January 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available. In days of high inflation these represent really good value for money.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	1·85	2·00
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Corps cravats—terylene	1·60	1·70
Corps cuff links	1·40	1·50
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·33	3·60
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	11·60	12·50
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	3·75	4·00
Corps squares—terylene	1·30	1·40
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 3¾"	1·35	1·45
terylene type 'A'	0·40	0·45
terylene type 'D'	0·40	0·45
terylene type 'E'	0·40	0·45
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅜")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·75	1·85
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE AND PACKING

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS. G. M. CRAWFORD

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 No: Chelsea Mil. Ext* 371 *STD* 01-930 4466. *Ask operator for above extension.*

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

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Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£2·40;** *monthly* **20p.**

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association.

JANUARY — 1977
Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 1**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

The disbandment parade of 4th Guards Armoured Brigade took place on December 1, 1976. Our cover picture shows an overall view of the parade with the Brigade Staff in the centre. The 1st Battalion Irish Guards on the right and in the foreground some of the representative elements of the Brigade.
A fuller account is included on page 32

GOING BI-MONTHLY FROM 1978

During the past year, we have drawn the attention of both contributors and subscribers to the steadily increasing production and distribution costs of our Corps magazine. For many years the Central Committee of our Association has recognised the need to subsidise 'The Wire', but there are clearly limits and a sum well in excess of £6,000 was required in 1976.

Monitoring the situation with concern, the Central Committee judged it essential to seek the views of the Serving Corps, who both provide a high proportion of the published material through their contributors and purchase a high percentage of the 5,500 copies of 'The Wire' which are printed monthly.

The concensus of opinion favoured a bi-monthly publication and this was endorsed by the Central Committee at their meeting in November. It is with regret, therefore, that we start the New Year by announcing a curtailment. This is the last year that 'The Wire' will be published on a monthly basis.

From 1978 we will go to press every other month with six issues each year. The subscription rates have been fixed at:

Individual copies	**35p**	**Yearly £2·10**
Bulk (5 or more copies)	**30p**	**Yearly £1·80**

NEW YEAR HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the New Year Honours List

CBE

Brigadier N. A. Butler
Colonel D. A. B. Crawford TAVR

OBE

Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Robinson TAVR

MBE

Major G. Barnett
Major (Retd) A. G. Goodman TD
(For services to the Royal British Legion)

BEM

WO2 (SSM) R. Fortune
WO2 (Supvr R) J. W. Groves
Sergeant G. J. Mason
Sergeant W. Venus

From our "In" Tray

THE CORPS WAS REPRESENTED

Report by Brig P. A. C. Baldwin

(Photo courtesy of 1 SM Rene Herremans P10. HQ AFCENT)

OUR picture shows **Sgt Peter Stanger** beneath a Reviewing Party of which one is tempted to say 'beat that'! They are the Secretary General of NATO, **Dr J. M. A. H. Luns;** The Minister of Defence of the FRG, **Herr Georg Leber;** SACEUR, **Gen Alexander M. Haig, Jr.;** and CINCENT, **Gen Dr Karl Schnell.**

It was taken at Ramstein Air Base in southern Germany on the occasion of the Reforger Welcoming Ceremony on August 25, 1976. This is an event arranged to enable the nations of the Central Region symbolically to welcome the US Division which is flown annually from the United States to demonstrate American determination and capability to reinforce Europe.

JOSS NAYLOR—150-MILE MARATHON

JOSS NAYLOR, MBE, the famous Cumbrian farmer who has added a new dimension to running, is accompanied over Catterick Bridge, Catterick Garrison, on his 150-mile, 24-hour East-to-West-Coast marathon, in which he raised £1,500 for charity. He was accompanied for 10 miles, through the Garrison, by **Cpl Les Wood** and **Lcpl Steve Lancashire** both serving with 8 Sig Regt at the time. **Cpl Les Wood** is now serving with 21 Sig Regt and **Lcpl Steve Lancashire** is ski-ing for the Army Biathlon Squad in Switzerland.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

LOOKING BACK

PESHAWAR DISTRICT SIGNALS RUGBY XV, INDIA 1929–30

Editor's note: We are indebted to Maj A. Gould for this good-quality photograph taken some 46 years ago and hope it will stimulate some happy memories for some of our more elderly readers.

Back row: 1, Sig F. Hunt; 2, Cpl L. H. Lacey; 3, L Sgt E. W. Pack; 4, Capt C. A. Murray; 5 Sig W. F. Woodeson;, 6, Cpl L. R. M. Morley; 7, Lcpl R. E. Davey

Middle row: 8, Lcpl F. J. Birkett; 9, Cpl A. Gould; 10, Sig E. Browne; 11, Lt T. W. Boilean; 12, Maj G. M. H. Henderson, OBE, MC; 13, Lt F. C. Seeley; 14, Sig W. Marlow; 15, Lcpl C. Roberts; 16, Lcpl C. R. Nichols

Front row: 17, Sig K. B. Macaulay; 18, Sig C. A. Hardy

Note by Maj Gould: Of the above, I am aware that the following subsequently served the Corps in the ranks given below: 2—Captain, 3—Captain, 6—Major, 7—Major, 9—Major and 2IC Div Sigs, 11—Colonel, 13—Colonel.

'SECRET' HISTORY OF THE CORPS

No 4—BOWLER HATS AND LLAMAS By John Hole

Early Days and Bowler Status

I WENT up to Old Scotland Yard in Whitehall and took the King's Shilling, then went by train to Uckfield. Walking up the leafy lane to Maresfield Park, I breathed the good Sussex air. Entering the stone arch I observed **Jimmy Emblem,** who later became a useful heavyweight in our boxing team. He was cooking an evening meal in a portable field kitchen. In the immediate vicinity stood two horse-drawn, top-heavy wagons used as pigeon lofts. 'Ah', I observed to myself, 'perchance annexes of the ark?'

I was wearing a suit of Irish tweed, a pair of brown shoes and a bowler hat—a fine smart English gentleman. By the inhabitants of the camp I was treated with awe; by some with reverence; and by some with disgust. For the ensuing three weeks I remained thus attired as there was no khaki uniform available. I found the men quite friendly—many saluted me, even from a distance. An old soldier told me, 'If you don't get rid of that bowler and put on your uniform you'll be in the nick—too many think you are the Commandant'.

One day in the hut I saw a bloke wearing brass numerals on his shoulder straps—A.S.R. He told me he was an Army Scripture Reader. His duty consisted of reading a chapter from the Bible each day to the men in each hut. My Army education had begun.

A Dental Check

I had to attend for dental inspection. Outside a hut about 50 men were lounging about, some had wound stripes; others had little blue chevrons on the lower part of their left sleeves, denoting years in France, as well as trade badges and the like. Most wore medal ribbons. One had the blue and white of the MC. When my time came I dashed in and found the dentist was wearing spurs! Rather ominous I thought. The man in the chair was being held down by two poultice wallopers. The dentist had climbed on top of his patient, probing his mouth with a mirror. The man gurgled and fainted. He was carried out and laid on the grass. I got in the chair, but was treated with reverence.

Equitation Course

After my square bashing, I did nine months at Crowborough on a Line Operators' course, at the end of which I returned to Maresfield for my equitation course. **Sgt Parsons** was our instructor. The Riding Master was **Lt Totterdell** of the Carabiniers. We all agreed in our Troop to keep mum if **Sgt Parsons** asked us if we had done any riding before. My particular pal had won his spurs at Weedon and we had two professional jockeys. When asked if I had done any riding before, I told the sergeant that the only riding I had ever done was 'riding on a rainbow to a new land far away'. That put them all in a good humour. In our Company there was a **Sgt 'Tich' Adams** and he had a number of young chaps whom he had formed into a vaulting class. They became famous. At Wembley, in 1924, they were the only ones who collected £5 each by riding his mustangs. **Sgt Adams'** team gave a display of Cossack vaulting that put the Russians in the shade!

Mounting No Problem

One of my mates was **'Tiny' Disart.** He was 7ft 4in (the truth) and was given the smallest horse in the stable. He did not trouble to mount, he just stood with his legs apart and the horse walked under him—then he sat down. He told me his brother was even taller. He had been sent back from the front line in France as the Germans thought he was some kind of an observation post. He was a great character.

Unfriendly Mascot

One animal I did not like was our mascot at Ewshot. Some silly ass decided we should have a mascot. A llama was procured and a **Cpl Gardner** was assigned as groom and jockey. This monstrosity had a vicious temper and a mind of its own. One day, as we assembled on parade, the llama climbed on the back of the OC. Sheer exuberance? Some years later I took my daughter to the London Zoo and showed her our llama, which looked at me with distaste. 'But I thought you rode horses in the Army?', said Zandra.

THANK YOU LADIES

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SSAFA BY THE CORPS

WE are delighted to publicise the magnificent response from the Corps which led to a substantial donation to SSAFA. It is a matter of fact that both the Corps and the Association are deeply indebted to SSAFA for all they do and particularly in the field of Benevolence where their investigations 'on the ground' by experienced representatives ensure timely assistance, whenever circumstances so justify.

The tradition that the Corps runs a stall at the SSAFA Christmas Market in Chelsea Barracks was maintained this year under the auspices of a committee, headed by the wife of the SO-in-C. By spreading the news that SSAFA needed money to the furthest corners of the Corps, activity sprung up which, when all the sums were in, added up to the remarkable total of £4,020.

The sum of £354 was made at the stall itself by the sale of perfumery and cosmetics, most of which were provided by units of the Corps. It is invidious to mention individual contributions when so many Regiments and Squadrons have contributed but mention must be made of the wives of 9 Sig Regt who collected the amazing sum of £700 from their sponsored walk. The wives at the Army Apprentices College made a patchwork quilt which was subsequently raffled and raised £350.

But there were several Regiments who raised over £250 and Squadrons who raised nearly as much. It was the year when everyone excelled themselves, and our congratulations go to **Mrs Tighe** and all the wives of the Corps who helped both on the committee and in their units, with thanks to their husbands who probably did their part too!

Lady Crookenden, chairman of the SSAFA committee, receiving a cheque from Mrs Tighe. In the background: Mesdames Phippard, Anderson, Cooper, Webb, Hild and Page

Mrs Betty Ramsbottom hands over a cheque from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, of £350, being the proceeds from the raffle of a patchwork quilt

Mrs P. A. M. Tighe, *right*, wife of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, and her team of helpers at the Royal Signals' perfumery and cosmetics stall at the SSAFA Christmas Market, Chelsea Barracks, on November 17. The Market, with wonderful support from all three Services, drew a bigger crowd of shoppers than ever, and has already made a record profit, with donations still coming in

'No, it's mine'! Mesdames Anderson, Webb, Tripp, Cooper, Page and Tighe

Some of the wives of 9 Sig Regt before the sponsored walk for SSAFA—October 29, 1976 (they looked equally cheerful *afterwards!*)

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Welfare

NOVEMBER 1976

Number of cases assisted financially	**35**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**19**
Amount spent	**£1,827·72**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**1**
Amount spent	**£30·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, 1944–48. Both he and his wife are seriously disabled as the result of accidents, and the small business which they were running has failed. The Association made them a grant of £65 for a bed and clothing needs, and a clothing parcel for their children has also been sent.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

(From a SSAFA Representative)

THE grant you have made seems to have made all the difference to this man's outlook on life. He was really very depressed, but now is quite happy with the situation and most grateful to you.

THANK YOU

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

WO2 (F of S) and Mrs T. Crawley, Maj P. Whitemore, HQ 1 Sig Group, Capt A. H. Wright, Mr A. Walsh, Mr J. Young, Mr and Mrs T. Fordham, Maj R. A. Hoghton, Mrs F. W. P. Bradford, D. Le Febvre, Esq., Brig W. G. Tucker, Mrs G. Proudman, 10 Sig Regt, Lady Scott, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Royal Signals Assn, North London Branch, The Wives Club, 227 Sig Sqn, Lt Col D. J. Milton, Mrs G. Finch, Sgt J. Edwards, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Sgt and Mrs R. Assender, A. W. Smith, Esq., Sgt and Mrs E. C. Rock, 56 Div Signals OCA, Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole, Ssgt C. H. Story.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1976:

	£
Mrs Penelope Massey-Stewart	3·00
G. W. Cook, Esq	5·00
G. A. Jenkins, Esq	1·00
Mrs J. M. Brice	5·00
L. V. Goodman, Esq	2·00
P. A. Tully, Esq	2·00
J. Johnston, Esq	5·00
Mrs M. A. Massey	1·75
F. Veness, Esq, MBE	1·00
F. C. Wilson, Esq	10·00
Maj D. S. A. Hutley, GM	1·22
A. Grant, Esq, MBE, MM, MSM	3·00
E. W. Whiffen, Esq.	1·25
H. Liley, Esq	5·00
A. B. Turner, Esq	3·24
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe, MSM	5·00
A. F. Morgan, Esq	5·00
Miscellaneous minor donations	1·80
	£61·26

Movements

Officers

JANUARY 1977

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt D. R. Bannister	RMA Sandhurst (course strength)
Capt R. W. Barry	School of Signals
Maj M. O. N. Bird	28 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Bowles	22 Sig Regt
Maj A. Brown	8 Sig Regt
Capt D. F. M. Collyer	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col R. F. L. Cook	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. A. Couchman	School of Signals
Maj P. H. Dale	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. G. Dibley	RMA Sandhurst (Course strength)
Maj R. E. S. Drew	HQ NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
Capt J. H. Fisher	HQ 6 Armd Bde
Capt R. N. B. Freeman	MOD DSS (A)
Capt (TOT) R. Goodman, BEM	CPA Royal Signals
2 Lt S. J. Harris	RMA Sandhurst (PUS)
Maj R. A. H. Hoghton	28 Sig Regt
Maj G. W. Howard	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt B. J. Hughes	8 Sig Regt
Lt N. C. Jackson	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt M. N. Johnston	248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj D. J. Jolly	248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) M. Kenyon, MBE	CPA Royal Signals
Capt (TOT) B. A. Kimber	MOD DSS (A)
Major (QM) N. Lane	30 Sig Regt
Capt S. M. A. Lee	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Maj W. V. Legge	224 Sig Sqn
Capt P. H. MacCulloch	632 Sig Troop
2 Lt T. S. Maynes	11 Sig Regt (Held strength)
Lt B. A. Meachin	School of Signals
Lt J. Morrison	9 Sig Regt
Col G. R. Oehlers	DGGWL (A) (PE) (AE)
Capt S. S. Paul	School of Signals
Capt I. D. Reading	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Capt P. J. Reed	School of Signals
Lt T. P. Rinell	45 Army Youth Team
Maj W. J. Roper	2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. R. Seward	MOD DSS (A)
Capt M. J. Sinton	MOD DSS (A)
Capt P. D. Studd	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt I. Turner	HQ BAOR
Maj Q. Viguis	HQ AFCENT Sp Group
Lt J. M. Willis	1 King's Own Border Regt
Capt (QM) M. E. Wilson	HQ Catterick Garrison and Admin Unit
Maj K. G. Wright	School of Signals

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

JANUARY 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 (Y of S) H. M. Cooke	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (Y of S) K. W. Hall	School of Signals
WO2 (F of S) R. S. Kidd	1 Div HQ Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) P. R. Wagstaff	2 Armd Div HQ Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) J. R. Gallagher	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main) HQ
WO2 (F of S) R. C. Offord	NITAT Norireland
WO2 (F of S) A. Tomlinson	SHAPE SP (INT) (BAE)
WO2 (F of S) A. G. Turner	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
A/WO2 (F of S) B. G. Watts	REME Data Centre
A/WO2 (Y of S) W. J. Richards	Central Volunteer HQ Royal Signals
A/WO2 (Supvr R) B. Stanton	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Ssgt (F of S) R. M. James	34 Sig Regt
Ssgt (F of S) J. P. Wells	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Ssgt J. Brackston	244 Sig Sqn
Ssgt B. A. Davies	234 Sig Sqn (Malta)
Ssgt (Y of S) J. A. Farndon	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
Ssgt (Y of S) C. H. F. MacQueen	249 Sig Sqn AMF(L)
Ssgt R. Paterson	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Ssgt R. Patterson	7 Sig Regt Corps Main HQ
Ssgt R. Taylor	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Ssgt A. Benson	234 Sig Sqn (Malta)
A/Ssgt J. Batkin	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
A/Ssgt D. E. Mackin	Communications Project Agency Royal Signals
Sgt P. J. Graham	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Edgington	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt R. A. Beall	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Firth	28 Sig Regt
Sgt F. J. Jory	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt K. J. Stock	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt M. C. Smith	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Pearmain	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Halliwell	Intelligence Centre Ashford
Sgt I. Blair	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Sgt R. J. Lilley	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt G. I. Maroney	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt H. H. Loates	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt P. J. Wilson	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt A. E. Bedford	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. C. Wilkins	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt A. J. McClumpa	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt G. G. Irving	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Nesbitt-Clarke	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt R. J. Sims	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt F. B. Mackey	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt R. R. Christie	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt C. D. Bond	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. Smith	Project Wavell Military Team
Sgt G. T. Wilkinson	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt R. Taylor	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt G. S. H. Beattie	School of Signals
Sgt M. J. Lloyd	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Walkingshaw	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Taylor	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Mann	40 Sig Regt
Sgt B. F. Craig	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt A. Jack	AYSC (NORTH)
Sgt R. E. Lindsay	11 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Franklin	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt I. J. Jones	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Robertson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. H. Noble	525 Rear Link Det (Fld Regt)
Sgt P. J. Slavin	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. O. Smiley	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt R. L. Wilson	665 Sqn 3 Regt AAC
Sgt S. J. Waring	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt R. J. Underhill	HQ 2 Sig Group
Sgt J. R. Fowler	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt H. B. Anacoura	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt R. D. Smith	226 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sgt W. Kitching	11 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Conner	32 Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Bailes	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. McDermott	8 Sig Regt
A/Sgt A. J. Havlin	11 Sig Regt
A/Sgt R. W. Bellwood	11 Sig Regt

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

BIRTHS

Allan—On November 27, 1976, to Cpl and Mrs Allan, a son, Ronald (3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Bellew—On September 14, to Pte and Mrs 'Jock' Bellew, a daughter, Kelly (19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Duncan—On October 21, 1976, to Sig and Mrs Duncan, a daughter, Marie (3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Ellis—On November 20, 1976, to Cpl and Mrs Ellis, a son (233 Sig Sqn).

Flintham—On October 26, 1976, to Lcpl and Mrs Flintham, a son (233 Sig Sqn).

McCue—On November 26, 1976, to Sig and Mrs McCue, a son, Declan (3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Watt—on October 13, to Pte and Mrs Duncan Watt, a daughter, Louise (19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

MARRIAGES

Anderson—Congratulations to Cpl Terence Welford Anderson (RAPC) who was married to June Wilson on October 16 (19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Fagen—Congratulations to Sig Fagen (233 Sig Sqn) on his marriage to Linda Russell.

Hagen—Congratulations to Sgt Hagen (233 Sig Sqn) on his marriage to Cpl Marianne Davitt (WRAC).

Muston—Congratulations to Dvr Ray Muston (RCT) who was married to Georgina Bradbeer on October 23 (19 Airptble Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Stiles—Congratulations to Lcpl 'Nobby' Stiles (RCT) who was married to Pamela Dollar on October 23. (19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

Wood—Congratulations to Sig 'Chippy' Wood who was married to Susan Leach on October 20 (19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

DEATHS

Bell—Brig Leonard Charles Bell, MC, enlisted in the Territorials in 1915 and was commissioned into the Black Watch in 1916. He transferred to the Corps in 1922. During the First World War he was on active service on the Western Front from 1916–17 when he was awarded the MC and Mentioned in Despatches. He was again on active service on the North West Frontier in 1919. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was with 1st AA Corps and retired in 1943. He died on September 26, 1976, at the age of 85.

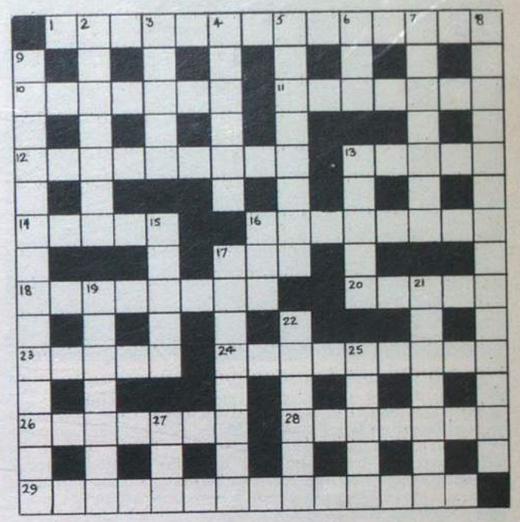
Dallison—Brig Frank H. Dallison, OBE, MC, enlisted in the RE Territorial Forces in 1908 and was commissioned in 1915. He served with the BEF in France from 1915–19 when he was awarded the MC and Mentioned in Despatches. He then went to South Russia for just over a year. He transferred to the Corps in 1920 but was demobilised a year later when he joined the Reserve of Officers. He was re-employed as adjutant of Mons Barracks in 1927, and retired again to join the Supplementary Reserve 10 years later. He served throughout the Second World War with the BEF in France, for a short while in North Africa, but mainly as CSO South Eastern Command. He retired in 1945 and died on September 8, 1976, at the age of 86.

Phayre-Mudge—Col Alfred Edward Phayre-Mudge, OBE, was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1911 and saw active service on the Western Front with the ANZAC Corps Sig Coy. He transferred to the Corps in 1920, and retired in 1936 having spent four years in India. He was recalled at the outbreak of the Second World War and retired in the rank of Colonel in 1945. He died on December 5, 1976, at the age of 85.

WANTED

Sgts Mess Dress plus accessories, Size 42in chest, 15in collar. Contact Sgt J. McDermott, 1689 Leek Roak, Milton, Stoke on Trent, Staffs. Tel. 0782 533716

Crossword No 13



Solution next month. The Editor acknowledges this contribution by WO2 (F of S) J. Hill

Crossword Clues

ACROSS

1. Admitted as a barrister, and got invited for a drink to celebrate (6-2-3-3)
10. Brings in the news—occasionally of a confidential nature (7)
11. Making the machinery wet enough to prevent any vibrations (7)
12. —And by way of a change! (9)
13. Carries the stars, whether great or little (5)
14. A number, or at least the singer of one (5)
16. Being there, but certainly often well wrapped up we hear in December (8)
17. Five out of twelve annually (3)
18. So a brain gets operated on and suffers an injury (8)
20. Social class discovered among Africa's 10 million Asians (5)
23. The top newspaperman turns up at 11 Sig Regt (5)
24. Seemingly how one would describe the affair between two lovers in the dock (9)
26. As part of the press gang, they may easily become so tired as to want a change (7)
28. Religious places used by the Head of the Church (7)
29. Permanent instructions such as 'Attention' and 'Stand at ease' (8-6)

DOWN

2. Spin around in the air, it may help clear your head (7)
3. Result of an eruption, but right in the middle are signs of life (5)
4. Though not allowed, I still use it partly to produce the right spirit (6)
5. Educational level—but nothing exceptional (8)
6. Actor who may, however, have far-reaching success with keys (3)
7. England, Scotland and Wales; that's great (7)
8. The record of the sentry entrusted to the GPO (10-14)
9. Obviously not officers' married quarters (7-7)
13. Learned men in charge of the teaching of a fundamental (5)
15. About that receiver, seems it's got stuck again (5)
16. Piper who turned out to be a bit of an animal (3)
17. Hide! It may assist the North American in keeping his feet (8)
19. —And this answer is exactly the same (7)
21. Chorals may be heard in church, but the arrangement is by a schoolboy (7)
22. Stories by Rudyard Kipling—exactly (4-2)
25. Tiny Dickensian I'd have suspected of being shy (5)
27. Descriptive of the serviceman fading away (3)

Solution to Puzzle No 12

Across: 1, Perfect stranger; 8, Nimrod; 9, Asterisk; 11, Halt; 12, Stripe; 14, User; 16, Nutmeg; 18, Apache; 20, Alone; 23, Assure; 25, Reader; 28, Trip; 29, Operas; 31, Rags; 33, Punctual; 35, Gretna; 36, Distant Relative.
Down: 1, Poaching; 2, Regal; 3, Cane sugar; 4, Sari; 5, Ranks; 6, Garnished; 7, Redder; 10, Stem; 13, Tea; 15, Ran; 17, Tasteless; 19, Perpetual; 21, Let; 22, Preserve; 24, USA; 26, Aura; 30, Spain; 32, Alibi; 34, Near.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland
B.F.P.O. 825

SIGNALS Branch HQ Northern Ireland have at last been cornered into producing an article for THE WIRE! The occasion that forced this unusual activity was the recent retirement of **Supt Norman Workman, BEM,** the Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Communications Officer.

Norman will be remembered by many in Royal Signals particularly those who have served in Northern Ireland during the last seven years. Over this period a very close liaison has grown up between the RUC and Royal Signals enabling joint efforts to be applied in solving the many communication problems that all too frequently crop up here.

The photograph shows Commander Royal Signals, **Lt Col I. R. D. Shapter,** presenting a plaque to **Supt N. Workman.** On **Col Shapter's** left is the new Force Communications Officer, **Supt Bill McCutcheon,** who is already well known to many of us.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

NORTHERN IRELAND doesn't have a good record of white Christmases. Potential snow clouds exclude grey slush which melts on the back of your neck and trickles ice-cold water down the inside of your flak jacket. Guard duty at an unheated sangar on a cold, foggy night is one of the more unenviable tasks of our unsung heroes. Still—we're dreaming of a white Christmas when, perhaps, we can replace sangar and soldier with igloo and snowman.

The generous donation we have just received from the Corps Association will certainly help us to enjoy ourselves at Christmas—especially the children, whose party will be funded from the donation.

TECHNICIANS SHOW THE WAY

The Brigade Commander, **Brig Woodford,** paid us a formal visit on November 29, 1976, for our annual unit inspection. After a visit to the Commcen the Commander watched an obstacle course competition which was won by the 'TM' Troop team led by **F of S 'Brit' Brittenden.** It is one of the wonders of nature that technicians can so often crawl out of a hot workshop, take part in, and win, a physical competition and then crawl back to their soldering irons and avometer. In truth, I do our technicians an injustice—they can never be found in their workshop!

The competition was followed by a display of stretcher-bearing an invalid—**Sig 'Mel' Barkworth,** of course—across the same course. The team, led by **Capt Chris Shuker,** consisted of **Ssgt 'Airborne' Dudding, Cpls 'Hooper' Burton** and **Tony Woolley, Lcpl Pete Fox** and **Tpr Laurie Finney.** The highlight of the demonstration was a rope-swing from a raised platform across an imaginary river. **'Mel' Barkworth's** eyes were out on stalks as he traversed the river, clinging onto his stretcher at 45 deg at a speed which defied the laws of gravity. He lived to tell the tale but is now suffering from acute stretchaphobia.

The Commander then visited the QM's Department and the MT driving display which was a two team race involving a ¼-ton trailer being physically pushed 100m to a Land-Rover which was then raced through a slalom course, into a puncture area, and on to the finish. The race was definitely won in the puncture area where slick wheel changing by **Cpl Stan Ramsbottom, Sig John Dewis** and **'Husky' Huskisson** made them unbeatable.

On to the cookhouse where the Commander stirred the Christmas pudding and judged the cake competition. Then outside to watch a VCP demonstration by the Defence and Employment Platoon. The demonstration ended with a small explosion and a 'blood-covered' simulated casualty being whisked away in an ambulance.

MEETING THE COMMUNICATORS

'TM' Troop were next on the list where the Commander was shown the inside of a interface box (or similar) by **Lcpl Jake Findlay.** In the 'non-technical' corner of the workshop the Commander met Combat Linemen **Cpl Tony Woolley** and **Sig 'Paky' Gray** who were introduced by **F of S 'Brit' Brittenden** as 'busy looking for a fuse'.

Outside again **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** gave a demonstration of aerial rigging by sending **Lcpl Dave Browne** and **Sig 'Bluebottle' Sullivan** up a mast. The Commander talked to **Ssgt Ken Harlick** and the radio operators of Commcen Troop before going on to visit SHQ. In the meantime, RQMS **Ron Collins** was working up a simulated fire by casting green smoke bombs around the camp. Off went the alarm and the unit duly assembled for the Commander.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS

The last port of call was the Sergeants Mess where the Commander presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 Brian Hudson** and **Ssgt Ken Harlick.** And there the inspection ended—over a pint of beer. No funnies or nasties thrown in, for which we were quietly thankful.

TRACTOR TO BELFAST

We are 25 miles from Belfast—that is a 45-minute journey by bus, train, car or Land-Rover (with escort). It is also a seven-hour journey by a 1944 Ford Ferguson (USA) paraffin-fuelled tractor. **Cpl Duncan Matthews** had discovered the machine in the hands of a local farmer and decided he must have it for his brother—a vintage tractologist living in England. (It might have been easier had he been a taxidermist!) So it was bought, serviced by MT Troop, and then driven at 5mph to Belfast Docks by our intrepid documents clerk. In fact, the tractor had to be towed as far as Lisburn because the water pump was frozen solid by the cold weather. Just before it cast its tow-rope for the final part the journey an old lady ran out between the towing vehicle and the tractor, and tripped over the unseen tow-rope. She disappeared under the moving tractor which, thanks to a high ground clearance, passed over her whilst she crouched in disbelieving shock.

For the record: The tractor was taken from Liverpool to its destination in Cornwall by trailer.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Finally, we bid farewell to **Cpl Howard Swift** who was prematurely medevacced to England recently and to **Capt Chris Shuker** and his wife, **Audrey,** who are off to Shrivenham.

We welcome **Capt David Collyer** and his wife, **Andrea,** from 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

THIS month's contribution has been produced by our noble technicians who usually rush to hide behind piles of U/S equipment when the magic words 'WIRE notes' echo through Mike Troop corridors.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **WO1 RSM Ian Buckley** who joins us from BAOR, and also to **Sgts Pete Smedley, D. Mustard** and **Cpl G. Baldwin** (wot more technicians!).

FAREWELL

Leaving us just before Christmas was **WO1 RSM Jim Sinnett** who will be remembered for his firm but good-hearted approach to Squadron discipline and his prowess on the squash courts. We wish him well in his future career and thank him for all his efforts in maintaining an efficient and happy Squadron.

CAGE PROBLEMS

From the duty technicians' log:

Duty Tech **Sgt Don Lambert** answers a telephone call from a roulement unit:

Unit: We have a faulty intercomm unit, can you fix it?
Tech: Is it a Master or Slave unit?
Unit: Slave.
Tech: Well whip it down here then!

Our TE Techs, **Ssgt John Chambers, Cpl Steve Johnson** together with **Sgt Tim Howley** (he's the clean one with short hair) are petitioning the Foreman for a helicopter of their own arguing they have too much ground to cover, usually to make some minor Teleprinter adjustment, but the F of S, **WO2 Norman Cowell,** and **Ssgt Stuart Harvey** are extremely busy with a tape-measure trying to fit a VHF Tels cage into a small workshop and still leave room for a UHF Tels cage beside it!

Line Section, led by **Sgts Alan Finney** and **Jim Baines,** ably assisted by **Lcpl Steve Johnstone, Sig Steve Gerrish** and **'Snowball' Priestman,** are still keeping Londonderry's military telephones in working order despite having to convince some members of roulement units that there are one or two local difficulties that are not normally experienced in other parts of the UK. Even GPO engineers are reluctant to trace line faults around some locations! So our good Line Section say they will do it!

SQUADRON REPRESENTATIVES AT CORPS SPORTS

Two members of the Squadron have recently represented the Corps: **Sgt Bob Baggaley,** touring with the Corps soccer team in the recent series of matches between RAOC, RCT, RAPC, and ending in the Quadrangular competition which was won for the first time by the Corps in eight years. **Cpl 'Sandy' Sandford** has been away with the Corps rugby side on a recent tour which included games against the RMCS, RCT and RA. Both are now safely locked up in the Commcen!

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

CHRISTMAS 1976

AS many as possible got away for leave at Christmas, but with the high level of manning required on stand-by, most stayed in or around Lisburn. Each Troop had its own party, and the Peake Inn was loaned to two organisations (LAD and Tpt & Mov HQNI) as special favours.

Tech Troop have the honour of producing WIRE notes this month and we hope the following is more readable than **F of S Nick Lynn's** paper on rotational shift configuration postures, which may be a submission for the next Institution Meeting (Garrison not Corps!).

Capitalise on your Service experience with one of the World's most successful Electronics Companies

The Racal-Tacticom Group of Companies are the world leaders in the design, manufacture and export of HF SSB and VHF FM portable and mobile communications equipment and systems.

Continued expansion of the Companies has created many career opportunities for people with a thorough practical and theoretical knowledge of HF SSB and VHF FM communications techniques.

Sales Liaison Engineers

These positions involve considerable travel throughout the world. Up to 70% of the year could be spent away from the U.K. installing and commissioning equipment, training customers staff, 'trouble shooting' and providing a strong technical back-up to customers and marketing staff.

Systems Engineers

To be involved in feasibility studies, design of vehicle communications systems and the initial installation of systems often at customer premises. A general mechanical aptitude and a knowledge of military type vehicle installations are highly desirable in addition to the essential electronics skills. Frequent overseas travel will be required.

Salaries, conditions and career prospects are excellent.

Communicate with Racal

If you are leaving the forces in the near future, why not write with details of training and background indicating areas of interest and release date to:
R.B. Jones,
Senior Personnel Officer,
Racal-Tacticom Limited,
10 Commercial Road, READING, Berks.

RACAL
The Electronics Group

TECH TROOP REPORT

We start this epistle with congratulations to our Troop Commander, **Maj Ken West,** on his promotion to Major. In a recent 'interview', he was quoted as saying that the staggering pay rise would not change his way of life and reports that he would spend, spend, spend, were mere speculation!

Most members of the Troop have been very busy recently with the various jobs and tasks that seem to be a part of Northern Ireland life. Those who haven't been so busy elected to have a 'flu jab which doesn't so much make you immune, it just seems to make sure that you get the 'flu two days later, a fact that the OC, **Maj Neil Horler,** will verify.

THE WRONG HANDLE

Cpl 'Dusty' Rhodes has endeared himself to FATOC in a way that only **Dusty** could. Having tasked a helicopter for an emergency communication problem he set off in great style, opening the door by pulling the jettison handle! With great aplomb **Cpl Rhodes** impressed upon the pilot that the communications problem was greater than the lack of a helicopter door and carried on to complete the job.

Lcpl Dave Brown has spent some time recently in hospital having a cartilage removed from his knee. He seemed a little overawed whilst in the ward being surrounded by shooting casualties and the like. There is no truth in the rumour, however, that he was heard to ask the surgeon to make the scar look like a bullet wound!

The Troop have been well represented on the various Squadron sports teams reaching the final of the Northern Ireland hockey; runner-up in the basketball and narrowly losing the semi-final of the soccer.

'SUPER SUB'

The SSM, **Martin Hanlon,** thought that he had the football team cracked this year when he bought the 'Bill Shankly Book of Football', but alas the football games came quicker than he could read. Even his brilliant tactical use of a new sub failed to achieve long-term results, mainly due to the 'super sub' being unable to last longer than 20 minutes. To avoid the Squadron being pestered by 1 Div talent scouts (and 8 Sig Regt) the name of the new 'super sub' must remain a close secret; suffice to say that when he plays the whole of the Troop feel obliged to watch.

Our colleagues in 'W' Troop are beginning to get off the ground now in more ways than one. British Airways are putting on an extra flight exclusively for their use; although 'W' Troop OC, **Capt Alex Littlejohn,** will want certain extra refinements on it to come up to the requirements of the Troop. For the rest of us housed in Portakabins and paper huts, their building is like a three-star hotel, even their coffee deserves a mention in Egan Ronay's guide.

Having started Tech Troop notes with a word about our most senior member it seems only right that we end with a short article from our most junior, **Lcpl 'Tank' Sherman,** who has recently arrived from Trg Bde.

FIRST DAYS

When I arrived at Lisburn Garrison early one October morning, I got off the bus to a welcoming committee of blank looks and was treated like something from outer space—'Who are you and what are you doing here' attitude. Three days later my posting order arrived to tell them I was here! My first impression was not too good at all since the Squadron Office and workshops are housed in Portakabins. I have been informed that we will be moving to a new building later next year, so hopefully, the working conditions will be less cramped.

As time progressed life has become more enjoyable; the work here is totally different from anything I expected, since quite a large proportion of the time is spent in civilian dress (shortish hair still required) chasing about the Province to the many outstations. I have also been on my six-day Northern Ireland Reinforcement Training Course where we learnt how to control any unruly 'local natives'. On the last days of the course we patrolled the streets of Belfast's trouble areas, which proves to be quite an eye-opener. Now I am back in the Squadron routine understanding our role in Northern Ireland.

THANK YOU

The Association donated £500 to Royal Signals units in the Province and we are most grateful to them for their generosity. We decided to use all our share to provide each soldier at an outstation or detachment with a Christmas Box—literally! We made up parcels of cigarettes, nuts, chocolate and other suitable Christmas goodies and delivered them for Christmas morning.

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **WO2 Mayling, Ssgt Cunningham, Sgts Gordon, Breeze, Cole, Baker** and **Mason; Cpls Warner, Bell, Partridge; Lcpls Horton, Leggat, Rand, McQueen; Sig Brash, McAvoy, Shearer, Tanser** and **McBride.**

DEPARTURES

Bon Voyage: **WO2 Harrison** (Int Corps) and **WO2 Poole, Cpl Sanderson** and **Sig Allen.**

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 809

NEW TERRITORY

AT last after two months of training, the Squadron are over in Northern Ireland for the second time. Our area is some 30 miles south-west of Belfast amid the beautiful countryside of North Armagh. We are co-located with 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. With a three-day routine of Guard Troop, Ops Troop and Alert Troop, the Squadron are in uniform 24 hours a day for two and a half days! Since our arrival Portadown has been quiet until, believe it or not, the writing of these notes. Yesterday the popular Yachtsman Inn had its top floor and roof badly damaged by a small bomb.

Fortunately, **Sgt Gav Escott** and a 'Bomb Watch' section from 'W' Troop were nearby. They quickly cleared the Inn, called for police and ambulances, and kept the crowd, that rapidly grew, clear of the danger area. Eight minutes later the '5'-minute Section with **Capt Nick Mansfield** and **Sgt Frank Duerden** of 'Y' Troop had driven the two miles into town. Quickly the small cordon grew until the large car park opposite the Yachtsman was cleared, allowing the ATO to approach the building safely. News cameramen from ITV and BBC were quickly on the scene, and nationwide coverage of the incident was given on both local and national news.

SHREDDED UNDERWEAR

The first few weeks of our 'Infantry' tour over here has been full of bomb scares (No—not the TELEX again!), early-morning arrests in support of the RUC and searches. In one house search was found a large bag of suspicious-looking substance. With shouts of 'look what I've found . . .' by one searcher. Squadron Search Adviser, **SSM 'Sniffer' Payne,** declared it a bag of bird seed. Who's a pretty boy then—**Sig 'Jock' Gray?**

Ssgt Jim Allen and **Sgt Frank Duerden** found a suspicious-looking car parked in a car park behind Wellworths Supermarket. Having disrupted town traffic for an hour over this incident, a policeman checked the car out and declared it a false alarm!

An unmarked and unclaimed suitcase found on a vehicle was blown up by ATO today and the camp was littered with shreds of knickers. A member of the WRAC later claimed the suitcase!

BASE REPORT

Our overworked Rear Party under **Sgt Twurm Walmsley** are missing us as can be seen from the following thoughts of **Cpl Dave Crump** . . . .

At the time of writing, almost three weeks have gone by since the Squadron main party left the cold and wet of Dortmund for the cold, wet and fog of the Emerald Isle. Life is staggering on here in Dortmund but Napier Barracks is so quiet with everyone away. Roll on 1977 when they all come back—if nothing else there'll be some noise about.

As I sit here in SHQ writing this it seems strange not to hear the dulcet tones of our SSM, **Don Payne,** saying, 'It's good 'ere int it?' or the Admin Officer, **Capt Steve Bloom,** shouting for the coffee he pays for but never gets, and for once the Squadron office floor is still—not vibrating to the dainty size 12 boots of **Sig Graham Smith,** our clerk who hails from Linwood, Scotland —How about a 'thought from the chairman', **Graham.** A walk over the corridor brings me to the SQMS Department but sadly no whirr of **Ssgt Dave Wilcox's** engraving tool or latest tale of 'the one that got away'. No **Lcpl Mark Smithurst** moaning that his beloved **Beverley** hasn't written to him or why do his letters get to the UK in two days but hers take anything up to 10 days to get here (perhaps the FPO could answer that).

Today our MT Sergeant, **John Walmsley,** is playing Santa Claus at the Kindergarten complete with red suit and white beard. Unfortunately, instead of a deep-voiced 'Ho Ho Ho' from Santa, the kids will probably get a Lancashire 'OK, mate?' A walk down the road brings me to the Tech Workshops. A joy to behold—is that noise I hear? Yes, it is—that happy band of technicians, namely **Sgts Derek Boyd, Rod Brierley** and **Barry Waston** are their usual selves—arguing whose turn it is to plug the kettle in, put the coffee in the cups and milk and sugar the coffee. No chance of getting the 'tranny' fixed today.

Ah well, such is life here in quiet Napier. Hallo, I see a fiery ball in the sky—it's the sun—must dash—the golf course calls. To all readers may we wish you all a Prosperous New Year, and to all at 260 Sig Sqn (SAM) Main—keep the letters coming.

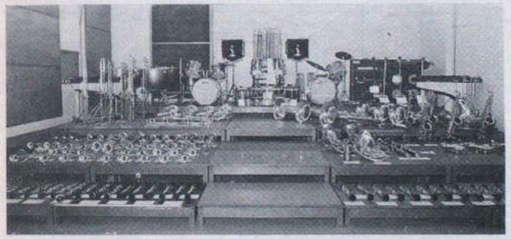
P.S. **Ssgt George Bardsley** heads the letter-writing table this month. Congratulations Staff, your prize is on its way—a FREE supply of FALs.

