet to recover. Don't worry, **Douglas**—we won't tell your mum!

### LAKE CONSTANCE—3 SQUADRON

The Squadron Camp was held on the shores of Lake Constance at the French Forces Yacht Club at Radolfzell. The Squadron followed the usual pattern of sporting activities, interspersed with some military training for light relief. The local French Army unit was challenged to both football and volley ball, and although we do not wish to record the result of the football match, we at least managed to gain ample revenge in the volley ball.

On the military side the Squadron was involved in a two-day cross-country movement exercise which was designed to test Junior N.C.O. ability and put the seven teams involved through a series of check points. However, although the exercise started in sunshine the weather rapidly deteriorated and we were forced to call a halt to it on safety grounds.

The final weekend was given over to leisure activities with trips to such places as the Rhine Falls at Schaffhausen, and also Switzerland, Austria and even Italy.

### EXERCISE HIGHLAND FROLIC—4 SQUADRON

No. 4 Squadron camp—exercise Highland Frolic II—took place in Garmisch–Partenkirchen (Southern Bavaria) between 15th and 25th July.

The Squadron was organised into 'Patrols' and each patrol completed a different activity daily. These included rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, boating, swimming and mountain walking.

A one-day bus trip to Munich was arranged by the OC, **Major L. J. Pertwee,** to see the B.M.W. motor museum (guess who has a B.M.W.), the Olympic Stadium and a brewery (in that order). This was a great success.

The weather for the duration of the camp was mainly wet, but it did clear up to enable our barbecue to proceed as planned the second last night.

**Corvoral Dave Whysall's** patrol did well to win the arduous orienteering course, but the fact that a crate of beer was the prize must be borne in mind.

We worked hard and enjoyed the camp despite the weather and returned to Herford determined to arrange better weather next year.

### CAMP—THE 5 SQUADRON WAY

No. 5 Squadron have always claimed they were the professionals in the midst of professionals and in their summer camp they set out to prove it. Not for them the soft life but the less exotic and more challenging local training areas.

The first night saw small parties dropped some way south of the Lubbeck ridge. Led by a J.N.C.O., each moved towards two separate R.V.s 30 kilometres to their north, where they formed half squadron groups and attacked a defended area. The spice was added by the evemy patrols who, when they found a section, set them an extra 5 kilometre march.

By the morning all groups were in, blistered, weary and content. After a short rest 5 Squadron Infanteers were on the road, or their feet, once again. The next week was fully occupied with range work, B.E. tests, section drills and attacks and yet more patrolling.

The highlight of the week came when **Corporal Bill Lapworth's** contemporaries elected him Company Commander in the escape and evasion exercise. Ably assisted by his henchmen they organised and directed a first-class search for 10 R.E.M.E. soldiers on a detachment commanders course. The interrogation techniques were frightening but successful and by daybreak the R.E.M.E. HQ was isolated by a cordon set around it and all 10 were captured.

The finale was the defence of a commhead. No. 5 Company dug in and waited for their R.E.M.E. enemy to attack. Throughout the evening and early hours they were kept on their toes by **Squadron Commander Major Tony Sammes,** who, with a bag of pyrotechnics, ensured nobody slept. Just before dawn the real enemy attacked but 5 were ready and conservative estimates reckon that not one foe could have crawled away.

Just so they knew what their comrades in other squadrons were up to, 5 Squadron moved to Holland for a few days—found the sun and beaches, beat 11 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron in a soccer match, toured the Amstel Brewery and returned to Herford convinced anything the others could do so could they.

### ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.) ANGLING COMPETITION

The first Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Angling Championship was held on 11th August at Kirchlengern near Herford on the River Else.

Ten Royal Signals units took part with two of the units providing two teams, and a few individuals making up a total of 68 participants.

Each angler paid DM15 entry fee and this provided the necessary money for the prizes, buffet lunch and an individual cloth badge designed specially for the competition by **Corporal Mick Botting,** R.A.P.C., who helped organise the event along with **Corporal Steve Higgins,** R.A.P.C., both from 7 Signal Regiment.

The team winners were 4 Division HQ & Signal Regiment with 18 kilogrammes 200 grammes and the runners-up were 22 Signal Regiment with 15 kilogrammes 200 grammes. Third place was taken by 7 Signal Regiment 'A' Team with a total weight of 14 kilogrammes 225 grammes.

The individual winner of the competition was **Corporal Steve Higgins,** R.A.P.C., of 7 Signal Regiment with 7 kilogramme 300 grammes, second place was taken by **Sergeant Mick Norton** of 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment with 6 kilogrammes 950 grammes, and in third place was **Lance-Corporal Dave D'Silva** of 22 Signal Regiment with 5 kilogrammes 675 grammes.

The organisers would like to thank **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle,** O.B.E., for presenting the prizes. **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Oehlers** for his assistance in purchasing the annual shield, and also the stewards who helped run the event.

It is hoped that this competition will be continued in the future with each winning team being responsible for organising the following year's competition.

### B.A.O.R. TWO-DAY CYCLING EVENT

The B.A.O.R. two-day cycling event was held on 31st August and 1st September at 3 B.A.P.D. Bracht and 154 F.A.D. Wulfen. The event consisted of a 12-kilometre time trial and a 66-kilometre circuit race on Day 1 at Bracht and a 100-kilometre circuit race on Day 2 at Wulfen.

Although the event was intended primarily for B.A.O.R. Army riders the R.A.F. and Royal Navy were invited to enter teams. In addition, two teams also came from UK for the competition to make up a total field of 28 competitors.

On the 31st, the fine weather and good roads meant that the pace was very fast and the Army teams found themselves up against extremely stiff competition from the R.A.F. and Navy. The average speed for the 12-kilometre trial was about 40 kph (25 mph). The second stage on 31st August was run over a 3·3 kilometre course with a good surface but some tight corners. **Signalman Sandy Shaw** was forced to retire with a puncture and hence did not feature in the honours list.



The second day's racing held at 154 F.A.D. Wulfen was also over a very good course, with only one slight hill and a rather long straight which had to be attacked into a headwind. Unfortunately the other member of the Regimental Team, **Signalman 'Flash' Hallett,** suffered a puncture and was also forced to retire. Although the standard of racing was much higher than that to which the B.A.O.R. Army competitors were accustomed, the weekend was very enjoyable and a great deal was learned about racing techniques and training methods, and both **Signalman 'Flash' Hallett** and **Signalman Sandy Shaw** feel that they are now much better able to prepare for next year when we hope to improve on our present standard.

## 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### REPORT FROM 4 SQUADRON

FOR those who do not know us very well perhaps a short pen picture will be of use, especially to those who may be paying us a visit in the future on courses.

The Squadron has a mixed role in the administration and control of three training groups and the Royal Signals display team, the latter being strangers to us for most of the year because of their touring commitments.

The three training groups are:

*Admin Trades Group:* Responsible for the training of Clerks Technical, Dtmn (Specialist) and Chief Clerks. (They have also been known to run football in their spare time—Monday to Friday and weekends only.)

*Dvr Pwr Group:* Responsible for the training of Cbt Drivers and Cbt Powermen at basic and upgrading level.

*Military Training Group:* Responsible for the continuation of military training for basic students, adventure training in the Lake District and physical training for the whole Regiment. They also carry out range classification for all cadre personnel when they can catch them.

Some personalities are:

| | |
|---|---|
| OC Squadron .. .. | **Major G. Barnett** |
| Admin Officer .. .. | **Lieutenant D. Shakespeare** |
| OC R. Signals Display Team | **Captain J. Blake** |
| Adjt R. Signals Display Team | **Second-Lieutenant F. E. Richards,** WRAC |
| Tp Officers .. .. .. | **Lieutenant C. P. B. Smith** |
| | **Lieutenant M. Jefferies** |
| Group Supervisors .. .. | **Captain (QM) C. Timson,** BEM Dvr/Pwr Group |
| | **Captain J. E. Ient,** Mil Trg Group |
| | **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) K. P. Derrick,** Admin Trades Group |
| SSM .. .. .. .. | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) E. Bell** |

During August the Squadron has experienced some turbulence in the posting out of our beloved SSM (Band 5), **Eddie Phillips,** who has left us to guard the stores of 71 (V) Signal Regiment as RQMS. We wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

We also say farewell to **Sergeants Bob Mapletoft, Tony Cowan-Martin** and **Tom Morris.** Of course, with Bob Mapletoft now gone we are looking for a replacement to run the monthly Squadron socials, at which he was so good.

We welcome our new Band 5 W.O.2 (S.S.M.) **Eric Bell** and hope he settles well and has a good tour with us along with **Sergeant R. M. Hosey.**

August being the month most popular for holidays, the Squadron was rather quiet in their activities; no weekend exercise that everyone looks forward to, no weekly tombola and no range classifications. It is rumoured that **Captain Ient** hasn't passed his yet this year. Still, as OC Mil Trg he'll probably detail someone. (**'Q' Derrick** is a good shot.)

We did, however, get to the finals of the inter-squadron cricket, which we won on the pitch, but when the score book was re-checked we found we had lost by one run. (The scorer is nominated for the next 'Q' accounts course.) Our thanks go to **Signalmen Rolls** and **Myerscough** for their batting skill and to **Signalmen Bell** and **Gabb** for their superb bowling. **Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Peter Rossal,** who ran the team, was the only player to score 19 for two (for those not familiar with this term it means he scored 19 runs at the expense of running out two of his own batsmen)—some player!

Staff-Sergeant Reg Parnell, 8 Regiment's crackshot, displays some of his shooting medals

### THE REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

During April rumours of cancellation of the two Corps meetings for 1974 were a blow to all Corps shots.

Confirmation that they had been cancelled only filtered through to Catterick after the North-East District skill-at-arms meeting, held at the Catterick Training Centre on the 11th and 12th May.

The Regiment entered a team and was well satisfied with the results that it obtained, competing against 54 other Regular and TAVR teams.

| | |
|---|---|
| Match 1—SLR (Roupell) .. .. .. .. | 6th |
| Match 2—LMG (Worcester plus Lindley) .. .. | 16th |
| Match 3—SMG .. .. .. .. .. | 2nd |
| Match 4—Section Match .. .. .. .. | 12th |
| Match 5—Minor Units Championship .. .. | 2nd |
| Falling Plate .. .. .. .. | 2nd |

Virtually the same team, with adjustments to include two class 'B' shots, travelled to Bisley.

For most it was their first visit to what has been for many years the Mecca of target and competition shooting under Service and national rules. The early hopes raised by the North-East District successes were not, alas, borne out by events. The higher standard of competing teams, and the lack of experience that would have been gained at the two Corps meetings, soon made themselves felt.

However, one member of the team, **Staff-Sergeant Reg Parnell,** shot very well and was selected to shoot in the Corps team for the Methuen match and for the Corps at the national meeting.

His other successes were: 14th overall in SMG Thirty Match, 50th overall in the Army Hundred, award of an NRA Silver Medal with seven bars, selection for membership of the team to represent the Corps in the Hythe Trophy (first) and the Hamilton-Leigh (second). This was a very good effort indeed. Well done, Staff!

The team was composed of: **Major Peter Lenthall, W.O.2 (S S.M.) Len Green, Staff-Sergeant Reg Parnell, Sergeants Derek Bassford, Peter Mercer, Jack Cavanagh** (NE District only), **Corporal Chris Furby, Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Carleton** (Bisley only), **Private Bill Coleby** (Bisley only).

# LIFE ASSURANCE

**ITS FUNCTION.** The main function of Life Assurance is the protection of present or prospective dependants against hardship resulting from your premature death and provision for yourself and them in later years if you survive normally.

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## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

**PERSONALITIES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CO | **Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Pratt** |
| 2IC | **Major R. A. Macheath** |
| Adjutant | **Captain R. F. Whitehead** |
| RSM | **W.O.1 A. S. Walton** |
| ORQMS | **W.O.2 G. Shepherd** |
| QM | **Major M. Ham** |
| OC HQ Sqn | **Major C. Riley** |
| OC 1 Sqn | **Major T. B. Scarff** |
| OC 2 Sqn | **Major W. H. D. N. Robotham** |
| OC 3 Sqn | **Captain J. F. Budd** |
| SEO | **Major T. Shovelin,** RAEC |
| PSO | **Captain E. C. Jones** |
| Paymaster | **Major L. A. Poole,** RAPC |

### 1 SQUADRON

Due to summer block leave there was only one pass-off parade in August. 3 Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant M. R. S. Stanners,** passed off on 9th August, 1974, and was inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Ray,** Queen's, CR & LS, Northumbria. The best recruit was **Signalman Watts** and the best shot was **Signalman Mann.**

### 2 SQUADRON

No. 2 (Junior Signalman) Squadron has re-formed after a gap of a year, when the Junior Signalmen were trained at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate. We welcome the Squadron back to the Regiment and hope their stay will be permanent. We especially welcome all new arrivals to the cadre and wish them a happy and auspicious tour in the Regiment. We now await, with bated breath, the arrival of 300 juniors of the September intake.

### 3 SQUADRON

3 Squadron say they are far too committed to Staff Sergeants' and Detachment Commanders' courses to contribute WIRE notes this month.

### SUCCESS ON THE GOLF COURSE

Having secured three out of the four major golf trophies this year, the regimental team took the field in the regional final of the UKLF Major and Minor Units Golf Competition. Our opponents were 8 Signal Regiment, the hot favourites to win the final. The match consisted of four separate games played off scratch. The first two games went our way with **Lieutenant Willy Brewin** coming in two up and **W.O.2 Harry Moore** winning convincingly with six holes to his credit. **W.O.2 Len Stoneham** had an off day, having to fight hard to concede only six holes.

The stage was then set for an exciting finish. With only two holes to our credit, the match revolved around the fourth and final game, with **Captain Ken Paige,** one of our RAEC officers, struggling to keep pace with his opponent. To our horror we discovered that **Ken** was two holes down and in danger of going three down on the 16th hole. However, we all heaved a great sigh of relief when **Ken** sank a 25ft putt to halve the hole.

That long putt seemed to give **Ken** extra heart. He hit the next two greens in regulation and made his par, whilst his opponent, demoralised at this stage, lost his grip on the game and conceded the last two holes.

Having won this final we now go forward to the Army final at Tidworth in September. This will be a difficult two days and a real test of strength and character for the four team members.

We congratulate **Lieutenant Willy Brewin** on being placed joint second in both the scratch and the handicap at the Army Autumn Golf Meeting held at Aldershot, with a score of three over par for the course. We wish him luck when he plays in the national final of the VAT 69 Club Golfer of the Year championships at Fulford in September. It has been rumoured that he has been quoted as saying 'I'm only here for the whisky!. Needless to say, he has had numerous volunteers for the appointment of caddy for the day!

### GLIDING

Congratulations go to **Captain Leigh Hood** on winning the Northern Regional Gliding Championships held at Sutton Bank near Thirsk, and being placed fourth in the *Daily Telegraph* Euroglide Championships held at Lympsfield.

## 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF KREFELD

ON Friday, 6th September, 1974, the Regiment exercised its right to 'March through the streets of Krefeld with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying and band playing'.

The Regiment paraded outside the Rathaus at 1100 hrs and, after an inspection by the Oberburgermeister, **Hans Heinz Hauser,** marched past and through the city centre behind the band of the 14th/20th Kings Hussars.

The celebrations were rounded off by a Regimental Luncheon with representatives of all ranks and their wives as hosts.

After lunch the Oberburgermeister was invited to send greetings to the Lord Mayor of Leicester (Krefeld and Leicester are twin towns) over a D11/R234 link which was set up by a detachment from 2 Squadron crewed by **Corporal Jack Kendle** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Banham.** *(See photo overleaf.)*

### BOXING—UNIT BOXERS HOLD THEIR OWN IN GOOD COMPANY

On the 15th August the Regimental Boxing Team held a friendly tournament against boxers from the Cavendish Boxing Club (UK) and the Wesel Boxing Club, Germany.

The tournament was held in the Unit Gymnasium and was attended by some 500 spectators. After inter-team presentations had taken place, the tournament got under way and the spectators were treated to an evening of entertaining boxing.

The opposition were quite formidable, sporting three A.B.A. finalists or semi-finalists, four County finalists and one England international in their team.

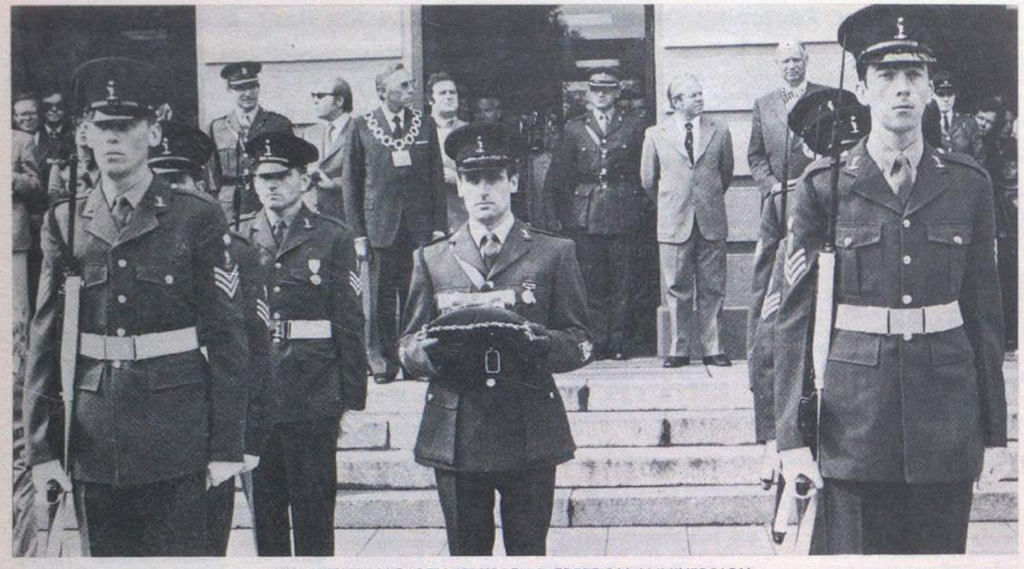
The Regimental team were **Lance-Corporal 'Dobbo' Dobinson, Signalman 'Dusty' Miller, Signalman Terry Shutt, Lance-Corporal 'Ginge' Allen, Signalman 'Jacko' Jackson, Signalman Lester Piggott, Corporal 'Ginge' Baines, Lance-Corporal Chris Cupper, Signalman Laurie Tervit** and **Corporal Geordie Turnbull;** the seconds were **Corporal I. R. Cameron, Lance-Corporal D. J. Bell;** the team manager was **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. Meredith.**

Although the score at the end of the evening read Cavendish Boxing Club 17, 16 Signal Regiment 10, it does not reflect upon the number of closely fought contests ending in points wins, which show that the Regimental team continues to improve.

At the end of the evening two special bouts were held in the open class, the first between **Carlton Lyons,** England international who represented England against Denmark and Wales from the Cavendish Boxing Club, and **Karl Bartels,** Niederrhein Champion. This contest resulted in a win for **Lyons.** The second contest was between **Lance-Corporal Geordie Turnbull,** 16 Signal Regiment, and **Erhwald Ewig,** Niederrhein Champion,

"WELL THAT'S THAT THEN"

Lance Corporal Chris Cupper takes his defeat philosophically as Leo Feeney, ABA Junior Finalist 1973/NW Counties Boys Club Finalist 1974 is declared points winner of the bout.



THE CITATION PARTY AT KREFELD FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY

Left to Right: Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Trevor Taylor, Sergeant Tony McMahon, Sergeant Mick Davies, W.O.I (F. of S.) Jim Phillips, Sergeant John England, Sergeant Ron Foote, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Nobby Hall

which resulted in a win for **Ewig.** Both the German boxers are from the Wesel Boxing Club with whom we now have a training arrangement.

After the boxing was concluded, social functions took place in the Sergeants Mess and Corporals Club and there is no need to mention what the topic of conversation was.

We now look forward to improving our team and gaining more experience against Army and civilian clubs and hope to have a successful team in another season or so. Should there be anyone whose particular sport is boxing and who wants to continue in the sport, then this is the Regiment to ask for. Through the proper channels of course!

### FOOTBALL—OUTLOOK FOR SEASON IS GOOD

The football season is upon us again and this year we hope to improve on last year's performance (runners-up Rhine Area major units) and end up with a good league position.

We have been fortunate in so far as the majority of last season's team will still be here for most of this season and we have had some good players posted in, so we are able to field two teams and the prospects look rosy.

As the on-field players are too numerous to mention by name we would like to mention the off-field players. These are **R.S.M. Colin Meredith,** the first XI manager for the second season, and **S.S.M. Jim Mancais,** the second XI manager who joins us for the first time. We wish them luck.

We would also like to thank **Lieutenant Duncan McKenzie,** who leaves us shortly, for his efforts as player and second XI football Officer, and **S.S.M. Bill Naismith,** who was the second XI manager last season and who has recently left to manage 242 Signal Squadron!

*Stop Press*—We would like to congratulate **Signalman John Burgess,** our first XI goalkeeper, on gaining his B.A.O.R. football colours.

## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

### INTRODUCTION

THE month of August was quite clearly holiday time in the Regiment, judging by the large number of 'absentees'. Notwithstanding, there seems to have been a great deal of activity. Exercise Coots Caper was held to try to convince our families that we really do work all those weeks in the year when we dash away with cries of 'Flying Sails' or 'Summer Falcon'! A large contingent of wives and children visited the exercise area but remained unconvinced after an enjoyable picnic lunch and games in the sunshine.

### SPORT—OFFICERS VERSUS SERGEANTS IN WEEKLY TOURNEY

Such is the slow pace that one day the Adjutant made it to coffee in the Officers Mess. The sight of so many officers gathered in one place convinced him that here was a sports team waiting for direction. It was decided to play the Sergeants Mess at a sport week through the summer. So far the results are Sergeants Mess 2, Officers Mess 3. Sergeants Mess have won two games of soccer; Officers Mess have won the hockey, cricket and shooting, and the rugby is next week.

On the Regimental sports front all teams are in training and friendly matches are arranged before the season proper starts.

### SUMMER CAMPS

One Squadron held their annual summer camp at Bernkastel Meus, on the banks of the Mosel. The advance party, consisting mainly of single soldiers, travelled to the area on Saturday, 27th July, and when the main party arrived on Monday everything was ready and waiting for them to move straight in. The site was an international camping platz on an almost waterlocked piece of land by the side of the Mosel. Any doubts about the wisdom of the decision to organise the camp to take place in a public camp site were soon dispelled by the soldiers, who behaved extremely well and endeared themselves to most of the other campers.

Reveille was at the unearthly hour of 0700 hrs, followed by half an hour's PT, usually volley-ball, football or canoeing. From 0900 hrs until lunch, there was an organised activity, e.g. map-reading exercise, on the first day, a football match against the local team on the second, and a motor rally on the third.



Afternoons and evenings were free and usually consisted of wine-tasting sessions in the Ratskeller and other places, where **Sergeant Alec Dunbar** performed regularly.

On the final evening, **Sergeant Paddy Davey** organised a magnificent buffet/barbecue to which the whole of the camp site was invited. The evening was a huge success and only camp rules insisting on an early finish prevented the party from going on into the small hours. The next morning saw the pads up early and packing ready for departure. The single soldiers, ably led by **Captain Bob Graham,** nearly all stayed down for the weekend's wine festival.

Three Squadron's camp took place on the shores of the Walchensee in Bavaria. Organised by **Lieutenant John Thornton** and **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Don Knox,** the camp was voted a success despite the early torrential rain and the crazy notion by the OC, **Major Mike Louden,** that everyone should take a dip in the icy waters of the lake each morning. Boating, canoeing, rock climbing, an ascent of the Hertzogstand (height unknown to all but a few), a liquid visit to the Lowenbrau brewery, football against the German Alpine Division and enthusiastic participation in the Mittenwald Fire Brigade Beer Fest made for an enjoyable week.

### REGIMENTAL WEDDING

On Saturday, 10th August, **Second-Lieutenant Roger Lane** married **Miss June Thompson,** one of our B.F.E.S. teachers, in the Garrison Church, and the reception was held in the Officers Mess. A day of sunshine and showers did nothing to mar an obviously happy occasion and we wish them both happiness. (P.S.—It is not everybody who takes exams on his honeymoon!)

Wedding of 2nd Lieutenant Roger Lane and Miss June Thompson

### LIPPSTADT YOUTH CLUB WORLD RECORD

Sunday, 21st July found nine members of the Lippstadt Youth Club warming up on the Garrison Sports Field for an all-out assault on the world crawling record. The organisers, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Dennis Holder, Lance-Croporal Graham Tildsley, Lance-Corporal Dave Taylor** and our attached youth worker, **Miss Brenda Mullins,** were dubious about the wet grass and heavy rain but the nine members were not to be deterred. At 1000 hrs they were off and in the first hour little **Steven Leyland** went into the lead, lapping several other competitors and covering an amazing 2·8 kilometres. The bad conditions were having their effect and at the 6 kilometre point the last girl, **June Robertson,** was advised to retire by the medical orderly due to the raw condition of her knees.

This left only four of the nine starters and shortly two more dropped out leaving only **Steven Leyland** and **Stuart Thompson. Steven** was the first to pass the record which stood at 8·9 kilometres in 9 hours 16 minutes, in the incredible time of 4 hours 21 minutes and 50 seconds, at this stage about 1 kilometre in front of **Stuart.** Even **Steven** could not go on for ever and he retired after 10·4 kilometres in 5 hours 13 minutes and 4 seconds. **Stuart Thompson** saw his chance and, head down, completed 11 kilometres in 6 hours 23 minutes and 31 seconds, now confirmed by the Guinness Book of Records as a world record. We add our congratulations for such a fine effort. The photograph shows SI File APTC (22 Signal Regiment) **Staff-Sergeant Phillips,** APTC (27 Med. Regt. R.A.) judging the excellent performance by our resident crawling champion.

BREAKER OF WORLD'S CRAWLING RECORD

Stuart Thomson finishing

## 27 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 1

### POSTED TO HONG KONG?—READ BELOW

THE Regiment produces an information booklet which is additional to any official publication received from S.B.C. or other organisation. If you are posted to Hong Kong and do not receive this booklet shortly after your posting order is issued, write to us and request one—it contains much useful additional information, particularly about your pay and allowances which you need before arrival. Our address is 27 Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 1.

June, July, August and September (so far) have been exceptionally dry in Hong Kong, which could prove awkward later in the year—water always being one of the Colony's main problems.

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

No. 1 Squadron ran a very successful inter-troop quiz, won by Systems Troop Day Workers who defeated RHQ in the final. The teams were: S Tp—**Sergeant 'Spud' Baker, Sergeant 'Stu' Williams, Corporal Dave Morris** and **Lance-Corporal Les Wood.** RHQ—**Captain Cliff Walters, W.O.1 (F. of S.) Pete Thornber, Staff-Sergeant Pete Hinton** and **Sergeant Alastair Sykes. Sergeant John Wallace** was the organiser question master and, with his wife **Lorraine,** the main provider of the questions.

We plan to hold another quiz in the New Year.

### SWIMMING

The Annual Corps/Gurkha Signals swimming gala was held on Friday, 9th August, 1974, and was again won by 48 Gurkha Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The weather was kind, all went without a hitch and it was a pleasure to see the children performing so well in their races. Some of the times were very fast, particularly those of **Jane Wright,** daughter of **Captain Harry Wright,** and **Susan Comber,** daughter of **Sergeant Bob Comber.**

**Sergeant John Wallace** of 1 Squadron won the backstroke, **Major Peter Larrington** was very successful, winning the veterans race and the plunge. He was also a member of the team that won the chain of command race.

**FFR**

The FFR has come and gone—the inspecting officer, **Major-General E. J. S. Burnett, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.1 (F. of S.) E. C. Harriss** and **Staff-Sergeant K. Moxon**. The medals were ceremoniously wetted afterwards in the 1 Squadron Club.

Major General E. J. S. Burnett presenting L.S. and G.C. medals to W.O.1 (F. of S.) E. C. Harriss and Staff Sergeant K. Moxon

**SQUASH**

RHQ reached the final of the Victoria Barracks squash league. Known as the 'Jimmies', they lost to the 'Jesters', a team from the Joint Services Intelligence. It was a hard-fought match and RHQ players were **Major Peter Larrington, Captain Cliff Walters, Corporal Graham Fellowes** and **Sergeant Alastair Sykes.**

**RIFLE MEETING**

The annual Corps and Gurkha Signals rifle meeting was held at San Wai on 9th August, 1974. 48 Gurkha Bde HQ and Sig Sqn won the team cup for the second year running. 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron both had their successes, 1 winning the SMG match with **Sergeant Chris Wise** and **Corporal John McGonigle** coming 1st and 2nd. 2 won the pistol match, **Sergeant Barry Pottinger** and **W.O.2 Chin Ten Loy** being 1st and 2nd respectively. In the final of the falling plates 2 Squadron beat 1 in a close match. **Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Benbow** presented the prizes and commented that personnel of 27 Signal Regiment were beginning to shoot competitively and looked forward to next year when perhaps the Inter-Squadron cup would change hands.

**ARRIVALS**

**Major C. E. R. Story, Lieutenant-Colonel (TOT) A. C. Earl, Captain (TOT) G. H. Paul, Captain S. D. Ellis-Jones,** W.R.A.C., **W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. Horton, W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) P. J. Bunting, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) G. J. Markwell, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) M. J. Boland. Sergeant R. N. Wade, Sergeant P. Barrett, Sergeant P. Catterall.**

**DEPARTURES**

**Major P. F. Larrington, Major (TOT) N. W. Merrifield, Captain (TOT) J. E. Grigsby, Captain H. M. Cary,** W.R.A.C., **W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) L. Arrowsmith, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) A. P. Drugan, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) G. Lile, Sergeant J. E. L. Celino, Sergeant J. Burns.**

**WIRE CORRESPONDENTS**

— Keep your contributions to the point—do not pad out.
— Use sideheadings to catch the eye and break monotony.
— Use capital letters sparingly.
— Remember black and white photos reproduce better than colour.
— Avoid cartoons and poetry unless really good.

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## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

**SHOOTING TEAM IN GOOD FORM**

FROM the hardy few who survived the rigours of the small-bore season was born a successful regimental full-bore team.

The season started with the LAD firing a few 'warmers into the bank' at their Corps shoot, where they claimed the distinction of 'best Signals LAD' team! This was closely followed by the local Northern Army Group meeting, the opposition including our German, Dutch and Belgian allies. We just about swept the board, winning the team Rifle, SMG and Major Unit Championship and the invitation team match; in addition, we claimed the individual rifle, SMG, junior rank rifle, junior rank SMG and first, second and third in the overall championship.

Both our hopes and morale were now high for the (BAOR) Corps meeting at Sennelager. We started well with **Corporal Brookes** winning the opening rifle match. In the second rifle match we obtained first and second individual and team winners, for the third rifle match the team tied for first place. This put the team in a strong position overall, but our lack of LGM training soon told as our lead was cut down.

We did, in fact, hold on to first place until just about the last round of the SMG was fired, when 7 Signals pulled an excellent shoot out and pushed us into second place overall, by just four points.

All our efforts were now directed towards acquitting ourselves well at Bisley and, of course, getting our revenge on 7 Signals. Again we started well with the rifle, finishing 15th out of 69 major units. We followed this with ninth in the SMG concurrent match and 14th in the section match, being the top-placed Signals unit in all three events.

Now came the expected drop in the LMG match, followed by a poor long-range SMG shoot. But we had enough points in hand to finish a very creditable 26th in the Major Unit Championship and achieved our main aim by winning the Bisley Trophy for the best Royal Signals team at Bisley by 76 points.

The team was: **Captain J. B. Woods, R.E.M.E., W.O.2 (F. of S.) Treharne, Sergeants Colley, R.E.M.E., Meakes, Everett, Corporal Brooks, Lance-Corporals Bushell** and **Calvert.**

We finish the season in September with the Rhine Area skill-at-arms meeting, where our gladiators hope to round off their silver collection with a few more pots.

**EXERCISE 'GALLIC VENTURE—UNIT PARTY VISIT A FRENCH TRAINING AREA**

At 0545 hrs on the morning of 13th August a party of men from the Regiment left Francisca Barracks to begin the journey to the La Courtine training area in central France. We were due to move in four chalks, but we were greeted by the news that the first aircraft was grounded. Immediately, blissful thoughts of pits, sleeping, for the use of, filled our minds. Unfortunately, the Army doesn't quite work like that, and so chalk two left first. We set out for RAF Wildenrath, where we spent an interesting two hours watching the canteen staff replenish the vending machines. Then they let us go and have a look at the Andover, but we either upset the crew or stood in something nasty, because they wouldn't let us on. Back to the vending machines. Half an hour later they repented and let us on. However, I did notice the tyres were flat, but I didn't say anything in case they threw us off again.

**SETTLING-IN**

After an uneventful flight we arrived at Vichy International Airport, to be greeted by soaring temperatures and our RCT movements clerk. After a four-hour drive we arrived at La Courtine Camp, which is situated just outside the village of the same name. After we had sorted out our accommodation we did a quick recce and performed a left flanking attack on the nearest bar. Working on the principle that drink is our worst enemy, we swiftly killed several and took a few prisoners. At 0600 hrs the following morning we decided that we had made a mistake, when together with chalk one, who had by this time arrived safely, we went for a run round the camp! And just to ensure we knew where we had been, we returned running backwards.

**NO VIPERS BUT A FIRE**

Then we started the main objectives of the exercise, which were ambush drills, patrol activities and range work. This greatly amused our French allies, because we were in shirt sleeve order, and the area is the greatest breeding ground for vipers in Europe. Either we scared them off or the smell of us put them off, but no one was bitten. Not even so much as a nasty suck, much to the disgust of **Corporal Ben Gunn,** our 'almost a doctor', who, clutching both LMG and first-aid kit, would follow us round like one half of an amateur Burke and Hare partnership.

Chalks three and four had joined us, and on the third day we were scaring Figure 11 targets to death on the range when we noticed that our tame pyromaniac, **Lieutenant John Henderson,** had managed to start his own private forest fire, with a Very pistol. To our great amusement the French Army fire picket arrived, tackled the blaze and promptly ran out of water. Completely ignoring a nearby stream, they dashed off to refill their tender. Eventually the situation was brought under control, luckily with no casualties. **Corporal Gunn** immediately descends into the depths of despair.

**VERY PISTOL FLARES OUR WEAK POINT**

On the seventh day we held a night exercise, with six sections being dropped by lorry to be ambushed twice on their way to their objectives, where they were to set up an ambush for another section. On the way to the drop-off points we were attacked by helicopters attached to 25 Regiment R.A., who were sharing the area with us. With gay abandon they bounced smoke grenades off windscreens and wheel hubs as if it was going out of fashion. Unfortunately one section was dropped off at the wrong starting point and, after successfully hiding from the lorry that tried to recover them, blissfully set off for the objective in the wrong direction. We only realised our mistake when an irate farmer set his dogs on us, and we almost set a thatched cottage alight with yet another Very flare. Flares just don't seem to be our strong point, do they? Realising that we were lost, we tried to call radio taxis on our A41s, which work on the 'line of sight' principle, i.e. refuses to work in the dark. Eventually **Major Ingram** arrived, complete with 10-seater Land-Rover, which then carried us to our correct location.

**PACKING UP AND BACK HOME**

The next day was spent looking round Clermont Ferrand, and then an early night because Thursday morning was the assault course competition, organised by **Y. of S. Bob McLaren.** Some very good times were put up and the winning team earned a crate of beer. The rest of the day was spent in packing up and saying goodbye to our hosts, who did very well in the whisky and beer stakes, but dipped out on the pickled onions. Haywards, please note: pickled onions will probably never replace garlic as the French nation's favourite toothpaste.

On the Friday we returned home again, courtesy of the RAF. No flat tyres this time, but, would you believe, a mouse in the head lining of the passenger cabin. I didn't say anything. After all, we were going home.

## 30 Sig Regt
### BLANDFORD CAMP

THE Regiment having returned from block leave and other parts of 'the empire', we feel we should record some of the highlights.

**HEADQUARTER SQUADRON**

This time we give the QM's department an airing, this mainly because they consider that they are the men who make all things possible: they receive nothing, they expect nothing, but they provide all.

Who are these faceless men of worth, just in case there is something that *you* may require some time? I record:

**Major Bill Jackson**—The decision maker (made a mistake once when he was a boy).
**RQMS Don Payne**—The co-ordinator (to be consulted for ammo, rugby and trips to Alderney).
**Staff-Sergeant (Technical) Paddy Peake**—The technical and MT king (specialises in forgetting the safe combination).
**Sergeant (Clothing) Jim Murdoch**—The Burtons of Blandford (tropical kit fitted by appointment).

**Sergeant (Loans) Ken Tombs**—The Southern Region Steptoe and Son (you need it; we'll get it).
They also have a signature tune—'Yesterday'. Something to do with requests for stores.

**1 SQUADRON**
The Squadron has been widely dispersed and not just on block leave. The Squadron Commander, **Major David Stubbs,** made a quick visit to the West Indies, allegedly on an exercise recce, but in reality buying up sugar stocks for members of the Regiment who drink tea. The Squadron 2IC, **Captain Stuart Moralee,** in company with **W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Henry Higgins, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) John Marr** and **Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Tony Brighton,** have also been soaking up the sunshine in the Solomon Islands and the short visit to Australia *en route* seems to have left one or two with Aussie accents.

**Corporals Geoff Lindsay** and **Shawn Hussey,** together with **Signalmen Bon Fryer** and **Ken Jones,** made a quick dash for the Mediterranean sunshine and Cyprus and helped out some of the chaps from Bulford who were there.

**2 SQUADRON**
This Squadron's contribution is a detailed account of the visit made to the Solomon Islands during August (see page 419).

**3 SQUADRON**
The Squadron has just returned from exercise 'Double Diamond', organised and run by HQ 2 Infantry Brigade at Stanford PTA, and by all accounts missed most of the sunshine on the east coast. The exercise was a complete change from normal signalling duties and we joined several other units in the improvement of basic infantry skills during an intensive week of training and a finale which consisted of a series of tests set by the Commander 2 Infantry Brigade.

**Major Peter Brunton,** fresh from his SAS course, divided the Squadron into two troops commanded by **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley,** 2IC of the Force Radio Troop, and **Lieutenant Bob Axton,** who was attached to the Squadron from the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, during his summer vacation. The activities included every conceivable aspect of basic military training from map reading to section battle drills, from night patrolling to helicopter handling and vehicle anti-ambush drills.

The tests were very well run and we are pleased to be able to report that **Lieutenant Vaughan Smedley** and **Lance-Corporal 'Bamber' Gascoigne** won the night vehicle navigation test, **Corporal 'Flub' Roxburgh** won the first-aid test, **Sergeant 'Taff' Wise** and his section of nine won the anti-ambush test and **Sergeant 'Sandy' Geddes** and team won the tug-of-war by two straight pulls.

Two very close seconds must also be mentioned, by **Corporal James Sloan** in the NBC and AMF test and **Corporal Ian Jeffery** and **Signalman Eric Ball** in the trench construction and defence competition.

The Squadron voted the exercise a success and agree that the infantry do have something.

*Stop Press:* The sugar brought back by **Major David Stubbs** is already getting low and there is a rumour that a few more may well be required to visit the West Indies this month. Any volunteers from those who feel that they didn't get their share of sunshine this summer?

OLD FRIENDS FOREGATHER

Seen at the recent Cygnet Dinner held by 30th Regiment to mark the association with the Worshipful Company of Dyers. Colonel "Tubby" Marshall, the founder of the Regiment's association with the Company, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jarrett, the present Commanding Officer and Mr Deputy Cuthbert Skilbeck, the Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Dyers

## News from Squadrons

### 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
### B.F.P.O. 102

HERE we are again with this month's report from action-packed Hildesheim, which includes the birth of our own all-conquering quads (the four-a-side football team) and the squadron cobweb/mast clearing operation (exercise Nighting Gales Nest).

**LUCKY AND UNLUCKY**
This month saw the tear/alcohol-stained departure of **Major (QM) Mac McCarthy,** R.A., who goes back to the Gunners in Hohne and then to Belfast. Goodbye also to **S.Q.M.S (A) Staff-Sergeant Stevenson, Sergeant Rodgers** and **Corporal Gregory.**

We also welcome to the fold our new Q.M., **Major Roy Osborne,** R.A., from 2 Division Signal Regiment, **Staff-Sergeant Brian Young,** who hopes to grow to be as tall as the S.S.M. during his stay, **Corporals Griffiths, Mitchell** and **Signalman Hoensch.**

**KOLDING BAOR INDOOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**
The tournament is a yearly contest open to all invited B.A.O.R. units. It was started in 1970 as the result of one of **Mr. Ken Moore's** (24 Tpt & Mov Regt R.C.T.) frequent brainstorms with the intention of improving Anglo-Danish relations; playing football of a different nature and getting the lads away from camp. It is football the four-a-side Danish way which seems to bear some resemblance to ice hockey without the ice and is played on a 50 metre × 30 metre pitch which is surrounded by a 1 metre high wall—presumably to keep the ball in rather than to keep the screaming fans (we do have one or two) out.

The 'Kolding contest' has never been won by a minor unit, until now—yes, we did win! This probably has something to do with the fact that the Hildesheim Dynamo in the form of the Squadron have never been invited to play before. Modesty might just get us everywhere for once! The winners (us) represent B.A.O.R. (note that the remainder of B.A.O.R.) in the individual international tournaments during the coming four-a-side Danish season.

In the past the Squadron has entered many competitions, given their pound of flesh and sweat but achieved no real result—the original case of the bride being left at the altar without a groom. But this one was different. We won—we got the cake, the cream filling and ate it—the cream filling being the beating of our arch rivals 'K' Bty, 5 Hy Regt R.A.

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SUPPLEMENT No. 2—PAGE THREE

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SUPPLEMENT No. 2—PAGE FOUR

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It was a gruelling contest (of course) with things being cut a little fine towards the end—two games were won by a single goal. There's nothing like tagging the opposition along! The team was not even open to bribery and corruption and firmly rejected 'K' Baty's idea that they should be allowed to beat us so that they could come second rather than third. There was little love lost between the two teams.

The Squadron was represented by Y. of S. **Staff-Sergeant John Chapman, Lance-Corporal 'Reggie' Nicholson, Signalnalmen 'Mally' Chambers, Peter Crowder, 'Kev' Hughes** and **Alf Ramsey**—both individually and as a team. Both the mighty **'Kev'** and **'Reggie'** insist that they each won the cup and were merely hindered by everyone else!

**DISASTER!**

At least the trip showed the usually infallible **Moore** to be human after all—he booked the Mayor, the pitches, etc., for the week after! Also **Signalman 'Scrooge' Hughes** of the Woodstock Club did something he rarely does, when he dropped his suitcase on the platform of Hamburg Station. He said 'There's a lot of jocks round here, I can smell 'em'. Little did he realise the give-away aroma of whisky gently wafting in the air was, in fact, coming from his own full/broken bottle in his suitcase!

So much for the victorious gladiators in Kolding.

**EXERCISE NIGHTING GALES NEST**

An eventful exercise. An expensive exercise. An exercise designed to remove the 'August Arty Apathy'. If there, three were the aims. The first and second were certainly achieved as well as the third, but to a lesser extent.

This was a 7 Signal Regiment exercise in the Mohnesee–Winterburg area—give or take a few miles. From the point of view of communications, the exercise was a welcome reassurance for the forthcoming staff exercises. The vehicle side was, however, not quite up to our same standard. The rot set in with one F.F.R. Land-Rover depositing its gearbox outside the education centre and the Commer/Foreman's Zoot-mobile setting up a new record for the amount of fuel needed to travel 190 miles—who said there was a petrol crisis on at the moment. Anyway, all vehicles made it to the exercise area with **Corporal 'Geordie' Henderson** bringing up the rear in the 21-year-old battery charger!

**DOING IT IN A BIG WAY**

All was set. Communications in and working. Next locations recceed. Step-up moving from its hide location. R.E.M.E., in the person of **Lance-Corporal Clive Ormandy,** excelling themselves by mobilising most vehicles. In fact he excelled throughout the exercise, but in more ways than one—

**Lance-Corporal Ormandy:** 'Sir, I've knocked over a mast'.
**Captain Chris Spencer:** 'Well, put it back up again'.
**Lance-Corporal O:** 'Sir, I've knocked over a radio mast'.
**Captain S:** 'I heard you first time—put it back up'.
**Lance-Corporal O:** 'Sir, it's not one of ours'.
**Captain S:** 'So what! Put it up and get out of there'.
**Lance-Corporal O:** 'Sir, it's rather a big mast'.
**Captain S:** 'Go on, how big?'
**Lance-Corporal O:** 'Would you believe 200 feet sir?'.
Pregnant pause.
**Captain S:** 'What?'.

**Lance-Corporal Ormandy** had successfully brought the local television repeater mast crashing to the ground—the area was now without the first programme! At this point I feel sure **S.S.M. Jim Akehurst** would like to emphasise the fact that it was R.E.M.E. who knocked the mast down not Royal Signals!

Apart from these minor expensive setbacks—they could happen to anyone, couldn't they?—we did prove the capabilities of our radio equipment and dust many of those cobwebs away.

Well that's all for now, kiddywinks, for another month from downtown Hildesheim.

---

**JOKE!**

A gentleman came into the psychiatrist's consulting room with a parrot on his head.

"What can I do for you" said the psychiatrist.

"Get this b—— man from under my feet" said the parrot.

CCV

## 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

**THE MOUNTAIN MEN OF GLENTROOL**

JULY 1974 marked the summer high point for the 'Flying Fifth' when they moved virtually *en bloc* to the Glentrool Highlands of West Scotland. This was exercise Ivanhoe—a sort of bushman's holiday organised under the auspices of summer camp-cum-let's-get-out-of-Tidworth fever. The best way to describe this three-week spectacular is, perhaps, to allow three participants to continue the story in their own words:

**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Burrows:** '"Welcome to Midge Valley" was the cry of the advance party when the rest of the Squadron arrived at our summer camp location on the evening of 26th June after a long but extremely well organised journey, courtesy of British Rail. It seems that a unique species of Midge is bred in the Glentrool Training Area. They are the sort that use insect repellant as after shave lotion and obviously save up their energy for unwary soldiers invading their territory',

**W.O.2 Jackman, R.E.M.E. (Our Brigade Armourer):** 'The advance party had done a terrific job in converting the farmer's meadow into a business-like, efficiently laid out, canvas covered, insect infested tented camp. The whole thing was marked out with mine tape with the Squadron flag flying at the guardroom, outside of which a large notice board proclaimed a welcome to all who entered Camp Ivanhoe. Next to this was another board which listed the various interesting activities one could partake in, including hot showers provided by the Mobile Bath unit of 5 Airptbl O.F.P. Needless to say, this was one of the most welcome and efficient attributes to Camp Ivanhoe.

'The camp itself consisted of a Junior Ranks Canteen complete with television and beer garden, a combined Officers/Sergeants Mess with the main cookhouse in the centre flanked on either side by junior ranks 160 pounders and Officers/Sergeants Mess 160 pounders. A great deal of work and planning had gone into the camp site and the result was a credit to the advance party who constructed it. Thanks here are due to the second-in-command, **Captain Rex Stephenson,** and the R.Q.M.S., **W.O.2 Nick Nicol.'**

**Corporal Bestford (Bravo Troop):** 'There was a touch of "you *will* enjoy yourselves" about the second-in-command's briefing, but the first day started off very well with the majority playing volleyball and **Signalman Nick Welsh** playing golf between the tents. Despite aiming hard for the R.S.M., he did manage to score a direct hit on the rubbish bin.

'Next day we had a small walk to get us in the mood and the third day saw us cooking for ourselves in the field with the R.S.M. insisting that the local highland grass and dirt were the Mark I brillo pads.

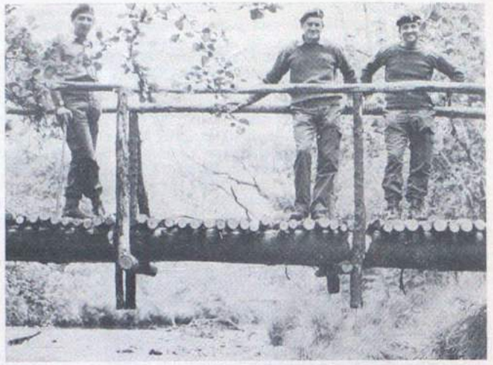
'Fourth day it happened—Summer Camp ended and the outward bound course began. Sixteen miles the first day, 14 the second and 12 the third; sounds easy, but thanks to the Forestry Commission and their new plantations (2 feet deep 2 feet high every step) Naismith's rule had to be discarded. Naismith's rule claims it would take us 6–7 hours for the distance and height we had to cover. All I can say is Naismith couldn't have had this route in mind when he devised his rule'.

**Back to W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Burrows:** 'The Squadron was split into four groups each consisting of four patrols who followed the intense programme of events enduring the rigours of the strenuous exercises and enjoyed the pleasures of the leisure activities. The M.T.O., **Captain Peter Everingham,** R.C.T., had done good groundwork as recreation officer in organising a visit to Girvan Distillery, periods of horse riding, an activity which was greeted with some scepticism, but on the whole turned out to be very enjoyable. Indeed, most enjoyable for some!'

**The Brigade Armourer continues the story:** 'There was a half-day acclimatisation walk. The unwary found that the excess beer consumed the night before made the going very difficult across the rugged terrain they were expected to cross and the packs seemed to multiply in weight with every step taken. The midges appeared to be addicted to the lotion we applied nicknamed "Glentrool After Shave" and we were firmly convinced if this

PART OF THE IVANHOE KITCHEN

The toughness of training can be seen by comparing the two overweight NCOs standing near the tea urn before they started the 3 day walk and Lance-Corporal Luke Lucas R.C.T. by the tree who had first completed it.



"MIDGE BRIDGE"

The inspecting officer W.O.I (RSM) Norman Ladds congratulating the builder's foreman W.O.I (ASM) Derek Thompson and his shop steward Sergeant Mick Pierce R.E.M.E. The bridge was built by the Sqn for the local forestry commission

was the OC s idea of fun, it was not ours. Little did we realise that there was worse to come—a three-day forced march in difficult terrain.

'One can now appreciate how much we enjoyed our hot showers on return to camp. The three-day march must have been devised by a sadistic natured keep fit fanatic. The idea was that sections comprising four or five men would walk for three days with two overnight stops which were provisioned daily by the D.S. staff. The going was very hard and it rained all the time. Progress was so slow that in some cases the speed achieved was only 300 yards an hour.

'Footsore and weary, the sections arrived at their living sites, many vowing to go no further. However, being typical stubborn British Squaddies, the next day found us setting off again after breakfast determined not to let those Scottish hills beat us .

**Corporal Bestford's view:** 'Then came the three-day walk which would, the 2IC assured us, be enjoyable. Setting off at 0830 hrs, we arrived at 2200 hrs rather exhausted with only one thing in mind, bed; but alas it was not to be, the bivouac site selected was already occupied by countless millions of mosquitoes and midges and they certainly did not intend moving, and yet wherever we moved to, they followed. Needless to say, a sleepless night ensued. Next day, **Signalman Mick Gillespie** permitting, we moved off on our next stage. At last here was a track to walk on—unbelievable! "Recce must have slipped up on this second route" quotes **Signalman Gillespie,** being able to keep up at last. Third day, "easiest part" I remark to our group, completely forgetting it had rained all night. Needless to say, I lost my popularity. At last, back to camp, moquitoes and all to be welcomed by the 2IC who was still insisting that we all benefited from it. We said nothing and wearily moved on, convinced that the only people who benefited from our three-day walk were the local taxi service'.

**Back to the Yeoman:** 'Other activities, supposedly under the heading of "Recreational activities" (a bone of contention), consisted of canoeing ably organised by the Brigade "Super" clerk, **W.O.1 Tony Ford,** R.A.O.C., and the inter-patrol "It's a knockout" competition introduced by **R.S.M. Norman Ladds,** who, rapidly running out of supplies of dry clothing, decided it would be safer and drier running a group and handed over this onerous task to **Captain (Q.M.) John Cowe**',

**W.O.2 Jackman again:** 'I'll never forget the date, 7th July, 1974, a Sunday. A party of three comprising the R.S.M., a sergeant and myself, complete with rucksacks and A41 radio, were to climb the Merrick, the highest hill in the Glentrool area. To the experienced hill walker it would be a pleasant Sunday stroll, but to us three base wallahs it was an endurance test. We climbed steadily for three hours, walking through the mist until, finally, our leader proudly announced, via the radio back to base, that we had achieved our objective and climbed the Merrick.

Feeling in high spirits, we set about changing into warm clothing, setting up the tent and putting on a brew. How good to be on top we thought.

'Suddenly, out of the mist on our left flank there loomed a bloody great hill and only a 100 yards from our bivvy site a sign pointing to the monstrosity. On the sign was painted the words we dreaded, "To the Merrick". There was still more to climb!'

**Corporal Bestford again!** 'Seventh day—so the organisers have a heart after all. It's a trip to the Girvan distillery, and free whisky for all to forget about the three-day walk (very diplomatically arranged). But after three very nice and polite ladies had spent all morning explaining to us how their whisky is made and why it is one of the best whiskies in the world, **Signalman Ray Nash** has the nerve to ask for a beer! I wouldn't mind but they gave him three!

'So that was Ivanhoe 1974 as far as the physical and recreational was concerned. But far more was actually achieved; we had helicopters of the Royal Navy helping us with resupply, recce and medevac. When not flying, they helped to ensure that the bar stocks were not left too full for us to carry back at the end. We also managed to aid the local community in several ways. Apart from hospitality and support for local functions the Squaddron successfully built two fine bridges for the Forestry Commission. The best one was called Midge Bridge and both were designed by our Sapper D.A.A. & Q.M.G. and ably executed under the direction of the A.S.M., **W.O.1 Derek Thompson'.**

It had been an integrated camp and despite the weather, really worth doing.

**W.O.2 Burrows**—'Hectic activity and most enjoyable'.

**W.O.2 Jackman**—'The aim was well achieved'.

**Corporal Bestford**—'A lot of people definitely a lot fitter than when they first started, and a lot of people wondering if they were going to receive some sort of certificate for having survived—but like the 2IC says, we *had* enjoyed ourselves!'

### HISTORY OF THE INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

The High Commission of India is anxious to obtain contributions from those who served in the Indian Signals Corps from 4 September 1939 to 15 August 1947 for the compilation of a history covering this period. Would anyone who has reminiscences, photographs, diaries etc. which might be of interest, please contact Major P. B. Deshpande, The High Commission of India, Military Advisers Department, Aldwych, London WC2.

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## 11th Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

**SUMMER CAMP—1974**

ENGLESE militairen genieten van zon in Wijk aan Zee'. In Dutch this means, 'English soldiers enjoy the sun in Wijk aan Zee'. This statement appeared, in one inch capitals, on the second page of a local newspaper and announced to those living in the area of the Scheldt Estuary, that we had arrived for a 'deserved holiday'. Deserved it was and thanks to the organisers, **W.O.1 Stephens** and **Sergeant Graham,** all those who took the chance of a rest by the sea had a most enjoyable time, spent either in search of the sun or where possible avoiding thunder clouds.

Owing to exercise commitments this year, camp lasted only two weeks. The advance party set off on 26th July, a day ahead of the main party, with half the QM's store or so it seemed on glancing at the check list. Burners, ironing boards, life jackets, stretchers, thunderboxes, the Squadron TV and one post office landrover come to mind.

A few of the events during the camp are related by **Sergeant Graham** below.

**DEEP SEA FISHING—1st AUGUST**

The cost for one day's fishing was 25 guilders. This put off all but the keen 'tars', **Signalmen P. Smith, T. Smith, Driver Jones, Signalmen Lawton and Hoy,** who decided to go for the 'big one'. The trip started at 7 am from Ijmuiden docks in a near gale. However, in spite of this, bravely clutching their fishing tackle and emergency rations (10 Herforder beers each), they boarded the trawler, each in anticipation of the rigours of the day ahead. What happened during that trip is only known to them and their stomachs; they all admitted to being sea-sick, that is except **Driver Jones** (it must be the 110 lining in his stomach). They returned with about a hundred fish, mackerel we think, which were prepared and cooked by **Private Braham** (old sea dog) and eaten by all.

**WELFARE WORK—2nd AUGUST**

A party of twenty led by **Captain Couchman** went to Heliomare Rehabilitation Hospital and took out patients to the Johannas Hof, a well-known pan-cake house about 13 km from Wijk aan Zee. The walk, which consisted of pushing patients in wheelchairs or trolleys, took about two hours. The exercise was great fun as one can see from the photograph and the patients, normally confined to the hospital, had a wonderful day. A close contact was kept with the hospital during the camp. Films were shown and the teenage patients often visited. At a later date the hospital asked for assistance to clear a beach hut which was in danger of collapsing. While this was being done **Lance-Corporal Hutchinson** led a party to assist in redecorating and repairing parts of a home for mentally handicapped persons. He maintained close contact with the home during his stay and found the relationship and work most satisfactory and rewarding.

Soldiers of 11 Bde HQ and Sig. Sqn. taking patients from a local Dutch Rehabilitation Hospital on an outing lasting several hours.

**COCKTAIL PARTY AND DISCOTHEQUE**

That evening we decided to hold a cocktail party for the local dignatories and those who had assisted us in arranging the camp. After this the VIP party joined the others in the civilian camp site nearby at the discotheque organised by **Corporal Parker.** The lads had invited the nurses from Heliomare and with other guests we 'hopped' until the early hours of the morning. The evening was a roaring success and before departing the Mayor of Beverwijk invited us all to join him and members of the council at the Town Hall on 6th August.

**ORIENTEERING COMPETITION**

On 5th August a competition was organised by **Sergeant Firman** and **Corporal Probin.** The competition took place in the Castricum National Park—**Lance-Corporal Hutchinson** and **Signalman Fisher** won the competition, closely followed, a minute behind, by **Signalmen Cheesman** and **Lawton.**

**VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL, BEVERWIJK**

At mid-day we all arrived at the Town Hall and were met by the Mayor. After drinks we met members of the council and were then taken on a conducted tour of the Town Hall. At the end of the visit we were each presented with a pen and coin purse embossed with the town's coat of arms. **Captain Couchman** gave a farewell speech and presented the Mayor with the Squadron plaque. The visit was most enjoyable, the local people were interested in us, lavished hospitality on us and could not have been more kind. It was at this stage in our stay that we all felt most welcome and more than grateful to the people in this part of Holland.

**AMSTEL BREWERY TRIP**

No camp programme should be without one! The trip was a great success, marred only by the fact that someone had to stay behind and look after the camp, me! **(Sergeant Graham.) Captain Couchman** led the visit and even managed to talk his way into the cellar, he didn't comment on return but it was noticed that he appeared to have developed a limp. Everyone returned with a detailed knowledge of Quality Control within the brewery but did not appear to be any wiser about production.

**VISIT TO THE STEELWORKS**

On 9th August a coach, arranged by the Steelworks, picked us up at about 11 am and, on arrival at Hoogoveus, we were met by guides, had coffee and were then given lectures on the works and Holland. We then sat down to a typical Dutch lunch which included salted raw herring. The guides advised us to pick the fish up by the tail and just let it slip down the throat. A few balked at the idea and a few fish were left; however the meal was excellent and a very welcome change after a week on compo. After lunch we toured the works for an hour or so and returned for a 'few' beers prior to our departure to camp.

The all but last words are left to the reporter of the local newspaper.

'The 11th Brigade are most welcome in Wijk aan Zee and have already made good friends with the patients in Heliomare. They have also played football against the Rolandsduin Camping Site. "We like it here", said the cook from the Brigade. "And the weather has been quite good". Next Wednesday the English soldiers will go back to their base in Minden'.

It was a sad return for we left behind many kind friends and acquaintances. However, we returned with happy memories of an unforgettable fortnight.

## *Trucial Oman Scouts 1975 Reunion Dinner*

The Dinner is to be held in the RCT HQ Mess, Buller Barracks, Aldershot on Saturday, 25th January 1975. Cost for the Dinner will be about £4.50. Bed and Breakfast can be provided at a cost of £1.25.

Those interested in attending should contact Major R. C. Wallace, RCT, The Depot Regt. RCT, Buller Barracks, Aldershot—Tel: Aldershot 24431 (ext. 2714) for details and to make bookings.





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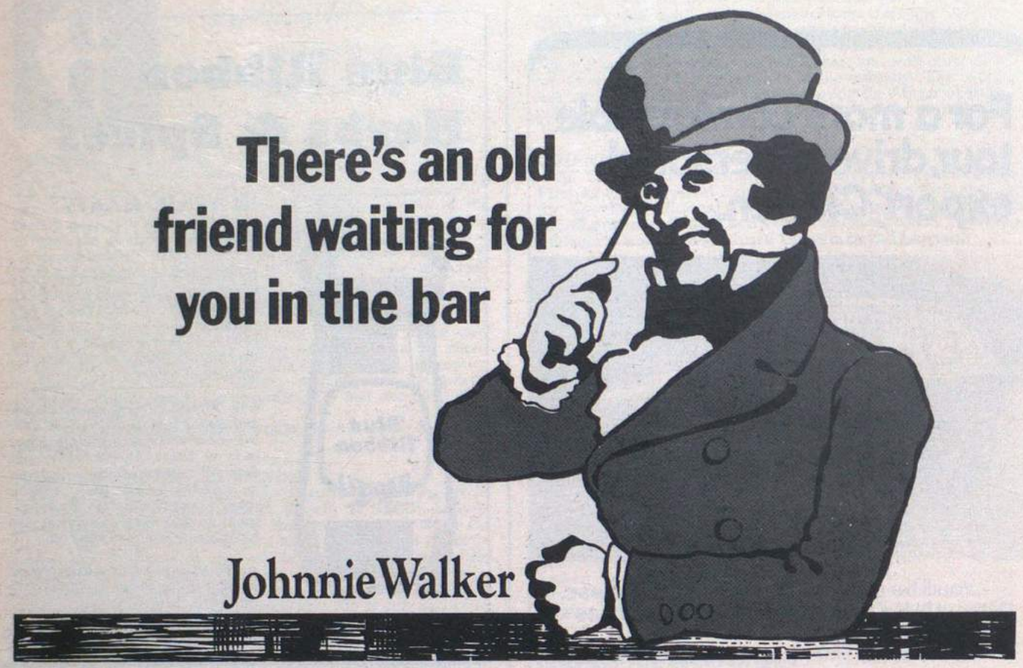
Good cooks use herbs and spices with subtlety—too many flavours can spoil the dish. The right amount of a particular spice or herb (or perhaps two) is all that is needed to lift and develop the flavour of the main ingredient of a dish.

Blue Ribbon Spices, Herbs, Blends and Seasonings come from all over the world, wherever the finest quality is to be found. All the flavour and aroma of these pure spices is captured in attractive glass jars, bringing today's busy housewives the opportunity to add more excitement and individuality into their cooking.

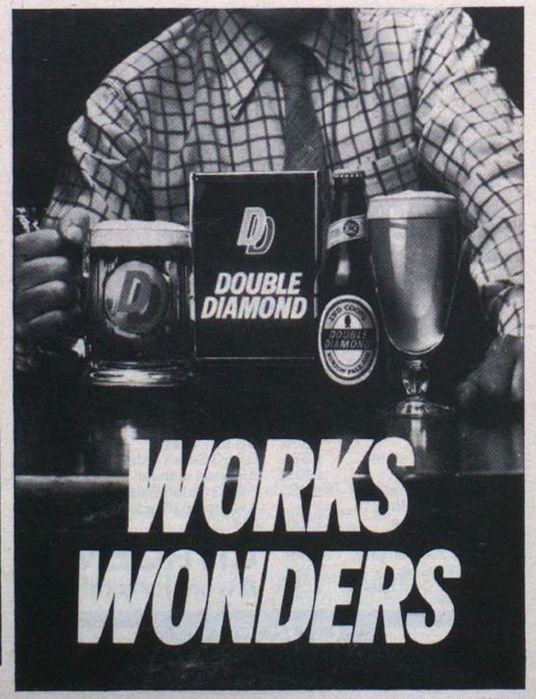
A leaflet listing Blue Ribbon Herbs, Spices, Blends and Seasonings is obtainable at our display stand.

A BROOKE BOND OXO LTD PRODUCT

**You can take a White Horse anywhere.**



Skol Draught.
From Britain's Norse country.






Printed in Great Britain

## News from Troops

### 603 Sig Tp, R.A.F. Masirah
### B.F.P.O. 65

NOTES BY SIGNALMAN TOM DALY

**NEW ARRIVALS**

SINCE we last made contact with the rest of the Royal Signals world our numbers have swelled to truly amazing proportions. We now have 17 resident members (not including those wandering around Cyprus looking for a 'cabby' over here).

The latest additions to our little community (name dropping time) are **Corporals Tony Dubois, Tim Howley, Lance-Corporal Schamus Mooney** (a very apt name considering) and, fresh from 8 Signal Regiment, **Signalmen Paul 'Scotty' McLay, Phil French** and the last arrival, **Tony Gardner,** who is on his second Masirah tour; the last one, in 1972, was when he was a 'Blue Job'.

**PONGO POWER TRIUMPHS**

The term 'pongo power' has been wielded with a little more weight than as of late mainly due to the fact that our outstanding feats on the sports field have won us the much coveted CO's Cup, which I might add was won against some very tough opposition from the 500-odd 'Blue Jobs' also doing nine months' hard labour on Masirah. The pongos of 603 Signals Troop (all 14 of us at the time) scored a record 493 points, while our nearest rivals, the 40-odd strong Supply Flight, could only collect 201 points. Admittedly, we started with a slight advantage, as our OC, **W.O.2 (F. of S.) John Hill,** just happens to be the Station Sports Officer.

Sportsmen of the Troop who deserve a mention are **Sergeant Andy Funnel, Lance-Corporal Dave Patten, Signalman Cliff Kerry, Paul Jennings,** myself (naturally), **Tom Daly** and, of course, that hardy perennial, **Mr. Hill.**

Much to the dismay of the Royal Air Force here, we have started up our own comedy (?) programme on the radio, a sort of Monty Python/Goon affair, and from the safety of a recording studio we can hurl sarcasm, abuse and sly witticisms at all the 'non-Brown Jobs' for an hour every week expertly produced by **Sergeant Tony Denne.**

**WE EVEN WORK**

I suppose you are thinking that because of our various activities we have no time for work. On the contrary, the station's entire system of 11 telephones is in perfect working order and we shortly hope to install a phone in the OC's office.

Well, that's all until next month, when we'll have some more of the exploits of 603 Signal Troop on the Riviera Masirah.

### 605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan
### B.F.P.O. 180

**FISH ABOUNDING**

IF you are a keen angler, and lucky enough to be posted to Gan, then the opportunity for continuing your sport could not be bettered anywhere. Gan has a thriving angling club and cost of membership during your nine-month tour is a mere £1·50.

The lagoon where most of the fishing is done is surrounded by islands and a reef barrier on all sides. It seems to be full of small fry, so a shortage of fish is hardly likely.

Some of the fish to be caught are Gar, Tuna, Shark and Barracuda, to name just a few. If you are an eel man the Moray Eel will give you a good fight; also a nasty bite if you are careless enough.

Fishing trips on the lagoon with the angling club can be oversubscribed on any particular occasion, but this problem is overcome by the hiring of local Maldivian fishing boats (Dhonis) which take up to a maximum of 10 anglers quite comfortably. On the other hand, the Maldivian trading boats can accommodate 40 anglers comfortably, and this is the best way of ensuring that all the keen anglers get their rods wet, if nothing else. At about £6 for 12 hours, quite cheap too!

Fishing tackle is sold mainly by the angling club, and is at least 40 per cent. cheaper than UK prices. Due to the smaller cost involved, non-fishermen tend to take up the sport, and once you have experienced a 20–30 lb fish on the end of your line, you're 'hooked' for life (sorry!).

So if you should be fortunate enough to secure a posting to this tropical island paradise, you need never want for something to do.

A word of warning, however, to angling volunteers. You may have to wait some time for your chance of this 'dream holiday', as requests to Records are expected to be very heavy, and they are only human in Reading!

**MOVEMENTS**

The latest departure to the 'Land of Having' was **Sergeant Brian Bartrum,** who will definitely be missed by us all, especially for all the work and effort he put into our new Club.

We welcome two new arrivals to the Troop, **Sergeant Mick Turner** of Corp Rugby fame, and **Signalman Keith Bell,** and we all wish them a merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a Happy Easter.

**SPORT**

The Troop five-a-side football team reached the quarter-finals of the recent knock-out competition, where they were narrowly defeated by sudden-death play off penalty kicks.

The eleven-a-side football league began here recently, and several members of the Troop combined with members of the R.A.F. to field quite a strong team. Unfortunately they went down 3—1 after a hard-fought game against a mixed Hittadu/1125 Marine Craft unit team.

We are all hoping for better results in the next five-a-side tournament, as well as our eleven-a-side matches over the next few weeks.

## The Volunteers

### 40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

**STUDY WEEKEND ENJOYED**

A STUDY weekend for the officers of the Regiment was held during the 10th–11th August in a nicely appointed hotel at a pleasant seaside resort.

A talk by CR Signals on military communications in Northern Ireland and a talk by the Chief Education Officer about China and the Red Army were two excellent features of the programme.

Study was made of aspects of communications and of our tasks for Annual Camp.

A pleasant dinner was enjoyed in the evening and our guests were **Brigadier Jasper Peck,** the Group Commander, **Major David Anthonisz,** SO2 12 Group, and **Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Last,** CR Signals.

Members of the mess and our guests enjoyed dancing in the Viking disco. When the other disco-ites had left (0130 hrs) the swimming pool was opened for our use. The Commander won the race and his miniature bottle of whisky (of right) in fine style despite the efforts of many career-conscious officers who tried to torpedo him.

The CR Signals claims an entry in the Guinness Book by saying good-night at the early hour of 0620 hrs.

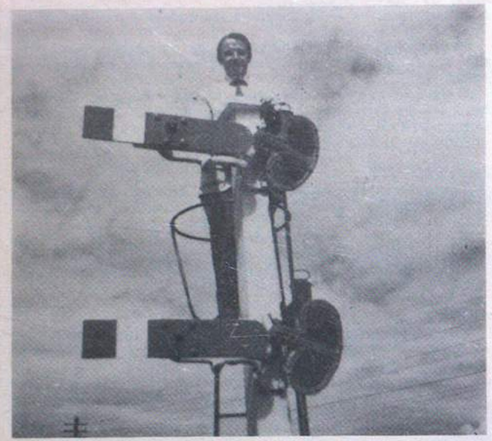
The Training Major, **Major Mike Adams,** spoke for 40 minutes on 'Two years with 40th' and that he spent most of his time reading an alphabet of humour has no reflection on the Irish character.

The Adjutant, **Major Ken Goulding,** gave a talk on leadership and **Lieutenant (QM) Jim Chambers** was most explicit in his penetration of leadership techniques.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Gillespie** told the Officers (tongue in cheek?) to remember the Neumonic Adams, Always Do As Mike Says, but the practised expansion of this is Always Dodge A Major (TM) on Sundays.

**A DAY OUT IN A STEAM TRAIN**

On the 17th August, 1974 the Officers and S.N.C.O.s of the Regiment and families had the opportunity of travelling by steam train to Portrush for a day at the seaside.



Lieutenant Colonel Gillespie, C.O. of the Regiment, demonstrates practically he is head signalman . . .

. . . meanwhile the Training Major, Major Mike Adams, makes a study of defensive earthworks

We travelled in a carriage presented by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Gillespie,** to the Northern Ireland Railway Preservation Society.

The day was eventful. We left Belfast from York Street where some of the station remains. Our journey commenced; we experienced sunshine, torrential rain and delays due to the train running out of steam *en route* to Portrush. During one enforced stop this photograph of the Commanding Officer as head signalman was taken.

Sights at Portrush were strange. The Adjutant, **Major Ken Goulding,** insisted he was exercising with the North Irish Horse when photographed on a donkey. The Training Major, **Major Mike Adams,** insisted he was digging in for an exercise when caught making sandcastles. Our PSO, **Major Richard Chappell,** was seen striding around town creating more smoke than the train had from his inevitable cigar.

In the evening, tired but happy, the party had a fast journey home behind a different engine.

*Footnote.* Some of the party had their fortunes told by a machine in an arcade. They presented the results to the CO as a guide for confidential reports. They were not meant to be taken seriously. (AG11 and Royal Signals Records please note!)



# Sport

## Royal Signals (BAOR) Cricket 1974

### CORPS CRICKETERS ENJOY EXCELLENT SEASON

**Report by Major N. Moss, Secretary**

ONE of the main events in the BAOR cricketing calendar each year is the inter-corps tournament and traditionally it is the task of the winning corps to run the competition the following season. Readers of these pages may recall that Royal Signals were the winners in 1973 after a close-fought final with RAOC. This year, therefore, the onus was very much on us to sponsor this popular and entertaining tournament. The fact that it demands a minimum of three good grounds limits the location to the Rheindahlen area and it was therefore no accident that 16 Signal Regiment were invited to organise it. Let it be said at the outset that they did a most excellent job. That upwards of 150 players, officials and families were fed and watered on three widely spaced grounds for three days without a hitch speaks highly for the organisation. Thanks are due especially to **Lieutenant-Colonel Hackworth, Captain Gerry Oakley** and **Y. of S. Wotton,** who provided the management effort, but also to their helpers who carried out the various tasks such as keeping the scoreboards up to date.

The Corps team on paper looked strong, but that is not always the surest guide to performance. How they would perform on the field was a very pertinent question, especially when the competition was only an hour old and they were 63—5 against the Gunners. Fortunately the tail wagged and they finished at 123—8 in the allotted 30 overs. In the event this proved too much for the opposition, who only managed 81—9. A good win, a good start and a good tranquiliser for a team a little on edge for their first match. Full marks, incidentally, to **Sergeant Gerry Manton,** who had returned from England the previous evening with the 7 Signal Regiment athletics team. He then had to travel from Herford by train to arrive at Moenchen Gladbach at 0700 hrs. He proceeded to score 26 and take 2—25 in seven overs. No wonder it was a good team with spirit like that.

A short break for lunch did our bowlers a power of good, for they tore into the RCT in the afternoon. Their innings was really destroyed by **Lieutenant Tom Richardson,** who took 4—7, including three early wickets in four balls of his second over. The Corps passed the RCT total of 84 for the loss of two wickets, thanks to **Captain John Thewlis** (27) and **F. of S. Bert Taylor** (49).

On the second morning of the competition the skipper could perhaps be forgiven for wondering whether his team would last the distance; the Kilvington back kept that player out of the side to play RAMC/RAOC, **Brian Campbell** had to go off after a few balls unable to stand because of his thumb (?) and the Yeoman knee was beginning to show signs of strain. Undismayed, the winning run continued. RAMC were put out for 80, thanks mainly to **Corporal Gill Williamson,** who took 4—17 with some fine leg spin bowling. Four of the remaining wickets were run-outs. The total was passed without loss. **Campbell's** thumb was sufficiently recovered to allow him to score a steady 45 not out and he was assisted by **Williamson** with an undefeated 31.

Three wins in a row put the Corps into the semi-final against the Sappers, who scored 98 in 35 overs. Wickets were fairly evenly shared among the bowlers, with **Williamson** taking another three and **Corporal David Taylor** bagging 3—13. There was to be no keeping **Gill Williamson** down on this occasion, and he opened the innings once again and scored a very attractive 48 to help us pass the Sappers with seven wickets and nine overs in hand.

In the other semi-final RAOC beat the Gunners (who had gone through as highest-scoring losers in the earlier rounds) comfortably and so the stage was set for the final at Rheindahlen on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The fourth year these teams had contested the title. The skipper earned his place by winning the toss for the first time and after a moment's hesitation put Ordnance in to bat. **Kilvington** and **Richardson** opened the bowling in a very tight manner and conceded only 28 runs in the first 18 overs, each picking up a wicket in the process. **David Taylor** took up where they left off and bowled well for his 4—26. **Manton** took two wickets at the end and RAOC were back in the pavilion for 131. Although this looked a goodish score, it proved to be not nearly enough.

After an average start in which three wickets were down for 30 and the overs were clicking away, the two **Taylors** came together in a magnificent stand of 100. **Bert Taylor** was the leader with a chanceless 67 not out, including two sixes and six fours, but **David Taylor,** who had previously had a lean time with the bat, played an innings of great character for 35. He was out lbw with the score at 130, but by then the trophy was safe for another year, much to the delight of the team and the spectators, including the CSO, who had followed nearly every ball of the competition.

It remains for me as secretary to thank most warmly all the players who have given so much to the team during the season. In one sense it was unfortunate that so many well-known players were available this season, for many promising youngsters could not get a game. To them I say do not give up hope; there are lots more seasons ahead when you will be able to show your skill. Lastly, a word of appreciation for the work of **Colonel Alan Yeoman,** who has fostered in no small way the upsurge of Corps cricket in BAOR. We wish him well in his new job in the United Kingdom.



## Corps Shooting

FINE MARKSMAN LEAVES THE CORPS

Cpl Gerry Jaques poses with the trophy he won in the Standing Match at the National Rifle Association Meeting in July 1974. It is sad that this is probably the last time that Gerry Jaques will shoot for the Corps as he intends to leave the Army this Autumn. A record of his shooting achievements appeared in THE WIRE when he won the Queen's Medal in 1973. He was again highly placed this year in the Army Championship and has set a standard throughout his shooting career which makes his departure a real loss to the Corps. We wish him all the very best of luck in his new career when he leaves the Service

The ROYAL SIGNALS TEAM THAT WON THE HYTHE CUP AT THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING IN JULY 1974

*Left to right:* Staff-Sergeant Reg Parnell, W.O.2 Eric Smith, Corporal Gerry Jaques, Corporal Dodge Kingham

## Award of Royal Signals (BAOR) Golf Colours

Major General H. E. Roper, Chief Signal Officer BAOR, has approved the award of Royal Signals (BAOR) Golf Colours to the following, in recognition of their service to Corps golf during 1974.

Captain R. G. Heaney, 1 Div HQ & Signal Regt.
W.O.1 (Y of S) C. N. Lightfoot, 7th Signal Regt.
S/Sgt. (F of S) J. M. Smith, 21st Signal Regt.

# Association News

### SOUTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Honorary Secretary: **Mr. W. F. Green,** 30 Brightside Road, Maybush, Southampton, Hants.

Just a hello from Southampton to let you know that we have an active branch of the Association and hold a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of every month in the Mess at the TAVR Centre, Blighmont Hall, by kind permission of the Officer Commanding the 63 (SAS Squadron Royal Signals, TA.

Our highlight of the year was our 28th Reunion Annual Dinner held on the 20th April, when an excellent evening was enjoyed; also the talk given by our guest, **Major-General M. D. Price,** chairman of the Royal Signals Association, was of great interest to all. The visit to the Reunion at Blandford in June was most interesting and entertaining. Thank you, School of Signals; the arrangements were second to none.

We have had a few social evenings, which included a visit to the Bournemouth Branch, skittles matches with the Burma Star and Royal Marine Associations and a trip to a show at Bournemouth.

We intend visiting Catterick Camp for the 50th anniversary Reunion next year and if any member of the Bournemouth and Salisbury Branches wish to join us, please contact the Honorary Secretary.

Like Cardiff Branch, we are also hoping to rekindle support in the branch members who have strayed. Any ex-member of the Corps who happens to be this way on our night of meeting please give us a visit; you will be very welcome.

# Promotions

(Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the 'Blue Book')

| Name | Initials | Rank | Trade | New Sen. Date | Old Sen. Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Bedwell, | C. C. | A/W.O.1 | | 28 Mar. 74 | 28 Apr. 69 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Parkes, | J. H. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 3 June 74 | 13 Mar. 71 |
| Elliott, | S. I. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Pmn | 3 June 74 | 4 Jan. 72 |
| Kellett, | E. J. P. | S/Sgt. | R Tg | 4 June 74 | 3 Apr. 72 |
| Friend, | T. J. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Rmn | 5 June 74 | 5 Sep. 72 |
| Ryan, | T. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Rmn | 6 June 74 | 15 June 71 |
| Cole, | H. | A/W.O.2 | Clk Tech | 7 June 74 | 30 Oct. 71 |
| Morpeth, | A. | A/W.O.2 | Data Tg | 1 July 74 | 1 Dec. 71 |
| Moore, | C. | A/W.O.2 | Data Tg | 2 July 74 | 22 Dec. 71 |
| Green, | L. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt Sig | 4 July 74 | 13 June 69 |
| Parish, | P. | A/W.O.2 | Data Tg | 7 July 74 | 10 Sep. 71 |
| **STAFF-SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Jones, | A. | A/S/Sgt. | Clk Tech | 1 Jan. 74 | 25 May 62 |
| Freeman, | D. R. | A/S/Sgt. | R Tg | 2 Apr. 74 | 1 Sep. 71 |
| Cross, | A. | S/Sgt. | Cbt Dvr | 1 June 74 | 3 May 72 |
| Baikie, | D. S. | A/S/Sgt. | R Tg | 3 June 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Davies, | B. A. | Sgt. | R Tg | 4 June 74 | 5 May 72 |
| Bienvenu, | M. J. | A/S/Sgt. | Data Tg | 5 June 74 | 10 Feb. 70 |
| Fogg, | M. O. | A/S/Sgt. | Data Tg | 6 June 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Johnson, | K. | Sgt. | Clk Tech | 7 June 74 | 1 July 72 |
| McCrindle, B.E.M. | J. G. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 3 July 74 | 2 Aug. 71 |
| Federl, | R. D. G. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Lmn | 4 July 74 | 18 Jan. 66 |
| Sargent, | R. G. | Sgt. | Tele Mech | 7 July 74 | 1 Nov. 70 |
| Gwinnell, | D. W. | A/S/Sgt. | Cbt Rmn | 8 July 74 | 1 Jan. 61 |
| **FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Woolf, | H. D. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Brabon, | T. D. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Hassall, | B. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Rogers, | J. N. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Knox, | D. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Rotherham, | D. G. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Kelbie, | R. B. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Southall, | T. G. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Laws, | G. J. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| Waldock, | P. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| O'Sullivan, | G. J. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| McMullen, | A. | S/Sgt. | | 18 July 74 | 18 July 68 |
| **CHIEF CLERK ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 | | | | | |
| Ewer, | D. A. | A/W.O.1 | | 1 May 74 | 16 Dec. 71 |
| To W.O.2 | | | | | |
| Papandreou, | A. G. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 June 74 | 27 Feb. 70 |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| McHale, | M. J. | A/S/Sgt. | | 1 July 74 | 1 Jan. 72 |
| Johnson, | H. C. | A/S/Sgt. | | 2 July 74 | 1 Jan. 72 |
| Close, | M. M. | A/S/Sgt. | | 3 July 74 | 15 Jan. 72 |
| **TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Watkins, | R. M. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 22 Apr. 71 |
| Mackellar, | L. | Cpl. | | 24 Apr. 74 | 15 Mar. 72 |
| Myerscough, | R. G. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 11 Apr. 69 |
| Jackson, | D. P. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 24 Mar. 70 |
| Pennie, | A. B. | Cpl. | | 25 June 74 | 24 June 70 |
| Davie, | A. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 28 June 70 |
| **RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Rogers, | P. C. | Cpl. | | 26 June 74 | 1 Nov. 67 |
| Dudding, | R. | Cpl. | | 26 June 74 | 2 Dec. 71 |
| Fleck, | A. N. | Cpl. | | 26 June 74 | 27 Jan. 72 |
| Jack, | T. W. | Cpl. | | 26 June 74 | 25 Mar. 72 |
| Gaffney, | D. M. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 28 June 70 |
| Hawey, | S. J. | Cpl. | | 28 June 74 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| **RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. | | | | | |
| Hooton, | S. C. | Cpl. | | 21 Mar. 74 | 27 Apr. 72 |
| Abbott, | B. R. | Cpl. | | 8 May 74 | 17 Dec. 70 |
| Kinnell, | J. D. | Cpl. | | 8 May 74 | 20 Sep. 72 |
| Lavery, | D. | | | 18 June 74 | 18 Dec. 70 |
| Underwood, | P. J. | Cpl. | | 1 Aug. 74 | 1 Mar. 70 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Sargent, | R. G. | Sgt. | | 7 July 74 | 1 Nov. 70 |
| **DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Bienvenu, | M. J. | A/S/Sgt. | | 5 June 74 | 10 Feb. 70 |
| Fogg, | M. O. | A/S/Sgt. | | 6 June 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| **RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | | |
| Freeman, | D. R. | A/S/Sgt. | | 2 Apr. 74 | 1 Sep. 71 |
| Baikie, | D. S. | A/S/Sgt. | | 3 June 74 | 1 Oct. 71 |
| Davies, | B. A. | Sgt. | | 4 June 74 | 5 May 72 |

**CLERK ROLL**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Iredale, | R. H. | A/Sgt. | 1 July 74 | 31 Oct. 69 |
| Samuel, | A. E. | A/Sgt. | 2 July 74 | 1 Jan. 70 |
| **CLERK TECHNICAL (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL** | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Jones, | A. | A/S/Sgt. | 1 Jan. 74 | 25 May 62 |
| Johnson, | K. | Sgt. | 7 June 74 | 1 July 72 |
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Davies, | R. | A/Sgt. | 1 July 74 | 31 Jan. 70 |
| **COMBAT DRIVER ROLL** | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Cross, | A. | Sgt. | 1 June 74 | 3 May 72 |
| To Sgt. | | | | |
| Nelson, | J. W. | Cpl. | 1 June 74 | 31 Oct. 65 |
| **COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL** | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| Federl, | R. D. V. | A/S/Sgt. | 4 July 74 | 18 Jan. 66 |
| **COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL** | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. | | | | |
| McCrindle, | J. G. | A/S/Sgt. | 3 July 74 | 2 Aug. 71 |

## Goods available from Association HQ

| | |
|---|---|
| Corps Ties—Woollen | 75p |
| Terylene, Type A | 55p |
| Terylene (narrow) Type D | 55p |
| Terylen (narrow) Type E (Horizontal Stripes) | 45p |
| Corps Scarves—Woollen | £1·75 |
| Corps Squares—Rayon | £1·05 |
| Corps Cuff Links | £1·12 |
| Association Badges, Brooch Type (Members only) | 22p |
| Corps Blazer Badges (Silver 'Jimmy', Crown and Motto in gold, as approved by the Corps Committee) on Black or Dark Navy Blue background | £1·80 |
| Blazer Buttons—Large (each) | 18p |
| Small (each) | 16p |
| Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours) Bumper or Radiator fittings | £2·35 |
| Motor Car Badges—square plastic | £1·50 |
| Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled on Corps Colours) | 75p |
| Corps Plaques with 'Royal Corps of Signals' Scroll or Scroll left blank | £3·10 |
| Key-Rings with Corps Badge Tag (each) | 16p |
| Glass Ash Tray embossed with Corps Badge (each) | 55p |
| Driver Licence/I.D. Car Holder with 'Jimmy' Crest (each) | 15p |
| Corps Clipper Board Folders in Blue Vinyl with 'Jimmy' Crest in gold (each) | £1·10 |
| Corps Stick-on P.V.C. Transfers: | |
| Large (10" × 7½") each | 44p |
| Medium (7½" × 5½") each | 35p |
| Small (3" × 2⅜") each | 30p |
| Corps table mats (set of six) | £5·75 |
| Corps cocktail mats (set of six) | £1·82 |
| Corps diaries (1975) plannertype | 35p |

The above prices are those current at the time of going to press and may be subject to increases due to manufacturers raising their charges.






# OPERATORS

LEAVING THE ARMY SOON . . . ?

*Why not contact*

THE THREE TEES AGENCY

**P.T.S., a former L/Cpl Royal Signals, did, and he writes:**

"It's not so easy finding work in civvy-street as you well know and although I was a Radio Telegraphist in the Army I was finding it pretty hard to get on my feet.

"On the off chance I decided to try the Three Tees Agency, thinking at the back of my mind that there were probably catches in it and I'd end up paying them a tremendous fee, but I had it all wrong.

"Three Tees made me feel at ease right from the start. They gave me free tuition and a lot of help with commercial aspects of the trade. After arranging several interviews for me (all of them good positions) I have now started a new career in Telex, with an American Bank (good salary, interesting work, security and easy hours). So for anybody leaving the forces with experience in Teleprinters or Telex my advice to them is why not give Three Tees a try too?"

*Call, write or phone:*

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**20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3. (01-626 0601)**

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To: The Headmaster, Welbeck College,
Worksop, Notts. S80 3LN.

Name_____

Address_____

_____

School_____

F62



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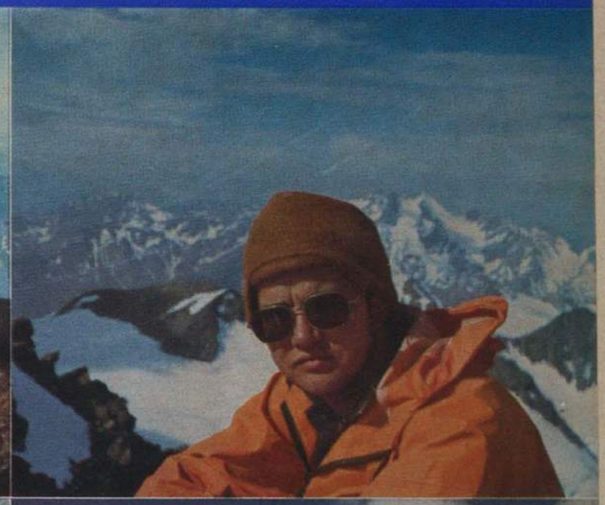
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., Newspaper House, Great New Street, London EC4P 4ER. Hastings & Folkestone.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, SW1 (Telephone: 01–930 1108/9).

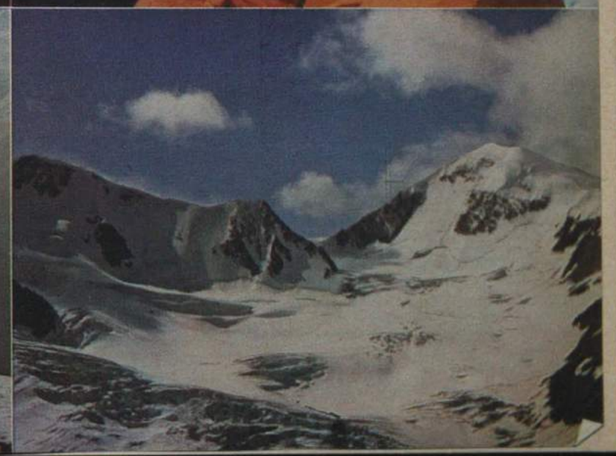


*November-December, 1974*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE





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**Government Communications Headquarters,**
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**Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5AJ.**
**Telephone: Cheltenham 21491, Ext. 2270.**



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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, SW3 4RH. Tel. Nos.* 01-730 4129 *and* 01-730 3477. *Ext.* 143.

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

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☆

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER • 1974**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 11**


# *Editorial*

### *Our Cover Picture*

We have much pleasure in giving pride of place on the front cover to an officer and nine soldiers of 3 Squadron, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, plus Captain Myatt of the 7th Signal Regiment. We are sure that all who read the article on page 449 will agree that they deserve the highest praise for their stout-hearted effort in climbing eight Alpine peaks —and very nearly nine—in ten strenuous days. This achievement is all the more remarkable when one realises that four of the soldiers were complete novices at mountaineering. Our top right hand photo shows Signalman Chopping at the summit of the FINEILSPITZ, 11,248 feet.

**DETAILED TO WRITE WIRE NOTES? READ ON!**

We feel it may be helpful if we try and give some guidance to those who kindly volunteer—or have been detailed as volunteers—to submit unit notes to THE WIRE.

It is hoped that this may make their task a little easier and brighten up unit notes which, with the best will in the world, can sometimes make rather dull reading. We would stress here that certain of our correspondents are adept at writing up their unit's activities and what is written below is more for the unsuspecting who find the mantle of unit scribe suddenly descend on them at short notice.

As we see it there are two main headings to which attention must be paid when about to write for THE WIRE. These are 'subject matter' and 'presentation'. Dealing with these in turn:

**Subject matter**

For a start if there is nothing really worth writing about, DON'T write at all or at least be brief. 'Padded out' descriptions of trivial happenings can be so very dull. When setting out to write unit notes try and avoid stereotyped, factual reports on everday military, sporting or social events. Pick out the highlights and expand on these with particular reference to the human aspect, making full play of any humorous incidents that may have occurred. Do mention individuals who merit a little limelight because they have done something out of the ordinary or are good sportsmen or are unit 'characters'. A number of units, because of unusual locations or roles, can from time to time develop a theme on these lines so providing interesting reading for readers outside the unit. Small detachments in out-of-the-way places or doing unusual jobs lend themselves particularly well to WIRE presentation and the Corps is lucky in having a number of these. It will sometimes be better for them to submit articles rather than unit notes. Please do not write at length on:

- — The weather.
- — The writer's reactions on being asked to write WIRE notes.
- — Christmas festivities which will not be read until February or March.
- — Local funny happenings which have no meaning outside unit circles.

**Presentation**

While the editor will do what he can to help towards good presentation there are several things unit correspondents can do to help themselves in this respect. The first and obvious one is really good accompanying photographs. It is stressed that these should be large, sharp, black and white photographs on glossy paper. Human beings—preferably not formally posed—make the best subjects and the nearer they are to the camera the better. Try and cut down on formal and commonplace subjects such as guards of honour, medal presentations, parades being inspected and such like, although on important occasions it will be proper to include such photographs.

(*Continued on page* 446)

(*Continued from page* 445)

The second point to watch is suitable paragraphing of notes with side headings. Even the best written notes set out in a long column look dull, whereas a little judicious paragraphing with side headings will break up the monotony and catch the eye. It is important that side headings should be original. Avoid stereotyped headings such as 'Sport', 'Training', 'Officers' Mess' and try and think of something that will draw the reader's eye to the paragraph in question. This is not easy and the editor spends much time in endeavouring to graft side headings on to notes where they do not exist—not always with great success.

Please use individuals' names — including Christian names — as much as possible rather than appointments.

Please, please avoid proliferation of capital letters at the beginning of so many words. 'Parade Ground', 'Ration Store', 'Guard Dog', 'Football Pitch' do not merit them and your editor suffers writer's cramp in endeavouring to cross out at least some of them.

**Finally, do remember that the 12th of the month is the closing day for the receipt of WIRE contributions. Anything coming after that date is in danger of not going to press.**

## From our "In" Tray

### In appreciation

Sir,

On Sunday, 12th May this year, our elder son, **Simon Gerard Richards,** aged 15 years, was tragically killed by a rock fall at Fan Bay, Dover, Kent, while out walking on the beach with other boys from the Duke of York's Royal Military School, where he was a pupil.

May we through THE WIRE thank all Corps members who were such a great help to us at this time. **Colonel Hart** and members of 8 Signal Regiment, who, although I left the Corps from 8 Signal Regiment on 2nd November, 1973, immediately came forward with offers of help and this was so very much appreciated by us as 'new civilians'.

We would also like to thank all members of the Corps who sent messages of condolence and donations in lieu of flowers to the Duke of York's Royal Military School Adventure Training Fund. The large sum which has been donated is overwhelming and is such that the Governors and Headmaster of the School have decided to award a memorial prize in Simon's name each year to the boy who shows special qualities in adventure training, in endeavour, community spirit and helpfulness to others thereby encouraging boys who are not necessarily skilful physically.

Our second son, **Julian,** has been selected this year and just entered the School. We cannot speak too highly of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, academicwise, sportswise and, very important, in the way the community spirit there develops the boys characterwise. A really wonderful place with exceptional staff and fine pupils.

Yours sincerely,
**John and Molly Richards.**

13 Bullamor Close,
Northallerton,
N. Yorkshire DL6 1HE.

(John Richards served 22 years with the Corps, retiring on the 2nd November, 1973, with the rank of Staff-Sergeant.—Editor.)

THE WIRE learns on going to press that the three boys who were with Simon have been awarded the Royal Humane Society's Certificate. All of them belong to the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

### Waiting—but no bottle has arrived

Sir,

I refer to page 282 of your August/September issue: 'Late news from 605 Troop, Gan Island'. I can understand the troop's concern at being starved of mail. Surely **Corporal Fenton's** vigil on the beach awaiting bottled messages bobbing on the surf is more in the nature of a penance. For some time now I have been languishing similarly in expectation by our local waterway—the non-tidal Leeds–Liverpool canal—but none of my son's bottled letters have been received.

Now that the Cyprus crisis has subsided possibly he could revert to the more conventional mode of passing correspondence. Could it be his impression (knowing that I take THE WIRE) that all relevant information *re* his activities, or inactivity, is contained therein with the consequence he is of the opinion he is absolved from writing?

Yours faithfully,
**Harry Fenton.**

15 Sydney Street,
Clayton-le-Moors,
Accrington, Lancs BB5 5LR

### Corporals Club goes to the dogs

Sir,

**Brigadier G. E. C. Sikes, D.S.O.,** the organiser Northern Region of the Army Benevolent Fund, recently invited Messes to sponsor a greyhound in the A.B.F. Greyhound Meeting held at the Gosforth Racing Stadium on Friday, 13th September and Monday, 16th September.

Both the Sergeants Mess and Cadre Corporals Club of 8 Signal Regiment sponsored a dog each. The Sergeants Mess dog was unable to stand the pace and took no further interest in the proceedings after its one and only race. The Corporals Club greyhound, on the other hand, not only won its preliminary heat on Friday but managed to come second in the final heat on 16th September.

**Brigadier Sikes** presented the cheque for £20 (second prize) to **Corporal Tonner,** who attended the race meeting on behalf of the Corporals Club.

The meeting was a great success and approximately £500 will be donated to A.B.F. as a result of this meeting.

Yours faithfully,
**R. Vasper (R.S.M.)**

8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison.

### Royal Signals Yacht Club

The annual meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place in room 254 in the Old War Office Building, Whitehall, on Thursday, 9th January, 1975, at 1100hrs. Any member wishing to attend will be welcome. Notice of attendance should be given to the Hon. Secretary, room 05b, Old War Office, by Friday, 3rd January, 1975.

The annual dinner of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place in the Victory Services Club on the evening of Thursday, 9th January, 1975. Further details may be obtained from **Major (Retd) F. P. Stewart,** room 044, Old War Office Building.

#### 40 DIV SIGNAL REGIMENT TIES

The P.R.I. of 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) is holding a number of 40 Div Signal Regiment ties which are offered for sale at a cost of £1·30 each.

#### EVER SERVED AT BODDINGTON?

A photographic album of Boddington is being produced. If any Royal Signals members have photographs of Boddington and are prepared to lend them for copying, this will be much appreciated. Postage will be refunded and the usual care taken of any loaned photographs. Please send to: OC CCC Det, RAF Boddington, Barrow, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL51 OTL'.

RECOGNISE ANY OF THEM?
*(See letter below)*

### 31 years ago?

Sir,

Enclosed is a photograph of some very young men, taken in 1943, which is liable to rouse many nostalgic feelings.

I personally recognise eight of their chubby innocent faces, although the picture was taken some five years before I became a National Serviceman.

Perhaps you'd like to publish the photograph and inform anyone interested that I have a negative.

Yours sincerely,
**C. H. Williams, W.O.1.**

H.Q. Land Forces,
Hong Kong,
B.F.P.O. 1.

### Captain Ken Biggleston

**Kenneth Biggleston** served as a TA Captain in the 56 (City of London) Signals during the 1950s. His active military and insurance career was halted when he was stricken with multiple sclerosis. He is almost totally paralysed, and his clear and active mind requires exercise. He would welcome advising and arranging insurance for those who would care to send him their problems. As is usual, there is, of course, no cost to the enquirer.

His address is:
**Kenneth A. Biggleston, T.D., ACII**
**14 Gomshall Road**
**Cheam, Surrey SM2 7JZ**

#### ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1975

Stocks of the 1975 Corps diary are still available for **immediate sale.**

The diary is of similar pattern to the 1974 one which proved very popular.

For those who have not seen it, the diary is based on the modern slim-fold planner style which is so laid out that on opening it a day of the week runs right across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance across a full double page. The outer cover (6 in. x 3½ in.) is in flexible dark blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an alphabetically laid out address and telephone number insert which can be removed if desired. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1974, 1975 and 1976 metric conversion tables, world travel information and a London underground map as well as a page for entering personal details and for forward planning of engagements in 1976.

The cost of a diary including postage to any address is 35p.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS 'CHARACTER' RETIRES

Wednesday, 25th September, saw the departure, on retirement, of Mr. L. 'Happy' Hopkins, the cleaner within Traffic and Security Group since the School opened in Blandford and well known to all Yeoman of Signals and WRAC Courses

Past and present members of the Group contributed to a farewell present—a scroll bearing many signatures, a specially designed plaque and a television table

Our picture shows the farewell handshake for Mr. 'Happy' Hopkins from Major Eric Gill, watched by (*left to right*) Mr. Marsh, W.O.I (Y. of S.) French, CRS Shaw (hidden), Lance-Corporal Railton, Captain Dixon, Sergeant Letts, Lieutenant-Colonel Cuerden

### Civilian Instructional Staff at Catterick and Harrogate

Vacancies occur from time to time at the Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, and at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3. Selection for appointment is by attendance at a Civil Service Selection Board. These appointments are attractive to Foremen, Yeomen and Class 1 Technicians and Telegraphists who are leaving the Service.

Write to the undermentioned for details:—

*At Catterick Garrison*
Mr. S. P. Halsey, Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

*At Harrogate*
Mr. P. Sharp, Army Apprentice College, Pennypot Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

## Percy Beaven gets his LS&GC Medal after a long wait

Sunmitted by the School of Signals

A VERY special presentation was held at the School of Signals on 26th September. **Mr Percy Beavan,** who joined the Corps in 1920, and is now aged 71, was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson.**

When **Mr Beavan** left the Corps at the end of World War II, after 25 years' service, he had not been considered for the medal. During the war and in the post-war hurly-burly of demobilisation the normal procedures had apparently been overlooked. And that was how matters stood until early this year, when **Mr Beavan** asked Droitwich why, after 25 years of unblemished service, he was never granted the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Army Medal Office would not normally entertain such applications but they managed to prove conclusively that **Mr Beavan's** claim to an 'Exemplary' career was correct. So the stage was set for a most unusual medal presentation at the School.

After a considerable amount of research, **Major Hugh Rogers** of AG11 managed to locate several of **Mr Beavan's** old colleagues. When told of the special occasion they needed no persuasion to come to the School to make **Mr Beavan's** day that much more memorable.

The photographs show **Mr Beavan** receiving his medal from the Commandant and, later, surrounded by his colleagues.

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC MEDAL TO MR. PERCY BEAVAN

Percy with the Commandant and old friends who travelled to Blandford to renew acquaintance and offer congratulations
*Left to right:* Mr. H. C. Walker, Captain (Retd) W. J. Solly, Mr. P. Beavan, Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson, Lieutenant (Retd) A. E. Mayne, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) J. H. Ellis, Mr. E. West, W.O.2 (Retd) G. Ansell

The presentation was followed by a tour of the Museum with the curator, **Mr Bailey,** in attendance. After drinks and lunch in the Officers Mess, where they were joined by another of **Mr Beavan's** colleagues, **Lieutenant-Colonel George Lynham,** the Mess Manager, **Mr Beavan** returned by staff car to his home in Bridgewater.

A very special occasion was over but will remain in the memories of many for a long time to come.

## Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

*The following donations were gratefully received during September,* 1974:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Hon. Secretary, Huddersfield Branch, Royal Signals Association .. | 5·00 |
| Douglas Sisson, Esq. ("in memory of British soldiers killed in N. Ireland when being asked to do an almost impossible task") | 100·00 |
| G. W. Cook, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 3·01 |
| G. S. Perkin, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | ·70 |
| W. H. Hobby, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | ·50 |
| A. S. Crocker, Esq. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | ·22 |
| | £109·43 |

## The Corps Cares For Its Own

**SEPTEMBER 1974**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially** | 38 |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** | 50 |
| **Amount spent** | £881·89 |

**WAR MEMORIAL FUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of grants** | 9 |
| **Amount spent** | £120·00 |

### ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

DRIVER, National Service, 1956–58, married with three children. Owing to illness, he has been unable to work for nearly two years. The Association made a grant of £22 to help them over a difficult patch and, a little later, a grant of £15 was made from the War Memorial Fund to give the whole family a day out. The wife's letter is printed below.

### ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

IF I have sat down to write this letter once, I have sat down a dozen times, and I have come to the conclusion there are no words that can express our thanks enough for what you have done for us. When we got your letter last week I just sat down and cried. So can I just say the biggest thank you ever. We are having a lot of fun at the moment picking out where we are going. The zoo is a favourite with the younger ones, or it might be the seaside. So can I thank you once again.

FARAWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS
THE CORPS ARE AT IT AGAIN

Shaking hands with Captain Richard Skaife of the Corps, Mobilcal's Commercial Director Geoff Bennett (*second from right*), wishes the Zaire River Expedition party every success and *bon voyage*. The two other members of the expedition also in the photograph are Sergeant Hudson and Corporal Hamer, both Royal Signals. The Racal manpacks, which they hold, should keep the world informed of the progress of the party

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CORPS CLIMBERS AT THE TOP!
*The summit of the Wildspitze—12,259 ft*
*Standing:* Signalman Chopping, Corporal Graham Suckling, S.S.M. Ken Stewart
*Kneeling:* Lieutenant Derek Howshall, Lance-Corporal 'Roge' Justice, Lance-Corporal Mickie Dunn, Lance-Corporal Jock Lochrie
*Sitting:* Signalman Stephen Curry, Lance-Corporal 'Bullet' Tullet, Sergeant 'Big Jim' Lythgoe
Captain Peter Myatt took the photograph

# EXPEDITION TO THE OTZTALER ALPS

**REPORT BY LIEUTENANT DEREK HOWSHALL,
4 DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT**

**THIS expedition involved a party of 10 from 3 Squadron, 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment climbing in the Austrian Otztaler Alpen during August this year.**

**In 1973 a similar Party had climbed in the Austrian Stubai Alpen and it was the success of this expedition that automatically sowed the seeds for another attempt to be made this summer.**

### THE TEAM

The team was not lacking for volunteers and was purposely selected to have a wide spread of experience.

**Lance-Corporal 'Bullet' Tullet, W.O.2 Ken Stewart, Lance-Corporal 'Roge' Justice** and **Lance-Corporal 'Mickie' Dunn** had been members of the 1973 trip to the Stubai Alpen. In addition **Lance-Corporal Tullet** and **Signalman 'Chopper' Chopping** had attended a Basic Mountain Leadership Certificate Course in U.K. **Lieutenant Derek Howshall** had been a member of the 1972 RMCS Andean Expedition to Columbia in South America and attended a Basic MCC Course.

The remainder, **Corporal Graham Suckling, Sergeant 'Big Jim' Lythgoe, Lance-Corporal 'Jock the Laird' Lochrie** and **Signalman 'Gannet' Curry,** were complete novices to mountaineering.

### A USEFUL ADDITION

At a late stage in the preparations, having provisionally booked the services of an Austrian guide at an estimated cost of £150, we were very pleased to hear that **Captain Peter Myatt** of 7 Signal Regiment would be able to join us. As a Joint Services Mountaineeering Instructor **Peter** was well qualified to act as climbing leader in the mountains and so we were able to cancel the £150 expense, to the relief of the HQ BAOR Training purse.

### ARRIVAL

We arrived at the town of Solden at about 1400 hrs to be met by **Captain Myatt,** who was already established in the Hotel Sonne, having returned the day before from a week up in the mountains. We moved into the hotel and spent the afternoon shopping for last-minute items and preparing our rucksacks for the morrow.

Our last night in civilisation was spent in a manner which seemed to indicate that we might never return from this expedition.

We were up in good time next morning, breakfast being stomached by a few, with the help of dark glasses!

At 1130 hrs we set off from Solden and drove the few kilometres to the turnoff from the main road on to the narrow road to Vent.

After arrival at Vent we took to our feet and walked south out of the village and joined the track which led up the Niedertal valley.

### INTERESTING ACCOMMODATION

After a 2½-hour climb to 8,128ft we arrived at the Martin Busch hut. The hut was crowded and the whole group was eventually accommodated in the 'winter room' in the cellar. This consisted of communal bunks with about five or six in each bunk. Great interest was shown when one of those already installed proved to be female!

At this stage we decided on the composition of the three ropes which would be used for the serious climbing. Basing this purely on past experience, the solution was reached as follows: **Captain Myatt** led the rope of **Signalman Curry, Sergeant Lythgoe** and **Lance-Corporal Lochrie. Lieutenant Howshall** led **Corporal Suckling, Lance-Corporal Justice** and **Signalman Chopping** and **Lance-Corporal Tullet** led the third rope consisting of **W.O.2 Stewart** and **Lance-Corporal Dunn.**

### A BUSY FIRST DAY

Wednesday, 7th August, dawned early. Breakfast was at 0445 hrs and after waking the whole hut with our preparations the group was ready to move at 0535 hrs.

From the hut we climbed up a steep path to the north. Light packs were carried and these were swapped as the morning progressed. Within 2½ hours the group had achieved the summit of our 'first peak', the Kreuzpitz (11,235ft).

The majority of the climb was relatively easy, but the final 500ft consisted of a mixture of grade II rock, snow and ice. The climb was completed unroped.

During the descent various climbing techniques were practised. These were, firstly, moving as a rope of four while descending snow and ice; secondly, self-arrest technique with an ice axe, belaying with an ice axe and also using a 'dead-boy'. The technique of glissading, i.e. sliding down a slope on one's haunches, was practised, adding a light-hearted touch and some personal spills to the descent. The group then returned to the hut in time for lunch and the afternoon was spent practising the techniques of crevasse rescue while hanging by rope from the balcony of the hut.

Everyone was tired enough to be in bed by 2000 hrs.

### HEAVY HAIL AND LIGHTNING

Next day breakfast was late so that the group did not leave the hut until 0605 hrs, heading for the Hintere Schwarze. The climb up the glacier was relatively easy but the footing treacherous. Crevasses had to be avoided and near the top crampons had to be fitted. The weather steadily closed in until visibility was reduced to approximately 50yd. The top (11,790ft) was reached at 1045 hrs and the descent started at 1110 hrs, as the thick mist drew in and the weather became worse. On the descent we were caught in a thunderstorm with heavy hail and lightning. The descent of a long snow slope provided excellent rope work, as several members slipped and had to be secured by the others on the rope.

The descent was completed by 1400 hrs, **Lance-Corporal 'Jock the Laird' Lochrie** displaying some interesting acrobatics and unmentionable exclamations when his crampon broke on the glacier. A hasty repair with cord enabled him to limp off the remaining ice on to the security of the rock.

AFTER A HARD CLIMB

Members of the party look relieved to be returning to the Martin Busch hut after climbing the Hintere Schwarze (11,790 ft)
*Left to right:* Lance-Corporal Mickie Dunn, Lance-Corporal 'Bullet' Tullet, Lance-Corporal Roge Justice, Corporal Graham Suckling, Signalman 'Chopper' Chopping

### ANOTHER PEAK CONQUERED

Friday, 9th August, saw us disturbed in our slumbers by the enthusiastic Reveille from **W.O.2 Ken Stewart.** Fortunately, bad visibility gave us an extra hour in bed, but inevitably we were called and left the hut at 0700 hrs. This time we were carrying full packs for our move to the next hut.

TYPICAL LOCAL SCENERY

View of the Marzell Glacier with the Hintere Schwarze on the left. We had climbed this peak of 11,790 ft the previous day
*Left to right:* Lance-Corporal Mickie Dunn, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Lochrie, Lance-Corporal 'Bullet' Tullet, Captain Peter Myatt, Sergeant 'Big Jim' Lythgoe. Lieutenant Derek Howshall took the photograph

The group climbed from the hut on to the Marzehlkamm ridge, but had to take shelter in the rocks as two snowstorms held us up for nearly an hour.

Slowly the weather cleared and we continued with the climb. The summit of the Similaun peak at 11,248ft was reached at 1220 hrs and, although the snow conditions were good, the poor weather and full packs made progress slow. The group descended to the Similaun hut, arriving at 1340 hrs.

The hut was actually in Italy and commanded a marvellous view into the valley below from its perch at 9,812ft. The group were accommodated in an annexe which consisted of 11 beds packed into two small rooms.

FOLLOW MY LEADER

The party climbed the Similaun height (11,790 ft) on the fourth day of the expedition

### A FINE PANORAMA

The following day we left the hut at 0615 hrs and reached a ridge called the Hauslabjoch in about 1½ hours. The going was good but in one place the snow was so hard as to require the use of crampons to traverse a steep slope. The climb to the top of the Fineilspitz was completed in another hour despite the steep snow and icy rock encountered.

From this peak, at 11,427ft, the view south into Italy was impressive and a fine panorama of the Stubai Alpen surrounded our eyrie. We spent some time relating our maps to the peaks which we could recognise around us.



The descent to the Bella Vista hut was completed by 1240 hrs after a fast crossing of the Hochjoch glacier. We arrived tired and wet, being caught by rain in the last few minutes, and were relieved to crowd into the hot, steamy interior of the hut.

Food and accommodation were readily purchased at this beautiful hut and the afternoon spent reading or playing cards before our usual early retirement to the communal bunk.

### FIRST DEFEAT—FORCED TO TURN BACK

Sunday, 11th August. We awoke to find that during the night snow had fallen to a depth of approximately 3in and when the group started out for the Weisskugel conditions were still bad. There were continued gusts of very strong wind which whipped up the snow into a spindrift. Low cloud and driving snow made visibility bad.

The group, along with three other civilian parties attempting the mountain, were forced to turn back at about 10,000ft, a third of the way to the peak. This was after **Lance-Corporal 'Bullet' Tullet** had already been blown off his feet twice.

At this stage conditions were a 'white-out' where the dividing line between the snow and sky was no longer apparent, the spindrift filled our mouths and we were unable to breath except by hunching our backs into the wind.

The party did not possess the necessary experience to continue in these conditions and so admitted our first and only defeat.

We returned to the Bella Vista hut to have a second breakfast and once rested continued on our walk down the track to the Hochjoch-Hospitz hut, where we settled in for the night.

The following morning's Reveille at 0400 hrs was greeted by poor weather and so breakfast was thankfully delayed until 0600 hrs and we walked up the steep track to the north-west following the Delorette Weg to the foot of the Kessel Wand Ferner glacier.

Plodding up the glacier was hard work as the snow was fresh. As we came in sight of the Brandenburger Haus we were amused to see three parties leave in quick succession to begin the descent of the glacier towards us. They had obviously been watching for such a sign to indicate that the way down was clear.

The hut, perched at 10,634ft, was achieved in 3½ hours from the start of the day, which was very good considering the strong wind and new snow on the glacier.

The afternoon was spent climbing the ridge behind the hut and members had the opportunity of sunbathing at 11,000ft. The Dahmannspitz provided some good snow climbing to 11,053ft.

### GOOD CONDITIONS

Tuesday, the 13th, saw breakfast at 0545 hrs and the group departed from the hut at 0645. We descended to the glacier and followed a fairly straightforward route with only mild crevasse danger. After dropping our packs at a suitable point at the Oberguslarjoch, we began the ascent of the Fluchtkogel. The snow conditions were ideal and we kicked steps in the hard surface, climbing straight up a 60-degree slope.

The summit at 11,374ft was reached at 0800 hrs and the regulation photograph taken before a swift descent was made. Here the party displayed the various techniques of glissading, both controlled and the more exciting uncontrolled descent.

The group traversed the Guslarjoch, left the packs and ascended the Kesselwand Spitz, reaching the summit at 0915 hrs.

From the Guslarjoch the descent was made on to the Guslarferner glacier. Here we roped together as the area was heavily crevassed and great care was taken to safeguard each member on crossing these menacing cracks in the snow.

The descent from the glacier was completed without mishap and we arrived at the Vernagt hut at about 1200 hrs.

Here we found that the hut was comfortable and clean, in contrast to some of our previous accommodation. We therefore decided to change our plan of descending to the Breslauer hut and booked our bed for the night. The afternoon was spent sunbathing and watching the amusing antics of the marmots which lived in burrows around the hut.

### THE BIG DAY—OVER 12,000 FEET

Wednesday, 14th August, our final day in the mountains. This was to be the big one. The Wildspitz, 12,250ft, had been our aim since the initial planning stages of the expedition.

As usual an early start was made at 0500 hrs. We climbed northwest from the hut on to the ugly grey lower reaches of the Vernagtferner glacier and plodded up the snow. A stiff climb followed the foot plodding as we ascended the Brochkogeljoch before turning east towards the twin summit of the Wildspitz.

At the foot of the peak we fitted crampons and roped together as the snow was still crisp and hard at 0800 hrs.

The summit was reached at 0845 hrs and the group posed for photographs around the large metal cross. Somewhat reluctantly we descended from our eighth conquered peak, leaving behind the panorama of snow-covered mountains that we had already climbed.

We descended quickly, picked up our packs and set off for the Breslauer hut, some 3,000ft below, While descending a long snow slope enthusiasm overtook caution as we attempted to glissade through soft snow. It was here that **Lieutenant Derek Howshall,** having completed a full somersault while 'out of control', proved the adage that 'if at first you don't self-arrest, try, try, try again'. He eventually came to rest, having lost 150ft in height in very quick time.

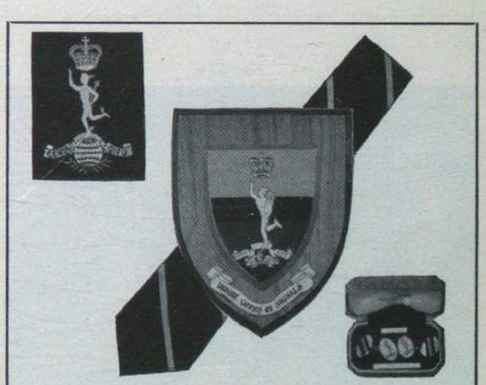
This incident restored a little caution to the descent and all members of the party reached the Breslauer hut 30 mniutes later.

After a beer and rest the descent to Vent was continued and the further 3,000ft in height were soon lost.

The following day we bade a reluctant farewell to Solden and recrossed the border to rejoin our comrades at Garmish.

### RECORD OF PEAKS CLIMBED

| *Peak* | *Height in feet* |
|---|---|
| Kreuzpitz | 11,235 |
| Hintere Schwarze | 11,790 |
| Similaun | 11,248 |
| Fineilspitz | 11,427 |
| Weisskugel (failed) | reached 10,000 |
| Dahmann Spitz | 11,053 |
| Fluchtkogel | 11,373 |
| Kesselwandspitz | 11,295 |
| Wildspitz | 12,259 |



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# 8th REGIMENT ROLL OUT A SUPER RED CARPET

### ONE OF TWO U.K. UNITS SELECTED FOR VISIT BY 39 N.A.T.O. TOP-RANKING OFFICERS

ON 17th September, 1974, 8 Signal Regiment was one of two units in the Army selected for a visit by the NATO Military Committee. The level of the visit is best summed up by saying that the principal host was **Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver** (in the interests of Allied solidarity and the editor's space we have omitted all decorations—may we be forgiven!), Chief of the Defence Staff. The principal guests were the chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, **General G. S. Brown, U.S.A.F.**, and the chairman of the NATO Military Committee, **Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton.** They had a supporting cast of 28 Admirals, Generals and Air Marshals of 13 nationalities (most a Chief of Staff in his own right). In turn they had aides, interpreters and assistants beyond reasonable measurement, plus local host senior officers. It was, indeed, quite a day, as they say.

Needless to say, the regimental lines were immaculate; the Regiment rehearsed; the necessary security arrangements complex and efficient (leading to the temporary arrest of an Electricity Board helicopter); the coffee fresh and the cold luncheon a delight.

It was a beautiful day (not a rarity in north Yorkshire). All our foreign guests were astonished by our super soldiers (and so they should have been) and most impressed by the Trade Training School. Our Commanding Officer, **Colonel J. P. Hart,** is relieved that the Committee visit the UK only once every 15 years (and so say all of us) and he is thinking of going into something easy, like epic film production.

To be truthful we all enjoyed the visit and our resident cartoonist recorded it, illustrating the humour which is the hallmark of the British soldier. (See opposite page. With regret, owing to space restrictions, we have only been able to publish eight of the 15 cartoons submitted.—Editor.)

ARRIVAL

The Commanding Officer, Colonel J. P. Hart, greets the President of the NATO Military Committee, General G. S. Brown, USAF, and the C-in-C UKLF General Sir Roland Gibbs

YOUNG MAN MAKES A POINT

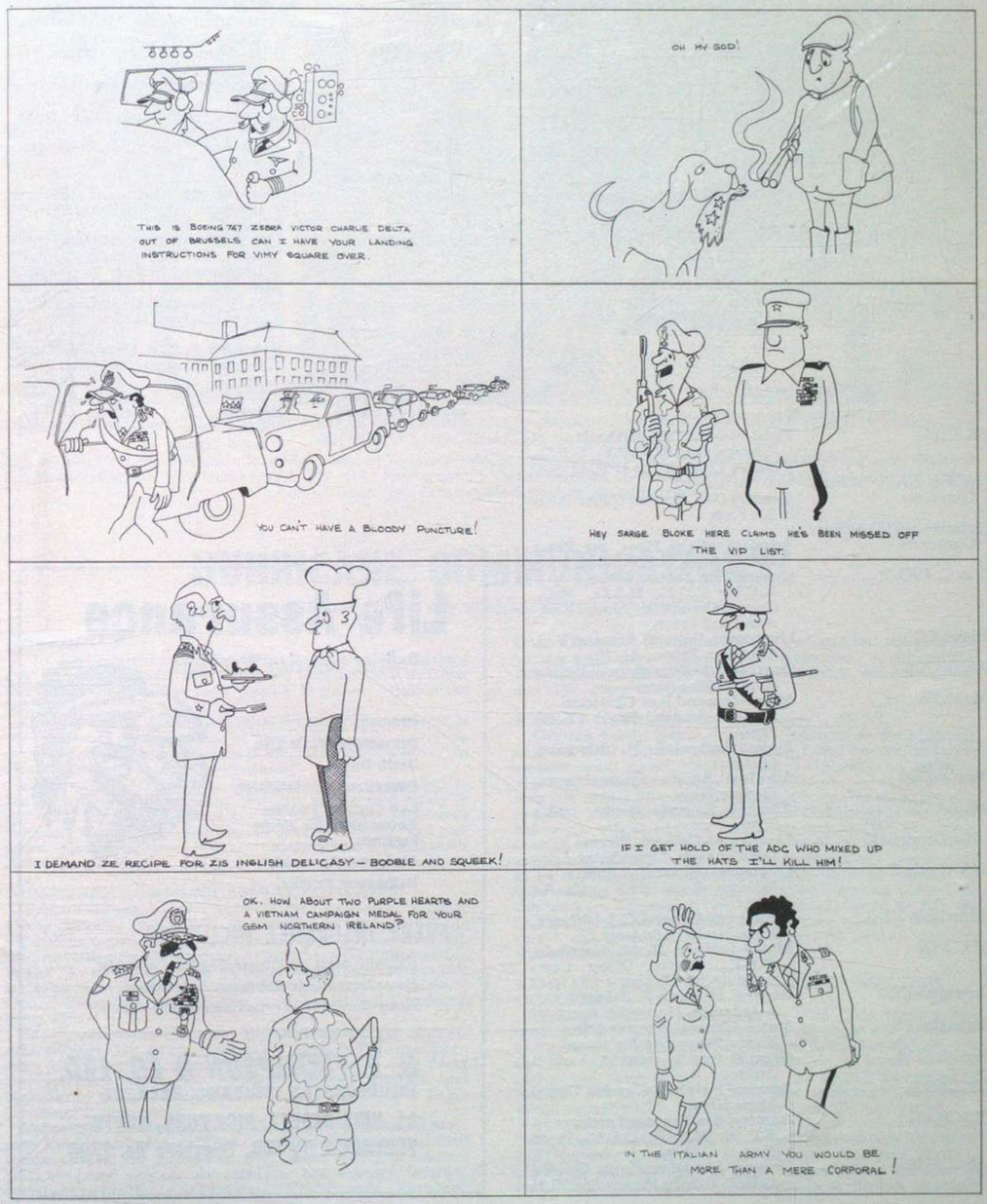
Signalman Moses talks to Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, Chief of Defence Staff. General Brown, chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, looks on

PAUSE FOR DISCUSSION

The chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral-of-the-Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton talking to *(left to right)* Major-General G. de F. Collins, General Brown, Brigadier Hellier and General Gibbs by the time caps ule in the entrance of the Trade Training School



# N.A.T.O. VISIT AS SEEN BY "CARL", 8th REGIMENT CARTOONIST



CLANSMAN DEMONSTRATED

Mr. G. Caldwell from the Royal Ordnance Factory, Blackburn, shows 'Clansman' to General Brown. Also in the picture (*left to right*) C-in-C UKLF, CDS, the CO, and Commander Training Brigade

### THE MAIN CAST

(not in order of appearance—or rank!)

| | |
|---|---|
| UK CDS | **Field-Marshal Sir Michael Carver, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Chief of the Defence Staff |
| President NATO Military Committee | **General G. S. Brown,** United States Air Force |
| Chairman NATO Military Committee | **Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Peter Hill-Norton, G.C.B.,** Royal Navy |
| C. in C. UKLF | **General Sir Roland Gibbs, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces |
| Belgian COS | **Lieutenant-General Armand F. E. Crekillie,** Belgian Air Force |
| Danish COS | **General Otto Blixenkrone-Moller,** Royal Danish Army |
| Danish PS | **Major-General Jens Christian Skriver Jensen,** Royal Danish Army |
| COS UKLF | **Major-General J. M. Strawson, O.B.E.** |
| German COS | **Admiral Armin Zimmermann,** German Navy |
| Italian COS | **Admiral Eugenio Henke,** Italian Navy |
| Luxembourg COS | **Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Dauffenbach,** Luxembourg Army |
| Netherlands COS | **Lieutenant-General A. J. W. Wijting,** Royal Netherlands Air Force |
| Netherlands PS | **Lieutenant-General C. J. Dijkstra,** Royal Netherlands Army |
| GOC 3 Div | **Major-General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** General Officer Commanding 3rd Division |
| Norwegian COS | **General Herman F. Zeiner Gundersen,** Norwegian Army |
| Norwegian PS | **Major-General Sigmund O. Førde,** Norwegian Air Force |
| Turkish COS | **General Semih Sancar,** Turkish Army |
| SACLANT | **Admiral Ralph W. Cousins,** United States Navy |
| CINCHAN | **Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.C.,** Royal Navy |
| D SACEUR | **General Sir John Mogg, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** Deputy SACEUR |
| Hellenic PS | **Lieutenant-General John Korkas,** Hellenic Army |
| Belgian PS | **Lieutenant-General Baron Michel Donnet,** Belgian Air Force |
| Italian PS | **Lieutenant-General Alberto Li Gobbi.** Italian Army |
| UK PS | **Admiral Sir Rae McKaig, K.C.B., C.B.E.,** Royal Navy |
| Canadian PS | **Vice-Admiral D. Alan Collins, C.D.,** Canadian Forces |
| Portuguese PS | **Vice-Admiral Ferrer Caeiro,** Portuguese Navy |
| German PS | **Lieutenant-General Gunther Rall,** German Air Force |
| US PS | **Admiral J. P. Weinel,** United States Navy |
| Turkish PS | **Lieutenant-General R. Naiboglu,** Turkish Army |
| Chief French Military Mission | **General de Corps d' Armee Cladimir de Facitski,** French Army |
| 'D' IMS | **Lieutenant-General Sir John Read, K.C.B., O.B.E.,** Director International Military Staff |
| GOC NE District | **Major-General G. de E. Collin, M.C.,** General Officer Commanding North-East District |
| 'D' Commander NE District | **Brigadier P. G. A. Prescott, M.C.,** Deputy Commander North-East District |
| Commander Training Brigade, Royal Signals | **Brigadier E. J. Hellier, O.B.E.,** Commander Training Brigade, Royal Signals |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MEMBERS OF 633 SIGNAL TROOP TAKE A BREAK FROM HURRICANE PREPARATION WORK AT THE BELIZE TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY'S HEADQUARTERS IN BELIZE CITY

(*Left to right*) Mr. Lincoln Wallen (Controller, National Telephone System, Signalman John Meikle, Mr. Fred Williams (Staff Engineer), Corporal Bob Hooper, Corporal Mick Holland, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Jim Rayment, a Civilian Engineer, Signalman Harry Connal, Signalman 'Tich' Hattersley, Lance-Corporal Eric Coleman and Signalman 'Harry' Harrison

# HURRICANE COMMUNICATIONS!

**A REPORT FROM 633 SIGNAL TROOP, CARIBBEAN**

### WORKING UP

AUGUST started as a quiet month and looked like finishing as a quiet month! How wrong we were and how fortunate that all our preparations for a possible hurricane were 'on the ball'.

On Friday, 30th August, a tropical depression was detected in the Caribbean Sea just south of Puerto Rico. The depression moved slowly westwards towards Belize, taking a line south of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

On Saturday, 31st August, the depression had intensified to become a tropical storm. Later that day, as it passed slowly to the south of Jamaica, the storm intensified again to become hurricane 'Carmen' with wind speeds of up to 100mph. The projected course of hurricane 'Carmen' indicated that it would strike Belize City on Monday, 2nd September.

### HURRICANE COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVATED

'Preliminary warning' was issued by the Government of Belize during Saturday evening and we immediately began to activate the various command posts and operations rooms, together with their associated communications. At 0200 hrs on Sunday morning **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Norman Gelling, Signalmen Terry Salt** and **John Murray** left camp to man HE the Governor's Hurricane Central Emergency Headquarters in the Radio Belize building, Belize City.

Shortly afterwards **Corporal Bill McNamara** and **Signalman Barney Cox** departed to man the police/military operations room and associated communications at the Belize City Police Headquarters. Meanwhile **Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson** and **Signalman Jim Mullan** prepared to close and evacuate Belize Commcen at short notice.

**Corporal 'Taff' Evans, Lance-Corporal Des Jones, Signalmen Paul Smith, Garry Hirst** (14 Signal Regiment) and **Cliff Nixon** manned the transmitter site, which, being a concrete hurricane-proof shelter, also contains the infantry battalion operations room for post-hurricane disaster relief. Hurricane command and co-ordination nets were opened and tested to the various outstations, also our communications to the various civil agencies such as the police, Radio Belize, weather stations and radio amateurs were tested.

### RADIO AMATEURS PROVE THEIR WORTH

**Captain David Beare,** who had 'indulged' to Belize to stay with our OC, **Captain Mike Taylor,** found himself operating amateur radio station VP1MT, 'round the clock' to K4RHL. K4RHL, an amateur station in Florida, was in direct contact with the Miami Hurricane Reporting Centre. We were thus able to receive the latest information on the hurricane some two hours before the official advisory signals reached us. We also made contact with a radio amateur at Keesler Air Force base, Mississippi, who was able to pass us vital information as it was brought in by the weather reconnaisance aircraft. In some respects we were even ahead of the Miami Hurricane Reporting Centre! All this advance information was passed immediately to HE the Governor's central emergency headquarters, where it was processed and broadcast over Radio Belize to anxious listeners throughout the country.

### FAMILIES EVACUATED—HURRICANE SHELTERS OCCUPIED

Early on Sunday, 1st September, 'Red One' warning was ordered. The few military families on the camp were evacuated to the capital of Belize, Belmopan, some 40 miles inland. By this time the hurricane was some 250 miles (i.e. 10 hours) away. It had slowed down (a bad sign) and was steadily increasing in strength. Winds of over 150mph were recorded by the Swan Island weather station, over which hurricane 'Carmen' passed.

At 1800 hrs, Sunday, 1st September, all preparations in Airport Camp were completed. 'Red Two' was ordered shortly afterwards and everyone moved into their allocated hurricane shelters. Hurricane 'Carmen' was now some 100 miles from the coast of Belize and still heading directly towards us. It had increased

in strength and winds of over 200mph were being recorded. The US Weather Bureau classified 'Carmen' as 'an extremely dangerous hurricane'. All Belize battened down and waited for hurricane 'Carmen' to strike.

Belize Commcen had by this time closed and **Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson** was just completing a rapid move of all the 'essential' items to the transmitter site hurricane shelter. Perhaps the last to enter their shelters, as the rain began to fall and the sky darkened, were the Royal Signals antenna dropping team. This carefully picked team, composed of 633 Signal Troop and 14 Signal Regiment personnel, swiftly dropped the last antennas on camp, our two 80ft masts. Communications with the outside world then depended entirely on two specially designed hurricane antennas which are (we hope!) proof not only against 200mph winds but against the inevitable killer barrage of flying debris which threatens to destroy even the strongest mast.