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

THE CORPS BAND

CONTRARY to popular belief, the Band does not spend its time neatly divided between playing at engagements and travelling in opulent luxury between them. Much of its time is taken up with helping to train recruits to march. This task involves half the Band commuting fortnightly between Blandford and Catterick to play at passing off parades. The Band is, like other units, subject to various inspections. The principal one is similar to the FFR inspection and is carried out by the staff of Kneller Hall every five years. In addition there is an annual stocktaking of instruments and uniforms.



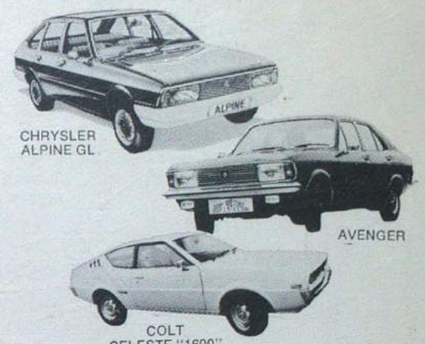
Missing in Berlin

Our photograph shows the display of instruments this year, and a very fine sight it is. Laid out elsewhere were the scarlet tunics, busbies and other accoutrements, which together with the instruments have a total value in excess of £15,000. These, and the music library (on which it is impossible to place a realistic value) are all Corps property.

(No, it was not all there, as the Berlin souvenir hunter wearing a busby, well knows.)

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs
Let's Have That Story!

A TOUGH BREED OF CARS FOR A TOUGH BREED OF PEOPLE...



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Consider the Colt. Tough enough to win the East African Safari in 1974 and 1976. And the Australian Cross in each of the last three years.

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38 HUNTINGTON STREET, ST. NEOTS, CAMBS.

INTREPID BLANDFORD CHILDREN CLIMB ANTENNA TOWER TO HELP SSAFA

AS part of the campaign at the School of Signals to collect articles for the SSAFA November Fair, children in Blandford Camp were given the opportunity of climbing the 70ft high antenna tower for the price of an article for the perfumery and cosmetics stall.

Our photographs show some of the children posing with their certificates of ascent with which they were presented, and two boys making their way round the platform at the top of the tower.

Left: Scott Ratcliffe, son of Lcpl Ratcliffe, Trials Sqn, School of Signals
Right: Paul Saville, son of Cpl Saville, ACC, School of Signals

Left to right: Jacqueline Summerfield and Stephen Summerfield, daughter and son of Cpl Summerfield, MT School of Signals; Jason Brister, son of Sgt Brister, 2 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt; Audrey Davis, daughter of Ssgt Davis, 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)); Dianne Ratcliffe, daughter of Lcpl Ratcliffe, Trials Sqn, School of Signals; Donna Noon, daughter of Lcpl Noon, Trials Sqn, School of Signals

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Christchurch

Left to right: Maj Peter Chaddock, Lt Col Kevin Kirby, Maj Gen Lyon

A RARE moment captured for posterity—two RSRE Christchurch officers in uniform!

On October 28, **Maj Gen R. Lyon, CB, OBE,** GOC South-West District, visited Telecommunications Branch REME at Christchurch. RSRE(C) and Telecommunications Branch work closely together, but serve different masters; RSRE is part of the Procurement Executive—whilst Telecommunications Branch is MOD(Army), but for the General's visit we all donned barrack dress to present a uniform (ouch!) front to the distinguished ex-Gunner.

The picture shows the GSO1(W), **Lt Col Kevin Kirkby,** and one of our GSO2(W)s, **Maj Peter Chaddock,** explaining the finer points of something very technical to the GOC. Clansman? Ptarmigan? Home Brew?

MEDALS WANTED

WAR MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

We shall be pleased to pay the following prices for the undernoted Medals and Decorations to The Royal Signals.

DECORATIONS

Victoria Cross	from	£2,500
Distinguished Service Order	from	£80
Military Cross	from	£25
Distinguished Conduct Medal	from	£30
Military Medal	from	£15

All other Decorations, civil and Military required. The prices quoted above may be considerably increased if full citations, etc., can be given and if the Decoration forms part of a group with other medals.

CAMPAIGN MEDALS AND BARS

'Ashantee Medal 1873'—£50. '1879'—£45. 'Tel-El-Kebir'—£20. 'The Nile 1884–5'—£28. Ashanti Star 1896—£25. 'Rhodesia 1896—£50. 'Relief of Pekin'—£35. 'Relief of Chitral 1895'—£16. 'Defence of Kimberley'—£35. 'Defence of Ladysmith'—£25. 'Somaliland 1902–04'—£25. 'Kenya'—£16. 'Afghanistan N.W.F. 1919'—£7. 'Burma 1930–32'—£9. 'North-West Frontier 1935'—£9. 'Kurdistan'—£10. 'Iraq'—£7. 'N.W. Persia'—£10. 'Palestine'—£5. 'S.E. Asia 1945–46'—£10. 'Palestine 1945–48'—£5. 'Malaya'—£5. 'Cyprus'—£5. 'Near East'—£7. 'Arabian Peninsula'—£7. 'Brunei'—£15. Korea—£9. 'Borneo'—£7. 'Radfan'—£12. 'South Arabia'—£8. 'Malay Peninsula'—£7. 'Northern Ireland'—£10. 'Dhofar'—£28. Army Long Service Medal—£5. Army Meritorious Service Medal—£7.

There are many more Medals and bars issued to the Signals. We are interested in all of these.

We also require Medals to all other Units, Badges, Foreign Awards, Helmets, indeed, anything of Military interest.

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VISITOR BACK ON FAMILIAR GROUND

ON October 28, shortly after his appointment, we were pleased to receive the new Commander of the Training Group Royal Signals, who was making his first visit to the College. But it was hardly **Brig Norman Butler's** first visit, for it is only just over two years since he stopped being Commandant of the College. It was nice to see him back, though somehow we had expected a bit more of a suntan!

In the picture, **Brig Norman Butler,** accompanied by the Commandant, **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** is seen signing the visitors' book of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess.

WELL DONE THE LADIES

Like all other units we were asked to support the Corps appeal for funds for SSAFA. The job was handed over to the Commandant's wife! She decided to make a patchwork quilt and to raffle it for SSAFA and the many other charities we are asked to support. A group of wives, Royal Signals and RAEC, were assembled, dozens of cornflake packets and cotton remnants were collected and work started. Months, and well over a mile of thread later, the hundreds and hundreds of little hexagons had been sown together and backed. It was ready.

Maj Bill Foreshaw, our friendly down-town RAEC fund-raiser, then took over the 'marketing'. On November 10 the Corps Band gave a superb concert in the indoor arena for all ranks and civilian staff in the College. The Director of Music, **Maj Keith Boulding,** was asked to make the draw. The lucky winner was not from the College, but was a near neighbour, **Mrs Tapp,** from Catton. Over £500 had been raised and, on November 17, **Mrs Betty Ramsbottom** went up to London and handed over a cheque for SSAFA for £350 to **Mrs Tighe** on the Royal Signals stand at the SSAFA Bazaar. We were all

THE £500 PATCHWORK QUILT
Left to right: Mrs Betty Ramsbottom (*whose idea it was*), Mrs Annette Elliot (*who provided the expertise*), Mrs Maureen Tapp (*who won the quilt*)

delighted with the success of the venture—perhaps we should not have been surprised at the reply when we suggested making another quilt in aid of new uniforms for the College Band!

CYCLISTS SCORE NOTABLE DOUBLE

Cyclists of the College scored a notable double success in the Army Roller-cycling championships held at the Junior Leaders' Regiment RE, Dover, on November 20 and 21, 1976. Both senior and junior events are judged over two 'distances', on a team basis of 'six riders, three to count'. In the junior team event (RCT trophy) over 400m, College cyclists filled all the first six places; over 1000m they were placed 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Which might be called a convincing win!

In the senior competition (*Soldier* magazine cup), we started with the handicap of having only five riders, but, over 400m they finished 1, 3 equal, 6 and 8; and over 1500m, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11. Details were:

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

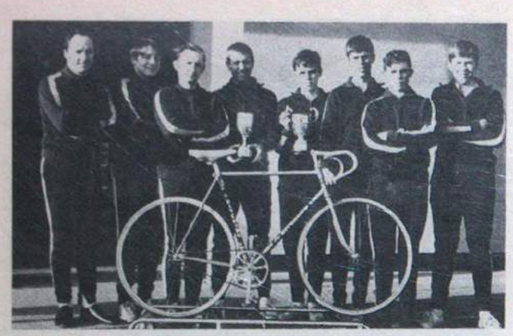
400m: 1, **AT/Cpl Hunt** (16·6s); 2 (equal), **ATs Overton** and **Rawlings** (16·9s); 4, **AT Gibson** (17·1s); 5, **AT Bell** (17·6s); 6, **AT Eeles** (17·7s).

1000m: 1, **AT/Cpl Hunt** (45·2s); 2, **AT Gibson** (47·3s); 3, **AT Overton** (47·6s); 5, **AT Rawlings** (48·5s); 6, **AT Bell** (49·2s); 7. **AT Eeles** (49·6).

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

400m: 1, **Maj Jim Gilders** (RAEC) (16·3s); 3 (equal), **Chris Baines** and **Capt (retd) Alan Green** (17·0); 6, **Mr Munro Grant** (17·1s); 8, **Sgt Chris Muriel** (17·7s).

1500m: 3, **Sgt Chris Muriel** (74·5s); 4, **Maj Jim Gilders** (RAEC) (74·8s); 7, **Capt (retd) Alan Green** (79·0s); 10, **AT Chris Baines** (80·0s); 11, **Mr Munro Grant.**



ROLLER-CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Left to right: Capt (retd) Green, Sgt Muriel, Mr Grant, Maj Gilders (with the *Soldier* Magazine cup), AT Rawling (with the RCT cup), AT/Cpl Hunt, AT Gibson, AT Overton

The 'dark horse' of the championships was undoubtedly **Maj Jim Gilders,** arriving at the College, as Head of Science, only in October, he chanced upon a Cycling Club training session, diffidently asked if he could 'have a go'—and proceeded casually to demolish all the opposition! **Sgt Chris Muriel** is, of course, no stranger to the College Cycling Club. He rode for the team as an apprentice, and was one of the first to be trained by **Capt Alan Green** when the latter took up his present appointment as OIC Cycling.

AT/CPL HUNT IS BEST ALL-ROUNDER

Thanks to the high standards set and consistently maintained by **AT/Cpl John Hunt,** the title and trophy of Army Junior best all-round cycling champion remains at Harrogate for the sixth time in the last seven years. The event is judged on the average speed achieved over four events throughout the season: two 10-mile road time trials and two 25-mile RTTs. To take the title, **AT/Cpl Hunt** attained an average speed of 25·9 mph and in so doing set up a new Army Junior record—a fitting end to a highly successful season during which he was awarded his Army Colours, having represented the Army Cycling Union on no fewer than five occasions.

News from Regiments

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

VALE

I THINK this year we may be forgiven for starting the party season early. For in saying our farewells to **Lt Col Paul Alexander** every department in Verden Garrison had a tailor-made excuse to show their appreciation in true spirit! Indeed, **Col Paul** was even able to bridge the gap between two hectic weeks of farewells during November and the massive follow-on of Christmas parties. His last hours in the Regiment on December 1 were spent playing Santa Claus to those selected for redundancy! We always knew his constitution was robust. His diet on exercise of cigars and oatmeal blocks washed down with the occasional dram showed us that. (Indeed, RHQ were so concerned that he might miss these, a special exercise kit was made up to help him on his flight to the UK.) But from beer with the Squadrons and the Clubs, through Schnapps with all our German colleagues, Hamburg with the subalterns, Dinner with the officers to a tremendous banquet with the Sergeants Mess, he took it all unfalteringly. Here is an account of this evening with the Sergeants Mess: in the Mess which has reverberated to countless cracking festivities in the past but which reached new heights in the atmosphere of this occasion.

Sergeants Mess Jottings by **WO1 (Yohoho) Derek Allen.** Friday, November 19, was, I believe, a unique occasion for the

WO1 (RSM) K. Cheetham and WO2 (SSM) R. Bates welcome Lt Col P. D. Alexander, MBE (*centre*), on the memorable occasion of his dining out

Mess as it was the first time we had ever managed to seat all Mess members. A superb four-hour dinner was followed by a short 'cabaret' provided by each of the Squadrons on the request (or was it directive) from **WO1 (RSM) Kevin Cheetham.** The adjudicating team was **WO2 (AQMS) John Davis, WO2 (QMS) Jimmy Miller** and **Ssgt Mick Bruce,** fresh from a successful season with 'Come Prancing'. After a lot of teeth-sucking or, possibly indigestion brought on by the hilarity, 'This is Your Life' took the laurels. This was presented complete with the CO's wife, **Christine,** then safely back in England, voicing her encouragement to her husband. A masterpiece of communications engineering which, however, should not detract from the side-splitting efforts of the other Squadron ingenuities. And so the evening ended with the Warrant Officers pulling the Commanding Officer's carriage through a torch-lit camp to the Guardroom where he was breathalysed by **Ssgt Jim Griffiths** and thereupon pronounced unfit to continue.

I know that everyone of us realised that this whole occasion only in part repaid the great inspiration that **Col Paul** gave us during his 2½ years in command.

1 SQUADRON SEE CHANGE OF COMMAND

The autumn has seen a considerable change in Squadron Headquarters. **Maj P. C. Pearson** having taken over command from **Maj K. G. Doyle** and **SSM Bill Miles** having taken over from **SSM Colin Harrison.** The new boys had their first opportunity to see the Squadron at work on Exercise Spearpoint, perhaps not a typical setting hidden under the white crosses of umpires, but enough to see the strong spirit and resourcefulness of Commcens Charlie and Delta. Exhibited it must be admitted in vying with Control HQ to show the best films, whilst, however, still maintaining impeccable communications.

BORDER PATROL

The autumn activities for the Squadron began with the task of providing a Border Patrol along the East German Border. **Capt**

1 Sqn Border Patrol. Sgt Don Butchers and 2 Lt John Steed with BFS Officer at a Border Stone

Bill Richard, 2 Lt John Steed and their hand-picked 'Dirty Dozen' enjoyed an interesting break from the routine of Garrison life. The Squadron were proud to wave the British flag in the border area and became well educated on the history of the border itself. **Sgt Don Butchers** and **Cpl Ian Bannigan** led the group in making friends with the local fire brigade. **Sig Jonah Jones** found the local population so hospitable that he has one friend that still expects him back for the next dance.

CHARLIE TROOP UP TO SCRATCH

The main activity for Commcen Charlie has been Exercise Spearpoint. Although this exercise was very slow-moving for umpire communications, the life in the Commcen was never dull. Sunday morning saw the Commcen running through the hilltop mist on an orienteering competition planned by **Y of S 'Woof' Bark** and **Sgt Bob Oliver.** Unfortunately, the result of the competition was disputed by some including **Cpl Dave O'Connor** who claimed his technician team was led astray by the wrong map and direction provided by **Cpl 'Scouse' Hughes.** However, the Commcen orienteering champions were obviously the Combat Radioman team of **Lcpl Paul Eyre, Sig Milton Yule, 'Polly' Perkins** and **Terry Foster.** During the more serious moments of the exercise, Commcen Charlie provided their normal high standard of Bruin communications and moved in record time when required to do so.

Commcen Charlie is sorry to say farewell to **F of S Bob James** who is off to NCS Latina and **Cpl 'Tiny' Blacklaw** who is off to 225 Sig Sqn. New arrivals to the Commcen are **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood, Sgt 'Ginger' Gibbons** and **Sgt Tony Flynn.**

DELTA TROOP HILLTOP REPORT

Delta Troop on their hilltop, which seemed to hold the majority of Royal Signals Germany, were able to boast to the other Spearpoint players that they had seen it all before and recently at that. The German FTX, Grossebaer, proved for them most interesting although some of the Troop did feel that the war was getting a bit close when invaded by a massive German armoured thrust in the middle of the night. On this exercise both the C50 relays were much impressed by Dutch hospitality. Indeed, they have requested that if they have to be captured it should be by the Dutch every time. But back to the Spearpoint war which, for **Cpl Evans'** detachment, was a pretty murky business. After all, he may be forgiven for wondering about the efficiency and speed of the German builders. After three days in the clouds he was absolutely certain that the 300ft DBP tower, 40 yards from his vehicle had been erected pretty silently, just before the dawn mist rolled away.

SPORTS BRIEF TO OUR NEW CO—Lt Col Peter Davies

Soccer? 'Just won the third round of the Army cup, Sir, we beat the Argylls 2—0'.

Hockey? Into the third round, going nicely.

Cross-country? Well, we have won the Divisional cup; we have over 20 runners training under **Sgt Holden** from which to pick for the BAOR and even OC PRI, **Capt Colin Richardson,** is beginning to take on that mean and hungry look.

Determined expressions from the captain and some of the Regimental cross-country team prior to winning the Divisional cup. Sig Bailey, Cpl Wheatley, Sgt Holden (captain)

Basketball, squash? Both teams making good headway in training, we were the Army squash champions last year.

Ski-ing? Most of our Snow Queen places are taken and there is good enthusiasm within the Langlauf team under **Capt Malcolm Emslie** to go for the winning novies' team cup.

Boxing, orienteering? We are in the Divisional boxing competition against 1 KOB in February and that is when the orienteering starts up again. We are the Divisional champions in that as well, incidentally.

Shooting? Yes, our shooting team won the Divisional Major Units cup again last year.

Motor cycling? We are the BAOR champions, through the great efforts of **Cpl Barraclough** of the LAD.

Sub-aqua? They hope to go to Belize in April.

What about the summer sports? We are the Army tennis champions and the BAOR dinghy champions. There are individual successes in golf and athletics, our swimmers only managed fourth in the Division last year but we did have two of the best Army teams to contend with. Oh, and we were bedevilled by exercises trying to get a well-practised cricket team. Is there anything we haven't won that we could have won? Well we were disappointed to get knocked out of the Army cup at rugby, but they had just come back from a pretty heavy weekend tour in Sweden . . .!

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

WO1 (RSM) Mick Jennings presents the Master of Signals with a silver dish

LOOKING BACK

THIS last month has been taken up fully with the preparation for exercise Keystone followed by exercise Spearpoint. However, there was still time to welcome The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO,** to the Regiment on November 12–13. A dinner was held in his honour and attended by all the WO1s of BAOR. The first ever of its kind, to commemorate the dinner night the Master was presented with a silver dish by our own RSM, **WO1 Mick Jennings.**

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Left to right: Herr Meyer, Mrs Maureen Williams, Mrs Madeleine Halford, wife of Lt Col John Halford

WELL DESERVED PRESENTATION TO WIVES CLUB

Casting our minds back to Kohima week, our photograph shows **Mrs Maureen Williams,** wife of **Capt Frank Williams,** holding the silver Kohima Cup, presented by **Herr Meyer** of the of the Commerz Bank Bunde, to the Wives Club whose stall made the biggest profit at the Kohima Fete. The Wives Club thoroughly deserved the cup, having worked every Thursday morning for a long time in order to prepare for Kohima Week.

AU REVOIR AND WELCOME

Finally, we say farewell to our 2IC, **Maj Bill Morgan** who has been posted to the Ministry of Defence. The Regiment is indebted to him for his contribution to the reorganisation of the Regiment. We wish him the very best of luck. We welcome **Maj Peter Jones** in his place and hope that he and his wife, **Judy** will enjoy their tour here.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt Bulford

ALL GO

NOVEMBER has been another exceptionally busy month for the Regiment. 1 Sqn were employed on Exercise Kelpy II; 2 Sqn carried out a number of Iron Division exercises with Divisional units and 3 Sqn have been committed to an extensive KAPE tour. All this on top of military training programme run by the Training Major, **Maj Tony Tregoning,** and his Yeoman, **WO1 Bob Baker!**

The Wives Club have held regular meetings, including a combined evening with the ladies of 2 Bn The Queen's Regt.

The Officers Mess held an enjoyable ladies night, and **Capt John Gout** (RCT), our MTO, announced his engagement.

Our Chaplain is **Padre Joe Bell** (who was a Corporal Clerk with the Cyrenaica Sig Regt, Benghazi, 1949–50 and a Chaplain to 9 Sig Regt (1959–61). On Remembrance Sunday he conducted a stirring service in Bulford Garrison Church, for which the church was packed.

1 SQUADRON REPORT

2 Lt Peter Smith has recently arrived from the RMAS and has been understudying **Lt Sam Sherman** in C2 Troop (Radio Relay).

Exercise Kelpy II required the Squadron to deploy all their own C50 equipment and a great deal of borrowed C41 radios as well. The C3 Troop's (Commcen) equipment and much other borrowed terminal installations were also deployed. All the Squadron's personnel were needed to man Radio Relay and terminal detachments at nine locations throughout Southern England. At the same time 4 RR relays were deployed. Before the exercise began the borrowed equipment had to be collected from places as far away as Colchester, Harrow, Ilford and Eastbourne. During this phase **Sig 'Taff' Hunter** reached the lofty height of detachment commander. Much of this kit was not available until the eleventh hour and crash training courses were required, not only to familiarise us with different radios and installations but in many cases to provide initial training in trades foreign to the users.

Yeoman Steve Walls had the headache of resolving these difficult and diverse requirements and **Lt Sam Sherman**—supported by his 'experienced Troop seniors' provided the radio relay training. **Sgt John Crawford** became famous for his explanation of how to send and receive 'bolts of lightning'. Many detachments spent the week preceding the exercise training at Blandford with the School of Signals. Other detachments married up with 30 Sig Regt at Bulford.

SHERRY AS WELL

Lighter moments were provided in liberal quantities. **Sgt Alan Jepson** was observed chasing rabbits on Watership Down. **Sgt Tom Burton, Sig Tony Wilson** and **Mark (Crasher) Davies** drank the sherry with a **Miss Dunbar,** who owns a radio relay site which has been used by the Corps for at least the last 20 years! **Sig 'Spud' Murphy** proved his worth at PR—he persuaded a local gypsy to lend him a bicycle.

It is rumoured that a special flying squad was formed after Kelpy II. This squad arranged secret RVs in out-of-the-way places to settle ownership questions: 'Yes, that belongs to me, how did you end up with it? Oh! So you own this, do you?'

THEY ALSO SERVE

2 Sqn are still being 'ironed out' (to understand this, refer to opening paragraph), so their activities will be reported later, and 3 Sqn are still 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye' all over Southern England. HQ Sqn are too busy supporting everybody to do anything else.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

The rugby team are doing well. Two XVs are often fielded. 27 Regt RCT have played us too often for their liking but the Welsh Guards beat us in the second round of the Army cup. We went down by 31—6 but it was a very good game. **Lcpl 'Ginge' Doak, Cpls Peter Lytollis** and **'Ug' Higgins,** as ever, played particularly well. The rugby players in the Regiment are sorry to have to say farewell to **Cpl Jack Gibson**—a great supporter and esteemed barman.

The soccer team have had a successful start to the season. Their results so far, in the 1st Division of the Salisbury Plain Services Football League, are:

Played 7 Won 4 Drawn 2 Lost 2

The basketball team were beaten by the powerful Army Air Corps Centre team in the Army cup. **Cpls John Chapman** and **Geoff Andrews** have been selected to represent the Corps versus the REME.

The veteran hockey team, captained by the Adjt, **Capt Martin Wilkinson,** have achieved excellent results. Just wait till our star, **Lt David Proctor,** gets his arm out of plaster, broken playing rugby (!), which has prevented him playing in the Army hockey trials.

FAREWELL

Capt Rob Murray and **Sgt 'Mal' Stevens** of the Royal Australian Signals are about to return 'down under' after three months with the Regiment. Their many new friends wish them *bon voyage*.

Sadly, **Sgt Peter Slavin** has wrapped up C1 Troop (D11s) and his Troop are being dispersed. His expertise will be remembered especially by his many contacts during numerous JOCOMEX's.

Maj Alf Buckley, Ll our (QM(A) pen in hand, ready for action

3 Regt Photoreport by Cpl Mick Hosanah

The 2IC, Maj Hugh Nealon, in the Chart Room

The Adjutant, Capt Martin Wilkinson, fighting the paper war

Capt Ron Knight, QM(T), offers advice to Lcpl McInally and Sig Currell

The 'workers' Mr Bill Tomlin (*standing*) and Mr Ken Roberts

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

PARADE WITH AFFILIATED REGIMENT

EACH year our sister Regiment in the Belgian Army, 4 Bn des Troupes des Transmission, hold a Foundation Celebration Day. As an affiliated unit, 7 Sig Regt are customarily invited to to send a representation to join the celebrations. This year, on September 23, 1976, **Lt Alan Poppleton** led the contingent, formed up under the beady eye of **WO2 Brian Reynolds.**

Lt Alan Poppleton leads the 7 Sig Regt contingent at the 4th T. Tr. Parade at Weiden

A short act of remembrance commenced the proceedings, the main feature of which was a parade in the Sports Centre at Weiden, near Cologne. Contingents were also sent from the German and French Armies to add to the international flavour of the festivities. Following the parade, the participants attended a drinks party given by 4 T. Tr. The day finished with a ball attended by our officer and SNCOs.

PADRE LEAVES

At the end of November the Regiment said farewell to **Padre Roger Clayton-Jones** who had been the Regiment's Chaplain for just over two years. During that time he had identified himself closely with the officers and men of the Regiment and quietly shared with them his faith in Christ. The Regiment will miss the ministry of **Padre Roger,** as he is not to be replaced for some months. We send him and his wife, **Jo,** our thanks and best wishes for their new post at Arborfield.

MEET THE SQUADRONS

This month we take a look at 2 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt.

OC	—	**Maj D. C. Podevin**
2IC and OC Tango Tp		**Capt J. C. Wollaston**
OC Hotel Tp	—	**Capt (TOT) A. F. Dyer**
2IC Hotel Tp	—	**2 Lt K. W. Goodfellow**
SSM	—	**WO2 A. F. Osbourne**
Y of S	—	**WO2 B. K. Burton**
F of S	—	**Ssgt A. Threlfall-Searson**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt F. Black**

The No 2 Sqn of 7 Sig Regt prefers to be known as Commcen Bravo, this is to avoid the implied innuendo. We are, of course, one of the two Main Corps Commcens in this Regiment and as such tend to avoid the limelight by hiding on the tops of hills whilst the more flamboyant and extrovert Squadrons rub shoulders with the Corps Commander and his staff. The Squadron divides itself naturally into two, a complex or switching Troop called Hotel and a radio relay Troop called Tango. Each Troop is approximately 45 men strong. There is a cohesive feeling within a commcen in spite of the mixture of carefully selected and blended tradesmen. The bonding factor is brought about by a common and well-defined task—to communicate. Should any one individual fail in his own particular operation, his error is instantly mirrored throughout the Commcen and further beyond again.

SUCCESSFUL ROAD-MAKING

As a field commcen, our year is built around numerous exercises, the last being Exercise Spearpoint. This was the most important tactical exercise that has taken place within 1 British Corps for some time. Our commcen was tasked with switching both control and tactical communications from a static location for a period of 18 days. Like good soldiers we achieved the aim and with it much useful training. For instance, we worked four quiet radio relay shots to Control HQ over a path which, according to all the rules of analysis, would not go. There was a local theory that suggested we were bouncing our waves off a well-sited and ever increasing pile of Herforder beer bottles—not true. Showing their versatility on this exercise were the line detachment led by **Cpl John (The Red) Marriner.** These unlikely lads turned their hands to road-making and successfully de-cambered a very dangerous muddy bend in our access track. Congratulated on the finished structure and asked if they intended to leave some token signature, possibly engraved on one of the exposed wooden supports, the reply came swiftly back from **Sig Ian Thompson,** 'Oh yes, Sir, we intend to dig a B . . . GREAT hole about here'. The OC moved quickly on.

AU REVOIR AND THANK YOU

Finally, with a turnover of about 30 men a year it is not possible to say more than a consolidated but, nevertheless, sincere goodbye to all who have left the Squadron during the old year. We hope that you will continue to follow the Squadron's fortunes from afar.

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KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

FRESH IMAGE

FROM November 15–19 8 Sig Regt were deployed on exercise Kelpy II, a UK-wide communications exercise sponsored by 2 Signal Group. Anyone who has ever had any association with the Regiment (and who hasn't) no doubt envisages a huge glass building wherein huge instructors force wads of enlightenment into the ears of basic and upgrader students of all trades. This, indeed, was the picture in the mind's eye about Cadre before the exercise started. However, it has now been firmly established that '8' can get out and about and, dare it be said, communicate whilst 'in the field'!

TAVR assistance

Some considerable organisation was required during the build-up to the exercise. We were definitely not going to move our big glass building to exercise location and set it up as a Commcen. Besides which, we could not find a barrow big enough to shift it. Furthermore, with a limited range of vehicular transport at our disposal, it was decided that we would either have to employ 'personal lightweight signalling kit Mk I' (flags to you), or get some vehicles and communications-type gear from somewhere. This untapped pool proved to be a helpful TAVR Regiment who, having just returned from annual camp in BAOR, were good enough to clean, refurbish and lend us virtually all we needed. In fact, 45 vehicles complete with genes and trailers were loaned to enable us to carry out our exercise role. A week prior to the start of the exercise, TAVR vehicles converged on Catterick from Middlesbrough, Darlington and Leeds. A preliminary 'warm-up' exercise was planned with the object of having TA personnel at hand to help with familiarisation of their equipment, wiring, etc. This done, we spent a week working to sort out faults, and servicing the vehicles and equipment. This familiarisation/preparatory phase proved to be invaluable, especially to basic combat radioman trainees who had never seen a C41 station. A further basic requirement for an exercise (TEWTs excluded) is person-power.

Young trainees prove their worth

Our exercise complement consisted mainly, by necessity, of basic and upgrader trainees. A particular problem was the fact that most of the detachment commanders to be were not due to arrive for their courses until just before the Regiment deployed. Didn't they get a surprise! In any case, all were *au fait* with their own roles before moving out.

The available manpower was split into four groups, A, B, C and D (for originality), each responsible for a geographical area. It was very foggy on the day of deployment, and the move to field locations was not without its minor mishaps. However, it says much for the efforts of LAD and the skill of the 'new to the job' Combat Drivers that all vehicles made it, and only two were exceptionally late arriving—sorry to disappoint all the motorway repair services who took on extra staff for this period!

Teething troubles were expected with unfamiliar kit and semi-trained operators and, although this was true to a certain extent, major efforts were made by all to overcome them. Once steam was up, traffic was hammered through. It was a challenge to the supervisors, as one would expect, but they found that young trainees can be quick learners. One basic Combat Rifleman trainee grew so much in confidence that, after two days on the kit, he was telling upgraders where they were going wrong. The trainees also learned what 'sleeping rough' was all about and how to overcome extreme coldness and tiredness. They also appreciated the kind of team effort required if communications are to be established.

Judged a success

We were very pleased to see **Brig Pat Webb**—Commander 2 Signal Group and **Brig Norman Butler**—Commander Training Group Royal Signals as visitors to our field locations. They were pleased with all they saw, and we were pleased that they were pleased. All returned to Catterick okay, the only noteworthy incident being a gene trailer that decided to do a quick left turn on the M1, mistaking a steep embankment for a slip road. A big problem now is collating BERS—'Sorry, Yeoman, write it yourself, I'm redundant!'

TELEPRINTER/SWITCHBOARD OPERATING GROUP

Within the bounds of 8 Sig Regt in the Trade Training School there is a constant hive of activity known as the Teleprinter/Switchboard Operating Group. All Telegraphists who pass out from basic trade training will have spent a considerable amount of their training time 'Within these Walls'.

PORT AND STARBOARD INFLUENCE

In the chair at the head of the group is **Mr John Ring. Mr Ring** joined 8 Sig Regt in 1970, having come from the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate, where he taught electrical and radio principles to radio telegraphists. Prior to that he was a Radio Officer and Purser in the Merchant Navy (Blue Funnel Line). He is a radio amateur—G4EXH. **Ssgt (Y of S) Ray Fisher,** who joined us six months ago from 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, occupies the second desk in the office. Since he arrived he has been kept fully occupied as Mess treasurer (Oh to be a whizz with figures) and assisting **John Ring** with the running of the Group. He, too, adds a touch of nautical flavour, having spent 2½ years on board HMS *Fearless.* **Ssgt Norma Hunter** (WRAC)

Left to right: Cpl Mel Parker (WRAC), Cpl Mike Fagan, Mr Clive Pritchard, Cpl John Moulson, Sgt Joan Baldwin (WRAC), Sgt Carole Mooney (WRAC), Sgt Alex Bisset, Ssgt (Y of S) Ray Fisher, Mr Allen Tibbett, Mr John Ring, Ssgt Norma Hunter (WRAC), Mr Arthur Rosbotham, Cpl Carol Gardiner (WRAC), Mr Bob Allen, Sgt Sally McDougall (WRAC), Cpl Dave Atkinson, Mr Dennis Smith
(*Missing:* Sgt Judy Wilson (WRAC))

tries to keep the balance in the Group by swaying towards the military. However, she is now fully aware of which way to turn for port and starboard. A large part of her time is spent testing both upgrader and basic courses on keyboard skills.

FATHER WATCHES SON

And now to the teaching staff, starting with the keyboard section. **Sgt Carole Mooney** (WRAC) joined us 11 months ago; she married **'Mike'** (of the APTC) last June and now spends her free time working on ways to speed up his move to this area. She is longing to start cooking Sunday dinners and if she can cook as well as she can instruct, all will be well. **Mr Bob Allen,** ex-Royal Navy, says his beard reminds him of his early service days—'hard times but happy' (as he casts a jaundiced eye at the fully carpeted Vimy living accommodation). He has been training Royal Signals Telegraphists for 10 years. **Mr Clive Pritchard** left Royal Signals 18 months ago after 22 years' service and joined us as a civilian. At the moment he is keeping a fatherly eye on his son, **Sig Christopher Pritchard,** who is following in Dad's footsteps and training as a Radio Telegraphist. **Clive** has a peaceful hobby—he breeds tropical fish!

PERSONALITIES

Then there is the T100 teleprinter room, where **Sgt Alex Bissett** instructs upgrader telegraphist courses, also liaising closely with Mike Troop and ensuring that our T100 teleprinters are in a good working order. **Sgt Judy Wilson** (WRAC) is our longest serving military instructor, having been here for nearly three years. She is very experienced in all aspects of keyboard training—we hope she does as well with her driving! She is a keen sportswoman and has represented the Unit in netball, rounders and hockey. **Sgt Sally McDougall** (WRAC) came to us from instructing in the indoor exercise complex a year ago and leaves again shortly to continue her career in 16 Sig Regt. We wish her 'bon voyage and good luck'. **Sgt Joan Baldwin** (WRAC) has just joined us from 10 Sig Regt. We bid her welcome and wish her a happy stay. **Mr Allen Tibbett** is our most recent arrival on the civilian instructional staff, having joined us seven months ago from the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate. Prior to that, he was employed in Commcen Catterick. He is an enthusiastic member of the TAVR, 34th (N) Sig Regt (V), in which he holds the rank of Staff Sergeant. He is also a radio amateur—G4ADT. **Cpl Dave Atkinson** came to us from 24 Airptbl Bde four months ago. He looks after a lot of our overseas students, with the result that his Arabic and various African dialects are improving in leaps and bounds.

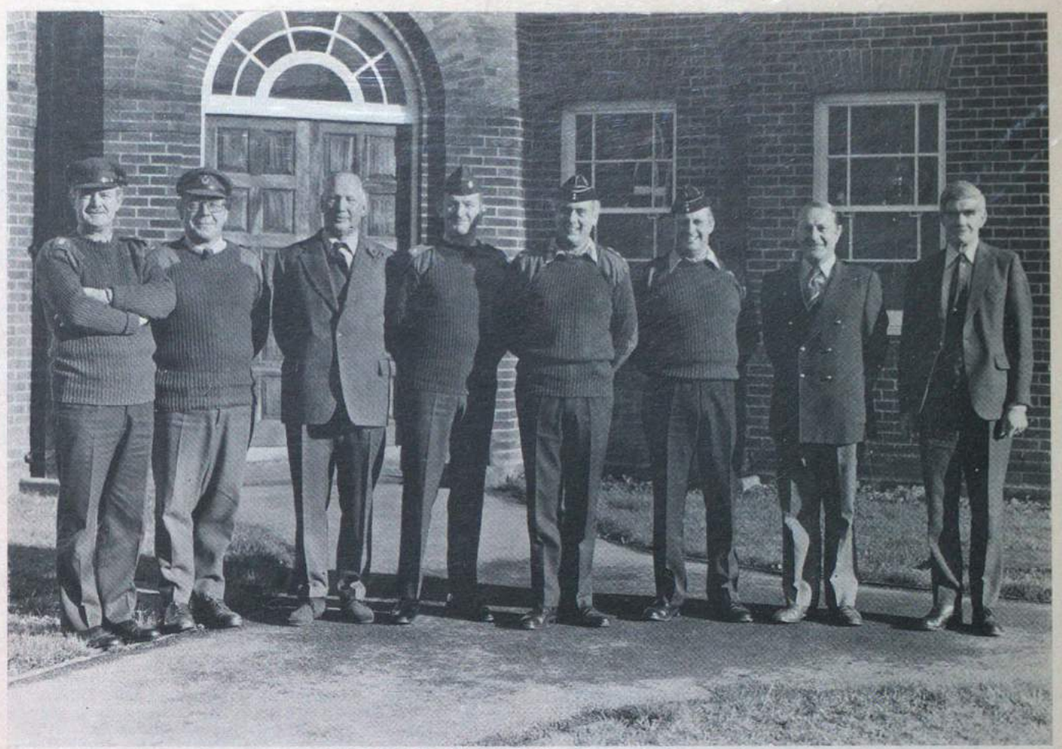
Over now to the switchboard section. **Mr Arthur Rosbotham** joined Royal Signals in 1932, serving until the end of the war and returned as a civilian instructor in 1955, having been employed in most of the teaching groups. **Mr Dennis Smith** has also had a varied career in communications, having served 13 years with Royal Signals followed by 4½ years as a civilian instructor with 3TR, put on a uniform again by joining the RAF and served a further 14 years and then returned to Royal Signals as a civilian instructor eight years ago. He has taught various subjects within the telegraphist trades before joining this Group six months ago. **Cpl Carol Gardiner** is our claim to fame, having already been featured as one of the 'Catterick beauty spots'. She has been with us for 18 months and will be remembered far and wide for her cheerful smile and the confidence that she has instilled into the students who have passed through her hands. **Cpl Mike Fagan,** a veteran of eight months, concentrates on the BSS and Bruin elements of switchboard operating. He also has a cheerful smile, his favourite saying being 'no problem' and he really means it. **Cpl John Moulson** has been with us for just over a year, though we lost him for a while during the summer months—you've guessed it—he is a Corps cricketer, so needs no further introduction. That's us, a happy group—see our picture. If you can face a challenging and interesting job, with no time on your hands, why not come and join us?

THE PIPER OF CATTERICK

Since learning the art of playing the 'Piob Mhor' or great Highland pipe under **Pipe Major Alec Yule** at Harrogate in 1965, **Sgt 'Paddy' Bracegirdle** has been steadfastly putting his hour's practice in, every day. What used to be a quiet half hour during lunchtime is now no longer quiet, the Trade Training School reverberating to the strains of tunes like 'Pibroch of Doneil Dhu', 'Scotland the Brave', 'Highland Wedding' and others which shall be nameless. **Sgt Bracegirdle** has played at several functions within the Regiment, and is currently a member of the Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band. Every Sunday he travels from his quarter in Bedale to the hourly band practice at Newton Aycliffe, a return journey of some 60 miles—dedication indeed. **'Paddy',** who joined the Regiment in March 1975, works in the audio-visual aids department of the school. He wants to know if there are any postings to Highland regiments for class I radio technicians.

MEMORY LANE
Report by WO2 (F of S) 'Nobby' Hill

Since those 'Golden Oldies' appeared featuring **Sig Cliff Spiers** from 1926–35, a feature incidentally that brought **Cliff** a few letters from comrades of 40 years ago, there have been a few



THE EIGHT COLONELS OF THE GREAT EIGHT
8 Sig Regt has always claimed to be unique. It now has more Colonels than Subalterns!
Left to right: CF/2 Annesley, Lt Col Smith (RAMC), Lt Col (Retd) Donald, Lt Col Fitzgerald (US Army), Col Cattermull, Lt Col Young (Royal Signals), Lt Col (Retd) Humphries, Lt Col (TOT) Halsey (TAVR)

enquiries to Yours Truly about other memories of those 'good old, bad old days'. The picture shows a full-page coverage of THE WIRE in February 1939. It was discovered by one of our permanent staff civilian members, **Mr Arthur Rosbotham,** featured in the centre row—extreme right. I always thought that at this time the nation was preparing for war. Chamberlain was about to 'embark' to put Hitler in his place; Germany was arming for the takeover of Europe; and beer was 2d. a pint, but now the truth can be told—and 'B' Corps Signals, Karachi, even had time to play soccer.

Well, 'B' Corps Signals, Karachi—where are you now? Next month—whatever happened to Boys' Company 1945?

'B' CORPS SIGNALS, KARACHI
Left to right. Standing: Lcpl Twiddy, Sig Massey, Lsgt Jarvis, Lcpl Evans, G., Sig Menhenick, McNulty, Done
Sitting: Sgt Smith, Lcpl Hallworth, RSM Bevan, Maj J. E. Paton, CSM Coombes, Lsgt Connor (captain), Sig Rosbotham
Front: Sig Spall and Symond

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY No 3

SGT MICK RAYBOULD has certainly got an 'eye for the ball'. His talents with a piece of wood and a round object are becoming prodigious. His sporting career started hitting the high spots 10 years ago, when he was with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. He represented BAOR playing hockey, the Corps at cricket and in his 'spare' time played squash at Divisional level—'just to keep fit'. He continued all these sports in 18 Sig Regt, the highlight of which was cricket for the Army and Combined Services—4 Gds Armd Bde—when they won the Minor Units BAOR cup in hockey. In 1973–74, whilst at 261 Sig Sqn, the Army could resist his talents no longer and he played hockey for Army teams.

But as far as we are concerned, the highlight of his career has been as captain of the Regimental hockey and cricket teams. For the last two seasons he has moulded together a team fit enough to win the UKLF Hockey Championship, the Army Championship and the League, whilst the cricket team had their best season yet, winning the Army Cup, the Yorkshire Services League and the Northern District Championship amongst others! **Mick** seems to be going from strength to strength—may he continue knocking the shine off the ball, the bails off the stump and the ball between the 'sticks'.

NEW BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The 1976–77 season opened with the formation of a new Garrison Joint Services League comprised of teams from Catterick, including RAF Catterick, as well as Ripon and Topcliffe. A league cup competition is being played off before the start of the home and away normal league fixtures, to enable those units who will be moving to warmer climes to compete before their places are taken by incoming units.

8 SIGNAL REGIMENT—BASKETBALL 'B' TEAM

Left to right. Back row: Pte Lynne Morton, Pte Chris Marshall, Cpl John Robertson (coach), Pte Wendy Hodgson, Lcpl Debbie Easterbrook

Front row: Pte 'Scobby' Waterman, Pte Wendy Stearn, Capt Kim Kimber (Admin Offr 4 Sqn), Lcpl Denise Bird, Pte Angie Sandford

Girls on equal terms

A unique feature of the new league is the inclusion of a WRAC team from 4 Sqn of 8 Regt. The girls form the Regimental 'B' team. They play straight basketball as per the rules with no special considerations. We think this is the first time that a ladies team has played competitive basketball in Catterick. The girls gave a very good account of themselves in the cup competition and, after a shaky first half in which they trailed 18—6, they settled into a disciplined, well-played second period which showed that this will be no easy side to beat, only going down 16—17 in the last 20 minutes, for a match score of 22—35 against the girls.

Old rivals

The 'A' team had the 'luck' of the draw to come up against our old rivals from Helles Barracks, 11 Sig Regt. **Capt Henry Jennings** and his side gave nothing away in a very hard-fought first period with the scores at 11—10 for 8 Regt at the break. The first basket of the second period went to 11 Regt and from then on it was the usual hammer and tongs game which always results from a meeting between the two sides; 8 Regt after a year of building a cadre side now have strength in depth and this showed in the last eight minutes when we drew away to a final score of 35—20. We now meet 666 Sqn AAC in the semi-final.

Farewell to Chris Bond

In December we say goodbye to **Sgt Chris Bond.** Quite apart from Regimental and Corps basketball, **Chris** is a Corps and Army volleyball player and was a member of the Army Cup winning cricket team from the Regiment last season. He will be missed by us all.

The line up

The team now shapes up very well and for those who like to follow the game, our team comprises of **Lt Col Joe Fitzgerald** (US Army), **Capts Terry Everett** and **Mike Crane; WO2 Ray Whiteley** (APTC); **Sgt 'Ginger' Bayne; Cpls Paul Anderson, John Robertson** and **Chris Evis.** New arrivals **Cpl Dave Rudd** and **Lcpl Mick Bohanan** and last but always in there, **Lcpl John O'Donnell** from our Orderly Room.

Stop Press

—— 8 beat 666 Sqn AAC 41—27 !

ANGLING REPORT

Just inside the impressive Entrance Hall to the Trade Training School you will find the Regimental Trophy Display Cabinet. Over the past few years this cabinet has held several Army championship cups (including ones for soccer, hockey, cricket and motor cycling) and Command/Districts cups for up to a dozen different sports.

The anglers of the Regiment have added yet another cup to the display; not one for an Army championship or even a District cup, yet one of which they feel justifiably proud.

Cup success

On October 13, the Regimental 'B' team won the Royal Air Force Angling Association Vale of York League Cup. Competing against nine other teams from RAF Stations at Catterick, Leeming, Linton-on-Ouse and Leconfield, plus our own 'A' and 'C' teams, the 'B' team became the first Army team to win a RAFAA trophy. The team consisted of **Maj Peter Todd** (11 Sig Regt), **Capt Bob Coe, Ssgt Jim Elliott** and **Mr Arthur Moon.**

To round off a successful month, 11 members of the Club were selected as part of the 30-man Vale of York League team in the RAFAA UK Inter-League Championships on October 20. They were placed second in the UK and, of the 405 points scored, our anglers contributed 242 with four of them in the prize money (**Sgt Dave Jennings** being placed second in the individual pools).

Apart from the wintry Fur and Feather League match, our most successful season draws to a close. The results this season include:

Winners Vale of York Mid-Season team championships
Winners Vale of York Inter-Station team championships
Runners-up Vale of York League
Fifth in North Yorks/South Durham Federation team team championships
Second, third and fifth in Vale of York Individual Competition
Second in RAFAA UK Inter-League Individual Pool
Eight anglers selected for an 'Army' team *v* RAF and RN
Eleven anglers selected for Vale of York League team.

Personalities

Sgt Ian Blair (our secretary for the past 18 months) leaves us for the warmer climate (and larger fish) of Hong Kong, passing the secretarial reins in to the capable hands of **Ssgt Jim Elliott.** Our 11 Sig Regt contingent, **Maj Peter Dodd, Capt Henry Jennings** and **Sgt Dave Hooks,** continue to give us their full support. Other regulars have been **Sgt Dave Jennings, Cpl Mitch Johnson, Sgt Eddie Mulvana, Cpl 'Chad' Chadwick** (soon to benefit from visit to the lakes around 1 Div) and **Cpl 'Jock' Hair** (now finished his TE Course). **WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin** (REME) is now a convert—his 3-lb Barbel is still a topic of conversation, his coaching by **Henry Jennings** certainly bearing fruit (or fish!). **Sgt Harry Worthington** coaxed 17 lb of chub from the Swale in the Richmond Open but still found himself tenth in the prize list, whilst **Sgt Brian Aldridge** is proving the dark horse, especially when fishing as reserve!

If you are en route to '8', either as Cadre or a long course, come along and wet a line. Tight lines!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

FAREWELL, LT COL DAVID MILTON

WO2 (SSM) Davies booking out Lt Col Milton from the WOs and Sgts Mess

SADLY, we have said goodbye to **Lt Col David Milton** who has gone to frequent the corridors of power at MOD. We shall remember him for his tireless energy and keen interest in the welfare of his soldiers and their families. His concern for the quality of life within the Regiment was largely responsible for the fine swimming pool and cinema that we now have at Ayios Nikolaos. His services to Scouting were recognised by his being presented with the Bronze Mouflon of the Boy Scouts of Cyprus, a rare honour indeed. We wish both him and his wife, **Jennifer,** a happy and successful future. In the same breath we welcome **Lt Col Roy Ward** as our new CO, and hope that he and his wife, **Margaret,** will enjoy their time in Ayios Nikolaos.

SUCCESS FOLLOWS DISASTROUS DAY

It was on a disastrous day at the end of October that the rugby team of 1 Bn the Parachute Regt had the temerity to beat our team 26—6 at Dhekelia. In retaliation we challenged 1 Para to a sports and games day at Ayios Nikolaos on November 13. The sports played during the afternoon were football, hockey, squash, pistol shooting, and a tug-of-war. As the daylight faded, the population of 9 Sig Regt was treated to some fine music and marching by the Band of 1 Para, under the direction of their Bandmaster, **WO1 A. Ashworth.** The day was rounded off in the Harewood Club where the two sides pitted their wits and skills by playing dominoes, darts, snooker, table tennis, table football, and skittles. 9 Sig Regt won the football, hockey, pistol shooting, darts, snooker and skittles. The squash, dominoes and table football were drawn. 1 Para won the tug-of-war and the table tennis. Not only did we enjoy a good day's entertainment, but we also gained our revenge.

WELL WALKED THE LADIES

On October 29, the wives of 9 Sig Regt and Ayios Nikolaos held a sponsored walk around the athletics track, in aid of SSAFA. The maximum distance walked was 20 laps of the track, and all the ladies completed the course. The promised monies have now been wrung from the protesting sponsors, and the amount collected is in excess of £800 (sterling).

Congratulations to the ladies on a very commendable effort.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES?

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

PA EQUIPMENT FIGURES IN INSPECTION

ON Tuesday, October 5, 1976, the Annual Fitness for Role Inspection (FFR) was carried out by the Chief of Staff London District, **Brig A. P. W. MacLellan, MBE.** This visit was the climax to the preparations and planning and pre-FFR inspections which have been carried out throughout the previous 14 months since the unit's last FFR. Although the unit is widely dispersed throughout the South of England the out Squadrons contributed with periods of instruction on NBC by 1 Sqn and a WRAC PT competition by 3 Sqn.

During the inspection Imperial Service Medals were presented to **Miss E. A. Marks** from Feltham Telephone Exchange and **Mr A. W. J. Andrews** from Bovington Telephone Exchange. At this presentation, attended by civilian members of the Regiment, the Brigadier recognised a neighbour of his who turned out to be **Mrs MacMurray,** our documents clerk, and they exchanged a few words about the fires which had occurred in their area, owing to the long dry spell.

The sky was overcast but the weather held out and the inspection proceeded more or less to schedule. All the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs met the Chief of Staff in the Sergeants Mess and a few memories were re-lived.

Chief of Staff talks to the Regimental PA team, Sgt Hugh MacRae, Sig Dennis Millington, Gary Askew and Stewart Fleming, *in the background:* Lt Col R. K. Nice and WO1 (RSM) J. J. McElvogue

Sgt Ian Perry explains the technical side of the problem to the Chief of Staff

After luncheon in the Officers Mess, the inspection ended with a demonstration of the Unit's public address system, which is used for many occasions in the year throughout the United Kingdom on such events as Her Majesty's visit to Catterick and World-Wide Water-Ski Championships.

On the whole, a successful day for the Regiment, and we can now carry on with our normal day-to-day tasks until the next inspection/visit comes upon us.

HONOURS EVEN

On Sunday, November 21, 1976, the more stalwart members of the Garrison Sergeants Mess sallied forth into the wilds of Wiltshire to play the Sergeants Mess HQ UKLF at soccer. An excellent game of soccer took place before lunch, in which **WO2 Graham (Boots) Griffiths** and **Sgt Charlie (Head Chef) Harvey** scored a goal apiece to enable us to hold our hosts to a hard-fought draw. After the game, the RSM, **WO1 Jim McElvogue,** was heard to mutter to himself, 'This time I am definitely going to hang my boots up'. A good time was had by all and we hope to repay the UKLF's hospitality in the near future with a return match.

1 SQUADRON WILTON SEES CHANGE OF COMMAND

Well, it has been 'all change' for the personalities of 1 Sqn including the departure of our OC, **Maj Dick Carroll,** who has left us for the distant delights of 1 Group—about five miles away! We welcome our new OC, **Maj Charles Lewis,** who has joined us from the ski slopes of Norway. **Sgt Paul Evans** has left the workshop of Wilton for the School of Signals and we wish him and his family every good fortune. Also it is goodbye to **Sgt Joan Baldwin,** who came to us just over two years ago as a lance-corporal, as she makes the move to Catterick where she will be an instructor, and we wish her a happy and successful tour. To step into her shoes we welcome **Sgt 'Pip' Vaughan** who has joined us from NORTHAG.

All in all a quiet month—but who knows what next month will bring?

3 SQUADRON PHOTO REPORT

Yes, we do work—and to prove it we have a photograph! You will note, however, that our three males are not visible. We promise that we will make every effort to show you such a photo if either the subjects work, or the camera immortalises the occasion!

3 SQUADRON SWITCHBOARD GIRLS
Ptes Julie Brotherton, Julie McKenna and Michelle Vowden in action

ACE HIGH MAIDSTONE

Friday, November 12, 1976, was a memorable day for **Cpl Mick Dykes,** when **Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** Commander HQ 2 Signal Group, presented the LS & GC before the assembled station, members and their families. The ceremony was followed by refreshments and the customary beer christening of the cherished medal.

(Photograph courtesy George H. Hollier

Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE, with Cpl and Mrs Dykes

SOCCER—MID-SEASON PROGRESS REPORT

By Sgt Brian Slavin manager/coach

At the half-way stage of the season, we are poised yet again for a successful 'campaign'. As these notes go to press, the Regiment have won through to the final of London District Minor Units cup and are currently lying second in the First Division of the London District League, having lost only one match.

The team also competes in the Hounslow and District League Second Division and are leading the table, having played 9, won 9, goals for 34, goals against 4, an excellent record by any standard.

We have also reached the second round of the Jubilee cup and are hoping to do 'the double' this season. The team consists of the following players: **Sgt Pete Graham, Cpls Eddie Gallacher** (capt), **Davie Cairns, Lcpl Neil (Super Striker) Leyland, Sig Alan Keers, 'Chalkie' White, Gary Askew, Pete Lawlor, Kevin Herrity, 'Jock' Graham, 'Biff' Berry** and **Dennis Millington. Cpl Eddie Gallacher, Lcpl Neil Leyland, Sig Alan Keers** and **Gary Askew** were also chosen to represent the Hounslow and District League in a cup match against the West London Combination; Hounslow won 3—1. I hope to report further honours at the end of the season.

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

THIS month we have requested our detached Squadron in Berlin to produce the greater part of our contribution. Following their article we have a contribution from our walkers, again showing our mobility on the Continent!

3 SQUADRON EMBLEM

It is not generally realised that the Teufelsberg on which 3 Sqn sits and which was created from rubble after the 1939–45 War supports a wide variety of plant and animal life. Amongst the latter are numerous wild boar and we have adopted the 'Wild-schwein' as our Squadron emblem—hence the shield above incorporating, in addition, the Berlin emblem.

PERSONALITIES

As it is nearly two years since the last Squadron contribution it is probably a good idea to follow custom and 'name the management' (or some of them!):

OC	—	**Maj David Mitchell** (Royal Signals)
Ops Offr	—	**Maj John Cane** (Intelligence Corps)
SSM	—	**WO2 Dougie Edmond** (Royal Signals)
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Dave Salt** (Royal Signals)
Senior Tech	—	**Ssgt Alan Tyler** (Royal Signals)

Although in 3 Sqn Royal Signals are in the majority by a short head over the Intelligence Corps we do host a further five cap badges, including WRAC.

THE BERLIN EXPERIENCE

Being 400 miles from RHQ tends to raise certain problems but it also has advantages, the chief of which, of course, is being in Berlin with all its attractions. Some of our members have contrived to stay here four to five years and have only been 'dug-out' and despatched elsewhere with great reluctance.

A MILD LANGUAGE PROBLEM

Although the Teufelsberg is in the British Sector of Berlin the site we occupy is owned by a US Army Field Station. Working alongside the Americans provides a particularly interesting dimension to life in Berlin. The language difficulties are not insurmountable although the food provided in the dining facility makes considerable demands on the British palate. However, in the bi-centennial year now drawing to its close, we have been at the receiving end of some very generous hospitality including the July 4 celebrations, the annual summer picnic and Thanksgiving Day.

SPORTS ROUND UP

Squadron personnel take part in a wide variety of activities including many of the recognised sports (some played, admittedly, in a most unrecognisable manner). These activities are well supported by our wives, some of whom help to make up teams when required. Some of the more notable highlights (and lowlights) of the past four months are outlined in the following paragraphs.

Football

The last two seasons have seen the Squadron team, playing in the Berlin Brigade Minor Units League, end up at the bottom of

the table with a solitary point. This season we have amalgamated with 3 Int & Sy Coy and have already amassed four points. **Sgt Colin Gibson,** as team manager and captain, is well aware of the danger of complacency, and is driving the team to greater efforts.

Squash

Sgt John Sands and team-mates, **Sgts Keith Essam** and **Davy Barrow,** are enjoying a run of success against other Berlin Minor Unit teams. **WO1 Jim Bone** who organised and played squash for the Squadron for the past two seasons and who, together with **Mrs Barbara Bone,** made significant contributions to the badminton and tennis teams, has been posted to Birgelen. We shall miss them both.

Badminton

Probably 3 Sqn's most successful sport. Led by **Ssgt Dave Salt** regular team members are: **Sgts 'Rock' Mead, Ken Riach** and **Cpl Tom Morrall.** With a bit of luck we should win the Brigade Minor Units League this season.

Cross-country/orienteering

WO2 Jim Hardy has devoted much energy and enthusiasm to organising the keen and not-so-keen runners into a cross-country team. After a 'blood, sweat and tears' period of training lasting several weeks the team took part in the Brigade championships and came a very creditable third in the Minor Units, being squeezed out of second place by only two points! In October **WO2 Hardy** organised a successful orienteering competition

attended by teams from 225, 226 and 229 Sig Sqns. Our photo shows the Master of Signals talking to members of the 3 Sqn team (*from left to right:*) **Cpl Julie Gittoes** (WRAC) (*nee* **Marshall**), **Cpl Geoff Taylor** and **WO2 Tom Lackenby**).

Sailing

One of the leading personalities at the British Berlin Yacht Club during the past season (does it ever finish?) has been **Sgt Keith Essam.** Due to his efforts and those of **Maj Roger Richards, Capt David Rawlings** and **Sgt Eddie Harper,** of 229 Sig Sqn, we won the Berlin Inter-Unit dinghy competition in June. Later, **Sgts Essam** and **Harper** won the Royal Signals BAOR individual competition on the Mohne See.

Shooting

Pistol and 0·22 shooting are our main strengths. In the former our team of **Ssgt John Smee, Sgt Pete Westwell** and **Cpl Keith Hall** were all selected for the British team in the Berlin allied weapons meeting this year and performed with great credit. We have entered a team in the Berlin Minor Units 0·22 League again this year. Under the enthusiastic direction of **Ssgt Philip Thompson** we hope to improve upon our position in the league last year when we were runners-up to HQ Berlin Inf Bde.

FOOTNOTE

Sig Ted Poole has been disappointed not to be selected as Father Christmas for this year's children's party (in spite of a well-practised 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'). **Sgt 'Oggie' Hutton** got the vote instead. Rank had nothing to do with it, Ted. It is just that the OC's 'wellies' fit Oggie better than you!

THE REGIMENTAL WALKING SCENE

About 18 months ago 13 Sig Regt decided to form a team (combined with 29 Coy WRAC) and enter the Nijmegen Marches 1975. As training for these marches we decided to enter less-exciting events in the French-speaking area of Belgium. These marches are held every weekend throughout the year and attract a regular entry of approximately 1,000 to 1,500 marchers, covering distances of 10, 20, 30 or 40km. The events are organised by EVG or IVV which are European Leagues for Physical Culture and sponsor many of the 'popular sports'. Each march committee will produce a commemorative medal, certificate and a rubber stamp to record participation and distance in the individual's log book. Badges may be bought from the organisers when certain milestones are reached, i.e. 250; 500; 750; 1,000; 1,500km or when a certain number of marches have been completed, i.e. 30, 50, 75, 100, etc.

Age and sex no bar

Since the early days of the 1975 team the only member still regularly participating is **Sgt Tony McClumpha,** his youngest son, **Simon (3½ years),** manages 10km with mum whilst **Justin (5½ years)** trots round 20km with dad. **Simon** is chasing **Justin** hard on trophies for the youngest marcher in the event, having only started this summer. **Sgt McClumpha** also completed this year's Nijmegen marches as an individual; the only other entrant from 13 Sig Regt was **Maj Richard Davidge** who walked with the BAOR Senior Officers team. Although not in the Nijmegen teams (he chickened out at the last minute) **Sgt Clive Thompson** is another regular, he has logged up almost 1,400km since he caught the bug. Apart from **Diane McClumpha,** other ladies now going down to Belgium include our W/PTI, **W/Cpl Chris Lancaster** and our newest convert, **W/Pte Niki Keen.**

Many other people from the Regiment have been on several marches although not regularly, among these are **Ssgt (SQMS) Jim Preston, W/Cpl Ann Anthony** and **WO2 (RQMS) John Bayne.**

Left to right: Mrs Diane McClumpha, W/Cpl Chris Lancaster, Sgt Clive Thompson, Sgt Tony McClumpha, W/Pte Kiki Keen. (*Front*): Justin and Simon McClumpha

Trophies: Three team prizes and various 'youngest entrant' prizes to the McClumpha boys

Noteworthy spring success

Perhaps our most noteworthy success was in the 1976 Bi-Centenary Marches organised by the USA Garrison in Augsburg, in March 1976. The Regiment having ties with the Garrison, sent down approximately 25 marches (including the **McClumpha** boys) to walk 20km. The round trip was some 820 miles. We were completely out done though as the 'roll of honour' listing teams in order of number of entrants was headed, naturally enough, by Augsburg Garrison with over 650 marchers. The Regiment was at the end of the list of over 150 teams from all over Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland. We were presented with a fine glass vase with the American Crest showing the Liberty Bell and minute men carrying the Stars & Stripes and the American Eagle on the lid. The promise of the celebrations during the weekend was a great incentive when finding volunteers for this event.

All the marches are completely informal and are done at a leisurely pace over some very interesting country. It is a fact that each town or village tries to arrange its routes to include some of the finest views of the area. These beauty spots are often on private land away from the roads so the only chance a visitor has of seeing these sights is to get out of his car and enter the march.

Customary refreshment

Apart from the gruelling events like Nijmegen these marches cannot be considered particularly arduous, but as a very pleasant way to see some fine country, take some clean air, and meet some remarkable people with their hearts on their sleeves. The Belgians in this area are really hospitable towards us and each event is toasted afterwards with litres of Stella Artois, unless, of course, you have to make the 70 mile or so drive back to Birgelen.

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

ARU EQUALS FFR

ONCE again life has been hectic in the Regiment. Our would-be infanteers returned to the fold with calloused hands and well-worn shovels after Exercises Spearpoint and Key Stone. They immediately set to preparing for our ARU, or Annual Report on a Unit, inspection which, for those as yet uninitiated, is the new name for the FFR Inspection. Once this had passed it was off again on Exercise Fox Mike for a week. But no more, Christmas is on its way.

WELCOME VISITORS

OIC Manning and Records, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE,** visited us during his tour of BAOR, as did **Maj Nigel Wood** and his recruiting team from 264 Sig Sqn (SAS). The Deputy Commander Rhine Area, **Col B. J. Wood, MBE,** paid his farewell visit to the Regiment on December 2 and introduced his successor, **Col D. R. MacLennan.** It was a very enjoyable visit and they got the Sergeants Mess nicely warmed up for the next days' visitor, **Col R. H. Gilbertson,** Commander 4 Sig Group, who came to see, in particular, the Warrant Officers of the Regiment.

HAIR-RAISING MOMENTS

The Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** was the inspecting officer for our ARU on November 18. He and his team put us through all manner of tests and exercises during the day, bringing, of course, hair-raising moments. OC HQ Sqn, **Maj John Ient,** when asked how many men he would have on parade was heard to say quickly, 86. To achieve this meant scouring the camp for hours in search of men long hidden in the deepest recesses of the Pay Office, the Officers Mess, the Cook-house, the Sergeants Mess, and so on. Quite a sigh of relief went up when there actually were 86 men on parade!

CROOK SHIELD

At the end of that day the Commander addressed the Regiment on the square and presented the Crook shield to **WO2 (Y of S) Bill Couperthwaite** on behalf of the Regiment. This trophy is designed to encourage a broad outlook on sport in Rhine Area throughout the year and reflect these efforts. Won this year with a total of 248 points, the trophy has at last been wrested from the grip of 21 Sig Regt, who have held it since 1972.

EXERCISE KEYSTONE/SPEARPOINT

On October 22, over 50 men set off for Osnabruck and Minden to act as Infantrymen in these two exercises for three weeks. They divided up between 1 Cheshires and 1 Staffords and played their full part in the 'battles' of the very recently reshaped 2 Armd Div. Being temporary Infantrymen was an unexpected and new experience and it certainly proved to be hard work, but humour survived and the following poem by Ssgt Ray Jones tells the tale:

THE SAGA OF RIFLEMAN JONES

The scene is set, we're on the square,
But why are we assembled there?
Twenty men all warified
Yet apprehensive deep inside.
We did not really have much warning,
Told last night to parade this morning,
The CO comes to give his brief,
And leaves us all in a state of grief,
His final words, 'Don't trifle men,
You'll be employed as Rifle Men!

From there we're off to Osnabruck,
Oh good! A bus and not a truck,
To join the Staffordshire Regiment,
And here's the reason we've been sent,
'Spearpoint think we're volunteers,
They're there to meet us at the gate,
As if somehow, they just can't wait,
To see if Signals men can cope,
As Infantry; we can but hope.

Having dined, we once more travel,
And now the plot starts to unravel,
As reinforcements we'll be used,
We're a little less bemused,
We've been informed that very soon,
They'll issue us to some platoon,
This means that we will all be parted,
We're Riflemen, the battle's started,
Dropping stores at each location,
They dropped us, too, our destination.

For the next three weeks, my mates to be,
Were Four Platoon, 'B' Company,
Sgt Lovell came to find,
What the truck had left behind,
Amongst the sheets of corrugated
He found Staff Jones, who stood and waited,
'Pleased to meet you, follow me',
Now in the dark these chaps can see,
And leading at a steady trot,
He dodged the branches, I did not.

In the dark and ill at ease,
I collided with a thousand trees,
Branches grabbing at my kit,
Weighed a ton, I'm sure of it,
At last, a clearing we have found,
I dropped my burden to the ground,
Here finally in forest deep,
Tired out, Oh please say sleep,
My hopes are shattered with a wrench,
The Sergeant shouts 'Help with that trench'.

Twelve feet by two and half by four,
I dig it till I can dig no more,
It's half past two my arms are weary,
Back is aching, eyes are bleary,
Stop! Do not dig any more,
Get some sleep till half past four,
That word sleep, it sounded good,
And so I sat, where I was stood,
The rain was drenching all around
And there I slept on muddy ground.

At half past four I heard a shout,
'Come on lads don't hang about',
So once again armed with a spade,
I worked there in that hole we'd made,
At half past six as daylight broke,
Someone pulled a master stroke,
A mug of piping compo tea,
Was nectar, to the likes of me,
It gave me strength to carry on
At eleven a.m. the trench was done.

Twas then I met my fellow men,
Just shapes and voices up till then,
Platoon commander, Lt Knapper,
In muddy combats, not too dapper,
Lcpl Trauter, Radio Op,
Whose leaden eyelids always drop,
Pte Bourne who drives the APC,
And the runner 'Eggs Harvee!,
The Sergeant, name of Johnny Lovell,
Nicknamed by the lads as 'shovel'.

On shaking hands in mutual greeting,
Someone said it's time for eating,
The compo breakfast wasn't bad,
Since lunch last day, was all I'd had,
After we had had our fill,
Cleaned our kit and had a swill,
The Sergeant said, 'Don't stand there waiting,
Those trenches all need corrugating'.
And so we worked there all day long,
Making trenches safe and strong.

At dawn next day, under attack,
And from our trenches, firing back,
Two tanks, one scout car we destroyed,
And then pulled back to be deployed,
But before we could depart,
One last task, it broke my heart,
Those trenches that had been our bane,
Had to be filled in again,
So armed once more with trusty spade,
We filled up all the holes we'd made.

And so throughout the next three weeks in
different locations,
We practised different tactics, battle plans,
formations,
But no matter where we go or what time we arrive,
We must dig in, immediately in order to survive,
At one time I was injured, shrapnel in the head,
They took me to the field hospital, where they
proclaimed me dead,
It didn't last too long though, before they sent
me back,
Searching for my Company, along a forest track,
And now that Spearpoint's over, there's one thing
I must say,
That like the Royal Signals, the Staffords earn
their pay.
(. . . But I know we'll meet again some sunny
day. . . .)

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading – boy you sure need sympathy!

STOP PRESS
Triplets born at Wegberg

Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Mrs Trevor Lund** who are now the proud parents of three baby girls! They were born at RAF Wegberg Hospital at 01.00hrs on Wednesday, December 8, weighing 3, 4 and 5lb, and were the first triplets to be born there for 20 years.

GOLD COMSTAR AWARDS

Two Gold Comstar Awards have been won by the Regiment. Once again it has been the hard work of our outlying detachments that has been rewarded. The Dortmund Detachment under **Cpl Barry Dawson** have won their third consecutive award whilst the Rhine Area Detachment under **Cpl Barry Iseton** have won another first. The awards are an excellent proof that although separated from the Regiment the Detachments still maintain the highest standards.

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

VALE

Capt Geoff Tacey

AT the end of November the Corps bade farewell to **Capt Geoff Tacey** as he completed almost 29 years' commissioned service. In that time he distinguished himself in several fields. Half of his service was spent with the Royal Air Force. This enabled him to build up an unrivalled experience and knowledge of the junior service though he would not so describe them. The challenge of supporting flying operations is not widely appreciated and in recent years increased complexity of aircraft has demanded a parallel sophistication in communications. Always prepared to learn and study innovation, **Geoff** provided valuable continuity and shrewd diplomacy in a period of radical change. Typically he was able to move from a position supervising a number of airfields ground communications to taking one over as OC at short notice and the benefits of his intervention can still be seen some time later. At his dining out, appropriately in an RAF Mess, the Station Commander pointed out that no one present had served long on the base.

Any career spanning 29 years witnessed Royal Signals rugby hey-day. International and first-class players provided a high standard and few mere regulars lasted the pace. A tiger in the pack, **Geoff** thrived in such company and became widely known in the Corps. However, in later years particularly his shooting activities came to the fore. A regular attender at Bisley, he achieved high personal results and by encouragement, cajoling, and expert knowledge of the sport, ensured that his unit teams were rarely without prizes. His enthusiasm was carried over to classification shooting and his aide memoire for range control is still in use.

Also well known in both Royal Air Force and Army circles is his wife, **Sue.** A tireless supporter of all unit activities with a background of nursing officer in the RAF Nursing Service. **Sue's** lively interest and sense of humour were valued unit assets. In retirement, we wish them both well. Even so, inactivity cannot be linked with his future plans as several possibilities for a second career are now under investigation. As most are with service-connected activities, contact may not be broken.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

'FLY AWAY PAUL'

THE Regiment said goodbye to our New Zealand exchange officer, **Capt Paul Dale** (RNZS) on December 6. **Paul** has been with the Regiment since August 16, 1976, and from the moment he arrived he became part of the team. He fitted in so well that one felt he had been with the Regiment for years. His comfortable manner and easy drawl, made him good company, whilst his pleasant personality made him popular with all. His pleasant sense of humour was reflected in his farewell speech to the officers of the Regiment at a special lunch, when, having been presented with a silver tray, he attempted to give his interpretation of life in the Royal New Zealand Signals by telling the story reproduced below:

Capt Paul Dale (RNZS) says a final farewell to Lt Col Tom Wheawell on leaving the Regiment to return to New Zealand

'DECEPTION

Brigade Major (Maj Dodson to Maj Dick)

Tomorrow evening at approximately 20.00hrs Halley's Comet will be visible in the area, an event which occurs only once every 75 years. Have the men fall out in denims and if it rains we'll not be able to see anything, so assemble the men in the theatre and I will show them a film of it.

Maj Dick to WO2 Orange

By order of the Brigade Major, tomorrow at 20.00hrs, Halley's Comet will appear above the Squadron area. If it rains, fall the men out in denims. The march to the theatre will be a rare phenomenon which occurs once every 75 years.

WO2 Orange to Sgt Perreau

By order of the Brigade Major in fatigues at 20.00hrs tomorrow evening, the phenomenal Halley's Comet will appear in the theatre. In case of rain in the Squadron area, the Brigade Major will give another order, something which occurs once every 75 years.

Sgt Perreau to Cpl Morunga

Tomorrow at 20.00hrs, the Brigade Major will appear in the theatre with Halley's Comet, something which happens every 75 years. If it rains the Brigade Major will order the comet into the Squadron area.

Cpl Morunga to Troops

When it rains at 20.00hrs, the phenomenal 75-year-old General Halley accompanied by the Brigade Major will drive his Comet through the Squadron area and theatre in denims.'

Paul also presented the Regiment with his Corps plaque and an interesting book on New Zealand, 'Unbiased', said **Paul,** 'because it was written by an Englishman'. We send **Paul** back to his wife with the best wishes of all the Regiment, in particular 1 Sqn, which he at one stage commanded on exercise, and hope we hear from him, from time to time. Incidentally, **Paul** must be one of the few New Zealanders who knows what's worn under the kilt, after his experiences at Herbstwoche. Good luck!

SPEARPOINT

Before you say 'Not again!' I make no excuses for reproducing two poems below. The first is from a regimental source and old members of the Regiment as well as current members will enjoy it. 'Jimmy's Jottings' is a column in the 'Sixth Sense', the well-known BAOR newspaper, representing life in Lippstadt under the title of 'Putting 2 and 2 Together'.

'Twas on a cold October day when twenty-two went out
to play,
With subalterns all full of glee, 'cos this is why they joined,
you see.
To see these lads filled me with pride, and made me glad
they're on our side
Thank God for Sandhurst and Welbeck, providers of the
"upper deck".

But back to Lippstadt, and a check, disclosed lack of QM
(Tech),
Another Empire's been demolished (but Scharfoldendorf is
nicely polished)
Rumours are spreading near and far, we'll all be there for
FFR.

Let's call in now at RCP, a jolly place you'll all agree,
Decisions fly like lead balloons, and have done now for
many moons,
With Ops and Traffic to the fore, deploying relays by the
score.
The shot must work, and work it will (They've put a det
on every hill).

Now Victor are a happy bunch with only minor cracks,
Morale is high and lads are pleased, they LOVE section
attacks.
Their TEVs are spread around the map (the odd location's
wrong),
No one knows who sited them, although the rumour's
strong.

Sierra are on 309, a pleasant little hill,
A super squadron, nicely run by happy Uncle Bill.
But a thought for their MT side, as they sit among the
rocks,
Perhaps in future we should bring our truck and gene docus?

Uniform as usual, have ascended to the clouds,
At least it stops the visitors arriving in their crowds.
And gives the OC Squadron time (whilst sipping cup of tea),
To gather ammunition which he fires at RCP.

And now a quick transition from October to November,
At Hildesheim, the hub of things, perhaps you will
remember.
The trucks are clean and shining, but I'm sure you will
agree
They're nothing like November's heaps that come for PRE.

The next eight days will just fly past, it really is a crime
How hours pass without notice when you're having a super
time,
And whilst the staff amuse themselves with plots and
counter-plottings,
The RCP have pooled their brains—for next week's
Jimmie's Jottings.

See you,
McANON.'

The second poem is rather complimentary to the Corps as a whole even though the particular verse is aimed at the Corps area. It is nice to be appreciated. The author (or poet) was apparently a member of A(OPS) 1 BR Corps.

ODE TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS

In fog and mire and storm and hail
The Royal Signals never fail
Though problems press; again they win
The cry goes up 'the shot is in'.

Each time we exercise they see
That all's as well as it can be;
And Commheads, Commcens, Voice in Bruin
Keep Main informed of all we're doing.

November, Papa, Oscar too,
Get info off when it is due,
and for NORTHAG they have the key—
With 'Tarif out through TRC'.

The trucks are powered and wired for sound,
And phoned and Essexed 'with one bound'
Each splendid work is gently done,
And cheerfully, in rain or sun.

The teletypes they thunder on
Disgorging 'Spearpoints' by the ton,
to update AQ, Ops and PRO
With everything that they should know.

'Ex Ex' and 'No Duff' thick and fast
Consume the hours; until at last
The 'Endex' call goes round the Corps
'Right pack up lads, we've won the war'.

The comms are dropped, but Signals stay
While Main, and Corps Rear stream away
The first men out; the last men back
They set the tone; they clear the track.

With Pinball, Wingnut, Sideline too
The nets and sets have seen us through.
In fog and mire and storm and hail
The Royal Signals never fail.

Alpha Troop at 'the Present' for the Page trophy—The man in front: Sgt Steve Pedley

MORE PAGE TROPHY

Churchill Barracks 'echoed' to the commanding cries of Guard Commanders and the subdued beat (thanks to boots DMS) of marching feet on December 2. It was the Guard Mounting competition for the Page Trophy. The competition was judged by **Maj Dick Drew,** our Ops Officer, **Maj M. D. Parsons, MBE** (QLR) and **WO1 (RSM) W. McLernon** (QRIH). The winners were a guard produced by Echo Troop, 2 Sqn (hence the pun in my first sentence) commanded by **Sgt Cole.** The squad consisted of **Sgt 'Taff' Cole, Cpl Denis Jevons, Lcpls Mick Pratt, Mal Bull, Kev Ward, Bob Mason, Chris Booker, Sig Phil Atkinson, Allan Holden, Walt Drain** and **'Beasty' Clare.**

RUGBY

I wrote this little paragraph with somewhat mixed feelings as the team has done so well, but I regret to report that they were recently beaten by none other than 7 Sig Regt. However, one cannot win all the time, so well done, 7 Sig Regt.

SOCCER

The team is still going great guns but once again lost, and to 7 Sig Regt. Fortunately, a league match, so cup-wise we are still going strong. The team has only lost four games in the last 18 months, which cannot be bad.

BADMINTON

I have noticed a stirring in the office of our new Technical Adjutant, **Capt Malcolm Cherry,** as he prepares the Regiment to enter the Badminton arena. It is rumoured he intends to practice on the German Police. I've heard they are particularly good, so I must let you know about that next month.

'WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE . . .'

We are proud to announce an affiliation of this Regiment to a Troop of Junior Soldiers Wing, Ousten, Newcastle. The Troop will be called Rapier Troop. A plaque is currently being produced to represent the affiliation. The Troop is currently commanded by **Lt Rod Mathieson, BEM,** who is in contact with the Regimental PRO, **Capt John Culbert,** and keeping him in the picture on the Troop's progress. A folio will be made up by the Regiment covering history and associations with Lippstadt, whilst the Troop will be producing a model depicting 22 Sig Regt's role.

FINALLY

To those of you who have crept through the gate without us noticing—welcome! To those of you who have crept out in the same way—good luck wherever you are headed. As the dust of Spearpoint settles and we enter into the Christmas spirit via an FFR by none other than **Brig Hellier,** Brigadier AQ. In an explosion of energy and activity we wish you all, those with whom we work and those whom we support, a very Happy New Year. Remember, if you are bored, unfit but can kick—ask for 22 Sig Regt. We will sort the first two out for you.

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

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A NUMBER of changes have taken place this month with Regimental personalities leaving and new ones taking their place: **Capt John Young** vacated the Adjutant's chair to go to the Staff College, his place is taken by **Capt Sandy Lovatt** who hands over Delta Troop for a slightly busier job! In HQ Sqn **Maj Gil Sharp** replaces **Capt Mike Kenyon** as TOT.

In 1 Sqn we have almost a complete change of command in Tropo Troop. **Capt Andy Whiddett** goes to 10 Sig Regt as Adjutant and he is replaced by **Capt Bob Binham** from 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Troop Staff Sergeant, **Ssgt Roy Brown,** goes to 30 Sig Regt and he is replaced by **Ssgt Duggie Stewart.**

2 Sqn loses **Lt Moray Martin-Rhind** to 216 (Para) Sig Sqn. His place is taken by **2 Lt Steve Heath** who has had the usual junior officer's initiation to his first regiment. **Steve** is now well versed in the intricacies of blue bag emptying, swill removal, spud bashing and the handling of recalcitrant soldiers of below average quality in the form of **Sig Barber** (ably played by **Lt Peter (Baby Face) Day.** Also in 2 Sqn **WO2 (SSM) Bob Swaine** goes to the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate and his place is taken by **WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Jack** who takes up the appointment on promotion having been SQMS of 1 Sqn.

Postings In: **Maj Sharp, Capt Binham, 2 Lt Heath, Ssgt Stewart, Sgt Martin, Cpls West, Turnbull, Lcpls Ormond, Arnold, Chittenden, Sig Fulker, Richardson, McQuire, Skelly, Kittrick, Teare, Nobbs, Humphries, Lewis** and **Parker.**

Postings Out: **Capt Kenyon, Lt Martin-Rhind, WO2 Swaine, Ssgs Brown, Ssgt (Y of S) Watson, Sgt Sly, Cpls Garnett, Mizzen, Langley, Foy, Sigs Lane, Tweedlie, Young, Chalkey, Rixon, Alcock, Bennet** and **Hazel.**

CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

The team gained a 'first' for the Regiment by qualifying for the BAOR finals to be held in Detmold on December 15. The team came runners-up to the dominant athletes of 21 Sig Regt in the Rhine Area championships which were held at Viresen over

a long and enduring course. In the Rhine Area League we are in a creditable fifth position behind 21 Sigs, JHQ and RAF's Wildenrath and Bruggen.

The team would like to thank **Mr Martin-Rhind** for all the hard work that he has done for the team whilst he was here. We are now in full training for the BAOR finals and in the next report we hope to bring you the results.

SOCCER SCOREBOARD

This year our bid for the BAOR and Army cups are going very well. The first game was scheduled to be against Dusseldorf Station but they could not raise a suitable team so they conceded. Our next was against 3 BAPD here at Francisca Barracks. No comment on this game as the 7—1 scoreline says it all. This was followed by another home game against 21 Sig Regt. This was a very entertaining match in which our forwards put up a good display putting four past the goalkeeper. This included a hat-trick by **Sgt Pete Campbell** and a goal by **Sig Tony Horan.**

The next round took us away to 2 Armd Engineer Regt which was another 7—1 victory. We are now scheduled to play the Queen's Own Hussars at home in the quarter-finals on December 11. Watch this space for more news next month!

RESULTS

First round	*v*	Dusseldorf Garrison	Home	Conceded
Second round	*v*	3 BAPD	Home	7—1
Third round	*v*	21 Sig Regt	Home	4—0
Fourth round	*v*	2 Armd Engineer Regt	Away	7—1
Quarter-finals	*v*	QOH	Home	2—0

P.S. Best wishes to **Cpl John Burgess**—hope you get better soon.

Col H. W. F. Klauk (Commander NSSG) presents WO1 H. Griffith (WRAC) with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

WO1 GRIFFITH (WRAC)

November 4, 1976, marked a rather unique occasion for the Regiment with the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO1 Hilda Griffith** (WRAC), our Signal Centre Supervisor in NORTHAG Sig Troop WRAC.