**SUDDENLY—A MIRACLE**

At 2200 hrs, Sunday, 1st September, it seemed that a miracle was happening. When only 60 miles (two hours) from us hurricane 'Carmen' inexplicably veered sharply north-west. At dawn on Monday, 2nd September, hurricane 'Carmen' passed near to and damaged Corozal Town in northern Belize before striking the town of Chetumal in the Yucatan peninsula, Mexico.

**THE AFTERMATH**

Throughout Monday, 2nd September, and Tuesday, 3rd September, our additional emergency communications remained busy. Extra rear link communications were provided to a rescue and relief column of the Belize Volunteer Guard, which set off immediately for Corozal town. The 633 Signal Troop rear link vehicle with the column was manned by **Sergeant Ray King** (attached 1 LI) and **Lance-Corporal Stewart Leah** (1 LI). On arrival in Corozal the column found extensive tree blowdown, houses collapsed, roofs torn away, radio and telephone communications badly disrupted. The area was partially flooded but fortunately there had been no loss of life. After two days the column was able to return to Belize City, its relief work completed, and leaving the civil authorities well able to handle the reconstruction and repair work.

In Chetumal, Mexico, however, it was a different story. **Corporal Jim Hindle** and **Signalman Ray Sant** were spending the weekend on leave in Chetumal and recorded their experiences of hurricane 'Carmen' (see separate article).

**HURRICANE 'CARMEN' STRIKES CHETUMAL, MEXICO**

By **Corporal Jim Hindle** and **Signalman Ray Sant**

On our return from a Sunday trip outside the town of Chetumal we found everyone feverishly preparing for a hurricane to strike. Roads from the town were already choked with 'refugees' from the area.

With our limited Spanish we purchased some emergency rations of Spam, chillies, and crackers and retired to our hotel (concrete built) just in time to find that the water and power had been cut off.

Late that night (Sunday) the winds began to build up steadily and by dawn the following morning hurricane 'Carmen' was upon Chetumal. Palm trees disappeared from gardens and the streets were under 2ft of water. Several windows in the hotel were blown in together with air-conditioning units weighing over a hundredweight each. The noise was frightening and it was difficult to speak normally and make oneself understood.

By the morning of Monday, 2nd September, hurricane 'Carmen' had passed, although heavy rain and winds persisted. Venturing on to the streets we found houses flattened, roofs torn off, walls blown in, lamp standards down and electricity pylons badly damaged. Neon signs on buildings had been ripped off and the streets were cluttered with broken glass, uprooted trees and sheets of corrugated iron.

Mexican troops moved swifty into Chetumal to prevent looting and mounted guard over damaged premises until the owners returned. Mopping up began in the afternoon and repairs to water mains, power and telephone cables continued throughout the night. After 3½ days power and water were restored and the homeless were being cared for in temporary community centres. Medical patrols checked an outbreak of rabies and a public address system kept the populace informed of all welfare and emergency facilities available.

Full credit goes to the Mexican authorities for such quick and efficient action, both before and after hurricane 'Carmen'. In the event there was no loss of life either during or after the hurricane.

PS—Don't ever mention Spam and chillies to **Corporal Jim Hindle** and **Signalman Ray Sant!**

# ISLAND IN THE SUN

**14th REGIMENT REPORT ON A RECENT COMMUNICATION EXCERCISE**

IN an effort to make the Regiment's guide to good exercise sites more interesting, **Captain Colin Heaps,** ably assisted by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Allan Falconer,** took an E21 detachment all the way just up from down under. Our 'Island in the Sun' was, in fact, Guadacanal in the British Solomon Islands.

**TRAVEL IN THE MODERN STYLE**

Our move out epitomised all that is best in tourist travel these days. Monday, 1600 hrs, phone rings: 'Move Ops (travel agency) here. Flights have been delayed 24 hours. No move before Wednesday'. Everything is stood down. Tuesday, 0830 hrs, phone rings: 'Move Ops here. How soon can you get your first chalk away?' 'How soon do you want them?' 'Like now, the flight leaves at 1400 today'. Confusion reigns, **Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers** does a spirited imitation of a demented sheep dog, whilst men, equipment and vehicles change from an amorphous mass scattered throughout Worcester into a convoy ready to depart. Judging by the speed with which **Sergeant Rick Rixon** produced vehicles, our MTO, **Captain Fred 'Go by train' Gardner,** must have been on leave.

The next day, having discovered that one of our generators was too long to fit on the second chalk aircraft, the natives of the South Midlands were treated to a gala performance of 14 Signal Regiment's version of the Keystone Cops as a 30kVA generator hurtled down the M5 with men festooned from it at crazy angles frantically preparing for air move. Michael Crawford has nothing on our virtuosos.

**MAN MEETS HIS MATCH**

After this the move of our main body was something of an anti-climax. However, on reaching Singapore **'Superman' John Gorst** livened up the proceedings by endeavouring to walk through a plate-glass door without first opening it. 'Superman' strode straight into the door only to discover superglass. After an eye-watering impact, we now have a wiser man with a foreshortened nose. As this was before he reached the bar, there could be no plea of diminished responsibilities.

**ROUGH BUSH AND GRASS SIX FEET HIGH**

On arrival at our destination we discovered that the architects responsible for exercise sites have a universal template. An eyeball-searing white coral road appeared to stretch to infinity across a plain covered with rough brush and grass 6ft high. To one side of the road a gaunt, skeletal tower stands starkly silhoueted against the skyline; a nondescript board announces that this was the control tower for Henderson Field, scene of some of the bloodiest conflicts in World War II. A closer look reveals a civil airport with a cafe. Elation at this discovery subsided when we found it opened once daily for half an hgur when the plane arrived. This rough scrub was to be our home for the next three weeks. I am sure that John Wayne had palm trees and nubile grass-skirted maidens when he liberated the island.

**A GRIEVOUS LOSS**

A proliferation of empty Coca-Cola bottles scattered throughout the area readily identified one of the protagonists. One gained the impression that the Japanese were much tidier soldiers and their involvement was not apparent. These bottles probably accounted for the numerous brush fires which occurred daily, apparently started by spontaneous combustion. In one very spectacular fire the receiver cabin was threatened by flames leaping 20ft high. **F. of S. Allan Falconer,** assisted by **Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers** and **Corporal Dave Harvey,** saved the cabin by herculean effort. Allan points out that, contrary to some






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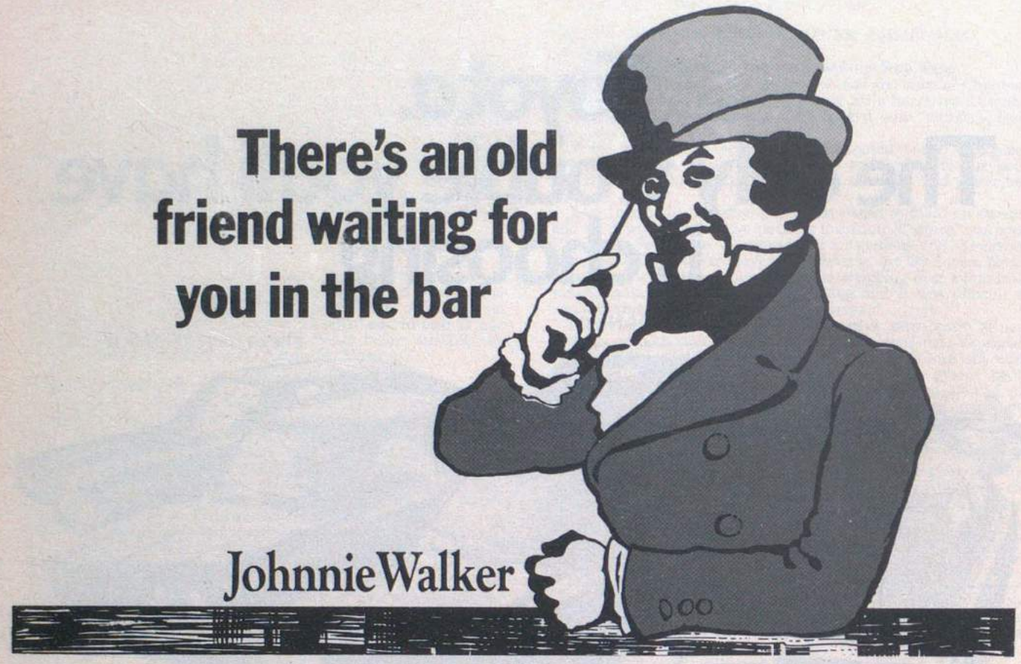


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reports, there was a serious loss in this incident—he lost all his luxuriant curls. Friends will no doubt understand tthis grievous loss.

### WORLD WAR II RELICS

The fire cleared most of the surrounding brush and revealed numerous war relics, ranging from rusting steel helmets to live shells. One of the live shells was discovered embedded in the site **F. of S. Falciner** had chosen for an antenna. Fortunately it was not hit too hard. The antenna was quickly resited, leaving the decaying arsenal undisturbed. On another occasion **Allan** was digging a drainage channel around the receiver cabin, when his pick struck metal. With all the skill of an archaeologist he uncovered his find by hand, but on discovering a cache of live rounds he decided to risk flooding.

GRUESOME REMAINS

Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Wilson, 6 Australian Signal Regiment, Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers and Signalman Pete Caddy with war relics collected at Henderson Field

### BLOODY RIDGE VISITED

**Staff-Sergeant Des Ackers,** in company with **Sergeant (F. of S.) Ray Wilson** of 6 Australian Signal Regiment, indulged their necromania to the full by collecting human bones along with other relics. There was a plentiful supply of these around the area even after 32 years. They also paid a visit to Bloody Ridge, which lies to the south of Henderson Field. This was the site of the final decisive battle for the airfield on 12th and 13th September, 1942. In this bloody encounter **Colonel Edson** commanded the Marine raiders and parachute troops, opposed by **Major-General Kawaguchi** and the Japanese forces. The Japanese attempted to surprise the marines by cutting through dense jungle and making one last desperate assault. In one night of the battle the Americans lost between 30 and 40 men and killed 600 to 700 Japanese. Records later showed that the total Japanese casualties in this engagement was in excess of 1,500.

Today the ridge is marked by a small monument, on which is mounted a bronze plaque giving a brief account of the battle. At the other end of the ridge stands a nondescript wooden post on which are painted Japanese characters, which is the Japanese memorial to men killed in the battle. **Des** and **Ray** found a liberal amount of war debris strewn around the ridge, including the ubiquitous Coca-Cola bottles. Obviously much more could be uncovered by digging around the area.

### LOCAL CULTURE IMPRESSES

Some of the local culture was assimilated by **Corporal 'Taff' Perrett,** who made friends with the Gilbertese dancing troupe which performed weekly at the Honiara Hotel. After one performance, **'Taff'** who has the graceful figure of a Sumo wrestler, was presented with a grass skirt and flower accessories. The detachment are unanimous in their opinion that he looked most fetching in these. The patrols of the Guadacanal Club were later treated to an impromptu cabaret when **'Taff'** turned up in full regalia and treated them to a wild display of hip swinging. We can only assume that the club manager lacks artistic appreciation as **'Taff'** did not get a return booking.

MEMORY OF A BLOODY BATTLE

Sergeant Dave Hudson and A/T Souster study the plaque which explains the naming of Henderson Field

### HARROGATE APPRENTICES WENT TOO

A party of three apprentice tradesmen from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, accompanied the detachment on the exercise. **A/T Sergeant Bromby, A/Ts Souster** and **Starr** impressed every one with their boundless enthusiasm and ability. The boys gained a lot from the experience and obviously enjoyed every minute of it. **A/T Souster** was also presented with a grass skirt by the Gilbertese dancers. He decided to forgo the pleasure of performing at the college on his return and gave the skirt away prior to leaving Guadacanal.

### COMMUNICATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL

It says much for the constitutions of members of the detachment that in addition to savouring all the delights of the Solomons they also managed to complete very successful communications exercises to Melbourne and Commcen Hong Kong. The co-operation enjoyed from the staff of these stations was excellent and contributed largely to the success achieved.

## PARASHOT '74

**by A/T Corporal John McEwan**

### CORPS APPRENTICES TAKE ON TRAINED SOLDIERS FROM COMMANDOS, PARACHUTE REGIMENT, AND OTHERS IN TOUGH PARACHUTING EXERCISE

THE Army Apprentices' College Parachute Club, founded some three years ago, was asked for volunteers to form a four-man patrol to take part in the BAOR exercise 'Parashot 74'—the first time that any Apprentices' College has participated.

The team consisted of **A/T S.S.M. John Hickman** (Patrol Commander), **A/T Lance-Corporal Philip Legrove** (Demolition), **A/T Malcolm Whitehead** (Medic) and myself as Radio Operator. The PS who trained us and handled the admin were **Captain R. F. Rutherford** and **W.O.2 J. Hazard,** of the Corps, and **C.S.M. W. Jamieson,** Scots Guards.

### GETTING FIT

The team started training early in May, and at first it was easy going around a cross-country circuit with 40 lb of kit in our rucksacks. Once we were reasonably fit, short courses were arranged to teach the team helicopter-marshalling, basic demolition and first-aid. The parachuting side was not forgotten, and on the odd occasion we got in a jump at Yeadon airport or Cark. As the weeks passed, the team concentrated more on weapon handling and patrolling, the weight carried being increased to around 60 lb.

As the end of term drew near, plans were made for parachuting and training over block leave. The first week of this was spent at Cark airfield, and thanks to typical English weather the team managed only a grand total of 11 jumps. We then had ten days'

leave and came back to continue our training, this time at Grindale airfield, where again the weather got the better of us.

**TOUGH COMPETITION**

On 3rd September, the team set off for 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, where we were to be based and accommodated for the ten days we spent in Germany. We reported in to the Rhine Army Parachute Association centre at Bad Lippspringe, which gave us a chance to see the opposition and find out what we were up against. There were teams from 95 (F.O.U.) Commando, the Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps, QRIH, 4 Division Signal Squadron, and KOSB—to name but a few of the 15 competing.

The exercise involved making an accuracy descent from 3,200 feet, going tactical after field packing, and then patrolling a 32-kilometre course, in which various obstacles had to be surmounted. On the jump we, as a team, achieved a four-man stack from the Beaver, but unfortunately one of the team missed the cross, and we could manage only 8th position.

On the patrol side, we found we were hard pushed across the German terrain, and our lack of experience showed, but we managed good scores in the first-aid section, river-crossing and shooting. The exercise took us 13 hours from boarding the aircraft and although we came bottom in the patrolling it was an experience which the four members of the team are not likely to forget.

Our thanks to the PS members, who taught and 'nursed' us through our five months' training, to 20 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron for putting up with us during our stay, and to the kindly person who supplied the beer when we hobbled into Bad Lippspringe!

THEY HAD A GO!

*Left to right—Rear:* A/T Sergeant J. Hickman, W.O.2 J. Hazard, Captain R. F. Rutherford, C.S.M. W. Jamieson, A/T Lance-corporal P. Legrove

*Front:* A/T Corporal T. J. McEwan, A/T M. Whitehead

*(Photo: Army Public Relations)*

# CLIMBING ON THE CANADIAN-ALASKAN BORDER

**LIEUTENANT PETER BOWLES OF 11 ARMOURED BRIGADE HQ AND SIGNAL SQUADRON WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES WITH EXPEDITION ST ELIAS**

THE expedition, comprising 12 men, was led by the organiser, **Major Stan Edwards, RMP,** and included six climbers, five porters and one male nurse. Its objective was to reach the remote 19,860ft Mt Logan, the highest in Canada, and climb it.

The party married up in Fallingbostel to join the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars on their flight from RAF Gutersloh to Clagary, Alberta, and thence to the British Army Training Unit, Suffield, in the early hours of the morning at the end of a 16-hour long night. A Chevrolet Custom truck and min-bus were hired in Calgary the following afternoon, the crates of stores loaded and journey started on the second day.

**1600 MILES TO BASE CAMP**

The prairies soon gave way to the Rocky Mountains of the Banff National Park, from which point the journey of 1600 miles to base camp became an adventure in itself. From Banff the route went north through the Japser National Park and into the vast forests of British Columbia, along the Yellowknife route, sweeping across to the start of the Alaska Highway at Dawson Creek. The wildness of the countryside was thenceforth only matched by that of some of the local people and it is little wonder that one has to be a giant in order to be recruited by the RCMP. By the time milepost 1064 at Kluane Lake and the Slims River had been reached we had seen moose, coyote, racoon, brown bear and lynx, and we were in the heart of the Yukon territory.

**GRIZZLY BEARS!**

After driving for three miles up a rough track we dumped the kit by the side of Bullion Creek, a waterway strewn with placer mining claims and obviously the haunt of gold panners for many decades. The unloading was a hazardous affair since the truck had stuck whilst fording the rapidly rising torrent. Inevitably it rained. The food and climbing tackle was broken down into loads of about 100lb and was ferried along the mudflats and wooded banks of the Slims River. This was not without some trepidition since the numerous fresh grizzly bear prints showed that mum and juniors were taking regular exercise and we were very aware of the grizzly bear's ability to swim and his land speed capability, which equated

CANADIAN ROCKY SCENE

The author at a camping halt

to that of a racehorse. A forward 'safe' base camp was established on an Esker Island, a grassed island of glacial debris. Although hopefully safe from bears, this island was inhabited by a highly active population of gophers. These fearless little ground squirrels had never had it so good, making round the clock raids on biscuits, Ryvita and all manner of nuts and dried foods, even to the extent of chewing through the side of one of the tents!

**MOSQUITOES GALORE**

A well-placed warning at this point should be given to anybody planning a visit to this region. Canadians rate their country as having the worst mosquito problem in the world and of their 42 varieties the Common Yukon beasti is by far the most persistent and virulent. Army issue insect repellant is an effective deterrent but requires to be smeared liberally over all potential target areas, including loop stitch mountaineering socks!

The fourth day was the last of the ferrying journeys and the start of the glacial route. To reach the start of the ice meant crossing yet another mudflat, a swift-flowing creek and a large expanse of terminal moraine, or interminable moraine as we heard commented at the time. This was a broken hilly mass of melting ice with a thin topping of scree which made the use of crampons impossible and ice axe pointless.

**ON THE GLACIER**

Once on the glacier progress was easy and relatively fast, necessitating only minor deviations for large crevasses. Camping involved the use of ice pitons and 'A'-framed tents which did not distort even when pitons melted through the ice. Water was no problem, for numerous streams, some very large, flowed at all times except in the dead of night.

Route finding proved to be most difficult and rather hit or miss, despite the prior study of aerial photographs, for glaciers change almost daily in summer. We found ourselves suddenly amongst mountainous crevasses with only narrow and dangerous bridges on which to cross. Careful use of ice axe and crampons was essential and any jumping with such heavy loads was most painful.

Eventually, after a series of nasty tumbles through the fragile snow ending with legs flailing in a void, we reached the head of the glacier and the icefield beyond, leading eventually to our mountain. We were about halfway on our 90-mile journey. Here we camped and awaited the second party and the extra rations with which to continue. Unfortunately a combination of bad weather and the size of the glacier prevented a link up. We had marked our route with day glow strips on bamboo canes which had in most cases fallen over due to the melted ice. leaving a three-mile wide trail for the others to pick through as we had.

**A CHANGE IN PLANS**

When the snowing stopped and the rations dwindled we started back to base camp, where plans were re-formed for assaults on Kaskawulsh Mountain and Mt Maxwell, both over 10,000ft, with glacial routes and snow-covered peaks. Four days and 23 miles later, in the early hours of the morning, we reached a point 100ft from the summit of Kaskawulsh. The hard-surfaced crust here became too thin and fragile, with powder snow underneath and a 6ft vertical cornice blocking the way. The view of the glaciers below was quite the most absorbing ever seen by myself, as miles dissolved into inches in the mind's eye.

MADE IT!

Peter Bowles lets himself go

**SNOW IMPEDES PROGRESS**

A second party of five beginners made an attempt the following day, but a snowstorm in the meantime had softened the snow and would not allow any steep upward progress at all. Mt Maxwell proved to be a non-starter, for all the while it had been shrouded in cloud and would have been an avalanche and rockfall hazard from the outset. These mountains are in a constant state of erosion and in summer are seldom quiet as pieces tumble down their sides, thawed by the warm weather.

The remaining days were spent exploring the depths of some of the enormous chasms in the glacier left by streams plunging off the surface and spiralling downwards. This provided excellent opportunity for further practice in rescue techniques and discussion on the finer points of such an operation.

Eleven heavily laden bodies then began a most soul-destroying journey back to the Alaska Highway, through swollen creeks, fresh silt and thickly wooded diversionary routes. Several had to be cut out of the mud and again the gripping presence of bear tracks became our awesome companion.

**A GOLD STRIKE**

A free day was granted to explore Bullion Creek and look at the spectacle of old gold mining emplacements, many of which could have been used for the set of 'Paint Your Wagon'. It was whilst humming 'I was born under a wandering star' that a tobacco tin was opened in an old shack, to reveal a healthy content of gold dust. Empty handed we left in a hurry, feating that Lee Marvin might return with guns blazing at any moment.

On contact with civilisation, much bearded and battered, we settled into an orgy of eating lasting three days, until we accompanied a battle group advance party back to BAOR. They had been basking in the sun waiting for a main party which never arrived. We sympathised with them.

**COMPLETELY SELF-SUPPORTED EFFORT**

Mr Logan remained untouched by us. An American team had managed the walk a month earlier and had climbed it by the route we had selected, the first people to have done so. They did, however, have extra equipment and rations air-dropped at the base of the mountain. This enabled them to carry skis and to make use of the lower snowline in the early summer. Although Logan has been ascended a number of times, most parties are flown to its base and as far as we know ours was an original completely self-supported attempt.

# Beneath the Blue Mediterranean

**THREE MEMBERS OF THE CORPS THOROUGHLY ENJOY A SUB-AQUA HOLIDAY IN THE SUNNY MEDITERRANEAN**

Three members of the Corps recently took part in a sub-aqua expedition in the Mediterranean. They were **Captain Derek McLuckie,** 21 Signal Regiment (AS), **Corporal Geoff Brown,** 13 Signal Regiment, and **Lance-Corporal 'Fred' Howes,** 16 Signal Regiment, all members of the Royal Air Force Wildenrath Sub-Aqua Club.

Along with three civilian members of the club they chartered the 40-foot ketch *Deep Star* which operates from Porto San Stafano in Italy. Once the diving equipment, which included the club's compressor, had been loaded aboard, the only restraining factor was the need to return to work in two weeks. The weather in September was extremely good, the water very clear and visibility up to 200 feet at times. It was no hardship to average two dives a day. More dives could have been completed but for the need to observe decompression rules and the intrusion of the noisy compressor into an otherwise peaceful scene.

**A RARE FIND**

The trip included stops at Giannutri, Giglio, Monte Cristo, Elba and Corsica. It was at Monte Cristo that the best find was made. At about 100 feet **Corporal Geoff Brown** found an octopus sitting in the middle of an old anchor. The anchor turned out to be very old, possibly Roman, and quite large. Made of lead, it contained a percentage of silver, which was necessary to hold it together. It took a couple more dives and a bit of hard work on the ship's winch to raise the anchor to the surface where photographs were taken. It is now back on the sea bottom waiting for some other octopus to occupy it.

**DANGER!**

Although divers normally look for wrecks the real excitement of the trip was when *Deep Star* nearly became one. On the last night of the expedition while anchored in a bay off the island of

Giannutri our anchor failed to hold and we were blown on to the rocks. The stern line became entangled in the propellor and *Deep Star* took five hours of pounding before the local marine police managed to tow her off. Although badly holed just above the water-line she stayed afloat and is now undergoing repairs back in her home port. That night certainly proved to be adventure training. The total cost of the holiday, which was done as a private venture without recourse to adventure training funds, was £80 per head. Not a lot to pay for two idyllic weeks free from the routines of life on shore.

THIS IS THE LIFE!

*Left to right:* Mr. Paul Smith, Corporal Geoff Brown, Lance-Corporal Fred Howes, Captain Derek McLuckie
The Roman anchor found off Monte Christo is suspended from the bow

SIGNALLER IN THE SUN

Not a local but Lance-Corporal Fred Howes enjoying the sun while loading the club inflatable in Port Ercol

# SERVING WITH THE UNION DEFENCE FORCE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**REPORT FROM MAJOR HOWARD CULLEY**

## BACK TO SQUARE ONE

WHEN I took off from RAF Sharjah on 13th April, 1971, after handing over Airfield Troop of 222 Signal Squadron to **Captain David Marks,** my successor, I thought to myself. 'Well, if one thing's definite, that's one part of the world I shan't be seeing again'. The British were due to withdraw from the Gulf by December of that year and the rundown had already started.

Twenty-eight months later I was back.

## THE UNION DEFENCE FORCE (UDF)

The UDF was formed on the 21st December, 1971, from the former Trucial Oman Scouts. The uniform was retained, but the cap badge and the officers' badges of rank were changed. The UDF is the defence force for the United Arab Emirates, formed from the seven former Trucial States: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaima, Fujaira, Ajman and Umn Al Qawan. The first four states listed also have their own state defence forces.

Since its formation the UDF has expanded until it is now approximately brigade size. It consists of six rifle squadrons, a large armed recce squadron, support weapons squadron, a helicopter squadron, a training establishment including boys' unit, an engineer construction squadron and the usual logistic units, workshops, transport squadron, etc. Co-located with Force Headquarters are the signal squadron and a separate HQ squadron.

Most of the Force is based at one of the two camps in Sharjah, with the exception of the five outstations. Four of these are in the northern emirates, at Ham Ham, Murbah, Masafi and Manama, the latter consisting of a garrison HQ, a rifle squadron, support squadron and the training unit. The fifth outstation is at Al Ayn in the large southern state of Abu Dhabi, and that is where 5 (Rifle) Squadron, of which I am OC, is based at the time of writing.

## FORT JAHALI

After the Buraimi incident in the fifties the Buraimi Oasis was divided between the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman (the Muscat has since been dropped from the name) and the Trucial State of Abu Dhabi. The Oman part is still called Buraimi and the larger Abu Dhabi portion is called Al Ayn.

When the Saudis withdrew in 1958 the Trucial Oman Scouts were given Fort Jahali as their base in the area. Jahali used to be the summer palace of the Sheik of Abu Dhabi, but by 1958 it had fallen into disrepair. It has since been converted into a comfortable camp and is also something of a tourist attraction. Only a few years ago Jahali was a desert fort outside the villages which made up Al Ayn. Now it is in the middle of suburbia and even the main shopping centre is drawing close as the city rapidly expands.

## 5 SQUADRON

A rifle squadron now consists of about 220 all ranks, rather larger than its British equivalent. There are four rifle troops, based on a British infantry platoon, an MT troop and an SHQ troop, including a signal section of 15 men.

The transport for the squadron is by LWB Land-Rover, seven FFR and 15 GS, with the exception of echelon, which has three Bedford 4-tonners and a water bowser. All told there are 23 vehicles, though this is soon to be increased again.

## SERVING WITH THE BEDU

I spent my first four months as 2IC of 5 Squadron at Masafi. At first I had the usual problems to overcome; namely to adapt my 'Beaconsfield' Arabic to the 'Jaysh' Arabic spoken by the soldiers, and to adjust my ideas brought from the British Army.

The Bedu soldiers are honest, enthusiastic and are the most polite people one could hope to meet.

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

*Left to right:* Major Howard Culley, O.C., Lieutenant Salim Ubaid, Second-Lieutenant Huraiz Rashid, Captain Saif Saleem, 2IC, Second-Lieutenant Ahmed Ebrahim, Edn. Officer

The walk from the Mess to the office in Masafi could take 15 minutes, though it was only 300 yards. The Bedu soldier is most punctilious about saluting, but having done so he expects you in return to shake his hand, wish him good morning and ask after health and happiness in a dozen different ways, and he will do the same to you.

After about a month the OC departed on leave to India. Immediately what was a smooth-running unit developed crisis after crisis. It was some time before I realised that the Squadron was a 'trying it on' to see how much they could get away with. As soon as this was stamped on everything returned to normal.

In the year since those first months I have changed squadrons twice and locations four times. I am now back in Jahali with 5 Squadron, having taken over from the previous OC.

The job of commanding a UDF rifle squadron is both demanding and rewarding. Being the only Inglezee in the Squadron, all signals and correspondence have to be written and dealt with by the OC. As the nearest outstation to Oman, from where a large proportion of our soldiers come, it is not unusual to be woken up in the middle of the night by a soldier from another squadron who wants you to send a signal requesting extra leave because he has a domestic problem.

The normal problems of command are magnified by having to give all instructions, take company orders and speak on the radio in a foreign language. However, living in a Mess where none of the Arab officers speak English does wonders for improving one's Arabic.

Whatever the problems, for a Royal Signals Officer to command a unit of infantry in an outstation some 300km from HQ is not only unusual; it is also extremely satisfying. This is one tour I shall be sorry to see end.

# A New World

**SIGNALMAN R. P. GILES OF 2 DIV HQ & SIG REGT WRITES CLEARLY AND VIVIDLY OF HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE OF A CLIMBING AND SKI-ING EXERCISE IN THE ALPS.**

## WONDERING WHAT I HAD LET MYSELF IN FOR

I had never been to the Alps before. I was brought up in the black Midlands of England. I joined the Army as the old poster said 'to see the world'. On a wet evening towards the end of August I was sitting in the back of a 4-ton lorry wondering what I had let myself in for. I had asked to go to Italy on an expedition called exercise 'Steeple Jack'. At a briefing the week before the leader, **Captain Paddy Hughes,** had shown us some captivating slides of the Italian Alps, and told us that we were embarking on an exciting climbing and ski-ing adventure training exercise in the Aosta Valley region of Northern Italy.

## THE PARTY

There were 16 of us from the Regiment. **Sergeant Caie Graham,** known affectionately as 'the pink panther', was the climbing expert. His pretty wife **Annemarie** came too; her enthusiasm and diplomacy more than warranted her a place on the expedition. **Corporal Ian Maxwell** and **Signalman Mick Boxall** earned themselves the names of 'the Sorcerer and his Apprentice', as if by magic these two often transformed a 10-man compo box into something which tasted really good. Then there was **Lieutenant Tom Richardson's** dog—Seamus of Alverstone, a loveable black setter who did everything with us except climb the Matterhorn!

## LEARNING

We arrived in Bavaria early in the monring, ten hard days were spent in the Allgau Alps doing fitness and acclimatisation training. There were three separate groups of us on the expedition—climbers, Alpine skiers and langlauf skiers. One of the aims of the phase in Bavaria was to get everyone working together as a team on a common task before going to Italy. We completed the famous 3-dayHeilbronn Route in a day. We climbed the Krottenkopf Mountain. We absailed. We walked. We were caught in snow storms. We brewed tea with frozen hands. We learnt about the treacherous Alpine weather. We learnt about one another.

Early in September we moved to Italy. We had a long slow journey in our blue BFG Bedford through Switzerland. At this stage we were joined by **Douglas Lambert,** a charming civilian climber from London, who stayed with us for three weeks.

## THE SETTING

We headed for Aosta and Cervinia. Cervinia lies at the head of the Perreres Valley on the North-West side of the Italian Alps. The village is bordered on two sides by mountain ranges. These ranges are joined by Il Cervino, or the Matterhorn as we call it. The scenery is breathtaking. On a clear day below Cervinia the whole of the Matterhorn is reflected in a clear blue mountain lake. The local people say that the Italian border police once shot a smuggler and threw his body into this blue pool.

We lived in a mountain hut about six miles from Cervinia. The hut was owned by a Catholic church community in Turin. An old Italian padre, Don Luigi, appeared and stayed in our hut and in French told us of stories from the war and where we could find gold in the mountains.

## A SKIER'S PARADISE

Our daily programme was rigorous, and far harder than barrack life in Bunde. We rose at 6 am, the skiers took the first cable car to Plateau Rosa and skied until mid-afternoon. The climbers worked steadily at their goal of putting a team on the Matterhorn.

Plateau Rosa is a skier's paradise. At 12,000 feet it is covered by snow all the year round. The National ski teams from all Alpine countries train there. In September the weather was changing gradually. Some days the sun was blistering hot and on others there were 70mph winds and temperatures of –12°C. Crevasses opened periodically revealing large cracks and fissures. However, the movement of the ice was predicted by the local people and the danger areas were well marked.

On the plateau climbing or ski-ing seriously was a demanding business and one had to be fit. At this altitude compo cans hiss when opened and lungs ache when you exert yourself violently. Our Regimental Alpine team trained on slalom courses and our langlaufers practised on individal tracks about 400 metres long. International ski teams training in the area provided great incentive and competition for them.

One of the trainers of the German ladies' team was very friendly and we quickly built up great rapport with the Germans. The trainer was invited to dinner with us and our skiers were invited to watch ski-ing films.

## LOCAL HOSPITALITY

Because we were living in an isolated hut and because of our ambitious tasks we did not frequently socialise. However there were notable exceptions. The Dragon Inn in Cervinia was our rendezvous after a climb or a day on the plateau. The owners, **Marco Pelussuer** and his pretty English wife, **Jackie,** entertained us all to dinner one evening in their hotel. The menu included thinly cut smoked ham, spaghetti, meats with expensive black truffle based sauce, Fontina cheeses, exotic fruits and decanters full of deep red Chianti wine.

**OBJECTIVES ATTAINED**

Time passed too quickly. The skiers entered two big races and whilst not winning they were awarded special prizes of medals and ski equipment. The climbers practised in the Rock Garden in Vatournache. **Craftsman Pete Jones** from the LAD excelled himself by climbing a difficult chimney. The Breithorn, the Kleine Matterhorn and the Furrgen Grat were all conquered.

The climax of the climbing phase was reached on 18th September at 11 am when we at base camp at Riffigio L'Oroinde heard faintly over the radio: 'I have reached the top—weather terrible but am in good spirits'. **Caie Graham** had reached the summit of the Matterhorn and was the first soldier in our Regiment to do a major Alpine ascent.

**RELUCTANT FAREWELL**

We set off from Italy as we arrived, in driving snow and winds. I reluctantly left Cervinia with mixed memories of snow-capped fairy-tale mountain peaks, of frozen hands and wind whipping snow under my balaclava, of the taste of hot compo and the thanks to God each evening for our good fortune.

I learnt a great deal during my five-week visit to the Alps and enjoyed every minute. Future expectations make the thought of barrack life and FFR very bearable.

## *Scorton Silver Arrow*

PROCLAMATION!

***"May it be made known to all Bowmen of England and whosoever wish to compete for this the Antient Scorton Silver Arrow in this 302nd year, the tournament will be held at Harrogate on Saturday, 31 August, 1974."***

**W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Bill Greenhill,** Captain of Numbers, writes from HQ Training Brigade:

The above proclamation was read by the Captain of the Arrow to the assembled company of Archers. This was the first time I had shot in the tournament and with 97 archers competing, some of whom had flown from America to take part, I considered my chances of winning anything rather slim. However, shooting commenced at 1030 a.m. and the Arrow was won shortly afterwards. The bar was then opened and shooting continued for the remaining trophies until early evening.

The Ancient Silver is an annual event held in Yorkshire and the first recorded meeting dates back to 14th May, 1673. The Arrow is solid silver and designed on the wooden arrow used by English bowmen of yesteryear. There is no record of when it was made but many archery historians suggest it was given by Queen Elizabeth I to be the principal trophy at an archery tournament.

The Arrow is shot for at a distance of 100 yds, the target being a 4ft straw boss. In the centre of each target is a 3in black disc and the arrow is won by the first Arrow to pierce the disc, the winner being appointed Captain of the Arrow for one year. In addition to the Arrow a Silver Cup is awarded to the arrow nearest a pinhole in the centre of the disc and a Silver Medal to the archer with the most hits in the centre, who is appointed Captain of Numbers. I was lucky enough to hit the pinhole and have the most hits winning both Cup and Medal.

Throughout the day archers cursing or swearing on the shooting line were fined 5p a time and the grand sum of £7·60, to which I contributed 25p, was presented to the Mayor of Harrogate for distribution amongst the 'poor' of the town. A most enjoyable day with good company and friendly competition. Perhaps this article will induce one or two readers to try this Antient Sport.

(Note: 'Antient' is the ancient spelling of 'ancient'.—Editor.)

## Movements

NOVEMBER

### Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Major M. R. Adams | To School of Signals |
| Major B. M. Ashcroft | " APSG |
| Captain (TOT) R. Banham | " 27 Signal Regiment |
| Captain J. P. Beasley | " HQ Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps |
| Captain (TFC) D. V. Boddington | " 229 Signal Squadron |
| Major A. Coates | " 223 Signal Squadron |
| Captain (T. of C.) J. H. Cotton | " 28 Signal Regiment |
| Major R. E. S. Drew | " 22 Signal Regiment |
| Captain R. N. B. Freeman | " 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major J. R. Garratt | " 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Lieutenant R. T. Hoole | " 21 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant P. T. Innocent | " RAC Centre |
| Colonel R. A. King | " HQ Training Brigade as Comd (Brig) |
| Captain H. Jennings | " 10 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. Leonard | " Sultan's Armed Forces |
| Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. McIntyre | " School of Signals as Colonel GS (W) |
| Lieutenant G. J. McKie | " 632 Signal Troop as Captain |
| Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. M. McKinnon | " ACGS (OR) MOD as Colonel GS |
| Lieutenant J. V. Press | " 8 Signal Regiment |
| Captain (TOT) G. A. Sharp | " 7 Signal Regiment |
| Major C. M. Sinclair | " HQ North East District |
| Captain (TOT) P. F. Soward | " HQ 3 Signal Group |
| Lieutenant C. E. Stephens | " 8 Signal Regiment |
| Major (Q.M.) T. A. Swales | " 34 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Major W. P. B. Thomas | " 28 Signal Regiment |
| Captain Q. Vigurs | " Attd HQ 39 Infantry Brigade |
| Major L. A. Woods | " MOD (PE) LTD II |
| Lieutenant D. S. J. Wooten | " 653 Signal Troop as Captain |

### W.O.s and Sergeants

| | *Unit to which posted* |
|---|---|
| W.O.2 T. Sharrock | Army Apprentice College, Harrogate (Cadre) |
| W.O.2 (Supvr./(R)) A. Cooper | 11 Signal Regiment Depot (for attachment to Australia) |
| W.O.2 F. Nutter | 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) T. D. Brabon | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. C. Sydney | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. Foster | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) M. E. R. Catley | 28 Signal Regiment |
| S/Sgt. (Y. of S.) B. Dulston | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant R. Bates | SHAPE International HQ Command and Support BAE |
| Staff-Sergeant J. H. Clayforth | 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant (Supvr. (R)) P. Derrick | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant D. G. Edmond | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant (Supvr. (R) T. G. Fisher | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant (Supvr. (R)) R. G. Good | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant G. H. Little | Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. J. Richards | 27 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant R. J. M. Shaw | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Staff-Sergeant K. Sixsmith | RSC, Sutton Coldfield |
| Sergeant R. P. Chilton | Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| Sergeant J. B. Harvey | 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant B. Hamer | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. George | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. W. Hancock | 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| Sergeant P. G. Bovenizer | 233 Signal Squadron ('V' Troop) |
| Sergeant M. L. Matthews | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant T. Collard | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant M. E. Mutlow | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant M. W. F. Snook | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant K. Price | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant K. W. Suckling | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant A. Eames | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant C. P. Higson | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sgt. P. F. Johnson | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant M. A. Provart | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant D. R. Davey | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant D. C. Bowers | School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant I. H. Machell | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sgt. J. D. Evans | School of Signals (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. W. F. Wathen | 21 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. Duncan | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. B. Jobson | HQ 3 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant J. J. Flockhart | 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. P. Robertson | 7 Signal Regiment (Main HQ) |
| Sergeant R. A. Jakins | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant P. Garrigan | 28 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. Hughes | RSC, Sutton Coldfield (LSL) |
| Sergeant P. Thomas | 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant A. E. Vaughan | 70 Army Youth Team |
| Sergeant J. W. Hamer | Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| Sergeant S. Gardiner | 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) |
| Sergeant C. L. Lillett | HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant A. Cheyne | 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. E. Walkden | 16 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant L. J. Brians | 2 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. L. Conibeere | 11 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. J. Aldridge | 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant R. Russell | 7 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. A. Lund | 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. J. Manser | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. S. Oldfield | 13 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant D. Liddell | 233 Signal Squadron (Northern Ireland) |
| Sergeant K. R. Robinson | 223 Signal Squadron (Radio) |
| Sergeant K. B. Smith | 225 Signal Squadron (Radio) |
| Sergeant R. Williamson | 9th Signal Regiment |
| Acting-Sergeant D. W. Garner | 589 Rear Link Detachment |
| Acting-Sergeant D. Trigg | 223 Signal Squadron (Radio) |



# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

The S.O.-in-C. chats to Signalman Steve Logan under the beady eye of chief clerk, Staff-Sergeant Arthur Jones

**VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF**

THIS month we were pleased to see **Major-General J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.** as he made his farewell tour of the Corps' units in Ulster.

**SHOOTING**

Although our range performance did not net us any prizes, the Squadron teams put up creditable performances at the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms meeting. The Infantry Battalions were able to dominate the events, as well they should, but next year we hope there is to be a minor units cup which we will be after.

**RURAL ACTIVITIES**

Military training need not be entirely IS orientated and the training areas at Ballykinler resounded to the explosion of thunderflashes, the stutter of blanks and the chatter of teeth after a night when 'those not on essential duties' found themselves dug in on the dunes. The aim of the exercise, which was to promote the little practised skills of patrolling and section commanding, was achieved through the energetic efforts of DS most of whom were fresh from recent Staff-Sergeants courses. It was also achieved by the fervour with which, for 24 hours, the Squadron personnel threw themselves into an infantry role and generally gained good experience and benefit from it. Terrorists abounded and fought hard but lost to superior numbers, although their dawn attack with the OIC Int Sect to the fore and the MTO giving covering fire only needed the skirl of the pipes to strike terror into the hearts of all the defenders.

**FORCES CHANCE**

For those who missed our recent broadcast on Radio 4 the film will be shown on BBC 2 in approximately 1982.

**EXERCISE (! YES EXERCISE) 'HOT FOOT'**

Our annual rest and recreation pilgrimage to the sun and sands of Cyprus about this time of the year seemed a rather unwise move under the circumstances. So, bolstered by the travellers' tales of 8 Brigade Signal Squadron, we ventured to the same site that they used upon the Mull of Kintyre and set up camp. Parties crossed as and when transport could be made available and we relied on pumas, beavers, minesweepers and the faithful Belfast–Ardrossan ferry. We canoed, climbed, walked, went trawling, ate herrings and survived the first frosts of the year. We all enjoyed the local hospitality and **Corporal Dave Stone** stood in as goalkeeper for Campbeltown, ensuring them victory in a Scottish League game. The rear party communicated to the world on the A13 and the home base made contact on a similar set. Now back in Lisburn, we await the return (by courtesy of HM Ships) of the final party whose views should probably match ours that, if not exactly rest and recuperation, rigour and recreation might be a better description.

**SQUADRONS SPORTS DAY**

Postponed from its scheduled month, which coincided with the Ulster Workers Council strike, and then nearly sunk by several days of rain (and incidentally what a frightful summer we've had over here) we ran the sports day in September. The 5000 metres opened the events, and the runners splashed around the 'all-weather track', **Captain John Maclean** finishing with a comfortable lead. As the afternoon progressed results showed clearly that Comms Troop were destined to win and the trophy was clinched when the Troop out-pulled all opposition in the tug-of-war. The presentation was made by the Brigade Commander's wife to **Sergeant Bob Lockwood** and the cup was well topped-up throughout the evening at the Troop summer ball. To round off an enjoyable day a chain of command race was organised. The Brigade Staff momentarily forsook their gilded corridors and descended to coping with bicycles, balloons, beer, wheelbarrows, and sandbags in a chaotic but hilarious sight. The G3 Ops team, with the Yeoman, **W.O.2 Tony Whydell,** in the vanguard, was judged to have won and took the cake—a magnificent prize specially baked for the occasion.

GETTING DOWN TO EARTH

The Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. F. Richardson, and the R.S.M., W.O.I French, get stuck in during the chain of command race

*(Photo: Army Public Relations)*

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

**NEWS IN GENERAL**

THE Squadron has been going through a very active period preparing for the annual unit equipment examination and the FFR, which are only a week apart. Despite the Irish dimension and ceaseless rain for at least the last eight months (Note—The scribe has only been in the province eight months), the Squadron is prepared. MT Troop have proved yet again that they are safer behind a wheel than a paint brush. Comms Troop have lost their OC, **Captain Stephen Paul,** and found their new OC, **Captain Lee Tilson,** as well as some of their long-lost (deployed) equip-

ment. Commcen Troop have meanwhile trundled along busily hunting commstars. Meanwhile Tech Troop have been busy in the engine room earning their 50p twice nightly.

**NEWS IN PARTICULAR**

This month the spotlight (quite rightly, too) falls on Tech Troop for no better reason than it is our turn.

The Troop, which was 21 strong at the last count, looks after a large variety of equipments, Tele Fs to BID 200s, B70s to C50s, A41s to D13s, and a selection of commercial radios, all of which are spread throughout the province. The hours are long; the work rewarding and interesting.

In the past eight months the Troop has almsot completely changed personnel.

The TOT is **Captain Gus Cook,** who, besides wearing many hats, gets a multitude of letters appertaining to the movement of kings and queens. Nothing to do with another solution to the Irish problem; just his postal chess games. His first win will definitely be reported in a later edition.

The DCN Secure Equipment Section and fault control is ably looked after by **Sergeants Peter Kniseley** and **Dave 'Moby Dick' Thain.** The latter is busily organising a 'Miss 233 Signal Squadron 1974' competition. So far there has been a very poor response, which we all put down to his poor jokes and patter.

Manning SES and enjoying four-way shift after some 18 months of three-way are **Sergeant Fred Roissetter,** who has at last stopped running, **Sergeant Brian Chapman,** who hasn't stopped since he arrived, **Corporals Lynn Black, 'Ging' Hunter** and **Pete Archard.** It may seem luxurious having so many Techs; however, the types and locations of the equipment they maintain are considerable.

The workshop is situated in a converted horse stable. Contrary to rumour and at times its state, it has been mucked out. It is a trifle small for the amount of equipment put through it. We have a RR, radio and a 5-unit workshop.

**Sergeant Colin Ramsay** runs the radio relay shop. At present he is sending most of the Troop grey, as they are taking him on driving instruction. He has so far proved that the clutch is almost superfluous as long as one's passengers have strong backs.

**Corporal 'Adge' Cutler** is constantly buried in B70s and will not believe that they are obsolete. We also have a **Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins** on a four-month tour from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment. He arrived on a Saturday, was in hospital by the following Saturday, had his appendix removed within two hours and is now enjoying two week's RR in the UK. Some people just can't adapt to the pace.

**Sergeant Bill Summers,** at present enjoying a free holiday at a well-known Belfast mountain resort, runs the radio workshop; **Sergeant 'BLR' Mick Burke** has fun with our D11s/D13s, which appear to dislike the climate or conditions over here and just switch off; **Corporal 'Slim Jim' Webb** fills the workshop more than most when he is not on Divis or behind the Squadron bar; **Sergeant Adam Fleck** is the only Geordie with an Irish accent on the Troop strength.

**Corporal Mick Buchan** heads our small line detachment. The variety of the tasks they tackle is considerable and they work throughout the province in all conditions (mainly rain). **Signalmen Jeff 'Rigger' Stork** and **'Mortis' Stocks** are his crew. **Jeff Stork** is a trained aerial rigger and has worked on most masts throughout the province. **Dave Stocks,** still under training, has yet to reach the top of a 12ft ladder.

We have not quite finished our personality parade; **Signalman Phil Cross** is about to take over R and I for a spell, having created enough havoc in every other department of the Troop.

Finally, Chief Stoker, bully and greaser in the Engine Room, sometimes known as the workshop, is the Foreman, **WO2 Bill Kent.** Proud to serve with such a crew, growing greyer but non the wiser every day and continually limping along. Who says you are too old at XXXXX for sports.

In our next contribution to the Wire we will attempt to acquaint readers with a normal day in Tech Troop. They usually start by donning a wet weather suit and venturing out into the rain. For further details see our next contribution—only in the Wire.

**DEPARTURES**

**R Signals**

**WO2 Gould, WO2 Leggott, Sergeant Robinson, Sergeant Beavan, Corporal Hatton, Corporal Ward, Corporal Farrant, Corporal Knowles and Lance-Corporal Sparkes.**

We wish you all the best in the future.

**ARRIVALS**

**R Signals**

**Captain Tilson, WO2 Vale, Staff-Sergeant Underwood, Sergeant Liddell, Sergeant Chapman, Corporal Sayer, Corporal Talbot, Corporal Tait, Lance-Corporal Harwood, Signalman Jones, Signalman Ramsay, Signalman Tupling, Signalman Scott, Signalman Treharne, Signalman Daley and Signalman Simmons.**

**VISITS**

The SO-in-C made his farewell visit to all Signals units in the province on 24th September. He spoke to just about every soldier in the Squadron and we were delighted to see him. Operationally it has been quiet here for a while and this subject came up in conversation with the Squadron. However, life here can always be relied upon to produce the unexpected and Comms Troop have since had a change of scenery with some patrolling in the Lower Falls, Divis Flats and Sandy Row areas of Belfast with Support Company of 1 Glosters.

**THE HILL**

Many have seen the film but only a few have experienced 'The Hill' and those who have suffered the torments of Divis Mountain very rarely speak of it. However, the winds of change also blow around Divis Mountain and gone is the sadistic CR Signals who thought of putting a radio relay detachment on the face of a mountain in the first place. In his place comes **Lieutenant-Colonel Last,** who decreed that Sherpa Tensing was far too old to lead resupply expeditions up the mountainside and started the military wheels rolling to have a road built to the top. This project has now been completed and vehicles can speed to the top of the mountain along a three-lane motorway. The obvious drawbacks (everybody and their brothers now wishing to view the scene from the top of Divis Mountain) are far outweighed by the fact that Squadron personnel such as **Corporal 'Ginge' Cowton, S.S.M. Bob Vale** and **Major Mike Walker** no longer need resuscitation every time they visit the detachment there.

To the RE detachment who worked so hard through adverse conditions we can only say those who were about to die salute you.

The only thing left to make the hutted encampment almost habitable is to make the water, which flows so freely off the mountain, retrace its steps in a controlled fashion.

**THE BELLS ARE RINGING!**

Here in 233 the Corps badge is being changed from Mercury to Cupid. To all the following Squadron personnel we wish long life and happiness and anticipate an increase in Corps recruiting figures it future years.

**Recent Marriages**

**Lance-Corporal Ryan** and **Jan Stowermark.**
**Lance-Corporal Berrington** and **Jean Rae.**
**Lance-Corporal Stainton** and **Lenore Wright.**
**Lance-Corporal Carmichael** and **Jacqueline Bazely.**
**Lance-Corporal Rosie Skeggs** (WRAC) and **Private Rees** (RPC).
**Private Sue Brotherhood** (WRAC) and **Lance-Corporal Wallace** (Int Corps).

**Forthcoming**

**Signalman Whitesmith,** May 1975.
**Signalman Krawieckyj,** February 1975.
**Corporal Cowton,** January 1975.

The moral, if you are looking for a wife, or husband for that matter, volunteer for 233 Signal Squadron, BFPO 801.

**FAREWELLS**

We say farewell and *bon voyage* to the following members of the Squadron:

**Staff-Sergeant Franks** and **Sergeant Whall.**

**HELLOS**

Hello and welcome, enjoy your stay, to **Staff-Sergeant Glover, Sergeant Meredith** and **Signalman Ralphs.**



# THE SERVICE YACHT PROFICIENCY SCHEME

## ITS EFFECT ON ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB MEMBERS

By **Major S. W. Read**

**INTRODUCTION**

THE Service Yacht Proficiency Scheme was introduced during 1974 by the three services to standardise the qualifications to take charge of and minimum manning standards for Service Yachts. DCI (General) S40/74, published in April 1974, lays down the criteria on training, examination and qualifications for offshore sailing as an adventurous training activity. The provisions laid down in the DCI become mandatory on 1st January 1975 for all sailing which is the subject of an Adventurous Training project founded wholly or in part from public funds or during which those taking part are deemed to be on duty.

**THE SERVICE YACHT PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE (SYPC)**

The SYPC is a record card showing the grade of offshore rating an individual has achieved. The ratings are detailed in DCI S40/74 against the equivalent grade in the National Scheme organised by the Royal Yacht Association. It is the intention of the Royal Signals Yacht Club to follow the grades shown in the DCI from the New Year. The SYPC for Royal Signals will be similar to the present membership card and will still be a certificate of membership of the Club. The Joint Services Sailing Centre (JSSC) at Hornet run courses for Yachthand, Day Skipper, Coastal Skipper, Offshore Skipper and Ocean Skipper throughout the sailing season and issue a slightly different form of SYPC. Both certificates are evidence of the grade an individual has achieved and either is valid evidence of achievement to all Service organisations. The other Service clubs may produce their own version of the SYPC which will also be valid evidence. SYPCs have been issued by JSSC throughout 1974. The course report and SYPC will have been sent to the successful individual's unit after each course by JSSC. Yacht.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYPC**

There are three categories of offshore grades which are equivalent and interchangeable. These three are currently:

1 Royals Signals Yacht Club grades—given in Royal Signals Yacht Club rules, 1973 edition.
2 SYPC grades—given in DCI (General) S40/74.
3 RYC grades—given in RYA booklet G15.

The Royal Signals Yacht Club grades will disappear from 1st January 1975 when the Corps changes to the SYPC.

The impact of the above is that members of the Royal Signals Yacht Club who have achieved a grade on the old scheme within the Corps will automatically qualify for the SYPC and will be sent a new membership card showing their SYPC grade. Members who have received a SYPC from the JSSC may apply to the Hon. Secretary, enclosing their SYPC, and in due course will receive a Corps membership card showing their grade. If members who have already achieved a grade in the Corps wish to apply for a RYA grade the Central Committee is empowered to certify RYA log-books up to Grade III and members should apply to the Hon. Secretary enclosing their RYA log book and their SYPC or equivalent certificate.

The Offshore Sub-committee of the Royal Signals Yacht Club has recently met to change the present grades to the equivalent SYPC grades. All serving members who have a grade on the present system should receive their new certificate in the near future. Anyone who has not received a new certificate by 1st February 1975 should apply to the Hon. Secretary requesting a certificate and furnishing evidence of achievement.

**DOCUMENTATION**

It is the intention that offshore grades of proficiency are entered on Servicemen's documents under the terms of DCIs (Army) T66/73 and T84/73. As previously mentioned, after an individual has qualified for a SYPC grade at JSSC the SYPC is sent to the unit. This is the authority for the publication of a Pt II/III order and the entry on the man's documents. So that an up-to-date record may be maintained by the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Signals Yacht Club it is the responsibility of the individual to pass a copy of the relevant Pt II/III order to the Hon. Secretary to ensure that he is listed in accordance with his SYPC in Club records. Conversely when an individual is awarded a SYPC by the Royal Signals Yacht Club it is his responsibility to ensure that the new grade is published in Pt II/III orders and recorded on his documents.

**TESTING**

The present form of application for a grade detailed in Royal Signals Yacht Club rules (1973 edition) will become invalid after 1st January 1975. An amendment to the rules is being written and will be published soon. The new section will closely follow the Annexures to DCI (General) 540–74 in the requirements for the various grades. A candidate for upgrading will be required to arrange for an Offshore Skipper or Ocean Skipper to test him and to complete a form 'Recommendation for Service Yacht Proficiency Certificate'. The recommendation which lists the experience of the candidate and the disciplines in which he has been tested, should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, who will arrange for it to be considered by the Offshore Sub-committee of the Royal Signals Yacht Club. Successful candidates will be notified and should then take the appropriate action to have the grade entered on his documents. The general level of experience necessary will be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Day Skipper | 15 days offshore including 5 full nights at sea. |
| Coastal Skipper | 20 days offshore including 7 full nights at sea. |
| Offshore Skipper | 45 days offshore including 15 full nights at sea. |

**NON-TIDAL WATERS**

The foregoing has been aimed at sailors going offshore from UK ports or in waters affected by tides. The policy for the Baltic and Mediterranean is that full SYPC will not be given until the requisite tidal experience has been achieved. A temporary certificate will be given.

The DCI covers these cases. Paragraph 19 of the DCI is reproduced below:

'19. Local qualification. When a Serviceman does not hold the full qualification required by this DCI, but the Service authority operating a public funded yacht is fully satisfied of his competence to take charge of a yacht for a specific training requirement or to operate in a specific area, the individual may be issued with a "Temporary Certificate". Examples are officers under training at RN coleges and yachts operating in the confined non-tidal waters near Kiel. Such a certificate is valid for specified yacht(s) belonging to that Service authority only and the qualification is NOT to be shown on the Service Yacht Proficiency Certificate'.

The policy has been laid down previously that Royal Signals Yacht Club (Cyprus) may issue local grades up to Coastal Skipper endorsed 'non-tidal' for sailing of Corps boats in the Mediterranean. The British Kiel Yacht Club has been awarding its own grades for many years. There is no change to either of these on the advent of the SYPC, except as detailed above, for Adventurous Training.

**RETIRED MEMBERS**

The MOD has ruled that an SYPC may be retained by a Serviceman on retirement or that a retired Serviceman may be granted a SYPC. The ASA have stressed that the SYPC merely certified that its holder had achieved a particular standard and it did not in itself confer eligibility to sail on any particular vessel or an Adventurous Training offshore. It is pointed out that retired members of Royal Signals Yacht Club are advised to go for RYA qualifications if they wish to retain a 'ticket' as these are nationally recognised. A retired member will not automatically receive a new certificate under the procedure previously mentioned. Any retired member wishing to qualify for a SYPC should, in the first instance, apply to the Retired Officer member of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Yacht Club at RHQ Royal Signals.

**SUMMARY**

1 The SYPC was introduced by DCI (General) S40/74.
2 For all Adventurous Training cruises after 1st January 1975 the DCI is mandatory.
3 The SYPC may be granted by JSSC or Royal Signals Yacht Club among others.
4 An individual is responsible for arranging for the Royal Signals Yacht Club to be informed of a SYPC gained at JSSC and for

ensuring the qualification, however achieved, is entered on his documents and Pt II/III orders.

5 Individuals are encouraged to apply for RYA grades; up to Grade II may be given by the Royal Signals Yacht Club.

6 Testing will become slightly more formal and the recommendation for upgrading may only be made by an Offshore or Ocean Skipper. The Royal Signals Yacht Club rules are being amended accordingly.

7 Procedures for non-tidal waters remain largely as they are. A full SYPC will only be granted after the requisite experience has been achieved.

8 Retired members may be granted a SYPC but are recommended to go for a national RYA qualifications.

# —News from Headquarters—

## Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

**GRADUATION, 'SUMMER' 1974**

TO refer to the celebration of Friday, 9th August, as 'Summer' Graduation Day is something of a sick joke. The weather was miserable: cool, cloudy and windy, although it did not rain—just. No doubt the changeover of Padres affected our customary fine-weather arrangements.

But there were bright spots: for one thing we had a welcome return visit, this time as Reviewing Officer, from **Major-General Max Sawers, C.B., M.B.E.,** the Signal Officer in Chief. Introducing him, the Commandant, **Colonel Gordon Neilson,** remarked that it would be nice for him to present his own prize: the first time this had happened.

**A/T R.S.M. Steve Hall** did not permit the unkind weather to affect the parade, which he commanded with as much apparent ease as he runs the 200 metres, though not quite so quickly, and which reached the customary high standard: 'first class', the SO-in-C called it. The Senior Squadron, 173 strong—is this a record?—were especially impressive, and needed a good few more bars of 'Auld Lang Syne' than usual. (One has always wondered why this was not played by the Pipe and Drums; this time it was.)

For prize-giving, to the chagrin of O.I.C. Drama, 'House Full' notices were possible long before the fanfare (for which **R.S.M. Meade** this time abolished the rehearsal!) heralded the arrival of the Signal Officer in Chief, the Mayor, and the Commandant.

**Colonel Neilson,** in a laudably concise speech, outlined the term's many sporting achievements, especially in cricket, athletics, swimming, tennis and cycling.

Speaking in his turn, **General Sawers** said that it was appropriate that almost his last appearance as Signal Officer in Chief should be here, where so many careers begin. The presence of so many relatives underlined, he thought, the impression of the Army as a family. **General Sawers** warned those leaving that they were going out into a world more troubled than it had ever been since World War II. At Harrogate, he said, they had led a somewhat sheltered life; they must now be prepared for a very different one. Here at the College they had learnt self-discipline, comradeship and loyalty—qualities they must stick to for the rest of their lives.

Before presenting the District of Harrogate Prizes, the Mayor, **Councillor Graham Bott,** said that he regarded it as an especial privilege to attend the first Graduation ever held in Harrogate: all its predecessors had been outside the Borough's actual boundaries. The new local government organisation, he said, had brought us even more 'dads' (a reference to the Council's standing in loco parentis to the College), the Council having increased from 28 to 60. He wondered whether, in these days of inflation, they were really doing their parental duty in presenting so small a sum as the Borough Prizes and undertook 'to do something about it'.

Two new trophies were presented for the first time: the Wessex Trophy, an elegant silver rose-bowl donated by the Bristol Branch of the Royal Signals Association, to be awarded annually to the best all-round apprentice from the West Country; and the Community Service Shield presented by **Major Bob Edwards** to mark his retirement after 46 years' service with Royal Signals. Carved by **Squadron-Leader Harry Smith,** the shield is to be awarded to the Squadron making the greatest contribution towards service to the community.

Prizewinners were:

**Master of Signals Prize** for the best all-round apprentice of the Senior Term: **A/T R.S.M. S. Hall.**

**Signal Officer in Chief's Award** for the outstanding Tradesman of the Senior Team: **A/T S. J. Churchman.**

**Commandant's Prize** for conduct, discipline and example: **A/T S.S.M. D. J. Bodily.**

**DAE's Prize** for outstanding academic progress at the College: **A/T M. Jones.**

The Signal Officer-in-Chief presents his own awards to A/T S. J. Churchman
*(Photo: Army Public Relations)*

**Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee** to the best apprentice of the Senior Term in each trade:

*TE Techs* **A/T S. J. Churchman**
**A/T Corporal E. P. Dolby**
**A/T Sergeant D. I. Smith**
**A/T S.S.M. R. J. Underwood**
*R Tech* **A/T Corporal M. Altham**
*RR Tech* **A/T Sergeant M. J. Taylor**
*R Tg* **A/T Lance-Corporal W. R. Bacon**
*S Tg* **A/T C. A. Marshall**
*Data Tg* **A/T G. I. Phillips**

**Wessex Trophy** to the best all-round apprentice from the west country: **A/T Sergeant G. A. Huzzey-Morgan**

**Telegraphist Wing Morse Transmitting Prize** for accuracy, style and speed: **A/T Lance-Corporal W. R. Bacon**

**Community Service Shield** for the greatest contribution to service to the community: **Bradley Squadron**

**The District of Harrogate Prize** for the best essay on local government:

*Tech* **A/T Lance-Corporal D. I. Walker**
*Tg* **A/T Sergeant A. F. Crilly**

**The Champion Squadron Cup: Phillips Squadron**

**COLLEGE ATHLETES' FINE SEASON**

The College Athletics team continued where it left off in 1973 with another highly successful season.

Early-season wins were registered over Leeds Grammar School and Bolton School on the 352-yard track at Leeds. These were followed by the Royal Signals Training Brigade meeting at Catterick, where it was decided that teams should enter on a squadron basis. The result was that the College provided five teams in the first six; a team representing the Permanent Staff narrowly beat Phillips Squadron for first place.

Victories followed against Sheffield University, York University and the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, and the Under-18 section of the Club went to Oswestry for the Army Qualifying Round. After close competition throughout, Chepstow emerged winners by one point over the College team.

A tie with Carnegie College of P.E. prefaced the Triangular Games at Arborfield, in which the defeats by Chepstow in last year's meeting and in the previous week's encounter were duly avenged, the College scoring its best win in this meeting for years.



Ampleforth College and York Youths were next to suffer defeat and the Senior (Over-18) team produced a remarkable performance in beating four adult major units to qualify for the Army Senior Final.

A much weakened team travelled to Cleckheaton for what it was thought would be a quiet Sunday friendly—only to be confronted with the might of Sheffield City Athletic Club, **John Sherwood** and all. This meeting was, however, an excellent warm-up for the Army Finals on the new all-weather track at Aldershot.

The Junior Team Final was a success most of the way: the earlier defeat by Chepstow in the qualifying round was again avenged, and **A/T Sergeant Dave Taylor** received the Championship bowl from **Major-General Cornock** to mark the College's second successive win.

In the Army Junior Individual Championships, nineteen medals were won—ten more than by any other unit—and the 4 × 100 metres relay team smashed the old record by 0·9 seconds in recording 43·5 seconds. **A/T Lance-Corporal Karl Potter, A/T R.S.M. Steve Hall, A/T Sergeant Steve Spink** and **A/T Corporal Mark Ypey** are to be congratulated on setting up what is sure to be one of the fastest Junior 4 × 100 metres times this year. Following the Championships no fewer than eighteen of the Club were selected to represent the Army Under-20 in the annual fixture against Wales Under-20.

Further victories were achieved over York Youths, Airedale & Spen Valley and finally, on a very wet evening, Leeds City Athletic Club Under-20—one of the strongest junior teams in the country.

The Over-18 team took on the might of the adult Army in the Senior Final and finished a creditable 4th out of 7, behind 21 Signal Regiment, 2nd Grenadier Guards, and a mere one point below 7 Signal Regiment.

Many individuals have contributed to the success of the team, but especial mention must surely be made of **A/T R.S.M. Steve Hall,** who has really made a name for himself, not only in Army circles but at high-class civilian meetings also. He has won Army Junior, Senior and Combined Services Colours; he holds the Army Junior and Yorkshire Under-20 200 metres and 400 metres records; and finished 4th in the National Under-20 200 metres, in a time of 21·8 seconds. During his summer leave, in a Combined Services match against Southern Counties, the A.A.A., and the British Police, he ran the 200m in 21·9 seconds, breaking the Army Senior record for this event, which had stood since 1931.