LS & GC awards are not perhaps as common in the WRAC as in other Corps, and in this particular case, the presentation was even more unique in that the medal was presented by our Commander NSSG, **Col H. W. F. Klauk** (German Army). The Commander, who takes a keen interest in the girls under his command, considered it an honour to be invited to present the medal.

WO1 Griffith is well known to many members of the Corps, having spent nearly all 20 years' service with the Corps. She has spent tours with 242 Sig Sqn and Scottish Command Sig Regt as well as 10, 16, 18 and 28 Sig Regts. In the latter case it is her second tour with the Regiment. She has also spent some time at Catterick, both under training and as an instructor.

PARACHUTING CATCHES ON

During a break between exercises 28 Sig Regt continued on their new-found sport. **2 Lt Don Steele** led a merry band of people willing to risk their necks (rather than having their arms twisted), on a new experience for all of them save **Sig 'Biff' Bailey,** a man of great experience (relatively speaking!). Those who took part were: **Sig Mick Barber, Paul Bailey, John Davies, Dave Faulkener, 'Geordie' Hagan, Kev Hunter, Bernie Hurst, Nick Norwood, Steve Potterton, 'Jock' Reith, 'Wiggy' Wigham** and **'Titch' Rixon.**

Things progressed very slowly at first because of the terrible weather. High winds and low cloud delayed the great event—our first jump, but inevitably the day came. That night was spent in the club bar swapping war stories. From there things proceeded much more quickly with most getting 12 or more jumps in during the fortnight.

One notable exception was the instance of **'Wiggy' Wigham.** On his second jump he decided to pioneer a new style of PLF. None of these backward rolls for him. No, our hero tried a one-legged stand up. Our hero is currently in the UK on sick leave nursing his broken leg! In all, 11 of the course completed 138 jumps and, generally speaking, had a great time that will provide a few good tales in years to come. Since then quite a number of our course as well as previous courses have returned to Lippespringe to chance their arm again. This sport is really catching on at '28', with many more applying for the first course of next year.

Note: Congratulations to **Lt Peter Day** on getting his Cert B and **Sig 'Biff' Bailey** who is due to get his soon.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

ON SAFARI

SINCE joining us in October we haven't seen a great deal of 1 Sqn. Now their latest ruse is to take a six-week holiday in Kenya under the dubious name of Exercise Swift Eddy—a likely story! To be serious though, rumour has it, they are working quite hard over there. We will, no doubt, learn more about this adventure when they return in late December (that is if they can remember where Blandford is). This latest holiday tour to Kenya is obvious proof of the success of the amalgamation of the two famous tour operators—14 and 30 Sig Regts. For those not fortunate enough to be included on Exercise Swift Eddy, the firm planned a little jaunt on 'The Plain' called Kelpy.

A VAST EXERCISE

Elements from all Squadrons spent most of the month of November in preparation for and in the execution of Exercise Kelpy II; that vast exercise which covered almost the entire UK with HF and radio relay communications. Great fun was had by all participants, amongst them the Line Detachment, who came under **Sgt 'Spud' Taylor.** They managed to lay 4 cable miles of 10 pairs in near record time. The whole exercise lasted two weeks, including setting up. Radio Relay detachments from VHF Troop were working alongside men and equipment from many other units, including 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt and 8 Sig Regt.

Accommodation was in the famous 'Carter Barracks', Hilton, the site of which brought tears (of joy?) to the eyes of some of the older members of the Squadron. Horoscopes predicted 'difficult communications', but this did not prove true. RADCON always busy and efficient, was run by **Lts Tony Wood** and **John Fletcher,** on the basis of two lieutenants making a major (disaster?). The D11 Detachments from the School of Signals showed us some interesting wrinkles in the operation of this equipment, and the blue of 38 TCW RAF with their famous mushroom badge added a splash of colour to the proceedings. We were visited by the SO-in-C at Bulford, where 30 Sig Regt manned Commcen Lima, set up a Radio Relay site and also two HF sites.

HELLO FROM 1 SQUADRON

Ssgt Barry Brown (acting SSM) is now doing his fourth FFR unaided. We are glad to inform our readers that he has stopped talking to himself but we are now concerned, as he has occasionally been seen smiling (proof, if any were needed) that he is near breaking point.

NEW MANAGEMENT FOR 2 SQUADRON

At the beginning of the month, 2 Sqn said goodbye to **Maj Warren Armstrong,** who goes on to higher things within the Regiment, and the Squadron welcomes their new OC, **Maj Owen Lewis,** and his wife, **Sherry.** We all wish them well for the future.

LOMBARD RAC RALLY 1976

VHF Troop were asked to provide communications for the Worcham and Puddletown Forest stages of the 1976 RAC Rally—What a day! The communications were 100 per cent success but the weather wasn't. In fact, the stages were cut short by the Rally organisers because conditions got too rough. The lads had quite a good chance to see the action and **Sig 'Treacle' Thompson** was probably in the best spot, right at the start of the second stage. The prize of the day went to **Sig 'Brummy' Jordan** for getting the wettest but still managing to retain his sense of humour (he was actually caught steaming at one stage).

News from Squadrons

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

THE FINAL CONTRIBUTION

Reorganisation

ON December 1, 1976, 4 Gds Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn disappeared from the Army's order of battle and the unit reorganised into 4 (Task Force) Sqn of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Squadron will now provide two field headquarters, one for Task Force Charlie and the other for Task Force Delta. On disbandment of the 4 Gds Armd Bde, the personality list was as follows:

OC	—	**Maj R. F. Maynard, MBE**
2IC	—	**Capt D. S. McLuckie**
Com ns Offr		**Capt A. E. Truluck**
Adjt	—	**Capt W. G. Northwood** (Welsh Guards)
OC 'A' Tp	—	**2 Lt R. Baxter**
OC 'B' Tp	—	**2 Lt S. W. Jones**
MTO	—	**Capt BEM Thomson, BEM** (Grenadier Guards)
QM	—	**Capt H. F. Groves** (Irish Guards)
SSM	—	**WO2 W. Didon**
RQMS	—	**WO2 J. Haig** (Coldstream Guards)
F of S	—	**WO2 J. Finney**
Y of S	—	**WO2 J. M. Creevy**

THE DISBANDMENT PARADE

In sharp contrast to the almost apologetic disappearance of 12 Mech Bde, the disbandment of the 4 Gds Armd Bde was marked by a major parade held in York Barracks, Munster, on October 1, 1976. Guards Brigades have been in existence almost continuously since 1695 and 4 Gds Bde was raised in 1914, so it was appropriate that the disappearance of the Brigade should be accompanied by the pomp and ceremony traditionally associated with the Household Division.

The parade comprised of the Brigade staff, the 1st Bn The Irish Guards, representative elements of all units in or in support of The Brigade, the Corps of Pipes and Drums of the Irish and Scots Guards, and the Band of the Scots Guards and the Alemain Staff Band. The representative element from the Brigade Signal Squadron was five command post FV 432s.

The salute was taken by the C-in-C BAOR, **Gen Sir Frank King,** and among the spectators were the Corps Commander, most of the GOCs and Brigade Commanders in BAOR, the Major-General the Household Division and many previous commanders of the Brigade. The senior spectators from the Corps were the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen Sturge,** and CC R Signals, 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig Gittins.**

The C in C inspected the parade travelling in a Land-Rover driven by **Sgt Eddie Winterburn** of the Squadron. A drumhead service then took place. The Brigade Staff and Irish Guards then marched past in quick time and subsequently advanced in Review Order. After the C-in-C had addressed the parade, the Brigade flag was lowered for the last time and the 1st Bn The Irish Guards marched off parade to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne'. 159 (Colenso) Bty then fired a 17-gun cannonade, after which the representative elements drove past the saluting dais. The drive-past was led by the Brigade Commander, **Brig H. D. A. Langley, MBE,** travelling in his own command post FV 432 followed immediately by the other four Squadron APCs commanded by the Squadron Commander, the Brigade Major, the DAA and QMG and OC 'B' Troop. The parade ended with a fly-past by the helicopters of 662 Sqn AAC trailing the Household Division colours of blue and maroon.

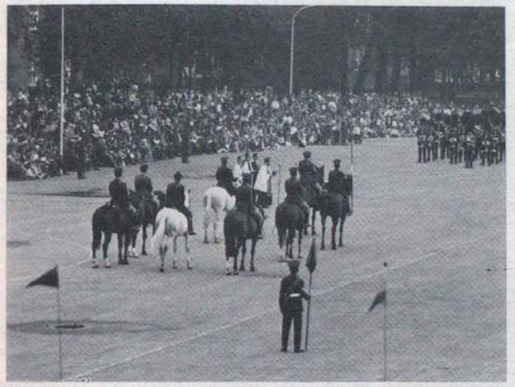
It was a splendid parade much enjoyed by spectators and participants alike, but it was also a sad and moving occasion for all those in, or associated with, the Brigade.

The C-in-C BAOR inspects the parade accompanied by the Brigade Commander. Here he is seen passing the five FV 432 from the Brigade Signal Squadron and their crews

Brig H. D. A. Langley, MBE, leads the drive-past followed by the other four FV 432s from the Squadron

(Photograph courtesy of PR HQ BAOR)

The I Bn Irish Guards march past the saluting dais in quick time



The drumhead service watched by the Brigade Staff with the band of the Scots Guards in the background

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTOR

CPL JIM COLLINS has been with the Squadron since July 1975. He is a Data Telegraphist by trade and as such is employed in the Commcen when on exercise, however, during the short periods spent in barracks he is employed as the Courses NCO. Since joining the Squadron he has spent five weeks in Cyprus and organised his own adventure training exercise in Scotland, he has represented the Squadron in shooting and tug-of-war. Prior to joining 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn he has served with the Junior Leaders Regt, 14 Sig Regt, 225 Sig Sqn and 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG).

TO AND FRO

Since the last WIRE notes were written, members of the Squadron have been on the move to some interesting places, to do something different. Returning from Ireland were **Cpl 'Ginge' Turnbull, Lcpls Ray Haury** and **'Spud' Duddell,** and **Sig 'Luigi' Scowcroft** and **Sean Wratten.** All enjoyed their detachments, even though the work was arduous and somewhat unusual. Just off to Ireland is **Lcpl Dave Silk** and **Sig 'Chippy' Wood,** all set to enjoy their six-week detachment.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK

Cpl 'Spud' Murphy went further afield, to Australia on Exercise Long Look. In exchange we welcomed **Sgt Geoff Sizer,** who during his stay has managed to take part in various exercises, visiting Germany and Scotland. For a break he also paid visits to the School of Signals and the Trade Training School. He has also learnt a few interesting facts, one that will take some forgetting was when he discovered the hard way, that the annual gassing is a bit different from the Australian version, however, **Sgt 'CD' Clark-Darby** does tend to use CS pellets like they are going out of fashion.

PENNY PACKET

To confuse our movements clerk, **Lcpl 'Ziggy' Gray,** even more, the OC, **Maj R. B. Smith,** introduced Exercise Penny Packet. The general idea is that members of the Squadron, in parties of four or less, plan and complete their own adventure training exercise with the minimum of assistance and supply all funds themselves. Sounds easy, till one discovers just how much work is involved (especially if going abroad, then it is a case of 12 copies of this, plus one extra for, and etc.). The first off on 'Penny Packet' were **Cpl Jim Collins, Lcpls Pete Bensley** and **Dave Horne** and **Sgt Geoff Sizer** an Australian observer. The party went to Loch Ness on Exercise Nessie's Nest. The aims were simple, photograph wildlife, but in practice, one of the most difficult things they ever attempted. In fact they soon found getting wildlife to pose was practically impossible. Still they did manage to get some photographs of deer and seal.

INTERESTING WRECK

'Nessie's Nest' was hotly followed by Exercise Breda Hunter, This time it was the turn of the RQMS, **WO2 John Smith, Lcpl Dave Daniels, Sig Tony Knight** and **Cfn Duncan Vavangas.** They went to Oban on the west coast of Scotland, the aim of 'Breda Hunter' was to dive on the wreck of SS *Breda* (sunk during the war). Success was finally gained on the last day, when they discovered the wreck to contain aircraft, trucks, gas masks, left-footed sandals, etc. (in fact, a sort of underwater Aladdin's Cave for QM staff).

Future 'Penny Packets' are planned to visit Gibraltar and Andorra, while the Squadron have arranged two adventure training exercises to Canada and Norway (rumours have it, that Thomas Cook Ltd are planning a merger with our movements clerk).

DOING HIS THING

Also to go to Scotland was our Yeoman, **WO2 Bob Burrows,** after weeks of training he disappeared to take part in the 'Karrimor International Mountain Marathon'. After doing his radio-orienteering-mountain goat bit, he spent the following week limping around SHQ in a tracksuit (complete with large 'Mountain Marathon' badge) asking all in sight, if they had seen him on television (it seems nobody here watched Nationwide on October 26, if anyone did, and saw an orange jungle-type hat in a crowd scene, please let our Yeoman know).

After recovering from this ordeal, in an attempt to install the joys of leaping around the countryside clutching map and compass, the Yeoman organised the Squadron's first inter-Troop orienteering competition. Sadly, it is also the last, as the Yeoman was beaten into second place by **Sig 'Mick' Lee-Hanson,** and now flatly refuses to organise another.

RNSC VISIT

For a change, in November somebody visited us. The Royal Naval Staff College, sent a party of 80 students to be shown round a demonstration of a Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron deployed in the field. The only problem that occurred, was when a certain member of the Squadron was not sure, whether to start his introductory lecture with good morning gentlemen or 'hello, sailors'. Otherwise the demonstration went very well.

AND TO DECEMBER

With Christmas imminent, the Squadron is settling down to begin the normal round of dances, parties, etc. Sadly, at this time we have to say farewell to the Brigade Commander, **Brig P. M. Welsh, OBE, MC,** and we look forward to welcoming **Brig R. B. MacGregor-Oakford, OBE, MC,** to the Brigade. We have also to say farewell in December to **Capt W. V. Legge** (Royal Signals), **Capt A. J. A. Hickson** (RCT) and **Ssgt Pete Fowler** (RCT), and welcome to the Squadron **Sgt Allan Liddle** (RCT).

We would also like to end these notes, by wishing all members of the Corps past and present, a Happy New Year.

7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 37

THE PAST YEAR IN RETROSPECT

THE year 1976 was a busy one for the Squadron, it saw the arrival of a new Squadron Commander, **Maj Roger Thompson,** a new OC 'A' Troop, **Lt John Macfarlane,** and a new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Tony Perkin.**

By March, the exercise season was in full swing with the OC exercising the Squadron, the 2IC, **Ruairidh Rutherford,** exercising his bank account on his growing twins, the Comms Officer, **Capt Chris Nind,** exercising his dog, OC 'B' Troop, **2 Lt Peter Walker,** exercising his sleeping bag and the Adjutant, **Capt Denis Bentley** (LG), exercising his height. During Exercise Flying Falcon some changes occurred in the Squadron, green 'wellies' and BD trousers were out! and **Ssgt Gordon Hardaker,** of Harrogate fame, gloated all the way through the exercise. **WO2 (Y of S) Dave Snowden** dreamt of winning at Gleneagles, **Ssgt (Y of S) Dick Palmer** blunted his telephone finger and **Lcpls Dick Davies** and **Kenny Wynder** just dreamt! **WO2 (RQMS) Harry Emraz** put on his combat kit for the first time for 13 years (it still had the shelf creases in) as he had to stand in as RSM and come on exercise while the Squadron awaited the arrival of **WO1 (RSM) Tony Perkin.**

(Photo courtesy PR, HQ 1 Div)

One of the main exercises this year was Grosser Baer which was a German FTK, where the Brigade acted as the enemy. Our photo shows Lcpl Rutland with some of the German players.

GOOD SPORTING RECORD

The year in general has been very successful and the Squadron have achieved good results both on exercise and in barracks. On the sporting line the athletics team won the Page trophy and the 1 Div Minor Units competition. The soccer team, under **Cpl 'Jock' Letford,** were runners-up in the 1 Div Minor Units League 1975-76 and the rugger team narrowly missed the chance of winning the 1 Div Minor Units cup this season.

UNPLANNED ANGLING SUCCESS

Flotation training this year caused some alarm as one of the 432's tried an underwater crossing of the Weser, no one was hurt; however, the vehicle did catch some fish. One of the main exercises this year was Grosser Baer which was a German FTX, where the Brigade acted as the enemy. Our photo shows **Lcpl Rutland** with some of the German players.

BRAVO TROOP NEWS

Bravo Troop have, as ever, been in the thick of things again this year with no less than 13 exercises. The 'liney's' under **Sgt Sid Thompson** must have set a record for the amount of cable laid and recovered (well, most of it anyway!), with every man and his dog wanting access to Bruin. **Sgt Thompson's** other noteworthy achievement this year is managed to get stuck on a level crossing with both gates shut in front of and behind him on Exercise Spring Sample. The only damage sustained was to the gate and his nerves as he reversed through the gate when he saw the train coming!

ALL TECHNICAL PROBLEMS SURMOUNTED

The Technicians, too, have had a busy year utilising their technical skills changing torch batteries for officers; fixing a multitude of cassette-recorders, record-players and, every now and then, a C42. On Exercise Summer Sales **Sgt Steve Jones** showed us all how to cut through live power cables without losing you head—finger, yes; head, no! **Ssgt 'Mal' Palmer** was presented with an interesting problem at Echelon when confronted with a cavalry officer carrying a broken C42 which, it was claimed, was broken. When asked what he thought the problem was, he replied he wasn't sure but knew it was not the fuses as he had taken each fuse out, turned them around and put them all back in again!

BAVARIAN INTERLUDE

One of the year's highlights was the Troop summer camp at Steibis in Bavaria which gave mainly the single soldiers the opportunity to excel at all things physical. The programme included canoeing, grass-ski-ing, abseiling, hill-walking and a determined effort to locate and drink dry the best pub in the neighbourhood. **Sgt 'Lenny' Rowland-Jones** took to canoeing very quickly and soon mastered his capsize drills which he demonstrated to all again and again, and yet again (with minor variations)! Hill-walking did not turn out to be very popular and the only way to maintain morale was to pick a mountain with a pub on top. Unfortunately, Recce had slipped up again and there turned out to be another pub halfway up—those of us with weak wills inevitably succumbed and never reached the top! (No names, but **Sig 'Andy' Gordon** and **Ian Coppin** know who I'm talking about.) Have you heard the one about the officer and the lineman who decided to drive 200km to Nürenburg to watch the German Grand Prix only to find on arrival it was at the Nürburg Ring 300km away?

The present sees us preparing for our annual FFR which, of course, will be up to our normal high standard.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

EXERCISE TARTAN RAT

Our fearless and intrepid driver, Sig Richi Price, displays his trophies

EXERCISE TARTAN RAT

Soltau Station Sub-aqua Club has been running for 18 months and this was the second major diving expedition carried out by the club (the first being to the South of France). The original expedition had been planned to take place in Sardinia but this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to clearance problems. Thus Exercise Tartan Rat was planned and executed during the period March 31 to April 14 at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland.

The *aim* of the expedition was to upgrade novice divers to BSAC III standard and to cover briefly the simpler aspects of marine biology, boat handling and the planning and execution of an open-water dive.

TAVR base

The expedition was to consist of 10 members of SSS—Aqua Club who, it was thought, would most benefit from the opportunity to dive in Scapa Flow. Unfortunately, no time was available for recce and the first day of the expedition was set aside for this purpose. Advice was taken from the Coastguards, local divers and the BSAC. The TAVR Centre at Kirwall on the Main Island was selected as the expedition base.

The party was accommodated in the TAVR Centre at Kirkwall in barrack huts.

The expedition travelled by Land-Rover (two-one with a trailer to facilitate movement of diving equipment). Although the club has a basic pool of equipment, to ensure the success of the expedition it was thought necessary to obtain further equipment from the sub-aqua training pool. The club is most grateful for this loan as it undoubtedly added to the success of the expedition.

'MESS' REPORT

Having looked through back copies of THE WIRE we are unable to find a mention of the 'red rat Sergeants Mess' notes. It would be too difficult to make a comprehensive run-down on all our past activities but it is worth a mention that we are now under the management of our fourth RSM this year.

Our latest victim is **WO1 (RSM) Tony Perkin** who, although having been with us for five months, has made an impression! Especially on the SNCOs of the Squadron who were on the parade square at 06.55hrs for their first autumn drill parade. One result is that **Sgt Andy Smith** and **Ssgt Jim Palmer** (5 Innis Gds) cannot now say they haven't drilled a squad since 1961. Our most recent events in the Mess include the dining-in of the Brigade Commander, and RSMs. I must mention the living-in members red rat monthly diners club amiably run by **WO2 Vic Finch** (REME), one of our Air Sqn members.

Our Autumn Ball was a great success having started off as a Spring Ball! We had to hold it in Edeka Hall as we sent an invitation out to our OC and the last and only time he was invited to the Mess resulted in a very large hole appearing in the wall after he demonstrated how to do a scrum down.

The RSM has obviously got a fettish on Regimental dinners as he was not satisfied with only using the Mess, he organised one out in the field on our last exercise. Unfortunately, a detailed account of this cannot be remembered by any who attended, but **Sgt Len Rowland-Jones** has made himself scarce whenever the RSM shows up. (We would be grateful if any reader has a set of false teeth to send for **Sgt Sid Thompson.**) Even though the RSM hasn't 'yet' got an outside telephone in his office he has managed to produce an automatic 'autumn leaf' sweeper for a clean impression on our annual admin visit.

To end our annual report we would like to wish all members of the Squadron, past and present, a prosperous New Year.

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn,
B.F.P.O. 1

VISIT TO 248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON BY THE CONTROLLER DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Group Capt P. L. T. Owen (RAF), Controller Defence Communications Network, visited Hong Kong at the beginning of November. While he was in the Colony, he called in at the Kowloon Communications Centre to present a Silver Comstar Award. As a memento of his visit he was given a model of the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu. The photograph shows Sgt Geoff Battisby, Sig Kulbahadur Bura, and WO2 (Y of S) John Lovell chatting to the Controller

British Forces HQ
& Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 1

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj G. D. Birch** (Gurkha Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt R. C. Meyer** (Gurkha Signals)
Admin OFFR	—	**Maj J. B. S. Cottam** (RA)
QM	—	**Capt P. Clifford** (Coldm Gds)
RSM	—	**WO1 A. Dumon** (Coldm Gds)
OC 'O' Troop	—	**Maj (Tfc) R. Finister** (Gurkha Signals)
OC 'S' Troop	—	**Capt (TOT) J. Kirton** (Gurkha Signals)
OC WRAC	—	**Capt J. Freebairn** (WRAC)
RQMS (Tech)	—	**WO2 D. Thomas** (Gurkha Signals)
RQMS (Gen)	—	**WO1 R. N. Coshan** (RHA)
Trg WO	—	**WO2 A. J. Bailey** (Gurkha Signals)
Y of S 'O' Troop	—	**WO2 A. E. Richardson** Gurkha Signals)
F of S 'S' Troop	—	**WO2 K. Bradbury** (Gurkha Signals)
Y of S HKDA	—	**WO2 D. R. Heyes** (Gurkha Signals)
Chief Clerk	—	**WO2 J. C. Green** (REME)
CSM WRAC	—	**WO2 D. McFall** (WRAC)

INTO BEING

THE Defence Review in 1975, and the cuts ordered in 1976 resulted in a merger of Headquarters Land Forces (HQLF) and Headquarters British Forces (HQBF) to become British Forces Headquarters (BFHQ). At the same time 27 Sig Regt had to disband and, amongst other things, produce from its ashes a Squadron capable of providing all the communications still needed

by BFHQ and of administering all the personnel in the HQ together with numerous small units that had become attached over the years. The new British Forces Headquarters and Signal Squadron came into existence on June 1, 1976.

HIGHLY CAPBADGED

There can be few so highly capbadged units now in existence. To begin with the OC and 2IC are Gurkha Signals capbadged; the Administrative Officer is a Gunner; the RSM is Household Division; the WO Training is Gurkha Signals; the Chief Clerk is REME; the QM is Household Division; the RQMS (General) is RHA; the RQMS (Technical) is Gurkha Signals; the SQMS (Accommodation) is a Gunner; the EO (L) Pay is a Chinese civilian of some 30 years' service. A staff-sergeant and sergeant RAPC preside over pay and documents; the Orderly Room Sergeant is Gurkha Signals capbadged as are the Troop Commanders of Operating and Systems Troops, with Operating Troop largely provided by WRAC Data-telegraphists. It remains only to add the many capbadges of the HQ Staff, and we have a full house of Queens on Jacks of all trades.

In the meantime we continue to communicate world-wide; publish orders; issue identity cards; process applications for family and indulgence passages; certify arrivals to and from Hong Kong; register visits to MACAU; run Imprest, Central Bank and PRI accounts (with all claims paid in cash on the spot) and many other administrative tasks too numerous to mention.

RETURN OF A MESS TROPHY

The RSM received a misplaced Sergeants Mess trophy from **Capt (TOT) N. Webb** (Royal Signals) together with an amusing letter tracing the history of the trophy (a Wooden Spoon), which was presented to HMS *Comus V* by Hong Kong Sig Regt in 1954. The following is an extract from the letter:

'In 1959 whilst serving in the British Embassy, Bangkok, the spoon was handed to **Sgt Johnny Moss** by a petty officer of one of Her Majesty's Ships (name unknown). The petty officer explained to **Sgt Moss** that the spoon had been presented by the WOs and Sgts Mess, Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong, to the petty officers of HMS *Comus* during a games night. During the period 1954–59 the spoon was apparently "borrowed" from the *Comus* by the POs of another ship and in turn "borrowed" yet again. It appears that the spoon was fair game to the whole of the South China Sea Fleet.'

'As **Sgt Moss** was the only Royal Signals member in Bangkok at that time, he was requested to return the spoon to Hong Kong. To this he agreed. Shortly afterwards, he completed his tour of duty and returned to the UK on posting taking the spoon with him. He was unable to find anyone going to Hong Kong at that time and indeed he carried the trophy with him on subsequent tours to BAOR, Sharjah and finally back to the UK, where he took his discharge in 1970.'

The spoon has now been laid to rest in the Sergeants Mess and we are eternally grateful to **Mr Johnny Moss.**

A JOURNEY INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH OR 'WHERE ARE THEY NOW'?

The OC recently undertook a tour of the underground HQ located under the old building of the present BFHQ in Victoria Barracks. A heavy metal door behind the building opens on 130 steps which lead down to the wartime military HQ from where the defence of Hong Kong was directed against the Japanese.

It was from here that **Maj Gen C. M. Maltby** finally announced the surrender of the Colony in 1941 after a grim struggle which could only end in disaster. As he made this announcement from the underground radio room, the Japanese were just those 130 steps away.

It was an eerie sensation walking around the dark corridors and with a stream running down the step. In the operators room it was still possible to visualise the scene as the last desperate attempts at defence were planned. The underground ops room was probably last used around 10 years ago judging from the maps and papers found lying around. Amongst these was a complete telephone directory for the Royal Signals organisation of 1966. Where are they now? An extract is shown below:

HQ Royal Signals

CR Signals	**Lt Col N. G. Gallyer**
GSO2 (Signals)	**Maj M. Handsley**
*SO3 (Lines)	**Maj (Rtd) J. Hastings**
Chief Clerk	**WO2 (ORQMS) Downie**

252 Signal Squadron

OC	**Maj J. W. Ingledow**
SSM (UK)	**WO2 P. Gill**
SSM (HK)	**WO2 Chin Ten Loy** (Note—he retired from 2 Sqn 27 Sig Regt earlier this year)
OC 'M' Troop	**WO1 (F of S) Morrison**
*OC 'R' Troop	**Capt G. M. Finney**
OC 'Island' Troop	**Lt (TOT) Ribchester**
OC 'Operating' Troop	**Capt R. B. Sutherland**
2IC 'Operating' Troop	**Capt J. Barker** (WRAC)

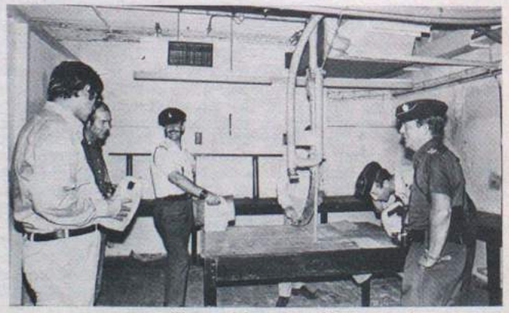
253 Signal Squadron

OC	**Maj J. H. Hill**
Admin Officer	**Maj (Rtd) E. T. Hewson**
*OC Garrison Signal Troop	**Capt R. B. Ingram**
OC Kowloon Signal Troop	**Capt (TOT) N. Stevenson**
OC New Territories Signal Troop (Wks)	**Maj (TOT) Chetwynd**

*There seems to be some affinity between Sigs 36 and old Hong Kong! It is hoped that this brings back some nostalgic memories of the good life in the Far East in days of yore (after all, it was the swinging sixties).

(Photograph by courtesy of PR. BFPO 1)

The Deputy Commander Land Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen R. W. L. McAlister, OBE, presenting Capt (TOT) John Kirton (Gurkha Signals) with the GOC Northern Irelands Commendation for service with 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn from July 1974 to July 1976



(Photograph by courtesy of South China Morning Post Ltd)

The OC, Maj Gerry Birch, accompanied by WO2 Alan Bailey, studies some of the old documents still in the Ops Room of the underground HQ. Also in the photograph are Maj Brazier and photographers of JSPRS

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

ALL CHANGE

CHANGE is here to stay', commented one volunteer officer when the new officer appointments in the Regiment were announced. **Maj Peter Thompson** took over from **Maj Jimmy Greenhill** as 2IC. **Maj Mike Vokes** retired from the Regiment and handed over 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn to **Maj Peter Mather; Majr Pete Harrison** moved from 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Sqn to 83 Sqn and **Maj Bob Simpson** took over the Kensington Sqn. **Maj Dick Mistlin** will soon retire from the Regiment and **Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones** has taken over HQ Sqn.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There are three 'Remembrance Sundays' observed within the Regiment. On October 31, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn held the annual Yeomanry Service (Lafone Day) in St Martin's Church, Ludgate, before marching to St Paul's Cathedral to lay wreaths at the Yeomanry Memorial in the crypt. On November 7, the Princess Louise's Kensington Service was held at Hammersmith, followed by Squadrons attending services at their respective locations on November 14.

THE CHRISTMAS SCENE

The Christmas social scene opened on November 27 with 47 Sqn's Dinner/Dance followed by Sergeants Mess Draw on December 4. The Officers Mess Dinner Night was held on December 5, when four members of the Mess were dined out. **Maj Greenhill** leaves the Regiment on promotion to join 11 Sig Group as SO1. **Maj Mistlin** retires from the Regiment and moves with his firm to Southampton. **Maj Vokes** and **Capt Hill** also retire having served with the Regiment since 1969 and 1974, respectively. **Maj John Class** (US Army), **Sqn Ldr Tim Cherry** and **Capt Bill Owen** (US Army) were welcome guests from SHAPE for the Dinner Night.

On December 11, 83 Sqn held their Dance at Southfields, while 41 Sqn held their Dance and Draw on December 18.

The Regiment welcomed **2 Lts Susan Fenney** and **Catherine Beck** who joined during November from University OTCs.

47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) outside St Martin's Church, Ludgate, before marching to St Paul's Cathedral *(in the background)*

LAFONE DAY, NOVEMBER 1976

47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V). Maj Mike Vokes gives last-minute instructions to Ssgt Smith before the march. Soldier in Yeomanry uniform in attendance

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

WO2 (SSM) Bob Rusdale being presented with the TAVR Efficiency Medal by Maj Gen K. J. McQueen, GOC North-West District

MEDAL PRESENTATION PARADE

IT is not very often that two fine Sundays in November are available to the TAVR to hold parades; for in addition to Remembrance Sunday we were lucky enough to have a glorious sunny day on November 7, 1976, when **Maj Gen K. J. McQueen,** GOC North-West District, presented Long Service Awards to members of the Regiment before a large gathering of spectators

which included members of the recipients' families. **Capt Doug Murray** was awarded the Territorial Decoration, and the TAVR Efficiency Medal was presented to **WO2 (SSM) Bob Rusdale; Cpl Jim Bellamy,** of 42 Sig Sqn; **Ssgt Jimmy Carruthers; Sgt Tony Benson; Lcpl Ronnie Fletcher,** of 59 Sig Sqn; **Sgts Charley Parsons** and **Bill Smith; Cpl Larry McEvoy,** of 80 Sig Sqn; and **Lcpl Roy Hegarty,** of HQ Sqn; and the Clasp to the TAVR Efficiency Medal to **Ssgt Mike Hulse,** of 42 Sig Sqn; **Sgt Alan Heritage,** of 59 Sig Sqn; **Ssgt Ken Turner,** of 80 Sig Sqn; and **WO2 (RQMS) Eric Burton, BEM; Sgt Chris Robinson** (REME), **Sgt James Scott** (RAMC), of HQ Sqn. On arrival, the General inspected a quarter-guard commanded by **Sgt Jim Lythgoe** and provided by 42 Sig Sqn (V) from Manchester. At the end of the parade the General presented certificates for the seven best recruits who attended the WRAC course held at Olen Camp, Belgium, in June 1976. Afterwards, of course, all retired to the bar before an excellent lunch provided by our own cooks as part of their weekend's training.

Maj Gen K. J. McQueen, GOC North-West District inspecting the Quarter Guard provided by 42 Sig Sqn, prior to the Medal Presentation Parade at The Dale, Chester, on Sunday, November 7, 1976

SEPTEMBER SAW PERMANENT STAFF IN YORKSHIRE

Contrary to rumour that the permanent staff exercise arranged by our Training Major, **Maj Bob Mansfield,** would not, should not, or could not take place; it did. On September 7 the majority of the Regimental permanent staff travelled north east to the Yorkshire Dales to conquer the Three Peaks, namely Ingleborough, Pen-y-Ghent and Whernside.

A natural split

On the first day the hikers were dropped off at the foot of Ingleborough, whilst those few who had convinced the Training Major that their talents were better used in administration set off to erect camp. Although everybody started together, it was not long before the party had split into three groups. The quick, the slow, and **Majs Mansfield, Emett** and **Capts Davies** and **Jones.** After breasting many crests, each in turn making everyone more despondent, the summit was eventually reached. The Regtl Admin Offr, **Maj Edward Emett,** was heard to remark that, 'It was much easier in the Naga Hills when we followed the contours instead of going straight up to the top'. Those with sharper eyesight soon discerned the outline of a pub far below. It was a shock to all to find the speed the human body can achieve, regardless of weariness, when racing a clock towards closing time. Anyone who may be posted to us in the near future be warned, **Ssgt 'Georgie' James** may be over forty and thin on top but he can show a clean pair of heels to those many years his younger when there is a pint in the offing.

The RAO—Maj Edward Emett—'At last, the summit, and I thought I'd been going down hill for years!'

Early arrival at base

By mid-afternoon, the first group arrived at the camp site quite upsetting the admin staff who thought that no group would arrive before five. Most people were, in fact, in by four, leaving **Majs Mansfield, Emett** and **Capts Davies** and **Jones** to plod their weary way home. The RSM, **WO1 John Scrutton, BEM,** sent four of the party into Settle to buy a few 'goodies' with the extra Messing money. He really should have known better than to have sent **Sgts Derek Reynolds, Paul Rylance, Martin Davis** and **John Murphy** shopping without first pointing out that even in the dales of Yorkshire trade by barter stopped years ago.

After a hearty evening meal, a game of volleyball and a wash and shave, an enjoyable evening was spent at the local. We may not be in the same class as Sir Edmund Hillary or Chris Bonnington but to have heard the 'chatter' that night it would appear that no mountain was safe from the 'Sherpas' of the Thirty-Third.

New target

On day two Pen-y-Ghent was the target. Much easier than day one inasmuch that to the summit was one short, sharp climb. Once again the party was split into groups of varying speed, each setting off at about ten-minute intervals. The first group had not gone very far before their 'Walter Mitti' characters took over, pretending to be partisans out-running the Germans. Mad, quite mad. It did, however, help to keep everyone laughing, especially at **Sgt Paul Rylance** who really does look like the popular image of a mountain partisan. After reaching the summit, alas not a house or pub in sight. However, we were all secure in the knowledge that if we could manage to map-read to a farm about three miles away the admin staff would be there with hot drinks, so off we set.

PR—on the run

Half way down one group was confronted by a 'fellah' in shorts complete with rucksack running (yes, running) up the peak. It transpired that he was from Durham University carrying out a survey. The conversation went something like:

Student : Good morning.
Us : Good afternoon.
Student : Why are you in the Yorkshire Dales?
Us : Because we were ordered to be here.
Student : How d'y get here?
Us : Car.
Bus.
Land-Rover.
4-ton lorry.
Student : Oh, you Army?
Us : Yes, why?
Student : What are you looking at?
Us : What we've been ordered to look at.
Student : Oh, I see. You really are in the Army.
Us : Yes, don't we look the part?
Student : (smiling) Well, goodbye.
Us : Tarrah mate.

Once again most groups managed to reach the RV conveniently situated near a pub, before closing time. When sufficient numbers had arrived to fill the mini-bus we were ferried back to the camp for our evening meal and a kick-about prior to the night out.

Weather turns

Unfortunately, on the third day the weather took a turn for the worse which would have dampened everyone's spirit had it not been for the fact that at the RV the transport would be waiting with a hot drink—then back to Liverpool and a long weekend.

Most people agreed afterwards that on this day the only thought was to keep dry and to get it over and done with as quickly as possible. This was very difficult when one considers how hard it can rain in Yorkshire.

Thank you for supper

After the long weekend it was generally agreed that a good time was had by all despite the moaning. After all, there would be something wrong if a 'squaddie' did not complain. Although these were a few days away from offices and workshops for the permanent staff it would be selfish not to mention the two 'volunteer' soldiers who came to help, **Sig Jim Dwyer** and **Lcpl John McComish,** who gave up their leisure time to drive the mini-bus and make us all steak pies for supper. Thank you both.

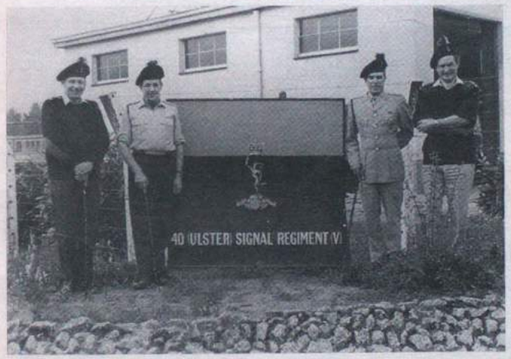
PERSONALITY PROFILE

As a guide to any CO who may have one of us posted to his unit the following may be of some use:

RSM John Scrutton walks the way he does because he is ex-Merchant Navy, not because of blisters. **Sgt Paul Rylance** wears a golf hat back to front because he doesn't know whether he is coming or going. **Sgt Mick Tankard** can prove that being dressed like an Alpine guide does not prevent blisters. That if **Sgt Derek Reynolds** pulls out a comb there is either a young lady about or someone has a camera out. And, finally, when **Sgt Bryan Rivett** says he is only going up one —— peak he means just that.

40th Sig Regt (V) Belfast

40 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) PHOTOREPORT



COMPLETE WITH BLACKTHORNS AND CAUBEENS, THE 'PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE'

From left to right we see Maj Bill Michie who is to command in January 1977, Lt Col Bill Gillespie, the present CO (from January 1974), Lt Col Len Rogers, who was the previous CO (January 1972 to January 1974). Lastly, and most certainly not least, Col John McCann who was appointed our Honorary Colonel in April 1969, and will see all three officers pass through their tour of Command

A SCENE AT ANNUAL CAMP

'Will it be all right on the day, Staff?' The reply I will leave to readers to work out for themselves!

UNIVERSITY OTC CARDIFF

Report by Ssgt B. R. Mumford

OFF TO A GOOD START

FOR those of you who did not know—and I didn't until five months ago—a University OTC has been formed in Cardiff combining the three colleges of University College Cardiff, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology and the Welsh National School of Medicine. Our headquarters are in a large terraced house in the City centre, and we have training facilities in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. We are now approaching the end of our first term which began with four open days for recruitment in October and ends with the closure of the academic term in December. The OTC, formed at the request of the three colleges—albeit with opposition (on paper anyway), from certain factions of the Student Union and had an initial enlistment of approximately 80 students and cadetship officers. This was more than was expected by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col G. D.G. Isaac** (RRW), as 50 was considered the target figure for the first year.

INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING ROLE

The syllabus covers over the three-year cycle the same training covered at RMA Sandhurst—leading up to the CMT examination which enables students to apply for a commision on the General List in the TAVR.

There is an instructional staff of three and various visiting lecturers. The Infantry PSI who combines this duty with those of RSM/MTO is **WO1 (RSM) L. D. Freeman** (RRW); the Royal Engineers' PSI, **Ssgt C. Dyson)** and myself. We also have Adjutant/QM, **Maj R. P. W. Cowan** (REME) (well known to many at 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn). With the end of the first term in sight, a term which has had all the tedious administration completed (or so the Adjutant claims) a brief look back seems in order. We have had three training weekends, one at Purham Down ranges, one on the Brecon Beacons, doing fieldcraft, tactics and section attacks and the final one again on the Brecon Beacons putting the map-reading lessons into practice. Training is given every Wednesday afternoon from 1400 to 1900hrs.

The intention half way through the second term is to start selecting for special to arm training, which begins proper at the start of October 1977. We are not sure whether we are the youngest unit in the Army at the moment, but we feel we have one of the most interesting and challenging roles. A further report will be submitted after three or four terms have been completed to reflect on our progress.

THE REASONING OF AN INTELLIGENT MIND

During a weapon training lesson on grenades, it was pointed out that the burst area is up to 250m. One student, in deadly earnest, asked, 'What happens if one cannot throw it that far?'