Shortly afterwards, he fulfilled one of his ambitions when he represented Great Britain Under-20 against Southern Counties Seniors, but the highlight of his athletics career to date came when he ran the 200 metres for Great Britain in the BBC-televised match against West Germany on 14th September.

**Steve Hall** now has his sights set on the 1976 Olympics for which he is clearly a promising prospect; much, no doubt, will depend on how he is handled—and where he is posted—in the meantime.

## Royal Signals HQ, Afnorth

| | |
|---|---|
| Headquarters Signal Officer | **Major R. J. Savage** |
| Staff Officer Electronic Warfare | **Major C. F. Lewis** |
| Chief of Communications Security | **Major (Tfe.) P. F. Metcalfe** |
| Administrative Officer CANDE | **W.O.2 Hewett** |
| Communications Centre Supervisor | **W.O.2 Burgess** |
| Signal Stores Supervisor | **R.Q.M.S. Kerr** |

**HQ AFNORTH—SUMMER REPORT**

THE chiefs have their mention above, but before giving the Indians their turn we should recall the departure of the late HSO, **Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Skelly, T.D.,** who left the Corps after 30 years' service, the last three and a half of them here in Oslo. Our best wishes to him in his new life in the world of commerce.

In Oslo the normal winter sports are played in the surprisingly warm summer and the *real* winter sports keep us busy in winter (**Lance-Corporal Bill Strachan** is still telling us about last year's ski shoot).

**Rugger.** Despite **Sergeants Leo Smale's** and **Jack Ayre's** efforts for the AFNORTH team, the Oslo Club were defeated 21—4.

**Soccer.** Kolsås FC has won the Norwegian Seventh Division championship with a record number of goals, but not even the newly promoted **Staff-Sergeant** ('Congratulations but it's all done with a pin,) **Harry Lund** was invited to play against Scotland. **Jack Ayre** also keeps his thirst in trim on the soccer field by tackling the corner flags, giving poor eyesight as the excuse for this aggression.

**Scuba Diving. Staff-Sergeants John Walker** and **'Bunny' Rolfe,** together with **Cpl. 'Grey' Probert,** have been seen initiating **Corporal Ian Bramham** into the gentle art of surviving Oslo fjords' mud, ships, jellyfish and temperature. No frostbite has been reported yet.

**Shooting.** In the UK element soldiers rifle team **Bill Strachan, John Walker, Sargeant Dave Clark** and **Bill Kerr** hope to make the UK six and beat the four other teams. In the officers' pistol competition **Bob Savage** has made the UK team after much practice in preparation for his final solution to HF comms in northern latitudes.

**Masochism,** a well-known local sport. There is a group of hearties—including one of our attractive exchange operators—who twice a week run up our local mountain at lunchtime. Hence The Twice a Week Club, which the HSO thought stood for something quite different. **Peter Metcalfe,** as the oldest, fittest communicator around, is always running up that mountain. But wait till the winter. . . .

**Communications and Electronics Division.** Not a new sport this, but our correspondent down among the staff writes:

'With 54 people in CE Division the 3 Royal Signals personnel, **Peter Metcalfe** of Twice a Week Club fame, **W.O.2 Hewett** and **Sergeant Cudd** are well and truly outnumbered, but they manage to hold their own and keep 'Jimmy' flying high. In the Admin Section we see **Tony Hewett** "floating" around wondering what his next job is going to be. After two years in his post he still complains that the CE parties use up his booze ration. Also in the Admin we have **Brian Cudd** with a look of relief on his face after completing his Staff-Sergeant/Chief Clerk's course'.

*Note:* **Messrs. Cudd and Hewett** are due to leave AFNORTH in May and September respectively. Applications to Royal Signals Manning and Records Office, ASP, if you want a tour in Norway.

**Maintenance. Sergeant 'Rock' Hudson** (that pin has been busy) is our newly arrived technician. In the best tradition of the Corps he always arrives at faulty equipment carrying hammer and pliers. He can't smile because of the screwdriver gripped in his teeth. Some of our equipment is still working, though.

**Next Thrilling Instalment.** We will send in another report in early '75 to tell you about our Christmas celebrations (with 43 Danish women Air Force operators), **Bill Kerr's** rooty gong party, winter sports (outdoor definitely—indoor subject to censor), this year's ski shoot and whether **John Walker's** request for an even remoter posting (AYT in Bradford) was accepted.

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## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 46

**FAREWELLS**

IT was with great sadness we have said goodbye to **Major Keith Allwright,** but wish him every succes in his new job, and in his stead welcome **Major Bill Morgan** as the Regiment's new Second in Command; we also said goodbye to **W.O.2 Jimmy Letham** (A & SH) and wish him and his wife **Jessie,** the very best in their new life in Australia, and we welcome in his place **W.O.2 Joe Ashbridge** (Gordons) as our new CSM RHQ Squadron.

**HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE CALLED 'STAFF CARR'**

This month most of the Regiment was involved in two Brigade FTXs—12 Mech Bde and 4 Gds Bde. The RAF used control HQ at Sunninghausen as a practice target for strafing runs at 0630hrs each morning, which amused the staff no end. To relieve the pressure Med Ops became one of the best organised Casino's the author has ever seen. While all this was happening Miskin's Mob (late the Skaify's Skivers) better known as Comcen E spent their time creeping around in the dark on the Lubbecke Ridge on exercise 'Sneaky Peak'. During this a classic comment came from **Driver Johnny Carr,** who said 'he did not fancy promotion, as the thought of being called "Staff Carr" was just too much'.

2 Squadron spread themselves around Germany from Todendorf in the North to Haag in the South on exercise 'Antennas Galore, as usual, using any excuse for a swan.

For those who escaped the rigours of the brigade FTXs there was adventure to be had in Italy.

## 7 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 15

**CANOEING—PLENTY OF ENTHUSIASM**

AFTER the Canoe Club's success in the Rhine Area white-water canoe race in April interest in canoeing within the Regiment greatly increased and the club has been active all season. Several events have been run at Binde Muhle, near Hildesheim including an Anglo-German competition, and the club has acquitted itself well in all events.

**Corporal Derek Coker** has undoubtedly proved the most enthusiastic and expert member of the club, and besides representing BAOR in the Army Slalom Competition in May he has done extremely well in all events this year. **Signalman Pete Doughty** also deserves a mention as being the most promising new canoeist. In a short space of time he has become a very proficient slalom canoeist and it was unfortunate for the Regiment that he was away in Norway during the 4 Division Slalom Competition.

The highlight of the season was the 4 Division Slalom Competition, which was held on 21st September. The competition was organised by the Regiment and was held on the River Werre in the centre of Herford over the same course used for the German national event the following weekend. The course consisted of 27 gates spread over about a kilometre and the flow of water had been considerably increased by the opening of the control gates further upstream.

The following weekend the Regiment assisted the local German club in the organisation of the German national event, which was a great success, and we are now very welcome at the club. In fact, **Corporal Derek Coker** was invited to compete for the top team of the Herford Kanu Club in the event and was placed 16th.

Although the Regiment did not win the 4 Division Slalom, they put up a creditable performance with **Second-Lieutenant Hugh Bardell** being placed second in the novices competition and **Corporal Derek Coker** being placed fourth in the open competition.

**RUGBY FOOTBALL—GOOD START TO SEASON**

Although we lost a few stalwarts from the Rugby Club at the end of last season, some welcome additions have arrived here since then, notably **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Keith Zoing,** our new 1st XV captain, and **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Bert Taylor,** both of whom are well known in Corps rugby circles. Brains as well as brawn is now the cry.

We started the 1974–75 season with a bang, winning the Double Diamond trophy in August for the second year running. Mid-September saw us on a very enjoyable UK tour based on 8 Signal Regiment in Catterick. Whilst there we played four games, losing to Catterick Services XV and Huddersfield 2nd XV and beating 8 Signal Regiment and Whitby RFC. We would like to thank our hosts, 8 Signal Regiment, for arranging the tour and for their excellent hospitality. It was a pleasure to meet old friends again.

The club is now running three fifteens on a regular basis and we have a full fixture list covering Wednesdays and Saturdays. The 1st XV is settling down and looks promising for a good run at the Army Cup.

A special mention must go to **Staff-Sergeant (S.S.I.) Eddie Davies,** APTC, who has taken over the fitness training of the 1st XV. He is reputed to be even more ingenious at devising agonising training schedules than our coach, **Staff-Sergeant Jim Tunney.**

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

**1 SQUADRON**

NO. 5 Troop passed off on 20th September, which was a chilly but bright day. **Colonel J. P. Hart, O.B.E.,** the Commanding Officer of 8 Signal Regiment, took the salute and presented the prizes to the best recruit, **Signalman Leach,** and the best rifle shot, **Signalman Oliver.**

The next troop to pass off will be No. 4 Troop. Here is a contribution from an anonymous member of that troop:

**CHAIN OF COMMAND BALLAD**

A Signalman went to his NCO
And said to him, 'It worries me so'
What is it that is so awful?
'It's not your wife; it's not your bairns.
I'll have to call in Corporal Cairns'.
So our tearful lad in combat smock
Told his tale to Corporal Jock.
Archie threw up his hands in dismay,
Said 'I must take this problem away'.
To Sergeant Daglees young Archie went.
Sergeant's knee was correctly bent
As he was in turn perplexed.
'I'll take this query to the front',
And quick marched in to Mr. Hunt.
Mr. Hunt then blew his top,
Cried 'This sort of thing has got to stop'.
He had some coffee to make him calmer,
Then went to see S.S.M. Palmer,
Who pushed his cap to the back of his head.
While he did so his face went red,
'I don't know if I really should.
But I'll take this up to Captain Hood'.
Our fearless Captain knew not what to do,
So on his pencil began to chew.
Inspiration came, so for a laugh
He took the problem to Major Scarff.
The Major first looked for his dog,
Who was sleeping like a log.
'Should I take this problem higher
Or throw it all straight in the fire?'
He thought shall I telephone Taunton,
Then decided to go and see R.S.M. Walton.
Our smart soldier-like R.S.M.
Coughed, spluttered and said 'Ahem,
The man's gone mad, but I won't say'. Instead
He carried our problem to Captain Whitehead,
Who seemed at first to have gone to ground,
But after a search he was found.
He said 'I've got work piled up to my teeth
Please take this through to Major Macheath'.
The Major was sat behind his desk instead
And after several cups of tea
Said, 'This problem is too big for me'.
And so our problem found itself
Upon the very highest shelf.
After lengthy thought Colonel Pratt
Whispered, 'Yes, I'll authorise that.
Take this form across to the Stores
And get some polish for 4 Troop floors!'

**2 SQUADRON**

Hooge Barracks has been renovated at a cost of £50,000 to accommodate the Squadron. **Major 'Willy' Robotham** was relieved of his soft desk job as 2IC of 8 Signal Regiment and given the enviable task of commanding the Squadron. Along with his cadre of officers and NCOs he set about his task of preparing to accept the juniors into the Corps. This included many heart-breaking hours of preparing the training programme which was devised by the NCOs under the watchful eye of **Captain Frank Rogers,** the Squadron Officer.

The 10th September had been named as the magic day when the juniors finally arrived. Some 270 boys between the ages of 16 and 17 years old converged on Catterick and the Junior Signalman Squadron was at last a viable proposition. The first week was spent in the usual chaos of medicals, issuing of kit and generally 'settling in'.

The Junior Soldiers quickly settled into the routine of military life and adapted themselves to the training programme. They shown a remarkable appetite for military training, education, sport and, of course, food. Some of the smallest members of the Squadron seem to have the ability to eat their own weight in food, a compliment surely to hard-worked cooks of the Army Catering Corps. Our education staff under **Major Tom Shovlin,** RAEC, are also full of compliments about the way in which the juniors have settled into the task of education.

In the meantime our handsome, debonair and athletic Troop Officers (I wonder who wrote this) at last found out the exact meaning of hard work. **Lieutenant Tim Bushell** soon discovered that he had less time before he started work in the morning to arrange his social diary for the day. It is just as well he arrives reasonably early as he seems to be the only person capable of turning on the radiators to give us much needed heat. **Lieutenants Mike Anderson, Harry Ross, Malcolm McKinlay, Martin Strong** and **Dick Hoyle** spend all of their time dressed either in barrack dress or track suits, depending on the troop activity in progress at any one time. **Lieutenant Willy Brewin** is even talking of giving up golf and hockey because he cannot spare enough time from his troop. Things must be serious indeed. We must now qualify for the title of the hardest-worked group of subalterns in the British Army!

However, the NCOs have not been forgotten and it must be recorded in print that the NCOS, under **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Ray Briant,** are the very best in the Corps. Somehow they seem to remain cheerful under the very many stresses and strains presented to them daily. Perhaps most of the problems are presented to and solved by our S.Q.M.S., **Staff-Sergeant Jim Young.** He has not yet committed suicide and this deserved a special mention. We are a happy family Squadron and gaining much valuable experience and immense enjoyment and satisfaction in the part we are playing in training the Royal Signals of the future.

**3 SQUADRON**

Students: **Sergeants Ian McLellan, 'Scouse' Williamson, Bill Olive, Dave Thurston, John Milne-Day, John ('The Driver') Keane, John ('The Storeman') Keen, Bob ('Legs') Taylor, Paddy Lowe, Pete Cannon, Len ('Woodentop') Broadbent, Derek ('Chucka') Fred, 'Taff' Ricketts, John Ackers, John Atkinson, 'Lofty' ('Schnozelymer') Budworth, Brian ('Hairy Legs') Cartwright.**

The course gathered together on the evening of 8th July in the Sergeants Mess, 11 Signal Regiment, and a few 'jars' were sunk to celebrate old reunions and new acquaintances. Next day dawned and RSM's best dress inspection came and went, along with some belts, hats and an assortment of collar dogs and 'best' boots. The comments on our turn-out were colourful to say the least and the general feeling amongst the students was one of awe and as one student was heard to remark, 'He told me not to wear my denims on his best dress inspection again'.

Days flew by as technicians, tele mechs, clerks and a host of radio and data telegraphists underwent the rigours of 10-mile bashes, PFA tests, TOETS, intake tests of various descriptions and the nightly routine of 'planned interior economy'.

New and wonderous manoeuvres on the drill square were uncovered before our eyes. The 'British Army Halt was the course students' favourite drill movement, closely followed by saluting on the march to a flank. **Captain (Q.M.) A. S. R. Alfred** (11 Signal Regiment's answer to the Drill Manual) remarked quite frequently 'That was not the British Army halt or salute' as 17 different types of salutes and halts (including the Turkish application) were arrayed before his eyes.

The about turn on the march in slow time presented a particular problem for **'Lofty' Budworth** (now known as 'One Stop'), who was convinced that he was the only one on the course who was observing the correct timing. Naturally enough, he was soon proved wrong after a quick demo by the DS staff accompanied by verbal instructions.

Our resident tele mech, **Sergeant Derek ('Chuka') Fred,** when asked how he was progressing through the course, replied, 'Fair only; fair, but I get better every day'. Self-praise apart, as days flew by it could indeed be seen and said that progress was being made, thanks to the firm but fair guidance by the instructors.

Tests were taken and heated discussions in the Mess immediately afterwards were the order of the day. Answers were various, dubious and hilarious. Then Warcop Week was upon us. Many adjectives passed the lips of weary men as night patrols and ambushes were carried out through bog and marsh over hill and dale, but, glad to say, no injuries or lost bodies were reported. Warcop culminated on Friday, 9th August, with everybody's favourite pastime—'section attacks'. It was reported that a few kit checks took place during the final phase, but nothing was reported missing.

The course finally wound up with a course dinner in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, 11 Signal Regiment, and all were unanimous in their praise of cuisine and service from the Mess staff.

**ORIENTEERING**

After the summer recess 11 Signal Regiment Orienteering Club has sparked into great activity. **Lieutenant Malcolm McKinlay,** recently arrived from BAOR, started well by winning the Wark Forest event on 15th September. This was also the first competition entered by the Junior Signalmen of 2 Squadron.

A course of very different terrain was presented at Bramham Park with **Lieutenants Malcolm McKinlay, Dick Hoyle** and **Dick Gittings** doing well. On the M15 course **Junior Signalmen Garry Luck, 'Cockney' James** and **'Jock' McCarry** finished in satisfactory times. Winner of the M21B course was **Lieutenant Ray Lloyd-Jones,** an ex-member of the Regiment and now serving with 1 LI.

The main event for the regimental team was the Training Brigade Royal Signals Championships held on 25th September. Although 8 Signal Regiment won the team prize, 11 Signal Regiment had the first three runners home in **Lieutenants Dick Hoyle, Malcolm McKinlay** and **Dick Gittings. Junior Signalman Herrmann** finished a creditable 16th.

After having joined the Army on 10th September ten Junior Soldiers of 2 Squadron competed in the Army Junior Orienteering Championships held in the Tweed Valley on Sunday, 29th September. The course was very tough and the map, although good, was complicated. Many competitors failed to complete the course, but the 2 Squadron team finished a very creditable third in the six minor units event, a sterling effort after so little training and a good base for Corps orienteers of the future. Individual results of merit were achieved by **Junior Signalmen 'Cockney' James, Garry Luch, 'Welsh' Grattidge, John Herrmann, Chris Reeves** and **'Leo' Sayers.**

**MARRIAGE**

The Regiment congratulates **Captain Pat Kington** on his recent marriage and extends best wishes to him and his wife, **Cicely.**

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

**HELICOPTER TRAINING**

ON the 11th September we wondered what had hit us as Wessen and Chinook helicopters twisted and twirled on and off the sports field. The Wessen helicopters were organised by **Sergeant Brian Langford** as a familiarisation exercise for 2 Squadron. Men jumped in and out of the helicopters from varying heights. Roping down from 20 to 30 feet was also carried out though, when doing it, it seemed more like 100 feet. Later in the day attack and defence exercises were carried out using the helicopters on the Leuth training area.

During the morning's activities a large Luftwaffe Chinook joined the dance over Francisca Barracks playing fields and came down blowing all, including half our rubberised cricket pitch, before it. It was the new CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Byrne** first day in the chair. He, obviously unused to such goings on, disentangled himself from the nearby trees, where he had been

THE THINGS YEOMEN ARE ASKED TO DO!
W.O.1 (Y. of S.) Tom Martin roping down from a helicopter

blown, and staggered after his Second-in-Command, **Major Mike Allen,** to welcome the NATO military budget committee as they descended from the aircraft. We are hoping we convinced the committee we are spending NATO funds carefully and have an urgent need for DM36,000 for a heating installation in our new multi-purpose training hall.

**SAD FAREWELL**

The regiment sadly said farewell in September to **Lieutenant-Colonel Dudley Carnie** and his wife **Pat.** They had an exhausting last week with farewell functions from the Wives' Club, Sergeants' Mess and Officers' Mess, to name a few.

The Sergeants' Mess threw **Dudley** out of a window into the all-embracing arms of **R.S.M. Peter Harris,** who told him to 'Take Five' and plonked him upon a cannon for towing out of camp. The cannon being the one **Dudley** won for the Regiment on one of his many sailing trips to Kiel.

To dine **Pat** and **Dudley** out the officers and their wives had a superb nine-course dinner, under canvas, on the croquet lawn. This was due to the Officers' Mess still being unusable owing to extensive PSA alterations. The evening went well and after a farewell speech by **Major Mike Allen, Dudley** and **Pat** were presented with a replica of the NORTHAG Franciscan Axe. In return **Dudley** made a speech and presented the Mess with a silver table centre piece of two ducks.

The evening was brought to a close by **Dudley** and **Pat** being towed, the long way round, in a dinghy by the officers. When they approached the guardroom a final sprint was achieved and they were transferred to a staff car for the drive home.

The farewell parade was held on the 10th September. It was commanded by **Major Mike Allen.** The salutes were taken on the first and second march pasts by **Lieutenant-Colonel Carnie, M.B.E.,** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Byrne,** respectively.

As we all say farewell to **Dudley** and **Pat,** and wish them well at MOD, we welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Byrne** and his wife **June,** and hope they have a happy and successful tour with the Regiment. (Rumour has it that he does not sail.) The **Adjutant** assures us this will change!

**ANNUAL FETE**

The last event of note in September was our Annual Fete. It was held in the stadium of our local town of St Tonis on the 21st September and started with the yearly conflict of 'It's a Knock-out' between teams from the Regiment's Squadrons, the town and the Belgian Squadron, who share our barracks. As always it was a great success and well organised by **Captain Peter Brown.** Our Belgian compatriots were the winners this year and received, from **Mrs. June Byrne,** silver plates, beer mugs for the men and bottles of perfume for the ladies. After this the fete proper started and all concerned had worked hard to produce some very successful stalls. As usual the ducking stool was very successful, particularly when our large Adjutant, **Captain Mike Shaw,** dressed in yachting cap and oilskins, was the target.

## News from Squadrons

### 6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
### B.F.P.O. 106

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major F. R. Maynard** |
| 2IC | **Captain A. T. B. Kimber** |
| OC 'A' Troop | **Captain M. R. Stone** |
| 2IC 'A' Troop | **Second-Lieutenant R. M. Crombie** |
| OC 'B' Troop | **Lieutenant R. T. Hoole** |
| Quartermaster | **Captain P. Smurthwaite, B.E.M., S.A.S.** |
| Admin Officer | **Captain K. J. Pinkard, M.B.E.,** Cheshires |
| MTO | **Captain A. R. M. Smith, R.C.T.** |
| RSM | **W.O.1 T. Balch** |
| RQMS | **W.O.2 K. D. Cheetham** |
| Yeoman | **W.O.2 D. Allen** |
| Foreman | **Staff-Sergeant W. B. Smart** |
| ORSQMS | **Staff-Sergeant J. Roberts** |

**ATHLETES SHOW GOOD POTENTIAL**

THE hot sunny weather (?) has produced some of our better moments this year. On the sporting side our great success was to qualify for the Army Athletics Championships in UK. This was achieved by an enthusiastic squad, none of whom could be really termed a gladiator. Training started early with the Squadron sports in early May. The team worked up for the Morrison Cup in early June. Here we struck with bad luck with our high jumper **Driver Burr** injuring himself a week before the event. Our reserve for the event was unfortunately having to look after his wife as she was about to produce a child, so our second reserve

SQUADRON ATHLETICS TEAM

*Standing:* Lance-Corporal Reid, Lance-Corporal Nicholson, Lance-Corporal Procter, Private Sanders, Lance-Corporal Roberts, Sergeant Jones, Lieutenant Hoole

*Sitting:* Signalman Bowley, Signalman Wyles, Signalman Maslen, Signalman Trivett



was rushed in without much training. Our result of 4th was very welcome indeed and hopes are high for next year. The 4 Div stage of the BAOR athletics was the following week and we were able to romp home comfortable winners from 20 OFP. Saturday, 6th July saw us once again gathered at Sennelager, this time for the BAOR Athletics. Fate was against us when **Lance-Corporal Roberts** did three no throws in discus, and it was with a mixture of surprise and joy when it was announced that we had come second to 229 Signal Squadron, only half a point in front of 4 Guards Brigade. Only two teams were due to go to UK but due to an administrative failure it was decided that the top three would go. In the UK we came up against the best of the UK units and after our 200m runner, **Lance-Corporal Reid,** was disqualified all hope of doing well faded. The team are looking forward to next year when it is hoped to be able to do better.

**SQUADRON OPEN DAY**

Due to the current trend in weather conditions over our particular part of West Germany, the burning question was, is it going to be a 'knock-out' or a 'washout'.?

Fortunately the Gods were kind to us for although overcast and blustery the day remained dry and our open day commenced at 1030hrs with our version of 'It's a Knockout'. Four teams provided by 'A' Troop, 'B' Troop plus HQ, MT and LAD. Each team consisted of eight men and four ladies. It was noted that **Mrs. Jill Maynard,** wife of the OC, deserted SHQ and played for Bravo and Bde HQ Troop.

The next two hours were taken up by the competition, consisting of such games as wheelbarrow bumps, balloon banging, balancing bins, hot shot, the lancer and bobbly ball. And, of course in the true condition of Jeux sans frontiere it involved water and cunning devices called obstacles. After all the scores were totalled MT/LAD Troops were declared the winners and were presented with a fine pair of 4oz boxing gloves to hang in their trophy case.

While all this had been going on the spectators had been catered for in the way of a bar, hot drinks and hamburger stand provided by our ACC specialist, **Sergeant Colin Pallot,** renowned for his 'lack' of knowledge of football.

At the appointed hour of 1400 the open day fete started. All kinds of stall opened up, there were trips to the moon (in the form of a model Appollo space ship secured over a Land-Rover), train rides, 432 rides and pony rides. One amazing diversion, amongst many, was to guess the weight of 'Baby Arbuckle', **Lance-Corporal John Ingleby** in diaper (bath towel) and babies bonnet, size 7, supported by a pram with 432 springs welded on, being pushed around the park by a much padded and min-skirted **Lance-Corporal John McAveety.**

The day eventually wound up around 1700hrs and amazingly even the sun was shining. A big vote of thanks and congratulations should go to all concerned in making a very well-planned and executed Open Day 1974.

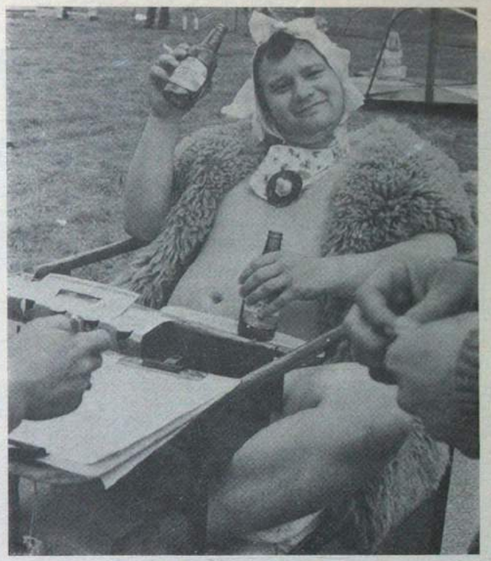
**SUMMER CAMP 1974**

This year's summer camp was held in the nature park surrounding the Diemelsee. This beautiful area, approximately 50 miles West of Kassel, provided us with all the facilities necessary to enable us to conduct training in canoeing, trekking, climbing and orienteering. The Officer Commanding, **Major Roy Maynard,** refused an application for two weeks R & R submitted by **W.O. (Y. of S.) Derek Allen** to help get over the rigours of organising and running the camp. **Staff-Sergeant Harry Creedy** was appointed Camp RSM and spent some considerable time helping to seal Anglo-German relations with the various German youth organisations, mainly female, that were accommodated on the camp site we used. **Segeants Dennis Cufflin** and **Colin Pallot** (ACC) took care of the very necessary comforts of booze and nosh and apart from **Dennis** failing to land any fish in the three weeks that he was there, and **Colin** having thirty steaks stolen one night, they came up with the 'goods'.

**Corporal Graham Twisse** didn't drown any canoeists, neither did **Sergeant Dave Darlington** or **Corporals Pete Holder** and **Derek Owen** drop anyone down a cliff face. **Sergeant Robbie Hamilton,** though, managed to lose quite a few on the 30-mile trek, as did **Lance-Corporals Brian McGill** and **Bod Reid** on the orienteering.

**CAMP COMMANDANTS**

The poor old camp commandants, **Captains Alan Browne** and **Ken Pinkard** (Cheshires), really had the pressure put to them so much so in fact that **Alan** only managed a couple of days golfing and **Ken** only managed to keep his family with him for his ten days of hell.



GUESS MY WEIGHT?
Lance-Corporal John Ingleby as 'Baby Arbuckle' at the Squadron open day

**VISITOR**

The Brigade Commander, **Brigadier H. S. L. Dalzell-Payne, C.B.E.,** visited us for the day and was upset in that he felt too old to take part in the activities he saw. He also commented on the values of adventurous training and as our grandiose aim for the camp was 'to provide all ranks with the opportunity to develop their self-confidence and individual initiative' those who organised the 'happening' feel justifiably proud that the aim was achieved.

**RECRUITING**

**Dean Oliver Allen,** son of our Yeoman, was formally enlisted into the Corps by our OC, **Major F. R. Maynard,** on the 6th August, 1974. **Dean** is going to train as a R Tg and has now left for the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate.

WELCOME TO THE CORPS
*Left to right:* Captain Pinkard, Mrs. Allen, W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Allen, Dean Allen (off to Harrogate) and Major Maynard (O.C. Squadron)

**IF THE CAP FITS!**

And the Lord said unto TWO-IC 'Where are the SEE-E-EYES which I hast commandeth thee to produce in my absence'.
And TWO-IC said unto the Lord 'Verily I have had one Y. of S. posted and one on leave of absence. The Record supplier hath let me down, even though the new Y. of S. hath been on order for nigh on three weeks'...
And the Lord said unto TWO-IC 'I want the SEE-E-EYES finished. You have seven days and seven nights'.
And the TWO-IC said 'It will be so'.
And it was not so.
And the Lord said unto TWO-IC 'What seemeth to be the trouble this time'?
And the TWO-IC said 'The scribe has left for pastures new. The printers are on strike and Y. of S. hath seen the physician and is returning to the mainland'.
The Lord grew angry and said 'What do I say to the Dee-ques and Bee-ems that I hath ordered to go out on crusade'.
And the TWO-IC said 'The Y. of S. is definitely in the warehouse, but the supplier waiteth only upon his servant to find the invoices before he taketh delivery'.
The Lord said 'Where are the R Tgs and Cbt Rmn' and the TW-IC wrung his hands saying 'Lord, Lord, it would appear they are a discontinued line, thou cannost get them for love or money'.
And the Lord said unto TWO-IC 'It hath just been told unto me that Y. of S. sold only in half dozens and to obtain one you must surrender six cbt rmn, but alas they have been delivered unto the wrong address in Reading'.
TWO-IC kissed the earth and said 'Lord, thou knowest in thy wisdom what it is like with delivery dates but I do not believeth that six cbt rmn equal one Y. of S.'
And the Lord in his wisdom said 'TWO-IC my son, I understand your bewilderment. I knowest. Why elst dost thou think I have arranged for the old one to be posted.
And it was so.

**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Allen** leaves us in March 1975 for pastures not yet known. He will be a great loss to the Squadron.

## 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 37

WHEN joining a new squadron there seems to be no better way of getting to know how the squadron works and who are its personalities than by being given the task of writing the next issue of WIRE notes. Since we last went to press there have been a variety of activities, including a Brigade open day and our major FTX of the season—namely exercise 'Red Rat.

As well as these two events the newly formed Soltau Canoe Club started off true to form by stepping in at the deep end and organising a canoe expedition, appropriately named exercise 'Weser Rat'.

### CANOE EXPEDITION

The trip was planned for late August, to last for 10 days and the party led by **Corporal Gus Gardener** (9/12 L) were to canoe the river Weser from Minden to Bremerhaven, a distance of nearly 300 miles. The other members of the team were **Sergeant Rick Browne** (AAC), **Corporal Jock O'Reilly, Lance-Corporals Ray Harris** and **John Birbeck** and **Signalman Bob Pepper, Pete Thompson, Mel O'Neil, 'Ginge' Allen** and **'Paddy' McIntyre.** Apart from the admin wagon breaking down and having to be towed to Sennelager with all the expedition kit on board, the expedition went very well. However, many of the lads found the 60 km a day, that had been planned as the target, quite hard going, especially as most of them had only been in a canoe for about six hours total, and it was a credit to all of them that they all had the determination to keep going despite the blisters. On schedule the expedition arrived at Bremerhaven and now the Soltau Canoe Club is looking forward to a more ambitious trip next year.

### OPEN DAY MEANS PLENTY TO DO

Whilst those of the expedition were paddling hard down the Weser the remainder of the Squadron was working towards that

PRESENTATION

Brigadier M. B. Farndale receiving a pewter plate inscribed with the Soltau coat-of-arm from Burgermeister Rothart on the occasion of the 7th Armoured Brigade open day

day at the end of August that was to see a repeat of an event that had previously taken place ten years earlier—7 Armoured Brigade was to hold an 'Open Day'. The Brigade is well scattered with units in Hohne, Minden, Celle and a few more sundry places as well as in Soltau; however, Soltau was deemed to be the venue, and so the Squadron found itself doing the lion's share of the work—again!

For over a week beforehand, the Squadron's linemen, led by **Sergeant Bill Banks,** could be seen festooning the barracks with cable, both for the telephones that would be needed and for the two, yes two, PA systems. **Sergeants Pete Cole** and **Dave McClenaghan,** ably assisted by the 'Rent-a-Fatigueman' offices in 'A' and 'B' Troops, produced fairground stalls, whilsr **Corporal Mal Turfrey** wondered if he had recently arrived in a Brigade Signal Squadron or a Display Team as he, along with the remainder of the technicians who weren't playing PA, put together teleprinters, mufaxes, C50s and things to produce a working communications system.

The catering staff, under **Sergeant Don Livingstone,** catered for numbers they didn't even know existed as the other Brigade units appeared to erect their displays. The Q staff produced furniture in quantities unheard of and the R.S.M., **W.O.1 Tony Williams,** produced that rare commodity, men, in sufficient number to guard the barracks, with slight help from the RMP!

The day dawned bright. All went well. Over 3,800 of the local population came and enjoyed themselves. The day was a success. Now the only question is whether we were too successful to be allowed to put the next open day off to 1984.

### A DIPLOMATIC DRAW

With the open day over, the Brigade FTX exercise 'Red Rat' was looming up fast. Prior to the exercise we had our first sports fixture with 20 Harrier Squadron from RAF Wildenrath with whom we now have an affiliation. The result of this match was a diplomatic 2—2 draw, our goals being scored by **Corporal Steve May** and **Signalman Ollie Holehan.** We hope to have more encounters in the future and trust that the results will be more in our favour. Exercise 'Red Rat' came and went just as these notes were going to press, and so a full account will be given in next month's issue of THE WIRE.

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### BANKER'S ORDERS FOR THE WIRE

If you have an annual banker's order for THE WIRE, do please let us know if you decide to stop it. Frequently we continue to supply THE WIRE for some months until after checking with the bank we find out the individual concerned stopped his order without telling us.



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## 11th Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 29

**EXERCISE 'SUMMER STREAK'**

AS the name implies this was an exercise in the sun; however, at this point it must be made clear—with clothes on—the Cuxhaven detachment had very little other choice due to the weather.

The exercise was planned on the lines of an all arms venture with the aim of sending independent radio detachments to four locations in Germany with the task of communicating to Minden on prearranged schedules. It was to be an exercise requiring initiative, improvisation, co-operation and communicating ability. From a report that follows, at least one detachment appears to have accepted the fast requirement as a matter of course and relates, with colourful description, the demands of the first three.

The all arms slant gave us an opportunity to include some of those who do not normally get away on exercise. Our Pay Corporal, **'I can really fiddle' Henderson** was sent as a detachment commander and a REME storeman, RAMC private, two RMP NCOs and two RCT drivers made up the crew of other detachments.

For the planners an amusing touch was injected by the Americans in their reply to our application for clearance. Para 1 (e) of their letter read to the effect that we could not call on them for help in any way. Para 1 (b) read: 'Streaking is punishable by imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth or a fine of two bottles of Scotch'.

**REPORT FROM THE CUXHAVEN DETACHMENT**

As a member of the RAPC whose work necessitates him staying in barracks snug and warm in his office, I welcomed the opportunity of commanding a radio detachment on this exercise. In fact, I was the Corporal. The Lance-Corporal came from the RMP, and the Indians came from the Royal Signals.

**THE ONLY FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE LANDROVER IN BAOR**

It had all started when I was asked which detachment I would like to go with. 'The seaside sounds pretty good, Yeoman', I replied. So there we were, all five of us in two Land-Rovers and a trailer, heading from Minden to Cuxhaven through the teeming rain of a German summer! Halfway through Bremerhaven, the halfshaft broke on the FFR. Two telephone calls and three hours later the REME arrived, took out the halfshafts (both of them), removed the transmission shaft and said, 'Put it into four-wheel drive. You have now got the only front-wheel-drive Land-Rover in BAOR. And if it breaks down again, don't call us. We're doing a foreign job in the workshops and it's costing 20 marks an hour every time we come out'. Anyway, we eventually arrived in Cuxhaven just on dusk and a thunderstorm was breaking. As the map was fractionally out of date, we were delayed in trying to find a good camp platz. However, we finally found a spot on a pukhah camping site just by the ablutions block.

The rain that night was just about kept out by the bivvies, aided and abetted by some German beer and three American members of what **Signalman Charlie Wilson** called 'The American Royal Signals', who insisted on we poor Europeans sampling a case of Budweiser beer from the PX. We didn't notice the rain after that.

**THE MYSTERIES OF KEYBASHING**

The owner of the camping platz took pity on us and let us move into a mini-bungalow in which were five bunk beds, a stove and a fridge. From here we set to work communicating with Minden and the other detachments. This stage of the exercise baffled me somewhat. Keen as I was, I accompanied them to the radio each time the two radio operators, **Signalmen John Paine** and **Steve Webb,** started banging on that little handle thingummy. They kept breaking into fits of laughter and muttering QRK or QRU or anything that came into their heads, and when I tried to contribute things like KOR or XYZ the only response was a look of frosty disdain. I left them to cope with that side of things and found what was apparently my proper job—banging in the earth wire each time it was required.

The rain carried on very much as it had left off; even so the weather didn't put us off looking out for any of the dollies that one sees on the glossy posters. This was the point at which we realised my choice of location and **Y. of S. Lovell's** promises were to come unstuck. The entire area was full of old-age pensioners taking advantage of low season rates for a seaside holiday.

**OVERDRESSED!**

The day before we were due to return to camp the sun came out—naturally! The sea had withdrawn some 12 or 15 miles out from the land, so we decided to go to the local swimming pool. As we went in the woman on the cash desk murmured what I thought meant 'No bathing hats today'. However, what she actually said was, 'No swimming trunks'. The words are very alike in German. We discovered our mistake when an old man came up to us, stark naked, and told us, 'When in Rome . . .'.

On Friday we returned.

**QUITE A HANDFUL—20 LIVELY YOUNG BOYS**

'THIS year as part of the Garrison youth programme our unit will take 20 boys between the ages of 11 to 16 camping down by the Dummersee to learn basic canoeing'. That was the seemingly simple task which was allotted to **Lieutenant David Lynam** when he arrived on temporary attachment from the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Gathering together a trusty band of volunteers, the Sergeants said they volunteered, we got our stores together and set off on a bright sunny September morning. That was the last we were to see of the sun for the next week. However, the children soon arrived after us and quickly settled down to their normal routine of eating sweets and trying their best to maim each other. To channel their physical urges into more constructive games, in between their canoeing classes, was the task of **Lance-Corporal Stevie Fisher,** who exhausted energy far quicker than they did but managed extremely well and performed a magnificent job.

**BUT ALL WENT WELL**

The weather was not particularly good for canoeing, with strong winds and rough water, but our resourceful Chief Instructor, **Captain James Thompson,** Royal Irish, found a quiet bay behind the British Yacht Club and, ably assisted by **Lance-Corporal Dave Hutchinson** and **Signalman Paul Fisher,** obtained a very high standard of canoeing ability from the youngsters. Although the wind was not good for canoeing, it enabled our two older 'lads' in the party, **Sergeant 'Pop' Rivett** and **Signalman 'Wonder Boy' Lloyd,** to perfect their kite-flying expertise. So good did they become that low-flying Starfighter pilots used to wave their friendly gestures of approval. Well, that's what it looked like, anyway. Joking apart, the smooth running of the administration was due in no little part to the able work of **Sergeant 'Pop' Rivett** and **Signalman 'Wonder Boy' Lloyd** kept many of the boys happy by organising fishing trips, especially as they often caught more than he did. Last, but by no means least, we would all like to thank **Private 'Taff' Phillips,** ACC, who managed to keep the boys well fed by providing the most delicious food for at least three times a day. His spread at the chuck wagon surpassed the standards of the Ritz!

In the final analysis all agreed that it had been a good week, if not a little tiring. The boys certainly enjoyed themselves and many now have a new interest; thus the aim of the exercise has been achieved.

## 28 Bde Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 5

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major I. Graham** |
| 2IC | **Captain J. Kay** |
| SSM | **W.O.2 J. Bowman** |
| F. of S. | **Staff-Sergeant A. Lynn** |
| Y. of S. | **Staff-Sergeant R. G. Pond** |
| SQMS | **Staff-Sergeant M. J. Abson** |
| Tp S/Sgt. | **Staff-Sergeant W. Wilson** |
| MT Sgt. | **Sergeant J. Nelson** |

SQMS to **Sergeant Barry Vargas:**
'Barry, how do you start the WIRE NOTES'?
**Sergeant V.:** 'With difficulty!.

Well, here we go. First, where is 28 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron? Apart from being in Singapore we are at the North of the Island in the Naval Base Area at Terror Camp. This camp was originally H.M.S. *Terror* when we had a very big naval contingent in Singapore.

The camp is spacious and looks over the Straits to Malaysia; it boasts:

Three swimming pools, three football pitches (one floodlit),
Two rugby fields, one cricket pitch
One yacht club and a 9-hole golf course

—just to name a few of the facilities. So when in Singapore pay us a visit (14 Signal Regiment please note).

**EXERCISES**

Exercises are plentiful and, of course, an exercise always brings forth the personalities, like our **Yeoman Max Pond. Max** issues out the 'Seasoned Jungle Fighter' tags (SJF to us sweats) for ULU second trippers and, of course, we can't forget **Corporal Jim (I can starve if I want to) Lander** with his usual cry 'That curry was great, Q, is there any more?'

Our last big exercise was exercise 'New Zama' (I don't know what it means); it was a full squadron deployment to the very depths of the hot steaming jungle and, of course, our Rebro was positioned (I think you position Rebros—I'm RD). But our **Lance-Corporal Bob (Rebro) Pakes** set up on the mountain and set it up in a way only **Bob** can and only made one mistake—he was on the wrong mountain. He should have been on Panti West and ended up on Panti East.

We must lay some blame on the pilot of the Kiwi Chopper who **Bob Pakes** managed to convince was going to the wrong LZ DZ and got him to go to the right one—or was it the wrong one? Anyhow things did get straightened out but **Lance-Corporal Pakes** will have to put up with the leg pulling for some time yet.

As a reminder his mountain climbing expedition one of his crew **Signalman Brian Bates,** has composed a poem as follows:

**ODE TO A STAR**

Poor **Bob Pakes,** he did his best
But he didn't find Panti West.
Down in Brigade they sing and shout
And talk of pulling Pakesy out.
The reason they didn't, was because
No one knew where he was.
They couldn't blame Bob for what he did
As **Captain Kay** forgot the grid.
The moral of this story proper
Never fly by KIWI Chopper.

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To end our travelogue of West Malaysia one of my staff, **Signalman (Flash) Willey,** went on a flash bicycle excursion to visit the fleshpots of Jasons Bay and Mersing. Having cycled for about 15 long miles he was struck by that dreaded of all diseases—thirst and fatigue. Luckily for our Flash a Land-Rover driven by **Corporal John Dunford** was returning from exercise and happened to spot our weary traveller. He was carefully bundled into the Rover and driven back for medication and comfort in the Squadron Club.

To summarise—life is good. We work hard and we play hard. If you are in Singapore, for a few days or just passing through, pop in and see us. We *will* make you welcome.

## 216 Para Bde Sig Sqn, Aldershot

**JUNE OCTOBER**

SINCE our last contribution, we have had a fairly full programme which has been annotated geographically for a change.

**JUNE**

**Wales**

**Staff-Sergeant 'Jim' McGovern** led the Squadron team in the 'Welsh 3000' race. Both he and the other volunteers (!), **Sergeant 'Peter' Whitehead, Lance-Corporal 'Larry' Cardwell** and **Signalman 'Jock' Graham,** made a brave attempt in the face of very strong opposition, but unfortunately were forced to withdraw, due to injuries sustained on the descent of Cribgoch.

**Scotland**

A party of 42 men jumped on to Garelochead DZ, where they exercised various escape and evasion, and survival skills, on which they were instructed by **Staff-Sergeant 'John' Newman, Staff-Sergeant 'Dougie' Baikie** and **Sergeant 'Matt' McBirney.** The troops dined on such delicacies as nettle-soup and blackbird pie, wore their tramp gear with itchy abandon and fought the elements with a certain degree of success. When they jumped back on to Hankley Common DZ at the end of the course, they were several stones lighter, and decidedly grubby.

**Jamaica**

**Corporal 'John' Tovey, Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Richardson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Charlie Brown' Richards** were the Squadron detachment which accompanied 2 PARA to this jewel of the West Indies, where they 'sweated in the jungle and on the beach' (their words not mine). **'Charlie Brown'** also took the opportunity to visit his parents for the first time in 10 years at his old home in Clarendon.

**Catterick**

RSSC No 86 came to a most satisfactory conclusion for the 'maroon machine' when the results were announced. **Sergeant 'Steve' Marshall** gained an 'A' Pass and top student, closely followed by **Sergeant 'Dick' Hamilton** and **Sergeant 'Ray' Cardwell** in second and third places, respectively. They were, however, unfortunate in their attempts to persuade **Captain Hackett,** W & F (Infantry advisor to Instructional Wing) to transfer to the Parachute Regiment.

**Weymouth**

The Squadron gave assistance in seaborne communications to the Olympic Trials of the RYA, skippered by **W.O.2 'Paddy' Boland** in his role of chief bosun's mate. Their journeys both afloat and ashore were enjoyable albeit a trifle wet.

**JULY**

**Cyprus**

The Squadron had been scheduled for a trip here, but the crisis put the kybosh on that. However, we did send a detachment to serve with the Para Squadron RAC on the UN Tour. **Lance-Corporal 'Tony' Giles, Lance-Corporal 'Ricky' Richardson** and **Signalman 'Jock' Fairbairn** swopped their red berets for light blue ones and sampled the delights of the war-torn island.

**Aldershot**

A team of technicians, under **W.O.1 (F. of S.) 'Dave' Harvey, B.E.M.,** were responsible for the PA systems and things electrical during Her Majesty's presentation of new colours to four Battalions of the Parachute Regiment. (Note: there is no connection between **F. of S. Harvey's** team and the workcrew currently advertising PG Tips tea on TV.)

**Dover**

When 2 PARA laid on an airborne presentation to the CCF, a similar show was put on by **Lieutenant 'Bill' Edwards** and a small band of elite rapscallions, whose adventures may yet appear on 'Police Five'.

**Salisbury Plain**

Exercise 'Faint Century' was a practice run-up for the ill-fated exercise in Germany. The Middle East crisis cancelled our transport to the DZ so we had to make do with Leyland Coaches for our ride into battle! We were joined on the exercise by elements of German, French and Canadian paratroops.

**VIP Visit**

The Deputy Commander of the Sudanese Parachute Forces visited the Squadron and saw a few detachments under simulated exercise conditions operating our various equipments. He was suitably impressed by the size and weight of an A14 container as a para load (so are we!).

**AUGUST**

This was indeed a most pleasurable month which most of us spent on block leave. There should be more Augusts in the calendar.

**SEPTEMBER**

**Germany**

The Squadron took a very active part in exercise 'Bold Guard' when we parachuted on to a DZ in Northern Germany. Enough has been said on the events of the night jump so we need not dwell on that here. There is no truth in the rumour that the first wave have been renamed the tree-dwellers!

**Aldershot**

16 Para Brigade Winter Sports Week took place in some very mixed weather on constantly waterlogged pitches. Our successes/also rans were as follows:

Soccer—Runners-up
Hockey—Winners
Boxing—Joint winners
Volleyball—Runners-up
Final result—Overall position 3rd

**Forecast of Events and Trips**

During the next few months and on into the New Year we are schedule to visit Gibraltar, Malta, Sharjah, Italy, Norway and various parts of Blighty. We told you before, JOIN 216—GO AIRBORNE—SEE THE WORLD!!

**CHANGE-ROUND**

Since our last mention we have had a considerable change-round at all levels. We have said our farewells, fond and liquid, and welcomed their replacements and new arrivals.

**Departures**

**Major 'Ron' Roberts** to PR in BAOR.
**Captain 'Clem' Palmer, M.B.E.,** to 7 Signal Regiment.
**Lieutenant 'Bill' Edwards** on transfer to 3 PARA.
**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) 'Gordon' Haughie** as RSM with the Gurkha Brigade in Hong Kong.
**W.O.2 (Y. of S.) 'Paddy' Boland** to 27 Signal Regiment.
**Sergeant 'Bob' Hutchings** to 28 Signal Regiment.
**Sergeant 'Jimmy' Campbell** to 1 Hampshires Rear Link Det, Hong Kong.
**Corporal 'Jake' Mateyawa** to 1 Div HQ & Signal Regiment.
**Signalman 'Chris' Brown** to 21 Signal Regiment.

**Arrivals**

**Captain 'John' Turner** from 4 Signal Regiment.
**Lieutenant 'Jeeps' Jackson** from 7 Signal Regiment.
**Corporal 'Billy' Adam** from 4 Gds Armd Bde.
**Lance-Corporal 'Nick' Neilsen** from 260 Signal Squadron.
**Signalmen Warren, Liversidge, Jones 007, Mulligan** and **Kaye,** all from the Airborne Factory at Abingdon.

## 223 Sig Sqn, Winchester

THE sun is shining and the birds are singing over Winchester as we look at sunny Bushfield Camp, where our old wooden huts, hidden among assorted contractors, have taken on a new look. Most of them have been almost completely replaced and as a result we must have one of the largest bonfires for our 5th November celebrations in the country. But before we come to Bonfire Night let us have a look at some of our recent events:

**SQUADRON FAMILIES DAY**

Our families day organised by **Lieutenant Ken Sloane** was a huge success, with attractions for all ages. The morning was started off by a children's go-kart race with children racing some extremely professional-looking home-made karts, and the route was lined with dads praying that at these unanticipated speeds the wheels would stay on for the end of the race—and in most cases they did! We then had a very good lunch provided by **Sergeant 'Curly' Knox** and his cooks. This was followed by an 'It's a Knockout' competition, again for the children. This was a great success, especially as even those who lost were presented with a prize at the end of it. For those whose interests lay elsewhere a very good bar was laid on, and for those who enjoy a flutter many stalls of games needing exceptional skill and even more exceptional luck were spread around the sportsfield.

The grand finale to the day was a chariot race of home-made and very assorted chariots from all departments of the Squadron with an even more assorted set of charioteers in the fanciest of fancy dress. This race consisted of a course of obstacles around the square provided by **Sergeant Higgins** and other sadists and helped by the Hampshire Fire Brigade, who had been asked to 'wash' the square at the very time the race was on. Arguments as to who really won are still going on, but everyone enjoyed the 'spectacular', especially as beer was provided for all participants at the end of the race by PRI.

FAMILIES DAY

Chief Clerk, Staff-Sergeant (Agro) Unwin, with his whip standing by for the start of the race

CHARIOT RACE

The start, with L. Cs/Tech team in the lead and standing by to repel rivals

JUST TO SHOW WE DO TAKE LIFE SERIOUSLY—TRAINING FOR N. IRELAND

Lance-Corporal Wilson, our AIPT, makes sure that the message is thumped home

## OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS SUMMER BALL

Another success was our summer ball, very well organised by the Sergeants Mess. The buffet was a masterpiece of cuisine and a great credit to all our cooks. One of the bright spots of the evening was provided by **Mrs. Maureen Goddard,** who joined the band for a couple of numbers and sang in a very professional manner. Had the will of the audience prevailed she would have sung a lot more, but **Sergeant Sid Goddard** wanted to keep her to himself. In fact the evening was so successful that for many it extended well into the next day.

## THE 'BUSHDOWN BEDOUIN' AND 'FLOWERFIELD FIESTA

Cries from the heart to the controllers of welfare funds have enabled the Squadron to provide even better and cheaper facilities for those who are lucky enough to escape on leave for a while.

For a moderate fee members can now hire our own 23ft caravan, the 'Flowerfield Fiesta', which is located on a holiday camp with all facilities near Poole in Dorset.

'Who wants facilities', said **Corporal Mick Hopkins,** who has hired it for his honeymoon!

We have also obtained a five-berth Bedford Bedouin motor caravan, the 'Bushdown Bedouin', which enables members with a clean licence to have a cheap touring holiday, or small parties to go away on adventure training without transport or accommodation problems.

The names for these two items are derived from the names of our two camps, Bushfield and Flowerdown.

## SPORT

### Cricket

After a slow start we are delighted to announce a most enjoyable cricket season. The team is led by **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Philips** and well supported by an enthusiastic team, including stars **Corporal Parrish** (a Corps player) and **Sergeant Pete Edwards.** They won three matches, only just lost four more, and had two off days! However, the team spirit was not dampened, except by the rain, and morale was still high at the end of the season.

### Winter Sports

Our soccer team under the management of **Captain 'Simmy' Nelson** and **Corporal Eddie Winterbrn** (trainer) and the hockey team under our Chief Clerk, **Staff-Sergeant ('Aggro') Unwin,** are in strict training and have started their battles to the top of the league. We look forward to giving you details of their success in future notes.

Apart from the major sports, we have an ever-increasing following for a number of the lesser known sports. For instance, we have now proved that snooker can not be considered a game that shows a mis-spent youth, as at the end of our Squadron snooker competition we have four officers in the final. Skittles is another increasingly popular sport in the Squadron and our Squadron team, known locally as the 'Bushbabes', have already won their first two games of the season in the local Civil Service league. We put the popularity of this game down to two facts: firstly, the team contains a large proportion of wives and girl friends; secondly, to the fact that drinking is considered as an essential part of the etiquette of the sport. Darts is another of our many and varied pursuits and to prove how seriously we take our sport we now have teams from both the JRC and Sergeants Mess in the local darts league.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to **Corporal Mick Hopkins,** recently married, and to the following who are planning to get married in the near future: **Sergeant Pete Staples, Lance-Corporal John Sharkey, Corporal Colin Marsh, Private 'Spud' Murphy, Private Mick Scoery** and **Corporal Peter Farley.** We wish you all happiness in the future.

Last, but not least, we hear **Lance-Corporal Tom Pleasance** is having a baby. Well, well, well, and congratulations.

THE WIRE . . .
WITHOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!



# 234 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 51

THIS year we actually managed to get away for a two-week camp, and in the summer too. This was achieved by a lot of hard work, mainly on the part the camp cadre, **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Roy Stark, Staff-Sergeant Joe Devlin, Sergeant Jim Lindsay** and **Lance-Corporal Eddie Xuereb.**

Half the Squadron worked their way through a scorching week one and then the remainder set out for week two determined to better the deeds of daring and one-upmanship which were reported by the bronzed warriors returning reluctantly to barracks.

**Sergeant John Beaumont** and **Lance-Corporal Colin Finlay** have produced this sweat-stained record of the first week's exploits (in less exaggerated terms).

## WEEK ONE

### Tuesday

Parade at an ungodly hour outside SHQ, board transport, off to Ghajn Tuffieha. Only six miles but still seemed to get lost. Unload kit—off to beach for well-earned rest—no rest as physical jerks in front of some glorious scenery found sunbathing there proved more rewarding. (May Jimmy smile on the Swedes.) The afternoon programme (the same throughout the week), one of **Sergeant Worsley Smith's** heavy lunches and the soporific effect it produced is apparently known as a steamed pudding induced coma. Still, we managed our water ski-ing under the guidance of **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Gus Ward,** sailing with **Corporal George Brown** and upside down canoeing with **Corporal Jock Davidson.** Back to camp for a rest?—No chance, quick tea and on with the inter-section volleyball competition, which was finally won by **Sergeant 'Ginge' Gibbon's** section (on their knees).

### Wednesday

Over the assault course at six, a rushed breakfast and then an eye-watering spin around **Staff-Sergeant Joe Devlin's** N.Bc. fun house complete with grotesque masks and tin filters.

### Thursday

Swimming at six on deserted beach. Bleary-eyed beauties appearing, charmingly unclad, on hotel balconies as a result of our screams/shouts of joy. Whole morning spent in tramping the rocky wastes searching for **Sergeant Jim Lindsay's** little tin pennants; why are black roads marked in red and red tracks marked in white? Cooked our own lunch in the midst of a mysterious cloud of green smoke—yeuk!

More sailing, ski-ing and canoeing to keep the body in trim, spirits high and calves knotted with cramp, then the inevitable tug-of-war after a superb (staggering even) tea meal. **Sergeant Samson Woodbridge** and his overweight section of dumpling bashers flattened the opposition, and themselves, to take maximum points here.

### Friday

Initiative test? More like a trial of strength! Trailers over walls or in and out of 4-tonners and casualties or logs up and down every obstacle in sight. What a cabaret for the crowded balconies of the £70 a week five-star hotel only 100 yards away. Unfortunately the young ladies demurely refused to reciprocate and so we perspired merely from exertion.

Pm and potted sports—hardly strength left to shake a leg or bend an elbow let alone hump a 16lb ball of metal under a blazing evening sun. Those ski-ing passes put on as a display for a boatload of bikinis were the last word in knee tremblers for this week until:——wait for it!

### Saturday! (The final thrash)

Give us a simple PFA test any day—Assault Course Competition—'Right lads line up—no, on your feet I mean'. **Sergeants Dave Payne** and **Chris Vanparys** flogged their sections into joint first here but were unable to take the Section prize away from a suddenly sprightly **Sergeant Marty Woodbridge** and his team of ankle-tappers who then collected the week's crate of beer from **Captain Dick Sanders,** the Camp Commandant. They deserved it—'well done' from the weary but happy remainder.

SUMMER CAMP?—WE HAD A BALL!

Lance-Corporal Charlie Mifsud, Sergeant George Furber, Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti, Lance-Corporal Ben Cartwright and Sergeant John Allan

## WEEK TWO

**Sergeant Bill Martin** and **Signalman John Debattista** reported on the second week and, of course, the upstaging continued as it did during week one. **Sergeant Marty Bevis** finally took the Inter-Section Prize and received his section's crate of beer from **Captain John Reed.** Requests for a further two weeks were refused, with regrets, by the **Squadron OC, Major Ian Robinson.** In fact it is rumoured that he reproduced a Belfast brogue and replied:

'No' said the OC, 'back to work and fast,
While you were all away the RAF flew past,
The Navy piped me on and off the DOE grew sore—
I just can't wait to get you back to keep them from my door.
Now get those line crews rolling, the gremlin's been at work
Five hundred faults need clearing and you can't afford to shirk'
So back we shot with spirits high and cleared them in a day
Which shows the camp's effect was good, and all that on full pay!!

## ARMY COLOURS

After 18 months of 'Ums' and 'Ahs' a selection committee finally came up with a list of nominations for Army Colours (Malta). What's more the funds were made available for a smart set of badges and **Mrs. J. P. Sellers,** wife of the Chief of Staff, very kindly agreed to present them. The gladiators gathered with their families for a very pleasant morning drinks party at St. David's Barracks, Mtarfa, and who should be there to receive his colours for sailing but **Colonel Joe Sellers** himself! As I said 'a family gathering'.

Four of those awarded colours are to be seen here with the 'decor, dry rats and drinks' organiser, **Captain Colin Richardson,** perhaps better known as our football officer and 'cyclist extraordinaire'. The cheerful four are **Corporal Ian Anderson** (football), **Lance-Corporal Freddie Grixti** (swimming and water polo), **Lance-Corporal Eddie Xuereb** (swimming and water polo) and **Signalman Ray Mizzi** (football), all squadron members.

## TELEMECH CONVERSION

Our happy band of roaming LEP BI Linemen have returned safe and sound as BI Telemechs and we were all very pleased with their B gradings. 'Thank you 8 Signal Regiment'. They will shortly be joined by our brand-new LEP BIII Telemechs who are still at Catterick on their conversion from Radio, Commcen and Tg Op trades. Not only will we be glad to have our work force back to strength but the long-suffering wives will be glad of some help with the Christmas shopping.

The BI's have suggested that the Trades Training School should consider producing a few pages for THE WIRE now and then on new tips and techniques; any ideas?

BI TELEMECHS BACK TO THE FOLD

*Rear:* Corporal Charlie Mizzi, Lance-Corporal Joe Mizzi, Corpora Emanuel Delia, Lance-Corporal Vic Attard
*Front:* Lance-Corporal 'Sunny' Spiteri, Sergeant Tony Parnis, Sergeant Ralph Grech, Signalman Joe Camilleri, Corporal Franz Farrugia

## WIVES CLUB

The Squadron Wives Club at Mtarfa began their new season with a buffet dance for the gentlemen and we'd never had it so good! Button holes, drinks on the ladies and even *our* buffet first. When it came to the dancing, too, the girls made sure there were no gentlemen 'wallflowers' by taking the initiative and things went so well that the party continued past the 3 a.m. mark. 'Thank you, ladies'. There will be fewer groans in future when lifts to Wives Club threaten precious 'Kung Fu' or 'Cannon' viewing, especially if we are promised another dance at Christmas?

## INTER-SERVICE ATHLETICS

The Army team for this event on 18th September included only five Squadron personnel, the remainder coming from the newly arrived 8 (Alma) Cdo Lt Bty, RA. Our valiant gladiators did score 45 of the 106 points, however, and the Army team were easy winners despite the presence of 41 Cdo Royal Marines. **Captain Alec Burdon, R.E.M.E.,** won both hammer and discus, **Lance-Corporal 'Col' Finley** took the long jump and a 2nd in the triple whilst a rusty **Corporal 'Taff' Griffiths** was creaking to a joint 2nd in the high jump. **Sergeant Jim Lindsay** putt to a close 2nd in the shot against a very large marine-like being and **Captain John Reed** hurled a winner in the javelin after being placed only 3rd in the discus. Though rather late in the season for some, the spectators had a good day and we **are Inter-Service champions even if we lack the polish of 21!**

DOESN'T KNOW HIS OWN STRENGTH

Captain (QM) Bill Gahan had a smashing time with his gavel at the September Ladies Night. 'Charge it to general purposes fund'

## 227 Sig Sqn.
## B.F.P.O. 18

OUR former OC, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Riding,** has left us and is now prowling the corridors of SHAPE. At his dining-out by the WOs and Seniors recently he was awarded the Townsend-Thoresen Gold Medal for cross-channel sailing and rumour has it that he is casting his net for the Sealink trophy. We offer our best wishes to him for the future and hope he will soon settle into his new appointment.

We extend a hearty welcome to **Major Dick Hoghton,** who has taken over the reins and is busily learning the schizophrenic role of OC Squadron/Chief MCC and how, in five milli-seconds, to adjust his skull to fit the two different hats. We hope he won't find things too difficult.

We also have a new Sergeant-Major, **W.O.2 Dave 'Crunch' Parker.** Upon the day of his arrival, and only 20m from the camp gates, a Dutchman ploughed into his brand new car. Dave was blameless and fortunately he and his family were not hurt, but what an entrance!

### SHQ—A SATISFIED SOLDIER?

The Squadron possesses, or is possessed by, a dog of indeterminate origin which answers to the name of Toby and is owned by our 2IC, **Captain Chris Speight.** He was adopted by the unit after 'cementing' international relationships when, on his way downstairs from SHQ to the loo, he took the wrong turning and blessed the German Company Commander's new blue carpet. He was recently promoted to Lance-Coporal for his services to the Maastricht community in that he averted severe pollution of the park lakes by refusing to allow the Dutch ducks to land and dirty the water. He is available for hire as a satisfied soldier to any AIO experiencing recruiting problems.

**Captain Chris Speight** (who used to play golf) has also found a way to keep **Sergeant Ken 'The Pay' Kelly** on his toes. He occasionally offers him a post with the Commonwealth Forces. Ken recently relinquished his original South African nationality and has become naturalised British. **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Bert Bowes** and **Sergeant Dave Falconer** are considering taking up holy orders because 227 English beat 227 Caledonians 3—2 at soccer.

### OPS SECTION—ANNIHILATED BY THE HAIRIES

**Sergeant Denys and Donna Green, Corporal Paul and Ann McAllister, Corporal 'Ginge' and Pat Walker, Corporal 'Taff' and Gloria Jones, Corporal Mick Bragger** (with broken leg), **Lance-Corporals Pete Rose** and **Garth Pickersgill** have moved on to pastures new. They take with them our thanks and best wishes for the future. New arrivals are **Sergeants Brian Young** and **'Geordie' Taylor, Corporals 'Wheels' Trolley** and **Roger Buller, Lance-Corporals Derek Smith** and **Dave Sadler** and **Signalman Chas Johnson.** We bid them all welcome.

At pushball and hockey, Ops were annihilated by the 'Hairies'; at table tennis they were slaughtered by Support Section, and in fact if it hadn't been for **Corporals Bill 'Shark' Davey** and **Jim 'Bagpipes' Verner's** poker game bringing in some cash the whole Section would have been declared bankrupt long ago. They have a games night scheduled with the AFCENT police shortly, which they are going to approach on a low-profile basis because they want to avoid an increase in parking tickets.

### SUPPORT AND ADMIN SECTION—UNINTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION JUST AVOIDED

The Section chief, **Captain John Birkwood,** has been securely lashed with string to his office chair by **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) Frank Jepson,** because, whilst accompanying **Major Klaus Pinkenburg,** GEA, 2IC MCC, on an inspection of international lines, he came upon a lorry loaded with 'old wood'. He gave orders for it to be broken into small pieces and to be disposed. It was only by virtue of frantic phone calls by **HFw Herman Jager** and **Sergeant Pat Fraser** on the 'old boy' net, apologising for the unintentional destruction of warehouse loading pallets, that an observation being raised by a higher authority was avoided.

Among the power boys, **Corporals Ian Vine** and **'Geordie' Cummings** have finished their 3,000 piece jigsaw puzzle; **Sergeants Tony and Margaret Staveley,** and **John and June Goodman** have gone, the **Staveleys** to Germany and the **Goodmans,** after a Guards course, to Catterick. **John's** lobotomy scar is healing very nicely, thank you. **Signalman Nick Terry's** pumpkin still doesn't turn back into a stock car at midnight and **Signalman 'Jock' Manderson is in love.** New arrival **Sergeant 'Bomber' Brown** looks bewildered.

MT's **Signalman 'Jock' Duncan** has withdrawn his patronage from the Anchor Inn for three months; **Lance-Corporal Pete Mallinson** hasn't and **Signalman Gordon Race** couldn't if he tried.

### TECH SECTION—CABLE TESTER NOT MUCH USED

**Sergeant Jim 'Whistling Rufus' Beddow's** eye operation was a success. He now cuts a straight piece of timber. He is currently working on a black belt in chess. **Sergeant Jeff Callaway** has traded his spinal plastercast for a corset to the chagrin of the Crypto office personnel. **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Watts,** after a carvan holiday in Italy, failed to secure the Venice water-taxi concession, but **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Mike Truran** managed to corner the market in pizzas.

In the line shack **Sergeant Tom (I've found some Compo') Charteries** and **Corporal Alex ('So have I') Petrie** continue to create ravishing new patterns in knitting in reclaimed D10, while **Sergeant (Welfare Officer) Joe Souley** no longer remains intent on qualifying for cocktail parties; **Signalmen Bob Crossley, 'Empty Larder' Morrison** and **'Ear-ole' Duffy** are the key men in the pushball/softball/football leagues; **Staff-Sergeant Terry Dodson** has been appointed military attache cum man management expert and is all the time delegating; **Corporal Dave Myers,** goalkeeper extraordinaire, has fitted audio devices to all Squadron soccer balls because he can't *see* them coming; finally, **Corporal Keith Brown** has designed a portable 14pr cable tester which has to be carried into exercise locations by a 20-man team of highly trained cross-country 'Hairies'. It's not used much.

### HORS DE COMBAT

**W.O.1 'Taff' Gundersen** has retired and was last seen heading for the rat race. He was dined out by the WOs and Seniors, towed to the camp gates in a trailer and dumped with fine and solemn ceremony into the street. A great personality; we were truly sorry to see him go.

Also, retired and gone are **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Brian ('Oy, where's my Compo') and Pat Cumming. Brian** has taken up an appointment as an estate warden in Minden, so he is still very much in military if not so much in Corps circulation. Another good man gone, but not, thank heaven, entirely lost. We wish **Brian** and **Pat** a happy and prosperous future and hope that they will pop back to see us from time to time.

### FOOTNOTE

Once there used to be a goat called Baxter here in the camp which, upon occasion, was known to find its way into the various clubs late at night, having first been painted a pretty colour. That goat has now gone, but former AFCENTers may be interested to know that some nights, when the moon is full and last orders have been shouted, a ghostly bleating can be heard echoing and re-echoing around the micro-wave garages. The mind boggles!

### AFTER AFTERNOTE

The Squadron Commander, prior to leaving London, paid the good old GPO £4 to redirect his mail from his home address in UK to Holland. They very kindly acknowledged his instructions and sent him a receipt. Guess where to? Yes, you're right—to his old address in London. First class mail, of course.

## 261 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

A CHANGE IN SEASONS—OR HOW WE FOOLED INTELLIGENCE

**By Sergeant G. H. Pollard, 261 Signal Squadron**

THE majority of families having been evacuated from Cyprus and the influx of living-in members of the NEARELF Sergeants Mess prompted a requirement for more entertainment. The Royal Corps of Engineers having set a precedent with a Kebab night we, the Senior NCOs of the Corps, decided to bring winter forward and entertain members to an early Christmas dinner.

Preparations having been completed under the leadership of **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Jim Fison** Christmas Day, Thursday, 19th September, arrived. To start with the mess Hi-Fi kit was arranged in the centre of the accommodation and 50 watts of Christmas carols were heard, as 'Gun Fire' was served at 0530 hrs.

The afternoon saw many able hands at work arranging the mess for the evening's entertainment, a kind person even presented a passing 4-ton Bedford with a Christmas tree.

Festivities proper commenced at 1830 hrs with a punch, being served by **Sergeant Colin Whitelock,** and Christmas dinner commenced at 1900 hrs. Sixpences were actually found in the Christmas pud, the mess staff having done such an excellent job of preparing the food.

Sergeant Ray Milnthorpe, 259 Signal Squadron, spreading good cheer to Sergeant Clive French, 262 Signal Squadron, Sergeant Ian Campbell, 262 Signal Squadron, and Sergeant Tim Payne, 261 Signal Squadron

After dinner our MC, **Sergeant Ian Borland,** led us in carol singing until the arrival of our own 'White Helmets' led by **Sergeant Mick Wilkins.** They in no way resembled the real thing but set the stage for further entertainments. **Ian Borland** was up to his usual standard on guitar and in song but he has yet to remember the words to Barnstable.

**Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Jim Meek,** being the only one of the right girth, and mirth, arrived as Father Christmas. Unfotunately he could not get through the door so had to climb over the patio wall; an unusual arrival, but one that caused great amusement.

Suitable presents with their 'captions' were presented. **W.O.1 Reg Norris** is still trying to find the person who sent his.

A disco dance then began. Despite the shortage of female company the dance continued until the early, or was it late, hours of Boxing Day morning.

So ended what was a most enjoyable Christmas Day.

A Merry Christmas!!!

## 262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

### MANY OPERATIONAL CALLS

SINCE our last notes the Squadron's main task has been to provide HF communications for the various convoys leaving the Eastern Sovereign Base Area. These have been many and varied and some wag of Radio Troop has suggested that the Squadron be retitled 262 CCC&EU (Convoy Commander Comms and Escort Unit).

The S.S.M., **W.O.2 Frank Ward,** has lost no time in getting the military training programme off the ground, organising PFA training, range days and—horror of horrors—even a drill parade. In this last 'event' he was ably assisted by **Sergeant 'Matt' Matthew,** who assured me that it was a good way of training himself for the coming football season. As he is one of our qualified referees, the term 'giving him his marching orders' will obviously be translated literally.

### ROMANCE

August seems to have been a romantic month as the following events were celebrated.

**Lance-Corporal Sheila Walls,** WRAC, married **Corporal 'Mitch' Mitchell** of East Troop 259 Signal Squadron.

**Captain Ann Ruffle,** WRAC, our Admin Officer, and **Lieutenant Phil Hanlon,** RAOC, were engaged, as were **Lance Corporal Kathy Jarratt,** WRAC, and **Lance-Corporal 'Ginge' Wheatley** of Radio Troop. We offer them all our congratulations and best wishes.

### HANDOVER

September has seen the handover of the Squadron command from **Major L. A. Woods** to **Major M. Allan.** We bid **Major Woods** and his wife **Carol** a fond farewell and best wishes for the future and at the same time we welcome **Major Allan** to the sunny shores of Cyprus.

### SPORTS

With the cooler weather the 'winter' sports have started.

In the seven-a-side football K.O. competition the Squadron team reached the semi-finals of the Plate competition only to be knocked out by the eventual winners.

There is now a flourishing squash ladder and the Squadron has entered two teams in the Dhekelia squash league.

Training is under way for the Dhekelia Dash, a 15-mile relay race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia wherein each competitor does a mile leg. As the minimum age limit total per team is 400 years even the old and bold are not safe even though it is, of course, a 'volunteer' event.

Royal Signals are well represented in the Golf Club with **Captain Noel Clark** as Secretary, **Major Dudley Strong** of the Works Study Team as competition secretary, **Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Keith Halliwell** as entertainments member and **Corporal John Munro** as club steward, not to mention over a dozen other player members.

We also form the major part of the Dhekelia Kart Club, the Chairman/Treasurer of which is **Lieutenant J. 'Oscar' Kennard.** Not surprisingly, over half of the club's members belong to his Troop. Our Squadron typist, **Mrs. Barbara Knowles,** is also a keen karter and is fast becoming one of the leading lights on the ladies' racing circuit.

In a recent rugby match seven members of the Squadron played for Dhekelia Area against a team from H.M.S. *Rhyl.* A good win of some 20 points to nil was recorded.

Although hockey has not yet started we are looking forward to hanging on to our league champions tag. However, the arrival of 10 Gurkha Rifles is certainly going to raise the standard of opposition in an already closely contested league.

So despite the, till now, severe restrictions imposed upon movement outside the Sovereign Base Areas and the limitations set by shift work, life is still going on at a furious pace.

## News from Troops

## 605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan
## B.F.P.O. 180

### MOVEMENTS

THIS month we said farewell (in traditional style) to **Corporal Cliff Price.** Our loss is 234 Signal Squadron's gain, and we offer sincere thanks for all his efforts in the now successful venture of the Pongo Club. The five-a-side football team are finding great difficulty in replacing him.

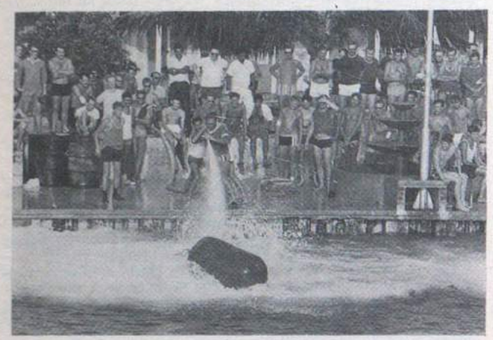
We welcome **Corporal 'Trev' Inman** from 14 Signal Regiment and wish him a pleasant nine-month 'holiday' on this paradise isle.

### PONGO CLUB

Our new Troop Club was officially opened on Saturday, 7th September, by the Station Commander, **Group Captain D. F. Moffat, O.B.E., R.A.F.** For the benfit of any old 'Gannites' reading these notes the club is situated in the old RAOB lodge right in the middle of Gans 'clubland'. As far as can be remembered, the evening was a huge success, providing hangovers are the yardstick by which success is measured!

### IT'S A KNOCKOUT

On Saturday, 24th August, an inter-section 'It's a Knock-Out' competition was held. The Troop provided several members of the eventual winning team, 6 Signals Unit, RAF. Most of the games took place over water and quite a few 'accidental' soakings occurred. The organisational abilities of the team manager, were severely tested, but, as can be seen from the result, he never wavered.



GAN—IT'S A KNOCK-OUT

Sergeant Mick Turner 'controlling' the direction of the hose, Corporal Brian Fenton behind with umbrella ready in case of accidents, and Signalman Keith Bell on the oil drum, keeping well out of it

### ORNOTHOLOGICAL LIFE ON GAN

In common with a great many other islands in the Indian Ocean Gan has quite an interesting bird life. One of the birds which fascinates most visitors to the island is a common fruit bat. These are seen hanging upsidedown from the branches of most trees. Observers of these bats, and their habits, are at present trying to solve a mystery—do fruit bats lay eggs? (This question has arisen as the eggs served in the various messes of late haven't been as fowl as usual—Sorry!) If any ex-Gannite or ornothological expert can throw any light on the subject, we would be much obliged for any sensible comments.

### SWIMMING GALA

On Sunday, 22nd September, **Signalman 'Dinger' Bell** and **'Chico' Lane** won the station swimming gala with a little help from 6 SU, RAF. **Sergeant Ted Aston,** who was supposed to compete, failed to turn up. We are not sure whether he was sleeping, fishing, playing tennis, squash, badminton, poker or just chasing fruit bats with his catapult. (Ted—nil. Fruit bats—one).

### MONK OF THE MONTH

**Corporal Brian Fenton** is very concerned about a recent fire at the Martell brandy warehouse near Cognac which destroyed 800,000 gallons of brandy worth £6 million. He is worried in case it results in the NAAFI running short of Martell brandy before he goes home in July. Quote: 'The money is incidental, but what a waste of good brandy!'

## 608 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 40

OC **Captain (Q.M.) J. J. C. Finch**
The Rest **Sergeant T. G. Barwick, Corporal A. Grohs, Signalman J. R. Corsar, Signalman T. W. Potter**

THIS may, I think, be the first time that this Troop has featured in THE WIRE. There are more of us, but we'll leave **Staff-Sergeant L. Collie** to explain about the other six stationed at Ordnance Depot, Antwerp, in next month's issue.

The role of 608 is to maintain and identify signal stores, maintain cable stocks and to give advice on 'in lieu' items of equipment and spares.

To enable the Troop to carry out this task we have apart from our 'Have caravan, will travel' OC, one Tech RR, one Tech R, one Lineman and one Clerk Tech.

A task that has befallen the Troop for some considerable time is that of fixing connectors to 925 drums of carrier quad cable. **Signalman 'Jock' Corsar** (our lineman) has been glad of any help he can get on this task. In fact, our Clerk Tech, **Signalman Trevor Potter,** is quite proficient at soldering now.

The two Techs, **Sergeant Terry Barwick** and **Corporal Alan Grohs,** are at the moment trying to sort out how to do numerous mods on the 200 containers which are coming into storage here.

**Captain Finch** is unfortunately taking an enforced rest in RAF Hospital, Wegberg, recovering from a slipped disc sustained during an arduous bout of Sunday gardening on one of the rare weekends he wasn't away with his caravan. He is now well and truly 'on the mend', we are glad to say, and should be back in the fold shortly.

On the sporting side **Sergeant Barwick, Corporal Grohs** and **Signalman Corsar** turn out each week for the Depot at soccer and **Signalman Potter** at hockey. The OC (when his back permits) plays a fine game of badminton. Not a bad turn-out for a troop of this size.

## The Volunteers

## 32 Sig Regt (V), Glasgow

THE Regiment has now awakened from its long summer siesta. We have drunk our farewells to **Lieutenant-Colonel Danny Goodwin-Jones** and welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Hills** into the hot seat. Our illustrious Training Major, **John Heyes,** has been kept extremely busy recceing the local golf courses, racehorses and the delights of the south of France. Well-informed sources tell us that he intends to hibernate for the coming winter.

However, 61 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron have been involved in exercise 'Fell Runner', whish only goes to prove that TAVR regiments also have their problems too.

### EXERCISE 'FELL RUNNER'
### AS FAR WEST AS YOU CAN GET FROM EDINBURGH

In July 1974 the National Fell Runners Association approached 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron (V) to ask if we could provide communications for their annual 'Paps of Jura' race. The 'paps' are a series of mountains, ranging from 1,600 to 2,471ft, on the island of Jura (population approximately 150) on the west coast of Scotland, just a 10-minute trip by Western Isles LCT ferry from Islay, which is just a two-hour trip in another, larger, ferry from West Loch Tarbert, which is just on the opposite side of Scotland, about as far as you can get from Edinburgh.

### A WELL-CHOSEN CAMP SITE

So on Friday, 19th July, 21 of us (11 girls and 10 men, including one female officer and four males) left for Jura at 1000 hrs and, apart from a minor brush with a brewery van, arrived relatively unscathed at Feollin Ferry at about 1800 hrs. **Major 'Bill' Crook** (OC) met us and led us to our camp site, which he had recced earlier in the day. Having great regard for 'camouflage, all-round defence' and other such-like military goals, he had chosen a site, which was ideal in many respects, 50yd from the only hotel, 75yd from the only distillery and right in the middle of the emergency helicopter landing site.

By 2200 hrs the camp was established, a meal cooked and eaten and the four male officers were ready for 'bed'. This was a large and conspicuous orange tent designed for two but with a capacity (just) of four. By a process of undressing by numbers and punctuated by the odd grunt and oath, they settled down for the night. Not so the remainder of the party, who, in the true spirit of military survival, decided to 'live off the land' and were invited to the twenty-first birthday party of one of the local inhabitants. A good time was had by all, and it is understood that without our eager participation the party would have been a disaster.

### OFF TO THE HILLS

Saturday morning came and we rose at the decidedly uncivil(ian) hour of 0500 hrs. Following a light breakfast of coffee and oatmeal biscuits provided by **S.Q.M.S. 'Bill' Cree** (who did all the catering, with the assistance of our technician, **Sergeant Davie Watt),** we set off for the hills armed with maps, A41 sets and personal survival rations of chocolate and various canned beverages.

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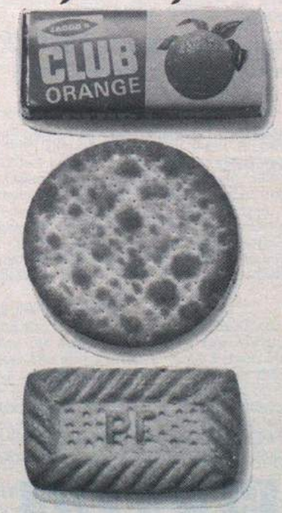


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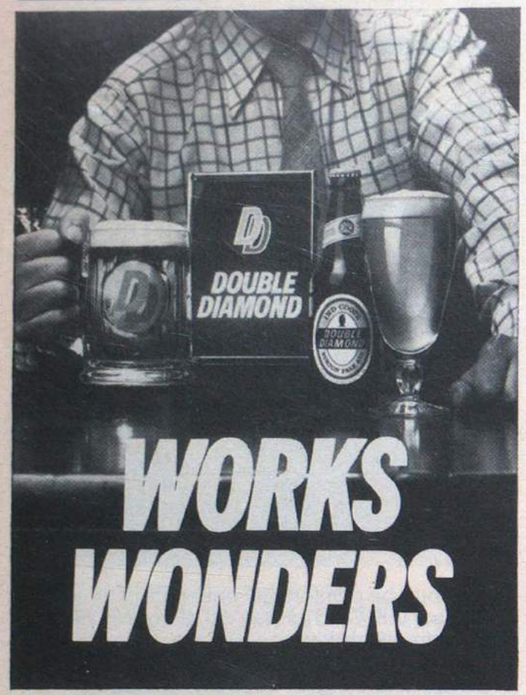

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The OC, accompanied by **Lieutenant 'Maigret' Grosset, W.R.A.C.,** promptly started climbing the wrong mist-shrouded hill (aforeknowledge of the OC's map reading expertise obviously prompted **Lieutenant Grosset** to bring 24 large bars of chocolate as her personal survival rations!). But, apart from this, all other parties attacked the right hills. **Lieutenant Ron McNaught,** with the first party, found a 7ft deer fence collapsing under his weight while he was climbing over it and decided to jump. He landed awkwardly and, hampered by the radio set, twisted his ankle and had to return to the base camp, to be replaced by **Signalman Gannon.**

**TRA WITH A CHASER**

On his return **Lieutenant McNaught** wisely declined the ministrations of an all tco eager group of RAMC personnel and was detailed off to man a relay set at the end of the pier. Contrary to all suggestions, he took only a short walk and was rewarded for his zeal by a cup of tea 'with a chaser' at 0630 hrs from two gentlemen in a converted fishing boat moored there. **Captain Jimmy Rhynas** also benefited from the hospitality and returned with a running commentary of the race as it progressed and both gentlemen were able to watch the runners through their binoculars.

**ALL'S WELL**

By the start, as 1000 hrs, all stations had reported in except the first and the OC and **Lieutenant Grosset,** but by the time the runners reached checkpoint one all was fine. **Sergeant Brian Murray** and **Lance-Corporal Margaret Hogg, W.R.A.C.,** and the OC and **Lieutenant Grosset** experienced great difficulty towards the top of their mountains when they encountered large areas of scree and had to be content to check the runners through as they passed down the hill.

**TOUGH GOING**

The first runner home completed the 16-mile course, with a total climbing height of 7,500ft, in 3 hours 39 minutes, and even the slowest (who was over 50) took only 6 hours 40 minutes. It took most of our checkpoints four hours to reach their positions, and it was surprising and gratifying to hear one or two of the competitors proclaiming that they would much prefer running the whole course to man-packing radios and warm clothing up to the top of one of the mountains. The only injuries incurred in the day were cared for by the Signals personnel. **Lieutenant McNaught** treated his own twisted ankle and the OC very kindly relocated one of the runner's dislocated fingers!

**WHISKY TO THE FORE**

During the afternoon **Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Hills** (due to take up appointment as our new CO of the Regiment, on the following Monday) arrived and regaled us with an account of his bus trip from Feollin Ferry, where, at each stop to pick up passengers, the driver handed round his bottle of whisky. Having previously spent some time in proper accommodation it was a renewed experience for the CO to have to 'camp out', a state of events which he said he'd enjoyed.

**A LIVELY EVENING**

Once everybody had washed, shaved, bathed, fed and changed into civvies, etc, the company then went to the Ceileidh and prize presentation in the church hall, presided over by the **Rev. Donald McDonald** and a young policeman especially imported from Campbeltown to keep an eye on the 'foreigners'. The prize-giving over, dancing of all kinds began. Although the Squadron members acquitted themselves well in the country dancing, the locals appeared to give more heed to energy and enthusiasm than to technical merit and great care had to be taken to avoid the flailing arms, elbows and clog-shod feet.

**A DISPLAY OF ENERGY**

Sunday, and the return home. As soon as all the gear had been packed up into the vehicles **Sergeant Ian McInnes** asked permission to walk the seven miles back to Feollin Ferry so that he could get the opportunity of seeing some of the island's 2,000 deer and was immediately followed by the rest of the party, much to the astonishment of the CO, and leaving a handful of officers and seniors to drive the vehicles. We caught up with them about two miles up the road and they were running (though we suspect that they'd only started when they heard the approaching vehicles).

**RANK CARRIES THE DAY**

The return to Edinburgh was uneventful except that we were stopped by the police, flashing blue lights, siren, etc. It appeared that a civilian driver had reported an army vehicle overtaking dangerously and had assumed it belonged to us as the only other military vehicles on the road. Having awed the police sergeant with our wealth of rank—one lieutenant-colonel, one major, two captains, two lieutenants, two staff-sergeants and three sergeants out of 21 people—we continued on our way to Edinburgh, arriving home about 2200 hrs.

**Although the climbing was hard and the weather mainly damp, everyone seemed to enjoy the outing. But next year, if we're asked, we'll know that there really are no tracks or footpaths on Jura, that the clouds do really permanently cover some of the mountains, and that Jura water really does improve the flavour of the local whisky. 'Here's tae next year'.**

69 (N.I.H.) SQN

THE North Irish Horse have bid farewell to **Major Scott Buchanan,** who has retired from the TAVR after many years' service. His personality, charm and typical Irish blarney will be sadly missed. **Scott** has been succeeded by **Major (Q.M.) Noel Dykes.**

We enclose a poem on Londonderry by **Signalman Stannet,** a TAVR soldier of the Squadron.

# Sport

## Royal Signals, BAOR, Autumn Golf Meeting

The meeting was held at RAF Bruggen on 12th and 13th September. The weather remained fine throughout and was, in fact, tropical on the first day. There was an excellent attendance, including the Chief Signal Officer (BAOR), **Major-General H. E. Roper.** The standard of golf was very high, especially from our low handicap players. The best performance of the meeting came from **Captain Don Reed,** who produced a sparkling par round of 71. Other low seventies scorers were **Signalman Chris Dennis, Staff-Sergeant Bob Parker** and **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Reg Simpson.** In the Regimental greensome competition the old firm of **Majors Don Hazel** and **Peter Tidey** captured the trophy for HQ BAOR. 13 Signal Regiment figured prominently amongst the prizewinners in the handicap type competitions. There was a strong entry from that Regiment led by their Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Taylor,** and they certainly made their presence felt.

AT THE FIRST TEE

*Left to right:* Lieutenant-Colonel Sandy le Gassick, Major Mike Wilton-Steer, Lieutenant George Wilton, Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Rothwell, Corporal Max Paterson, Mr. Harry Smith, Colonel Derek Briggs, Major Ken Bicknell

CONFIDENT SMILES

*Left to right:* Sergeants Tony Hindle, Jim Claffey, Dave Meadows, Tony Halliwell and Dave Hankins

## Corps Hockey

**CORPS 4 RE 0 (KNOCKOUT COMPETITION)**

Played 4th October. The Corps, playing some of its best hockey for years, seized the scoring opportunities presented. A keenly contested game, played in good spirit. It set the standard for the Corps to maintain throughout the season.

**CORPS 2 RAPC 3 (KNOCKOUT COMPETITION: SEMI-FINAL)**

Played 6th October. After the fine display against the Sappers in the previous round, this defeat came as a major disappointment. Playing without the fire of the underdog, defensive errors and a lack of bite in attack caused frustration and our eventual downfall, despite equalising twice. RAPC went on to win the final.

**CORPS 3: INFANTRY 1**

Played 12th October. Against a generally more skilful side, the Corps played with commendable fire and determination. Although under pressure for much of the game, the defence held firm and the forwards made the most of the available scoring opportunities.

## Association News

### BRISTOL BRANCH

Hon. Sec.: **Mr. L. M. Butler,** 77 Jubilee Crescent, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS17 3BD

Greetings to all! Being the first notes for a long long time a few preliminaries. Over the past two years we have been slowly on the uptrend from almost extinction and are steadily and surely gaining strength. Having sorted the membership book out and written scores of circulars to all and sundry we now boast a regular 25 Life members and 30 Annual members—and we are steadily improving on this.

To augment members' interest this year the Branch became associated with the Apprentices College at Harrogate and purchased a silver plated rose bowl, dubbed it the Wessex Trophy and presented it to the College for annual presentation to the best Apprentice from the South-West. A smaller replica is also donated suitably engraved for the winner to keep. Each year the replica and all engraving will be the Branch members' responsibility.

The first presentation took place in August at the Harrogate graduation day at which our Chairman, **Mr. B. E. Clarke,** Secretary, **Mr. L. M. Butler,** and Committee member, **Mr. C. McIntyre,** attended. The winner for the first time was **A/T Sergeant G. A. Huzzey-Morgan** from Thornbury, Bristol.

After the parade and presentation, which were most spectacular, the Branch representatives had lunch with the winner and his parents at a specially laid table—including wine to celebrate!

The Branch takes this opportunity to place on record what a truly magnificent day it was and to thank all at Harrogate for their splendid organisation.

BRISTOL BRANCH'S IMAGINATIVE IDEA

Recently the Branch presented a rose bowl, and replica—called the Wessex Trophy—for the best all-round Apprentice from the South-West graduating at Harrogate. The first winner was A/T Sergeant G. A. Huzzey-Morgan and he is seen receiving the trophy from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Max Sawers, at a recent graduation ceremony

### LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Sec.: **E. Speight, Esq.,** 97 Wykebeck Mount, Leeds, Yorks LS9 OJE

THE Annual Dinner was held in the Drill Hall of 49 (WR) Signal Squadron (V) to whom our thanks are due for again providing us with such excellent facilities. Among the 114 members and friends who assembled we were pleased to welcome **Brigadier 'Pat' Hobson,** the Association's long serving and hard-working General Secretary, friend, and wise counsellor. A well-earned 'retirement' is not far off, but he is going to be missed.

It was a great pleasure to have **Colonel W. G. Neilson** and his delightful lady, **Anne,** to share in the evening's activities. **Colonel Neilson** takes a great interest in Association affairs and ensures that the Corps Apprentices under his command at Harrogate have the facilities available to learn about the Association and its activities. The enrolment of A/Ts to the Days Pay Scheme is of the order of 100%.

**Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Olds,** Royal Signals, commanding 34 (N) Signal Regiment (V) (of which 49 Squadron is a part), and **Mrs. Olds** travelled from Catterick to spend the evening with us, and we were pleased to welcome **Captain (now Major) 'Bill' Illingsworth,** the new O.C. 49 Squadron and his lady, who made the journey from Teesside. Others who travelled a distance were staunch members, **Captain Ted** and **Mary Jones** from Catterick and **Captain George Dove** from Preston, also **Mr. David Greenwood,** Assistant to **Brigadier Hobson,** who made the journey from London.

At the conclusion of the dinner a presentation of a Corps plaque, suitably inscribed, was made by the Branch President, **Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. D. Davies, T.D.,** to **Mr. S. Spencer** in appreciation of the many years of service given to the branch as Standard Bearer and Committee Member. The Standard has so many Reunion 'battle honours' that it is too heavy for **Mr. Spencer** to carry now, but he remains as one of the Standard Escort Bearers. The Chairman, **Major Bob Edwards,** referred to the liaison existing between the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and the Branch. **In particular he mentioned the contribution made by the Apprentices in the field of community service and the fact that at present Apprentices are travelling to Leeds in their leisure time to carry out the complete interior decoration of a bungalow for an ex-member of the Corps (a Desert Rat), who is now completely paralysed. Association HQ has financed the materials, the college is providing the labour and the branch is meeting the A/Ts travel costs. What better example than this of the family spirit which exists in the Corps.**

Following the dinner, dancing and tombola took place and the annual draw was held. Young **Len Payne** (only 79) was again in form with his tap dancing.

The committees are to be congratulated on providing an excellent dinner and entertainment yet again at the seventh successive annual function when attendance has exceeded the 100 mark.



## Sixth Reunion, Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

Hon. Sec: Lt. Col. M. E. E. Truscott, Garland House, Edward Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

SURVIVORS of the old Company set out on 30th August for the sixth Reunion. From Hong Kong, Germany and the four corners of Britain their thoughts were about the coming weekend at Blandford Camp in Dorset. Once again we had to thank the Commandant and Officers of the Defence ADP Training Centre for making this possible. The Mess Staff were there to greet us as usual and to attend to our needs. What a wonderful team they are and we thank them most sincerely for making us feel so welcome. By Saturday 38 members and 35 relatives and friends were safely gathered into the fold.

Attending for the first time was **Alf Taylor** all the way from Hong Kong, as well as **Jock Brackenberry** and **Wilf Thorp,** and, judging by their faces, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

These gatherings get better every year and **Monty Truscott,** our organiser, excelled himself this year for not only did we have the Trumpeters and Corps Band, resplendent in full dress, but a disco for dancing as well as a trip to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Winfrith. Our grateful thanks go to **Major Keith Boulding,** the Director of Corps Music, and to **Bing Binninglsey** for their kind assistance.

As usual Friday evening was devoted to renewing old friendships. Nobody dwells long on harrowing experiences and it is always the lighter side of the war years that come to the fore. We found out long ago that laughter as well as starvation can give you an aching tummy and tears in the eyes. How well we remember our pals who did not return—their image never grows old and what a fitting memorial to them that we still speak their names as if they were present. **John Scully, Pedlar Palmer, Busty Venner, Jack Parsons** and many more of the hundred or so who sleep in foreign fields your names live on every August as we remember you. Long into the night we were once again exploring the New Territories, climbing Tai Mo Shan and Lion Rock or recalling launch outings and such like.

On the Saturday our welcome guests at dinner were **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.,** Chairman of the Association and a Colonel Commandant of Royal Signals, who was a Far East POW himself, **Brigadier and Mrs. A. C. Bate,** late Commandant School of Signals, and **Major and Mrs. Keith Boulding,** Director of Music. Our President, **Vic Ient,** presided and toasts were proposed to H.M. The Queen, Absent Friends and to Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals, Hong Kong.

The evening developed with more chat and dancing until a late hour. **Bill Bevan** created a diversion by modelling his old Jap POW uniform—a fandusi issued by the Emperor of Japan to his guests during the war years.

During the weekend **Monty** showed us an excellent film of modern day Hong Kong and **Harold Copsey** showed some of his slides which brought back happy memories to many.

**Wally Wallwork** summed up the weekend very simply when he told me that after these reunions he feels the benefit for at least two weeks afterwards.

Sunday saw us on our way home and God willing we all hope to meet again at the same place in August 1975.

We would still like to trace at least twenty old comrades who served with us—can you help?

Sayanara

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## Royal Signals Christmas Cards 1974

Corps Christmas Cards, size 4 in. x 6 in. landscape (102 mm. x 152 mm.) consisting of a cover diestamped with the Corps badge in full colour (5 colours) with an insert printed page 3 with greetings only. Each card tied with Corps ribbon and supplied with matching envelopes.

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## Promotions

SEPTEMBER

(Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the Blue Book)

| Name | Initials | Rank | Trade | New Sen. Date | Old Sen. Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To WO1 French, | C. K. R. | A/W.O.1 | | 9 May 74 | 3 Apr. 72 |
| To W.O.2 Stretton, | J. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt. Sig. | 1 Nov. 73 | 17 July 68 |
| Fayers, B.E.M., | A. E. | A/W.O.2 | Cbt. Dvr. | 4 Nov. 73 | 18 Sep. 70 |
| Jamieson, | A. | S/Sgt. | Cbt. Sig. | 5 July 74 | 24 June 70 |
| Childs, | K. A. | S/Sgt. | Cbt. Sig. | 6 July 74 | 13 Aug. 70 |
| Rothwell, | I. C. | A/W.O.2 | RR. Tech. | 5 Aug. 74 | 27 Sep. 72 |
| Leslie, | W. H. | S/Sgt. | Cbt. Sig. | 6 Aug. 74 | 8 Nov. 72 |
| **STAFF SERGEANTS SENIORITY ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. Knight, | R. I. | Sgt. | Cbt. Sig. | 30 June 74 | 1 Sep. 72 |
| Upton, | R. | Sgt. | Cbt. Rmn. | 1 July 74 | 11 Oct. 72 |
| Reynolds, | B. M. | Sgt. | Cbt. Lmn. | 5 July 74 | 5 Mar. 69 |
| Staveley, | A. P. | Sgt. | Cbt. Pmn. | 6 July 74 | 23 May 71 |
| Appleby, | E. J. | Sgt. | Cbt. Pmn. | 2 Aug. 74 | 3 Aug. 71 |
| Evans, | S. | Sgt. | Clk. Tech. | 4 Aug. 74 | 1 Nov. 71 |
| Morrow, | J. F. | Sgt. | R. Tg. | 11 Aug. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| **SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.2 Chudleigh, | S. J. | S/Sgt. | | 1 June 74 | 2 May 70 |
| **YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.1 Graham, | J. B. | A.W.O.1. | | 20 Apr. 74 | 8 Dec. 70 |
| Noon, | J. T. | W.O.2 | | 1 Aug. 74 | 1 Apr. 72 |
| To W.O.2 Peters, | T. J. M. | A/W.O.2 | | 1 June 74 | 13 Dec. 67 |
| Nichols, | J. T. | S/Sgt. | | 2 June 74 | 26 Nov. 70 |
| To S/Sgt. Evans, | T. J. | A/S/Sgt. | | 22 Nov. 73 | 1 Oct. 73 |
| **CHIEF CLERK ROLL** | | | | | |
| To W.O.2 Smith, | D. B. | S/Sgt. | | 1 July 74 | 21 June 68 |
| To S/Sgt. Charlesworth, | R. C. | A/S/Sgt. | | 2 Aug. 74 | 19 Nov. 69 |
| **TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Smith, | A. S. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 30 Apr. 70 |
| Hudson, | R. A. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 17 June 70 |
| Funnell, | A. D. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 4 Sep. 70 |
| Robinson, | M. | Cpl. | | 22 May 74 | 11 Sep. 70 |
| Parkhill, | B. J. | Cpl. | | 31 July 74 | 8 Aug. 69 |
| **RADIO TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. Gouldsmith, | D. A. | Sgt. | | 28 Aug. 74 | 27 Mar. 69 |
| To Sgt. Hewitt, | B. P. | Cpl. | | 11 June 74 | 28 Mar. 69 |
| **RADIO RELAY TECHNICIAN ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Jackson, | J. H. | Cpl. | | 8 May 74 | 18 July 69 |
| Swinburne, | K. D. | Cpl. | | 31 July 74 | 29 Jan. 71 |
| Boor, | M. L. | Cpl. | | 12 Aug. 74 | 15 Apr. 72 |
| Pennington, | G. T. | Cpl. | | 16 Aug. 74 | 13 Aug. 71 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS MECHANIC ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Raybould, | M. M. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Sep. 74 | 7 Oct. 72 |
| Wilding, | A. J. | Cpl. | | 2 Sep. 74 | 30 Feb. 64 |
| **DATA TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Walker, | P. T. | A/Sgt. | | 16 Aug. 74 | 1 Dec. 69 |
| Tunmore, | A. B. | Cpl. | | 17 Aug. 74 | 1 Jan. 70 |
| **RADIO TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. Morrow, | J. F. | Sgt. | | 11 Aug. 74 | 1 Aug. 71 |
| To Sgt. Haycock, | J. T. | A/Sgt. | | 16 Aug. 74 | 1 Oct. 70 |
| Rea, | M. L. | Cpl. | | 17 Aug. 74 | 30 Nov. 70 |
| Taylor, | M. J. | Cpl. | | 18 Aug. 74 | 1 Nov. 71 |
| **SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIST ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Hawes, | T. F. | A/Sgt. | | 1 Aug. 74 | 30 Sep. 70 |
| Carty, | R. | A/Sgt. | | 2 Aug. 74 | 1 Feb. 73 |
| Laflin, | J. W. | A/Sgt. | | 6 Aug. 74 | 18 July 66 |
| **CLERK TECHNICICAL (ROYAL SIGNALS) ROLL** | | | | | |
| To S/Sgt. Evans, | S. | Sgt. | | 4 Aug. 74 | 1 Nov. 71 |
| **COMBAT DRIVER ROLL** | | | | | |
| To Sgt. Ball, | W. | Cpl. | | 2 June 74 | 31 Dec. 66 |
| Dickinson, | D. R. | Cpl. | | 1 July 74 | 30 Apr. 68 |


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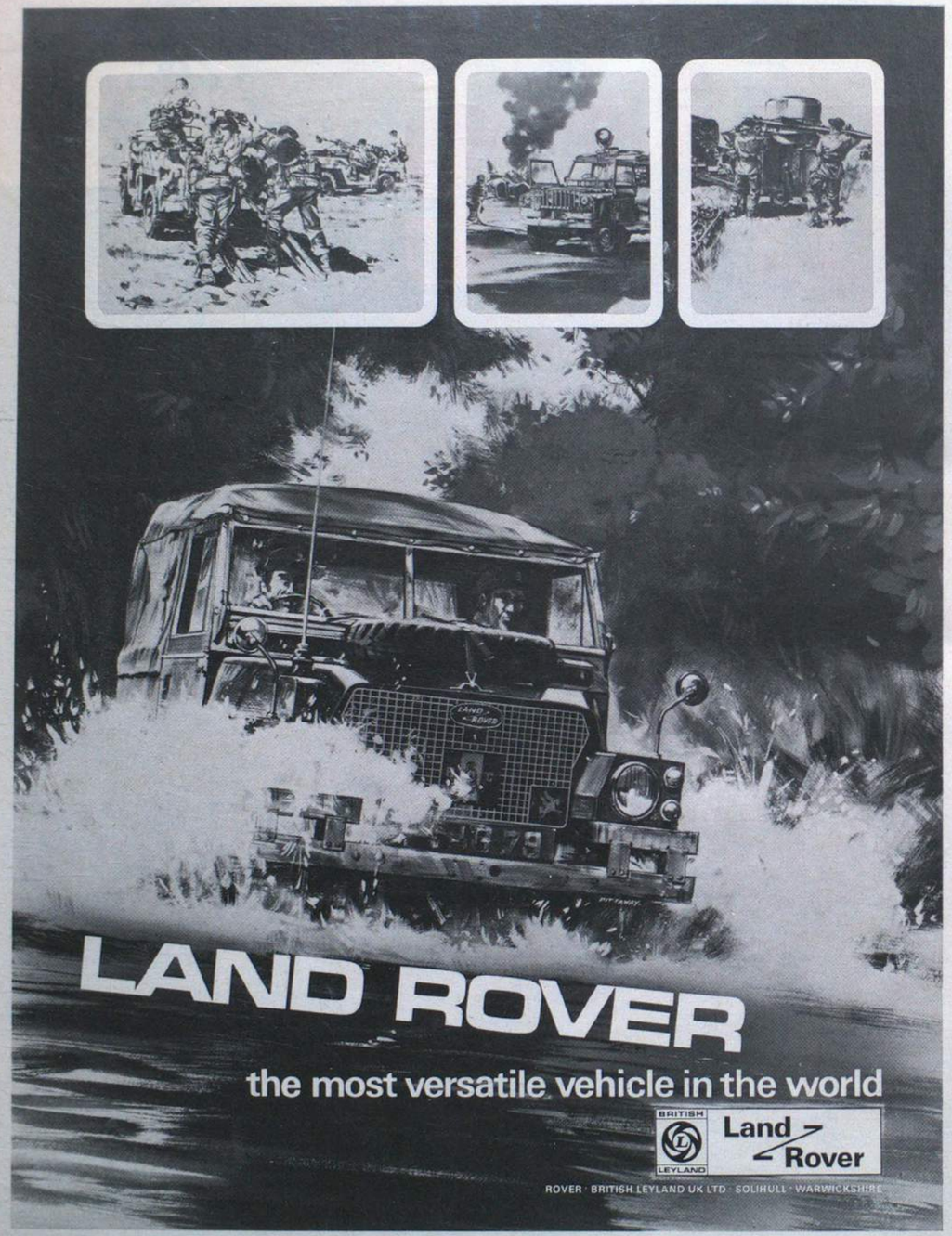
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., Newspaper House, Great New Street, London EC4P 4ER. Hastings & Folkestone.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, SW1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).



*December-January 1974-1975*


# wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE




# 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, SW3 4RH. Tel. Nos. 01-730 4129 and 01-730 3477. Ext. 143.*

**MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
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*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.*

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**DECEMBER/JANUARY 1974/75**

**Vol. 28** *(New Series)* **No. 12**

**The Master of Signals sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all ranks of the Corps, particularly those on emergency duty in Northern Ireland.**

Christmas is almost with us as 1974 draws to a close—1974, a sombre year whose passing many will not regret.

The Corps continues to play its vital role in a number of active assignments. N. Ireland weighs very heavily on our minds as our soldiers, despite constant lurking danger and the ultimate in frustration, go about their duties with admirable spirit and efficiency. They are not forgotten. The feelings of the British public are well summed up in the letter below addressed to the Controller of the Army Benevolent Fund and recently reproduced in The Daily Telegraph:

> *"Dear Sir, I have just won the small sum of £5 in a 'draw,' and would like to present it to your charity in the hope that it may go towards benefiting some soldier or his family who has suffered as a result of service in Northern Ireland.*
>
> *I would feel very diffident about writing gushy letters of admiration, nor do I imagine you would wish to receive such: however, I imagine that there are times when soldiers of all ranks feel very much unappreciated by the general public. I can only say that the admirably steadfast and disciplined conduct of both officers and ranks in impossible circumstances make* this *citizen at any rate feel very humble and very small.*
>
> *I only wish there were ways of letting serving soldiers* know *how very much millions of people must appreciate what they are having to go through."*

We would add that for the second year running the Royal Signals Association has received a donation of £100 from a gentleman, who does not seek publicity, "In memory of British soldiers killed in N. Ireland when asked to do an almost impossible task".

Under the testing circumstances of the Cyprus emergency and on hurricane duties in the Caribbean, the Corps has also pulled its full weight and earned much praise.

At a more mundane level 1974 has not been an easy year for THE WIRE which, because of the three-day week and other troubles in the printing world, slipped back seven weeks from its scheduled publication date. With the co-operation of our printers and the forebearance of unit correspondents we have at last caught up this leeway.

The Association continues to flourish. Two very enjoyable reunions were held in 1974—one at Blandford plus the usual weekend at Catterick. Local Branch functions seem to go from strength to strength. Those who leave the Corps on return to civilian life and do not join the Association, do not know what they are missing. They are urged to be sensible and join a Branch if one is convenient to where they live.

There is much else we could write in connection with 1974, but 1975 is knocking on the door. We conclude, therefore, by wishing all our readers a very happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in 1975.

## *Our Cover Picture*

We thought we would brighten up the dark winter days for many of our readers with a little sunshine from Malta. Our photograph, taken at St. George's Bay, shows a popular 234 Signal Squadron activity—their thriving water ski club.

In the boat are **W.O.2. Roy Stark, W.O.2. Gus Ward** and **Signalman Bob Shotton. Lance-Corporal Keith Thomson** is the expert on skis. The boat is a 15-foot Fletcher with a 70 h.p. Johnson motor.

## A Farewell Tribute

**MAJOR GENERAL J. M. SAWERS, C.B., M.B.E.**

At the end of November Major General Max Sawers handed over the reins of Signal Officer-in-Chief and after 'terminal' leave and a re-settlement course he officially retires from active service on 18th January 1975 having completed 35½ years in the Corps.

Max was educated at Rugby and was amongst the last officers to be commissioned from the RMA at Woolwich when he joined the Corps as a Second Lieutenant on 3rd July 1939. After completing his Corps training and a short spell with 54 East Anglian Divisional Signals in the UK he went out to West Africa in 1940 and spent the rest of the war in West Africa and in Burma. A few months after his arrival he became OC Gambia Area Signals having been promoted Captain just two years after being commissioned. He held the appointment of Adjutant of Gambia Area Signals from August 1942 to March 1943 when he joined 81st West African Divisional Signals in Nigeria and left with them for India and Burma. He served with this unit until 1945 throughout the Arakan Campaign, on long-range penetration operations holding the appointments of Squadron Commander and Second-in-Command and commanded the regiment for several months, whilst only 24, in the absence of his Commanding Officer who was in hospital. He was twice mentioned in despatches. On return to the UK at the end of the war he served on the staff of Headquarters Western Command before attending the Staff College at Camberley in 1949. After qualifying he served on the staff in Berlin until 1952 when he went out to Korea as a squadron commander with 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signals, during which time he was awarded the M.B.E. He then spent 2½ years on the staff at H.Q. Malaya Command returning to the UK as Chief Instructor of the Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals in 1955. Two years later he attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer and then went out to BAOR as Officer Commanding 5 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, later becoming Commanding Officer 13 Regiment from 1959–1962. His next appointment took him out to the Middle East as GSO 1 Plans at Aden. On returning to the UK he had another stint at the School of Signals as Chief Instructor Tactics Wing and Deputy Commandant in the rank of colonel. In 1966 he was promoted to brigadier to fill the appointment of BGS (Signals) at the Ministry of Defence and after three years went out to Germany again as Commander Corps Royal Signals 1 British Corps during which time he was responsible for the introduction of the Bruin System. In 1970 he attended the Imperial Defence College. From this it will be seen that Max had all the necessary experience to make him eminently suitable for the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief which he took on in November 1971. Apart from his experience on the staff and in field units Max also had the necessary personality and character to fill this appointment successfully. Having a clear logical brain and the ability to get people to work hard and willingly for him, he engendered respect from all those with whom he came into contact. He was also blessed with a cheerful nature and sense of humour.

During his three years in office as Signal Officer-in-Chief he had to contend with many exceptional difficulties. There were uncertainties imposed by two general elections and cuts in the defence budget with the inevitable effect on morale and recruiting as well as the escalation of the troubles in Northern Ireland and in other parts of the world such as Malta, the Middle East, and British Honduras. In spite of all these challenges, or, perhaps because of them, Max managed to maintain the morale of the Corps at a high level and keep recruiting up to target. At the same time, he travelled widely on visits to units throughout the world. Some outstanding achievements for which he was responsible included a major re-organization of officer training, the introduction of a new trade structure and government approval for the Ptarmigan system of communications. During his term of office the Corps maintained and increased its successes in the sporting field. For the first time the Corps provided the Royal Guards at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, the Tower of London and the Bank of England. Max also achieved two personal firsts. He was the first 'foreign' officer to present the badges of rank (silver eagles) to an American Lieutenant Colonel on promotion to Colonel—a ceremony which, by tradition, has always been carried out by an American officer. He was also the first Royal Signals officer to become Commodore of the Army Sailing Association. In the sporting field he was an enthusiastic and above average performer particularly in skiing, hockey and sailing, the latter in both dinghies and keel boats.

Max must surely go down in history as a very successful Signal Officer-in-Chief for which he was deservedly appointed C.B. in June this year. Fortunately the Army and the Corps will not be losing the benefits of his talents and services as he becomes Managing Director of the SKC and has been appointed a Colonel Commandant. We wish him and Grace great happiness and success in their new life and hope to continue to see much of them.

## From our "In" Tray

### Traffic Officers now eligible for Adjutants post in TAVR Signal Regiments

Sir,

My much travelled Commander, who has an attentive ear, remarked that he was in conversation with two Traffic Officers who were on a course at the School of Signals; they had just heard of a change of policy which widens the scope for employment of Traffic Officers to include the appointment of Adjutant of TAVR units. This they considered was bad news and would result in fewer of the brighter members of the Corps offering themselves to put through the hoop to qualify as Yeoman if, at the end of the line, they finished up as Adjutants of TAVR units. After all, they pointed out, the easier path of RD usually led to these appointments anyway.

This was a view I had not heard before, although as a staff officer I was involved in some of the correspondence which led to this change of policy. I have always felt that Traffic Officers would consider themselves to be eminently suitable. Indeed, it was the view that the Traffic Officer should be given more scope in employment that prevailed.

It may be of interest to those who have little or no experience of the TAVR to know the Adjutant's job specification. Firstly let me dispel a thought which once lurked in my mind, and may lurk in others, that as the TAVR is a part-time organisation the Adjutant is only partly employed. Nothing can be further from the truth. The TAVR Adjutant's range of responsibilities covers and exceeds those of his Regular counterpart. I asked two of our Adjutants to list those tasks, for which they are responsible, which fell outside the traditional duties of an Adjutant and after a lengthy reply each one ended by saying, "when you have parcelled out the day's tasks to the few available to do them, what you are left with is yours".

It is not for me to argue the case for maintaining an officer career structure for Yeoman or for the manner in which the Corps decides to use the talents of its officers. This ground has already been covered and a policy decision made; and, after all, we are only talking about one tour of duty. However, I can state unequivocally that the Adjutant's post in a TAVR Regiment is thoroughly worthwhile and challenging. A lot of hard work is involved, but this is always a feature of the better appointments and the sense of achievement and job satisfaction is therefore so much higher.

Since 1967, when the Reserve Army was reorganised, the standards of professionalism have been rising rapidly and now, in many cases, rival those of the Regular Army. There is also the enthusiasm of the volunteers to improve their signalling and military skills which I find so stimulating and which a Traffic Officer should relish.

It is to this environment that the specially selected Traffic Officer will be posted as Adjutant and where he can play such a significant and rewarding part in the further development of our TAVR Regiments, not only as an administrator but as a recognised communicator as well.



I hope this letter also give encouragement to those Yeoman, and aspirants to that rank, who are peering through the tunnel to the future and see little light—perhaps there are too many Traffic Officers blotting it out at the far end?

Yours sincerely,

**F. C. Lettin, Major.**

Headquarters 2 Signal Group
Malta Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

### Christmas Greetings

Sir,

Owing to the continually increasing price of everything and the need to economise, we have, with regret, decided that in future we will not be sending Christmas cards.

We would be most grateful, if at all possible, you would through the medium of THE WIRE make this known to our friends in the Corps and at the same time convey to them all our very best wishes.

Will you please note that our address has been changed.

Yours faithfully,

**Phyllida and Derek Good.**

Bowlers,
Brough Park, Richmond,
North Yorks, DL10 7PJ.
Tel: Old Catterick 570.

### Mrs. V. W. Smith, Signal Wing RMAS

In November **Mrs. V. W. Smith** completed 25 years service in the Signal Wing at RMAS. She started work in the Signal Wing in 1949 with the then **Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O.** now, of course, the Master of Signals. Since that time not only has she given outstanding service to fifteen Chief Instructors in the Signal Wing, but her kindness and love of the Corps will be remembered by most Royal Signals officers who have passed through Sandhurst since 1949, and the many N.C.O.s who have instructed there.

The Corps has no more devoted servant than **Mrs. Smith** and the Royal Signals officers and Senior N.C.O.s currently serving at RMAS were delighted to be able to hold a Regimental Dinner in her honour in the Sergeants Mess of the Academy on 20th November and present her with a suitably inscribed piece of silver.

We thank her for her loyal service to the Corps during the past 25 years and look forward to her continued association with Royal Signals for many years to come.

### 25 very happy years

Sir,

I recently completed 25 very happy years service in the Signal Wing at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. During that time it has been my privilege to meet most of the many fine Officers currently serving in our Corps and to serve with the first class Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who have conducted the Signal training at RMAS.

I know I could not have been as happy in any other job and to receive, as I did, a personal telegram from my first Chief Instructor, now **Major General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** the Master of Signals, thanking me for my services on behalf of all ranks in the Corps I found most touching.

May I through your correspondence column thank the Master of Signals and all the other Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who wrote to me on this occasion for their thoughts and greetings. To me this was yet another example of the family spirit fostered so much in Royal Signals.

Yours sincerely,

**Violet W. Smith.**

27th November.

### HQ Allied Forces Central Europe

**FAREWELL TO COLONEL W. NICHOLSON**

**Colonel Bill Nicholson** recently retired from the appointment of Chief, Communications System Branch of the Communications and Electronics Division of Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT), a post he held with great distinction for five years.

**Colonel Bill** will be remembered throughout the international staff of AFCENT with great affection particularly for his sporting prowess as a keen and enthusiastic golfer. President of the AFCENT Golf Society and a full member of the local Dutch civilian club, he played to a handsome eleven handicap. The uncharitable amongst us suspected that many of his absences from the Headquarters on TDY—"temporary duty" to non-NATO speakers—were heavily disguised golfing expeditions and it is strongly rumoured that, on one such occasion, he was unwise enough to beat no less a person than the Supreme Allied Commander himself. However, this act of Lese-Majesté had nothing to do with his subsequent retirement which can be entirely attributed to 'tempus fugit'.

We wish **Colonel Nicholson** and his family every happiness and success for the future.

### Canadians bring School of Signals up to date

THE 1968 reorganisation of the Canadian Armed Forces had delayed repercussions in Blandford Camp on Sunday, 28th October when **Brigadier General R. N. Senior** accompanied by **Lieutenant-Colonel F. Chin** of the CELE Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces paid a visit to the School of Signals. One of the objects of their visit was to bring our Canada Room up to date, and to that end they presented the Commandant with a framed photograph of an officer and a warrant officer wearing the new style uniforms of the Canadian Armed Forces, and a shield bearing the CELE badge. The School has several lecture rooms named after Commonwealth countries, and Canada Room being equipped with practically every type of training aid and comfortable tiered seating is very much used and seen by most visitors. It is not surprising therefore that visiting Canadians had noticed that our trappings were out of date, and decided to do something about it.

Our happy photograph shows **Brigadier General Senior** assisted by our own Canadian exchange officer **Major Jim Brittain** about to make the presentation to the Commandant.

After the presentation the visitors were taken on a tour of the School and then entertained to lunch in the HQ Mess.

CANADIAN PRESENTATION TO SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
*Left to right:* Major J. Brittain, Brigadier-General R. N. Senior, Brigadier A. A. G. Anderson

## Obituary

### Ex-W.O.2 (F. of S.) C. L. Buckley

Captain (TOT) J. A. Milton (Retd.) of 3 Maude Street, Darlington, Co. Durham writes: "May I pass on the sad news through the medium of THE WIRE, of the death of Mr. C. L. 'Les' Buckley at Leeds in October. 'Les' as he was affectionately known was a wartime soldier who, I believe, transferred into the Corps from being a Battalion Signals Sergeant in the Scots Guards. He attended No. 2 Foreman of Signals Course in 1952 and served

as a Foreman until his retirement following a serious illness. He settled in Leeds, his home town, and worked as a TV development engineer keeping in touch with the Corps through his friends, many of whom are still serving.

I am sure all his friends and those who remember him, will join me in extending our deep sympathy to his wife Anna and family in their bereavement." His address: 12 Newton Park Drive, Leeds 7.

## Captain H. Nokes

News has recently been received of the death of Captain H. Nokes. Many of our older readers will recall Captain Nokes—a well known Corps personality from the 1920's onwards. In particular many will remember his keenness for anything to do with motorcycles of the old belt driven era. Prior to the war he made a name for himself in Palestine and India. During the war he served in the mid-east. He was one of that original band of old soldiers who helped to build up the reputation of the Corps to the high esteem in which it is held today. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife at 40, Lime Kiln Road, Wilcombe, Tiverton, Devon.

## W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Harry Schofield

With regret we announce the death of W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Harry ('Tich') Schofield who passed away on 24th September following a major operation.

A life member of the Royal Signals Association since 5th December 1951, W.O.2 Schofield joined the Corps in September 1930. He served with the Corps in Palestine and Freetown and was a member of the British Expeditionary Force. He left the Army in 1946, and was a member of the AER until 1960. We express our deep sympathy to his next of kin.

## Signalman P. M. Smith

From 633 Signal Troop (Caribbean):—

It is with regret that we have to report the tragic death on 16th October of Signalman Paul Martin Smith.

Signalman Smith joined the corps in January 1971. After completing his apprenticeship at Harrogate he served in Germany before volunteering for service in Belize.

He was an intelligent, capable and popular young man who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

To his parents we offer our most sincere sympathy.

## Captain R. D. Allen, M.B.E.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the tragic death of Captain R. D. Allen (Retd.) as the result of a car accident, and to express deep sympathy to Mrs. Allen whose address is: 43 High Street, Roxton, Bedford, MK44 3EB.

## Appointments

The following is a list of Senior Staff and Command appointments recently notified.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | MAJOR GENERAL | |
| H. A. J. Sturge | CSO BAOR | 7.75 |
| | BRIGADIER | |
| A. B. Bate, O.B.E. | MOD DDASD | 5.75 |
| G. W. Gittins | CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps | 8.75 |
| E. J. Hellier, O.B.E. | To attend RCDS Course 1975 | |
| R. A. King | Comd Trd Bde R. Signals | 12.74 |
| P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E. | BGS Signals (Army) | 5.75 |
| | COLONEL | |
| H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E. | Col GS DI 24 (Army) | 11.74 |
| D. J. Macintyre | Col GS (W) CD and OR School of Sigs | 11.74 |
| A. W. McL. McKinnon, O.B.E. | Col GS(W) GS(OR) 5 MOD | 11.74 |
| J. A. J. Massey, M.B.E. | (AD of S(Ops)) DSS MOD | 4.75 |
| D. A. Polley | An MA appt | 5.75 |
| A. T. Scott, O.B.E. | Dep CSO UKLF | 1.75 |
| E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M. | Comd HQ NORTHAG Sp | 5.75 |
| | LOCAL COLONEL | |
| G. N. Bell | Sigs Adviser and Dep Comd BMM to Saudi Arabia | 4.75 |
| | LIEUTENANT COLONEL | |
| J. O. C. Alexander | CR Signals Hong Kong and CO 27 Sig Regt | 3.75 |
| B. F. Allen | CO 21 Sig Regt | 7.75 |
| K. S. H. Allwright | CO 16 Sig Regt | 3.76 |
| G. C. Beadle, T.A.V.R. | CO 34 Sig Regt (V) | 10.75 |
| R. Bell | CO 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt | 3.76 |
| J. B. Booth | GSO1 (Exec) CANDE Div SHAPE | 10.75 |
| J. P. Brian | CO 31 Sig Regt (V) | 10.75 |
| J. D. Bromley | CO 33 Sig Regt (V) | 7.75 |
| P. R. Davies | GSO1 (DS) Staff College Camberley | 3.75 |
| A. N. de Britton Gordon | GSO1 (Comms) JWE | 9.75 |
| T. R. Eamey | GSO1 (W) Sigs HQ BAOR | 11.74 |
| J. C. Foster, T.D., T.A.V.R. | CO 39 Sig Regt (V) | 5.75 |
| J. R. Gibson | GSO1 (LO/DS) GE Staff College | 12.75 |
| J. B. J. Halford | CO 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt | 9.75 |
| D. Hall | SO1 (Sigs) Trg Eval Team HQ Trg Bde R. Signals | 4.75 |
| P. J. Hartshorn | Dep OIC R Signals Manning and Record Office | 6·75 |
| F. C. Lockwood, O.B.E. | CSO Berlin | 5.75 |
| I. MacDonald | GSO1 (W) Chief Scientist (A) MOD | 12.74 |
| J. A. Montague, M.B.E. | CI Sig Wing RSME | 3.75 |
| D. F. Oakley | SO1 (Sigs) SHAPE | 6.75 |
| T. I. McL. Robinson | SO1 Recruiting Co-ord DSS (Army) MOD | 8.75 |
| H. S. de N. Rogers | CI & OC Sig School RAC Centre | 3.75 |
| P. J. Rowland | CO 35 Sig Regt (V) | 5.75 |
| I. R. D. Shapter | CR Signals Northern Ireland | 1.76 |
| C. R. A. Sumner | Comd Radio Op BAOR | 4.75 |
| M. R. Topple | SI (Systems) School of Signals CO 7 Sig Regt | 1.75 |
| G. C. Verdon | GSO1 (DS) Staff College Camberley | 1.76 |
| S. G. Walker | SO1 (Sigs) NAVSOUTH NAPLES | 3.75 |
| K. J. White | GSO1 PANDA Div SHAPE | 7.75 |
| D. S. Whitehead | CO 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt | 6.75 |
| H. R. Williams | CO 37 Sig Regt (V) | 9.75 |
| T. R. G. Willis, T.A.V.R. | SO1 HQ 11 Sig Gp (V) | 12.74 |
| M. G. H. Wise | Comdt Sigs Wing, School of Inf | 11.74 |
| | | 2.76 |

## Movements

### Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Captain M. J. Anderson | To 22 Signal Regiment |
| Captain G. J. Barrett | „ 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Captain (Tfc) P. Brown | „ 7 Signal Regiment |
| Lieutenant J. F. Burnage | „ Attd 264 SAS Signal Squadron |
| Captain C. E. Byrom | „ HQ 3 Infantry Brigade |
| Captain I. N. Carruthers | „ 39 Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Captain C. G. Cruickshank | „ 226 Signal Squadron |
| Major P. H. Dale | „ MOD (DOAE) |
| Captain P. Durrant | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Captain A. F. Eastburn | „ HQ D. Army Aviation as Major |
| Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Flynn | „ 11 Signal Regiment (HS) |
| Major (TOT) E. M. Frost, M.B.E. | „ Computer Systems Development Wing RAOC |
| Captain A. R. Gale | „ 4 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Captain G. Harrison | „ AAC Harrogate as Major |
| Captain G. W. Howard | „ School of Signals as Major |
| Captain R. G. Howard | „ School of Signals |
| Major R. B. Ingram | „ MOD Signals 36b |
| Captain W. V. Legge | „ 5 Airportable Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron |
| Lieutenant D. M. Martin-Rhind | „ 28 Signal Regiment |
| Captain I. W. Morris | „ 9 Signal Regiment |
| Major S. W. Read | „ School of Signals |
| Major R. A. F. Reynolds | „ 39 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Captain C. H. Richardson | „ 1 Div HQ and Signal Regiment |
| Major W. Roper | „ MOD (D160) |
| Captain M. A. Rowbory | „ School of Signals |
| Captain R. C. A. Thwaites | „ AAC Harrogate |
| Captain P. W. Todd, B.E.M. | „ 11 Signal Regiment as Major |
| Major D. Turner | „ HQ 4 Signal Group |
| Captain (Tfc) L. T. Waumsley | „ 55 Signal Squadron (V) as Major |
| Second-Lieutenant R. T. Weston | „ 22 Signal Regiment |
| Major H. R. Williams | „ 37 Signal Regiment (V) as Lieutenant-Colonel |
| Major G. W. Young | „ SRDE |

### W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

| | |
|---|---|
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. W. A. Charlton | To 240 Signal Squadron (Brizier Wood) |
| W.O.2 (F. of S.) J. B. T. Hill | „ Central Volunteer HQ Training Wing |
| W.O.2 W. G. Feltham | „ 244 Signal Squadron (TAC AIR SP) |
| W.O.2 G. E. W. French | „ HQ 5 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 J. Frost | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| W.O.2 J. Sinnett | „ HQ 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) R. C. Bland | „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) J. M. Creevy | „ HQ 4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron |
| W.O.2 (Y. of S.) P. J. Daniel | „ HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) K. R. Finch | „ HQ 19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant J. H. Moody | „ 234 Signal Squadron (Malta) |
| Staff Sergeant M. N. Robinson | „ 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant W. G. C. Williams | „ Army Apprentices College, Harrogate |
| Staff Sergeant P. D. Hinton | „ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. Lawson | „ 71 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. M. Smith | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant S. B. Elliott | „ 262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) |
| Sergeant C. R. Dalton Brockwell | „ Central Volunteer HQ Royal Signals |
| Sergeant T. R. Taylor | „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant C. W. Peach | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant J. A. C. Knell | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. C. Dyson | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. J. T. Edwards | „ School of Signals |
| Sergeant D. E. Bryant | „ 36 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant D. Traynor | „ 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant R. A. Lyons | „ Army Air Corps Centre |
| Sergeant P. D. Dring | „ 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant A. Halloway | „ 262 Signal Squadron (Cape Greco) |
| Sergeant G. A. McEwen | „ 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support) |
| Sergeant H. E. F. Nanty | „ 259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) |
| Sergeant J. L. Ball | „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) |
| Sergeant C. C. Miller | „ 641 Signal Troop (HQ 2 ATAF) |
| Sergeant R. W. Boyd | „ HQ 3 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant G. F. Chaloner | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant J. J. Gerrard | „ 38 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant M. Johnson | „ 33 Signal Regiment (V) |
| Sergeant D. K. Stokes | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |
| Sergeant J. G. Taylor | „ Communications Project Agency |
| Sergeant J. K. Dodsworth | „ 14 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant B. R. Oram | „ 7 Signal Regiment (Corps Main HQ) |
| Sergeant B. Hamer | „ HQ 39 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. P. Aldridge | „ 223 Signal Squadron (Radio) |
| Sergeant P. A. Lawrence | „ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE) |
| Sergeant J. E. Dalquen | „ 227 Signal Squadron (ALFCE) |
| Sergeant M. B. Poole | „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) |
| Sergeant W. F. Quinlan | „ 28 Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) |
| Sergeant G. W. Canning | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant D. M. Coles | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant R. G. West | „ School of Signals (Courses) |
| Sergeant J. V. K. Battisby | „ 27 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. A. Brecken | „ HQ 4 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant R. M. Findlay | „ 233 Signal Squadron |
| Sergeant M. Murphy | „ 30 Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant M. Gass | „ HQ 1 Division Signal Regiment |
| Sergeant H. F. G. Jack | „ HQ 24 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron |
| A/Sergeant E. C. Rock | „ 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) |
| A/Sergeant R. G. Sutherland | „ 594 Rear Link Detachment (Infantry Mechanised Battalion) |
| A/Sergeant J. J. Johnston | „ 8 Signal Regiment (Cadre) |


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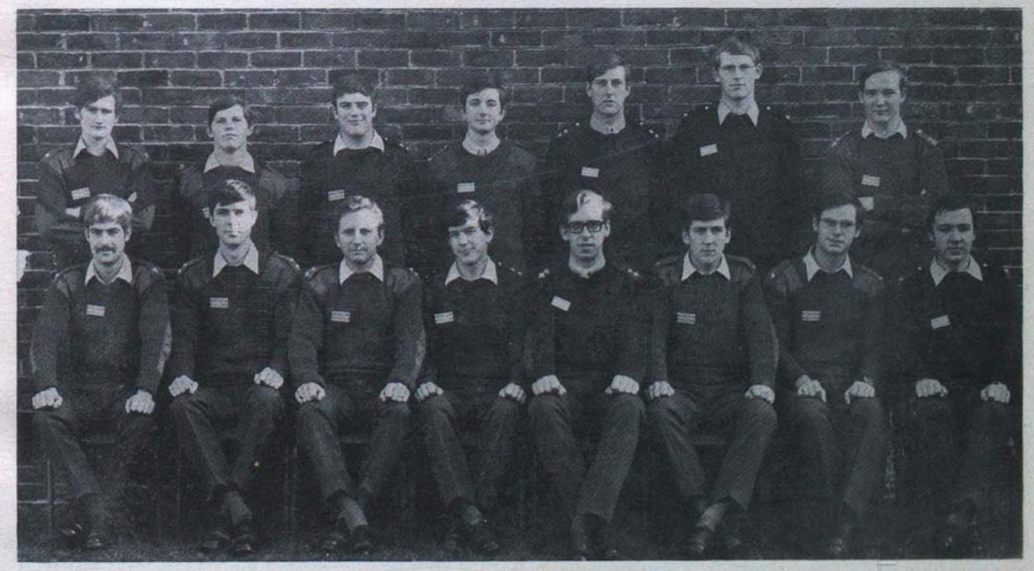


NEW TO THE CORPS—WELCOME!