Association News

SALISBURY BRANCH

Report by WOI R. C. Brodie

ON Sunday, December 5, 1976, the Salisbury Branch of the Association laid up their original Standard in the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Salisbury, during the morning service conducted by **Canon E. B. Brooks.** The Standard has been paraded regularly since the 1930s. It was donated by the late **Col A. C. Allan, DSO, MC,** and embroidered by **Mrs Cooper,** wife of **Vic Cooper** (now deceased) who was a previous standard bearer. Its condition finally reached a stage where it could no longer be paraded without the slightest wind causing damage to its delicate fabric. **Brig F. L. Clarkson, MBE,** then CSO UKLF and a keen follower of branch activities, launched an appeal to regular units and serving individuals in the Salisbury area for funds to replace the Standard. The appeal proved successful, a new Standard was purchased and dedicated at the Catterick reunion in June.

Thus, the old Standard, borne by **Mr 'Doughy' Baker,** flanked by **Mr 'Abdul' Pearce** and **Mr Bert Creed** was paraded for the last time and then laid up. A good turnout of branch members and guests attended the impressive service, the first lesson was read by the branch President, **Maj (Retd) J. T. L. Blacker.** Amongst those attending were **Maj Gen W. T. MacFarlane,** Chief of Staff at HQ UKLF; **Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE,** Chairman of the Association; **Brig D. H.**

Baynham, GM, CSO UKLF; **Brig F. L. Clarkson, MBE,** the previous CSO UKLF; **Col R. Benbow** Commander 1 Sig Group; **Lt Col R. Bell,** CO 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt; and **Lt Col H. A. Morrison,** UKCICC. Also present were uniformed representatives from Signals Branches HQ UKLF and 3 Div, HQ 1 Sig Group, 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn, 1 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. The Blandford Branch of the Association was also represented. We were also very pleased to see **Mrs Wattley,** the widow of our previous President at the ceremony.

After the service, branch members, their guests and unit representatives retired to the Royal British Legion Club, Salisbury, for refreshment.

The branch has led an active social life of late, with successful visits to HQ UKLF Sergeants Mess and Old Sarum Sergeants Mess (home of 249 Sig Sqn) for games evenings. To reciprocate, the branch held its own social on Friday, December 3. Despite appalling weather conditions, there was a good turnout which included a large contingent from Old Sarum Sergeants Mess led by the SSM of 249 Sig Sqn, **Tom Friend,** which ensured the evening went with a swing. One of our members, **Mr John Cordy,** provided the music and our ladies section, led by **Pam Light** and **Kath Sweet,** produced a really professional-looking (and tasting!) buffet. A small draw was held, the prizes being donated by members and their friends. An auction of table decorations made by **Mrs Kay Creed** added over £5 to branch funds.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by Mr Len Pearson

NO one at the last meeting could remember the last time WIRE notes were submitted. It must be many years ago.

Our Branch includes:

Maj F. Mansfield, MBE	—	*President*
Maj G. J. Bevan, MM	—	*Chairman*
Mr L. Pearson	—	*Secretary*
Mr D. Rigby	—	*Treasurer*

and 36 active members, of whom around 20 are present at any one of our meetings. New members are continually being contacted and recruited, so the Branch is getting stronger month by month; 20 members, their wives and friends were present at our last meeting on October 9, which was followed by a social evening. These meetings/socials are held each month in the winter, but less frequent in summer, which can be a very busy time in Scarborough.

Scarborough Branch could not be such a success if it were not for the fine facilities given to it by the permanent staff at Burniston Barracks. We regard oursleves very lucky, and, are indeed very grateful to the OC, **Maj Jackson,** and his staff for the help given and friendship shown towards us. We enjoy being guests in the Burniston Barracks Social Club for our meetings/socials, and are always invited to other social functions held in the barracks, arranged by **Sgt K. Coatesworth** and his many helpers. On November 27 we are holding a Buffet Dance in the barracks.

A number of our Branch members served on the permanent staff at Burniston Barracks and includes: two ex-Officers Commanding and two ex-RQMSs.

In the future we hope to arrange our meetings/socials on the *first Saturday* of each month, and we would like to extend an invitation to all Royal Signals members passing through or staying on holiday in Scarborough to attend our functions, and join us in some 'refreshments'.

We hope in the future to make WIRE notes a regular feature with maybe a photograph or two.

Our next meeting will be November 6, 1976—too late for these notes, but then on the *first Saturday* of each month.

Sport

ROYAL SIGNALS WIN SOCCER QUADRANGULAR

THE annual inter-Corps Soccer Quadrangular competition was held in Catterick between November 22 and 26, 1976. The competition is between RA, RE, REME and Royal Signals. Since the cup was first competed for in 1969 REME have won six times and RE once. The competition is run on a league basis with all teams playing each other.

The Corps results this year were as follows:

v RA	—	Won 4—0
v REME	—	Won 1—0
v RE	—	Drawn 2—2

The League table finished up as follows:

	Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*Goals* F	A	*Points*
Royal Signals	3	2		1	7	2	5
REME	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
RE	3			3	5	5	3
RA	3		2	1	2	8	1

Left to right. Back row: WO2 (Y of S) Sleightholm, Lcpl McMillan, Sig Harris, Lcpl McMullen, Cpl Swaine, Cpl Moorhead, Cpl Burns, Sig Thompson
Centre: Cpl Pritchard, Sig Lambert, Sgt Murtagh, Lcpl O'Hara, Cpl Haslam, Sgt Campbell, Ssgt Tierney
Front row: Lcpl Curry, Sgt Manders, Sgt Adam (captain), Col D. G. Cattermull, Maj E. Hampson, Lcpl Hamilton, Sgt Bagley, Lcpl Swanney

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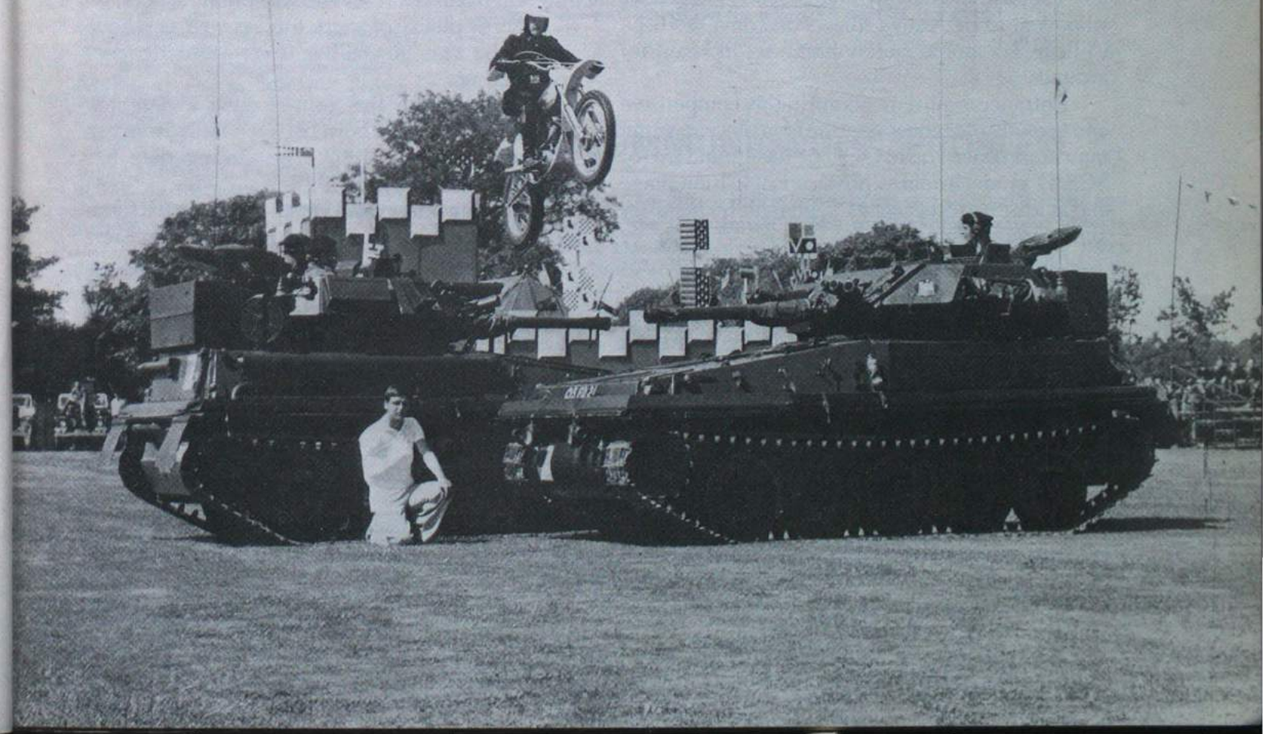
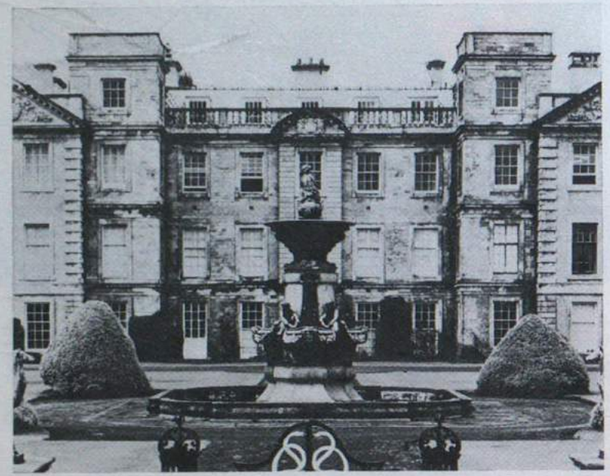
February 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



If your son is bright enough to be an Army Officer, we'll help with his education.



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The Army has its own boarding school for boys who want to be Army Officers one day; Welbeck College. It's an old stately home set in beautiful grounds.

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Of course, he must also have a genuine interest in a career as an Army Officer.

If he has and we think he's good enough, we'll give him the best possible start in becoming an Officer in the Army's technical Corps.

(It will, incidentally, be largely at the Army's expense not yours. Your contribution is very reasonable and in some cases nothing at all.)

What your son will get is basically a 6th form education to 'A' level standard in maths, physics and related subjects.

Since there are only 150 boys at Welbeck, we can afford to give a great deal of individual tuition.

Academic standards have to be high because success at Welbeck guarantees a place at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Not only this; once commissioned, the majority of Welbeck boys go on to university at the Army's expense.

Most boys are commissioned into the REME, R Signals, RAOC and RE. Some go to the RA and RCT and a few to the RAC and Infantry.

We ought to point out that it is only at Sandhurst that your son will begin to wear uniform. At Welbeck he is a civilian.

Furthermore, apart from some outward-bound or adventure training plus Cadet corps training, the syllabus is little different from that of a first-class public school.

There's plenty of sport, too. As well as school games, he can go sailing, rock climbing and orienteering.

Applicants for the term starting in January 1978 must have been born between 1st November 1960 and 1st April 1962. The closing date for applications is 15th May 1977.

To obtain our prospectus and application form just fill in the coupon and post it to the Headmaster.

To: The Headmaster, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts. S80 3LN.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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FEBRUARY — 1977

Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 2**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

Sig Phil Cowderoy, of the world-famous White Helmets, flies his CCM 500 over a pair of Scorpion tanks during the 1976 Catterick Army Display. The team have two of these all British machines to perform these astonishing leaps, and 24 brand new Triumph Tiger 750s for their display

Kneeling on the ground is Sig Malcolm Spencer, injured whilst in training for this same trick. He is now fully recovered and will be riding the other CCM during the coming Golden Jubilee season of the team

NO CLASSIFIED

It is over six months since we started our Classified Section in 'The Wire' and it surprises us that it has not really been exploited. To the Serving Corps who are faced regularly with movement—and all the consequential problems of selling and buying effects—we offer 'free space'—yet few have used it to advertise their car or other treasure which must be sold.

We recognise, of course, that up to four or five weeks can elapse from the receipt of a 'small ad' and its publication to over 5,000 of our subscribers. But surely, in many instances, such a time lag is acceptable—and particularly when no cost is involved!

A COMMUNICATION PROBLEM

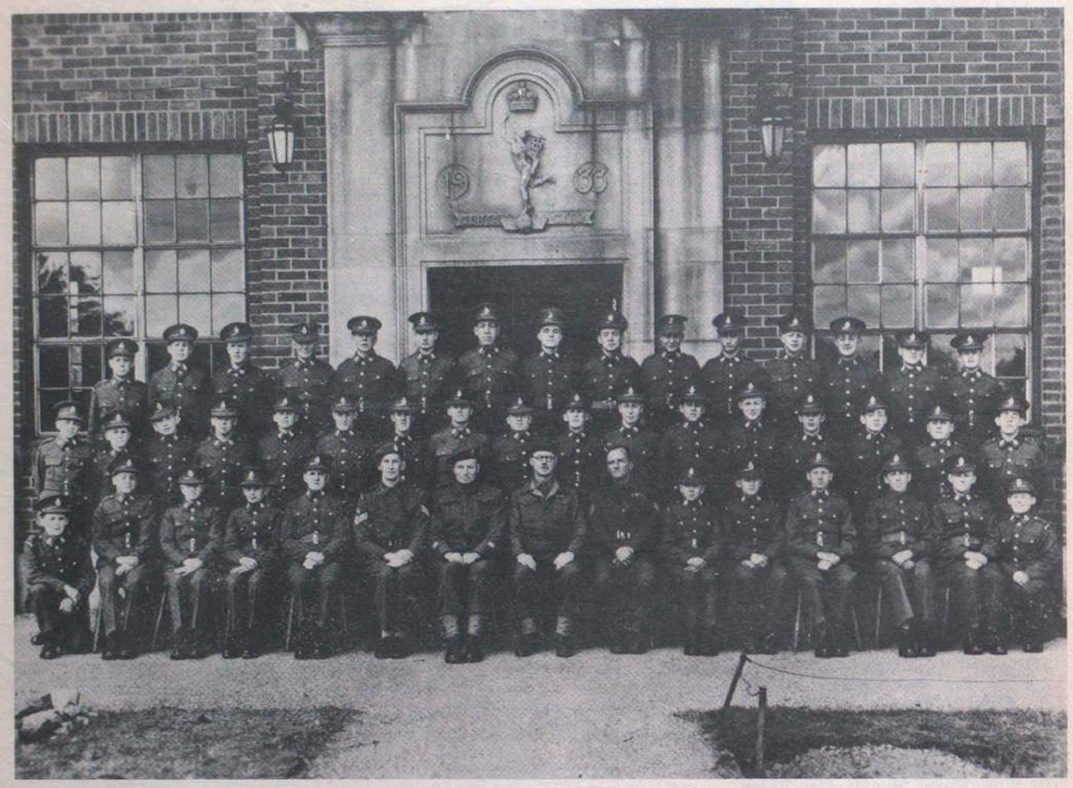
The Corps Committee recently discussed and decided against any resuscitation of the 'Newsletter' which was issued to retired officers of the Corps. The Editor would welcome any items of interest from retired members of the Corps which would probably be published in our Classified Section, under a new PERSONAL column.

It will be recalled that we publish the address made by, or on behalf of, the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the Branch Secretaries of the Association at their annual meeting in London during April and the report by the Chairman of the Association at the Association AGM at Catterick during June. It is hoped that these serve a useful objective —and particularly to the retired members of the Corps—in keeping them well informed on all significant matters affecting the Corps and the Association.

A request, therefore, to all those retired. May we have your news items for publication, please?

From our "In" Tray

BOYS' COMPANY 1945



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (by WO2 (F of S) Hill)

This interesting 'Golden Oldie' was discovered by Capt (TOT) John Grigsby of 8th Sig Regt. We have had a little difficulty in recognising one or two of the little lads of 'Boys Company 1945', and wonder how many are still serving or keeping in touch with the Corps. John would be delighted to hear from anybody recognising themselves. He is sixth from the right, centre row. Capt (TOT) Norman Walker, bless him is on the extreme left of the rear row, while Mr Bill Lerigo, now a civilian Supervisor in the TTS at 8th Sig Regt is third from the right, rear row. So where are the rest of you? Next month, we shall be examining some of the little horrors that made up the Regimental Band of 6th (Boys) Training Regt of the 1952 vintage!

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS BAOR 1977

THIS event is the individual championships and it will be held in Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld, on the weekend March 19 and 20, 1977. It is an open competition and there will be a plate as well. A separate letter has been sent to all units in BAOR but if any individual who wishes to enter is having difficulty then they are very welcome to write direct to **Maj J. J. Cullen** (Royal Signals), **1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, BFPO 32.**

As always, accommodation, especially for officers, is difficult. It would be appreciated if individuals would keep their requirements to the absolute minimum!

The present holder is **Brig E. J. Hellier, OBE,** which is rather a sad reflection on the younger elements of the Corps. So please come along and support the championships with your entry.

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

ALDERSHOT BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER 1977

THE Aldershot Branch Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 21, 1977, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Full particulars from A. V. Ient, MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3SQ, or Telephone Aldershot 23658.

Assembly is at 7·15 pm. Dinner at 8 pm.

Ssgt Gordon Pickard is to attend and looks forward to meeting many 'ex-boys' who it is hoped will support this notable annual function.

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON REUNION

244 SIG SQN is to hold its annual reunion on April 23, 1977, at RAF Brize Norton. Further details from Unit Orderly Room.

Wings Parade—247 Army Pilots Course

Sgt J. Robson being presented with his Army Flying Badge by Gen Sir Edwin N. W. Bramall, KCB, OBE, MC, C in C UKLF, on Friday, December 3, 1976

Gold Award for Gurkha Signallers

A proud moment for Sig Reshan Bahadur Gurung, at 22 years of age the youngest soldier working in the HQ 48 Bde Communications Centre at Sek Kong, as, on behalf of his unit, he receives a Gold Comstar award from Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, Chief Personnel and Logistics at the Ministry of Defence. Sir Ruthven was in Hong Kong on a tour of inspection of British units based there
(Photo courtesy PR, Hong Kong)

Farewell to Mrs V. Smith

She was a little surprised to receive a cake iced in the form a Long Service and Good Conduct medal in addition to the statuette of 'Jimmy'

READERS will be sorry to hear of the retirement of **Mrs Smith** from the Signal Wing RMAS. She came to work in the Academy in 1949 for a temporary period and has stayed on since. She has been a wonderful stalwart in the continuing efforts of the Signal Wing to train officer cadets, and prepare the Royal Signals candidates for commissions into the Corps. Her loyalty has always been a fine inspiration for all who have ever met her. Everyone who has worked in the Wing or the Academy has surely benefited from her guidance and good humour. She has a delightful blend of firmness and charm and as many will recall, is an excellent judge of character. Modesty has denied her the full publicity she deserves but she was presented with a silver salver after 25 years' service to the Corps and has since continued in her unstinting devotion to furthering the reputation of Royal Signals. Finally, she has at last decided to retire. The Academy has presented her with a Flanders' print of the 'Cannons on Old Building Square'. On December 4, 1976, the Signal Wing presented her with a handsome barometer surmounted by a silver statuette of 'Jimmy' in sincere gratitude for her outstanding loyalty and to give her pleasant memories of her long and happy association with the Corps. We all wish her every happiness and continued good health in the years to come.

Attention all Philatelists

THE JOINT SERVICES' EXPEDITION TO LIVERPOOL LAND GREENLAND, MAY 1977

TO commemorate this unique occasion the issue of philatelic covers has been arranged and will be available to the public as well as to Service personnel.

The covers to be issued are:

- A plain cover with a drawing on the left face, and a special commemorative frank—at 40p each.
- As above but signed and taken to Greenland—at £1·00 each.
- Triple signed and taken on the longest trip—£2·50 each.

The covers will be allocated in the order that applications are received. Applications should be forwarded with accompanying cheque or postal order made payable to:

'JSE Greenland 1977'
Maj R. Dransfield
2 Squadron
8th Signal Regiment
CATTERICK GARRISON
Yorkshire DL9 3PS

If applicants wish their covers to be sent to them through the post, their applications should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope not smaller than 7×5in.

Congratulations

FREDERICK COLE enlisted in the Corps in 1920 and was released to the Reserve in 1926 after five years' service in India. He was closely involved as an active member of the Salisbury Branch of the Association from 1926–40 and the Exeter Branch after the second world war. All will wish to join us in congratulating him on the award of the **BEM** for his services to National Savings.

Rugby Honour

ALL will join us in congratulating **Cpl Steve Peacock** (8 Sig Regt) on his selection to the England Under-23 squad from which the team to tour Canada, during May–June 1977, will be selected.

In addition to turning out regularly for the Corps, the Army, and Combined Services, **Cpl Peacock** represents his home club, Middlesbrough and Yorkshire on a regular basis. A hectic life, indeed, and our sincere congratulations.

Movements

Officers

FEBRUARY 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj A. R. Bailey	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. E. Billett, MBE	RMCS
Lt Col D. M. A. Burridge	MOD DSS
Maj W. I. Buxton	7 Sig Regt
Maj C. E. Byrom	225 Sig Sqn
Lt M. J. M. Dyer	4 RTR
Capt G. R. Elliott	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj G. R. Funnell	DGGWL (A) MOD (PE)
Maj T. J. Hendren	71 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. J. Holmes	RMCS
Maj R. B. Ingram	30 Sig Regt
Capt G. J. McKie	30 Sig Regt
Capt G. J. Mann	RMCS
Maj R F. Maynard, MBE	(HS) 11 Sig Regt
Capt G. Meakin	RMCS
Capt P. J. Myatt	AAC, Harrogate
Maj W. C. Nicoll	CPA Royal Signals
Capt D. F. Palmer	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col P. E. Riding	School of Signals
Maj J. R. Roberts	MOD APSG
Capt M. P. S. Shaw	RMCS
Capt I. C. Shuker	RMCS
Capt (TOT) R. Stather	48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj M. A. Thorne	RMCS
Lt R. J. Turnbull	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt J. D. Tydeman	259 Sig Sqn
Maj R. F. Willsher	48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt J. C. Young	RMCS

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

FEBRUARY 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (F of S) W. D. Carr	LSP Brunei
WO1 (Supvr R) A. E. Haslam	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
WO2 M. Foster	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. D. E. Kennington	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 P. Parish	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 M. R. Wringe	Sultan's Armed Forces (Muscat)
WO2 (F of S) J. E. Francis	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) R. A. James	HQ AFSOUTH
Ssgt (F of S) R. Scriven	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Ssgt (Y of S) J. Atkinson	Controller Defence Communications Network
Ssgt (Y of S) J. F. Calvert	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Ssgt G. Coatsworth	16 Sig Regt HQ BAOR
Ssgt R. G. Graham	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Ssgt D. A. Lewis	School of Signals (Cadre)
Ssgt (Supvr R) A. E. Grisdale	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
Ssgt M. G. Judge	31 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt J. H. Hardman	633 Sig Troop (Caribbean)
Ssgt (Y of S) J. Isherwood	248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Ssgt T. K. Mumford	242 Sig Sqn
Ssgt D. Rigley	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt (Supvr R) J. N. Turner	11 Sig Regt (Junior Signalmen's Wing)
Sgt T. E. Marsh	4 Sqn 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. Gavilett	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. J. Daglass	522 Rear Link Det (Field Regt)
Sgt E. Gunn	32 Sig Regt
Sgt L. J. Hyde	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn (BAE)
Sgt M. M. Harrison	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. White	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
Sgt J. R. W. Derwanz	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Standley	39 Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. Hamilton	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Bowen	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. L. Rea	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Mitchell	582 Rear Link Det (In Mech Bn)
Sgt R. Hancock	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt K. D. Morrissey	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Sgt P. L. Kelly	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt T. W. Saunders	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Bennett	31 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Botfish	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. C. Sobers	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt R. M. Alexander	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sgt C. G. Parsonage	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. D. Vince	262 Sig Sqn (East)
A/Sgt D. A. Nallon	20 Armd Bde and Sig Sqn
A/Ssgt D. J. Wools	523 Rear Link Det (Field Regt)
A/Sgt J. Cameron	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

Welfare

DECEMBER 1976

Number of cases assisted financially:

	Ordinary grants	**47**
	Christmas grants	**204**
		251
Amount spent	**Ordinary grants**	**£1,667.75**
	Christmas grants	**£1,060.00**
		£2,727.75
Number of clothing parcels sent		**23**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**1**
Amount spent	**£60.00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

WIDOW of a Signalman who served in the Welch Regt and Royal Signals from 1925–45, and died in 1962. The widow is now aged 64 and in poor health. The Association made her a grant of £18 for coal and a further £5 for Christmas, and a clothing parcel was also sent. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

JUST a few lines to let you know that I received your grant, parcel and Christmas card. I was overcome with joy. I really had a good cry, and I want to tell you how very grateful I am to you all. I know you are there to help all people like myself and many more, and I wish you luck in all you are doing and all the people you have helped in the many, many years. Thanks, thanks, thanks, again!

THANK YOU

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

Miss G. Wood, Lt Col P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Col I. E. Simpson, Maj and Mrs G. A. Allen, Mrs V. Heath, Maj H. J. Crocker, Maj and Mrs R. A. Ellis, The Thrift Shop, 10th Sig Regt, Mr and Mrs J. Smith, Mrs E. Fladgate, Mr and Mrs A. F. Morgan, Lt Col D. A. Dickson.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1976:

	£
19 Airptble Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	25·00
Windberg Officers Mess	5·00
28 Sig Regt	98·92
16 Sig Regt	83·95
Huddersfield Branch RSA	5·00
56 Div—OCA	5·00
T. I. Lloyd, Esq	1·40
J. L. Power, Esq	2·50
Mrs E. B. Fladgate	5·00
A. S. and N. H. Wilson-Brown and Friends	6·84
G. W. Cook, Esq	2·50
Miscellaneous donations	0·95
	£242·06

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

CLASSIFIED SECTION

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

BIRTHS

Lincoln—On January 27, 1977, to Sgt and Mrs Dave Lincoln, a son, Christopher, brother for Philippa (224 Sig Sqn).

Moncur—On December 22, 1976, to Maj and Mrs T. F. Moncur, a daughter, Caroline Louise (School of Signals).

DEATHS

Begg—Maj Arthur Begg, MBE, died suddenly in Woking on January 25, a few weeks before he was due to retire. Arthur was serving as SPSO Royal Signals and there can be few of our serving soldiers who have not benefited from his guidance during the early days of their Service. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and we extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Erminia, and his three sons.

Bewsher—George Bewsher served from 1928–45 and retired as a Corporal. He was a staunch member of the Sheffield Branch and became a life member of the Association in 1934. George died in hospital on December 3, 1976.

Bradford—Brig Frank William Percy Bradford, MBE, was commissioned into the Corps in 1927. He served on the North-West Frontier in 1930–31 and was appointed MBE in 1939. During the war he served in North Africa and at the War Office. His last appointment before retiring in 1959 was as CSO Southern Command. He was an outstanding horseman and all-round games player. He was a member of the Army polo team for two years after the war. He died suddenly on January 8, 1977, at the age of 69.

Middleton—Lt Col Hugh Edward Forbes Middleton was commissioned in 1930 and retired in 1958. He died in Switzerland on December 31, 1976, at the age of 66.

Mitchell—Lt Col John Stevenson Mitchell, OBE, enlisted in 1915 at the age of 17. He was commissioned as a quartermaster in 1939 retiring in 1953. He died on December 29, 1976, at the age of 88.

Mossman—Mr Bill Mossman (ex-Lcpl 1940–46) a member of the Hartlepool Branch of the Association, died on December 18, 1976.

Parsons—Maj Kenneth Parsons enlisted in the Corps in 1931. He was commissioned in 1941 and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1942 whilst serving with 9th Indian Divisional Signals. He retired in 1965 and died on January 19, 1977, aged 65.

Pearce—Capt Reginald Victor Pearce, MBE, who served in both world wars, was twice Mentioned in Dispatches and comissioned as a Quartermaster in 1941. He was appointed MBE in 1943 and died aged 79 on January 14, 1977.

Read—Col Alfred Howard Read, CB, OBE, TD, DL, was a distinguished Territorial officer. He served in the first world war with the Royal Engineers and transferred to the Corps in 1921. He commanded 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals from 1936–40. He was the military member of the Middlesex TA & AF Association from 1936–54, a DL of Greater London in 1948, Director Overseas Telecommunications GPO from 1950–54 and Telecommunications Attache at the British Embassy Washington from 1954–60. He died aged 83, at his home in Norfolk on January 14, 1977.

Seel—Col Ralph Cecil Seel, OBE, MC, TD, gave many years' service in the Territorials, he was awarded the MC during the first world war and commanded 53rd Divisional Signals TA from 1929–37, when he was appointed DCSO at Western Command. He died in Wales on January 17, 1977.

Williams—Brig Reginald Thomas Williams was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1916 and transferred to the Corps in 1921. During the first world war he served with the Egypt Expeditionary Force and was attached to the Egyptian Army and Sudan Defence Force from 1922–32, and took part in the Palestine operations of 1936. During the second world war he served in India and the Middle East. When he retired in 1948 he set up an insurance brokerage in Brighton, where he specialised in the needs of Service personnel. He died at the age of 79 on December 23, 1976.

WANTED

Royal Signals Officer's Mess Kit. Measurements: Height 6ft, Waist 40in, Chest 41in, Inside leg 33in Please contact Maj A. H. Warde, MC, Royal Signals, 39 Sig Regt (V), 79–85 Worship Street, London EC2. Tel: 01-247 8749 or 01-247 5594.

PERSONAL

Attention ladies. A limited number of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

HISTORY OF THE WHITE HELMETS

The well-known author and military historian, Mr James Ladd, has recently completed a book on the history of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. In it he traces the story of stunt motor cycling in Royal Signals from its very beginning. It has taken him four years of research, during which time he has interviewed many ex-members of the team and collected their stories, anecdotes and photographs covering the 50 years of the Team's official existence and before to the time when despatch riders did individual tricks on their motor cycles for fun and to show off their skill.

The book is entitled:

'The White Helmets' 'The Royal Signals Display Team'.

It will be published by G. T. Fowlis Ltd on April 29, 1977, at £5·95. If you would like a copy of the first edition signed by the author on publication day, fill in the coupon below and send it with your cheque or money order to:

The White Helmets
Gaza Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire

Please send me a signed copy of the new book

'THE WHITE HELMETS'

I enclose a cheque/money order for £5·95,

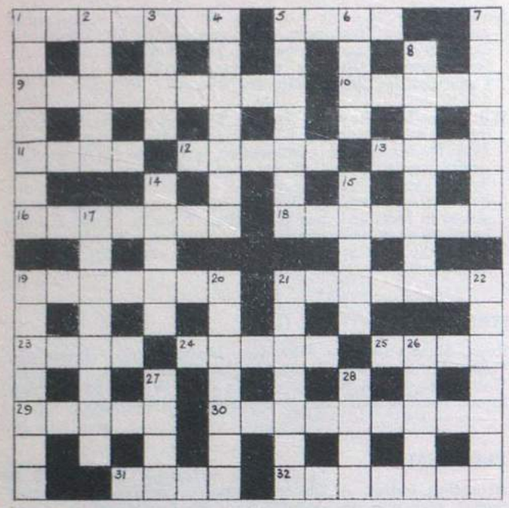
Signed .....

Name (in Blocks) .....

Address .....

.....

Crossword Puzzle No. 14



Solution next month. The Editor acknowledges this contribution by WO2 (Fiof S) J. Hill

ACROSS

1. Scottish man shortly receiving a hard blow (7)
5. Leave the vehicle in the recreation ground (4)
9. White collar worker possibly having no ties (9)
10. Small fry, used occasionally to entice bigger prey (5)
11. That thing I discover, it's coming back to me (4)
12. Express, the need to return to peak fitness (5)
13. In chiropody, the first thing one examines is part of the foot (4)
16. Father, strong to save we hear on Sundays (7)
18. Observed that the cake only had marzipan on top (7)
19. String the girls parents along with her. One will be pickled (7)
21. Pierced many times which proved to be puzzling (7)
23. Ex-officers' small advertisement for something way up his street (4)
24. Trips into Africa, nominally quite Victorian (5)
25. Employs in such a way that we get both points (4)
29. Oddly enough, even this show may contain acrobats (5)
30. Seldom heard, but common to all foreigners (9)
31. Type of dance one may expect at the isolation hospital celebrations (4)
32. Allowed the light in, but let the cold in too (7)

DOWN

1. Motor cycle with a Swiss registration, but mine is outside (7)
2. Part of the family disorientated in the continental alliance (5)
3. Bess's companion quietly leaves for a Bacchanalian feast (4)
4. Single digit maybe—or two, or three! (7)
5. Lodging house, though not necessarily an old people's home (7)
6. Got higher and higher, as the London statue broke up (4)
7. Made the plans out and put a hole in the wall (7)
8. The golf club I begin to call something subtly humorous (8)
14. One in the grass may be a cunningly concealed enemy (5)
15. Could be the room used to burn the midnight oil (5)
17. Just the answer for somebody who wants a rise (8)
19. —And the one who may be used to seeing the high spots (7)
20. Are resting in the nest closer than anyone else (7)
21. One who is patient may slip back (7)
22. Record entertainment starts something certain to lead to bickering (7)
26. Result of having too much writing equipment amidships (5)
27. Firm hold in a lunging riposte (4)
28. Artist caught up in what sounds like an Indian tent (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 13

Across: 1, Called to the bar; 10, Reports; 11, Damping; 12, Variation; 13, Bears; 14, Tenor; 16, Presence; 17, May; 18, Abrasion; 20, Caste; 23, Depot; 24, Courtship; 26, Editors; 28, Temples; 29, Standing Orders. *Down:* 2, Aspirin; 3, Larva; 4, Distil; 5, Ordinary; 6, Ham; 7, Britain; 8, Registered Post; 9, Private Address; 13, Basic; 15, Reset; 16, Pan; 17, Moccasin; 19, Replica; 21, Scholar; 22, Just So; 25, Timid; 27, Old.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

LOOKING BACK

TENNIS—REMINISCENCES OF THE PAST AND A DYNAMIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

by John Hole

OUR veteran correspondent, in his usual inimitable style, sets out some forthright views on tennis and points the way to fame and riches in the future for Corps tennis enthusiasts!

DAYS GONE BY

The game as we see it played today at such places as Wimbledon, is not really tennis as envisaged by the inventor, Maj Wingfield, in 1874. His game developed and, in 1888, the LTA was formed. It became a pleasant game. I used to visit Wimbledon often and see Big Bill Tilden (US) and Madame Lenglen (France) play. Tilden with his long sleeves and trousers, and Lenglen with her ankle-length skirts. Although I did not actually play then I absorbed the game and, in my mind, I could play very well.

After the first world war tennis began to change. The 'Yanks' began to dominate the game but were checked by our Fred Perry. After winning the championship for three years running 'Yanks' came to the fore again to the detriment of tennis. It has always annoyed me to see the 'Yanks' ruin everything they touch. You name it and I will prove it. They began to bash the ball over the net at ever increasing speeds. The Australians copied them. It was only a few Europeans who showed a glimmering of grey matter! Today tennis tournaments are losing their appeal. The game is commercialised by the wrong kind of people who pay huge sums of money to the players. The women who play are almost 'starkers' and the men are heading that way.

Up to Wimbledon standard

It was not until I lived in China that I really developed a keen interest in tennis. The standard there equalled Wimbledon. My favourite haunt was the Victoria Recreation Club in Hong Kong. A regular player was Commodore Grace and his two daughters. (He was the son of W. G. Grace, the bearded cricketer.) The Commodore hated cricket. Champions used to drop in from time to time and I picked up a lot of tips from them, in 1924 the US Doubles champions, the Kinsey brothers, and Snodgrass played several matches and I liked their style. They had developed a delicacy of touch that made me think. I played a five-set match every day on a hard court and copied all their strokes.

The reigning champion of Hong Kong was a Japanese named Honda. A title he had held for six years. One day Capt Callaghan, of the Indian Army, dropped in and entered for the championship. The Captain was no relation to the one who occupies a tied cottage off Whitehall. I saw Callaghan play in one of the early rounds and I got excited. *This man had brains.* I followed him like a hawk right up to the final against Honda. There I saw the Captain play tennis as no one has ever played it before. He put the ball in his opponent's court in such a way that Honda just stared at it knowing he was unable to return it. Callaghan did not hit the ball hard but let it drop like a feather. His great asset was guile. He dropped the ball just where Honda was not. He won in three straight sets.

What is wrong with the game today?

What I have always liked about tennis is that it enables one to develop powers of concentration. You can move a mountain if you concentrate hard enough. It sickens me today to see players serving double faults and putting balls out of court. They stagger about the court looking like death. They have a 10-minute knock-up. Why? Just imagine Joe Bugner and Fraser having a couple of rounds as a warm-up. How daft can you get?

Players in these tournaments do not realise that they are showmen and should act as such. They are grossly overpaid, hence are robbing the public. Ever see them laugh? They act like a lot of delinquents and argue with the umpire. Champions—High Wycombe!

I repeat—Tennis is losing its appeal. Do you remember the Roman Games, where the victims approached the royal box and said: 'Caesar, we who are about to die, salute thee'. And they died a bloody death. The spectators got value for their money. Do they today? I think not.

A vision for the future

I can envisage Wimbledon in the near future when the Royal Signals take on the world country by country and beat the lot! They will show the world what tennis really can be. It will be a knock-out competition and we will reign supreme. It will put the racketeers out of business to the benefit of the Royal Signals Association. The spectators and the viewers will have a Roman holiday for not only will they see an exhibition of superb tennis but will also see the defeated carried away exhausted and frustrated. During the short intervals the Corps Band (the one I started in 1920) will play sweet music, not pop or jazz, just music by Mantovani and Strauss.

The secret of tennis revealed

The first lesson to be learnt needs discipline. It is to be ambi-dextrous. This is using the racquet in either hand with the same ease as breathing. I suggest you get two old racquets one in either hand and knock a tennis ball against a wall. Gently at first to get the feel of the unaccustomed hand and keep at it several times a day until perfect co-ordination is obtained. After the initial effort it will become steadily easier. Only after you have mastered this will it be time to begin lesson two. Half the battle is over when lesson one is mastered. Here the discipline you learnt in the Corps will pay dividends.

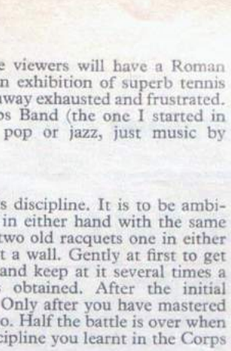
If you stand in the middle of the court and stretch out your arms with a racquet in each hand you will realise that you are covering almost the entire width of the singles court. Then will come the ability to change hands (when using only one racquet) in a split second. No need for a backhand. This will be most confusing for your opponent. I will explain in subsequent lessons the various strokes—with diagrams if possible.

How to make a fortune

What is required now is a few men and women, not only with tennis ability but with some administrative know-how. This new technique I advocate could make millionaires of all those who have the desire and the self-disciple to master it. This is not the vapouring of a nut case. Remember, this is the only country in the world capable of breeding men and women who are capable of original thought. We have the talent to beat the world in ANYTHING—it just wants digging up. All of us have a spark of genius which just wants scratching to set it alight. If you want to be rich, now is your chance.

I have seen them all, and only one man had any idea how to play tennis. He was Tilden. He was the greatest until Callaghan came along. You could be the next. *Certa Ceta!*

WE,
THE LIMBLESS,
LOOK TO YOU
FOR HELP



We come from both world wars. We come from Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus..and from Ulster. From keeping the peace no less than from war we limbless look to you for help.

And you CAN help, by helping our Association, BLESMA (the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association) looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome the shock of losing arms, legs or an eye. It sees that red-tape does not stand in the way of the right entitlement to pension. And, for the severely handicapped and the elderly, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

Donations and information: Major The Earl of Ancaster, KCVO, TD, Midland Bank Limited, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

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These positions involve considerable travel throughout the world. Up to 70% of the year could be spent away from the U.K. installing and commissioning equipment, training customers staff, 'trouble shooting' and providing a strong technical back-up to customers and marketing staff.

Systems Engineers

To be involved in feasibility studies, design of vehicle communications systems and the initial installation of systems often at customer premises. A general mechanical aptitude and a knowledge of military type vehicle installations are highly desirable in addition to the essential electronics skills. Frequent overseas travel will be required.

Salaries, conditions and career prospects are excellent.

Communicate with Racal

If you are leaving the forces in the near future, why not write with details of training and background indicating areas of interest and release date to:
R.B. Jones,
Senior Personnel Officer,
Racal-Tacticom Limited,
10 Commercial Road, READING, Berks.

RACAL
The Electronics Group

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs

WINTER'S TALE

Report by Maj Stuart Read

EXERCISE WINTER'S TALE

EXTRACT from the fair log of HMSTY *British Soldier* during the Malta to Cyprus leg of Exercise Winter's Tale sail training exercise by **Maj S. W. Read.**

Skipper	**Maj Stuart Read**
Navigator	**Capt Mike Shaw**
Watch Leaders	**Maj Ken Ferguson**
	Maj Helier Exon *(Bosun)*
	Ssgt Joe Brand *(Purser)*
Crew	**Ssgt (Y of S) Fred Calvert** *(Communicator)*
	WO2 (F of S) Bob Wherry *(Technocrat)*
	Cpl Bob Cobb *(Engineer)*
	Cpl Paul Budden
	Sig Chris Geelan
	Sig John Wheeler
Owners' Representative	**Capt (Retd) Alan Wilkinson**—JSSC

October 5, 1976—Brize Norton to Malta
The crew flew from Brize Norton to RAF Luqa Malta where we were met by members of 234 Sig Sqn and royally accommodated and entertained.

October 6, 1976—Sightseeing
Went on sight-seeing tour of Malta, had a swim in the warm Mediterranean Sea. Malta is a lovely island and well worth a visit. The population are helpful and friendly, the architecture is superb. Some of the crew were introduced to an alcoholic beverage called a Harvey Wharbanger with somewhat interesting results. At this stage HMSTY *British Soldier* was taking part in the Middle Seas' race and was somewhere off Sicily with a crew from Malta garrison. **Ken Ferguson** and **Stuart Read** wandered round to the Royal Malta Yacht Club to find out when she was due in. The RMYC seemed to be one of those quaint backwaters of the colonial way of life. Many of the competing yachts were in the marina including *Kriter II* and *Charisma*, both beautiful 'racing machines'.

October 7, 1976—Flat batteries
British Soldier had arrived at 0200hrs with flat batteries and no charging capability. She was sailed across the finishing line off the RMYC and then round to HMS *St Angelo*. Although she hadn't done too well in the race, the race crew had been subjected to some gruelling conditions. Our crew left the race crew alone for that day so that they could clean up the yacht whilst we did more sightseeing.

October 8, 1976—Check out
Today was our first day with the yacht. **Helier Exon** went down into the bowels of the vessel at one end and emerged from the other having found all sorts of goodies. **Bob Wherry** and **Fred Calvert** removed the alternator for repair. All the sails were checked. **Joe Brand** organised our rations for the trip. All this activity was interspersed with Maltese hospitality. At the end of the day the crew were quite tired.

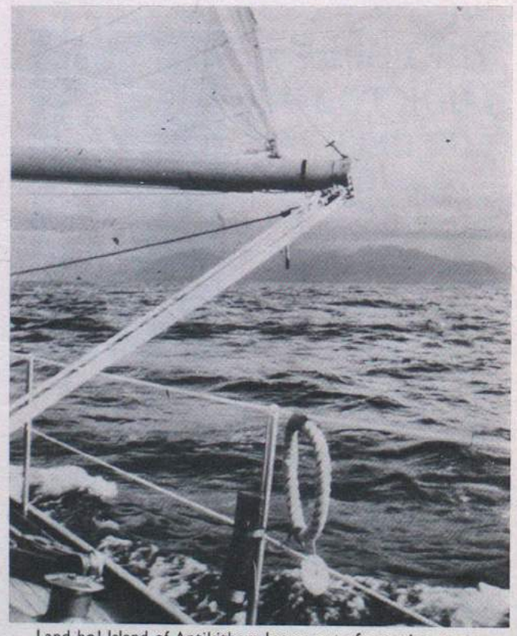
October 9-10, 1976—Delay factor
The alternator was replaced, the drive belt tightened and, eureka, the batteries were charging. Navigator arrived from the UK and went straight to bed. Stowage including rations and 12 persons' kit was a problem. Eventually a detailed stowage plan was drawn up. Meanwhile, the Royal Navy at HMS *St Angelo* were kindly trying to fix the engine-overheating problem. (This problem was to be with us for some time.) Because of the engine it was decided to delay sailing until October 11, 1976.

October 11, 1976—Overheating
Final preparations continued apace. No courtesy flags were found on board for Greece and Cyprus. One of each was procured from the Naval Stores. They were enormous, suitable for an aircraft carrier! Slipped at 1600hrs and motored gently out of Valleta harbour. We sailed for about five miles and found the engine was overheating again, clearly the problem had not been solved. We sailed back into Valletta harbour. After more tinkering with the engine we finally set sail at 2300hrs.

October 12, 1976—Dolphin escort
A lovely day's sail, joined by school of dolphins at 0800. They stayed to escort us for several hours. A reach on starboard tack with main and starcut spinnaker set. Course 090° Magnetic, wind force 3 from the south, **Stuart Read** and **Bob Wherry** rigged a wind chute for the forehatch. Spinnaker handed at last light and yacht snugged down for the night.

October 13, 1976—Exhilarating
The navigator's dawn star sight put us spot on our dead reckoning position. The wind had got up during the night; four rolls in the main average speed 7 knots. Weather conditions during the day were good, 6ft waves allowing the yacht to surf at 9 knots; exhilarating sailing. Course 090° M.

October 14, 1976—Land ho!
We have some Cordon Bleu cooks aboard. Compo rations never tasted like this before. A good day's run with a meridian altitude



Land ho! Island of Antikithera looms out of a passing storm

sight at noon and a sun shot at 1530hrs fixed our position. Wind got up more; nine rolls in the main and storm jib set. Yacht surfing at more than 10 knots off the clock. Wind speed force 8 at times. With a quartering sea steering was tiring, and helmsman changed every 20 minutes. 1700hrs, Land ho! The island of Antikithera hove into sight. A fix by hand-bearing compass gave our position one mile south of our estimated position after being out of sight of land for 500 nautical miles, an error of 0·2 per cent. Those sceptics in the crew were thus convinced that the sextant was not part of the navigator's astrology kit along with the nautical almanac and other books full of figures relating to the stars.

hear no ships. Helier Exon's watch on deck navigating in perfect weather

October 15, 1976—Crete
Dawn approach to Soudha Bay, a restricted anchorage on Crete, home of the Greek Navy engineering base. The entrance is protected by a boom consisting of 6ft spherical steel buoys connected by heavy chain. The 50m wide entrance was located and we sailed the three miles to the harbour.

Alan Wilkinson was sent hot foot ashore to clear customs and immigration and to find a diesel engine expert. He returned two hours later with a Greek naval commander and six mechanics who descended on the engine with gusto. They were unable to clear the sea-water cooling system of its blockage and suggested we change the engine oil which we did—twice. Shore leave was granted and the crew were grateful to have a bath ashore. Two enterprising crew members hired a scooter. To see **Mike Shaw** who is 6ft 5in tall and **Bob Wherry** on this Vespa with their sleeping-bags and toothbrushes was quite a sight. They went off into the mountains behind Soudha for 24 hours, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

October 16, 1976—A chip omelette
Still alongside at Soudha with the water-cooling system in pieces. It was pleasant in the evening sitting outside the local cafe drinking ouzo but frustrating not to be sailing. **Bob Cobb** and **Fred Calvert** came ashore late in the evening having worked on the engine without food. They went to the local hostelry for something to eat and were offered an omelette. On asking if chips could be provided they got them—a chip omelette!

October 17, 1976—A squall
The Greek Navy Commander and his lady friend came down to help test the engine after which we filled the water tank and set sail. The skipper made the decision, with reluctance, not to go to the islands to the North of Crete as the engine was still suspect, but instead to sail for Iraktion further down the coast where a Perkins diesel engineer would be available. A phenomenal line squall approached the quay with calm water in front of it and white-capped waves immediately behind. After sailing with well-reefed mainsail and storm jib set we encountered the squall after about a mile out. *British Soldier* behaved like a thoroughbred. She heeled over hard on the wind and leapt forward at about 7 knots. It was exhilarating stuff and the skipper was thoroughly enjoying helming at this stage with gusts of wind off the clock at greater than 60 knots. The navigator thought that with the poor visibility we possibly would not be able to see the gap in the boom and we decided to go back. The main was handed and *British Soldier* allowed to run before the wind under storm jib at 8 knots. Nearer the jetty we ran under bare poles at 4 knots. Having come alongside and made up with double warps and fenders we sat down below to late lunch, we were prevented from sailing until the following morning at first light.

October 18, 1976—Gentle sail
First light departure for Iraktion. A gentle sail along the north coast of Crete. Mates of the watch did the coastal navigation. Came alongside the wall of the inner harbour at 2100hrs, next to a French Navy patrol boat.

October 19, 1976—Some flag
Large Greek courtesy flag caused a stir. It was bigger than those worn by the visiting cruise ships. 0800hrs, **Alan Wilkinson** sent ashore to find the British Consul and a Perkins diesel mechanic. 1000hrs, **Wilkinson** back with Consul and two mechanics who stripped water heat exchanger.

Shore leave given to see Iraktion and the ancient Minoan Palace of Knossos, dating from 2000 BC. The palace was in wonderful state of preservation and had been very carefully excavated. The sewerage and drainage system and earthenware pipes for fresh water could be a lesson to modern architects. 1700hrs, engine heat exchanger replaced. Sailed for Rhodes. Again disaster, the engine would now not run in neutral without boiling. Hence no battery charging and no radio transmission. A very reluctant decision to return to Iraktion was made at 1800hrs. Return sail was interesting. Five cruise ships left the port whilst we were coming in. All passed up wind of us at about 30m. For the last little bit into the inner harbour the engine was used with the skipper crossing his fingers and toes, hoping it would not seize.

October 20, 1976—A fit engine
The two Greek mechanics returned and took the pipes off the oil heat exchanger. They had been reluctant to do this before because they had not seen one like it before and had no spare parts. On taking off the pipes a great glob of muck fell on to the bilges and sea-water gushed through the system. The engine was well again! We motored out of Iraktion, bound for Rhodes, at 1300hrs. A comprehensive engine load test proved that all was well. Good dusk-to-dawn run of 90 miles.

October 21, 1976—West of Rhodes
Sailing up the West Coast of Rhodes. ETA dawn tomorrow.

October 22, 1976—Force 8 and in harbour
Entered Rhodes Mandrakai harbour at first light. A quick clean ship and shore leave granted until 1500hrs. We would then be on schedule for arrival in Cyprus. 1500hrs, wind force 6 from SE. Need weather forecast before leaving. 1600hrs, wind SE, force 8 and increasing. Harbour entrance a mass of breakers. Asked advice of seasoned skipper of 60ft yawl who said the storm may last 24 or 48 hours.

1700hrs, wind speed gusting off the clock (60 knots). Greek island ferries of about 300 tons tied themselves to the other side of harbour as their anchors were dragging. No sailing that night, very glad to be in Rhodes harbour.

Storm-bound in Rhodes, breakers on the harbour wall

October 23, 1976—Behind schedule
We were now late for ETA Cyprus. Wind still force 9 and could not sail. Message sent to JSSC Gosport via Portishead radio. Storm due to low pressure to south and high pressure over Balkans.

October 24, 1976—Uncomfortable ride
Storm abated although sea still high. We sailed for Cyprus. Course 115° M. A somewhat uncomfortable ride due to the high sea. Wind verred to SW force 5.

October 25, 1976—Landfall near
Course 115° M. Landfall Paphos light now expected 0300hrs. Wind moderated but sea still high. Shook out reefs. Helming difficult due to following sea.

Crew assembled on *British Soldier* in Larnaca marina. *Left to right:* Cpl Bob Cobb, Cpl Paul Budden, Maj Ken Ferguson, Maj Stuart Read (skipper), Ssgt Fred Calvert, Maj Helier Exon, WO2 Bob Wherry, Sig Chris Geelan, Sig John Wheeler, Capt Mike Shaw (navigator), Ssgt Joe Brand

October 26, 1976—Spot on
Paphos light in sight 0300hrs. Navigation spot on.
0700hrs, 8 miles south of Episkopi.
0730hrs, called Akrotiri on Aldis lamp. No reply.
Best day's sailing since Malta. Main, spinnaker, No 1 genoa, staysail set. Yacht sailing at 9–10 knots. Training all hands on spinnaker trimming. Mates again did navigation—keep Cyprus on port side!
1700hrs entered Larnaca Marina.
1900hrs, **Majs Mike Miller** and **Bob Aitkin** arrived and took crew ashore for meze in Larnaca.

October 27, 1976—Superb hospitality
0600hrs, started cleaning ship. 1300hrs, handed over to crew from Cyprus. Two days were spent in Dhekalia in the various Messes, cleaning our bodies and clothes. Superb hospitality was encountered from the Corps' representatives in Dhekalia. We flew out from Cyprus to the UK on October 29, 1976, having enjoyed a worth-while exercise.

Don't be disappointed!

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 809

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj A. W. de V. Hunt** (Royal Signals)
2IC	**Capt D. F. M. Collyer** (Royal Signals)
QM	**Capt M. J. Dunmall** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer	**Capt A. Beveridge** (RCT)
Comms Officer	**Lt J. M. Shaw** (Royal Signals)
OC Comms Troop	**Lt H. A. R. Hancock** (Royal Signals)
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) E. T. A. Webster**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins**
Y of S	**WO2 (Y of S) A. T. Jackson**
F of S	**WO2 (F of S) A. Brittenden**
MTO	**WO2 B. M. Hudson**
ORSQMS	**Ssgt (ORSQMS) I. L. Dudding**

WITH FLYING COLOURS

Brig D. M. WOODFORD, our Brigade Commander no less, decided to conduct our FFR on November 29. Since he was well aware of our undoubted communicating ability, the OC, **Maj Tony Hunt,** decided to show him as many soldiers as possible in their day-to-day working environment. Starting with the Commcen, he met **Yeoman Tony Jackson, Ssgt Bill Metcalf** and a complete working shift, who explained the working of the Commcen and the problems of coping with the Brigade Staff and the seven units dotted around our Brigade TAOR.

Having left the Commcen, he saw the majority of the Squadron taking part in an obstacle course race, which was won by 'TM' Troop led by **Foreman 'Brit' Brittenden** and including such stalwarts as **Cpl John Wright, Sgt Steve Harrison** and **Sig 'Paki' Grey.** Amongst the highlights of his tour was a VCP given by the D & E Platoon, which included a simulated injury to a member of the cordon, who required immediate assistance from our medical centre. Comms Troop put on an aerial-rigging display, with **Cpl 'Blue' Baker, Sig 'Scouse' Sullivan** and **Lcpl 'Boggy' Brown** as the stars.

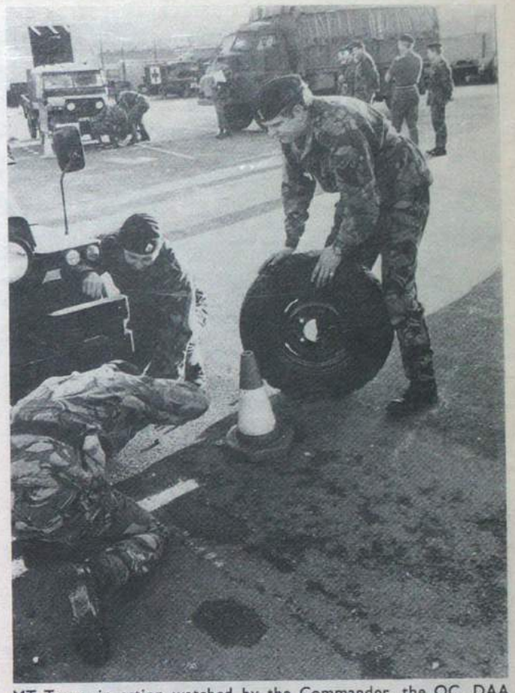
MT Troop held a tyre-changing competition, with **Cpl Stan Ramsbottom** (RCT) and **Sig Bob Huskisson** being the driving force behind the winning team. In the cookhouse **Ssgt Mick Green, Cpl Steven Cooper** and **Lcpl Paul Beck** asked the Brigadier for some assistance in preparing the Christmas pudding. The Commander, who was shown round the cookhouse by our QM, **Capt Mike Dunmall,** also judged a Christmas cake competition, which was won by a member of the roulement catering staff, who are attached to our resident rifle company, who just happen to be 260 (SAM) Sig Sqn. Since we are still here and the OC is smiling, one can only assume we passed with flying colours.

RED STRIP DIVERSION

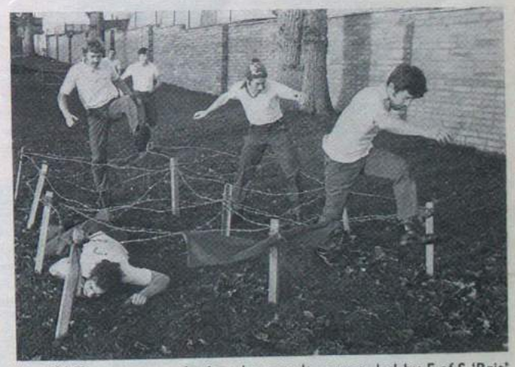
The officers from the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn challenged the sergeants to a game of 'officer rules' soccer on the Mahon Barracks' pitch. This quagmire, which is only a half-sized pitch anyway, lent itself to a highly amusing and entertaining 'free for all'. **Lt Sarah Nettleship,** looking quite dashing in her all red strip, managed to divert the attention of the sergeants so successfully that the officers even managed to hold their own for most of the game. The BM and RSM were responsible for the game becoming a mixture of soccer and American rules football and **Csgt George Bray** still hasn't managed to return to work. A combined Officers and Sergeants Mess side then took on 'the lads', who fielded two ladies in **Lin Martin** and **Bridget Neil.** Naturally 'the lads' won the game and the free beer in the 'Huntsman' afterwards.

CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Over the Christmas period, the Squadron were involved in a major redeployment in the Brigade as a result of the force reductions which were announced in Parliament. This meant that the majority of the Communications element of the Squadron were working as usual. However, it did not deter anyone from pursuing the normal Christmas activities. **Capt Chris Shuker, Maj Tony Hunt, Capt Mike MacMahon, Lt Sarah Nettleship** and her girls went Carol singing around the quarters' areas. The RSM,



MT Troop in action watched by the Commander, the OC, DAA and QMG, and assorted hangers on!



The TM Troop team, winning the assault course, led by F of S 'Brit' Brittenden on his hands and knees!

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

WO1 Eric Webster, organised a highly successful children's party. **RQMS Ron Collins** and **Sgt Fred Biddle** played the part of Santa on three separate occasions. The officers and sergeants served lunch on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as producing 'gunfire' on Christmas morning and, finally, the Squadron rugby side played a very entertaining game of rugby against the local Portadown Club on Boxing Day, Monday, which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all who took part before, during, and particularly afterwards. **Cpl John Wright** and **Lcpl Steve Lodge** looked as if most of their enjoyment was prior to the game, judging by the way they played.

The Boxing Day rugby side just before the game. They looked even worse at the end of it all

Left to right. Standing: Sig Huskisson, Cpl Burton, Tom David, Harry Maddison, Cpl Wright, Capt Shuker, 2 Lt Soar, Sgt White, Cpl Inman

Front row: Lcpl Guthrie, Sgt Roberts, Sgt Neill, John Bench, Cpl Woodger, Cpl Ramsbottom, Lcpl Lodge

'A spot more brandy, Quartermaster'. Brig D. M. Woodford stirring the Christmas pud

Left to right: Ssgt Mick Green, Lcpl Paul Beck, Brigade Commander, Cpl Steve Cooper, Capt (QM) Mike Dunmall

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Capt Chris Shuker and his wife, **Audrey,** have just left us, for a year at Shrivenham. We wish them both every good fortune and welcome in their places **Capt David Collyer** and his wife, **Andrea.**

PERSONALITIES

Apart from the fact that we are now the senior Brigade in the Army, we have two sons and one daughter all serving in Mahon Barracks and all of whom are children of retired senior officers of the Corps. They are **Capt Charles Woodrow** (Grenadier Guards), **Lt Sarah Nettleship** (WRAC) and **Lt Hugh Hancock** (Royal Signals).

Happy New Year to all WIRE readers.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

OH TANNENBAUM

DURING the second week in December an observant member of the Squadron glanced across the River Foyle towards the walled city and remarked that there were more red glows than usual! It transpired that these were the fairy lights on the city's Christmas tree, and it was not long before our ears were assailed by the sound of Christmas carols wafting across the river to act as a reminder the festive season was here. Not to be outdone, our departing RSM, **WO1 Jim Sinnett,** decided to erect a Christmas tree in the Brigade HQ compound that would rival the one in Trafalgar Square. Ably assisted (?) by the Pioneer section, the tree was hoisted to its full height and for one brief moment stood erect as a splendid monument to man's endeavour. The cheers of the crowd soon changed to groans as the tree plummeted down, ripping away an assortment of radio co-ax's and remotes from the radio room, not to mention part of the roof of the resident Battalion HQ. Never at a loss in a situation like this, the RSM decided to go into the Yuletide log business, and promptly had the tree sawn up and despatched to the OC's house.

WORK GOES ON AS USUAL

December has turned out to be one of the Squadron's busiest months this year. It began with Comms Troop providing a mobile inquisition stand for the 1st UDR FFR held near Magilligan Prison. The communication skills tests were conducted by **Lt Mike Fisher, Sgt Hank Marven** and **Cpls Mick Palliser** and **'Jock' Handibode.** Many of the part-timers with the UDR have little opportunity to use radios or voice procedure, but they tried their best and many reached a high standard. The photographs give a glimpse of the day's events. Overheard at one of the test stands was this little conversation:

DS: (In desperation after a look at the blank mark sheet) 'All right then, tell me who Sunray is'.

Lady member of the UDR: (in broad Derry accent) 'Aha, the hard ones first eh?'!

'A pride' of I UDR officers

FUN AND GAMES

Despite all the work the Squadron managed to run a very full programme of Christmas activities. The festivities began with the Wives Club Xmas draw organised by **Claire Burke** and her faithful band of helpers (with much help from the RSM!). This was followed by the Children's Xmas party organised by Comms Troop with **Sgt Doug Ballantyne** giving a grand performance as Santa Claus. The next week included the Xmas dinner, during which vast amounts of liquid refreshments seem to have been consumed, the Squadron Xmas draw and numerous Troop parties. At this point, we must say thank you to the Royal Signals Association for their very generous cash donation to the Squadron

CHRISTMAS IN DERRY

Sgt 'Flash Gordon' Baggally, Ssgt Ray Duffy and the Brigadier's wife

Sgt 'Santa' Ballantyne arriving in his rocket at the Children's Christmas party

Generation gap at Melrose Hall. Mrs Claire Burke, daughter Amy, and friend

'Merlin the Mystic' entertains at the children's Christmas party

Maj Peter Burke, at Melrose Hall tea party. Maj Burke is wearing a tie

The OC presents RSM Jim Sinnett with a farewell present in the Oyster Club. RSM Ian Buckley looks on

A picture that makes it all so worthwhile

Mrs Janet Fisher receiving yet another raffle prize from Mrs Liz Webster at the Wives Club dance

this Xmas. A component which was quickly changed to liquid refreshments and enjoyed by all.

At this time of the year the Squadron try to do a little for these less fortunate than ourselves. A Christmas tea party was given to the members of the local old people's home at Melrose House. Some 35 old people each received a gift, a kiss and a hug from **Maj Peter Burke's daughters.** Many of the older men are ex-soldiers and it was a delight to see the pleasure on their faces. Later in the week we returned to Melrose House for an Xmas drink and carols. The pictures included this month show that the spirit of Xmas was as strong as ever in Londonderry.

A GREAT RESHUFFLE

The recent force reductions in the Province caused a major reshuffle of units in Londonderry right over the Xmas period. Naturally the Squadron found themselves moving ops rooms, talkthrough stations, radio relay equipments and telephones in a mad rush to keep one pace ahead of the Troops who were moving areas of responsibility. Much praise must go to the Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Norman Cowell,** and his merry band, who worked through the Xmas holidays whilst the rest of the UK slept. The Line Section, under **Sgt Alan Finney,** gave marvellous service as RSO's played musical telephones in their new bases.

A NEW COMMCEN—AT LAST!

Running in parallel to the reshuffle was the Yeoman's **WO2 John Nichols,** master plan for the opening of the new-look Commcen and the commissioning of new equipments at all outstations. This has necessitated hours of work by the TE techs preparing and installing the stations throughout the Brigade area and **Ssgt John Chambers, Sgt Tim Howley** and **Cpls John Arkless** and **Glen Baldwin** deserve their New Year's day lie-in. The great switch on was not without its disasters and so, in fact, the TE techs did not actually get their lie in. Luckily for the Foreman's and the Yeoman's leave everything finally clicked and the Brigade can boast another first in telegraph comms.

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260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 809

PHOTO REPORT

1. The CLF, Maj Gen D. T. Young, DFC, presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to WO2 (SSM) D.W. Payne. The presentation took place when the CLF Visited Mahon Road Camp, Portadown, on December 14, 1976

2. PREPARING TO GO ON BOMB WATCH
Seated, left to right in the Squadron 'PIG': Sigs Dave Cooke, Des Mannion, Lcpl John Corsar, Cpl Pat Brooks and Sig 'Wedge' Holcroft

4. Preparing to board their Saracen prior to a rural patrol are Sigs 'Chopper' McCarry, Frank Boyle, 'Sniffer' Taylor-Beasley and Dave Evans

6. Sig John Leitch and Sig 'Smudge' Smith with a 'Greenfinch' on bomb watch patrol in Portadown High Street. The 'Greenfinch' is Lcpl Sadie Anderson

3. Sgt Martin Prior and Cpl Bob Guerin with Sig Geoff Biggs at a vehicle check point on the Tandragee Road, South of Portadown

5. Lcpl John Corsar 'chats up' a local resident during a street patrol in Carlton Street, Portadown, with Sig 'Mo' Mohamet giving cover

7. 'LOAD-UP' PRIOR TO A RURAL PATROL
Left to right: Sigs Frank Boyle, 'Sniffer' Taylor-Beasley, Chris Watson, 'Chopper' McCarry and Sgt 'Taff' Gunter

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

EXERCISE PEAR TREE

THE title could have been more subtle but it was quite apparent that without the partridge and the pear tree the Regiment and Fernmeldebataillon 1 were going to make the best of what they had available. This was a one-day event sponsored by 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt which can most kindly be described as a cross between 'It's a Knockout' competition and a Whitsun treat. The officers and seniors of both Regiments met on neutral ground at Esperke, a village near Nienburg, and formed up into teams of six, comprising three men from each Regiment. There were a number of competitive stands with a communicating theme, which the teams completed as part of a competition. The stands varied from pumping up Clarke masts, to typing English/German on teleprinters, to racing away making a line coupling and tuning up radio sets. The result of the competition was in doubt right to the end when a representative team with both commanding officers raced against **Ssgt Brian Eason's** team in the MTO's equivalent of the Royal Tournament field gun competition. Not only did **Ssgt Eason's** team win against the select opposition but they finished winners of the complete competition. At this stage, the 2IC, **Maj Bev Austin,** was found to be hoarding a surprisingly unopened bottle of cherry brandy in his pocket. This was immediately seized and presented as the first prize. To round off the day the participants retired to their respective pubs and Messes to entertain the German guests.

The final stand of Exercise Pear Tree. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Peter Davies explains to Oberstleutnant Gunther Peters, Commanding Fernmeldebataillon 1, how the British Christmas cracker operates

SPORTS REPORT

The BAOR cross-country championships were held in Detmold on December 15 over a gruelling course of about 6½ miles in what can only be described as hilly Arctic conditions. The team came a very creditable third but a particular mention must be given to **Sgt George Holden** (the team captain) who was the individual third runner home and **Sgt Jim Donovan** who was eighth from a field of 160. A special mention, too, for the 'Daddy' of the team, **Capt Colin Richardson,** at the ripe old age of 41. The hockey team, led by **Capt David Lowe,** are now in the semi-final of the Divisional competition which leads into the Army Cup. This is the result of a courageous performance against 1 Cheshire on December 21. Heroes of the day were the goal scorers **Sgt Dennis Parker** and **SSM Arthur Broughton.** They brought the team back from a 1—0 deficit to a 2—1 win. **Sgt Dennis Parker** continues to maintain that he is a mid-field man and not a goal scorer but the way that he is cracking them in just now augurs badly for our next opponents.

But the success story to date must be the soccer team who are unbeaten this season. In January, we play **1 Cheshire** in the Army Cup for a place in the BAOR semi-finals. We are also very much in contention in the 1 Div FA Challenge Cup and in the local Major Units League we lead with 15 goals for and 6 against. This is no time to be complacent but morale is very high. A large amount of credit for the success must go to the hard-working management of **Capt 'Mac' McGilvray** and **Sgt Ralph Porter.** Watch this space!

Finally, the Rugby club staggered out on Boxing Day and the officers and corporals played the seniors and soldiers. At least that was the intention but as it happened about 30 enthusiasts rushed around on a frozen-solid pitch playing what ended up a form of touch-rugby with scrums, lineouts and some rucks. The Commanding Officer showed his pace on the wing, supported by his son in the scrum, and the RSM has got the names of the soldiers who had the effrontery to stop him from scoring a try!

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

SPEARPOINT REPORT

THE latter half of 1976 having been spent involved in the preparation and execution of Exercise Spearpoint below are individual accounts given by each of the Squadrons concerned.

1 SQUADRON ANGLE

Exercise Spearpoint started for 1 Sqn with the OC, **Maj David Hodges,** telling us all what we were going to do and the SSM, **'Sammy Leggett',** telling us what we were not going to do! By the time the Troop Sergeants **(Ron Parsons** and **John Dougal)** had said their bit we wondered if it was the same exercise being discussed. The duration of the exercise being longer than normal in BAOR we found out who the old soldiers were. Those such as **Cpl Mick Matthew** spent a worried two days wondering how to exist for three weeks on his usual three days' kit—minus his towel, soap, toothpaste and Parka—it was warm the day we set off!

Capt Bob Graham was the only unfortunate victim from 1 Sqn who damaged his hand on the exercise. We all wish him and his hand a swift and full recovery. **Lt Mike Telfer** stepped swiftly into the vacant 'Comcen Comedian position', and was soon leading convoys in several directions at once through sleepy German towns. **Ssgt (Y of S) Len Harvey** was always a happy man when the cold clear light of dawn showed us:

- to be on the right hill
- To have all shots in and working
- **Sig Flanagan** is still with us and apparently still on our side.

The technical side was once again handled by **Ssgt (F of S) Mick Banks** and his gang of biscuit-munching, soup-swilling assistants who just managed to mend equipment faster than **Sig 'Chip' Chippendale** can break it. This means they work 26 hours a day 8 days a week (**'Chip'** only requires 20 minutes a day to get his share done).

Back in barracks the usual re-distribution of mirrors, lights, wipers and batteries began in preparation for the PRE. The Squadron's last task being to steam-clean **Sigs John Whitworth** and **Paul Lime** who both managed to transfer all their vehicle dirt on to themselves. One former member of the Squadron, 'Brandy', the Squadron dog, was not patch-painted or red-leaded this year as we did not put him up for inspection (he failed the last three).

MISCELLANEA

On the sporting side, 1 Sqn Eskimoes, **Lt Mike Telfer, Cpl Dave Stanton** and **Sig Danny Martin,** have headed for the frozen wastes of Norway to train for the Nordic events while the sailors wait beside the radiators hoping for warm sun and brisk breezes. **Cpl Neil McEwen** casts his eyes skyward waiting for a patch of blue so he can carry on free-falling.

The footballers, including **Cpl Dave Taylor** who played for the Corps against 4th Div, are still training hard.

We say a sad farewell to **Capt Roger Barry,** who has left to take up an instructor's job in Blandford. We wish him the best of luck.

2 SQUADRON'S VIEW

Generally, Exercise Spearpoint was a great success for 2 Sqn. New equipment and ideas were put to the test, all of which resulted in improved communications. One highlight was the introduction into the Division of the Clansman VRC321 (is this the long-awaited beginning of the HF revival?) which has proved to be a great success.

The technical staff under **F of S Mick Woodhouse** and **F of S Alan Eames** (on loan from 7 Sig Regt) must take a great deal of credit for ably organising their respective technical support teams through **SSM Alec Nicoll's** battle cry of 'Stand to', so that the Divisional nets were kept on the road for nearly 100 per cent of the exercise time.

Even though the exercise was taken very seriously there were many light-hearted moments, too many to mention in detail but here are a few:

- The friendly Chieftain tank that careered through Radio Village to give fire support to a rapidly approaching enemy. Unfortunately, it also took with it all the cables that enabled the staff to communicate at a most critical time of the battle.
- First aid rapidly being sent to callsign 98C under **Cpl 'Nobby' Ford** whose members were suffering from worms. The ever versatile **Lt Peter Parfit** was sent to sort out the enemy within!
- The Golden Blanket award for Exercise Spearpoint goes to **Sgt Phil Lewis** who arrived in the Squadron halfway through the Exercise and put up a most notable performance. On one occasion he managed 17½ hours without a break. Although **Capt Peter Richards** put up a good fight it soon became obvious to all concerned that he was outclassed.

3 SQUADRON

Notes for Div HQ Harbour Party or **All you need to know about circus management**

Since 2 Armd Div HQ went 'light weight' its Harbour SNCOs, **Ssgt 'Charlie' Drake** and **Sgt Derek (The Bed) Biggs,** have come up against problems they had neither expected, nor considered. They have, however, produced this simple guide for siting a light weight Div HQ, listing the following simple requirements:

- *Ops Complex* Doesn't every village have an empty Schloss? Barns are far too draughty. It must have a disused ballroom big enough to fit in the complex and with small adjacent rooms for GOC, CRA, CRE, and Col GS to work in isolation.
- *Cookhouse and Dining Area* The Schloss must have an empty kitchen which is big enough to take a 4-tonner and two water bowsers. The kitchen must be next to a large banquet hall with room to feed 300 officers and men, and 10 linemen.
- *Comhead* Must be under cover and within 50m of the Ops Complex. It isn't really important and only consists of 3×4-tonner and 3×Land-Rovers. In the same way the Radio Relay vehicle manned by the Regiment's only B1 Hermits must be sited tactically on the top of the nearest large hill and there left without food or water for days.
- *Regimental Aid Post* Shuttles from Main to Main as no-one goes sick at Step-up—they are too busy sleeping. It must be sited as far away from Ops Complexes as possible so that anyone who sets off for there with anything less than a genuine ailment is certainly ill when they arrive.
- *Admin Control* This is the Group Commanders, Group SSM, Group SQMS and Harbour Sergeant's sleeping area. Must be room for 1×Fire bucket and cool area for SSM's fresh milk. It is rumoured that when they are awake these four great men do a little bit of work.
- *Forward Logistic (We're the poor relations) HQ* This must be sited close to Ops and consist of everything above but on a smaller scale.

Despite the health hazards this 'light weight road show' occasionally is forced into woods where our 'erection' expert, **Ssgt Jim Conway,** brings out his (big top) tent and sets up in some convenient clearing. This lightweight tent is a mere 50×40ft and fits very neatly into the back of a 4-tonner and Tasker trailer. Into it is squeezed the Ops Complex and all staff who don't get lost in the dark. Sited next to this in a second convenient clearing is the cookhouse tent which is again a compact 30×36ft and houses a cookhouse and 300 hungry officers and men . . . and 10 linemen. It can be a little crowded at meal times.

In both modes the Ops and Forward Log Complexes have an SOP layout which has been modified to read that the layout is the opinion of the senior officer present. Musical chairs, played also with 6ft tables and mapboards is a popular game at 2 Armd Div HQ.

HQ SQUADRON

Lubbecke Anglo-German Club (Report by the Secretary, **Lt Tony Cudlip**)

Since being formed in October 1975 the club has grown to a membership of 135. Members of the military and civilian communities are equally represented and the committee responsibilities reflect this. The first year's programme was very successful, monthly meetings being sponsored with alternating British and German themes, Scottish evening, Carnival dance, British car treasure rally, German wine with English cheeses! The 1977 programme is well in hand, future events planned include:

British film—'All creatures great and small'.
German masked ball.
Folk singing and dancing.
German film.
Family 'Wanderung' with picnic and children's organised games.
Car rally.
Concert evening.
Mosel wine visit.

December had a Christmas flavour with the British families attending the traditional Saint Nikolaus ceremony where sweets are given and German carols sung, a joint visit to the Royal Military Music Concert at the Halle Münster and the *piece de resistance,* Lubbecke Station's Pantomime, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', to be held in the Lubbecke Kulturhalle. This is certain to have the Germans wondering about the British character where the hero is a woman and 'his' mother is a man!

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

The CO, Lt Col John Halford (Royal Signals), presents Lcpl Fred Tedby with his Corps Colours for basketball

Congratulations to **Lcpl Fred Tedby** on his presentation of Corps Colours for basketball. **Lcpl Tedby** has had a very successful history so far as basketball is concerned. He first started playing in May 1970 for the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate. Whilst there he was awarded honours with the Army Juniors, the Combined Services Juniors and the England Juniors under 19. In his final term at Harrogate he joined the Corps' side. In March 1975 he first played for the Army Senior squad. In July of that year a new Army coach was appointed and since then he has been a regular Army (UK) player. In 1974 he gained first Combined Services (SNRS) honours. On arriving in 2 Div he was selected to play for BAOR and also for the Inter-Services which will take place in April 1977. In his first season with 2 Div he helped us to win the BAOR championships and runner-up in the Army Cup Final.

OFFICERS MESS FORMATION GUEST NIGHT

On December 1, 1976, we marked the formation of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with a celebration Guest Night. The chief guests invited were the GOC, **Maj Gen F. E. Kitson, CBE, MC,** the CSO, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge, Brig M. S. Reynolds,** Commander Osnabruck Garrison, and **Brig G. W. Gittins,** CCR Signals. We also dined-in as members of the Regiment the officers of the newly-created 4 Sqn, led by **Maj Russel Maynard, MBE.** The guests were entertained during the evening by the

Maj Gen John Sturge and Brig Wyn Gittins sign the visitors' book

Band of the Devon and Dorsets, including the rendering of no less than 13 Regimental/Corps marches, starting with 'Hearts of Oak' in deference to **Lt Chris Pemberton** (Royal Navy) on his last night as 'SNOB' (Senior Naval Officer Bunde!).

We also said farewell to **Maj Gerry Funnel,** OC HQ Sqn, and **Capt Malcolm Sinton** both of whom are taking up residence in the MOD, **Capt Ray Beadle,** OC LAD, who moves along the road to Osnabruck, **Capt David Collyer** who goes to Northern Ireland and, finally, **Capt Benny Goodman** who is off to a globe-trotting appointment at the School of Signals. We wish them all and their wives the very best for the future.

HECTIC AND SUCCESSFUL DECEMBER

DECEMBER was a hectic month socially with the usual round of Christmas parties and draws. Some of the highlights included the pantomime 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', performed by the staff of HQ 2nd Armd Div in the Kulturhalle, Lubbecke, and our own Birdwood Players put on 'Bell, Book and Candle' which was equally successful.

The Cross Keys Lodge of the RAOB entertained 20 children from the local Kinderheim and presented the principal with a cheque for DM1,152.

Sgt Hatchell puts her skills into practice

A UNIQUE TESTER

Sgt Sheila Hatchell (WRAC) has just chalked up a first by becoming the only WRAC qualified Testing Officer HGV. This means that she can test any driver on any wheeled vehicle, which certainly gives our MT Section in Lubbecke an added bonus. **Sgt Hatchell** is not only a highly qualified military driver, she is also a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and is a is a very keen rally driver. She has successfully competed in many BAOR rallies and has been selected as the only WRAC member of the BAOR rally team to compete in the 1977 Scottish International Rally.

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

JUST A MEMORY

EXERCISE Spearpoint is now just a memory but was, in fact, notable at the time in several ways. First of all we were playing the 'enemy' for a change. Certainly our new 'lean and mean' Divisional HQ operates under much the same spartan conditions as 'the opposition' and we cribbed some of their tactics. Nobody actually said who won!

Distinguished visitors

We were visited in the field by the charming **Mrs Armstrong,** the American Ambassador at the Court of St James. Her suede trouser suit may not have provided good camouflage but it put our Mary Quant outfits to shame.

HRH Prince Philip also visited the exercise and it is reported that at least one farmer withdrew his damage claim when he heard who was driving the tank and will erect a plaque over the tracks across his field.

As I write these notes, the Regiment is humming with preparation for the annual FFR inspection. The ground is frozen and it is snowing. The parade will not be able to march properly; the vehicles will look awful covered in snow; the inspecting officer will be cold and miserable . . . what am I doing here scribbling WIRE notes?

'. . . do you really give them THREE choices . . .?'
Sgt Tom Linton showing the American Ambassador his field cooking
(Photo courtesy PR. HQ 4 Div)

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

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STANDARD AWARDS

TWO of the Regiment's athletes were recently awarded AAA standards. **Sig Glen Broome** was awarded grade 2 standard for his high jump of 1·95m in the Army inter-Unit Championships. **Cpl Johnny Gumbs** received a grade 3 standard for his 14·04m putt in the Army Individual Championships. The certificates were presented by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. R. Topple.**

FFR INSPECTION

On Friday, December 10, 1976, the Regiment received their FFR visit by a team headed by the Chief of Staff, HQ 1 (British) Corps, **Brig H. S. L. Dalzell-Payne, CBE.** The team spent the morning visiting the Squadrons engaged in various activities. From the Regiment's point of view, the inspection was a success. However, the state of the Adjutant's hat was noted by the eagle-eyed inspecting officer. A collection is being made to buy him a new one!

PAGE TROPHY HOCKEY IN FREEZING CONDITIONS

The Regimental inter-Squadron hockey competition held on December 14, 1976, was won by HQ Sqn, whose 'A' team beat 4 Sqn 'A' team in a very close final. The competition was played on the square in freezing conditions, and ice-skates and a puck would have been more appropriate.

FFR INSPECTION
Brig H. S. L. Dalzell-Payne, CBE, inspects 5 Sqn on the square. Capt W. G. Lidster and Maj J. R. Potier look on

Brig Dalzell-Payne talks to members of 6 Sqn during NBC training

RUGBY WITH A DIFFERENCE

On the afternoon of December 16, the WOs and Sgts Mess came to battle with the Rodney's XV for the Guzunder trophy. Bribes to the referee were readily accepted and players trying too hard were penalised. Unfortunately, the normal rules of rugby did not cover such things as the hi-jacking of the PA Land-Rover to score a try or the use of pyrotechnically assisted kicks. The game ended in a draw and the Guzunder trophy was presented to the referee and organiser, **Capt Dicky Dyer.** The after-effects of the match—apart from some heavy heads—a broken finger and over DM800 for charity.

One member of the Rodney's XV, Capt Bob Axton, became very attached to the Guzunder trophy
Left to right: Sgt Mick Codd, Sgt Norman Collis, Capt Bob Axton, Sgt Trev Johnson

Cpl Johnny Gumbs receiving his AAA Grade 3 standard from the Commanding Officer, Lt Col M. R. Topple. The Adjutant, Capt R. G. L. Hill, read the citation

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

SERGEANTS MESS NEWS

Dining-out nights

IT was inconsiderate of OIC Manning and Records for **WO1 (RSM) Joe Frost's** posting to coincide with **WO1 (Y of S) John Morrison's** commissioning, to coincide with Christmas and New Year, to coincide with the draw, to coincide with Officers to the Sergeants Mess, to coincide with Sergeants to the Officers Mess—damned inconsiderate! **WO1 (RSM) Joe Frost** was dined out during December with all the pomp and circumstance that we have become acccustomed to over the past two years of his reign as RSM. There is little doubt that **Joe** was a 'dinner man' right from the start. Within days of taking over office we had two dinners, and they became monthly functions from that moment on, as did his monthly cabaret nights—and it would be fair to say that much of the success of Sergeants Mess life was due to **Joe Frost's** guiding influence.