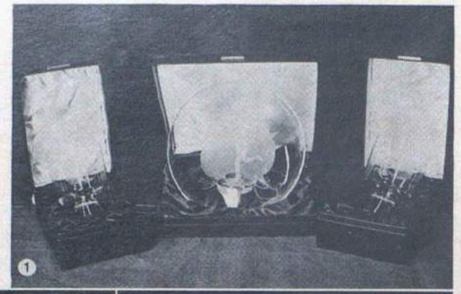
NO 2 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS COMMUNICATIONS QUALIFYING COURSE 4 November 1974–11 April 1975

*Back row, left to right:* Second Lieutenants Bardell, Batho, Lieutenant Beach, Second Lieutenant Cary, Lieutenant Collyer, Second Lieutenant Corbet, Lieutenant Cox

*Front row, left to right:* Second Lieutenant Crombie, Lieutenants Hadfield, Illman, Kirkup, Neal, Second Lieutenants O'Brien, Pullin, Thompson

***Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the move of the Corps from Maresfield to Catterick***

1. *Complete set of crystal glass in presentation box*
2. *Chalice with old Corps badge*
3. *Chalice with present Corps badge*
4. *Chalice showing Catterick rose*
5. *10 inch plate*



**DETAIL**

It was intended to produce a Wedgwood plate to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the move but unfortunately this has not been possible due to production difficulties. Instead, a set of engraved crystal glassware has been designed and produced by Caithness Glass. Photographs of the glassware are shown and the set consists of:

- **A chalice with the old Corps badge**
- **A chalice with the present Corps badge**
- **A plate with the present Corps badge**

Each item also shows the Catterick Rose, and the inscription "Catterick" and "1925–1975". On the chalice the rose and word Catterick appear on the opposite side to the Corps badge.

Each item is to be numbered as part of a limited edition, and where more than one item is purchased in the set, each will carry the same number. Each item comes complete with a lined presentation box.

This is a beautiful set of crystal glass, so why not take this opportunity to obtain something that will not only enhance your home, but bring back happy memories of the Corps? It also makes an ideal presentation set to a mess or other organisation.

Orders should be submitted on the tear-off form below, and sent to the address shown to arrive not later than 1st JUNE 1975. No orders can be accepted after that date.

**1925 CATTERICK 1975**

**ORDER FORM**

1. Please reserve for me the following items of the commemorative crystal glass:
   a. Chalice with old Corps badge ..... @ £11·00 + VAT & pp
   b. Chalice with present Corps badge ..... @ £11·00 + VAT & pp
   c. 10 inch plate ..... @ £16·00 + VAT & pp
2. I understand that I need not send any money now, but a bill will be presented to me shortly before the items are due for delivery.
3. I also understand that this order is binding upon me to purchase items reserved.

NAME ..... Signed .....

ADDRESS ..... Send to: Officer Commanding 4 Squadron, 8th Signal Regiment,

..... CATTERICK GARRISON, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS

(Block capitals please)

***The Corps at work (1)***

# THE CYPRUS EMERGENCY AND 259 SQUADRON

**A REPORT WHICH LOOKS BACK ON A WIDE VARIETY OF INCIDENTS AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A RADIO RELAY SQUADRON**

## LIFE MORE THAN INTERESTING

By the time these notes appear in *The Wire* the events of the past few weeks which began with the coup d'etat on 15th July will all be old hat. Needless to say we have not had quite so much time for the usual sun, sea, and sand, reports of which have so often graced these pages in the past. However, life has been more interesting and for a period the Squadron, besides keeping the radio relay system ticking over (as always) has had under its command: VHF radio detachments from 3 Division HQ and Signal Regiment; has manned an out-station on the UNIFICYP motorola VHF command net; administered C11 SSB detachments from UK and been reinforced with C50s from 3 Division. The latter are still here and integrated into the static radio relay system. In fact the first reinforcements of any to arrive were the VHF detachments under **Lieutenant Shaw.** Even as they were being escorted to Episkopi the last "overs" of the fire fight for the Turkish Cypriot village of Episkoli were still crossing the "M1".

## HELICOPTERS INVALUABLE

Nearly all of the reinforcements and detachments mentioned above were flown in and it was only the close liaison between the Squadron and ALTO at RAF Akrotiri which enabled the UEO and his self styled "mams team" to handle so much kit and freight arriving quite often at the most ungodly hours.

Helicopters, until recently of the "Fly Navy" Wessex variety from H.M.S. *Hermes* (what better firm for Royal Signals to operate with) have featured largely in the Squadron's life. A total lack of road movement between sovereign base areas and retained sites in the early days of the 'war', meant that the 3rd Division C42 rebro and on a later date the C50 relay had to be broken down and flown in by Wessex to Troodos. On other occasions, complete detachments have had to be flown to Dhekelia by C130 Hercules. The result of all this air movement has been the addition to our already under worked QM/Admin Officer/MTO's title of UEO. What to put there now since he organised the embarkation and despatch of most of the vehicles by LSLs and mounds of MFO from 9th Regiment is still being worked on by the Squadron Wags—USO?

## BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION BECOMES A COMM-CENTRE

The British High Commission Nicosia has featured largely in the Squadron's life, the roof of which at one stage looked like a porcupine with aerials of just about every type of field radio and radio relay equipment surrounding the Union Jack. **Sergeant Bardsley** and his crew **Sergeant Crittenden** and **Corporal Joseph** all from 3rd Division, have had an interesting, but on occasions extremely noisy time living on the 'Green Line' at the British High Commission in Nicosia. They joined **Sergeant Wickens** who was there with his C42 detachment, but it was during the Turkish Army's Operation Attila that His Excellency was forced to withdraw to his residency. **Sergeant Bardsley's** detachment went with him and established a SR C50 'Rear Link for a short period, before moving again to Dhekelia. Needless to say it was not long before they were back in Nicosia, having earned the highest praise from the staff of the British High Commission.

## INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE THICK OF IT

Our own detachment at Nicosia airport had a grand stand view of the Turkish and Greek "fire power demonstrations" as a battle waged backwards and forwards around the International Airport (with them in the middle of it). Although ordered to abandon their terminal when RAF Nicosia were forced to evacuate the area of the airport, **Sergeant Robinson** left the set etc., switched on, locked the compound, and it was only a mains failure some 30 hours later which eventually put our 'ghost' station off the air. However despite just about every possible obstruction having to be overcome, **Sergeant Robinson** managed to get back into the terminal since when he has been wearing a UN beret. He was joined shortly afterwards by other personnel of the Nicosia Detachment who have been "attached to the UN" and have since basked in pale blue neutrality.

## FAMILIES HAVE AN EXCITING TIME

However it seems that it has been our families who have heard and seen more of the fighting, then often the menfolk. After the coup and then the initial Turkish invasion, families were confined to their houses in dormitory towns whilst small arms and mortars clattered and banged throughout the night. Our lads at Cape Greco, **Sergeant Broadley, Sergeant Jones** and **Corporal Mitchell** had some anxious moments. At one stage they almost ran out of tobacco! **Sergeant Coulson** and company at Ayios Nikolaos spent most of their time up the radio relay antenna tower where they had an excellent view of the fighting around Famagusta.

## MANSIZE SERVICING PROBLEM

Just before the second evacuation of Limassol, the third line West "Radio Troop" really had to put on their skates. An evacuation net using Storno Commercial Radios was installed with 3 base stations and 23 sector wardens fitted out with a manpack set with which they could communicate either from their house or mobile in the streets to the controlling organisation and the service provost HQ. Throughout the evacuation (which involved moving about 10,000 people and was completed in record time) and the preceeding 36 hours **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hodgson** and **Sergeant Folkes** were constantly on the move keeping the net open by changing batteries and effecting minor on-the-spot repairs.

## LIGHTER MOMENTS

Despite the ups and downs of the past weeks, we have as usual had our lighter moments.

On the 16th July our gallant QM was walking at the head of a convoy which was at the end of the M1 awaiting clearange to go in to Limassol. He was met by an Officer of the RAF who saluted smartly and said "Are you the Greek National Guard Major I am to liaise with at this location?" We know the Greek National Guard have a motley collection of uniforms, but even the Q.M.'s turn-out is hardly thought to be that scruffy (except when with the enemy on exercises).

**Captain Ambrose** was a little disconcerted by a telephone call from his wife **Ann,** who asked what were those things which went schschschsch . . . followed shortly afterwards by a loud bang. **Captain Ambrose** said "It sounds like mortars to me—why?" "Well" said **Ann,** "there is one that keeps going over this house . . ."

At one stage word reached us that Troodos was under fire. Our OC spoke direct from the Ops Room to the Troodos radio relay detachment Commander and said, **"Corporal Horner,** are you surrounded?" The reply came back "Only by the fence I hope Sir!"

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*The Corps at work (2)*

# HURRICANE "FIFI" AND 633 TROOP

NO sooner had we recovered from Hurricane Carmen than Hurricane Fifi was upon us. Fifi originated near Haiti and travelled westwards across the Caribbean Sea, affecting Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and the Bay Islands. It was described by the US Hurricane Warning Centre as 'the most dangerous hurricane of the century'.

In the early hours of 19th September Hurricane Fifi struck the northern coast of the Republic of Honduras causing extensive flooding, crop damage and heavy loss of life.

### DAMAGE IN BELIZE

Luckily Hurricane Fifi had lost much of its intensity by the time it struck the Belize coastline. However, a 400 foot microwave telephone relay tower at Mango Creek was destroyed and this cut off communications to the southern half of Belize. As with Hurricane Carmen the Troop provided emergency communications between all the various hurricane shelters, command posts and H.E. The Governor's hurricane coordination centre. We also established a voice link to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and were thus able to receive hurricane data some 4 to 6 hours in advance of the normal 'Met' channels. This information was then immediately rebroadcast to the country over Radio Belize.

### RELIEF TO HONDURAS

The full extent of the damage to the Republic of Honduras is still unknown. Estimates of 8,000 dead and 120,000 homeless do not seem to be unlikely figures for the final toll. In addition all the fruit and corn crops in the two main agricultural areas of the country were totally destroyed. At the request, therefore, of the Honduran Government a relief force from British Forces Belize was despatched to Honduras.

### CORPS PROVIDE FORCE REAR LINK

**Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson** and **Signalman John Murray** were despatched to San Pedro Sula, Honduras at a few hours notice on 23rd September. Their task was to provide a rear link from La Mesa Airport, Honduras to British Forces Belize. In the middle of the night equipment was withdrawn from various hurricane posts, checked and packed for air freight. A few hours later an Islander light aircraft picked up the detachment plus its equipment and flew to Honduras.

**Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson** and **Signalman John Murray** had no idea what to expect on arrival in Honduras. In the event they set up their station in a Honduran Air Force laundry! They were soon through to Belize, however, and were then able to relax and take stock of their surroundings. The United States Air Force had already set up a relief coordination centre for the distribution of the vital supplies being flown in by countries from all over the world—from Germany to Cuba!

### BRITISH RELIEF EFFORT

The British relief effort consisted of airlifts of stores together with engineer and medical assistance in the worst hit areas. Sioux helicopters dropped food packs to homes and farms cut off by floods. In addition they were able to pinpoint broken bridges, damaged railway lines and assist with casualty evacuation.

**Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson** and **Signalman John Murray** returned to Belize together with the majority of the relief force after some ten days hard work. By then the Honduran Government had been able to organise its own relief effort, communications had largely been restored and most of the food supplies were being distributed by road. The British relief force therefore returned to Belize, tired but satisfied that a difficult and vital task had been successfully carried out.

WHAT A HURRICANE DOES!

Hurricane and flood damage on a road near San Pedro Sula, Honduras. A Relief Force from British Forces Belize helped to clear such debris in order that relief supplies could be sent by road to stricken areas

HURRICANE LINK TO BRITISH H.Q.

Signalman John Murray (centre) and Corporal 'Scouse' Hobson (right) with their rear link station at La Mesa Airport, San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Lieutenant Andrew Padwick, RE (left) looks on

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH TRY THIS!

## *Mountain Marathon, 1974*

AN account from 3 Infantry Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron of what must be one of the most demanding running events there is.

### CONCEIVED BY A SADIST?

The Mountain Marathon is a two day mountain navigation race. It was first conceived in 1968 by a group of fell runners and orienteers who realised that the skills acquired in orienteering could be applied to competitive navigation in wild and desolate mountain country. The event is staged annually in the month of October and is designed to test ones endurance, map reading and navigational skills in the safe traverse of difficult and unknown hill country. The distance coupled with the ascent involved, demands a high level of physical fitness because all competitors are required to carry their food and equipment for the entire two-day journey which involves an enforced nights camp at the end of the first day. The camp site is not disclosed until the actual start of the race and its location is invariably exposed and at a high level, fully testing a teams equipment and self sufficiency in surviving the night, cooking food and getting adequate sleep in preparation for the second days journey.

*(Continued on page 493)*



*(Continued from page 492)*

WE MUST HAVE BEEN MAD TO GO IN FOR THIS!

Four of 39 Brigade's competitors on arrival. *Left to right:* Sergeant Bernie Phillips (Royal Signals), Corporal Andy Vinicombe (R.A.O.C.), Sergeant Peter Lee (R.A.O.C.), Corporal Fred Lowerson (A.C.C.)

### TRAINING PROBLEMS

Despite the difficulty in training for such an event in the Ulster environment the squadron decided to build on the experience gained in the '73 Mountain Marathon, held in North Wales, and enter at least three teams in 1974. Training was a severe problem as, in present circumstances, only limited use could be made of the few suitable areas available. I suppose the IRA were less of a problem with regard to training than that awesome group 'Heads of Department' as these stalwart figures obviously pass a severe test in how to say 'no' in 101 polite, yet firm, ways. Nevertheless progress was made and despite 'operational necessity' training went ahead through September.

Our experience last year had shown how vital it was to cut the weight carried per man down to below ten pounds and to do this it proved necessary to buy equipment on the civilian market. With a total weight of less than ten pounds to carry a man can run with his arms free to maintain rhythm and balance and this enables him to concentrate on fast cross-country navigation as opposed to merely 'humping' a great load around the mountains. Clothing must also be cut to a minimum and a shirt and trousers should be adequate although it's mandatory that a full set of waterproofs are carried and they're certainly useful, if the weather turns really bad. It follows from this that warmth must be obtained through movement and this is where fitness, and confidence in ones fitness, are vital.

Early morning on the 5th October found three teams from the Squadron poised in the College Valley of the Cheviot Hills, Northumberland, two miles from the Scottish Border. The teams were:

**Lieutenant Peter Richards,** R Signals, **Corporal Andy Vinicombe** RAOC.
**Sergeant Pete Lee** RAOC, **Corporal Fred Lowerson** ACC.
**Sergeant Bernie Phillips** R Signals, **Private Benny Mullane** RPC.

### NO GOOD FOLLOWING OTHERS

The elite standard were away early leaving time for a final adjustment of kit and then at 0930 the standard 'A' stampeded on the valley to the 'Master Map' area where we learned, for the first time, the grid referenees of Saturdays checkpoints. Three standards of course were run at the same time and certain checkpoints could be visited in any order. This ensured that after the first half hour most teams were out of sight and those teams that followed along blindly would probably find themselves on the wrong course. One could be racing 'around the mountain' at top speed only to meet six other teams going pell-mell the other way—a severe test of judgement!

### A NIGHT IN THE FROST

For many teams the heart bursting climb up the Cheviots halfway through the first day was the zenith of their competitive effort and the completely unexpected thigh-deep bog at the top was the source of much strong language—especially directed at those who in their haste pushed others deeper in! Many teams thereafter settled down for a long slog to the overnight camp site but dusk found many still out 'on the moors' and most of these made a sensible decision to retire. The site for the camp, although well sheltered, was above 1000 ft and a deep frost that night saw many a competitor lying awake wishing his lightweight sleeping bag wasn't quite so light!

### BAD WEATHER

As we warmed our stiff legs on the first climb away from the camp site on Sunday morning a scattering of tents below indicated a most encouraging failure of will on the part of some teams. Bad weather set in quite early during the day and the contours of the Cheviots were soon obscured by a steady downpour of rain but most teams pressed on—sustained variously by thoughts of 'glory' or even of just a cup of hot sweet tea.

### HIGH RETIREMENT RATE

A recurrent factor of the mountain marathon is the high retirement rate during the course and so it's always a source of a great deal of personal satisfaction to finish. This satisfaction was reflected in the smiles of the bone-weary competitors who dropped back into the College Valley on Sunday evening.

### TOUGH BUT SATISFACTION CAN BE FOUND

**I think our collective verdict on the weekend would be that, despite our varying degrees of competitive success, each person had the satisfaction of achieving a good degree of fitness—not easy in present circumstances—of pushing himself to his own limit and of enjoying the unique atmosphere of a unique event. As an experience it was welcome but more so because it was completely different from our normal day to day work here.**

**As they say—a change is as good as a rest.**

(We understand that **Sergeant Bernie Phillips** (R. Signals and **Private Benny Mullance** (RPC) finished in bogey time and that the other two teams finished in fine style—completing the course being quite an achievement—Editor.)

# HOW TO RETURN TO THE U.K. THE HARD WAY!

**Submitted by Royal Signals Detachment, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines**

BEING an account of how four foolhardy individuals involved in a N.A.T.O. amphibious exercise decided to cycle home from Sardinia to the U.K. Read on—and shed a silent tear for their tribulations!

### AIM

The aim of "Expedition Hard Pedal" was to return a multi-service group to Plynouth from the last exercise location of Dawn Patrol '74. The group was to travel overland with as little outside assistance as possible, by their own efforts, compatible with returning in a reasonable time. Certain historic sites were to be visited on a pre-set route.

### THE GROUP

The madmen who chose to cycle back were:

**Flight Lieutenant John Darby,** RAF—605 Primary FAC.
**Staff Sergeant Mike Brett,** R. Signals—Foreman of Signals (Hereafter referred to as Mike B.).
**Corporal Mike Robertson,** R.M.—Unit PTI (Hereafter referred to as Mike R.).
**Marine Ginge Loughrey,** R.M.—Signals Operator.

The standard of bikes ranged from John's £120·00 racer to Mike B's renovated scrap heap salvage job. The latter was the only bike to be completely trouble free as it turned out.

The route chosen was basically due North through Sardinia, Corsica and France, using the standard ferry services between these countries. The more detailed route was carefully chosen by **John Darby** to miss out as much hilly country as possible, and (with the exception of four major mountain passes) this was achieved.

### AWAY TO A TOUGH START

The journey started at 1330 11th May, on the edge of the southernmost training area in Sardinia.

Four days later on the 15th May, four bottom sore, insect bitten, sunburnt, pedallers arrived at Bastia in Northern Corsica to catch the ferry to Marseilles, France and the last leg home. In those four days, most of the difficulties which were to be experienced, had been experienced, among them 328 miles of very poor roads, one broken pedal and three mountain climbs.

The story is taken up here by one of the group.

"We survived Sardinia with only eight hours of Italian between us. We managed to purchase most of the supplies we needed and we were able to obtain water in what was an apparently dry country, even if we did use nearly two bottles of water sterilising tablets. We discovered that the pace of the expedition did not leave much time for enjoyment, in fact the expedition became boring in certain respects. It was certainly not a holiday but more like good military training. It did become more interesting as we reached civilisation and Corsica, however we wanted to push on as hard as we could and we cracked Corsica in a day and a half. As it was, we arrived twenty-six hours before the ferry sailed, so we were able to have a rest day on the 16th and were able to sort out our kit and dry our dhoby on a washing line instead of a crossbar.

### A TERRIBLE WIND

We arrived at Marseilles early on the morning of the 17th and headed West across the Carmargue towards Arles, against the terrible wind they experience there. The wind was so bad that **Mike B** gave up and pushed his bike miles along the flat. At Arles we explored the picturesque back streets and visited the Roman Amphitheatre before leaving for Nimes, another of our cultural stops, where we saw the Maison Caree. That night we camped eighty-two miles into France.

### SUPER BODIES!

The following morning we made the last of our visits to Roman antiquities at the Aquaduct of Port du Gard, however we had some doubt though if it was in France, as German was being spoken to the exclusion of all else. We were not to hear English spoken (other than between ourselves) for a further three days when we were camping at Bourges. We were in a campsite and two attractive 'upper crust' wives were overheard discussing our expedition. First wife: "Havent they got **super** bodies". Second wife: "They have but I bet they haven't got super minds like ours?" **John** extracted revenge for that comment the following night when they caught us up (by car) at the next campsite.

It was on the way to Bourge that **Ginge** won the "seen off" trophy for pushing his bike down the Col du Republic, (a 7½ mile, 3500 ft. mountain pass between the valleys of the Rhone and the Loire) with a puncture, whilst the rest of us roared down at well over 30 mph as though we were actually part of the Tour de France which must have used the pass so often.

### DAILY ROUTINE

The following few days we pushed on very hard to our next historical site, the Chateau of Azay-le-Rideaux in the Loire Valley, achieving our group maximum mileage for one day of 120 miles on the way, this should be compared with a normal sensible touring maximum of 60 miles a day. Our normal day started by **John** cooking breakfast at 05.30 hours, a gentle start to be on the road by 07.30 hours. We had short breaks mid-morning and afternoon, a fairly lengthy lunch break and an early evening finish to eat, **John** cooking again, and to be asleep by dusk. The rest of the day was just head down and peddle.

### SMART RIPOSTE

Azay le Rideaux produced two incidents that had us in fits, the first as we sat in a cafe at lunchtime with the bikes parked on the opposite side of the road, occurred when one English public schoolboy type said to another, looking at our bikes, "I say these French are rather keen on their sport", the second was when **Mike B** chatting to a girl with a heavy American accent commented on the boring dissertation of the guide in the Chateau, asked her if she understood what he was on about and she replied "I should do I am French!"

### TROUBLE

Azay-le-Rideaux to Saumur was supposed to be our second rest day, so we peddled 70 miles that day! At Saumur we visited another Chateau and collected Poste Restante mail. That night **Mike R.** was taken ill, and the following day it became obvious that we were not going to make it unless we either rested up for a few days or caught a train. We had by then covered 1000 miles overland and the train journey would only be an afternoon trip. We could be back in U.K. in 24 hours but, if we compromised, two peddlers could still do the whole journey by bike and we could still get back to U.K. as a group, (that is if the two peddlers could cover 200 miles in 24 hours by bike).

### FINAL DAYS

It is useful here to quote from the notes written at the time for the official report:—

25th—**Mike R.** very slow, lots of stops to relieve himself. Decision made for two **Mikes** to catch afternoon train from Rennes to Morlaix 23 km. from the Roscoff Ferry. **John** and **Ginger** to cycle on to meet up for the ferry leaving Roscoff on the 26th.

**John** and **Ginge** made St. Brieuc at 19.30 hours. Got food, ate, had two hours sleep. Cycled from 22.15 hours to 00.15 hours. Stopped at Guingamp, lots of hills all day, no flat at all, 146 miles covered today.

26th—On the road at 05.45 hours. Last leg, good progress. Arrived Roscoff 10.15 hours to meet the others for the 12.00 ferry. 50 miles covered. **Mike B.** reported **Mike R.** had been very weak on the train and had not wanted to eat. They had camped the night just outside Morlaix in a wood. The 15 miles the following morning had taken them 2½ hours with a following wind on the flat.

### HOME AT LAST

**Our last peddle for successful completion of the expedition, was the 150 yards from the ferry terminal at Plymouth to the guardroom at RMB Stonehouse. We had covered 1159 miles in 15 days and 7 hours. We had met almost all the problems we had anticipated and overcame them, one way or another by team effort. Two peddlers had successfully achieved the full aims of the expedition and, anyway almost everyone in the Brigade believed we were going to catch the first train home. Nobody wants to cycle 1000 odd miles to get home from an exercise.**

### NOTICE

For Sale. Two wheeled manual drive drop handle bar road machine in fair condition. Worn saddle. Long life tyres (stuffed with straw). MOT expired. Contact: **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Brett,** 3 CDO Brigade, R.M.

## *A cruise in 'British Soldier'*

**Lieutenant John McLeod** writes of a break from service in Northern Ireland enjoyed by himself and a party of eight aboard *British Soldier* kindly loaned by **Chay Blyth.**

### OFF FOR 10 DAYS

THE idea was to give myself and some of the lads a break from service in Londonderry. However, there only being but a few nautical types in 8th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, we eventually laid the scheme open to the Province and managed to recruit one 'hand' from each of the other squadrons.

Being a relatively inexperienced crew we had to rely on the Yacht Club to provide the regular bos'un **(Sergeant George Marshall)** as our skipper.

**Sergeant Marshall** met us on the quay at Marchwood with the bad news that we could not have *Skywave*. However faces brightened visibly when he announced that **Chay Blyth** had agreed to lend us *British Soldier* for ten days.

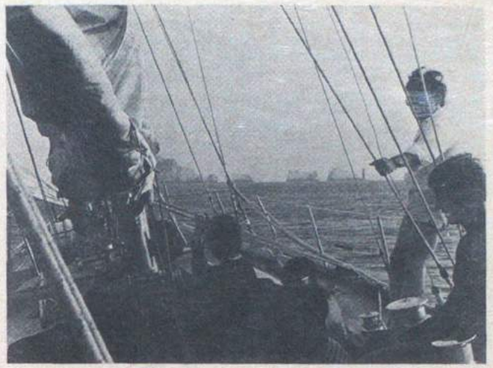
The following day we picked *British Soldier* up from her moorings and sailed her round to Marchwood for provisioning and the stowing of kit. We sailed on the Wednesday tide with a full crew of nine comprising, **Sergeant George Marshall** the skipper, **'Scouse'** the mate (never did find out his real name), **Alistair** the cabin boy, **Lieutenant John Macleod** (writing), **Lieutenant Ed Hounsell** (39 Brigade), **Staff-Sergeant Ed Cook** (3rd Bridge and RAOC), **Corporal 'Paddy' Knox** (233 Squadron), **Corporal 'Taff' Davey** (8th Brigade and RAOC) and **Driver Reg Rose** (8th Brigade and RCT) as the willing crew.

### A CALM CROSSING TO ALDERNEY

Allowing for our inexperience we were quite awed by the size and variety of the sails carried aboard the yacht, ghosters, reachers, drifters, yankies, gennies and stay sails, a confusion of canvas







OUTWARD BOUND—COMING UP TO THE NEEDLES
Lieutenant John McLeod hanging on to the rigging

AN OLD NAVAL TRADITION
Corporal 'Taff' Davey swabs the decks in Alderney Harbour

and names. However, once under way the experience of sailing (despite the light winds) was well worth any effort involved. That first day we sailed down the Solent and out past the Needles under strong sunshine and light breezes. Not terribly good sailing weather but good for a sun tan. As our first landfall was Alderney we continued overnight until we made our mooring at about 0730 hours the next day. It had been a peaceful crossing, averaging 4 knots overall under a beautiful clear sky. Apart from a couple of sail changes the most interesting part of the voyage across was watching out for other ships and estimating how close by they would pass. Some came much closer than we thought.

Alderney was a pretty little island, not nearly as commercialised as we subsequently found both Guernsey and Jersey to be. Our stay on this island was enjoyable, involving as it did sunbathing, imbibing of ponies and such like.

### WEEK ENDING AT GUERNSEY

We went round the corner and down to Guernsey, where in fact we passed the weekend. Apart from a close view of some rocks on the West coast of Alderney the passage across was quiet as they were still bedeviled by bright sunshine and light winds. On the Sunday, we took some friends of the skipper out for a few hours sailing. Many gins were consumed and photographs taken of persons standing at the wheel.

### BECALMED

Next day, we picked up the tide and sailed for Jersey, this to be our jumping off point for France. Unfortunately the winds were now much lighter than they had previously been and consequently we were becalmed on two or three occasions. To make matters worse we had to beat into what little wind there was. This was all rather a nuisance as we had rather been hoping for some fast sailing. Nevertheless, we accepted the situation and put out our fishing lines and, with the assistance of a fairly heavy swell, the last pony, and some 'groundbait' laid by **Corporal 'Taff' Davey,** we caught four mackerel. They in their turn were used for bait but did not entice the big fish we hoped for.

Because of the reasons stated, it was quite late and rather dark when we put into Jersey harbour behind a rather pretty Belgian gaff-rigged yawl (it later transpired that she was over 70 years old). Our intention was to moor alongside this craft, and as she herself was having some trouble getting lines aboard a coaster, we circled inside the rather narrow harbour waiting for the craft to settle down.

### THREATENED BY A CROSS CHANNEL FERRY

Whilst on one of these slow circuits, **Corporal 'Paddy' Knox** remarked to me that I had better go and put my swimming trunks on. On being asked why, he merely pointed over my shoulder and there coming through the harbour entrance (we were abreast at the time) was the rather massive prow of a cross channel ferry, *Svea Drott*, I remember the name vividly. The skipper was alerted, but with full revs and helm hard over we escaped to a corner of the harbour. For one or two moments it rather appeared that the ship was going to follow through and squash us against the harbour wall. Fortunately it soon became apparent that the skipper of the vessel knew what he was about and with great skill manoeuvred his charge down the harbour and into her berth. Excitement over, we moored and made the acquaintance of the Belgians.

### BACK TO WEYMOUTH

Dawn the next day gave us a freshening breeze blowing straight up from France. With this and certain tidal factors in mind we called off the French connection and put out of Jersey, back on a course for Alderney. This was what we wanted, a good strong breeze, plenty of sail and enough of a sea running to make things interesting. We made good time to our destination, but on arrival discovered that the wind had veered to such an extent that we could not have held a mooring in the harbour. Much to everyone's disappointment there was no option but to continue our voyage to Weymouth (time was running out). The breeze freshened, the swell was choppy and heavy. This was what we had wanted despite one or two uneasy stomachs, 30–38 knot winds, heavy seas and just to spice it, pitch dark. Sail changing under these conditions was like nothing else. We docked in Weymouth about 0400 hours, ate breakfast and slept.

### BRIXHAM AND THE END OF OUR TRIP

The following day we sailed Brixham at noon and had a fair breeze to take us round Portland Bill against the tide. Once through however, the wind fell completely away and, with the log only reading 1–2 knots, it was again about 0400 hours before we reached destination.

This was our last day, so after a leisurely lunch we set out for Dartmouth where *British Soldier* was to have a refit. Once we were safely moored, **Chay Blyth** came aboard, chatted for a while and made the rather nice gesture of bringing some liquid sustenance for the crew.

The cruise ended with all members keen to continue sailing and increase the quite substantial amount of experience they gained whilst aboard *British Soldier*. Our thanks are due to **Chay Blyth** for lending us his yacht, to **Sergeant George Marshall** for being skipper and to **'Scouse'** for teaching and amusing us.

### A SOUVENIR YEAR BOOK

UNITED Services Catholic Association—recognized by MOD (DCI S/43/73) is publishing a special Souvenir Year Book for 1975 containing information on programmes, cultural and historical matters for the Roman Catholic Holy Year including International Military Pilgrimage to Rome. Copies available December-January next, 45p each from Hon. Editor, H.M. Forces Catholic Year Book, U.S.C.A., Duke of York's H.Q., London, SW3 4RX.

# Brunei visited

**Report from 28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn**

THE middle of September saw 4 lucky lads from the Squadron **(Sergeant 'Tom' Sawyer, Corporal Jim Lander, Corporal 'Jake' Jacobs** Royal New Zealand Signals, and **Signalman 'Fitz' Fitzgerald)** on their way to Brunei, courtesy of RAF.

They were the first party of a two phase exercise in support of 28 Independent Field Troop RE.

The Squadron was to provide a rear link from Brunei back to Singapore for the duration of the exercise during which the RE were to build a firing range and relocate two aerial towers from the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment.

### PROFESSIONAL BAR SNIFFER

On arrival in Brunei the detachment drew bedding and made themselves at home in the billets provided. The following day they unpacked the kit and set up, only to find that it was a Friday (Malay Sabbath), there wasn't anyone to issue them with electrolyte for the radio batteries until Saturday morning, good job the first schedule wasn't until Monday! The weekend was put to good use, however, partaking of the delights of Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei town), or at least, trying to find them? After a great deal of walking around our intrepid band's professional bar sniffer, **Corporal Jim Lander,** twitched visibly and altered course, closely followed by the rest of the motley crew, straight to what appeared to be virtually the only bar in town (end of sightseeing).

Monday morning dawned to find **Corporal 'Jake' Jacobs** and **Signalman George 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** 'tuning up' and bang on 080 GH the printer 'ackled' and a quick brown fox did various things on the paper. This miracle of science was achieved with a dubious di-pole; an American manufactured, Australian issued, Brit/Kiwi operated RTT station, Oh! and German printers . . . we expect Nato units to sympathise.

### UP COUNTRY SIGHTS

Once the circuit was in it stayed solid all through the exercise. The off duty pair passed their day sunbathing and sightseeing, returning to town to see if there was anything they missed on the first visit. The town hasn't much to offer the tourist, but notable exceptions were, a magnificent white stone Mosque, a very well laid out Churchill Memorial Museum, the Houses of Parliament and a giant kampong, set on stilts in the river, which is said to house half the State's population.

Just before the first party were due to return they were lucky enough to be taken up country to see a genuine long house which they found very interesting, if a little unnerving, shrunken heads and things!

On the 26th September **Sergeant 'Tom' Sawyer** and crew said their goodbyes and leaving the radio shack to the tender mercies of the Sappers flew back to Singapore on an aircraft of the Sultan's Flight.

### UNUSUAL TEA

The second party consisting of **Sergeant Colin Bachelor, Corporal Ken Fowler, Corporal Graham Hackett** and **Lance-Corporal 'Doc' Crene** RNZ Sigs boarded the Sultan's plane in Singapore on the 27th after a quick briefing by the first party on where to go and what to see.

On arrival at Bolkiah Camp, Brunei, where our det had its radio shack and billets, the ops checked the circuit and found it was still fives, so the weekend was used to visit all the places recommended by the first party. This left the rest of the exercise to find places they had missed or omitted on the info session.

The ever hungry Kiwi **Lance-Corporal 'Doc' Crene** decided to try the Lion Restaurant where he had three meals of abolone at one sitting much to the amazement of the waitress. **Corporal Ken Fowler,** witness to the event, asked for a beer and nearly fell off his chair when along came two cups and saucers and a teapot. On closer inspection the 'tea' seemed to foam a little and was found to be "Tiger" beer. Needless to say the whole party indulged in a few 'pots of tea' whenever in town. The reason for the teapot custom turned out to be so as not to offend the orthodox Moslems, who do not drink. (We thought the place was a speakeasy).

**Sergeant Colin Bachelor** and **Corporal Graham Hackett** ventured to Muara beach, miles of sundrenched sand and not a soul around, but got badly savaged by sand flies so decided to spend the rest of their sunworshipping outside the billets.

Both parties were helped a great deal by the Y. of S. in Brunei, **W.O.2 Jim Strickland** who put himself out on several occasions on their behalf.

### CLANSMAN—THEY HAVE IT

A note for those who think clansman is just a moral boosting myth—the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment are finishing training with the (VHF) Clansman range and will probably be using it in the field by the end of the year. This shocked our detachment greatly since no-one they knew had ever seen anything other than paper mache models, let alone used the real thing. Must be nice to have an oil rich Sultan for a boss.

The second party packed their kit and left Brunei on the 10th October having had a very pleasant and successful exercise.

# International Six Day Motor Cycle Trial

## Camerino, Italy—9/14 September 1974

**W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Tom Fayers, B.E.M.,** of 8th Regiment was selected to be a member of a Combined Services motor cycling team in an international competition in Italy. He was one of the few to complete the course and achieved the distinction of winning a bronze medal. His account of the trip and trial follows:

Our Vase 'A' Team G.B. consisted of myself **(Tom Fayers), Bob Belton,** RCT, **George Webb,** RCT and **Ted Thompson,** RAF.

### JOURNEY TO ITALY

Our journey to Italy was by kind courtesy of the RAF who flew us out to Falconara, Italy in a Belfast (Flying Warehouse)! From Falconara we travelled 50 miles by road to Camerino.

Our 'Hotel' turned out to be an old Monastery which was quite comfortable if a little spartan. We had 2 baths between 50 people and you can imagine the scene at the end of the day when we all returned in various degrees of dirt and eager to get clean again. The messing facilities were at a University about 4 kms. away.

The people were most friendly and helpful, considering hardly any of us spoke Italian or they English we got on very well. The countryside was very similar to that of Malta but there were also beautiful mountains up to 6,000 ft. in height.

### A HAIR RAISING EXPERIENCE

We arrived in Italy 5 days before the trial began. These days were spent preparing our bikes and acclimatising ourselves to the heat. We also explored the surrounding countryside trying to visualise the type of trial ahead of us. **George Webb** and I had one hair raising experience on one of our explorations. We found ourselves climbing higher and higher until we realised we were half way up one of these mountains. We went further hoping to find an easier track down the other side only to meet a dead end. We ended up sliding sideways yard by yard for hundreds of feet until we found a goat track which we followed downwards for miles and suddenly came upon a small farm. The inhabitants gazed at us in disbelief. I'm sure they thought we were men from Mars. I don't suppose anything on 2 wheels had passed that way before. We were very relieved to find a better track from the farm and gradually found our way back to base.

The day previous to the trial we all underwent a medical examination. Our machines had special seals put on various components, then they were put into a closed compound.

### THE TRIAL

DAY 1—326 riders entered the trial with the first competitor starting at 7 a.m. As my number was 320 I didn't start until 9.30 a.m. which meant I was due to finish the days riding about 6.30 p.m. No one had meal breaks or stops of any kind, unless we could make up time in between check points and grab what ever we carried or were offered on the way round. That day we covered 210 miles of mainly goat tracks and mountainside. The temperature was 85 plus. At the end of the day we compared results and found we had all finished the day without mishap and were still unpenalised.

DAY 2—This turned out to be the previous days route in reverse. I had mechanical trouble and was delayed, subsequently losing some marks which meant I could not now win a gold medal and was now on silver medal time. **Bob Belton** suffered too as he had trouble with spokes in the rear wheel and joined me on silver time.

**Ted Thompson** and **George Webb** finished the day clean so we were still in with a chance of gold.

DAY 3—220 miles. We started in thick fog and it turned out to be a rather disastrous day. The going was almost impossible in some places, and there was also a very tight time schedule, consequently many teams and riders retired and some were very late, so lost many marks. Fortune smiled on our team and we all finished the day on time. That left us with **Ted Thompson** and **George Webb** on gold time and **Bob Belton** and **myself** on silver.

DAY 4—Approx 215 miles. The day started with the non appearance of the West German national team. Rumour had it that they considered the days schedule far too fast and dangerous. This was born out by the fact that at the end of the day only the Czcheckoslovakian 1st team had lost no marks. 13 Accidents were reported and at one point 30 riders were awaiting treatment at the local hospital for broken arms, wrists, legs, feet, dislocations and such like. **Webb** and **Belton** retired with mechanical trouble. **Ted Thompson** and **myself** had lost marks but were still in with a chance of a bronze medal. In our view the Germans fears were well founded.

DAY 5—Approx 210 miles. We were greeted by the news that several check points had the times extended by 5 minutes thus making the speed schedule a little more sensible. The days run was uneventful with the exception of one fact. I now had got a 2 inch blister on my rear which was proving extremely painful. **Ted Thompson** and **myself** were still hanging on to our bronze times.

DAY 6—Consisted of only about 70 miles covering parts of most of the previous 5 days courses which we'd ridden. The organisers decided to give us 5 minutes extra on each check point. It seemed that having got through so far they were determined that all of us still going would finish. **Ted Thompson** and **myself** finished the course without mishap and we won bronze medals.

Out of 326 starters only 120 finished the trial. This was considered one of the hardest ever Internationals due to the difficult terrain, tight time schedule and the intense heat experienced during over 6 days riding.

We returned to UK in the same manner as our outward trip.

A special mention should be made to the superb support given by **Acting Sergeant Clover** RCT, **Sergeant Grace** RCT and **Wing Commander Calnon** RAF, members of 8th Regiment RCT and 4th Wing RAF Regiment. They worked long hours helping before and during the trial to ensure adequate support. They very quickly adapted to what to them was an alien world. By the time the trial was over they could even understand the language of the motor cycle world.

# From the Regimental Signaller's viewpoint

**11 ARMD BDE HQ & SIG SQN** write:

IN late August we agreed to train ten under 18 year old soldiers of 1 Glosters as Standard III Regimental Signallers while their unit was on duties in N. Ireland. We are always very willing and enjoy undertaking a task of this nature for it not only gives us an opportunity of working with our unit Signal Platoons but a chance to put across our points as the 'guiding light' in the field of communications. We have already run a similar course for 3LI and find that this kind of co-operation and liaison develops a most valuable interest and appreciation of each others problems and a wider understanding of communications.

Our liaison with and the co-operation we get from our units is good, so good in fact that we have been able to persuade them, with only a mild spot of brain-washing, to write some WIRE notes for us. The following account was written by one of the students on the course.

*Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!*

# Regimental Signaller's Cadre

**by Private Dineen**

We began the course very 'anti' the Royal Corps of Signals, being Infantrymen through and through, consequently we were not really looking forward to participating.

The course began with an opening address from **Captain R. F. Willsher,** after which we got down to work on Voice Procedure with **Corporal Charlie Rodgers.** None of us had a clue what it was all about, so **Charlie** really had a job on his hands.

We soon picked things up and generally the course was going quite well as far as we were concerned, but **Charlie** did not think so, by the end of the first week he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. To save himself he handed over to **Corporal Dave Walker** to baffle us with his expert knowledge of radio equipment.

**Dave** was really surprised, we think, by the speed with which we picked things up and we were soon putting together and tuning the sets faster than he could.

Week two of the course arrived and we were introduced to **Yeoman Bowden** who we all thought was the army advert for instant mashed spuds. The Yeoman had the pleasant task of trying to teach us antenna theory. We all had blank expressions on our faces when he started talking about the ionisphere and all the other kinds of spheres but eventually it started to sink in and we were all becoming quite expert on the subject.

Things went really well for the next week and a half and after hours of swatting the time arrived for the exams. We all did well and celebrated in the Green Scarf Club that evening.

After three weeks of Instructors pounding communications into our heads we have grown to like the Royal Signals and perhaps one day we will meet our instructors again.

Overall it was a very enjoyable course and we thank all the Instructors for being so patient with us, thanks very much. One last point, we all think that the instructors, after sticking three weeks with us, deserve a couple of weeks leave to recover.

The last point was recorded by the instructors and we believe that leave has been arranged for us, some time in 1976.

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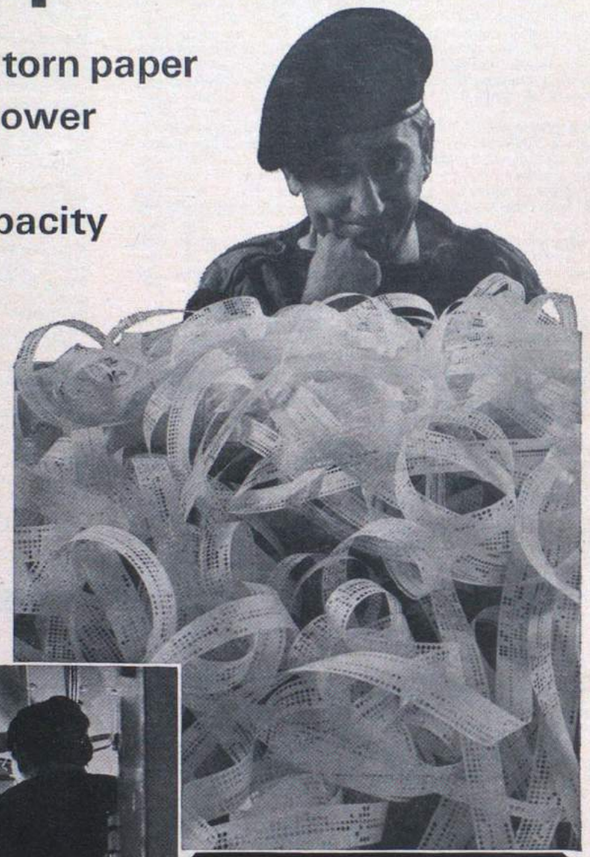

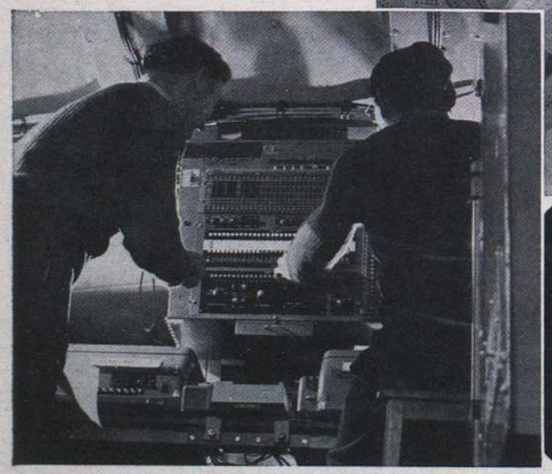

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# REPORT FROM ULSTER

## 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 801

### ITS ALL GO IN 3 BRIGADE!

THE Squadron continues to meet all its obligations and commitments in the most progressive and aggressive Brigade in the province and still do that little bit extra besides. In September, as our contribution to the Crossgar Festival, which was held in aid of the Mary Peters Track Fund Appeal, the Squadron was responsible for the PA, radio and telephone systems. The Second-in-Command, **Captain Mike Rowbory** with the **Foreman of Signals Staff Sergeant George Hall, Corporal Ian Buick** and **Signalman John Merrett** in tow took all this in their stride. At the same time the **R.S.M., W.O.1 Sam Bedwell** and our linemen, **Signalmen Barry Croucher, Dave Bellamy, Ken Pinner** and **Scouse Cornes** had the time of their lives letting off £500 worth of fireworks in a mammoth display which was the first fireworks display to be held in the province for six years.

The first weekend of October saw the Squadron enter a team for the annual Karrimore competition in Northumberland. **Sergeant Bernie Phillips** and **Private Benny Mullane** (RPC) finished within the bogey time while **Lieutenant Peter Richards, Sergeant Peter Lee** and **Corporals Andy Vinicombe, Fred Lowerson** also finished the course in fine style. This all goes to prove that hill walking in the Mourne Mountains, which is a regular feature of Squadron adventure activities is excellent training for any of the national competitions such as the Karrimore event. (See article on page 492.)

On Monday 9th October we were pleased to be visited by the Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, **Major General P. J. H. Leng, M.B.E., M.C.** who, in typical style, wasted no time in diving under vehicles and in and out of workshops and offices to chat to as many soldiers as he possibly could.

### PLENTY HAPPENING

Fitness and military activity are the keynotes uppermost in everyones minds and, indeed, whenever personnel are not keeping themselves fit in the gymnasium and are not out on a VCP or on the ranges they are usually literally defending the factory. This takes the form of the Squadron taking over the defence of the factory from the resident company as and when the company is called out (which happens to be fairly frequent these days). This entails manning all the sangars which surround the perimeter as well as providing anti-riot squads who, stand by to 'repel boarders' whenever the local populace feels inclined to march on the factory in any form of protest.

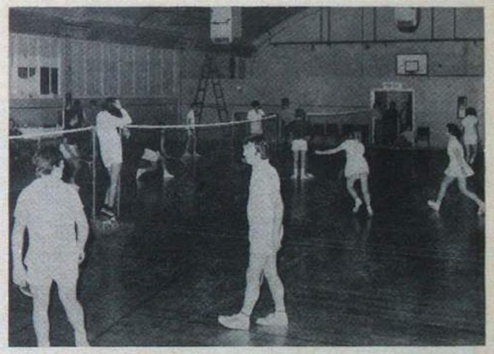
Discos Country and Western Nights are a regular feature in the disco Room. **Corporal Taffy Bean** (our tame **ED**) is the instigator of these functions ably abetted by **Private Dave Girling** (ACC).

Sportwise the Squadron Badminton Club under the able supervision of **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Frank Donovan** is a going concern. Matches are played against both military and local civilian clubs. The stalwarts of the Squadron team include **Sergeant Pete Allen** and his wife **Sue, Carol Elliott,** wife of **Lance-Corporal Brian Elliott** and **W.O.2 Eddie Kellett.** Besides badminton, squash, volleyball, 5-a-side football and shinty are all favourite sports in the factory. (Would anyone like to donate a plastic, do-it-yourself playing field that we could install on the factory roof?).

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Ted Theiss** and his wife **Gwen** on the birth of their daughter **Jacqueline Anne** on 7th October.

OFF ON A MOBILE PATROL IN LURGAN
*Left to right:* Corporal Dave Scott and Signalman John Merrett



Squadron Badminton Club in action

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We bid sad farewells and sincerely wish all the best to those who have recently left the Squadron namely: **Corporal Bob McQueen, Lance-Corporal George Connell, Signalmen Phil Rose, Barry Croucher, Dave Bellamy, Ken Pinner, Stan Finlayson, Andy Wager, Scouse Owens** and **Dave Campbell.**

We wish to welcome and hope that they have a happy tour in the Squadron the following new arrivals: **Corporals Dean Lawrence, Brian Whitton, Pete Deacon** and **Des Welham, Lance-Corporal Steve Hartlebury, Signalmen Barry Griffiths, Dave Browne, Jeff King, George Scott, Chippy Wood, Pete Marshall, Frank Vaughan, Eddie Lanigan** and **Dave Humphries.**

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### *Blandford Reunion, 1975*

Please note that the date of the Association Reunion at Blandford has been changed to SUNDAY, 22nd JUNE

## 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### MTC ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

A SMALL orienteering competition was organised for the military Training Course held in September. After a healthy morning running round the Cam Forest, **Private Mick Casey** and **Driver 'Jock' Rae** proved their map-reading and athletic skills by winning the event. 'Also ran' were: **Lance-Corporal Young. Lance-Corporal Arley, Private Sullivan, Private Pennington, Private Nelson** and **Private Mason.**

### FAREWELL VISIT OF THE SO in C

The SO in C made a lightning farewell visit to the Squadron on Tuesday, 24th September. The General only had time for a brief look around but before leaving he had coffee with a cross selection of the Squadron, and he was able to give all members present at least two or three minutes of his most valuable time.

We wish **General Sawers** every success in his 'bowler hat' employment and say thank you for all he has done for the Corps since his appointment in 1971.

A FLYING VISIT

The S.O.-in-C. is met by the O.C. Major Andrew Carter, at the heli-pad on his arrival

### AUTUMN BIATHLON

RIVALRY broke out in Londonderry during October, but this time it was on the sports field. The occasion was the Autumn Biathlon in which six teams from the various troops competed in a football and a hockey league. Uniforms were discarded and sports kit was donned and the action began. No holds were barred and the referees word was law. The competition was strong but everyone enjoyed themselves to the full. The six-a-side hockey shield was finally won by the Brigade HQ team which fielded a side to include **Brigadier David Houston, Major Peter Jones** RA, and **Captain Allistair Wallace** RAOC. Overheard comment from MT Troop team "We didn't stand a chance, we were outranked!" Football proved a strong point of the less high ranking teams with the six-a-side football shield being won by Comms Troop 'B' team. Winning form was shown by **Signalman 'Scouse' Bradshaw, George Fuller** and **Pete Schollick.** Overall winners qualifying for the "Beer Prize" was the Brigade HQ team closely followed by Comms Troop 'A' team. Third was Comms Troop 'B. team. **Corporal Trevor Daly** REME of the MT Troop team tried hard to console the drinking drivers at the bottom of the league table

### NEW HORIZONS

The marriage of **Signalman Jim McGoldrick** to **Miss Hilary Wilson** took place on Saturday 9th November, with a large number of the Squadron helping to celebrate the event. The weather was ignored and a good time was had by all. Our best wishes and good luck for the future go to **Jim** and **Hilary.**

### THAT'S LIFE

No help for THE WIRE notes author came from **Corporal Tim Craven** who handed over the Squadron nominal roll on being asked for the list of new arrivals to the Brigade. Needless to say that there are too many to name them all, however mention must be made that we have welcomed **Captain Ray Windmill** as our new Second-in-Command, taking over from **Captain Noel Harrison** who has left us for new adventures. **Corporal Roger Leonard, Lance Corporal Cliff Rose** and **Signalman 'Tiny' Baker** are now misters with new careers in civvy street. To all we say farewell and good luck. Goodbye also to **Sergeant Bernie Luby** who was almost persuaded to 'sign on' again.

## 233 Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 801

### 'E' TROOP 233 SQUADRON

**A Short Expose by Corporal Jim Adams**
(Attached from 16th Regiment)

MANY of THE WIRE Notes begin with excuses as to why the author was cajoled (some say conned) into writing them. Not wishing to break the tradition . . .

I well remember the day when the OC **Captain Hugh Elford's** malevolent glare alighted upon me. There was a full moon rising (always a bad time) as he spoke to me saying:

"Arrr! It be time to write THE WIRE Notes Jim lad!", at the same time casually marking my leave application 'pending'. The sweat broke out on my forehead and I felt nausea gripping my stomach as I watched him shuffle away locking the office door behind him and leaving me on my own with pen, paper and a back issue of THE WIRE for company.

Having looked through THE WIRE I noticed that my problem seemed to fall into three main categories: Work, sports and visits.

Work was easily disposed of, we don't do any (ask anyone around here). Sport, just as easy, we don't play 'em' although we have had the odd strenuous game of scrabble (but have since decided that the pace is too hot). Visits, well apart from the post, milk and bread men we don't get any. So what to fill in with?

With the exception of the OC, the Second-in-Command and one or two other non-essential members (all of whom spend 6 glorious months out here) the rest of the cast, too numerous to mention, remain here for 4 months. As the majority of us come from different parent units the effect is almost cosmopolitan. In view of the fact that we work at odd hours, with all the coming and going, we only need a few rolls of cloth, some beads, a liberal amount of brown boot polish and with the strains of "Belfast, Belfast" in the background we could turn the camp into a bazaar (and on a Saturday night when the Troop Club finally grinds to a halt it frequently looks like one too!).

Belfast is beautiful in the Autumn, as the sun breaks through the clouds of dust kicked up from the last explosion and the leaves are gently shaken from the trees by the breeze of the blast wave, to lie across the road together with the splinters of broken glass . . . But seriously the local population, universally known as 'Paddies', are a genial, garrulous, explosive set of characters. Always ready to answer most of your questions with a pithy, "Double Guinness", or a devastating "There ye are now" (both of which sound better when written by an Irishman).

We have found out, to our cost, that he loves to be called 'Scouse', especially after spending all night on the Liverpool-Belfast Ferry with Liverpool another 2 points nearer the league title.

*(Continued on page 501)*



*(Continued from page 500)*

The sum total of all the above, after it has been multiplied and divided by various factors such as separation from loving nagging wives, mistresses, Sergeant Majors or what have you (and in the case of some of our 'inmates' it is definitely 'what have you') is that, although one or two of the local populace try to send us off with a bang, there isn't a member of the Troop, past or present, who can honestly say that, for the most part at least, he hasn't thoroughly enjoyed his tour of duty in the Emerald Isle. So why not pop in to your Unit Orderly Room, dear reader and if you can find the Chief Clerk, say to him something like this: "Any chance of a tour with 'E' Troop in Belfast. I hear they' a great bunch, all 'warry' and with that hard-eyed gleam in the eye of the real 'Professional'.

"It says so here in THE WIRE . . ."

(You will naturally have bought your copy first otherwise the Chief Clerk won't be convinced!)

### NOTE BY 233 SQUADRON

'E' Troop is attached to us for administration and we count the troop as an important part of the Squadron. No request is too much trouble for them especially maintaining the vehicles which are vital to the organisation.

### ARRIVALS

We welcome: **Sergeant Bovenizer, Sergeant Sheenan, Corporal Brown, Corporal Darlington, Corporal MacKenzie, Corporal Sanderson, Corporal Wood, Corporal Nallon, Corporal Terry, Corporal Fawcett, Lance-Corporal Peters, Lance-Corporal Enefer, Lance-Corporal Ball, Lance-Corporal Flintham, Lance-Corporal Sykes, Lance-Corporal Edwards, Lance-Corporal Roberts, Lance-Corporal Cocks-Alty, Signalman Hunter, Signalman Harrison** and **Signalman Gray.**

**WRAC: Private Medcalf, Private Burnley, Private Hall, Private Shaw, Private Jobson, Private Thistlewaite.**

### DEPARTURES

We say farewell and bon voyage to: **Sergeant Price, Sergeant Brians, Signalman Simmons, Signalman Herd** and **Signalman Walker.**

# —News from Headquarters—

## School of Signals, Blandford Camp

### TRAINING SUPPORT SQUADRON—FAREWELL TO MAJOR JOHN DAW

AFTER a seemingly endless round of drinks, presentations, lunches, parties and farewell speeches **Major John Daw** finally left the School of Signals on 4th October.

The whole Squadron paraded to say farewell to **Major Daw** as he was transported in a wheelchair from his office to the car park. He leaves the Corps after 37 years service to take up a training post with SONY TV. We in the Squadron would like to wish him every success with his new career and to say welcome to our new OC, **Major S. G. Falla.**

37 YEARS WITH THE CORPS

Major John Daw with a few of his presentation mementoes shaking hands with Sergeant John Ledger

### RADIO EXERCISE TROOP

"I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life."

It would appear that John Masefield was not the only one with Sea Fever. Our salty types, **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Alan Hawkins, Lance-Corporal Paul Neal, Lance-Corporal 'Curry Brain' Wilson** and their intrepid leader **Corporal (Able Seaman) Geoff Adams,** went to sea under the pretence of sailing. After two engine breakdowns and various minor disasters the Y. of S. was hauled aloft in a makeshift bosun's chair to repair a torn sail. One broken winch, and half an hour later he returned to deck level and is now believed to have given up sailing in favour of diving thus earning the honorary title of 'Captain Marvel', bestowed upon him by his shipmates for exemplary work above, below and at sea level.

### SYSTEMS EXERCISE TROOP

The big social event of the year was the troop participation in the Blandford carnival. After much discussion a combined theme of Snow White and the recent Dorset oil strike was agreed.

The resulting float, as our picture shows, consisted of an oil rig and some of the most disreputable characters ever seen in the town. They were **Sergeant 'Snow White' Fred, Staff Sergeant 'Witch' Cole, Sergeant 'Happy' Ledger, Sergeant 'Sneezy' Spencer, Corporal 'Dopey' Jones, Corporal 'Grumpy' Cheesman, Corporal 'Doc' Brockman, Lance Corporal 'Sleepy' Peat and Lance-Corporal 'Bashful' Holmes.** Unfortunately the judges were not favourably impressed but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the dwarfs who all agreed that we should try again next year.

### STOP PRESS

Soccer: Radio Troop 8, Systems Troop 4.

After an objection as to the eligibility of a Radio player, the result was declared null and void, as is the wager between troop commanders. (We will play you at Rugby for the two crates.)

## R.A.C. Signal School, Bovington Camp

| | |
|---|---|
| CI | **Lieutenant Colonel K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E.,** R Signals. |
| SI | **Major E. J. L. Hunter** QDG. |
| RSMI | **W.O.1 C. Barratt,** 3 RTR. |
| RQMS | **W.O.2 R. S. Dehdashty** R Signals. |

PROBABLY never before and never again, in a small community such as ours at the RAC Signal School will there be seen so many different cap badges. Yes, the last count was 10 out of a possible 20.

Those of you who served in 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment in Herford from 1966 to 1969 will, of course, remember **Lieutenant Colonel Ted Andrews MBE,** who was then SO2 Signals and a prominent figure on the hockey pitch. I might add he has now taken up blowing the whistle.

What with having 6 years in the same Division 1968–1974, how can anyone forget **W.O.2 'Dee' Dehdashty?** Those of you who know him will be glad to know that he has finally got posted from his home posting in Herford to an overseas one—yes, UK in lovely Dorset.

STAFF—RAC SIGNAL SCHOOL

*Back row, left to right:* Corporal of Horse Elmslie RHG/D, Sergeant Hart RH, Sergeant Hall QDG, Sergeant McKnight 4 RTR, Corporal of Horse, Maskell RHG/D, Staff Sergeant Tompkins 2 RTR, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pettifer R Signals

*Middle row, left to right:* W.O.2 King RAAC, Staff Corporal Preece RHG/D, Staff Sergeant Westbrook 17/21L, Staff Sergeant Torr 13/18H, W.O.2 Dobinson 15/19H, Staff Sergeant Hawkesford 13/18H

*Front row, left to right:* Captain Brook-Fox 15/19H, W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Dehdashty R Signals, Major Hunter QDG, Lieutenant Colonel K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., R Signals, W.O.1 (R.S.M.I.) Barratt 3 RTR, Captain Goodwin 3 RTR, Captain Cordingley 5 INNIS DG

Let me tell you a little about what we do here. The RAC Signal School was formed in 1947 on the disbandment of the All Arms Wing School of Signals. The School trains Troop Leaders and Crew Commanders as well as Regimental Signal Officers and N.C.O. Instructors for regiments of the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps. The Signal School is one of five Schools which together with the RAC Centre Regiment, RAC Training Regiment and Junior Leaders Regiment RAC, form the RAC Centre. Apart from the CO and Chief Instructor the RQMS and a Staff Sergeant Radio Telegraphist, the staff of the School is drawn from regiments of the Household Cavalry and RAC. Some 600 students a year pass through the school on courses lasting from one week to 10 weeks. Besides our formal instructional task we advise the Armoured Trials and Development Unit when the latter conducts trials of communications equipment and generally maintain liaison between the RAC and the other arms Signal Wings and the School of Signals.

We have since said our farewells to **Sergeants Graham Hall** QDG who has only gone down the road to the Junior Leaders Regiment (I believe they are trying to make a Drill Instructor out of him), **Billy McKnight** 4 RTR to Germany, **Staff Sergeants (F. of S.) Brian Pettifer** to 244 Squadron, **Vaughan Westbrook** 17/21L back to Detmold, **Pete Torr** 13/18H to Hohne, **Dennis Hawkesford** 13/18H on a Russian Course (judging the way he spoke English—I would have thought an English course would have taken priority!), **W.O.2 John King** RAAC has taken off for Kangaroo Land—Good luck John. Last but not least **Captain Julian Brook-Fox** 15/19H who has gone on a mini Generals Course and then Northern Ireland.

We would like to welcome **Captain David Strudley** 9/12L, who left the Corps to become a Cavalry Officer, **Staff Sergeants Wally Watkins** R Signals, **George Davis** QOH, **Sergeants Barry James** 2 RTR, **Mick McMahon** 4 RTR, **Geoff Bull** 4/7DG and **Sandy Sandilands** Scots DG. We hope their stay will be an enjoyable one.


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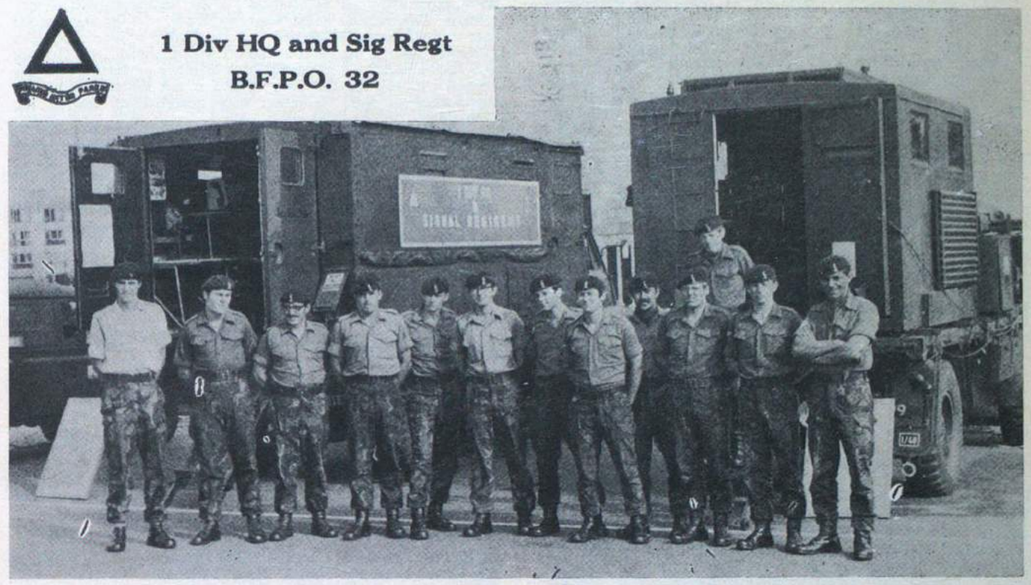
## News from Regiments

### 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
### B.F.P.O. 32



The Kape Tour team

**KAPE TOUR 1974**

ON 6th August a team of soldiers from 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment began a KAPE Tour of the South-West district in the United Kingdom. KAPE (keeping the Army in the public eye), is a publicity and recruiting exercise in which a nominated unit sends a team of up to fourteen all ranks to set up shop in specified locations. The idea is then to pack as many sites, shows and locations as possible into the three week tour. Our KAPE tour took place from 6th to 26th August.

The team consisted of 1 officer **(Lieutenant Ken Hadfield),** 2 Senior N.C.O.s **(Sergeants John Hunt** and **John Davis)** and 11 soldiers.

The tour began in Poole Park and on the first day we struck gold in the form of "Rosko's Radio One Road Show". There was a possibility of Radio interference from our medium power HF link so we volunteered to close it down during their broadcast time. They were very grateful and gave us a 'Mention' on the show.

As the tour progressed the team became adept at setting up the equipment and, throughout the tour, a radio link was maintained with Verden on the D11, usually by teleprinter but once, joy of joys, on voice.

Site followed site, as the team raced around the South-west, and as Poole, Torbay, Okehampton, Barnstaple and Plymouth fell behind us the team became extremely proficient at moving into a new area in the early evening and then going out on the town 'chatting up' potential recruits. Indeed, we found that some of the hardest work was to be found in the Discos and night-clubs of the south-west but fortunately we managed to maintain the initial pace!

At about the half-way point we discovered our best recruiter was **Lance-Corporal Nick Carter,** with **Corporal 'Des' Desmond** a close second.

During the tour we put on two shows for Army Cadets, the first at Okehampton Battle Camp for the Wiltshire Army Cadet Force and the second at Penhale for the Glamorgan Army Cadet Force. Hopefully, the team has made an investment for the future and we shall begin to see a trickel of recruits for the CORPS from these two Army Cadet Forces.

PHOTOGRAPHED DURING A RECENT VISIT OF C.S.O. B.A.O.R. TO 1 DIVISION H.Q. & SIGNAL REGIMENT

Major-General H. E. Roper, inspects the Quarter Guard outside R.H.Q. He is accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Alexander, M.B.E. and W.O.1 (R.S.M.) D. Speirs

The weather initially stayed fine but for about a week the heavens opened and it poured with rain. It was found that the success of any display was directly affected by the weather conditions. So certain locations could be virtually written off due to the depth of rain-water in which we were floundering. Our only steady supporters who turned up wherever we went and in all types of weather were the local children of the area—in great numbers.

During the second half of the tour stays longer than 24 hours in one spot were possible and the team also took part in two shows, the Clevedon show and the Baltonsborough Fete. These shows were very worthwhile from a publicity angle due to the large 'Captive' audience.

The tour finished on the 26th August and the team members then dispersed on 72 hours well-earned leave during which time 30th Regiment very kindly undertook the servicing and maintenance of our vehicles. The team arrived back in Verden on the 2nd September and true to 1st Division tradition some members of the team departed on exercise within days.

Certain vehicles had, during the tour, covered about 6000 miles during many long hours of driving.

The equipment which was taken on the tour consisted of one MCVF, one D11 radio station and three FFR landrovers. **Lieutenant Ken Hadfield** would like to express his thanks to 16th Regiment, and 30th Regiment for their kind administrative help before, during and after the tour.

## 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 46

### ROUGH GOINGS ON

BUNDE is not at its best in October. Damp days and denuded trees give an air of impending doom. For the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess, it nearly happened, for they had to meet the Officers Mess team in the final of the Regimental shinty competition. The Officers' Mess team led by new arrival **Second Lieutenant Bob Kinaird** with **Captain Roger Breese** as chief crusher, **Captain Alistair Clark, Lieutenant Tom Richardson** and **Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton** trying to lend an air of dignity and with the other new arrival **Second Lieutenant Stockdale** crawling around in goal, swept, or rather, smashed all opposition before them. The W.O.s and Sergeants team captain **R.S.M. Tony Pfeiffer** called a hasty conference, organised a couple of extra 'normal' practices on Sunday, got wised up on the superior, if unorthodox, tactics of the Officers team and beat them. Disaster was averted and honour was satisfied. The rest of the victorious team was **Staff Sergeant Terry Mumford, Staff Sergeant George Cook, Staff Sergeant Andy Nielson, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Sims** and **Sergeant Carl 'Slasher' Bellamy.** Oh, by the way, the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess also won the Regimental basketball competition, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) George Stubbins** led that team.

### A FEW EXERCISES THROWN IN

Just to run the new Second-in-Command **Major Bill Morgan** in, the Regiment took part in a couple of exercises. Bronze Prince III, RHQ devised as a fast moving exercise and it certainly left everybody panting. Pt 208 will be engraved like Korea in the hearts of Comcen E when they rediscovered that 70 ft. masts and 120 ft. trees do not equal all round comms.

Queens Crown III was a Division CPX with a rapid eleventh hour complete change of plan with Signals more in the dark than everyone else. The Regiment matched up well to the challenge with the CO rushing round the countryside carrying frequency pairs in his cleft stick, and the SO2 Signals **Major Richard Reynolds** smiling gently in Sig. Ops. He knew what was happening, it was his last exercise, he wasn't to tell anybody anything. Come back **Reynolds** all is forgiven!

### AUTUMN BALL

The 652 Squadron AAC officers ran a highly successful party in the Mess which warmed up the social atmosphere and led into the Autumn Ball. Rumour has it that a certain PMC is allergic to wine and therefore had his private bottle of the wine of Scotland, napkin wrapped and placed upon his table. He took his duties seriously by remaining on duty until 05.10 hours to ensure that all the young officers were safely off the premises and tucked up in bed.

### VISIT BY UK HEADMASTERS

On the 5th November the Regiment hosted some twenty-four headmasters from UK who were seeing the Army at first hand. They expressed their surprise at the complexity of the equipment we operate and their admiration for the high standards of our soldiers. One, rumour has it, wants to be a F. of S. having learned that a Staff Sergeant earned "about £3,000 a year". The 5th November was of course rounded off with the traditional bonfire and fireworks display. We hosted a number of German handicapped children for the evening and if not understanding the significance of the celebration they nevertheless enjoyed the excursion.

### 700 AT ALL RANKS DANCE

Bringing you bang up to date, and with aching head, I will round off with the all ranks dance held on the 8th November in the Bunde Stadthalle. To be able to use the magnificent hall was in itself a privilege given to the Regiment in recognition of its local charity work. Over 700 of us danced the night away, ate our fill, had a beer or two (bearing in mind the RMP on the door) and thoroughly enjoyed a well laid on event. Music was provided by the local group, the Passing Faces and the donkey work was done by the **R.S.M., Y. of S. Straw, Sergeant Lawrence** and **Sergeant Bartlett.**

Now its full speed ahead for the FFR and the delights of vehicle cleaning—who says Bunde is dull!

## 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
## B.F.P.O. 15

### REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON

AS with all BAOR Divisional Signal Regiments 1 Squadron, commanded by **Major Peter Webster,** is tasked with providing the two Divisional Commcens-HOTEL, commanded by **Captain Colin Cruickshank,** and GOLF by **Captain Steve Galpin.**

During this exercise season as well as providing communications with the commcens 'down the hill' it was proved that Royal Signals personnel also make good recovery mechanics. It's not true however that OC HOTEL requires bids for recovery courses in preparation for next season (because he's posted).

### SUMMER CAMP—SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

The summer season ended with 'Shiny One' becoming 'Shiny Fighting One' as the rigours of summer camp descended upon us. The camp this year was held near Eckernforde (north of Kiel) by kind permission of Graf Christof von Betthmann Hollweg.

The advance party was commanded by **Lieutenant Martin Strong** and ably supported by **Staff-Sergeants Ian Macrindle** and **Jim Slater, Sergeants Jim Conway, George 'Oh my feet' Whitfield** and a band of merry men who set up the main camp over the weekend of 10th/11th August. On the Sunday a party collected the 38 foot sloop *Uomie* from Kiel skippered by **Sapper Lance-Corporal Alan Robinson.** *Uomie* was used on a daily basis and most members of the Squadron gained some experience of sailing in her. One party got to Denmark over the following weekend. **Corporal Mick Filmer** and **Lance-Corporal Colin Turner** have since attended a week's course at Kiel and are now fully fledged "Skipper 35's".

On Monday 12th August the main party arrived at camp. The first week of camp was mainly devoted to troop training, map reading (getting sore feet)?, orienteering (getting sore feet) Radio Exercises (getting sore feet)? Yes, all were not Landrover mounted which was a surprise to many technicians.

### CANOEING AND 'GYN' TRAINING

One or two items did not produce sore feet but were aimed to produce sore hands. Canoeing under the expert guidance of **Corporals Roy Jarvis** and **Frank Kelly,** and the item which puzzled the **S.S.M. W.O.2 Tom Stogdale** at one of the camp planning conferences 'gyn' training (he wanted brandy training). A 'gyn', for our non sapper friends is a tripod 20 feet or so high built from stout wooden poles. Two were built and a steel wire rope was suspended between them. Of course the recovery experts were well to the fore in their construction.



The S.S.M. would not give in easily and offered a free overnight booze for the most original way of traversing the wire. **Corporal 'Toddy' Todhunter** was always on hand as resident photographer to snap the contenders. The contest was won by **Y. of S. Tony Lomax,** by popular acclaim, for devising the finest aerial 'Thunder Box"! Guinness Book of Records please note.

Saturday of the first week came all too soon and dawn was again shattered by the already infamous 0615 "Kielditz" whistle. The morning was spent paying for the camp site in kind by rebuilding the site entrance road. In the afternoon the Squadron soccer team were defeated 3–1 by the local brewery team. The oppositions goalkeeper put off most of the forwards before the match by picking up a 6 foot GS table with his teeth!

The second week was Squadron training, 'driven' (to quote his phrase) by the OC. By now the camp had been renamed Exercise Kielditz 74 by most people and when a 25 km orienteering march was announced many started to dig tunnels! None got away and all finished the course in about 6 hours.

### HELICOPTER TRAINING . . .

On Wednesday the peaceful air of Eckernforde was shattered by two Wessex helicopters from RAF Gutersloh. The choppers and their crews spend two days with us and much expertise was gained in how to get in and out safely and where to park a chopper. Thanks to all the 'blue jobs' for their assistance.

HELICOPTER TRAINING
Corporal Frank Kelly (*kneeling*) getting his section on board the 'Easy Way' during training

### . . . AND A SECRET MISSION

No period of training is complete without a final exercise to practice all that has or hasn't been learnt (they say)! The majority of the Squadron was split into two platoons of 3 sections each and tasked to be helicopter dropped in enemy territory on a secret mission. They were to be aided by the local resistance group alis F. of S. the Bike and Pierre the Y. of S., who fed information in by contact, dead letter boxes etc. During the course of the exercise road blocks and ambushes were set up and at least two of the enemy were captured and yielded up bits of the 'bomb' which had to be planted in the final location. Many amusing incidents occurred but the most notable was when Pierre the Y. of S., wearing a long flashy mackintosh and 'French' beret staggered 'drunkenly' past **Corporal 'Taffy' Barton,** who immediately moved to the other side of the road! Pierre then pursued his contact for some time at a discreet distance until fed up with waiting, called out "Taffy Boyo". At this the gent in question just about collapsed—not from exhaustion either!

### MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE GERMAN NAVY

During the second week two successful visits were made, one to Schleswig and the other to the Bundesmarine base at Eckernforde to look at the minesweeper *Widder* and meet her Captain and crew. At the latter, Anglo-German relations were much enhanced although we lost 18–1 to the German Navy team at soccer!

On the final Saturday night after much work by our two MSO helpers and by **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Black** on the buffet, a party was held in the mess marquee which had been expertly transformed by **Sergeant Jim 'Decor' Sattler** and his willing band of helpters. During the evenings festivities the OC presented a Royal Signals Shield to **Kapitanleutnant Schering,** the commander of the *Widder*.

MEETING THE GERMAN NAVY
Lance-Corporal Ben Nelson (*left*) and Corporal Bob Nelson (*right*) talking to members of the German Navy during the visit to their base at Eckernforde

A MEMENTO
Major Peter Webster presenting a Corps plaque to the Captain of the M.S.B. '*Widder*', Kapitänleutnant Scheering

Summer Camp over, your correspondents memories are of good weather, good fun and sore feet (they still are!).

### MATCHES, HATCHES, CATCHES AND DESPATCHES

**Matched—**none took the plunge.

**Hatched**—to **Captain Colin Cruickshank** and his **wife**—a brother for Oliver; to **Sergeant Ken Suckling** and his wife—twin girls.

**New Catches—Lieutenant Tim Rimmel**—to be Second-in-Command C2 Troop (Commcen HOTEL); **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton**—Squadron Admin. Officer; **Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Peter Jones**—to C2 Troop (Commcen Hotel).

**Despatched—Captain Peter Williams**—to 8th Regiment; **Lieutenant Martin Strong**—to 11th Regiment; **Sergeant Ken Suckling**—to F. of S. course at Blandford; **Sergeant Pat Smith** and **Corporal Andy Roberts**—to Cyprus; **Corporals Frank Kelly, 'Chick' Grieg** and **Taff Barton**—to T1 Course at Catterick.

### HOTRODS ANGLING CLUB

The Club was officially formed with the consent of the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Westlake** on 26th November 1973.

Being very keen to start competitive fishing we entered a team in the Osnabruck Rod and Reels Clubs winter venue on the 2nd December, 1973. This being our first attempt everyone hoped to end up with the keepnet full. Imagine our horror on waking up that morning and finding that it was minus 26 degrees! This match was a washout with no fish caught.

The next match we entered was the 2nd Division championships in which we came first in the guests team prize with **Sergeant Mick Norton** winning his section and coming 6th overall.

This was followed by the BAOR Royal Signals Championships, this we won taking 2nd, 4th, 16th and 18th individual places.

After this invitations came in fast and furious. **Sergeant Pete Boulby** (Team Captain) stood in at the last minute to help out 2nd Division who had entered a team in the German internation championships. With over 400 people fishing he managed to take 17th overall.

This led up to the ultimate in the BAOR competition fishing scene with the BAOR championships. This was held on the River Weser at Nienburg. After **Sergeant Pete Boulby** recced the water a week before the match we were confident of at least a placing. Unfortunately the gale force winds spoilt the actual match making fishing very difficult. We still managed to take the team title beating the local team by 5 ounces. **Sergeant Mick Norton** ending up as BAOR Individual Champion.

Whilst all this was going on the Commanding Officer was busy writing to people he knows trying to obtain a stretch of water in the Herford area. This he has managed to do leaving us now the owners of a kilometer of the river Werre near Lohne and with the hope of more to come.

## 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### INTERESTED IN SPORT?—COME AND JOIN US

THE Regiment has great hopes of winning a major Army Trophy soon. The past successes and future hopes are shown below:

### CRICKET

The team led by **Jim Willock** was defeated in the UK semi final by the School of Signals who lost in the final. The opposition were presented the match on a plate being allowed to score 19 runs off the last 2 overs to win. Some of the stalwarts have left, **Nigel Scott, Phil Leach** and others are going but replacements are appearing. Next year we hope to win.

### RUGBY

**Captain Clive Arthur** has resurrected the Garrison Rugby Team of which 80% come from the Regiment. We have a good nucleus with several Corps players and have great hopes of doing quite well this year. Currently we are in the 3rd round of the Army Cup having defeated 1st Cheshires and 4 RTR so far.

### SOCCER

A large proportion of the team represent the Corps and are moulding themselves into a useful group under the management of **S.S.M. Joe Walton.**

### BASKETBALL

The great coach, **Henry Jennings** has left behind the nucleus of a successful team under **W.O.1 'Chippie' Wood** and **Sergeant Chris Bond.** They are training hard and playing well in the local civilian league.

### ARE YOU A TECH? COMING ON AN UPGRADING COURSE?
### HERE ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERS YOU ARE LIKELY TO MEET IN 1 SQUADRON

Squadron Commander **Major Clive Collier**—If not playing golf, cricket, hockey, squash or attending auctions.

Admin Officer **Lieutenant Vic Prees**—No vices just overweight.

Troop Officers—**Lt. Paul Holden**—Looks young but very experienced!

**—Lieutenant Dereck Rutherford**—Newlywed—nuff said.

S.S.M.—**W.O.2 Tom Fayers**—8th Regiments Geoff Duke. No office just a motor cycle workshop.

TE Group—**Captain John Grisby**—Recovering from bad back from watching rugby. Great character.

**—W.O.1 (F. of S.) Rastus Collins**—Somewhere behind a faceful of fungus hides the Squadron social secretary.

**—Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Payne**—Mountain stroller!

CE Group—**Major Jim Chater**—Recently arrived—work before sport! Now buying a set of golf clubs.

**—W.O.2 (Y. of S.) Tom Adams**—Smokes OPs and plays awful golf.

**—Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ken McRae**—Want to buy a radio, TV, fridge, washing machine—our local dealer.

All the above are supported by an in front of the scenes bunch of S.N.C.O.s far too many to mention here. They have all been known to instruct and spend the odd weekend exploring the countryside in the immediate vicinity of Catterick (e.g. Feldom)!

## 10 Sig Regt Hounslow

### NICE ONE COLONEL

THE phone rang.

"Have you written yet on the departure of **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Charles' Galbraith?"**

"No sir."

"Well see that it gets done. Mention the fact that we dined him out at the Officers Club in Aldershot."

"Yes sir." Thinks. That was the night it poured with rain, but it was a super dinner, and the Colonel was in good form with his speech.

"Then thank him and his wife for spending two happy years with the Regiment, and say how much we all enjoyed serving under his command".

"Yes, of course sir."

"Next. Welcome the new CO, **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Dick' Nice** and his wife **Christine,** extend our best wishes and our hope that they will enjoy their time with 10th Regiment."

Then the pips went. Where to, you ask.

### SHOOTING

After a lengthy pause the Regiment has reappeared on the shooting scene. Having entered an untrained, but determined team into the London District Rifle Meeting at Pirbright on the 20th September, we are at a loss to explain the following notable successes. The fact that there were money prizes may have helped.

Unit Championship Runner Up—The Dewer Tankard.

**Class 'B' Individual Championship:**

Runner-up—**Signalman K. Roper**—The Challenge Cup.

Pistol Tiles Team Match—3rd Placed.

Much to the consternation of the opposition who all had teams of three in the Pistol Tiles, we came very close to winning this event with a team of only two firers. It's best left unsaid why we could not enter a complete team of three.

**Signalman Kev Roper** who put up a very creditable performance in the Rifle events and contributed much to our success.

## 1 SQUADRON

S.N.C.O.s/Officers relations were once again put to the test when the Senior Ranks and Officers of the Squadron and their wives met for a return match in the form of a skittles evening held on 16th September. The evening centred around **Sergeant Terry Winsor** and **Sergeant Tony Chapman** on the occasion of their farewell from the Squadron. Both members were presented with inscribed tankards.

CIVILIAN TELECOMMS UPGRADING COURSE OCTOBER 1974—2 SQUADRON, 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT

*Standing, left to right:* W.O.1 (R.S.M.) R. J. Davies, Sergeant P. Stanger, Mr B. Howe, Mr. R. E. Powles, Mr. H. Bray, Mr. M. F. Dunning, Mr. T. D. Moore, Mr. J. R. D. Ford, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. Clarke

*Sitting, left to right:* Mrs. L. H. Holroyd, Mrs. N. Lait, Mrs. M. Southby, Mrs. Farrell, Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Nice, Mr. R. Hanton, Miss P. A. Cooper, Mrs. D. P. McDonald, Mrs. M. O. Smith

### NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Squadron: **Major Sybil Cushen,** WRAC to take over our admin problems, **Second-Lieutenant Cherry Hume-Lewis,** WRAC, our newly appointed DSO, **Sergeants Denis Green, Graham Chapman** and **Mat Norrie,** and **Corporals Paul Evans** and **Fred Lucas.**

### DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to: **Second-Lieutenant Dorothy Platts** to 16th Regiment (hope our Commcen training hasn't gone to waste), **Sergeant Terry Winsor** to the delights of 14th Regiment, **Sergeant Tony Chapman (Mr. Fixit)** holidaying with 9th Regiment, **Sergeant Margaret Nealer** trying her hand out as a housewife and **Corporal John Steer** our smooth bachelor tech to 633 Troop.

### ALDERSHOT ELEMENT—SIGNAL WORKS TROOP

After a veritable spate of 'put back' or 'brought forward' we have finally moved!

The newly built premises we are finding not quite as spacious as previous lodgings (pictured below). However work as normal despite acute staff shortages.

Our work force at one time reached an all time low of three, which almost became two when **Mick Murphy** trapped his finger in the cable plough, especially for the photographer. We managed to get him to hospital without taking the plough along too.

In keeping with past traditions, 'Belt and Braces' events are taken in our stride, including this year four events at which Royalty were present.

**Geoff Elphick** our P & TO has moved on to better things and we welcome new faces—**Ernie Houghton** (ex-R Signals) and **Bill Coles** (ex-para) to our small band of METs.

Those long servers **'Dodger' Green** and **Sid Boxall** who retired at the beginning of the year, unbeaten except by age, still call in occasionally for a spoonful of nostalgia.

**Pat Telfer** who replaced **'Dodger' Green** as Clerical Officer is another new face to whom we extend a warm welcome.

Aldershot Signals Work Service Troop rest room now replaced by a smaller and more modern building

### 3 SQUADRON

3 Squadron has also been in a state of 'orl change' with the departure of **Major 'Greg' Grist** and the arrival of our new OC, **Major 'Stan' Wood.** We wish **Major 'Look no hands' Grist** and his family the best of luck in the future, and would like to point that in BAOR they do it on the right—cycle that is! And so, on to try and convince the 'new OC' that we're not really mad. Welcome to Aldershot, Sir!

# ECONOMIC HOUSE PURCHASE

Conditions in the mortgage market can fluctuate from month to month so that an easier loan situation can quickly change to a severe shortage. **Would-be HOME OWNERS** who do not plan well ahead could therefore find it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

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**Other financial benefits** are the diversion of expenditure on quartering charges to your own benefit and the facility given by MOD of reimbursement of certain expenses entailed in house purchase, such as survey fees, legal costs, etc. Ask our advice now in order that your purchase may be **arranged on the most economic basis** possible in line with your circumstances and needs, with the maximum advantages to yourself.

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FULL HOUSE!
No less than ten Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were recently presented at Catterick by the Signal Officer in Chief—total service of recipients 199 years
*Left to right:* W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. S. Walton, W.O.1 G. Penman, Corporal K. Orton, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) M. J. Palmer, W.O.1 R. Donnell, Staff Sergeant P. Greenhalgh, W.O.2 (O.R.Q.M.S.) G. Shepherd, W.O.2 (Q.M.S.I.) A. Davies, Staff Sergeant J. Young, W.O.2 (S.S.M.) R. Briant

## 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison

### VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

**MAJOR General J. M. Sawers, C.B., M.B.E.,** had a very busy day with 11th Regiment on 4th October.

First of all he was the Inspecting Officer at the Pass Off Parade of No. 4 Troop. **W.O.1 E. C. Hunt,** commanded a very polished parade and prizes were presented to the best recruit, **Signalman Hyndman,** and the best shot **Signalman Tough.**

During the parade the General presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to ten warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s, who between them have completed one hundred and ninety-nine years service. Is this a record number of medals presented on one parade?

In the afternoon **General Sawers** opened the new Regimental Training Theatre in Helles Barracks, the first to be built for the Corps. The theatre is to train soldiers in accuracy of fire under simulated visual conditions, including night visibility. It has moving target equipment and can be used with a variety of weapons fitted with sub calibre attachments.

The visit to the regiment ended with tea in the Sergeants' Mess with the wives of the warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s who had been presented with the L.S. & G.C. medal.

We were pleased to have **Mrs. Sawers** in the regiment for the Pass Off Parade and were only sorry that she was unable to extend her visit into the afternoon.

PASS OFF PARADE
The Signal Officer-in-Chief has a word with Signalman Waller

### 2 SQUADRON

### JUNIOR SIGNALMEN ALREADY MAKING THEIR MARK IN SPORT

Since our last report from 2 Squadron a few things have happened which are worthy of a mention in the 11th Regiment notes.

We have now passed the half term stage of our first term and everything is going well. The odd hiccoughs which inevitably happen in a new venture have been ironed out and everyone is working at a furious rate. Perhaps our most noticeable achievements up to now have been in the sporting field. The soccer team reached the semi-finals of the Army Junior Soldier's Cup Competition only to be defeated by the Scottish Infantry Depot when things were looking rosy for an appearance in the final. It was a very good attempt considering the team has only been going for a couple of months, and it gives us heart for the competition next year.

In the orienteering field we have also been doing very well which is all the more commendable when it is considered that all the boys in the team are raw beginners. The team is now well and truly entrenched in orienteering circles and has gained many admirers and a lot of praise from every people. The rugby team is only just getting under way and shaping up well. Their first match in the Juniors Cup has not yet been played but we all wish them well in their match against The Junior Soldiers, Mercian Depot.

The strength of the Squadron increased after half term by one troop when we accepted a half term intake. We now have this extra troop and if we are to believe the forecasters there are quite a few more boys to come. Robotham's Private Army grows apace.

## OFFICERS' WING THE DEPOT TROOP

Officer Commanding — **Major (Retired) John Alexander**
Clerical Officer — **Mr. John Foster.**

**Major John Alexander** writes:

"I took over the chair in Officers' Wing, The Depot from **Baron Shoubridge** on 31st October 1973. I immediately had to change the chair because Baron's old chair did not give me the support I required. **John Foster** joined the Wing on 1st April 1960 when the Depot moved from Chester to Catterick. **John** says that it was April Fool's Day and he didn't think he would last long. His invaluable experience and devotion to his work leaves me ample time to pursue my new hobbies of growing hair, collecting check pattern trousers and coloured ties.

Closure of the London Assembly Centre brings back to us for administration and movement the senior officers of Royal Signals whose names are so well known and respected throughout the Corps. We welcome them home again.

**If you have any problems concerning your movement to your next unit, or personal administration whilst on our 'held strength', pay a visit or telephone us on Catterick Military extension 513. You will find me in the office, if I am not on the golf course.**

Major John Alexander (now retired) and Mr. John Foster look after Corps officers' administration with loving care

### REGIMENTAL WEDDING

The sun made a guest appearance over Catterick on Saturday 5th October for the much publicised wedding of **Second Lieutenant Fifi Richards** WRAC, Adjutant White Helmets, to **Captain Graham Elliot,** Training Officer 1 Squadron, at St. Martin's Church. The bride wore a white Edwardian dress and a white hat and veil. She was given away by her father, **Lieutenant Colonel Dick Richards** (late Intelligence Corps) and attended by the bridegroom's sister **Sheena, Miss Lupin Hart** and **Miss Tracy Macheath** (both of well-known parentage! !).

The Guard of Honour, formed from members of 8th and 11th Regiments 6 ft. or over, comprised of **Captains James Budd, Keith Danby, Olly Hackett** WFR, **Leigh Hood, Clement James** RAEC, **Roger Whitehead, Peter Williams** and **Lieutenant Bob Wannell.** The best man was **Lieutenant Bob West.**

For the drive from the church to the reception—the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, the car was escorted by four White Helmets—**Corporal Lonsdale, Signalman Clements, Winter** and **Yeates.**

After the reception the couple left, driven by **Lance-Corporal Goodall** in the Commanding Officer's staff car, suitably decorated, for two weeks honeymoon in Teneriffe. We offer them our congratulations and wish them the best of luck when they go to Hong Kong in January.

## 13 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 40

### SPORTING EFFORT TO HELP R.A.F. "LAUNCH A LIFEBOAT" FUND

THURSDAY 5th September was a hot day. Anybody lingering outside Mercury Barracks might have been mildly surprised to see soldiers running past the camp. Had the observer lingered longer he would have been surprised to see the same runners pass again—running in the same direction. And again. And again. And again. The warmth of the day certainly showed that these soldiers were not doing it for fun. But why? Well, they were running for money. Not for themselves, but for RAF Wildenrath's "Launch a Lifeboat" appeal.

It may not be clear why soldiers should be running round their own Barracks in aid of an airmen's appeal. But RAF Wildenrath are our nearest neighbours and our very good friends. We use their medical and dental facilities. We shop at their big NAAFI. They afford hospitality to our Scouts and Guides. Some of them come to our cinema, and some of us go to theirs. We are friendly rivals on the sportsfield.

So, when the Airmen set themselves the prodigious task of raising £5,000 for the RNLI, what more natural that we should help? **W.O.2 Bill Clark** and **W.O.2 Jim Hardy** put their heads together and hit on the idea of a sponsored run. The camp perimeter (about two and a half miles) was chosen as the circuit, two hours were allowed for the run and eventually eight runners were variously bullied, cajoled and flattered into volunteering. The Regiment rallied round and there was no lack of sponsors.

Came the day, and our gallant eight set off under the supervision of our official recorder, **Mrs. Betty Hardy.** Round and round they ran. They averaged six circuits a man and how much weight they lost on that hot day we'll never know!

We certainly helped our RAF friends. No mean feat by the Regiment. We raised DM 1256·00 (about £200) to assist in "Launching a Lifeboat".

THEY RAN AND RAN AND RAN AND RAISED £200 FOR CHARITY!

The fund raisers . . . W.O.2 Hardy, Lance-Corporal Haig, W.O.2 Clark, Private Bolland, Lance-Corporal Harrison, Lance-Corporal Allen

### *Blandford Reunion, 1975*

**Please note that the date of the Association Reunion at Blandford has been changed to SUNDAY, 22nd JUNE**



## 14 Sig Regt Worcester

### SO-IN-Cs VISIT

ON Wednesday the 16th of October the Regiment enjoyed a visit from the SO-in-C **Major General J. M. Sawers MBE.** A very full programme commenced with a visit to Oakhanger where we met **Lieutenant Ted Crampton** and the crew of our TSC 500. On arrival in Worcester accompanied by the CO **Lieutenant Colonel Mike Hales** he took the opportunity of inspecting the Regimental Recruiting Team. **Staff Sergeant Des Ackers** showed him over the mobile display and explained the team's role in the Regiment's recruiting efforts.

The new training room recently taken into commission by 602 Troop was also visited and the SO-in-C commented favourably on all the hard work put in by **Sergeant Mick Guy**

**Mrs. Ella Hales,** the COs wife, took the opportunity of handing over toilet requisites donated by our wives for sale at the SSAFA Christmas Fayre.

The SO-in-C also presented the LS and GC to **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) Joe Frost** in the Sergeants Mess which was followed by the traditional celebration.

After lunch with the officers, he was then whisked away to Droitwich to visit an E21 detachment participating in a Jocomex with H.M.S. *Charybdis.* **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Paul Cook** conducted him round the station and introduced him to members of the crew.

Major General J. M. Sawers meets Staff Sergeant Des Ackers in charge Regimental recruiting team. The CO Lieutenant Colonel Hales obviously approves of the presentation

### EXERCISE BOLD GUARD

The ubiquitous tear link radio det, this time commanded by **Captain Sandy Lovatt,** aided and abetted by **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Paul Cook,** recently deployed with UK Jatfor to Boostedt in West Germany. Their efforts have now produced a page in the Regiments "Guide to Good Exercise Sites" which deals fully with schnapps, bier and bratties. The detachment were accommodated and fed by the Germany Panzer Battalion in Ranzau Barracks. The food, they insist, got wurst, wurst and more wurst.

Members of the crew were quite upset when they were directed to 'Gaderene Block' as the one best suited to their needs. Fortunately our detachment move slowly and before they could dash off to extinction, someone explained that it was Guderian Block, named after the famous Panzer General. In view of where they were accommodated, I can only assume that 'E' Troop were a little off form on this exercise, no Tiger Tank has yet appeared in the crew room.

Consternation reigned in RHQ when a signal arrived requesting that a pair of crutches be made available for **Captain Sandy Lovatt** at Brize Norton on his return. Full scale PR coverage was arranged for our wounded hero. Sandy provided some sensational copy on how he had been in the thick of the battle when only split second reactions had saved him from being the largest, flatest captain in the Corps when Panzers attempted to use the real estate he was walking on. Apart from a limp, **Sandy** survived to complete a very successful exercise.

Mrs. Ella Hales, wife of the Commanding Officer, hands over items for the SSFA Christmas Fayre to Major General J. M. Sawers

**Sergeant Mick Birney** provided a little light relief with a very spirited imitation of a beserk traffic warden. This occurred when he was rounding up a number of enemy tanks who were intent on driving up his transmit antenna and recharging their batteries on 7½ KW. His concern, he freely admits, was not for the tanks but for the effort he envisaged that he would have to expend on straightening his antenna.

### EXERCISE SALT WIND 2

This was the grand title selected for our regimental camp. The exercise part was injected by **Q.M.S.I. Robin Shuttle** who appeared intent on convincing all concerned that perpetual motion is not totally impossible. His daily pre-breakfast PT periods were invariably followed by a concerted escape effort by the inmates of Stalag Fremington in small boats. A very unsympathetic current ensured that none were successful and drove them back in time for the next days muscle straining session.

We narrowly missed getting an entry in the Guinness Book of Records; HQ Squadron almost managed to produce more administrators than the other Squadrons produced campers. The remaining two Squadrons point out that if they insist on mounting a maximum security operation they must expect to deploy large numbers in order to ensure success.

During a night exercise **R.S.M. Bill Scott** won the admiration of all with a feat which outshone **Evel Knievel's** recent exploits. This consisted of leaping from the rear of a landrover, racing across a road, striking a knee high wall at full speed before taking off in a graceful swallow dive. This terminated with him landing on his head before regaining his feet with an acrobatic flip. The R.S.M. admits that his technique requires a little polish as he sustained minor abrasions on the forehead and fluid on his knee. This latter injury was quickly cured by a well qualified cellarman who tapped it.

We now have him on a rigid training programme designed to perfect the feat in time for Signal View 75. It is anticipated that he will then be capable of racing across the cricket pitch, hit a barrier at speed, clear the square and land on his pace stick in a flying Jimmy. Should he fail to last the course, the Regiment will have a vacancy for an ambitious R.S.M. with an acrobatic bent.

### THE UPS AND DOWNS OF EXERCISE WEB FEET

On the 30th of September, after donning wet suits, checking on the widows fund, increasing their shares in ADAT and failing

to find any valid reason for not going, **W.O.1 (F. of S.) Paul Cook, Sergeant Nobby Clark, Corporal Frank O'Callaghan** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Black** joined **Corporal Goff. Adams,** School of Signals, on the Corps yacht "*Quicksilver*" With **Goff** as skipper the aim was to sail to Alderney, collect contraband and evade customs and excise on the return journey.

An uneventful crossing was made memorable by **Frank O'Callaghan's** humane attitude which prompted him to feed each and every fish which passed. This boy was all stomach.

Alderney proved enjoyable and provided **Frank** with an opportunity of making a brief contact with his digestive organ. With prospects of good sailing weather they eventually prised Frank's fingers from the quay and commenced the return leg. Things were going fine and **Paul Cook,** on the helm, was even overheard humming a sea shanty.

This idyllic state of affairs did not last long before gale force winds prompted **Goff** to take in sail. Life lines were run out and **Frank** was restrained from fastening this round his neck. The boat then proceeded to stand on its beam end and describe every imaginable gyration, plus some unimaginable ones. New sub aqua and free flight records were alternately set as the crew hung grimly on and muttered about the mythical joys of sailing.

With storm sails set, good time was achieved back to Poole Harbour where they anchored for the night. Sleep was banished from everyone's eyes next morning by stentorian shouts of "Mutiny, Mutiny", from **Dave Black.** The crew staggered on deck to catch a fleeting glimpse of **Frank O'Callaghan** making **Dave Bedford** look like a sloth; he broke all records to the nearest railway station. A case of hate sail, go rail.

Seamanship reached a new high on the voyage to Marchwood as the tiller was lost in Poole Bay and bottom was touched in the Solent. We can only assume that Neptune looked, contemplated, then rejected, as our intrepid sailors have all lived to recount their epic voyage to any grandchildren they may eventually acquire.

### GONE TO THE DOGS

This is literally what our Tech Adj **Captain Don Clarke** has done with the greyhounds he is now racing.

**Don** reports that the dogs are doing very well and are managing to keep him in the manner in which he is rapidly becoming accustomed. However, all is not plain sailing in the sporting world and **Don's** usual sartorial elegance suffered a severe setback at the paw of what can only be described as a fickle bitch.

**Don's** trainer, whom I can only assume is the greyhound world's answer to **Sid James,** advised **Don** that the dog was a cert. **Don** in the best traditions of owners put his dress shirt on her and went along to cheer her on. In spite of all **Don's** exhortations, supplications and finally imprecations interspersed with unprintable expletives the dog ran as if the hare had Myxomatosis and finished second. The following evening the dog ran again. However, **Don** refused to be conned again and as he had no more dress shirts did not back the dog. With typical feminine fickleness the dog ran like the wind to finish a clear winner.

Friends of **Don's** should note that he cannot accept invitations for functions requiring mess kit or dinner jacket at this stage.


**ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS**

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

*Made up as required*

EXPORT - - each £1·68p
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(Postage Extra)

**T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY**
**Nr. DONCASTER**




## 16 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

### CAMERA NEWS FROM THE REGIMENT

C.S.O. VISITS 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT
Major-General Roper chatting to W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Pete Barnett and Staff-Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) 'Johnny' Walker, who had earlier been presented with their L.S. & G.C

SILVER COMSTAR WINNERS
The staff of Army Commcen Krefeld

## 22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

### RHQ

WHEN THE WIRE Notes were given to the Chief Clerk to process he was heard to mutter "I see the Orderly Room hasn't got a mention again". No sooner said than done! The problem was—what could he say about the Orderly Room. We all know that they are overworked and underpaid (especially their Band 5 Chief Clerk—Pay Review Board please note!). He took the easy way out and arranged for the Regimental photographer to take some pictures. A selection is shown opposite.

### HQ SQUADRON

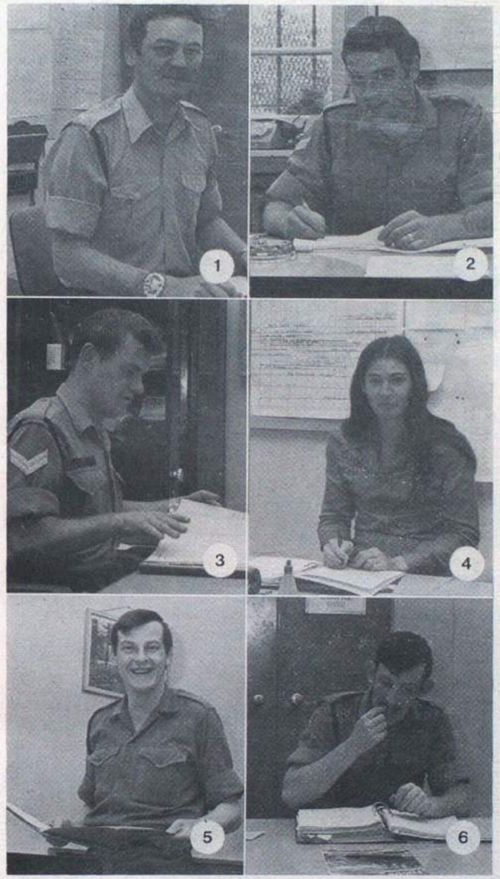
### MT TROOP

Recently we have fielded teams for Regimental knock-out football competition (we lasted three games) Regimental cross-country (tenth overall, with **Lance-Corporal Barry Jones** individual seventh), orienteering and tug-o-war, not bad for a troop just twenty four strong.

**W.O.1 Charlie Williams,** the MTO, left the unit in June on posting to Hong Kong; known and avoided throughout the



## *Orderly Room Staff, 22 Signal Regiment*



1. W.O.2. McCluskey
2. Corporal Ford
3. Corporal Donaldson
4. Mrs. Carlile
5. Lance-Corporal Nicol
6. Signalman Proudlove

regiment **'Charlie'** was famous for his practical jokes and 'unusual' sense of humour. Prior to his departure **'Charlie'** was entertained in true MT style.

We welcome **W.O.1 Nick Nicoll** as our new MTO and hope his tour with the Regiment is pleasant and successful.

### Q.M. (ADMIN)

The Q.M. department has been extremely busy this last month or so, as we have been closing down our two year account, and getting ready for the FFR, under the ever eager eyes of our Q.M., **Captain (Ken) Hadfield (I'm in Charge).**

We welcome the following to our department **W.O2 (R.Q.M.S.) Paddy Elliot, Staff Sergeant Tony Staveley,** and **Sergeant Max Carlile** who rejoined us after a six month tour in Northern Ireland. Yours (the underdog) **Sergeant Danny McKinstray,** N.C.O. in charge Clothing.

### 3 SQUADRON
### INTER TROOP TUG-O-WAR COMPETITION

"We are the Champions" didn't exactly ring out but the sentiment was there, as Golf Troop tugged their way to victory in the inter-troop catch weight tug-o-war contest.

Our technique was simple, we relied on the pure bulk and strength of our mighty eight of: **Signalman 'Chunky' Vinten, Sergeant John Nicholls, Sergeant Phil Welch, Sergeant Mick Ledwards, Corporal 'Mick' McIntosh, Signalman Pete Dawkins, Signalman Wilf Taylor** and **Lance-Corporal Steve Manders,** who was the only one who had any experience in this field. The coach, **Signalman Brian Thompson,** still hoarse from shouting, proved his worth to the team selectors by winning the toss on the final and thereby giving us the decisive down slope tug to carry away not only our opponents but also the honours against a very well drilled Echo Troop team. "Be modest in victory" they say but ¾ of a ton of team with backward momentum is hard to hold back.

Next time with some training they won't just be good they'll be great.

### 4 SQUADRON
### A FREE FALL

Four Squadron are thinking of going into active competition with 216 Squadron and as a first step 8 members of the squadron went on a free-fall course at Sennelager. The course started well and the ground training took place in perfect weather. Needless to say however, as soon as they actually took to the air the clouds came down and the wind came up. Having suffered the traumatic experience of jumping at 05.45 hours (yes thats in the morning) the padre intervened and there was some reasonable weather.

Congratulations to **Signalman Kurthausen** for achieving the first free fall on the course, and also the first 10 second delay (which cost him a 'crate'). **Captain Symmons** tried a tree landing on his first jump, but finding that a little too exciting spent the rest of the course perfecting the technique of landing on his bottom (quote "no thanks I'd rather stand").

**Signalman Blain** had a 'hang-up' on one jump but didn't realise it until the jumpmaster told him about it afterwards.

**Corporal Hodgson** made the occasional airborne excursion into Bad Lippspringe but says he felt he needed the experience gained from walking back.

Commiserations to **Signalman Rogers** who broke his leg on his first jump and is now in BMH Rinteln.

22nd REGIMENT FREEFALLERS
*Left to right:* Corporal Hodgson, Signalman Blain, Captain Symmons, Signalman Kurthausen

### MOHNE SEE SAILING CLUB

Its been an eventful and interesting year for both the members and staff, inspite of a very poor summer, we were able to hold three points series, numerous regattas and courses. Somewhere in the region of 600 men, women and children attended sailing courses, with a very high success rate.

Our fleet has been increased by 7 new 'Bosuns' (making a total of 27) and 6 420's. The new Sail Shed also deserves a mention as it has solved the problem of a cramped boatshed. The shed was built, by **Lance-Corporal David Marshall** and **Signalman Alan Mansley,** both of whom have now left the staff.

During the height of the season we had a change of management. **Staff Sergeant Barry Minter** and his wife **Carol,** took over from **W.O.2 Stanley-Jones** and his wife **Inga.** Although continually troubled by people for all sorts of reasons **Barry** still found time to learn how to sail (despite his duckings) and pass his 'C' Helmsman test. The bar being a favourite retreat for everyone is expected to remain open 7 days a week 13–15 hours a day. That's long hours but the barman **Lance-Corporal Bob Tanfield** and **Signalman Bob Turnbull** still manage to keep the customers satisfield. In September we had to say goodbye to our hard working Commodore **Lieutenant Colonel Ian Spear** and his wife **Anne,** we were sorry to see them go, but welcome another enthusiastic Commodore **Lieutenant Colonel Vernon Penketh** RAMC and wife **Susan.**

A few more changes on the committee: **Major Ron Acott** becomes Vice Commodore and **Captain Harry Bell** the Rear Commodore. Both are very active appointments. Most of the staff will be leaving the club shortly, hopefully to return next year.

### FAREWELLS

Finally, we say a fond farewell to **Lieutenant Colonel Ian Spear** and his wife **Ann** and wish them good luck in their posting to Ministry of Defence.

We welcome **Lieutenant Colonel Tom Wheawell** and his wife **Dean** and hope that their stay will be happy.

## 28 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 35

GUESS WHO?

Dining in 28 Signal Regiment Officers' Mess, back to the camera a regular officer of some repute. Winner secures free trip round 35 Signal Regiment (V).

### SOCCER SIDE SHAPING UP WELL

THE Regimental soccer team have started the season well. Despite losing 8 members of the side defeated in the Army Cup Final at Aldershot we have formed another useful looking squad. Pre-season fitness training has helped to build up stamina and new players are gradually knitting together in team work. The Second team have surprised everyone too and they are undefeated in their league programme. As at the beginning of November we have moved into the last sixteen of the Army Cup (BAOR section). To reach this stage we have defeated 24 Missile Regiment RA 9–0, HQ Rheindahlen Garrison 1–0 and RAOC Wulfen 3–0, all matches played away from home. Our incredible 'out of the hat' ill-fortune continues. Since the start of the 1973/74 season, we have played thirteen cup ties and only one of these have been at home!

**Sergeants Jackie Snaith, Peter Campbell** and **Corporal Tommy Hope** continue to represent BAOR with the former as Captain and we supply no fewer than six players for the Rhine Area Team. **Peter Campbell,** whose two brothers both play professional football for Dunfermline in the Scottish Division 1, scored both goals for Combined Services BAOR in their 2–1 victory over Cambridge University.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

The Sergeants' Mess dined in the new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Terry Byrne,** on the 11th October. The evening was a great success particularly the new Commanding Officer's speech and also because the R.S.M., **W.O.1 Peter Harris,** found that 5 o'clock occurred twice daily, a fact that had escaped his attention for the last twenty years.

## 30 Sig Regt
**BLANDFORD CAMP**

### SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S VISIT

WE were very pleased to have **Major General J. M. Sawers, C.B., M.B.E.** visit the Regiment on Thursday, 17th October. A tour of the Regiment was made to meet as many military and civilian staff as possible and the General met all the members of 3 Squadron literally as they arrived back in camp from an exercise in BAOR. The highlight of the visit was the presentation of L.S.G.C. Medals to **W.O.2 Eric Smith, Sergeant 'Spud' Taylor, Sergeant Bill Wild** and **Lance-Corporal Gordon Kettle** followed by pre-lunch drinks in the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess.

FAREWELL VISIT

The S.O.-in-C. meets Corporal "Mac" McGookin guided by the M.T.O., Major Desmond Spence, with Corporal Ron Norton and Sergeant Brian Ramsden looking on

### SPORT

Congratulations to **Lance Corporal Stephen Hall** for his outstanding achievements in athletics. He has just been awarded the Challenge Trophy for the best performance in the junior track events of the 1974 Championships by the Executive Committee of the Army Athletic Association. He has received a letter of personal congratulations from the President of the Association **General Sir Rowland Gibbs, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.** No doubt that will soon be framed and up on the wall in his room. Well done!

Our Chief Clerk, **W.O.2 Stan Hargreaves** has also been very energetic recently, The Annual Corps Badminton Tournament was held at Blandford and he was involved, not only in his capacity as Assistant Secretary, but playing too, in no less than 5 semi-finals! After all that he came out with the Singles Trophy which was presented to him by **Mrs. Ann Jarrett,** wife of the Commanding Officer.

### SQUADRON NEWS

Members of the Regiment, especially 1 Squadron, have been busy preparing for an Exercise in St. Lucia in the Windward Islands. All ranks have had to keep moving at all times for fear of being boxed and banded by the airportability N.C.O., **Sergeant Ken King.** What with airing all the C41s and D11s, and operating to Westmorland, H.M. Ships and Gibraltar, there hasn't been a moment to spare.

1 Squadron welcomes two visitors—**Lance-Corporal Rambahadar Singh** and **Lance-Corporal Benbahadur Singh** from Gurka Signals. They are here for a month helping with preparing equipment for Exercise High Post 1.

2 Squadron welcomes back to the fold three 'Linies', **Lance-Corporal Ken White, Signalmen Chris Rumney** and **Nick Phillips** from the recent troubles in Cyprus and four of the lads back from Northern Ireland—**Signalmen Barry Croucher, Ken Pinner, Dave Campbell** and **Roy Bellamy.**

The 2 Squadron Admin Officer, **Lieutenant Jill Mackay WRAC** has defected to the other side by becoming engaged to **Captain Steve Siddall** in the School of Signals. One down, one to go! We give them our congratulations and wish them good fortune.

3 Squadron has recently returned from Exercise Autumn Test in BAOR where they worked with the multinational AMF(L) Force. They appeared to have selected a very unseasonable time of the year for their visit to Southern Germany but were made very welcome by the United States Army. They are now preparing for the Group Commanders Exercise High Post 1 which will keep them going until December when they start Exercise Hardfall training and such delights as skiing and making igloos.

### FAREWELLS

We said goodbye last month to two much respected members of the Regiment. **Major (Q.M.) Jack Harding,** our MTO has left on retirement after thirty years service—sixteen of them since commissioning. During that time he was well known for his sporting activities, especially in cricket, hockey and soccer. Also very active in the Church he has been a very valuable member of the Army wherever he has been. We wish him and his wife **Wynn** every happiness in their new life.

**W.O.1 (F. of S.) David Lanyon** has also retired to Lincoln as an Administrative Officer with the Littlewoods organisation—a position he refers to as "birdwatching". After twenty-seven years of service, two of them as "Foreman One" in TM Troop here, we are very sorry to see him go. His sense of humour will long be remembered, as we see in his farewell message to TM Troop:

"Thank you all very much indeed for the tankard and the really splendid briefcase, which I christened on an interview for a job yesterday. I think the interviewer was most impressed by the executive image. He would have no doubt been even more impressed if I had remembered to take the key with me!"

We wish him and his wife **Geraldine** all good fortune for the future.

# News from Squadrons

## 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 102

**Notes by Signalmen John Woolley and Mike Platts.**

### EXERCISES

THE last three months have been fairly hectic for the Squadron with August being taken up mainly with leave, followed by quite a strenuous training programme during which swimming was the most popular sport, with **Staff Sergeant John Smith** trying to get 30 of the lads into the local swimming pool with about 12 free passes! Due to the large crowds—he succeeded, too! ! This training proved more advantageous to **Signalman Mal Chambers** who spent most of the time being chased around the pool by a herd of soldiers shouting "Duck 'im".

September passed in preperation for two schemes in October, although we had a short exercise from 2nd–6th September. With the advent of a new recovery vehicle, one of our resident REME reps **Lance-Corporal Clive Ormandy** truely christened it by managing to knock down a television mast costing of over 100,000 DM. Needless to say those watching channel one were not very pleased, though we understand that the cost will not come out of **Lance-Corporal Ormandy's** beer money.

During October both exercises, Double Duty and Hot Line went according to plan, with the help from our signwriter extraordinaire **Lance-Corporal Jim ("look there's another one of mine") Buckley** and our Yeoman **Staff Sergeant John Chapman** who was to be heard on a few occasions saying "I'm sorry I can't help, I'm only the Yeoman here". For Exercise Double Duty in addition to employing our own rebros, we were reinforced by a large number of others from various units in BAOR. Without their help we could not have managed—many thanks to all concerned. However this increase in rebro population did make resupply rather a headache for our admin element and Yeoman.

### BORDER PATROL

This being our last patrol with any members of the BFS, it made quite a memorable few days for the whole patrol which consisted of **Lieutenant Brian Scott-Morton** (late of the Squadron), **Staff Sergeant John Smith, Corporals Grif Griffith, Chris Ball, Signalmen Al Hoensch, 'Radar' McLeod, Tony D'Silva, Mike ("Is that a stick he's pointing at us?") Platts, Gunner Gus Taylor** and **Private Bob Graham.** The weather unfortunately was not too good with rain and strong winds for most of the time but, even so, some important and interesting sights were to be seen. During one of our halts along the Border when the Frontier Officer was explaining how the section of W Germany that we were in bought their electricity from the East, someone was heard to comment—"Bit of a stink if anyone forgets to pay his bill".

## 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

### TURBULENCE

AFTER a very hectic period of turbulence the current line up as at November is:

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major Kelvin Kent** |
| Second-in-Command | **Captain Rex Stephenson** |
| Admin Officer | **Major Malcolm Jones** RRF |
| Comms Officer | **Captain David Williams** |
| Quartermaster | **Captain John Cowe** |
| MTO | **Captain Peter Everingham** RCT |
| OC 'A' | **Lieutenant Chris Harper** |
| OC 'B' | **Lieutenant Ian Robertson** |
| RSM | **W.O.1 Norman Ladds** |

**Major Peter Jones** who left us in July should now be settled into his new job as DAA & QMG of 11 Brigade and we wish him and **Judy** every success.

Recent departures have included **Captain Brendon Hughes** to HQ 1 (BR) Corps, **Lieutenant Harry Ross** and his new bride to the Training Brigade, **Second Lieutenant Robin Cuthbert** to 2LI and our Admin Officer **Major Norman Adams** QLR to the UDR. Also recently posted have been **W.O.2 (R.Q.M.S.) Nick Nicol** on promotion to W.O.1 to 22nd Regiment, **Staff**

**Sergeant John Harrison** to 11th Regiment, **Staff Sergeant Gerry Markwell** on promotion to 27th Regiment. We wish them all well and welcome their successors here.

### AN UNUSUAL EXERCISE

Evening Star is not the only exercise we have been involved in of late but it was different to most. The aim was primarily to set up and work an advance Joint Force Headquarters.

The exercise setting was the Middle East but in reality it took place in Devon and Cornwall. Our own role was two fold: firstly to provide control communications for the exercise and secondly to set up and run our own Brigade end. But thanks to the hard man technique of our Infantry Brigade Major the Brigade end was destined to function from the middle of Dartmoor and not as was earlier planned, Okehampton Camp.

The amazing thing about a Brigade operating (with controllers) into a JFHQ is the size of the communications. To give an idea we ended up with a Brigade HQ needing 56 tents GS to accommodate everyone and 9 major links were provided.

In addition the line commitment was large with barely room enough for all the telephones on certain tables.

### DARTMOOR WEATHER GOES TO TOWN!

All would have gone well, and indeed it did in the end, but the weather took some beating. **Captain John Cowe** our QM, with his high level advance party, endured torrential rain and gale force winds for nearly a week in the setting up stage. Most of us arrived on the Friday before the exercise began and experienced some of what John's boys had had to go through. It was indescribably bad and very rugged indeed. The main problem was literally keeping tentage down and on one sad occasion the officers mess was actually seen cartwheeling down the moorside! Nevertheless, with much effort and dogged determination, the Ops complex and tented camp was completed. At the time the Okehampton Camp Staff were saying that it was the coldest and wettest period that Dartmoor had experienced before Christmas for many years. Needless to say a few hours before the Staff arrived on the scene in their coach the wind dropped, the rain stopped and the sun appeared!

### COMMS

The actual comms improved steadily in the warm up phase and, after broken antennas were fixed and rebro and relay positions battoned down, the exercise went well as far as signals were concerned.

In addition to the huge static JFHQ in Penhale Camp Cornwall, there was an AMA (nearly as big) at RAF St. Mawgan. We had control communicators at each of these places and, like the players, all of them earned their pay.

Let us hope that the political scene will be sufficiently friendly to enable the more realistic sequel to this exercise to take place as scheduled overseas early next summer.

EXERCISE EVENING STAR
Captain (Q.M.) John Cowe and R.S.M. Norman Ladds enjoy the open air of Dartmoor

An administrative plan that didn't work out!

Q.M.s NIGHTMARE
A borrowed tent occupied by 38 GP TCW (RAF) and administered by us. The RAF had a burning ambition to thin out as the exercise was drawing to a close

## 6 Armd Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 106

WHAT with ancillary inspections, OC's inspections, Exercise Forefront, Squadron Cross Country Run, BE tests, Range classifications, training days, preparation for PRE, presentations by Deputy OCI Records and a recruiting tour by 264 SAS Squadron, the month of October has been rather quiet! But . . .

### SOLDIERS FIRST, TRADESMEN SECOND

Our four lads on temporary attachment to the Royal Hussars in Northern Ireland, namely **Signalmen Cox, Corrigan, Neilson** (Cbt Rmn) and **Curry** (R Tg) have found time to send us a report:

"After many months training we have now started our tour in Northern Ireland. Our Squadron with two troops from 'A' Squadron are based at HMP Maze. 'B' Squadron and the other troops from 'A' and Command Support Squadrons are based in the South of Ulster.

We have also had a few amusing incidents which include a certain old lady who saw a patrol of para-military gentlemen

*(Continued on page 517)*



*(Continued from page 516)*

wearing brown berets. On arriving at the RUC station she found more of these gentlemen and had to be reassured that a new terrorist organisation had not sprung up!

There has also been one car bomb incident in Long Kesh. A Mini was left in the Visitor's Car Park when all the visitors had left and the ATO was called in. A charged was placed by the robot 'Goliath' and the car was shattered . . . but no explosion followed. On examining the car, it was found that there were no explosives. In the end it was found that the car belonged to a Magistrate who was still inside talking to prisoners!"

A little note was enclosed with the letter, the gist as follows:

"Knock, knock, who's there?"

"Irish Stew"

"Irish Stew what?"

"Irish Stew in the name of the Law".

No comment!

### IF THE CAP FITS (No. 2)

Since the publication of "If the Cap Fits" in the November/December issue, I have been warned for posting. But as I was busy writing my memoirs of a very enjoyable stay with 6 Armd Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, I thought the following extract would be of interest. Of course, if the cap fits . . .

It was November and the trees were bare. My footsteps sounded solitary in the corridor, every detail clearly etched on the retina of memory . . . the closing of doors, the hurried, whispered conversations and the peacefulness interrupted by the occasional telephone ringing. The door was clearly marked "Knock and wait". It was Tuesday. The camp was quiet and the sky was black.

My footsteps slowed as I neared his door, with reluctance . . . a sense of dread almost. I could feel myself beginning to tremble as I sensed once again the pull of the Old Man's personality. There had been no reconciliation, no renewal of the Army acquaintance. He had been on one of his periodic bouts of inspection.

And now a fit of trembling reached down the muscles of my arm and into my hands. I paused, hesitating, summoning up the courage to face him again. A slight wind blew cold down the corridor. I shivered, wondering why the hell I had come. The trembling reached into the pit of my stomach. I stopped, unwilling to commit myself and step again into that lonely retreat.

A burst of sunshine glimmered momentarily through the black clouds and gave me courage. I knocked on the door and was answered by a loud bellow to enter.

I said, "Sir, you owe four Deutschmarks to the Coffee Fund . . ."

## 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 37

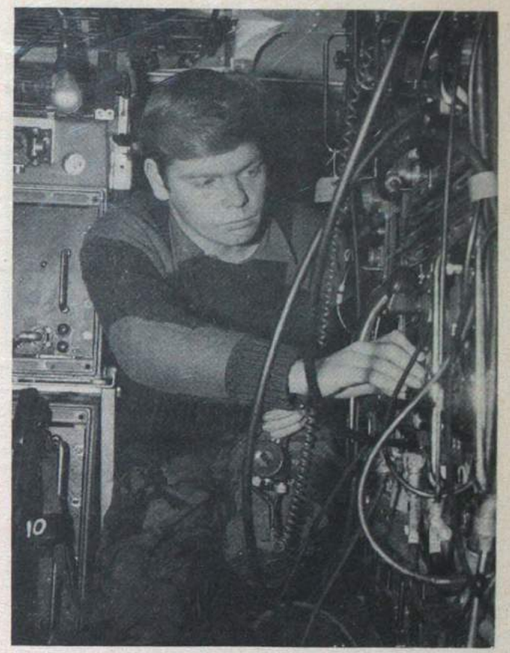
### EXERCISE RED RAT

**QUOTE from PR 1 Division Press Release:** *"'Red Rat'—held by the crack 7th Armoured Brigade—involved 4500 soldiers, 90 tanks, 400 light tracked vehicles and 750 wheeled vehicles. British, German and Danish troops took part, closely supported by aircraft from the British, German, Belgian and Dutch Air Forces."*

This short paragraph covers two weeks of hard exercising by the Brigade from 23rd September until 4th October. We entertained a host of visitors, including the CGS **General Sir Peter Hunt,** C in C BAOR **General Sir Harry Tuzo,** the Corps Commander **Lieutenant Sir Jack Harman,** the UK Representative to the NATO Military Committee **Admiral Sir Rae McKaig,** GOC 1st Division **Major General J. W. Stanier,** CC R Signals **Brigadier A. C. Birtwistle** and even an Arab Sheikh from Dubai!

### 140 MILES WITH A DOUBLE REBRO

The communications for the exercise provided some interesting planning problems. As well as a whole Brigade's worth of VHF, an extensive umpire net had to be provided and a VHF air request net was operated to our Harrier site. 20 Squadron RAF provided FGA support for us throughout the exercise with their 12 aircraft, and we were most grateful to **Captain Lionel French**



FAR CRY FROM DAYS OF HELIO!
Signalman Malcolm O'Neill at the controls of his AFV 439 mounted C50 on exercise Red Rat

and his troop from 21st Regiment who provided the vital Harrier communications. The area was difficult for VHF, but **Sergeant Sid Barnett** and his rebroadcast detachments managed to maintain the Brigade Command net well, once working 140 miles with a double rebroadcast net from Brigade Main HQ to Step Up.

### COMCEN CHARLIE UNVANQUISHED

Many elements of 1 Division HQ and Signal Regiment were placed under command of the Squadron to provide Bruin and Umpire communications, in particular Comcen Charlie deserves a "mention in despatches" for the manner in which it resisted several enemy attacks! Don't worry—we'll get you next time, Charlie!

The Squadron was set several unusual tasks, not the least of which was to set up and administer a bivouac area for 100 officers, their vehicles and drivers, arranging a dinner night in the field for most of the officers in the Brigade whilst maintaining a main and step up HQ with all normal communications.

### VISIT OF CSO

On Friday 11th October we were pleased to welcome the Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Major General H. E. Roper** and **Mrs. Roper** for a morning visit. They saw a variety of the Squadron's life, both domestic and operational, in the now famous whistle-stop "Cook's Tour" of HQ 7th Armoured Brigade with 18 serials on the visit programme and no one department being visited for longer than ten minutes! During his visit the CSO presented the LS & GC to **Staff Sergeant Dave Gwinnell,** our Estate Warden.

### FFR—ALL ROCKETS CONFINED TO THE EVENING

At 9 a.m. on the 5th of November—a most apt date—the Brigade Commander **Brigadier M. B. Farndale** arrived to carry out his FFR inspection of the unit. Our ambitious programme for him included a parade, including a march past in slow and quick time, accompanied by the band of 13/18th Hussars and a drive past of all the Squadron vehicles. The Commander

VISIT OF CSO

*Left to right:* R.S.M. A. Williams, Sergeant R. J. Back, Corporal K. Morrison, the OC Major R. F. L. Cook, Major General H. E. Roper, Signalman C. A. Chapman, Signalman N. Ogden, Signalman A. Gordon and Signalman R. F. Sands. The OC and Signalman Chapman are enjoying the CSO's joke, but Signalman Sands seems to have heard it before!

visited all departments of the Squadron as well as the Station facilities for which we are responsible. We managed to satisfactorily answer his most searching questions in one way or another; a Bravo Troop Technician, working in a corner of a garage whilst the Workshops are under repair was asked "And how will you manage when it gets really cold in the winter?" His answer I'll move a little closer to the fire, Sir!"

The day finished with our Guy Fawkes Party. **Brigadier Farndale** lit the first rocket, and then **Sergeant 'Sonny' Henderson** took over as IC firing party. **Sergeant Livingstone** and his cooks produced copious quantities of fish and chips while **Signalman 'Plum' Kaye** poured the pints in the Jerboa bar. A pleasant evening to round off a successful FFR. And we are pleased to report all rockets were confined to the evening!

## 7 Arty Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 20

### VISIT OF CSO

THE Squadron seems to have increased somewhat with the return of the summer leave personnel. However, when on 25th September the CSO BAOR, **Major General H. E. Roper** paid us a visit, only five (three of which were S.N.C.O.s) paraded in the Jimmy Club to meet him as the "remainder of the Squadron". During the visit **General Roper** met two radio crews and in the first instance met **Corporal 'Holly' Hollingsworth** and after a chat asked him where they were communicating to, **'Holly'** quietly and politely informed him that it was to a detachment 3 yards away! The CSO was then shown over the new .22 Air Rifle range and impressed us all with his modest shooting ability. I say 'modest' because he forbade our PR photographer (who will remain anonymous as he writes these notes and is our equally bad photographer) to take his camera anywhere near his target after he had fired!

### BAVARIAN VISIT

The Squadron has disappeared into the depths of Bavaria for a fortnight on Annual Camp. A D11 link is being set up between our Squadron lines and Nesselwang although **Corporal Jack Davey** (260 Squadron) has been experiencing difficulty in connecting the Squadron office to the D11 by phone which is probably due to the Tel L mysteriously finding our MT Tele L at the end of it.

"STOP THAT FLASH OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!"

Mrs. Isobel Freeburn looks daggers at the camera while Mrs. Anne Wyse shows how it's done on the new ·22 air rifle range

### JIMMY CLUB

Our Jimmy Club continues to thrive, our last social evening with 260 Squadron being a great success. With all eyes turned towards Christmas and the big function of the year the Club committee are frantically thinking of ways of selling the volumes of tickets for the draw. So, BAOR units, expect us in the near future!

### NEW FOOTBALL VENTURE

A recent advent in the Squadron is the Dortmund Centaurs football team which under the able management of **W.O.2 (Q.M.S.A.C.) Bill Morland** have been undergoing strenuous training two lunch times a week. The club extends to the minor units in the Garrison who would otherwise be unable to field a team due to their small numbers. After a few practice matches against established Garrison teams, the club managed a glorious victory against 61 Station Workshops beating them 8–3. The match was played at 6.40 in the morning which must tell a story!

We welcome **Sergeant Arthur Moodie** to the fold, from 8th Regiment, who joins us as Radio Troop Sergeant. We hope his tour is an enjoyable and eventful one.