His own dinner, as usual, was an eight-course affair and, in summing up **Joe's** two years with 8 Sig Regt, **WO1 (F of S) Terry Brabon**—(there you are, **Terry**—you've got a mention)—threw aside his well-prepared speech and reminded the Regiment of the difficult task that confronts any training Regimental RSM, and the way **Joe Frost** had always put his Mess and the members before his personal ambitions. **Joe's** main ambition, of course, was to see the new Mess opened, but due to circumstances beyond the Regiment's control, this was impossible. Never mind, **Joe,** you'll be welcome there at any time when it does open. **Joe** was presented with a clock by **Terry Brabon** on behalf of the Mess, and reciprocated with a magnificent champagne bucket. A toast was drunk to **'Joe Frost'** prior to taking up an appointment with 11 Sig Regt—and subsequently a move into civvy street, where we wish him and **Stella** well with his business venture in Stockton. And then there was the other one—another magnificent occasion, the dining out of **WO1 (Y of S) John Morrison. John** is an ex-Beverley boy (had to get that in to start with) who was commissioned as a Lieutenant with 9th Sig Regt in January. During his tour with 8 Sig Regt he has managed to stave off many breakfast attacks by Foremen of Signals and has even been known to retaliate, on occasions when severely pressurised by them. Well, **John,** you've cracked it—and delighted we are to see it. We feel certain that one day OIC Manning and Records will issue you with the yellow and black uniform—you did say you wanted to be a traffic officer. So they've done it again. They've deprived the Sergeants Mess of yet another good bloke and handed him to the Officers Mess! Damned inconsiderate!

RSM Joe Frost (*left*) receives a clock from WO1 (F of S) Terry Brabon

WO1 (Y of S) Tom Morrison (*left*) receives a farewell gift from RSM Joe Frost

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY—No 4

NAME almost any Army sport and **Sgt Chris Bond** is bound to have played it at some stage. His Army sporting career started at the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, where he captained the Army and Combined Services junior basketball side and represented the College at cricket, athletics, rugby and cycling. Later in his Service career, he added further sports like hockey, football, swimming, tug-of-war and volleyball to his repertoire, having represented his various units at most of them. **Chris Bond** has been with 8 Sig Regt for three years and his skills at volleyball, athletics, basketball and cricket—his bowling in the final of the Army Cricket Major Units Competition will be well remembered—have been invaluable. On the day of his departure, he played his final game of basketball for the Regiment when he participated in the final of the Catterick Garrison inter-Unit cup against 3 Queens, which 8 Sig Regt won by a hair's breadth. He plays basketball for the Corps and volleyball for the Army. He recently gained the third-class England volleyball referees' award which makes him a very useful chap to have around, 8 Sig Regt will miss him and wish him the best of luck with 1 Div in Germany!

Sgt Chris Bond

Farewell and Thank You

On November 25, 1976, we wished farewell to Mrs D. Bradford, Manageress of Vimy JRC. She has served with NAAFI for 30 years, the last 14 years being with Royal Signals in Catterick
Our farewell presentation photograph includes *Left to right:* Maj Eddie Byrne, Lt Col (Retd) Bruce Donald, Mrs Bradford, Pte Gloria Duggins and Maj Bernard Hodgson

AVA REPORT

What, you may well ask, is AVA? We often wonder ourselves but to expand the abbreviation and enlighten the uninitiated it comes out as Audio-Visual Aids. The services we provide are many and various and may be better explained if we indicate the various personalities and what they do. Beginning with the ladies and then in no particular order, we have the two **Jeans** in the drawing office who turn out a vast amount of work from traces to vufoils. **Steve,** our photographer, can turn his hand to course photographs, circuit negatives, sports coverage and presentation among other things. Indeed, practically all the photographs from this Regiment which appear in THE WIRE are his handiwork. Then, there is **Roy** who can be relied on to produce anything from line prints to vufoils and all the bits in between, including ordering of items of equipment through training votes.

'Paddy', the 'Piper', who apart from his spare-time activity of driving sassenachs mad with his tame octopus, doubles as unit photographer and works in the CCTV Studio with **Brian. Brian,** of course, is our TV specialist and handles camera work, graphics, direction and any other tasks which come along when making training films. Then there is **Tommy,** the storeman, who is our link man with the QM. Our cinema projectionist, **Wesley,** not **John,** can turn out the odd cartoon and the one you see with these notes is a joint effort by him and **Steve.** Our new arrival, **Bruce,** is another member who does many and varied tasks, the main one being to assist in the many briefs given to visitors to the Regiment. Although one would like to, we must not forget **'Nobby'**—The Foreman or **'Super Nob'** (his words). Apart from his terrific interest in getting volleyball recognised as a Corps sport, he does other things. Right now I can't remember what but it will come to me sometime.

Oh, yes, now I remember, he and **Alan,** who is under normal circumstances, CCTV controller, guide the day-to-day functions of the whole team. Those functions are used as a back-up to the training organisation of this Regiment and assistance to outside Units where possible.

FIERCELY COMPETITIVE

Cross-country

Cross-country running in the North-East District is plentiful and fiercely competitive. The secretary of NE Dist cross-country has arranged a Wednesday league with six races. The league is open to all military and civilian teams in the district. So far, we have had three races and each race has attracted almost 200 competitors. In addition to this league, an inter-squadron league has been held within the Regiment. In a series of six races, squadrons were invited to enter as many (or as few in some cases) competitors as possible, on average about 50 competitors running in each of the six races. The final results are:

League		
2 Sqn 'A'	1,378 pts	Champion Squadron
1 Sqn 'A'	1,326 pts	
3 Sqn 'A'	1,184 pts	
HQ Sqn 'A'	861 pts	
1 Sqn 'B'	788 pts	Winning 'B' team
Over Thirties		
Sgt Meyers	232 pts	1st
Ssgt Jolly	171 pts	2nd
Cpl Jordan	148 pts	3rd

So far the emerging stars, who are all due to leave 8 Sig Regt for their new Regiments in about March are: **Sig Dale** (Tech) Current Army Junior runner, **Sig Green** (Cbt Pmn), **Sig Needs** (Cbt Lmn), **Sig Livesey** (R Tg). And the stars whose names regularly appear on cross-country lists: **Lcpl Graham, Sig Madden, Cpls Wheatley** and **Graham.**

We are now poised and training hard for the preliminary round of the Army Cross-country competition to be held on January 23, 1977, at Harrogate. Following that, on January 26, 1977, is the Training Group's inter-Squadron competition to be held at Catterick.

NORTH-EAST DISTRICT CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE
Start of the third race held at Catterick

North-East District Cross-country League

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

NORTH-EAST DISTRICT CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE
Sgt MacMillan of the AAC stumbles

Second runner is Sig Bruce Dale an Army junior runner

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

THE month of December has been a busy one at Ayios Nikolaos. Apart from that evil necessity called work, there has been a tight festive schedule to maintain. An event that featured large amongst the numerous functions was the Squadron bar competition. The prize for the winning bar was a barrel of beer (would you believe?), and it was won by 2 Sqn with their theme of a Western Saloon complete with cowboys, horses, the odd Red Indian, and a good brawl in progress as the CO's judging panel entered the bar.

The barmen, **Cpl Derek Calder** and **Sig Ken Evans,** reported record sales of Sarsaparilla and red-eye. **Ssgt Eddie Grisdale** wants his bows and arrows back. 1 and 3 Sqns have clubbed together and doubled the price on the head of OC 2 Sqn, **Maj John (Square Leg) Radford,** he has offered to sell himself for charity but so far there are no takers.

(Photograph by Stan Wilson)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
A/WO1 (RSM) Mark Cornthwaite—if the cap fits wear it

(Photograph by Stan Wilson)

THE GAMBLERS
Left to right: Cpl 'Yogie' Yeoman, SAC 'Bomber' Starrett, Cpl Kevin Manger, SAC Jimmy Riddell

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

(Photograph by Stan Wilson)

THE CO's JUDGING PANEL RIDE INTO THE SUNSET
Left to right: Mike Cooper, Maj Mike Miller, WO1 (RSM) Bob Wade, Mark Davies

'THE BRIGAND' TAKES TO DRY LAND

At the end of a year of cruising in the Mediterranean, the 30ft ketch, *Brigand of Changi*, belonging to the Royal Signals Yacht Club, Cyprus, has returned to Mercury Barracks for a major refit. A new mainmast is to be stepped, and the cabin and cockpit are to be redesigned. Much of the work can be done by volunteer labour, so step forward all members of 'IX Sailors' and start scraping, sawing, swabbing and painting.

HELLO—GOODBYE

We welcome **WO2 Dave Poole** to the Regiment, and hope that he and his wife, **Margaret,** enjoy their tour in Cyprus. Farewell **Capt Norman Ladds** and **Jan,** and also **Ssgt Eddie Grisdale** and **Helen,** may the bird of paradise be ever with you in your wanderings.

(Photograph by Stan Wilson)

The *Brigand of Changi*

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

RHQ—HOUNSLOW

QUIZ 1977

AFTER last year's very successful and popular competition, the 1977 quiz is being organised by **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Patch** ably assisted by **Sgt Robin Gipson, Cpls Allen Bazeley** and **Alec McDonald** and an unbiased adjudicator in **WO2 Ian Hall** of the RRF who works in London District. The first game of the competition was played on Tuesday, January 11, and all 16 teams, who have entered, will be given ample opportunity to display their sparkling wit and knowledge. In addition to a team prize, this year there will be an individual prize to find the 'Brain of Beavers 77', and runner-up. Games will be played every Tuesday culminating in the semi-final and final on Tuesday, February 15. Details of progress later!

BASKETBALL REPORT

Basketball in London District comprises one league of Major and Minor Units. This unit is classed as a Minor Unit, and with half the league fixtures played, lie as joint leaders of the league. What we lack in skill, we make up in enthusiasm and also by the fact that we are coached by **Mr Colin Hatcher** of 'SWS' Troop, who was very involved in Corps basketball during his service as a Foreman of Signals.

The team administration is handled by **Ssgt Geoff Marshall** who, since he was appointed OIC basketball, has been pricing brown shoes and SD hats. In his spare time he is Troop Staff Sergeant of 'SWS' Troop. Later in January we are involved in the London District Minor Units Basketball Championships. However, we will be without one of our magnificent scorers, **Cpl Steve Hall,** who is on his Det Comds course at 11 Sig Regt, but we feel we can still win the title.

1 SQUADRON—WILTON REPORT

This month we bid a sad farewell to our Admin Officer, **Maj Sybil Cushen,** who is retiring from the Army after, well we won't give away exactly how many years of service. It shouldn't be quite goodbye though as she and her husband live in Wilton so I'm sure we'll bump into them from time to time.

During the third week in November, the Squadron manned TG terminals for Exercises Kelpy and Swift Eddy. The CSO HQ UKLF, **Brig D. Baynham,** visited the Army Commcen Salisbury on November 18, where he saw a rather busy Commcen staff dealing with three exercises plus normal traffic loads.

The WRAC element of 1 Sqn have been very busy raising money for an Old Folks' party which we are holding early in the New Year. With **Sgt Joan Bennett** plus helpers, holding a jumble sale, **Cpl Ruth Clarke** organising a sponsored dance and **Pte Mary Corbett** plus guitar and singers carol singing we have raised £100 which should help to provide a very good party for the old folks.

Faraway Places . . .

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

FESTIVITIES IN RETROSPECT

WRITING these notes at the beginning of a new year and with December just past it is difficult to report anything but festivities. On closer examination, however, we did have our annual inspection on December 14 in the midst of the Christmas programme. This was accompanied by the usual 'pre-inspections', check-ups and clear-outs and since I suspect we have all experienced such delights of Army life I will add no more. Despite, or perhaps because of this, the Regiment enjoyed a very happy and festive Christmas period. To enumerate all the Regimental functions is impossible and would tend to be repetitive. We have therefore concentrated on three articles, one describing our Anglo-German exploits and particularly the old folks' Christmas dinner (please don't misconstrue this remark when looking at the photo!), another relating Sergeants Mess affairs over the last six months, and, thirdly, the Jever Detachment's news. Finally, may I wish all our friends a very happy 1977 and repeat an often-used phrase in these parts 'if you're ever passing our way do pop in'.

ANGLO-GERMAN COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Regiment has, over the years, developed an extremely good relationship with the local population and stages or participates in a number of functions locally. Those organised this year have included: Beating the Retreat by the Band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regt of Yorkshire, a cocktail party hosted by the Commanding Officer, a coach trip to a Belgian beauty spot for old age pensioners of the district, a concert by the Corps Band, a Christmas party for local German and British schoolchildren, and the final function of the year, the Old Folks' Christmas dinner.

The dinner was attended by over 60 pensioners from the area, together with members of the local German/English Club and German speakers from the Regiment. We were fortunate on this occasion to be able to provide, in addition to the excellent meal prepared by **Ssgt Whiteley** and his staff, a programme of songs and music. Furthermore, the guests were treated to the most colourful and splendid entry of the 'plum duff' which was carried in 'flambe' to the accompaniment of bagpipes played by **Sgt Charlie Clarke** (Royal Scots), who had made the trip down from Münster for the occasion. The evening was covered by the local press. An edited translation of one of the articles follows:

PLUM PUDDING AND BAGPIPES

'After hosting German children from Wassenberg in Mercury Barracks at the beginning of the week, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Martin Pickard,** invited senior citizens from the Wassenberg area to a traditional Christmas dinner at the barracks. **Maj Ken Aitken** welcomed the guests in German and introduced 43 children from Blandford School who sang Christmas carols, accompanied by their own instrumental group. They even learned a carol in German specially for the occasion, and this particularly delighted the guests. After the festive meal **Col Pickard** greeted his guests in German, and welcomed in particular **Burgermeister Deckers, Dr Stappmanns,** president of the German/English Club, and **Herr Windeln,** the Town Clerk. "In Britain", said **Col Pickard,** "it is tradition to invite one's close friends and relatives to join Christmas festivities".

'The plum pudding "flambe" was then served, to the accompaniment of bagpipes. The Piper, **Sgt Charles Clarke,** was one of the surprises sprung during the evening. Accompanied at the piano by **Mary Kofferath,** guests and hosts alike sang Christmas carols. Finally, one could have heard the proverbial pin drop when **Jean Gillespie,** accompanied on the accordion by her husband, **Alan,** sang carols in English. The old folks' pleasure was further enhanced when the hosts gave each a small gift.'

(Photo by Frau E. Jutten

Sgt Charles Clarke has an attentive audience in Burgermeister Deckers, Frau Stappmanns, Commanding Officer, Lt Col M. J. Pickard, Frau Deckers and Dr Stappmanns

SERGEANTS MESS NOTES

It's been so long since news from 13 Regt's Sergeants Mess has been published, that most of our news is now history. Perhaps the easy excuse is the old one—too busy. Too busy doing what? Well, quite apart from procuring one imbecile, undernourished and ill-disciplined llama, caging the odd ambitious WO1 and dumping him in the Officers Mess, the autumn season has indeed been busy, FFR and Christmas, enough said.

We have had numerous visits, with their attendant lunchtime sessions, including those from the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Bradley,** CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen Sturge, Brig Bate,** Colonel Commandant Intelligence Corps, **Maj Gen Gow,** Chief Paymaster BAOR, **Brig Robson,** OIC Royal Signals Manning and Records, **Col Findlater,** Staff Paymaster Rhine Area, **Lt Col Caines,** Col GS DI 24(A), **Col H. A. Johnstone** and **Lt Col Beshens** (US Army).

There has been no shortage of Mess functions, and we have had the pleasure of the ladies' company at two Mess dinners recently. All of these occasions have been very successful thanks in the main to the sometimes devious, but always fertile imaginations of **WO1 (RSM) Tony Jones** and his 'volunteers'. On the sports side, the Mess darts team, after a good start, faltered slightly towards Christmas, but are still well placed in the league.

The footballers, following a shaky start, have now settled down into a useful side and are currently on a winning streak, thanks to some managerial advice imported from darkest Cleckheaton by manager **Ray Francis,** and to very heartening support from all ranks of the Regiment.

New arrivals here, are, in many cases, 'return of the native' types who, after three years' or more absence, reassume their old positions at work, in the bar, on the Regimental duties forecast, in the football or darts teams, or in a recent and celebrated case (**Garner** by name Garnett by nature) in the guardroom. This time as staff!

Apart from **Ssgt Bill Garner,** natives who have recently returned are **WO2 Bob Etherton, WO1 Andy Roberts, WO2 Tim Feldon, WO1 Ray Matson, WO2 Martin Hagger** and **Sgt Al Thompson** to name but a few. We welcome amongst others, **WO2 (F of S) Brian Pettifer, Ssgt (F of S) Mick Provart** and **Sgt Pete Lumb** for their first taste of the good life.

We say our farewells to **WO1 Ted Haslam** and **Sgt 'Art' Weaver,** off to Loughborough, **Ssgt Roger Scriven** who leaves for the Far East, **WO1 Dave Dyke,** shortly to be commissioned, and **Sgt Derek Clarke** to civvy street. Good luck to all.

Congratulations to **Pete Muxworthy** on his elevation to SSM 1 Sqn, to **Mick Provart** on gaining his HNC, and last but by no means least, to **W/Ssgt Sheila Gregson** for making an honest man of **'Darkie' Williams.**

And what does the new year hold? Well, with the RSM's golf improving to such a degree that he now shouts 'fore' instead of 'good wellie', and Wolverhampton Wanderers currently riding high in Division two, 1977 could be a good year. What the Chinese may eventually call 'the year of the Wolves and Rabbits'. Whatever the weather, let's hope we have plenty to report to keep THE WIRE singing!

JEVER DETACHMENT NEWS

Report by Cpl Brian Smith

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A warm welcome to **Cpl and Mrs Bill Brennan** and to **Lcpl George (Egor) Punton,** relief for **Cpl Ken Sparrow** attending an upgrading course in the UK. Farewell to **Lcpl** and **Mrs Nick Lay** who have rejoined the Regiment prior to posting.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A PILOT?

On December 22, members of the Detachment were taken under the wing of **Flt Lt Phil Langrill** (RAF) for a tour of the neighbouring Luftwaffe Base, Waffenschule 10. After an introductory talk about the history of the base, the visitors proceeded to the hangars to look over a Starfighter. The control tower was the next stop where the controllers showed their skills in coping with so many aircraft taking off and landing and also in talking down an aircraft.

The highlight of the visit was instruction on the 'Flight Simulator'. Everyone attempted to fly the Starfighter and did so without any serious mishap. On a previous visit, **Cpl 'Tich' McKeating** was heard to say, 'If it's got wings I'll fly it'. He then tried to land on two wheels and at what would have been 200ft below the runway. There is no truth in the rumour that he then phoned the QM and indented for a harp. Our thanks to **Flt Lt Langrill** and to the Commandant of the base for a very interesting and enjoyable time.

DETACHMENT CHRISTMAS BALL

The Xmas ball was held on December 18 and was attended by over 70. The function was a total success and was only made possible by the hard work put in by the members of the Detachment. A special mention must be made of the wives who put on a truly excellent buffet which was appreciated by all. **Ssgt Tony (Kipper) Waite** now owns a few more grey hairs due to the bills brought to him for payment.

SPORTS?

Boxing Day saw the brawl, thinly disguised as a rugby match between the Detachment and the RAF Element Jever. After a strenuous game, which lasted all of five minutes each way, both teams retired to the club for liquid refreshment where the result was hotly contested, neither side admitting defeat.

CEREMONY OF THE BOTTLES

This is an annual occurrence and is not an alcoholic event as the name might suggest. It involves the handing over, to the local German school for mentally handicapped children, the money collected in a 3-litre brandy bottle after bingo nights during the course of the year. However, due to the generosity of everyone attending, two bottles were filled. Each bottle contained DM324 and the Sterling equivalent of one of them has been forwarded to Dr Barnardo's in England. All that is left now is to wish everyone, wherever you may be, a very happy and prosperous New Year from all of Jever Detachment.

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

CELEBRATION THEME

LOOKING back over this month's diary one thing seems to leap out of every page—CHRISTMAS, and we certainly had our fair share of celebrations. In the middle of them, the **Lord Mayor** and **Lady Mayoress of Leicester** visited us and joined in the fun, getting slightly more involved in things than they had expected, as 3 Sqn tell.

LORD MAYOR OF LEICESTER'S VISIT

Our strong connections with the City of Leicester stem from their 'twinning' with Krefeld, so when the **Lord Mayor,** the **Lady Mayoress** and their party visited the Stadt from December 15–18, the Regiment was very much involved. They enjoyed various trips, visits, lunches and receptions in the Stadt, and the annual Anglo-German Society Ball in our transformed gymnasium.

The highlight, though, was a Christmas party held in a local orphanage for a large number of Krefeld orphans and the presentation of a wonderful selection of Christmas presents to them. Over £1,000 raised at Bradbury Fair in the summer, was given by the Regiment in the shape of such things as record players, bicycles, ice skates and an aquarium. The Lord Mayor's fund and the Anglo-German Relations fund also gave donations and the **Lord Mayor** took part in the presentation. Father Christmas, alias **Sgt Algie Roberts,** fresh from the rooftops of Britain, did a very good job of present distribution, recorded for posterity on a film shown on BBC Midlands TV. BFBS and Radio Leicester also gave considerable coverage.

3 SQUADRON SAY

The Christmas festivities ended on a high note with our Squadron dance on December 17 in a local baronial residence, the Stadtwaldhaus in Krefeld, where we had the great pleasure of entertaining, along with our other guests, the **Lord Mayor** and **Lady Mayoress of Leicester.** We thought we had a disaster when we discovered half way through the evening that some of the Squadron rebels had run amuck and the Lord Mayor had been kidnapped. However, all was not lost as we were able to pay the ransom and get him returned to us. We congratulate **Lcpl 'Zack' Tracey** and his bandits for making the princely sum of £52·45 which was paid in ransom money for the BFBS Wireless for the Blind Fund. We would also commiserate with **Cpl 'Cheesey' Price** who gave his moustache for charity, raising over DM200·00 in donations for this worthy cause, which was again presented to the Wireless for the Blind Fund. However, all was not disaster for him that evening as he discovered that along with **Cpl Andy Davis** he had a lucky number entrance ticket and these two lucky members received their second stripes. We knew Manning and Records had a system!

Last but not least the CO, **Lt Col Keith Allwright,** whose birthday it just happened to be, had a stroke of luck when he won for himself a birthday cake—I wonder how that could have happened?

The Lord Mayor of Leicester discusses one of the orphanage presents

POSTSCRIPT

The Mess Living-in Christmas lunch was a 'howling' success. **Cpl McCartney** of 'TM' Troop won the Dutch Auction and paid another DM7·00 to Tech Troop, 3 Sqn, under the direction of **Foreman Mellors,** for a trolley load of empty beer cans and used Christmas crackers. This, the DM7·00, was also donated to the Wireless for the Blind Fund.

MORE FESTIVITIES AND A MINI

All of the Squadron and Mess parties went well, much to the relief of the various organisers after some trying moments. It does their nerves no good at all when the group arrive late, the food runs out, or the ladies' toilet ceases to function!

For some time before the Corporals Mess draw, there was great argument as to who would win the top prize—a Mini, Clubman estate. Congratulations to **Lcpl 'Taff' Jones** (ACC) who is doubly pleased with a brand new car and a brand new first stripe on his arm!

AND EVEN MORE REJOICING . . .

Other visitors included **Capt (Tfc) Peter Hayler** and **WO2 (Y of S) Len Robinson** from the School—their mission was to see if the latest TARIFs could stand up to a new programme. They returned to the UK full of our Christmas festivities and duty free's while COs of 7, 16 and 22 Sig Regts held an inquest to discover who the TARIF smashers were. Has anyone a spare APU (Auxiliary Power Unit)? Ah well . . . that's Traffic Officers for you.

Cpl Trevor Lund and his wife, Susanne, with their triplets, Jill, Alexandra and Catherine *(in the incubator)*

BABIES GALORE

Mentioned in last month's 'stop press', 3 Sqn (appropriately) send special congratulations to **Cpl Trevor Lund** and particularly his wife, **Susanne,** on the birth of their three girls, all bonny and fit as you can see from the photograph. We would also like to congratulate equally **Cpl Mick Ryder** and his wife, **Sheila,** on the birth of their baby girl just in time for Christmas. Make it triplets next time and we'll get your photograph in as well!

HISTORY OF THE WHITE HELMETS

The well-known author and military historian, Mr James Ladd, has recently completed a book on the history of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. In it he traces the story of stunt motor cycling in Royal Signals from its very beginning. It has taken him four years of research, during which time he has interviewed many ex-members of the team and collected their stories, anecdotes and photographs covering the 50 years of the Team's official existence and before to the time when despatch riders did individual tricks on their motor cycles for fun and to show off their skill.

The book is entitled:

'The White Helmets' 'The Royal Signals Display Team'.

It will be published by G. T. Fowlis Ltd on April 29, 1977, at £5·95. If you would like a copy of the first edition signed by the author on publication day, fill in the coupon below and send it with your cheque or money order to:

The White Helmets
Gaza Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire

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The Electronics Group

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SEVENTH SUCCESSIVE CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

FOR the seventh year in succession, the Regiment won the BAOR cross-country championship and by the time you read these notes we hope to have done well in the Army championships at Aldershot on February 24. The BAOR championships were held in bad weather at Detmold on December 15. The winning team and their results are fairly impressive.

1st	**Sig Andy Robertson**	12th	**Lcpl Mal Taylor**
2nd	**Cpl Gerry Hegarty**	13th	**Sgt 'Chippy' Wood**
4th	**Sgt Pete Dring**	19th	**Sgt Mick Stocks**
5th	**Sig Geoff Warburn**	60th	**Cpl Les Wood**
11th	**Cpl Duggie Brisco**	75th	**Cpl Mal Todd**

A double celebration was in order for the RSM, **WO1 Don Carr,** as he heard, in the snow at Detmold, that he had been selected for a commission in 1978.

BOBSLEIGH CHAMPIONS

Another success story in December. The Adjutant, **Capt Duncan Jones,** steered his crewman to victory in the British two-man bobsleigh championships and the Army championships. He also captained the successful Army team against the RAF and combined RN/RM teams. **Capt Jones** has just driven the British No 1 bobsleigh in the Nations Cup and has also been selected to captain the British team in the World championships at St Moritz in February.

SKILL AND SUCCESS AT A STROKE

Another member of the Regiment, **Cpl John Davies,** came back to Wildenrath from Exercise Spearpoint at 2200hrs on Friday, November 12. As he fitted the bill in physical ability and temperament **Cpl Davies** was 'volunteered' to join the Army bobsleigh team. He drove to Innsbruck towing the Army bobsleighs on Sunday, and was brakeman for **Sgt Lloyd** of the Queen's Dragoon Guards and his four-man team on Tuesday morning in the British championships. The team came fifth. Since then **Cpl Davies** has represented Great Britain in the Nations Cup and has been selected as brakeman for a RAF crew to represent Great Britain in the World championships. Not a bad effort in two months since he started. And they say 21 Sig Regt only contained runners!

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Firstly, a notable farewell. **Sig Lionel Edwards** has departed for 11 Sig Regt having completed 24 years' service in the ranks. He was given an appropriate send-off by the Regiment, starting with the presentation of a gold watch by **Capt John Markham** on Friday, December 17, from all ranks of 'K' Troop. On the day of his departure, Monday, December 20, he was given a VIP tour of RAF Wildenrath on a trailer complete with bar, motor cycle escort and the soldiers of 'K' Troop manning the trailer tow lines. The tour finished at 'The Train' where the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs were gathered to have a farewell drink and where **Lionel** was presented with a Regimental plaque by the RSM, **WO1 Carr.** All ranks of the Regiment wish **Lionel** a happy sojourn in Catterick before his retirement.

December saw the departure of the 2IC, **Maj Bill Michie,** who after 2½ years left us, on promotion, to command 40 Sig Regt (V) in Ulster. We wish **Maj Michie** and his wife, **Angela,** all good fortune in their new environment. **Maj Stuart Read** has joined the Regiment as 2IC. He is the tall, good-looking chap who wanders round saying 'My name is Read—I'm new. Who are you?'

The CO and Commander 4 Signal Group enjoying a joke with WO2 (RQMS) Vickers and Ssgt Collins after the presentation of their LS&GC

PRESENTATIONS

At a small but important ceremony on Thursday, December 21, Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col R. H. Gilbertson,** presented the LS and GC to two members of the Regiment, **WO2 (RQMS) Eddie Vickers** and **Ssgt Ian Collins.** After the presentation, the medals were 'wetted' in 2 Sqn Club where the officers and senior NCOs were gathered. Our photograph shows the recipients with **Col Richard Gilbertson** and the CO, **Lt Col Bernard Allen,** enjoying a joke after the presentation. The get-together was also the opportunity to say *bon voyage* to **WO2 Jim Brown** who is going to take up his new appointment as RSM of 9 Sig Regt. **WO2 Brown** was presented with a magnificent pace stick by **Maj Graham Halliburton** on behalf of the officers of 1 Sqn.

Sig Lionel Edwards saying farewell to his friends after 24 years as a Signalman

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

ARU STAFF VISIT 1976—A DRAMA IN PICTURES

Star — **Brig E. J. Hellier, OBE**
Producer — **Lt Col T. H. Wheawell** (Royal Signals)
Prompt — **Maj H. M. A. Bonaker** (Royal Signals)
Props — **Maj (QM) D. Neale** (Royal Signals)

And a cast of hundreds
Front of house WO1 **(RSM) W. G. Wallace**
Programmes—**Capt R. Skaife** (Royal Signals)

Star: 'Please, oh please let me park here!'

The chorus with leader, Sgt Buffery, singing solo
Supporting cast, left to right: Sig Green, Sgt Buffery, Dvr Kavanagh, Cfn Barker, Dvr Dickie, Lcpl Thomson, Sig Austin, Lcpl Tibble, Cfn Wilkinson, Lcpl Brocklebank, Lcpl Scott, Cpl Marr

Star: 'My, he's a big 'un!'

Star: 'Do you really want to see my ID card?'
SSM French's reply not recorded

(*Thinks*): 'No, I'm not cold; I was just born a blue-blooded aristocrat!'
(*Support*): Capt Palmer, Maj Price (*hidden*), Lcpl Braddick, Cpl Hipkin, Sig Bousfield, Sig Ross

Lcpl Maddix (*Thinks*): 'Don't say a word', the Boss said, 'and he can't touch you'
(*Support*): Lcpl Lynch, WO2 Burns

Star: 'You want to transfer to Royal Signals as a Combat Footballer?'
(*Support*): WO2 Burns, Maj Price

Sig Bousfield: 'Me, Sir? I'm the unit welder and I've been looking for a brass monkey'

Did you hear that, he said he actually likes it here, fascinating, Mmm!
Sig Jackson

Star (*addressing hidden soldier*): 'Are you really 8ft tall?'
Lcpl Robinson (*interrupting*): 'He is, Sir'

Star: 'He thinks he is getting off the next exercise, doesn't he? He's wrong'
(*Support*): Lcpl Shkurenko, Cpl Williams, Maj Maude

I reckon it's a touch of the old 'double current' or 'adminitis'. Maybe he just fainted when the Star arrived
(*Support*): Inspecting team Medic Cpl Williams, Sgt Rigby, Sig Marlow

STAGE DIRECTIONS: SPOTS ON FEET, SWITCH ON ELECTRICALLY HEATED SQUARE AND RAISE PLANTS FROM WELL

Couldn't stand always having cold feet, however, chaps—'didn't you do well!'

THE END

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

SUNBURNT TALES

MUCH of the month has been taken up with Christmas and New Year activities, the results of which were quite apparent on the first RSM's PT Parade after leave, when the Regiment galloped off across the Downs on their weekly pulse-rate improver. Most noticeable during the run-up to Christmas among the faces washed pale by the Blandford rain were the blatantly sun-tanned visages of the 1 Sqn lads fresh back from Kenya. Apart from exciting comment on the lines of 'started celebrating early then?', these sunburnt personages brought back tales of wild elephants; fresh paw-paws; coffee beans; and ghastly stories of **SSM Jarrett's** Jungle Training Camp on Mount Kenya, where the trip back to nature provided a jolt to the adrenalin flow for those who were lost/map-reading in the impenetrable forest at night. Those of us left in Blandford felt little sympathy for their troubles. We even had difficulty in avoiding unkind remarks to those who had 'only' managed to get to Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus in December.

UNEXPECTED TASKS

Amidst all this gallavanting around the world we had some down-to-earth experiences. **Maj Gen Lyons,** GOC South West District, came to visit us and, after visiting the Squadrons at work, the Sergeants Mess provided their usual stimulus before lunch. A few days before that the stimulus boot was on the other foot when our Group Commander, **Col R. Benbow,** gave us some unexpected tasks during his FFR Inspection, and had us running around in the literal sense. Groups of men were chosen at random (?) to take part in an orienteering exercise round the camp which had to be organised at no notice. The Adjutant, **Capt Derek Hadden** (Did you know you can see the Isle of Wight from my office . . .) an experienced orienteer, calculated that, by going ten minutes over time he could get more points and so drove his team to a very good result. He had not calculated on the efficiency of the Pay Office scorers, however, who deemed him lost, had the results out and the prizes presented (and drunk) before he got back. Bad luck for a good effort.

As a finale to the FFR the Group Commander presented the Champion Troop Cup to 'EW' Troop for their efforts on Exercises Clam Fury and Spearpoint. (We understand the OC, **Capt Richard Stokes,** hasn't filled it yet.)

WELL DONE THE LADIES

While the men of the Regiment have been spread worldwide the wives have been holding the fort back in Blandford. They amuse themselves in a variety of ways with weekly coffee mornings in the Welfare Centre which help to subsidise shopping trips to Salisbury and Bournemouth and seaside outings at the appropriate

Col R. Benbow, Commander 1 Signal Group, presenting Capt R. Stokes with the 'Commanders Cup' during the FFR Inspection on December 9 1976

time of year. However, during the last six months they have also been busy baking cakes—a monthly cake stall produced £49 as part of their contribution to the SSAFA Christmas Fair. Ending on a more festive note they combined with the ladies of the School of Signals for a Christmas Dinner in the Sergeants Mess. All enjoyed the privilege of using the Sergeants Mess—the surroundings, decorations, the Band, excellent food and after-dinner entertainment made it a special evening.

AU REVOIR

A large number of valued members of the Swan Regt have recently left, or are about to leave us, and there are too many to mention all by name. We wish them all good fortune, but not least to our pretty WRAC officers, **Lt Jill Siddall** and **2 Lt Sue Rollo;** also **SQMS Patterson** who, though not so pretty, ran a good soccer team and our QM, **Bill Barnes.** An equally large number have arrived to fill their places, all panting for the free holiday trips to the Caribbean, Singapore, Cyprus, Canada, etc., etc., planned for 1977. Not all will be disappointed.

News from Squadrons

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

ODE TO A CHANGE OF COMMAND
by Cpl Batt

The Boss is gone
The new one's here
The old one left
To drinks and beer

And now the new broom
Starts to sweep
New system come
New things to keep

One new post
He did create
An Admin Office
What a state

That new appointment
Means more work
They move their desks
And there they'll lurk

All files must change
Some blue some green
This system, boy
Must be seen

But Oh the problems
Just begun
The two are fighting
See the fun

'That's not for me
He'll deal with that'
'Oh no I'm not
Give it to **BATT**'

'But Sir I'm pushed
The lad's on leave'
'You mean you're busy
I don't believe'

So now we all
Sit back and wait
For one to leave
It must be fate

The Boss is gone
The new one's here
The old one left
To drinks and beer

And now the new broom
Starts to sweep——
BUT I'M GOING HOME
TO HAVE A WEEP

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5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

OUR REPORTER

This month's author is **Cpl Paul Elkington** who joined the Corps in August 1966 and finished his training in September 1967. He served in 222 Sig Sqn in Sharjah and 604 Sig Troop in Germany before joining 5 Bde in September 1972. Since joining the Brigade he has been to Cyprus, Italy, and Germany where he has done most things from infantry man to operator.

FLYING VISIT

On Friday, January 7, 1977, the Squadron were visited by the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE.** The SO in C talked to a large number of the Squadron who were doing helicopter training, an important aspect of our role. He was then escorted to the Squadron Club (Saxon Club) where he had coffee and met other members of the Squadron. Although the SO in C was only with the Squadron for an hour and a half, we hope he was pleased with all that he saw and heard.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

December was a month for saying farewell and welcome, as the Brigade 'changed command'. The Squadron wish to say a fond farewell to **Brig P. M. Welsh, OBE, MC,** and wish him every success in his new appointment. We would like to welcome our new Commander, **Brig MacGregor-Oakford, OBE, MC,** and hope that he will have a pleasant and enjoyable tour.

THIS IS A NEW ONE

To our knowledge this is the third time we have heard these famous words in reference to the annual BE test. The Squadron have been introduced to this new one, sometimes as many as four times a week and some have still not passed, though with training all will have passed by the end of January.

Cpl Paul Elkington talking to the SO in C

The Brigade Commander having a 'laugh-in' with OC Squadron and the RSM

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EXERCISES—WHAT ARE THEY?

This month has been a very hard month for exercises, in fact the Squadron were worked to a standstill. Exercise Alarm Clock, which lasted all of seven hours, was designed to test the voice procedures of our staff officers. They performed very well considering that they had no help from the operators. This was the sum total of our exercises' commitment for the month.

DIDN'T WE DO WELL?

Wednesday, December 15, and everything was all spick and span for the great occasion of our new Brigade Commander's arrival. After inspecting a superbly turned out quarter guard, made up from all cap badges within the Squadron — ably commanded by **Sgt Jim McMeekin**—the new Commander was taken on a tour of the unit lines to meet the Squadron.

EVERYONE ENJOYED THEM

The Christmas festivities commenced on December 3 with the all ranks Christmas ball which was very well organised and presented by the QM's department, under the eagle eye of **Capt John Cowe.** This was followed by a long round of Troop parties, which culminated on Thursday, December 16, with the Squadron Christmas dinner, which we shared with the rear party of the Royal Welch Fusiliers who are in Northern Ireland.

DETACHMENTS

Our two heroes, **Lcpl Dave Silk** and **Sig Bob Wood,** are due back from their six-week spell in Northern Ireland attached to the Royal Welch Fusiliers. They are to be replaced on January 7 by **Sig 'Taff' Coughlin** and **Sig Mick Lee-Hanson** (heroes to be?).

Returned superfit from a PTI course at Aldershot we have **Sig 'Geordie' Pye** who is now off to Scotland for three months' ski-ing as an instructor at the JSMTC. Also returned to the fold, after a six-month rest in Australia, attached to the Australian Signals, we have **Cpl 'Paddy' Murphy.** He had an enjoyable time and learned a lot though he is now very black and talking a funny language.

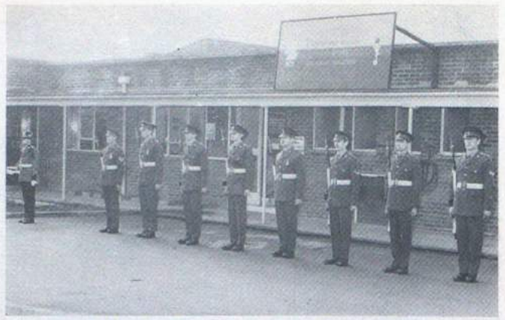
SPORTS REPORT

The football team are, as usual, doing very well and at present are top of the SPSFL, in the quarter-final of the League Cup and in the SW District Minor Units Cup.

Results so far—	P	W	D	L
	13	10	1	2

The rugby team have started very well this season under the guidance of **Maj Derek Williams.** Although we were knocked out of the Army Cup we are now through to the semi-final of the SW District Minor Units Cup.

Results so far—	P	W	D	L
	8	5	0	3



QUARTER GUARD FOR THE NEW COMMANDER
From left to right: Sgt Jim McMeekin, Dvr 'Dicky' Dickson, Sig 'Shane' Rixom, Dvr 'Muscles' Garner, Sig 'Brummy' Stewart, Lcpl 'Darts' Robinson, Pte Duncan Vavangas, Cpl Tom Appleyard

'CHRISTMAS DINNER' MORE BEER THAN TURKEY
Cpl Mick Johnson (REME), Sig Alan Monaghan, Pte 'Tich' Spittle (RAOC)
Pte Rick Lapworth (RAOC), Sig Martin Glover, Sig Jon Wheeler

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

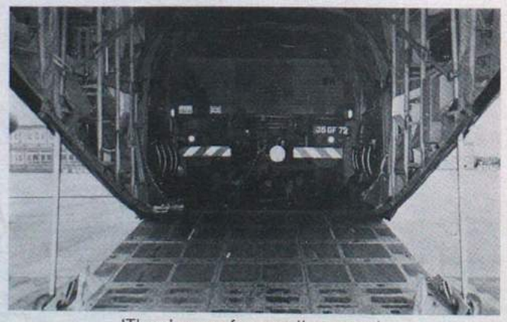
VARIETY—THE SPICE OF LIFE

WE have all heard about the country's economic problems and we are all aware of how this is affecting the Forces. The normal result is a larger commitment with less men and equipment to do it! The strain can be great. However, 'all work and no play . . .' So it is that we have been concentrating on a wide variety of small projects to add spice (with little cost) to our training and provide the necessary gaps in the seasonal entertainment which we still manage in times of austerity.

EXERCISE QUICK TIME

Saw our hard-working men deploy to Wales for the chance of some free fresh air while strolling over the Brecon Beacons, and canoeing on the River Wye under the stern eye of **Lt Nigel Hope** provided many with a non-coin-operated laundremat service.

Despite grumbles that Welsh mist was not up to the standard of Scotch mist not a single day's hill-walking was lost. Intense speculation arose during the trips whether a 'budgie' thrown over a cliff edge could fly to the bottom. It must have been pure coincidence but **Sig 'Budgie' Parry** always seemed to scurry away at the mention of this experiment.