## 28 Inf Bde Sig Sqn,
## B.F.P.O. 5

### FUN ON THE RANGE

ONCE again the last four weeks has found the youngest squadron in the Corps with a very full programme, both at work and at play. The first event on the calendar was in fact a training one. The 9th October found the Squadron on Nee Soon Ranges for the annual range classification which was run on the lines of a Squadron shooting competition. First on the firing point were the SLR's with **Signalman George Fitzgerald** making a clean sweep by winning the trophy for the best SLR shot as well as the best young shot. The Squadron Commander, **Major Ian Graham,** who borrowed a weapon from one of our two New Zealand Signals Corporals **Corporal Jake Jacobs,** is still convinced that the rifle was zeroed for kiwi eyes only. Next on the point was the SMG's and with everyone having fired we had a tie for first place between **Staff Sergeant Bill Wilson, Sergeant Bill Pettie** and **Sergeant Jim Nelson.** After a shoot off on number 12 targets from 100 yards the trophy was taken by **Sergeant Jim Nelson,** with the best young shot award going to **Signalman Lennie Ball.** The final event of the day was the falling plate competition. To add a little bit of spice two teams from Brigade HQ, led by the Brigade Commander **Brigadier G. D. J. R. Russell** and the A.A. & Q.M.G. **Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Hooper** were invited to take part against two teams made up of the Signalmen, one Corporal's team, one Sergeant's team and one Officers and Staff Sergeant's team. The competition was run on a knockout basis and the final found the Brigade 'B' team and the Corporal's team together on the firing point. The Brigade team emerged narrow winners and so carried off the trophy and the traditional case of beer.

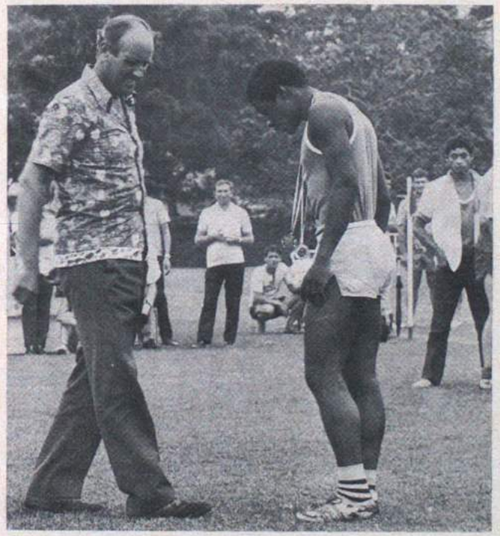


### BARBEQUE

A Squadron barbeque and western night was staged on 11th October, and the Squadron took this opportunity to welcome the Squadron Commander's wife **Mrs. E. Graham** to our ranks although I'm sure she must have wondered just what she had let herself in for when **Corporal Jim Lander** appeared in a full ceremonial war dress that made Sitting Bull look grossly overdressed. First class organisation by **Sergeant Colin Bachelor, Corporal Dennis Needham** and **Signalman 'Flash' Willey** resulted in a really good night that was enjoyed thoroughly by everyone who attended.

### SPORTS WEEK

Apart from absolute essentials the period from 14th–18th October was set aside exclusively for a forces sports week, where all the ANZUK force on the island got together to compete at soccer, rugby, volleyball, cricket, golf, tennis, squash, hockey, swimming, basketball, tug-o-war and athletics. Despite our small numbers we managed to field a team in all sports. Several members took more out of themselves rushing from one activity to another then they did at the actual activity. The size of the Squadron often necessitated several people participating in 3 or 4 sports in one day and this obviously took it's toll as the week wore on. In the athletics we were very well represented and in the heats we won through to 12 of the 16 finals with our star performers, **Signalman Horace Wilson,** 2nd in the 100 metres, 2nd in the 200 metres and 3rd in the 400 metres, **Sergeant Graham Riddy,** 3rd in the hammer and **Corporal Drewnicky** RE 3rd in the discus. Assisted by all other athletes in the Squadron they managed to secure 5th place overall, a good effort.



FORCES SPORTS WEEK

The Brigade Commander, Brigadier G. D. J. R. Russell, puts his best foot forward to Signalman Horace Wilson who received trophies for coming 2nd 100 m, 2nd 200 m, and 3rd 400 m

### SKILL AT ARMS

The Squadron skill at arms team are now in serious training for the Brigade skill at arms meeting in December, and on the first day of training **Signalman 'Flash' Willey** found the going so tough that he slid away from the team and returned to barracks in a taxi. When questioned about it by the S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant Mick Abson,** he explained that the deep breathing exercises were okay but when it came to the running bit it was just a little too much.

### CAR PUSHING CLUB

The F. of S. **Staff Sergeant Nick Lynn** would like to thank the following people for voluntarily (or otherwise) joining his car pushing club, **Major Graham** and his good lady, **Staff Sergeant Bill Wilson** (often), **S.Q.M.S. Mick Abson, Y. of S. Max Pond, Sergeant Niel Orquhart, Signalman George Fitzgerald** and **Signalman Mike Willey** with apologies to anyone who has been forgotten. Membership cards and club ties will be issued shortly. Unfortunately membership oas now closed as the Foreman has purchased a new battery.

## 48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
## B.F.P.O. 1

THIS is the Quarter Centenary Year of Gurkha Signals and the Squadron has been playing it's full part in the celebration of the anniversary. The highlight was the Regimental Birthday, on the 23rd September, when the OC led his Squadron on a parade before the Major General, Brigade of Gurkhas. The Squadron is active and thriving and these notes attempt to give some flavour of the events in the last six months.

### PERSONALITIES

There have been many changes in the Squadron personalities in the last six months. In consequence here is an up to date list of the British Gurkha Signals within the Squadron.

| | |
|---|---|
| OC | **Major M. L. Jennings** |
| Second-in-Command | **Captain L. R. Smith** |
| Adjutant | **Captain A. J. Simpson** |
| OC J Troop | **Lieutenant A. McVittie** |
| OC C Troop | **Second Lieutenant J. W. Rollins** |
| Garrison RSM | **W.O.1 B. J. Styles** |
| Garrison RSM (designate) | **W.O.1 G. G. Haughie** |
| RQMS | **W.O.2 G. A. Foggo** |
| Yeoman | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) N. N. Anderson** |
| Foreman | **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. S. Kidd** |
| Technician | **Corporal A. Croft** |
| Cypher Operators | **Sergeant J. Collison** |
| | **Corporal B. White** |
| | **Corporal R. R. Burrell** |

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron wishes the following recent departures good luck in their new jobs. **Second Lieutenant Tim Fletcher** now in Brunei; **Second Lieutenant Roger Batho,** now at School of Signals on his Y.O.s course; **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Ernie Adams** now swanning at Blandford and **Sergeants Ron Russell** and **Jerry Taylor.**

The Squadron's youngest arrival is a baby girl to **Corporal** and **Mrs. White.** Congratulations!

### OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Most of the effort in the last few months has been on individual training but there have been several command post exercises. These, however, were only of two or three days duration. The main exercise period lies immediately in front of us culminating in a full Brigade exercise. Our FFR inspection follows 3 days later!

The Colony emergency storm net had to be deployed on two occasions during the Autumn but no great damage was caused by either typhoon.

Early morning swimming at 07.30 hours, twice a week, has been carried out throughout the summer. The result has been to increase the general standard of swimming greatly. However, more than one reluctant swimmer has expressed relief at the oncoming of winter and closure of the pool.

### SPORT

Sport plays a major part in the life of the Squadron. The inter-troop sports championship consisting of swimming, small bore shooting, athletics, football, hockey, assault course and orienteering was won this year by A Troop and they are now the proud holders of the Buchanan Trophy until next year.

On the Squadron level, the summer has not been a complete success. The Land Forces Hong Kong minor units athletics championship was won quite easily, but in swimming and shooting, despite great efforts made by the teams involved, the championships eluded us. The Squadron did manage to win the Royal and Gurkha Signals tournaments in both these events as a consolation.

All eyes are now turned to the football teams to see what can be achieved in the Land Forces minor units and Nepal Cup competitions.

## RECREATION

One of the more unusual recreational activities undertaken by members of the Squadron is the martial art of Tae Kwon-Do. This is the Korean version of Japanese karate. Ten members of the Squadron take part regularly in this activity and in a recent up-grading assessment four of them, **Signalmen Chandraprasad, Kamalbahadur, Purnaram** and **Ratnabahadur** were awarded the much coveted black belt. Many hours of exercise and practise have to be spent to reach this standard.

HONG KONG TAE KWON DO BLACK BELTS

*Back row, right to left:* Signalmen Kamalbahadur, Ratnabahadur, Chandraprasad and Purnaram

*Front row centre:* Korean master Mr. Lee Pyuang Pal, 6th Dan, their instructor

## SOCIAL

The Squadron celebrated two weddings in the last few months. On the 10th August **Corporal Ron Burrell** married **Miss Jaqueline Gyfford** at St. Martin's Church Sek Kong. **Jaqueline** flew out from England for the wedding which had to be postponed once at short notice because of the disturbances to the RAF flight schedules caused by the Cyprus emergency. **Major Mike Jennings** gave the bride away and Gurkhas of J troop formed a guard of honour with their kurkris.

**JUST MARRIED**

Corporal Ron Burrell married Miss Jaqueline Gyfford at St. Martin's Church, Sek Kong. Major Mike Jennings gave the bride away and the Gurkhas of J Troop formed a guard of honour with their kurkris.

On the 28th September it was the turn of **Corporal Archie Croft.** He married **Miss Ying Hung Man** a local Hong Kong girl. The church was full to capacity with friends and relatives and at the reception the bride's father gave a most moving speech.

Our best wishes go to both couples!

The Gurkha festival of Dashera is now over and despite the interference of those unpredictable ladies, typhoons Carmen and Elaine, everyone had a good time. Thoughts amongst the British members of the Squadron are now beginning to turn towards Christmas.

# 216 Para Bde Sig Sqn, Aldershot

## VIP VISIT

ON 25th October we were honoured by a farewell visit by the SO-in-C, **Major General J. M. Sawers M.B.E.,** who unfortunately could not see the Squadron ballooning on Hankley DZ due to the very high winds. He was able to speak to many of the lads, and had a look at some of our kit.

S.O.-in-C's VISIT

Signalman 'Paul' Hatchman dressed 'ready to go'. Audience from left to right, Signalman Ward, Staff Sergeant Baikie, Major Fielding, S.S.M. Shearer, S.O.-in-C., Lieutenant Shipley (half hidden) and Captain Treeby

## VHR/HF CADRES

A pool of instructors from the Squadron ran a series of cadres for Brigade units with a relatively high success rate. **Corporal 'Maxie' Williams** is now the morse king, surrounded by tapes, tape recorders and bits 'n pieces of training sets universal. **Corporal 'John' Tovey** holds sway over procedures, drenched in chalk dust and beating everything in sight with his pointer. **Corporal 'Scouse' McKee** knows all there is to know about AE theory and blinds all and sundry with science and propagation paths.

## SQUADRON TRAINING

Whilst carrying out the usual commitments, i.e., parachuting, rigging for heavy drop, preparation for various exercises and Jocomexs, we have also managed to do some training of our own, the test results caused one or two red faces!

## EXERCISE TALARIA

Squadron detachments are making ready for some jungle training with 7 Para RHA in Malaya.

## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding | **Major J. V. Fielding** |
| Administrative Officer | **Captain J. G. Turner** |
| OC Communications Troop | **Captain C. R. Treeby** |
| OC Support Troop | **Lieutenant G. M. S. Shipley** |
| OC Radio Section | **Lieutenant N. C. Jackson** |
| Foreman of Signals | **W.O.1 (F. of S.) D. K. Harvey B.E.M.** |
| Squadron Sergeant Major | **W.O.2 (S.S.M.) J. Shearer** |
| Yeoman of Signals | **W.O.2 (Y. of S.) G. F. Devine** |

## KAPE

**Lieutenant 'Jeeps' Jackson, Sergeant 'Don' Newman, Corporal 'Jack' Ferguson, Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Finn** and **Signalman 'Taff' Aitken** visited the Westmoreland area on this tour and put the Airbourne Jimmy firmly in the public eye.

## CORPS SOCCER

We are fortunate to be able to assist in this field to the tune of 5 players and 1 assistant coach in the Annual Quadrangular Tournament, **Corporal Billy Adam, Corporal Robin Stanley, Corporal Pete Doherty, Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell, Signalman Bob O'Hara** and **Don Revie's** understudy, **Corporal Pete Pritchard.**

## ARMY SOCCER

**Lance-Corporal Larry Cardwell** found himself in the floodlight as well as the limelight when he played with the Army XI versus a Coventry City XI at Aldershot Military Stadium, where he found himself 'marking' **Willie Carr,** all £250,000 worth!

## EXERCISE ASSERT ONE

Some of the Squadron detachments have already left for this one with 1 (Gds) Indep Coy PARA, to Gibraltar, where they will be 'working' to Kenya via C11 SSB.

## FREE FALL COURSE

**Corporal 'Al' Jeannotte** and **Signalman 'Grant' Humbles** attended a course at Netheravon and now regard static lines as something of the past. Little do they know!

## EXERCISE CROMLIX ONE

Assistance to 1 Para Log Regiment in Cultibraggan, Scotland, where **Corporal 'Joe' Baker, Signalman 'Tony' Narroway** and **Signalman 'Tiny' Shaw** operated an A16 back to Aldershot.

## NORTHERN IRELAND TOUR

**Lance-Corporal 'Gilly' Hagan** left with 9 Indep Para Squadron RE for a burst on the bombs and the boyos. Good luck, mate.

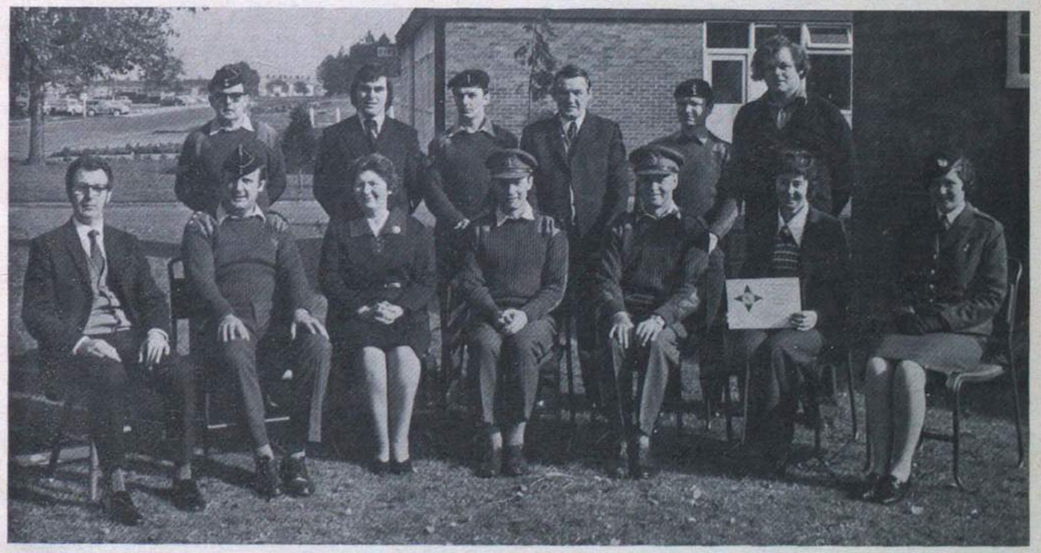
## HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Congratulations to:

**Lance-Corporal** and **Mrs. Nichols** on the birth of their baby girl.

**Corporal** and **Mrs. Pritchard** on the event of their marriage.

# 241 Sig Sqn, Donnington



This photograph is of representatives of Commcen Troop, 241 Squadron taken on the occasion of the SO in C's visit when he presented Mrs. Davies with her Gold COMSTAR award

*Standing, left to right:* Corporal Hanrahan (Chester), Mr. Lloyd (Shrewsbury), Corporal Bower (Preston). Mr. Moran (Donnington), Sergeant Rains (Shrewsbury), Mr. Charles (PO Engineer)

*Sitting, left to right:* Mr. Griffiths (Supervisor A), Captain (Tfc) Coaker (OC Commcen Troop), Mrs. Bystrzynski (Exchange Supervisor), Major Clapp (OC Squadron). Major General J. M. Sawers, C.B., M.B.E., Mrs. Davies, Private Collins (WRAC)

THIS Squadron's last notes were published in December of 1972, when we had just moved to our new home here in Donnington, Therefore the OC decided that 23 months was long enough for us to have settled in and produced some material for THE WIRE.

## SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

The Squadron's personalities have had about a 50% turnover in that period, exchanging our Comcen troop's **Captain (Tfc) Jock Reid** and his assistant **Sergeant Dave Morrison** for **Captain (Tfc) Ron Coaker** and **Sergeant Tony Rains. W.O.2 (F. of S.) Sid Allen** handed his technical empire over to **W.O.2 (F. of S.) Chris Stone.** The MT section have gone through N.C.O.'s in charge too numerous to mention here, but the present holder of the title is **Corporal John Uttley.** The remainder of the top management **Major John Clapp** OC,

**Captain (TOT) Don Capon,** OC SWS Troop, and **Staff Sergeant Dennis Wills, S.Q.M.S.** have been here so long that it is rumoured that they have forgotten how to pack MFO Boxes.

### GOLD COMSTAR AWARDED

The Signal Officer in Chief came to say farewell to us during October. While he was here he presented **Mrs. Peggy Davies** of the Ashton-u-Lyne Commcen with her Gold Comstar Award. It is the Squadron's and her first Gold, so we are very proud of her. The S.O.-in-C visited the Garrison Sergeants Mess where he met all the S.N.C.O.s of the Corps serving in the area including **W.O.2 Phil Parish** of Final Search, C.O.D., **Sergeant Mick Burton** from the local ACIO and 610 Troop.

### SQUADRON COVERAGE—CARDIFF TO CARLISLE

Our M.T. Troop have spent the last few months battling with every M.T. Troops' recent problem, that of keeping mileage and petrol consumption down. However when your backyard covers from Cardiff to Carlisle and every detail is a real one with no training or exercises to cancel, it is even more difficult.

The Foreman with only one assistant **Corporal Paul Sharman** spent the spring and summer swanning around Welsh seaside resorts and black country towns on what he kept telling the O.C. were P.A. jobs. Although it appears strange that the only one where an overnight claim was inadmissible was done by **Staff Sergeant Dennis Wills.**

### SWS TROOP

The unspectacular but invaluable tasks of the SWS Troop have been carried on through the summer months—providing comms for the Federal German Army at Castlemartin; maintaining and improving the training area comms at Sennybridge, Wales and Warcop, Cumbria; keeping the military railway system comms in order in the Midlands; combatting holiday vandalism on ranges in Lancashire and Merseyside; inspection of exchanges in the wilds of Wales and the cities of Birmingham and Manchester, to mention a few. An innovation for the Troop has been the installation and first line maintenance of security radio systems. All civilian 'hairies' have coped very well with this new equipment.

Since the six detachments are spread between 170 miles SW and 170 N of Troop HQ there is a great reliance on them to get on with the job without overmuch supervision, and this they do admirably—the Castlemartin detachment even carried out a trial of a Landrover v the PTO III's private car without supervision. **Mr. Tony Williams** was not amused and muttering something about Tiger Tanks and other private cars, disappeared to get an estimate.

Troop HQ in the persons of **Captain (TOT) Don Capon** and **Mr. Tommy Thomson** have been considerably involved in successful liaison between all parties involved in the automation of telephone exchanges in three Districts served by the Troop and not so successful procurement of signal stores in time for the current projects. This is due to the 3-day week, metrication and dare we say it, computerisation. Other SWS Troops please note that you are not alone, we also suffer who only sit and wait.

## 244 Sig Sqn
## R.A.F. Benson

THE most startling problem that confronts unit correspondents when writing notes each month must be how to get away from the usual topics of visits, inspections, exercises and sports In a squadron that has no static role to play it is even more of a problem. If you are a regular reader of 244's column then you will realise that our squadron spends more time away in the field than in station, and consequently our usual journalistic vein is centred on various exercises that we have participated in.

So when do we have time to be visited, play sports and be inspected? Easy, in between exercises. Therefore, we make no apologies for once again including the following notes in our column.

### EXERCISE BOLD GUARD—A SQUADRON EXERCISE IN GERMANY

Tuesday, 3rd September saw the squadron and elements of the RAF's Tactical Communications Wing deploying to Northern Germany for Exercise Bold Guard. As usual there were no LSLs available and we found ourselves having to rough it in the luxurious *Prinz Oberon.*

The first three days of the exercise were spent testing equipment and communications before the exercise proper was to start. The evenings were naturally spent testing the local brew. The North Germans are a most hospitable people, as **Staff Sergeant John Lawrence, Staff Sergeant Gordon Cheyne** and **Sergeant Mike Schnable** can confirm having been out on their first night and not spending one pfennig all evening. **Sergeant Mike Schnable** found that he had lost his jacket on the way back to camp—he found it two days later hanging on a roadside bollard, which vouches for the honesty of the local Germans. Needless to say they arrived back at camp in lively form.

The next four days were spent exercising our communications and traffic handling. The highlight of the exercise for squadron personnel was the para drop where five of our parachute soldiers of Echo Troop led by **Captain Martin Wilkinson,** ably assisted by **Sergeant Paddy Elliott** and **Lance-Corporal Paul Gladwin, Signalman Duggie Knox, Signalman Jason Wood,** parachuted with 216 Para Squadron (for whom we provide an element of communications) into the exercise area.

Finally the move back to the UK. This in itself was an exercise —an exercise to test patience and understanding. Having deployed to Germany more or less in bulk we now found that the squadron were to recover to UK by three different routes. One party was to go by air, the second party by sea from Hamburg and finally the third party (vehicle borne) overland from Boostedt to Zeebrugge.

This was an exercise in patience and understanding. Simple on paper according to that 'experienced organisation' called Movements. "Three easy stages" they said. The first stage was to take us to Osnabruck where we were to stay overnight. Osnabruck knew nothing about us, it seems that 'experienced organisation' didn't both to tell them. Here lies a tale:

### ARRIVAL AT OSNABRUCK

Orderly Sergeant meets squadron OC, **Major John Cathcart.**
"Good afternoon Sergeant, can you direct us to where we are sleeping tonight"
*Bewildered Orderly Sergeant:*
"Sleeping, Sir?" "You are moving out at 23.00 hours."
*Oc Squadron* (calmly with grace):
"No we are not. We move at 10.00 hours tomorrow."
*Even more bewildered Orderly Sergeant:*
"Well I don't know about that Sir, I will fetch the RQMS."
*Arrival of RQMS*
"I am afraid you can't stop here Sir." He produces orders that don't mean anything to anyone.
*OC Squadron* (calmly, without grace)
"Sorry RQ we are staying."
*RQMS* (about to faint)
"Well if you insist Sir, but we haven't any rooms or food".
*OC Squadron*
"OK, we will put up tents and cook our own food."
*RQMS* (He wasn't expecting that one!)
"Can you wait a minute, I will call the QM."

QM arrives and after much discussion he realised he had been beaten by the system and the squadron won the day. So who needs 'Movements'.

### TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS WING—COMMUNICATIONS DISPLAY

As an Air Support Signal Squadron we form an operationally integral part of 38 Group, RAF Tactical Communications Wing. On 2nd/3rd October the Wing and ourselves put on a static display at RAF Benson on the occasion of the visit of **Major General R. M. Carnegie, O.B.E.,** the GOC 3 Division.

This was an excellent opportunity for our wives to see what their husbands job is all about. The day duly dawned and the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd October saw Corps and RAF wives slipping and sliding around a muddy RAF airfield poking and prodding various buttons, trying their hand at voice procedure and attempting to teleprint. One wife was heard to remark that she thought it was silly having a keyboard on a teleprinter when all you have to do is feed a piece of white paper through and the words print themselves. She's probably got a point?

### A NEW TWIST—INVITE RECORDS TO YOUR DISPLAY

In addition to showing our wives how much their husbands suffer when on exercise, the Squadron Commander, **Major John Cathcart,** thought it would be an ideal opportunity to invite a party from Royal Signals Manning and Records Office to see what their soldiers get up to, (Balmore House is our nearest R Signals neighbour). The invitation was duly 'snapped up' (we heard that they had that many names on their list, that eventually they had to draw them out of the hat). **Mr. Atterton,** OIC Division 2, Records Wing headed the party of 10, a mixture of postings, promotions and courses clerks.

It goes without saying that S.N.C.O.s, J.N.C.O.s and soldiers tried to command the attention of their respective section clerks We are assured that the Records party enjoyed their visit and the chance to look at the Corps from the other side of the fence. Perhaps there is a record here! Are we the first R Signals unit to invite the 'holders of our destiny' for a look around. OIC Manning can rest assured that if ever the opportunity arises again we will extend another invitation to his staff.

## 259 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 53

### APHRODITE'S OWN

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Commanding | **Major M. E. G. Chandler** |
| Admin. Officer | **Major (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M.** |
| Chief Systems Engineer | **Captain J. C. B. Simpson** |
| Training Officer | **Lieutenant I. R. C. Brown** |
| OC East Troop | **Captain J. D. Ambrose** |
| OC Mountain Troop | **Lieutenant T. M. Martin** |
| OC West Troop | **W.O.2 (F. of S.) A. Keohane** |

### POST EMERGENCY PERIOD

Due to the evacuation our lads have had their moments, living on top of one another in the Workshops, in the radio relay detachments and just about everywhere except a normal Barrack block or their married quarters. Now that virtually all the reinforcements have left we have been getting back to the more normal things of life especially in the sporting world and in our day-to-day training.

Exercise Night Eyes I, held on the 16th September for the Drivers from Episkopi produced some interesting language as all but 100 yards of the route taken on this night driving and navigation exercise was over very rough hilly country. **Corporal Brown** nonetheless looked a very realistic corpse lying at the foot of the cliff at the last check point. The wounds, furnised by **Corporal Green** our Squadron 'medico', were also put to good use during the first two military training camps.

Exercise Fast Move I and Fast Move II were held at the beginning of October. They consisted of a three day period of concentrated military training, the first day non-tactical, when an expert from 1 Royal Scots instructed in patrolling and ambush techniques. There then followed a 48 hour exercise when a third of the Squadron organised as a platoon set up a patrol base and went through a series of standing, recce and fighting patrols and laid an ambush. The exercises culminated with attacks on the last morning on **Lieutenant 'Tiny Mind' Martin's** enemy guerrillas. Pumas of 33 Squadron RAF gave everyone a taste of tactical helicopter drills prior to the start of the final day's attacks.

In the meantime best wishes to all our families, and we hope it will not be too long before all are reunited, either here in Cyprus or in UK in the New Year.

### POSTSCRIPT

Our congratulations to **Sergeant 'KP' Preston** who came second in the GOC's XX—the final shoot-off of the best individual scores in the previous days rifle match competition in the NEARELF Skill-At-Arms Meeting—15th–17th October.

Our heartiest congratulations to **W.O.1 (F. of S.) J. E. Fison** on being awarded his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, which was presented to him by Commander 3 Signal Group—**Colonel G. C. Curl,** on 24th October in the Garrison Sergeants Mess.

## 260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

### SHQ

ONCE again a contribution from that happy band of policy-makers, pen-pushers, blanket stackers, clutch jockeys and sportsmen par excellence—SHQ! A dedicated band of 22 officers and men, 1 wizard and a maggot breeding S.Q.M.S.

### ALL HANDS AT SEA

During September a party consisting of **Captain Steve Bloom, Sergeant Pete Thomas, Corporal Steve ('Glutton') Stevenson, Signalman Taff Williams,** plus an attached fisherman from X Troop; **Corporal Clive 'Mr. Birdseye' Gregory** visited various Danish waterfront Bars on the Corps yacht *Petasus.* **Taff Williams** particularly enjoyed Svendborg, playing what he thought were one-armed bandits. His delighted expression on receiving a photographic paperback jackpot and sudden disappearance to the 'heads' did not go unnoticed by the rest of the crew. However, an enlightening charter was enjoyed by the crew and the new hands at the game will certainly be back for more next year.

Those of us who weren't away sailing or playing Hockey were honoured by a visit from CSO BAOR **Major-General H. E. Roper** on 25th September. During the visit the CSO met a large portion of the Squadron.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Meanwhile. Sergeant Major Tony Morgan's** giant dice is helping to alleviate the duty problem and **Captain David Dobson's** efforts to convert X Troop to Airborne Forces, are appreciated by those of us not taking part in the training.

**Signalmen 'Jock' Rice** and **Terry Foster** were attached to 8th (US) Signal Battalion on Exercise from 22nd–26th September.

In the sporting field the Squadron came joint third in the 7 Arty Brigade Penthathlon.

Our congratulations to **Corporal Max Paterson** who came 2nd in the Stableford Competition at the Royal Signals BAOR Autumn Golf Meeting.

**Second-Lieutenant George Wilton** who has recently joined us is at present attached to 50 Regiment d'Artillerie of the French Forces at Baden-Baden.

### ADDITIONS

Congratulations to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Geoff ('Wizard') Hughes** on the birth of their third child.

### DEPARTURES

**Lance-Corporal Steve Davies** said farewell to the Squadron and his batchelor life on posting to 633 Troop via a wedding ceremony in Birkenhead. We now have a vacancy for a Crypto trained Typist for the OC.

**Corporal 'Ginge' Greenacre's** Army Pilots course finally got off the ground and we wish him every success.

### 36 HY AD REGIMENT RA OPEN DAY 1974

On 21st September Napier Barracks was thrown open to the public. The Squadron provided various stalls which were well patronised by the 20,000 visitors. The photograph shows **Corporal 'Stropper' Thomas** doing his thing with a C70 antenna, in the background can be seen some of the missiles on display including NIKE, Honest John and Thunderbird II. The open day had a truly international flavour with teams and displays from British, German, Belgian and US Forces. Well over £1,000 was raised for British and German charities.

NB. **MOD Signals (31)a.** Don't worry—we borrowed the C 70 from 7 Regiment.

*(See photo overleaf)*

Corporal Thomas slightly involved at the 36 Hy. A.D. Regiment R.A. open day

# News from Troops

## 605 Sig Troop, R.A.F. Gan
## B.F.P.O. 180

### MOVEMENTS

THIS month has seen some new faces in the Troop. From the School of Signals we welcome the new Troop Commander **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Pete Dowdall.** From 8th Regiment, we greet **Corporal (now Sergeant) Ray White** and from Shape **Corporal Dave Collier.**

Farwells were said, in traditional style, to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mick Catley,** bound for 28th Regiment, **Corporal Alan Taylor,** bound for 30th Regiment prior to civvy street, **Corporal Tony Craddock** bound for 8th Regiment and a T1 course (he couldn't 'hack' 9 whole months), and **Signalman Bob Lane,** bound for 261 Squadron.

### THIRD LINE TEAM (RADIO RELAY)

A radio relay third line team from 30th Regiment, led by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob McInnes** is at present 'wintering' in Gan. During their visits to the Hittadu Radio Relay terminal they have expressed a gross dislike of the coffee made with salt water.

### SPORT

### CANOEING

**Corporal Brian Hutchison** (a probable candidate for next years European White Water Trials) on Sunday 27th October found himself competing against himself, to try to beach his borrowed canoe. His attempts, however proved disastrous and he was last seen standing next to his sunken canoe in 3 inches of water shouting for help.

He hopes to have better luck next year.

### FIVE-A-SIDE

The Troop five a side soccer team continues to go from strength to strength. In a recent knockout competition they ended up going down 5–3 in the semi finals to the eventual winners. **Corporal Brian Hutchison** ended as top goal scorer for the whole competition with six goals.

### HUDSON BAY TRADING COMPANY

The Hudson Bay Trading Company is once again starting to run out of quite a few things. The explanation received from the staff is "We haven't got any but it's coming on the next boat". The only problem is, the next boat due in is an oil tanker . . .!

## 633 Sig Tp, Caribbean
## B.F.P.O. 12

OCTOBER has been a very quiet month with plenty of time to "pick outselves up and dust ourselves off" after Hurricanes Carmen and Fifi. During such emergencies it is quite amazing where equipment disappears to and it all takes some time to recover, clean up, check and store away for the next hurricane season. Fortunately, however, **Signalman 'Fub' Williams,** our Troop Storeman, managed to remember everybody who had hurriedly grabbed kit in the middle of the night and our OC is therefore breathing again!

### VOLLEYBALL

The only major event in October was the Belize Garrison knock-out volleyball tournament. Despite the fact that the tournament was organised by our OC, **Captain Mike Taylor** and **Yeoman Norman Gelling,** we were just beaten in the final by an excellent team from Force Headquarters.

In the semi-finals our team, composed of 633 Troop and 14th Regiment personnel, played the Signal Platoon of 1st Light Infantry. It was amusing to see that the Light Infantry team contained **Sergeant Ray King, Corporal Ted Gough, Lance-Corporal 'Mac' McCarthy** and **Signalman Brian Cox** all Royal Signals attached 1st Light Infantry. Everybody around the court seemed to be shouting 'come on Royal Signals'! Very confusing!

Our team consisted of **Corporals Jim Hindle, 'Fatigues' McDermott, Bill McNamara, 'Yorky' Williams, Signalman Ray Sant, Paul Ellis** and **'Scouse' Allen.** They played extremely well and were congratulated by the Force Commander, **Colonel J. I. Fraser-Orr, O.B.E.,** for being close runners up. Our next chance is on the 30th November . . . we hope to win this time!

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

October has seen many familiar faces depart and some new ones arrive. We say goodbye to **Foreman Gordon Nixon, Corporals Jim Hindle, 'Taff' Evans, Alan Hobson** and **'Yorky' Williams, Lance Corporal Dave Ray, Signalman Ray Sant, Jim Mullan, Paul Ellis** and **Terry Salt.**

We welcome **Foreman Alan Falconer, Sergeants Ron Clayton** and **Hugh Strang, Corporals John Dickenson, Mick McDermott, John Steer, Mick Peacock, Lance-Corporal Des Jones, Signalman Mal Hood, Steve Allen** and **John Allen.**

## Royal Signals Detachment
## 3 CDO Bde RM

| | |
|---|---|
| S.N.C.O. i/c Det | **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Mike Brett** |
| SNCO i/c Tels Wksps | **Sergeant Frank Cashen** |
| SNCO i/c Cipher | **Sergeant Geordie Rae** |
| DTG (Cipher) Ops | **Corporal Stan Skidmore** |
| | **Corporal Taff Morgan** |
| | **Cpl. Pete Morris** |
| Technician | **Corporal Iain Brownlee** |

Much water has passed under the bridge since we last submitted notes to THE WIRE, this does not mean we have been idle.

### EXERCISES

We were involved in Exercise Dawn Patrol during the months of April and May. The detachment departed from Plymouth on 16th April in the good ship H.M.S. *Fearless*. We visited Cyprus (thank you 262 Squadron, the beer was great), Gibralta, Malta, Greece and Sardinia. We had a five-day exercise in Sardinia and on completion of the exercise we split into various parties

*(Continued on page 525)*



*(Continued from page 524)*

for the return to the UK. The lucky ones flew, the unfortunate sailed home in L.S.L. *Sir Lancelot* and one maniac actually cycled all the way. (See article on page ???).

Since our return we have been involved in a few minor exercises mainly in the Dartmoor training area.

Exercise Northern Merger has claimed two of the Detachment, **Corporals Stan Skidmore** and **Iain Brownlee.** Rumour has it they only volunteered for the trip because of a nine-day run ashore in Copenhagen.

### DETACHMENTS

Our Cyprus representative has now returned, **Sergeant Frank (Lamb Chop') Cashen. Frank** was loaned to 40 CDO GP while the troubles in Cyprus were on.

### DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

**Sergeant Jed McGloughlin** (ex-Cipher) has departed for greener pastures (civvy street). Last word from him was that he was an usher in the dole queue. **Corporal Bob Nelson** (ex-Technician) at present in Catterick on his T.I. Good luck and congratulations to you and your wife.

We welcome **Sergeant 'Geordie' Rae** from 28th Regiment and **Corporal Iain Brownlee** from 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment and hope their stay is a happy one.

# The Volunteers

## 34 Sig Regt (V)
## Teesside, West Riding, Darlington, Gateshead and Hull

### HQ SQUADRON NEWS

ON 5th October at a HQ Squadron Dinner/Social the **P.S.I. Sergeant Greg Robertson** was dined out. Eighty nine members of the squadron and their wives attended to see both him and his wife, **Mary,** before his departure to 7th Regiment in Germany. **Sergeant Robertson** was chaired out of the dining hall on a home made seat of unusual design by the Committee—**Corporals Jenkins, Mole, Pettler, Brown, Lyons, Jackson** and **Carter.**

He was presented with a teasmaid and his wife with a bouquet of flowers. A popular P.S.I., who did sterling work for the squadron, who will be missed by officers and men. His wife **Mary,** an ever present member of the Wives Club, will also be sadly missed.

We proudly announce the wedding of **Signalman Mick Dunning** (Combat Powerman) to **Private Judith Weatherall** (Switchboard Operator) of 90 Squadron. Point to note, both of them gave up part of their honeymoon to be at the presentation to **Sergeant Robertson.**

## 35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

### GERMANY BOUND

OUR Germany year was here again. Ever since returning from our last visit in 1972 we have been training for the next opportunity to show what a TAVR unit can do alongside Regular units. The hard work began long before the first antenna was erected in anger as the Adjutant, **Captain Reg Hill** and the Quartermaster, **Major Dennis Newton** will tell anyone who is prepared to listen. Movement of the Regiment by road and air involved 430 soldiers, including 40 WRAC, 115 vehicles and 88 trailers.

In the late hours of Friday 20th September the first vehicle started from TAVR Centres and travelled through the night to a Regimental RV outside Hull. Only two vehicles failed to make it—one K9 decided that it was really too old for such long journeys and, much to the embarrassment of the LAD, the Scammell failed to respond to the exhortations of **Sergeant Cliff Glassborow.** Considering that our vehicles were to cross Belgium and Holland to the base camp at Leuth the loss of our main recovery vehicle was no laughing matter. Needless to say the crews of the stricken vehicles got to Hull alright with **Corporal John Evans** bemoaning the loss of the 'best' relay detachment. True to form **Sergeant Niall Murphy** in V1 kept us on tenter hooks right until the very last minute before deciding to bring his vehicle to join the party. After loading vehicles on the North Sea Ferry M.S. *Norwind* most crews tried to catch up on missed sleep so that they would not be too tired to enjoy the good food and other pleasures of the voyage. In the event the sea was as calm as a mill pond so they need not have worried.

On arrival at Zeebrugge we moved initially to Emblem for refuelling where we were rejoined by a splinter group of 15 vehicles led by **Major Bill Bridgwood** whom the fates, in the form of 'Movements' at the last moment had decreed should cross from Dover. Dressed overall with flags and lights for Holland and then Germany we moved on and eventually some hours later the last convoy rolled into our tented base camp at Leuth to be welcomed by a hard working advance party. We all went to bed and the rain began to fall.

### SECONDS OUT FIRST ROUND

The first reveille saw the opening skirmish of a running fight that was to last the whole of camp between, in the blue corner **Corporal Billy Bishop** and his bugle, and in the red corner **Captain Bob Gardner** and his bagpipes. Would be sleepers could be certain that if one didn't get them the other would.

Without any delay the Regiment went straight into a series of preliminary exercises lasting two days and each designed to check a particular part of the jigsaw which when put together would produce a communications system. These, together with O Groups, mess meetings, and normal administration, kept us busy—too busy to bother about the rain which was still falling.

By Wednesday mid-day we had achieved what we wanted from the first outings and in any case we had to get ready for the major exercise 'Canary Caper. before having twenty-four hours off. Its all a question of priorities. As the detachments returned to Leuth for refuelling and final exercise loading, a confirmotory. Group went over any minor changes to the plot. After a wash and brush up in the mobile bath unit those heading for Amsterdam climbed onto their coaches and were away. The officers held a 'Prontos Party in Prontos Palace' which was attended by officers and their wives from all those Headquarters and units who always give us so much help when we go to Germany. That evening the piper piped and the rain fell.

### OUT AND ABOUT

Almost as though by command—and our padre the **Reverend Max Lucas** had been under strict instructions—Thursday dawned bright and almost sunny for the Regiments day off. Coach parties left for Cologne, Arnhem, and also to Krefeld and Venlo for shopping. Somehow everybody including those who had gone to Amsterdam were safely back in camp by the witching hour of 23.59 and we were ready for the 'off'.

### SERIOUS BUSINESS

On Friday morning, the bugler blew, the piper piped, the rain still fell and the Regiments vehicles nosed out of Leuth and headed for Exercise Canary Caper locations. This was to be the "once in two years" test of our mobilisation efficiency and to appreciate the determined way in which Volunteers approach such exercises the words of **W.O.2 Ray Faulkes** put it very neatly—"If a Regular unit makes a nonsense on an exercise the Brigadier can send them out again next week, if we don't get it right we can't try again for another two years".

Blow by blow descriptions of exercises can be boring so sufficient to say that once again we slipped into gear alongside the regular NATO units that we know so well from previous visits, did everything that was asked of us (we hope) and reassured Commander Northern Army Group Signal Support Group and the senior Officers who visited us that the Volunteers can make an important contribution in support of NATO. These visits are greatly appreciated particularly when the visitors as ours did take time to talk to as many soldiers as possible.

# As the camera saw it

THAT SHOULD DO IT

Captain Alec Peebles and Staff Sergeant Stan Harris at the engineering heart of the matter

JUST LIKE MECCANO

Lance Corporal Stewart Golding getting ready to set up shop at his C41 terminal

CATCHING UP ON HOME NEWS

*Left to right:* Privates Jeannette Finch, Dorothy Taylor and Dorothy Ball

"COFFEE—YOU MUST BE JOKING"

*Left to right:* Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller, Signalman Cliff Dennis, Signalman Vic Bruton, W.O.2 Doug Newby and Corporal Brian Lucas watching the world go by in Arnhem

### FINAL FLING

The following Wednesday saw the end of the exercise for us and we pulled out in good order back to Leuth just in time for **R.S.M. Harry Birtles** to take his flock off for a dinner at Francisca Barracks by kind permission of 28th Regiment and for the officers to say farewell to **Major Colin Rayner** who was to leave the Regiment on posting immediately on return from camp.

Thursday was the beginning of the end, handing in stores and preparing vehicles for the journey home. By midday NAAFI had exhausted their stocks of cigarettes, wine and spirits and those that could be spared—the majority—went shopping locally. On Friday morning the road convoys began their journey home via Rotterdam, North Sea Ferry, Hull and so to TAVR Centres whilst the air party flew back in time to meet the road convoys on their arrival.



After approximately 120,000 miles without traffic accident or any further losses the MTO and OC LAD could now uncross their fingers.

### THE NAME OF THE GAME

We must record another success story of camp—Public Relations—which included radio, press and almost but not quite—TV.

The 'Editors Abroad' scheme enabled reporters and photographers from the two major groups in Salop and the Midlands to spend five days with us in the field and what they didn't cover PR Rhine Army did. The result was a large amount of column space in most of the local papers in the Regimental area.

Our local commercial radio in Birmingham—BRMB—ran a live interview with Volunteer members on **Brian Savins** "Late Night Show" on the eve of our departure, followed this up with live telephone reports from the Regiment wherever we happened to be coupled to requests from families and ended with another interview on the Saturday we returned in which the Commanding Officer **Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Kirkby** summed up.

We almost made TV. The film was taken, the extracts were selected by BBC Midlands, the date was set, and then—a red hot news item knocked our chances for six. Still we have the film as a bonus and hope to use it to good effect for unit recruiting.

Congratulations to **Captains John Wall** and **Barry Bayliss** who put in so much hard work.

### LAST WORD

Finally no Germany camp would be complete without saying how much satisfaction we got out of it, in spite of the weather, and also, through the columns of THE WIRE to thank all those to whom nothing seemed too much trouble to help ensure that 35th (South Midland) Regiment (Volunteers) got maximum value from its 1974 Germany Camp.

# Sport

## Corps (BAOR) Basketball shows much promise

**REPORT BY CAPTAIN M. M. JOHNSON, CANADIAN EXCHANGE OFFICER, 1 DIVISION HEADQUARTERS & SIGNAL REGIMENT**

### INDIVIDUALS QUICKLY SHAKE DOWN INTO A TEAM

ON the weekend of 27th, 28th and 29th September I was fortunate enough to be invited to participate in a very exciting weekend of basketball at Herford. The occasion was the first attempt at forming a BAOR Corps Basketball side. The Corps team has now been running for two years in UK but as more talent was required for the season 1974–75 it was decided to hold a BAOR Corps trial. To this end, **Sergeant Doug Poultney** of 7th Regiment was appointed Corps Secretary (BAOR) and he set about tying up all the administrative details required to make such a trial possible.

The weekend got under way at 20.00 hours on 27th September with a game vs. Herford DYG, a local German club. The 14 players in attendance from ten different units barely had time to introduce themselves to each other before they were thrown into the fray. A tribute to the individual skills of the Corps players attending was the fact that the Corps triumphed by a score of 47–37.

On Saturday morning we settled down to the business of getting to know one another. A very busy two hours was spent working at ball skills, set plays and conditioned games. After a short break for lunch we were subjected to the critical eye of **C.S.M.I. Terry Goulding** APTC. **Terry** trains and coaches the BAOR side which is selected each year for inter-services competition so he has more than a fair idea of what basketball is about. After watching a short inter-squad game he was very complimentary in his observations and then went on to give us some excellent advice on ways to improve our individual and team skills. He quite rightly emphasized the need to learn how to shoot under pressure; to get free of one's defender in order to take a pass or shoot; and, to master the art of setting and using a screen. All of us benefited from his excellent coaching on these basic basketball skills. Unfortunately for **Terry,** we must have listened too well because that evening Detmold Garrison Selects, augmented by **Terry Goulding** and **Paul Smith,** went down to defeat by a score of 54–51.

On Sunday morning the Corps side took to the floor for a match vs. 10th Regiment RCT. We expected a difficult match because 10th Regiment RCT had several excellent players including a well known BAOR and Army player in the person of **Gary Fuller.** Fortunately we proved to have more depth in our lineup than 10th Regiment, who are training a fairly new team for this season, and we emerged on top by 48–42.

### A CLOSELY CONTESTED GAME AGAINST FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION

Sunday afternoon brought us to the most important match of the weekend, a representative Corps match vs. Handorf USAF Base. This match proved to be an exciting culmination to an excellent weekend of basketball. The American players were outstanding with most being BAOR calibre players and several of Army calibre. The teams were rarely separated by more than four points throughout the game. With three minutes to go in the match we led by 63–62 but at this point the greater individual skills and depth of the American team came through. They switched from a zonal defence to a man-to-man full court press. This proved to be our undoing and the match ended with a victory for the American team by 74–67. Although we were all disappointed at losing we knew that we had played well against an excellent team.

I would be very remiss if I did not mention all those who gave of their time and energy to make the weekend the success it was. They were:

**Lieutenant Peter Innocent,** 22nd Regiment.
**Staff Sergeant George Stubbins,** 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
**Sergeant Ian Bell,** 227 Signal Squadron.
**Sergeant Brian Rees,** 20 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.
**Signalman Joe Stroud,** 229 Signal Squadron.
**Signalman Herman Kelly,** 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
**Signalman Bob Mahoney,** 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
**Signalman Rick Vojchech,** 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
**Signalman Viney Fleming,** 4 Division HQ and Signal Regiment.
**Signalman Mick Bonahan,** 21st Regiment.

Last of all a special thanks to **Sergeants Doug Poultney** and **Paul Rousham,** both of 7th Regiment, without whose efforts those of us who came to play would not have been so well looked after. The results of the weekend should be very encouraging for Corps Basketball. **Having observed a good deal of basketball at unit level in BAOR over the last year and a half I would be very surprised if the other Corps could put together a BAOR Corps side of the calibre of the Royal Signals side. Corps Basketball in BAOR should be encouraged and supported at every level in order that all of the effort which went into the weekend just described is not wasted.**

## 16 Signal Regiment cricketeers wins BAOR Major Units Cup for the second successive year

THE Regimental Cricket Team retained the championship by defeating 2nd Battalion The Queens Regiment in a 35 over match played on a fine but windy day at Minden.

Having won the toss, the Regiment elected to field and after a slow start the QUEENS closed at 131 for 7 after 35 overs.

The Regiments innings also opened slowly and two wickets

were lost fairly cheaply. **Corporal Dave Taylor** hit a quick 29 and **Corporal Mick Badwi,** opening for the first time, contributed a useful 17. However, the situation was looking bleak at 43 for 4 when **Corporal Mick Kilvington** joined **Corporal John Howells** at the wicket. Hard hitting and sensible batting by these two players pushed the score along and when **Corporal Howells** was run out for 23 the Regiment had retaken the advantage. **Corporal 'Ginger' Anderson** joined **Corporal Kilvington** and together they pushed the score past the QUEENS total with 9 balls of the match left, securing victory by 5 wickets.

**Corporal Mick Kilvington,** with bowling figures of 0 for 18 (although he claims a moral wicket when he hit the bails but they failed to fall off) and a score of 40 not out, was named as man of the match.

**Corporal Dave Taylor** collected the trophy for the second year running. It was his last match for the Regiment and the success of the team over the last two seasons has been largely due to his calm, competent and uncompromising captaincy. Results speak for themselves and the team has only failed to win three matches in the last two years. We wish all the best for him and **Janet,** that faithful cricket widow, in their new posting, on promotion to Tidworth.

The team that retained the BAOR Championship was: **Coporal Dave Taylor** (Skipper), **Captain John Thewlis, Corporals Mick Kilvington, John Moulson, John Howells, 'Ginge' Anderson** and **Mick Badwi, Sergeant Alan Hill, Lance-Corporals Brian Campbell** and **'Scouse' Morgan** and **Signalman 'Stretch' Johnson,** ably assisted by 12th man, **Corporal Chris Allen** and **Corporal Ron Cawtheray** who took over from our regular and much prettier scorer, **Cindy Howells,** for the final.

## Corps Rugby

**Corps 22 points; RAPC 0**

THIS first game of the season was played against the Royal Army Pay Corps at Blandford on 9th October. The Corps side contained seven players new to representative Corps rugby and a balance of experienced campaigners. It was good to see **Major Brian Blackwell** back in the team after four years away from the UK. **Brian's** vast experience of rugby at Army and Club level wielded the young and somewhat inexperienced forwards into a well drilled and mobile pack. The backs, all new to this type of rugby, were effectively controlled by **Carl Conlon** and they produced some very entertaining and enterprising rugby throughout the game.

The RAPC kicked off and missed an early opportunity to take the lead when they failed with a penalty kick awarded against the Corps for a scrum infringement. For the first twenty minutes of the game the RAPC produced most of the aggressive running with the ball.

Towards the end of the first half Signals started a series of attacks on the RAPC line and were only prevented from scoring by a good defence. The ball was coming cleanly from our scrum and **Clive Arthur** secured three against the head in quick succession. From a scrum near the Pay Corps line **Phil Davies** broke to the open side and set up a dummy scissors movement with the backs. The ball remained at the feet of the back row of the scrum and was picked up by **Brian Blackwell** who hurled himself over the line to score. **Garry Maddren** narrowly missed the conversion and the half time score was 4–0 to the Corps.

On the restart the Corps quickly established tactical advantage. **Steve Peacock** broke from a ruck, kicked ahead and from a well controlled dribble scored a try. **Garry Maddren** made no mistake with the conversion and our score increased to a ten point lead.

The prop forwards started to peel from the line outs and the Corps began to secure an envious amount of the ball. **Clive Arthur** was winning a lot of clean ball against the head in the scrums and **Wally Bacon** started to get his three quarter line moving to produce effective attacks against the RAPC line. It was inevitable that the RAPC line would be crossed on at least a couple of occasions during the second half.

From a scrum 40 yards from their line **Phil Davies** broke to the blind side, beat two men, passed the ball to **Clive Arthur** who was well up in support. **Clive** passed to **Steve Peacock** who used his vast size, weight and surprising turn of speed to cover the 20 yards to the line to score his second try. **Garry Maddren** again made sure of his kick at goal. More fluid play by the backs and **'Woody' Woodhouse** scored in the corner from a 50 yard run only to be judged 'in touch' at the 10 yard line. The Corps maintained the pressure and scored their fourth try when the ball was handled by all the backs and **Keith Glasby** scored a well deserved try from the right wing after a devastating run of 35 yards. **Garry Maddren** added his third conversion.

The RAPC failed with two attempts at penalty goals in the last twelve minutes and the final score was 22 points to nil in favour of the Corps.

It would be wrong to mention individual players because this win was truly a team effort. However, the attacking spirit of young **Wally Bacon,** just out of AA College Harrogate and already recognised by the Army under 19 side and **Keith Glasby** must be recorded; also the fine all round forward play of **Steve Peacock** a Yorkshire County Colt, augurs well for the future of Corps Rugby. **Brian Blackwell** must be mentioned for his inspiring leadership of the team and complete appraisal of a good game against a mature RAPC XV.

The Corps Team was:

**Captain Garry Maddren** (RMAS), **Signalman 'Woody' Woodhouse** (8th Regiment), **Lieutenant Carl Conlon** (11th Regiment), **Sergeant Mick Pawlack** (8th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Keith Glasby** (3rd Regiment), **Signalman Wally Bacon** (11th Regiment), **Corporal Phil Davies** (30th Regiment), **Sergeant Trevor Johnson** (8th Regiment), **Captain Clive Arthur** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Dave Kerr** (School), **Corporal Andy Hickling** (3rd Regiment), **Signalman Steve Peacock** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Gordon Bennett** (School), **Corporal 'Blod' Jones** (School), **Major Brian Blackwell** (MOD) (Captain).

## BAOR Golf Champion 1974

Pictured below is **Signalman Chris Dennis** with the Piccadilly Plate presented to him on winning the BAOR Golf Championship by **Max Faulkener** of Ryder Cup fame.

**Chris** joined the Corps in 1972 having completed a Greenkeeper Apprenticeship at Broadstone Golf course and acquiring a handicap of three. On arriving at 13th Regiment after trade training he started taking his golf seriously again. He joined Bruggen and soon received a four handicap. In April he was runner up to the BAOR champion in the Corps spring meeting. Subsequently he played with distinction in a number of team matches including representing the Army (BAOR) on two occasions.

The BAOR gold year culminated in late September with the BAOR Golf Championship Meeting at Sennelager, a 72 hole tournament. The finest golfers in BAOR attended for three days of golf and beer, the weather was fine and the competition fierce. After two rounds **Signalman Dennis** was 11 strokes in the lead and after three rounds he had increased this to 16 strokes which he held to win the match. At the age of 21 **Signalman Dennis** became the new BAOR Golf Champion Medal Winner 1974. He was introduced to **Max Faulkner,** former British Open Champion and many times British Ryder Cup player. In the words of this great player 'he shows promise'. Clearly **Chris Dennis** is going to be a person to be reckoned with at the top levels of Corps and Army golf. We wish him well for the future.

## Corps Hockey

Corps 0; Royal Artillery 0.

Played 2nd November. In a game which neither side played to its full potential, the Corps had perhaps the better of the play but were unable to turn their few scoring opportunities into goals. A fair result of a match played in the best of spirits.

Corps 2; RMA (Sandhurst) 2. Played on 27th November.

This was a very hard fought match in which the Corps were never allowed to settle down, being continually harried by an above average RMA team. However, after having been 2 goals down, the Corps fought back to equalise and had a further goal disallowed.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HONG KONG BASED SIGNALMAN'S MERCY DASH

Signalman Bonnelle of 27 Signal Regiment was one of a party camping in the Tai Long area when they were approached for help by a missionary, who had been out on a picnic with a number of young students when one of them got bitten by a highly poisonous snake. He needed immediate medical attention and there was no way to get in touch with a doctor from the remote area they were in. Radio communication could not be made at that time with Army Headquarters. Although it was late and night was closing in, Signalman Bonnelle and a friend volunteered to run across the rugged hills to get to the nearest telephone.

"The nearest phone we knew of was the one at the security gate at the Long Harbour dam which was about six miles away on the map. The actual running distance of the hills was quite a bit longer and there was a 250-foot cliff which we had to climb over," said Signalman Bonnelle.

"Luckily there was a full moon that night and we completed the trek without too much difficulty," he said.

On reaching the telephone they immediately rang up the Colony's Police/Military Headquarters and within minutes a Wessex helicopter from No. 28 Squadron RAF was on its way to take the boy to hospital.

He has since recovered and has left hospital.

## THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

**OCTOBER 1974**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of cases assisted financially in October** | **32** |
| **Number of clothing parcels sent** | **32** |
| **Amount spent** | **£1,178·14** |

### One of the Month's Cases

DRIVER, 4 years. service, now totally blind. He and his wife manage on their State Benefits, and the Association made them a grant of £30 to provide a supply of coal for the winter. His letter is printed below.

### One of the Month's Letters

MANY many thanks for your kind consideration. I was very pleasantly surprised and very grateful. The local Blind Society look after me and have been wonderful, teaching me all I had to learn to enable me to adjust to my new way of life. So, through their help and your wonderful kindness and consideration since this happened to me, I am now a happy and contented person instead of the bitter and depressed man I started to be, thanks to God, you and all the people who understand and care. It is good to tell you how one feels, as there isn't much Esprit de Corps in these troubled days.

## Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October, 1974:

| | £ p |
|---|---|
| Commandant, Royal Armoured Corps Signal School | 30·00 |
| Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery | 10·00 |
| Officer Commanding, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V) | 2·00 |
| Lieutenant Colonel P. O. J. Nicholson (In memory of Eileen) | 20·00 |
| Captain B. T. Lord, M.S.M. | 4·65 |
| Lieutenant Colonel T. P. O'Connor, Royal Signals | 3·00 |
| Corporal L. O. Sharman | 2·62 |
| Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E. | 1·05 |
| L. G. Toodgood, Esq. | 1·00 |
| Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E. | 50 |
| G. H. McKowen, Esq. | 50 |
| John C. Blinkhorn | 50 |
| Various small donations | 85 |
| Total | £76·67 |

### Thank You!

Since the beginning of September, gifts of clothing, toys, books, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs. V. E. Haslett, Major M. P. Walker, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Anonymous parcel containing man's suit (postmark illegible), Mrs. F. R. Pedley, Brigadier W. V. C. Galwey, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Smith, Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Miss J. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Palmer, Major and Mrs. D. Lycett-Gregson, Major T. F. Jenkinson, Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. Ronald, Brigadier H. R. Firth, Captain and Mrs. W. W. Fawley, Mrs. C. Rodgers, The Thrift Shop, 10th Regiment, Colonel F. K. Wilson, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. F. K. Brudenall, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Sergeant J. A. Lund, Mrs. P. B. Leonard, Major-General J. M. Badcock.

NEW HISTORICAL ROOM OPENED AT CATTERICK

The original Historical Room was contained in the North Hall Annexe in Messines Barracks, Catterick Garrison.

In 1973 it was decided to move the exhibits to a room in Helles Barracks where it would be used by recruits joining the Corps and form a background to their studies on Corps history. It would also be open to members of the public.

Major H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E., Royal Signals was tasked with the project and appointed curator of the reconstructed Historical Room. The room was formally opened on 24 June 1973 at the Old Comrades Weekend.

The Historical Room is called the Alexander Room in recognition of the painstaking work of its first curator in establishing the room in its new location.



## Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course has its moments!

**BLOW BY BLOW ACCOUNT BY SERGEANT TOM SHARP OF 90 COURSE**

The Catterick Indian Summer held little interest for fifteen members of the Corps as, one by one, they presented themselves to 3 Squadron. Though numbed by the prospect of five weeks arduous training, they hobbled into the Sergeants' Mess to meet, officially for the first time, their persecutors to be. Although as instructors they look very much the same as we do, they didn't fool us one bit. The friendliness of the evening was marred by the thought of the day to follow, and, as the day dawned, our fears were realised. Those of you who, in the past, have compared the RSSSC with the Spanish inquisition are very, very wrong. The Spaniards would have learnt a lot about physical and mental torture.

Our first meeting was with the Regimental Sergeant Major **W.O.1 (R.S.M.) A. S. Walton,** whose main aim that day was to tell us how 'smart and tidy' we were. Thirty minutes later and all our hopes of being the best dressed soldiers in Catterick dashed we proceeded to rack our little brains over the two hour written paper, designed specifically to test the military knowledge of all and sundry. A hurried lunch a quick half pint and off to see the sights of Catterick. Transport for this jaunt was provided by Shanks pony for which we are very grateful. Having sauntered a mere ten miles, staggered 200 meters carrying the heaviest chap on the course, climbed walls, jumped ditches etc., we were rewarded with a cup of hot, delicious and stimulating tea

The smiling faces of the Mess waitresses ably hid all knowledge of what lay ahead as "once more into the breech dear friends" we were tested on our weapon handling skills. The sun had long been hidden behind the hills as we emerged from the weapon training school and with the aid of a compass plus an enormous thirst we headed back to the Mess.

Day two was heralded by the good news that we had all passed the intake test, the first time ever, so we were told. (We feel better already.)

The following days dragged slowly by, as one by one, our instructors impressed upon us how important their particular subject was. Pens burnt out and feet swelled up but we were not to be beaten. The SSI Drill, **Staff Sergeant Paddy Lavery** did his best to teach us the basic fundamentals of body co-ordination and strangely enough, even the not so good ones managed to become fairly proficient.

Our third weekend in Catterick saw us acting as rebellious insurgents on a Training Brigade exercise, a task which came surprisingly easy to us. Our condolences to **Sergeants Charlie Ulett** and **Mick Stevens** who, having been caught by the opposition in the middle of the moors, were made to strip down to their underclothes. They have both since learnt to run a lot faster.

To the Officer and his merry men from 8th Regiment who, although completely surrounded, refused to believe we had captured all his sentries may I say, "better luck next time Sir".

Warcop Battle Camp was to be the venue for the following week of frivolities and to those readers who have not yet experienced the delights of Butlins new habitat allow me to offer my sincerest condolences.

One spends so much time running up hill and down dale that even the sheep became personal friends, to be addressed by their Christian names.

All too soon (?) the week was over and we returned to Helles Barracks. Tired, wet and weary, we dispersed to all parts of the Kingdom for a well earned weekend break.

The last week of the course passed by so quickly we hardly noticed it, so occupied were we in tests and final skills practices. Hopes were raised and dashed as odd results were added up to bring out the final scores. Our congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Bob Mills** who, after many weeks of deliberation, emerged as top student. Well done.

Finally, to all those concerned in the instruction and administration of RSSSC 90, thank you, we learnt a lot.

## Corps Apprentices see the World

**COMMUNICATION EXERCISE IN FARAWAY SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**by A/Ts W. D. Bromby, J. W. Souster and K. Starr**

### ESTABLISHING LONG HAUL TELEPRINTER LINKS

WE were chosen to take part in exercise 'Duchy' in the Solomon Isles as a prize for our achievements during our training as Telegraphists.

We joined an exercise force consisting of members of 14 Signal Regiment, 30 Signal Regiment, The Royal Air Force and the Australian Army. The aim of the exercise was to set up teleprinter links to Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong.

The Solomon Islands comprise six major islands and a number of small islands. There are four volcanoes situated on these islands and during our stay a tremor was felt from one of them. The climate whilst we were there remained about 80°F, although we were informed that the rainfall averages approximately 85 inches a year. Our journey there was by VC10 from RAF Brize Norton via Cyprus, Gan Island, Singapore and Australia.

Our first day was spent setting up the E21 (radio) cabins and erecting the 80ft masts. This was completed by 8th August for the first phase to Singapore. This test proved only fairly successful.

### WORKING MELBOURNE AND HONG KONG

On the 14th we orientated our masts for Melbourne for the start of phase two. This circuit was very successful and gave us the opportunity to work into TARE at Melbourne. It was from this circuit that we gained a lot of experience; for example, a message from the UKLF Salisbury, UK, took only five minutes to reach us from the time of filing. CERTA CITO indeed! A small percentage of our messages were sent to the Royal Navy (HMS *Leopard*) in the Pacific Ocean which now made it a full Combined Royal Navy exercise. Hence our strange title COMBRITEX-FORSOL—Combined British Exercise Force Solomon Islands.

Our final phase was a link to RN personnel in Hong Kong. This phase lasted three days and was successful, and plenty of traffic was passed. 'Good Old Jack'. We thought two successful circuits out of three was a good result, but were assured that all circuits should have been successful.

### PLENTY OF LOCAL SPORT

There was plenty of time for sport, including swimming ('watch for the sharks'). Games of rugby and football were arranged against the locals. The locals won the rugby 13—8 but we gained revenge by beating their soccer team (narrowly) 9—0.

So our exercise/holiday had ended. Our trip home was by Hercules and Britannia aircraft which are much slower than VC10s. There was one consolation in the form of a 22-hour stop in Singapore, during which we visited the infamous Bugis Street.

Our adventure in the Solomon Islands proved to be worthwhile in both work and play, and we would like to say a big Thank You to all the people who made it possible.

## Promotions

*Carried forward from last* WIRE

(Amendments have been set out in rank sequence as in the 'Blue Book')

COMBAT LINEMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. Reynolds, | B. M. | Sgt. | 5 July 74 | 5 Mar. 69 |
| To Sgt. Charteries, | T. T. | A/Sgt. | 1 Sep. 74 | 17 July 72 |
| Taylor, | R. | A/Sgt. | 4 Sep. 74 | 30 June 71 |

COMBAT POWERMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. Staveley, | A. P. | Sgt. | 6 July 74 | 23 May 71 |
| Appleby, | E. J. | Sgt. | 2 Aug. 74 | 3 Aug. 71 |
| To Sgt. Cufflin, | D. | A/Sgt. | 1 Sep. 74 | 12 Jan. 60 |
| Taylor, | D. | A/Sgt. | 8 Sep. 74 | 31 Oct. 70 |

COMBAT RADIOMAN ROLL

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To S/Sgt. Upton, | R. | Sgt. | 1 July 74 | 11 Oct. 72 |

GURKHA VISITORS WITH 30 REGIMENT

Lance-Corporals Rambahader Singh and Berbahader Singh of Gurkha Signals, attached to 1 Squadron, preparing equipment for Exercise High Post 1

## *Civilian Instructional Staff at Catterick and Harrogate*

Vacancies occur from time to time at the Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, and at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3. Selection for appointment is by attendance at a Civil Service Selection Board. These appointments are attractive to Foremen, Yeomen and Class 1 Technicians and Telegraphists who are leaving the Service.

Write to the undermentioned for details:—

*At Catterick Garrison*
Mr. S. P. Halsey, Trade Training School, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS.

*At Harrogate*
Mr. P. Sharp, Army Apprentice College, Pennypot Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.


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Produced for the Publishers, THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 4RH (Telephone: 01-730-3477) by COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. PARSONS LTD., The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6AY, and "Observer" Buildings, Hastings.
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD., 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: 01-930 1108/9).

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