'There's room for a small one next'

As a follow-up to these water sports experiences, the Unit sent a team under **Lt Nigel Hope** to the Army Wild Water Championships in Richmond. These conditions were difficult as the River Swale was in spate for the first time in four years. **Sig Tom Booth** improved his swimming. **Sig Dick Cooke** managed to park his canoe in a tree, while **Sig Allen Smith** actually managed to finish. Nevertheless, they all enjoyed their first taste of wild water.

ARRIVAL OF SMOOTH FLOW

No sooner had one new MTO, **Capt John Night** (RCT), arrived in the Squadron, than he was sent off to absorb the skills of Unit Emplanement Officer. Immediately on his return, he found himself preparing to take a large part of the Squadron to AMC South Cerney, following a series of lectures on airportability. The Squadron was allowed to use three parked Hercules at Lyneham and gained valuable experience in loading and lashing. This Squadron is ready for Entebbe, if only the Royal Air Force can afford to fly us there!

A SMOOTH AND ROUGH PASSAGE

As with most UK Field Force units we are used to the routine communications exercise with the Navy known as JOCOMEXes. However, on this occasion we were tasked to provide the 'Force RN Command' link to HMS *Diomede* in Grimsby. Another of the good experiences we arranged for **2 Lt Simon Harris**—who had joined us from Sandhurst on a '1033' for a couple of months before returning to brush up his maths. Assisting **Mr Harris** were **WO2 (Y of S) Keith Finch, Cpl Bob Beebee** and **Lcpl Percy Parry.** They all came back with tales of hospitality, cocktail parties, but very little news about communications!

In order to look after our interests in this important unit we sent up our team of heavies to HMS *Diomede.* So it was that **Cpl Chris Rushton, Sigs Pat Sutton** and **'Streaky' Bacon** found themselves on deck. After a pause of 20 minutes the Navy decided they were expected after all, and took them down to the ROs Mess for a 'sardine fit' night. The following morning they were shown over the ship. Our chaps were suitably impressed and extremely voluble on the standard of naval transmitter equipment. However, there was little comment on the trip to Portland—it included a force 10 gale in the Channel and **Cpl Chris Rushton** admitted 'even I had to lie down'.

'Ready for Entebbe?' 'We don't drink, thanks'
From front to rear: Dvr Steve Ascott, Sig 'Streaky' Bacon, Cpl Chris Rushton, Lcpl 'Mac' McLean

The WIRE—
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Long Service and Good Conduct Medals presented to Ssgt Bradtke and Sgt Higgins (Royal Anglian Regt) by Brig R. F. Vincent, DSO, Commander, 19 Airptbl Bde, on Friday, December 16, 1976

Exercise Smooth Flow. Pick 'a plane, any plane'

HECTIC ACTIVITY

December in any Sergeants Mess means hectic activity, and sore heads. Our December was no exception. The entertainments committee headed by **Ssgt Tim Mulhins** took their final deep breath and launched into a series of evenings that made the month seem one long Christmas Day.

Starting with our Restaurant and Cabaret evening which again was a huge success. A quick change of dress and all were again present for the Tarts and Vicars evening. The RSM made an excellent vicar but it was thought by all that his 'halo' was out of character.

On December 17 **Ssgt 'Brad' Bradkte,** the Mess Manager, and **Sgt Mick Higgins** (both of the Royal Anglian Regt), the Officers Mess Steward, received their LS and GC medals from **Brig Dick Vincent,** the Brigade Commander.

PRESENTATION TO COMMANDER

The annual visit to the Officers Mess took place on December 21. The Mess members were marched to the Officers Mess by the junior Sergeant, **Sgt Ben Britton,** and led by the Band of the 3 Royal Regt of Fusiliers. The RSM made our arrival presentation to the Bde Comd. This year the presentation took the form of a framed painting depicting the Royal Artillery horse drivers of 1814. The drivers were brandishing whips. With the Bde Comd being late-RA and the caption '1976 No change', it required no explanation.

DRAW A HIGHLIGHT

The Mess draw took place on December 22. **Csgt George Dowdall,** the president of the draw committee, and his committee laid on what surely must be the best evening the Mess had ever had. Those with experience of our Mess life will appreciate just what that means.

The highlight of the night, apart from **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphries** winning most of the prizes, was the sketch performed by **Csgt George Dowdall, Sgt John Russell** (RAOC) and **Sgt Monty Ball** (RAMC). The tophats' sketch was thoroughly professional and we are thinking of hiring them out. The masterpiece of the evening was surely the setting up of the RSM. He had been conned into making a presentation to a Mess member, only to be told by **Ssgt Dave Bell: 'WO1 (RSM) Wally Lockwood,** "This is your life".' The whole performance would have had Eamon Andrews green with envy. One theory about the RSM was destroyed when his mother appeared, albeit in the form of **Ssgt Colin Amey.** Altogether, the evening was one of the most memorable in the short but illustrious history of our Mess. All our membership were present to see the New Year in, and the wonderful evening set the standard for our entertainment for 1977.

ALPHA TROOP REPORT

This period has been one of moves, changes and marriage. Congratulations go to **Sig 'Chippy' Wood** and **Susan** on their recent marriage, to **Sig 'Budgie' Parry** on his engagement. **Lcpl Percy Parry** is off to 5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn and will be taking a bride with him. **Sig 'Ologgup' Sloane** is joining his brother at 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Cpl Pete Tharme** has moved to Harrogate, while **Cpl Ray Kaye** has taken up an appointment as Steward in the Sergeants Mess. **Sigs Dick Cooke** and **Allen Smith** have abandoned their canoes to an emergency tour with 3 RTR. We wish them all every success. We welcome **Lcpls Bincliffe** and **Seaton,** and **Sigs Bell, Davies** and **Howie.**

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD SHOTS GONE?

A small bore shooting team has suddenly mushroomed out of nothing. The team entered the Eastern District Winter League and came second, having won three matches and lost one. 1st WFR, a Regiment with many successes at Bisley are the only team to have beaten us. The whole team, comprising of **Capt John Knight** (RCT), **WO1 Michael Jones** (REME), **Cpls 'Taffy' Power** (RPC), and **Gary Hull** (RCT), have been selected to represent Eastern District in the inter-District Small Bore match. One might well ask, where have Royal Signals gone?

AU REVOIR

We wish every success to **Ssgt Colin Amey** who leaves us on secondment to Royal Brunei Malay Regt. We hope he enjoys his tour in the sun. **Cpl George Mitchell** has finished his service and is off to Manchester, where we hope he will find success.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

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

VISIT OF BRIGADIER OVERSEAS DETACHMENTS UKLF

BRIG M. S. BAYLEY, MBE, visited Malta from December 14–17, 1976, and 'toured' the British Army elements. It was his first visit and a surprising amount of ground had to be covered in a short space of time. He left the island vowing to return in the warmer weather.

INTER-TROOP SPORTS

During the week leading up to the Christmas break, the whole Squadron was involved in the annual inter-Troop Sports Competition. The games involved were: soccer, hockey, volleyball and basketball, all of which were fiercely contested with no quarter asked or given.

The eventual winners of soccer, volleyball and basketball were 'TM' Troop, with such stalwarts as **Ssgt (F of S) John Shepherd, Sgts Don Murray, Niel MacPherson, Pat Hooker, Bill Stadius, Ron Foote, Vic Smith, Paul Brabins, Cpls Brian Moore, Chris Tucker** and **Alan Haines** forming the nucleus of their four teams. (Scribe's note: Where was Uncle Tom Cobley?)

Airfield Troop won the hockey final with their team of **Sgt Franz Farrugia, Cpls Eddie Taylor, Vic Attard, Cliff Price, Lcpls Alan Palmer, John Dent** and **Ian Drinkall.**

Trophies for each game were made available and presented by **WO2 (SSM) Danny Lamerton** in the gymnasium. Celebration drinks for all competitors followed and this was the start for parties sponsored by MT Section and this year's champions, 'TM' Troop.

The Squadron Commander introduces WO2 Malcolm Tranter, 2IC Line Troop, to Brig Bayley

WO2 (RQMS) Jim Moody, Maj (QM) R. W. Kay, Brig M. S. Bayley, MBE

A drop of the Christmas spirit for the Central Restaurant
Left to right: MA Tony Halford, NN Jane Tyler, Lcpl Steve Harrison, Brig Bayley, Sgt Danny Holmes—and Goya's Maja!

Gurkha Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 1

FORMATION OF THE GURKHA FIELD FORCE

SINCE our last appearance in THE WIRE the most obvious change in our life has been the demise of 48 Gurkha Inf Bde and the formation of the Gurkha Field Force. The change took place on December 15, 1976, and was marked by a simple but moving parade in Sek Kong that evening. After the Brigade flag had been lowered for the last time representative Guards from all units in 48 Gurkha Inf Bde were joined on parade by Guards from the units coming under command as part of the new Field Force.

TOM, DICK AND HARRY

The Squadron Camp took place at Shek Pik on Lantau Island from Nov 24–Dec 8, 1976. Virtually every member of the Squadron whatever his colour, creed, diet or age attended the camp for at least one week and all were able to partake in a wide variety of training activities.

The OC Camp was **Capt Dick Evetts** (RCT) with **Lts Harry Ross** and **Tom Richardson** responsible for the training. (With **Tom, Dick** and **Harry** running a camp anything can happen!)

The camp was located on some flat ground, a rare find on the mountainous Lantau, with the sea to the front, the Shek Pik Dam to the rear, a detention centre to the right and a police station to the left. A magnificent site from which escape was almost impossible!

Fiercely contested competition

The first week's training was based around a fiercely contested inter-section competition. The competition included a march

and shoot, a night navigation exercise, orienteering, a military skills and initiative contest and potted sports. Eight sections took part with No 2 Section under **Cpl Dinikar Mal** winning. The second week was based around a three-day exercise in which two platoons were used to rid the island of the dreaded vandals. The exercise began with both platoons being deployed by Wessex helicopters to the remote north-east peninsula of the island. Travelling on two parallel routes they walked nearly the whole length of the island each carrying out a night ambush and an attack on separate enemy bases. When not walking or carrying out these operations, patrol bases were set up in true jungle warfare school style. The exercise was very successful and brought back to everyone what it was like to carry 60lb of kit over very rugged terrain and have to fight at the end of it.

Interesting prison statistics

Throughout our stay the prison staff from the four prisons on the island provided excellent social and sports facilities. The Shek Pik Detention Centre which is for first offenders up to the age of 20, relies on what might be described as old-fashioned methods. From Reveille at 0600hrs to lights out at 2100hrs the prisoners were on the move, mostly at the double, drilling, breaking large rocks with small hammers, carrying rocks from one spot to another, doing PT and generally being given a hard time. As some 72 per cent of those who pass through the prison do not apparently commit a second offence the system obviously works.

A personal account

The following account of the camp has been written by 'one of the workers':

I haven't been with the unit long, but one thing I have learnt is the need for a sense of humour. 'Summer' camp at the end of November beside the detention centre at Shek Pik reservoir on the island of Lantau—Monty Python would have had a field day. It's not as bad as it sounds, the weather at this time of year is quite pleasant, not too hot with low humidity, and there was a large fence around the detention centre (to keep them in?).

Under way with blue skies

I left Sek Kong for Lantau on November 24. The one-hour trip to Lantau was made on RPLs of 414 Maritime Troop, RCT and, like soldiers anywhere, everyone was soon as comfortable as possible and having forty winks. We were met at Silvermine Bay by the transport and taken to our new home at the other end of the island. The weather for the whole week was perfect, warm with a fair breeze and clear blue skies. Therein lay the only problem, no rain had fallen for some time and when the wind blew there was dust everywhere.

Bugle and Pipes

Sustenance for the week was equal measures of compo and grit! However, as this gave a good excuse for the large quantity of San Miguel that was quickly consumed nobody complained too much. The international contingent of Gurkha, British and Chinese soldiers were split into eight sections with the Gurkha and British SNCOs doing the administrative and DS duties. Each day started with Reveille on the bugle at 0630hrs followed by PT. This consisted of a short run along the top of the dam, not too hard in itself but getting to the top of the dam to start the run was another story. Called to breakfast by a piper at 0715, and then the bugle again for parade at 0800. That was the pattern, we sweated to the bugle and relaxed to the pipes.

Surplus weight quickly shed

Thursday morning was spent revising some military skills including map-reading, first aid, weapon handling and voice procedure. In the afternoon the sections competed in a Battle March which counted towards the champion section competition, a sort of extended BE test in full kit. So ended the first day, everyone having shed their surplus weight. The bugler was very evident, they must have shot the piper.

Hairy helicopter

On Friday morning a Wessex helicopter of the RAF arrived and we practised getting in and out. OK when it is on solid ground but a bit hairy from 30ft on a rope. Everyone made it safely, though some with more panache than others. The afternoon was spent preparing for the next part of the section competition, a jaunty swan around the Lantau countryside known as Exercise Navigator. A night exercise which consisted of cross-country navigation between four check points, during which the sections had to cook a meal and snatch a few hours sleep. The exercise brought one lesson home with some force, it isn't easy to recce an area from 100ft above ground whilst travelling at 100 knots in a helicopter. The check-point parties were delivered to their respective points by Wessex. **Sgt Len Blake** (REME), our LAD Sergeant, was roped into a spot no more than 400yd from his check point, whereupon he spent the next two hours hacking his way through what could best be called very close vegetation to reach the CP. Not very impressed, our **Len.** The exercise was successfully completed by all sections but the Chinese section 'lost' their section commander at some stage. Someone said he had blisters, but the things that came out of his boots looked more like two pieces of fresh liver than blistered feet.

Hairy helicopter drills

Watermanship. The last one in gets his feet wet!

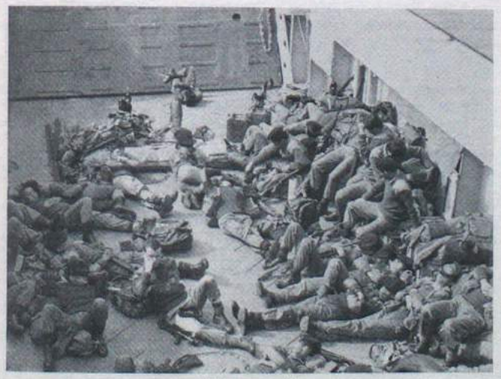
Military skills

To the gas chamber

Saturday morning was spent cleaning the exercise equipment, and the afternoon saw everyone spending a pleasant interlude in the gas chamber. While everyone had been enjoying themselves three figures disappeared into the surrounding countryside, **WO2 (Y of S) Alan Hawkins, WO2 Dave Andrews** (RAOC) our Force HQ Chief Clerk, and **Sgt John Tope** one of our TE Techs, obviously up to no good. They had gone to recce an orienteering course. An area accessible only to mountain goats was chosen and a course marked out with a bogey time of two hours. Sunday dawned nice and hot and each section was split into two teams and sent off at five-minute intervals. It was then realised by our three organisers that the Gurkhas consider even a mountain goat as something of an amateur orienteerer. The first team home came in, having visited all check points, in only 53 minutes, a very fast time indeed. The afternoon was spent playing football and basketball, while the seafarers amongst us messed about with the two assault boats we had brought with us.

The climax

All week the champion section competition had been building up and Monday was spent bringing the competition to a climax. In the morning a series of military skills and initiative tests had been devised and in the afternoon—potted sports! The morning's tests consisted of weapon handling, first aid, passing a message over a radio/telephone chain (not so easy when the operator chain is any combination of British, Gurkha and Chinese!), an assault boat race against the clock and two 'initiative' tests. First erecting a 9×9 shelter blindfolded and second transferring water from a bowser to an oil drum across a 7ft drainage ditch. These two tests provided the entertainment, if only for the watchers. The number of combinations with the frame of a 9×9 are unbelievable, and some of the methods on the water test were most ingenious, from the Chinese section who used a two-man bivvi and poured the water across (very clever these Chinese) to the MT section who knew all about the drain cock underneath the bowser (if only they had transferred all the water they let out of the tank they would have won hands down). The afternoon's sports, held on the beach, consisted of tent pegging, pick-a-back with a mallet instead of horse back with a lance. Filling fire buckets with seawater using beer cans with more holes in them than normally seen. This was umpired by **Sgt John Morgan** (Gurkha Signals), one of our pen-pushers. Crab football, refereed by **Sgt Andy Halliwell** (RAOC), another pen-pusher. I never knew they had ostriches in Nepal, but when the title contenders came together there were quite a few heads buried in the sand. A Land-Rover-pushing contest, which the MT section won (who else, they get enough practice). A rock-throwing competition using a cam net as a sling. Very dangerous with the throwers travelling further than the rock in most cases. Finally, there was the sand-castle building competition. Most of the Gurkhas had never seen a sand-castle, let alone built one, but after a quick demo by that well-known sculptor of sand, **Sgt John Tope,** they got stuck in and some very creditable castles appeared in no time. The day was rounded off by a barbecue at which the competition results were announced, and the prizes along with large quantities of rum and San Miguel were consumed (that damned dust).



The return!

Packing

The next day saw some feverish packing ready for the trip back to Sek Kong. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed it and couldn't wait for the next one—as long as it was at least 12 months away.

SEEN AND HEARD

The Y of S who was organising the Military skills tests found a hold up at the first aid stand run by a WO2 from 18 Fd Amb.

Y of S: What's the hold up?
WO2: My 'casualty' hasn't turned up.
Y of S: Why not?
WO2: He's been bedded down with a fever!

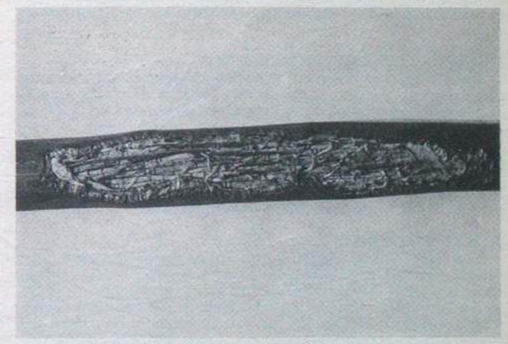
While erecting the 9×9 shelter blindfolded a clerk, showing initiative way beyond the normal, felt around for a stone to hammer a peg into the ground. What he picked up was hard on the outside, had a soft centre and was definitely no good for hammering tent pegs. There are a lot of cows on Lantau.

No 1 Platoon having just eaten a very large bhat were slogging up the hill towards Nom Ping Temple when they were overtaken by a fast-moving 50-year-old American Bhuddist Monk who spoke fluent Gurkhali!

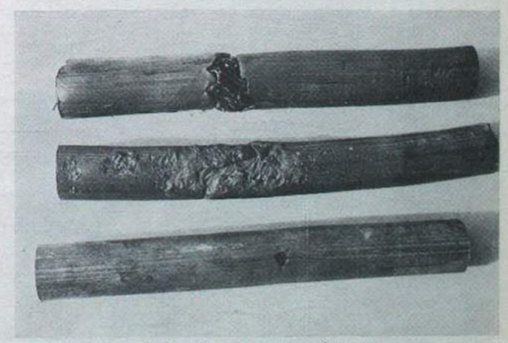
OTHER NEWS

Normal Squadron life goes on. On the sports fields our latest successes have been on the cross-country and golf courses. Our able band of runners under the eye of **Lt Tom Richardson** were just pipped by 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn in the British Forces Minor Units Competition but we did win the 48 Gurkha Inf Bde Minor Units Championship. On the Fanling golf course, our team beat some highly-favoured competition to win the Regimental Fourball Championship. Rumour has it that the team were quietly confident as soon as they knew the Squadron Commander couldn't play. On the day, he was setting off for a trek in Nepal.

Just to prove that it's not all play, the attached photographs illustrate just two problems which the cable gang of 'N' Troop have had to deal with recently, lightning and rats. Both attacked the UG cable which runs from Sek Kong to Kowloon via Route Twisk.



Rat damage to the twisk cable



Lightning damage to the twisk cable

News from Troops

HQ British Gurkhas
B.F.P.O. 4

PERSONALITIES

Capt R. A. L. Anderson (Gurkha Signals)	—	Signal Officer
Lt (QGO) Giribahadur Rana (Gurkha Signals)	—	OC Nepal Sig Troop
Ssgt Robertson, BEM	—	Crypto NCO
Sgt Balkrisna Rana	—	Commcen Supervisor
Sgt Rilbahadur Sarki	—	Tech Sergeant
Cpl Juddabir Thapa	—	Tech Corporal
Cpl Dalbahadur Bura	—	Shift Supervisor
Lcpl Debendrasing Limbu	—	TG Ops
Lcpl Kulbahadur Gurung	—	,, ,,
Lcpl Hembahadur Gurung	—	,, ,,

and 26 locally employed ex-Gurkha Signals civilians.

THE FORM

THE Troop consists of a main Commcen, serving HQ British Gurkhas Nepal and other units, in Dharan, which is in East Nepal approximately 30 miles north of the Indian border in the Himalayan foothills, and two small commcens; one in Kathmandu, the capital, which serves the Embassy and the Movement Detachment; and one in British Gurkha Centre, Paklihawa. There is also a small (one-man!) outstation in the British Gurkha Post at Pokhara.

Communications, although not in the Bruin or satellite class, are relatively sophisticated. We work a D11/R234 teleprinter link into the Defence Communications network in Hong Kong. There is some debate as to whether we actually are a part of DCN but we certainly get their error reports! Within Nepal there are two D11/R234 teleprinter links to Kathmandu and Paklihawa and communications from Paklihawa to Pokhara are by Racal Squadcall.

RECREATION PAR EXCELLENCE

Nepal is a fascinating place to work and live and, when off duty, there is plenty for the Troop to do. There is every opportunity in Dharan for recreation and sports which include hockey, football, tennis, swimming, volleyball, badminton, squash, and we even have a nine-hole golf course which doubles up as a STOL landing ground. For the more adventurous there is excellent riding and fishing, and there is a Nuffield Trust Chalet in the hills about 3,000ft above the camp. Even the very unfit can normally reach the Chalet in two to three hours from the camp.

A HAT PROBLEM

In the spring and autumn during the airtrooping periods when Gurkha soldiers go to and from Hong Kong and Nepal on leave there is a lot of signal traffic and we get many visitors and VIPs. Recently Colonel Gurkha Signals, **Brig W. P. W. Robertson, CBE,** visited the Troop and this was an occasion for a party and buffet which we combined with our Troop Dashera celebrations. Before coming to Nepal, **Brig Robertson** had been visiting Gurkha Signals units in Hong Kong; Commander British Gurkhas Nepal, **Brig A. A. Dacre, OBE,** late Gurkha Signals, had also been in Hong Kong at the same time and somehow their hats, the only two such in the Army, had become mixed up. Apparently they still had not got it sorted out by the time they reached Nepal!

AU REVOIR

Recently, and sadly, we have said goodbye to **Brig 'Able' Dacre** as he handed over Command of British Gurkhas Nepal and we wish both he and **Elaine** all the best during his next posting on the RCDS Course in London.

Colonel Gurkha Signals with Gurkha Signals past and present in Dharan

Association News

56 Division Old Comrades Association

Hon. Sec.: **D. Le Febvre, Esq.,** 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex RH11 OJQ

HAPPY New Year to all ex-Black Cats, wherever you may be. For those readers who served with us in the past and have not joined us yet, how about making the effort now, as a New Year's resolution. This is the start of our third year of 'reformation'. All new members have been enthusiastic on joining and invariably need restraining when first meeting their old comrades in arms for the first time in some 20 years. One such example was ex-**Sgt Fred Smith**—one of our Armoured Command Vehicle (ACVs) (see Blandford for an example) drivers—who joined the Branch at our July meeting—**Fred** just couldn't stop talking, he reminisced with such enthusiasm about the good old days—but was also keen to hear about the present TAVR from the serving members. Since our last notes appeared in THE WIRE, we have held two successful quarterly meetings.

Fund raising

The formal part of the July meeting was the briefest yet—most points were carried forward—as the meeting had been devoted to raise funds for one of our members who is striken with multiple sclerosis—he was the star of the BBC TV monthly 'Good Cause for the Multiple Sclerosis Society' in May 1975. No matter how much the State helps one so badly striken as **Capt Ken Biggleston, TD,** additional help is always welcome. **Ken** was in hospital at the time of the meeting, so that his devoted wife, Jean, could take a well-deserved holiday. The main fund-raiser of the evening was Prize Tombola. All members were asked to bring prizes 'attractively wrapped' with a minimum value of 50p each. Half a raffle ticket was fixed to the parcel and the other half placed in an envelope. The envelopes were shuffled and then sold to members and families attending at 50p each envelope (anyone winning something they had given had a fresh ticket); 160 tickets were sold, clearing the stand completely. Special mention must be made of one member—ex-**WO2 'Tinny' Tinson,** who took my request that prizes be 'attractively wrapped' to heart, he produced two 7-pint tins of keg, boxed and wrapped up in 'page-3 pin-ups' from the *Sun*. The following amount was raised:

Prize tombola	£80.00
Three acutions by our prize auctioneer, **Nic Nacey**	17·80
Donations from absent members and friends	44·00
Post-meeting sale of goods	8·20
	£150·00

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available. In days of high inflation these represent really good value for money.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	1·85	2·00
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Corps cravats—terylene	1·60	1·70
Corps cuff links	1·40	1·50
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·33	3·60
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	11·60	12·50
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	3·75	4·00
Corps squares—terylene	1·30	1·40
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 3¾"	1·35	1·45
terylene type 'A'	0·40	0·45
terylene type 'D'	0·40	0·45
terylene type 'E'	0·40	0·45
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅜")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·75	1·85
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.25	6.85
Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE AND PACKING

The vice-president, **Lt Col Keith Goldie-Morrison, TD,** and I presented **Ken** with a Branch cheque at the hospital the following Thursday. We understand that the money has been used to finance colour TV, one of **Ken's** remaining pleasures in life. Since then I have heard that the multiple sclerosis is getting worse and that **Ken** will be unable to attend future meetings, and has had to give up choir practice, which was his main hobby. However, we are hopeful that through pressure from friends of the Branch, that **Ken** may be able to have the 'Possum' system of automation supplied through the NHS.

'D'-Day Landings—'Operation Overlord'

Our formal October meeting was just as brief as the July one—with items carried forward to January 1977—as the meeting was devoted to a guest speaker, **Cdr Rupert Curtis, DSC** (RNVR) (accompanied by his charming French-born wife), who lectured us on the 'D'-Day Landings. **Cdr Curtis** showed us 80 slides, many of which he had borrowed from the Imperial War Museum. He was Senior Officer in charge of a flotilla of Infantry Landing Craft which landed 1st Commando Bde under **Brig Lord Lovat, DSO, MC,** at Normandy. The lecture was delivered at a lively pace and had obviously been researched thoroughly. We were shown slides of maps, graphs of the make-up of the forces, the attack plan, many action slides in the air, on land and sea (the symbolism of the Corps' tie was brought to mind). One interesting fact was highlighted, namely that on 'D'-Day+1, more British and Commonwealth troops were landed than American, *vis* 84,000:72,000. The lecturer was in no way anti-American, but he felt that a popular misconception should be put right.

Deception

Great stress was made of the deception plan which distracted the Germans from the eventual invasion point. A map showing the German dispositions in France showed how successful the deception plan was—twice as many Divisions were deployed at Calais than Normandy.

Field Marshal Rommel's role in the defence was stressed and our lecturer wondered what the effect would have been had Rommel been given a further four weeks to improve the Atlantic Wall. The obstacles facing the invasion fleet were horrific. Allied control of the air and sea was of the utmost importance, as was the conception of the Mulberry Harbour. A most interesting lecture which will be hard to better, though, no doubt, future future lecturers will try.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

At our Remembrance Day meeting four potential members were contacted, two of whom have signed on as Life members, brining our total membership up to 69.

Sport

RUGBY REPORT

CORPS HAVE MIXED FORTUNES

v **RAPC won 9—6**

The Corps struggled to win this game against a traditionally weak opposition. RAPC dictated play throughout the first half and at half time led the Corps by 3—0. Five minutes after the interval following a good break by **Pete Lytollis, Paul Oatley** crossed wide out for a try which **Mick Pawlak** converted. After 20 minutes of play following one of the few Corps breaks, RAPC were penalised under the posts, **Mick Pawlak** kicked the goal. The remaining RAPC points came from a penalty after 10 minutes of the second half.

v **RMCS lost 4—6**

The Corps were let down in this game by poor finishing. They dominated most phases of play except for a 15-minute period in the second half when the Corps were under constant pressure from RMCS. All the points came in the first half, two penalties by RMCS's outside half, **Cliff Walters,** who is a member of the Corps and a splendid try for the Corps by **Q. Gilder** after 19 minutes. During the last five minutes of the game Corps exerted constant pressure and **Paul Baines** was unlucky to see several long penalties float just wide of the posts.

v **Dorset Knobs won 11—10**

In front of a large crowd the Corps produced one of their finest performances ever to defeat a very strong Knobs team. **Chris Wright** and **'Geordie' Gainford** produced inspired performances which the whole team followed. The first Corps' try was created by **Paul Baines,** who went on one of his characteristic barging runs down the centre, **Paul Oatley** was backing up and accepted the final pass to crash over. Good interpassing between **Chris Wright, 'Geordie' Gainford** and **Paul Baines** ended with the latter crashing over for the second try. The final Corps' points came from a **Mick Pawlak** penalty.

v **RA won 21—0**

The Corps again played well and although outweighed in the forwards completely dominated most phases of the game. **Ray Randall,** making his first appearance of the tour, combined well with **Glenn Harwood** in the centre and was prominent with some long probing runs. Corps' try scorers were **'Geordie' Gainford, Paul Oatley** (2) and **Ray Randall, Keith Pritchard** converted one and kicked a penalty.

v **RCT lost 9—10**

A strong Corps team gave one of their poorest performances for a long time in losing to RCT. With the exception of **Chris Harper** everyone played well below standard. Scorers were **Mick Pawlak** two penalties and **Pete Lytollis** a drop goal.

The Corps was represented on this tour by: **Capts Chris Wright, Chris Harper, Lts Andy Forster, Keith Pritchard, John Fletcher, WO2 'Geordie' Gainford, Ssgt Les Budworth, Sgts Mick Pawlak, Peter Whitehead, Andy Hickling, Paul Baines, Ray Randall, Les Rix, Cpls Steve Dunlin, John Godfrey, Pete Lytollis, Clive Johnson, Nick Joanes, Q. Gilder, Glen Harwood, John Topping, Lcpls Dave Heliwell, Dave Higgins, Mick Lytollis, 'Sandy' Sandford, Rod Whateley, Sigs Paul Oatley, 'Taff' Kessell, Derek Pocock.**

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Match Report by Maj E. Hampson

ROYAL SIGNALS 5—SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY 0

Played at Catterick Central Ground on January 12.

The team was: **1 Sgt J. J. Murtagh, 8 Sig Regt; 2 Sig J. Cakebread, 8 Sig Regt; 3 Sgt I. Campbell, AAC Harrogate; 4 Ssgt J. Tierney, 8 Sig Regt; 5 Sig I. Lambert, 8 Sig Regt; 6 Sgt W. Adam (capt), 216 Sig Sqn; 7 Sgt D. Manders, 8 Sig Regt; 8 Cpl G. Keegan, AAC Harrogate; 9 Ssgt W. Campbell, 216 Sig Sqn; 10 Lcpl R. O'Hara, 216 Sig Sqn; 11 Lcpl A. Hamilton, 2 Div HQ and Sig Sqn; Subs: 12 Sig N. Poulton, 8 Sig Regt; 13 Sig P. Tobin, 8 Sig Regt.**

THIS was the best Corps team performance for some years. The game was played on a pitch covered with 2in of snow; nevertheless, the Corps' side quickly settled down and, after 14 minutes, **O'Hara** scored a fine individual goal. Five minutes later **Hamilton** picked up a ball at the edge of the 18-yard box and scored with a tremendous shot. **Keegan** was unlucky after 30 minutes to see a fierce drive from 20 yards bounce off the post. In the second half, **Adam, Hamilton** and **Manders** all beat the 'keeper only to see the ball bounce back off the goalpost. After 70 minutes a beautifully placed chip by **Keegan** made the score 3—0, and after 80 minutes **O'Hara** broke from the halfway line, beat the defence, to give **Hamilton** an easy goal. Three minutes later **Hamilton** returned the compliment and in a similar move gave **O'Hara** the chance to make the final score **5—0.**

THE WIRE . . .

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March 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

TXE 4 COMMISSIONING

Your future in Telecommunications

TEST and COMMISSIONING ENGINEERS

Our TXE 4 Electronic Exchange Manufacturing Programme calls for a considerable expansion of the Exchange Commission Departments based in the Main Works at Coventry and our factory at Kircaldy, in Fife, Scotland.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association

MARCH — 1977

Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 3**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

Our cover picture shows the School of Signals tug-of-war team consisting of Sgts Pete Gill and Paul Cross, Cpls Mick Wheatley, Mick Scull, Al Parsons and Martin Leach, Lcpl 'Scouse' Palmer and Sig 'Dodger' Green (the knees!) enjoying training by hoisting international yachtswoman Clare Francis ashore. After such enjoyable training it is no wonder that the team went on to become Army Indoor 560kg champions at Aldershot on January 26 without conceding a single pull!

Much credit must go to Mr (ex-SSM) John Spiers who coached the squad

'MECHANICS'

All our contributors will be reasonably familiar with the mechanics under which 'The Wire' is published. Much of the material is received during the first few days of every calendar month and processed by the Editorial Staff to our printer. Some few days later we receive proofs which are normally despatched to our contributors for checking and up-dating, as necessary.

A few days later, the Editorial Staff make up pages, incorporating advertisements which are received from our Advertisement Managers. This process imposes certain restraints, since we have to publish on a multiple of four pages. Our average issue is normally 40 pages and the immediate alternatives are 36 and 44 pages. We hope this factor explains the situation which does arise, from time to time, where a contribution originally earmarked for one month is held over to the next issue.

About a week later, we move to page proofs where it is still possible to incorporate new minor items. The return of 'pages' to our printers leads to the printing and distribution of 'The Wire' some six to seven working days later.

Having very broadly covered the cycle, may we make two suggestions to the Serving Corps, who contribute so much to our magazine. If you have a specially noteworthy event which clearly warrants good coverage, please let us have some advance notice. It does help to earmark the 'front cover'. And although we request matter for publication by the 12th of the month preceding publication, do forward any 'stop press' item after this date. We will always do our best to incorporate it.

And, finally, a word of thanks to our many contributors—serving and retired—who go to so much trouble to report events for publication. From letters received—often from distant places—we have no doubt that our Corps magazine does provide a very worthwhile record of the achievements of our great Corps. Long may it be so.

—From our "In" Tray—

Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup Competition UK Section Cup Won by 8 Signal Regiment

Report by Capt (TOT) J. Grigsby, team manager

ON Wednesday, February 16, 8 Sig Regt played Guards Depot Pirbright in the UK final. It was a hard-fought match with 8 Sig Regt the winner with three tries—all scored in extra time.

The first half started well for 8 Sig Regt with the forwards gaining possession from scrum and line-out; however excellent covering by the Guards prevented us from breaking out from our own half. In the second half the Guards applied pressure continuously and excellent cover from our backs prevented any score and at full time the score was 0—0.

At the end of the first period of extra time, **Jones** made a break from our 22, passed to **Gilder** who broke away down the touch line and, after kicking ahead, scored by the corner flag. The try was converted by **Pawlak.** The score lifted us and in the second period some superb handling by our backs resulted in two further tries by **Kennedy** and **Gilder** and, with a conversion by **Pawlak,** the final score was 16—0 to 8 Sig Regt.

The team line-up was: **Sgt Mick Pawlak, Cpls 'Q' Gilder, Steve Dunlin, Gus Hales, Alex Kennedy, Sgt 'Gill' Williamson, Lcpl 'Taff' Davies, Sigs Bob Lee, Derek Pocock** (Replacement for Sgt Paul Baines), **'Taff' Kessel, Cpl Dave Rudd, Sgt Andy Hickling** (captain), **Cpl 'Blod' Jones, Lcpls Clive Johnson** and **Steve Peacock.**

The Regiment will meet 1 RRW in the Army final on Wednesday, March 23, at Aldershot Stadium. Kick off 14.30hrs.

A Date to Note

From: **Ex-Sig Dennis Atkin**

Dear Miss Hyde Parker,

In April and May last year, the BBC came from Leeds and made a half-hour documentary on my life in Lodge Moor. The film took many hours to shoot and was on BBC North only on November 2. The BBC now inform me that the documentary 'The Man in the Iron Lung' is to be screened on the national network of BBC2 on Saturday, April 16. I thought you would be interested and perhaps my other friends in the Corps. The film begins with some still pictures of some old Army snaps which the BBC enlarged expertly. The photographs show me in Athens with 13 Div and 12 Bde and in Tel Aviv with 1 Div.

If you could let my many friends know, both in London and Catterick, I would be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,
Dennis Atkin

Lodge Moor Hospital,
Sheffield S10 4LH.

[*Editor's note:* We gladly publish this letter from ex-**Sig Dennis Atkin** to the senior Welfare Officer of the Association. **Dennis** has been supported by an iron lung since 1949.]

STOP PRESS SOCCER

Result of the BAOR final Army Challenge Cup football competition: 28 Sig Regt 3, 1 Sig Regt 0. Played at Sennelager Stadium, March 2. This Unit is now through to the Army Challenge Cup Final; venue to be confirmed, possibly Aldershot. To be played on April 6, 1977, against SEME.

STOP PRESS—SHOOTING

Congratulations to 8 Sig Regt on winning the Group final of the UKLF Inter-Unit Small Bore Competition held at Preston on February 19–20, with 733 points; 3 LI coming second with 728. The final will be fired at SEME, Bordon, on March 30, 1977.

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS—1977

FULL details of the Blandford and Catterick reunions have been passed to all branches of the Association and to individual members requesting them.

The dates are:

BLANDFORD	—	June 12
CATTERICK	—	June 25–26

AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION AND OPEN DAY 1977

THE Dinner and Open Day will be held on July 22–23, 1977, in Aldershot. The total cost will be £5·00 per person or £8·00 per couple.

Those who wish to attend or would like to have more information please contact **Lt P. L. McDouall** (Royal Signals), 216 Para Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU. Telephone: Aldershot 24431 ext 455.

THE BLUE HELMETS ROYAL SIGNALS FREEFALL TEAM

Calling all Sky Divers!

ALL current freefallers are requested to send the following particulars as soon as possible to:

Capt (QM) J. G. Turner,
216 Parachute Signal Squadron,
Arnhem Barracks,
Aldershot,
Hampshire GU11 2AU

- Number, Rank and Name
- Class
- Category
- Number of Descents
- If cleared to use 'Square Canopy'
- Next Posting Date
- Unit Posted, if known

The following dates should be noted in your diary and if you wish to attend/take part in any of them please indicate this in your reply.

May	4–9	Team training—Peterborough
May	10–18	Army championships
June	12	Demonstration—Blandford Reunion
June	26	Demonstration—Catterick Reunion
July	23	216 Para Sig Sqn 'open day'
July	23–30	Rhine Army championships

Royal Signals Freefall Badges. These are available from **Capt Turner.** The cost £1·00. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to: The Royal Signals Association crossed BLUE HELMETS.

From: **Maj A. R. Martin**

Dear Sir,

You brought good news from Osnabrück in the November WIRE, namely that 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn goes marching on, giving form and purpose to the pink-filed designs of the staff.

May I, however, ask for an editorial view on their claim to be 'the first and most senior of the Field Force Signal Squadrons'? First they are and rightly proud of it, but when the general post is over, 5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn will be serving 8 Field Force, doubtless under some tongue-twister of a name, but still with the regimental title 205 Sig Sqn, and so, of the Field Force Signal Squadrons, the senior. Perhaps I have missed news of a 'restructuring' of Corps titles—I hope not, because the present 5 Bde Sqn represents a force which traces its history to the Peninsular War, as reflected in present plans for the 8 Field Force badge, which will continue the 5 Bde 'Knife and Fork' design.

Further, there are those who feel that the much-travelled Saxon Horse is now part of Tidworth and need not be banished to Westphalia at the drop of a pink file.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. Martin

5 Broadoaks Crescent,
West Byfleet,
Weybridge,
Surrey.

From **F. G. Elwood**

Dear Sir,

I was very interested in the photograph of the 'B' Corps, Karachi, football team on page 21 of the January WIRE. I was in 'B' Corps at the time and knew all of the members. I wonder if Sig Rosbotham remembers the inter-Services final at Drigh Road, when his legs seized up and Joe Spinks and I spent the time between the two halves massaging his legs before he could go back on the field.

They were a great team and in 1937–38 just about cleared every Service's competition and civilian competitions they played in.

It was a sad day when 'B' Corps were disbanded in 1939, they were a great bunch of men and became a credit to every unit they were dispersed to. I have only met two members of that football team since I left 'B' Corps. Benny Spall came home on the same boat and I bumped—literally—into Maj Jarvis one day in Edinburgh at the latter end of the war.

I have some photographs of members of 4 and 6 LMA and 9 LMB; remember the 120 Watt and C MKII sections? Oh! Happy days.

Unfortunately, I was invalided out of the service in December 1943, but keep in touch with the Corps as a member of the Sheffield Branch of the Association and attend the reunion at Catterick.

To all ex-'B' Corps best regards.

Yours sincerely,
F. G. Elwood

30 Mawfa Avenue,
Sheffield S14 1AH.

From: **W. Reeves**

Dear Sir,

Referring to December issue and your kind insertion 'Were you serving in 1920–26?' on my behalf. Only ONE reply so far to date has been received.

This was from a former **Sig C. Lammas,** 2311110, with whom it appears I travelled to India on the S.S. *Huntsend* in January 1921. On arrival at Bombay (21 days) he seems to have gone to Karachi whilst I went to Jubbulpore on visual training, a month after I transferred to the W/T School Karachi, he passed the course a month earlier than I and wandered off to Mespot way. When I passed out I wandered N.W.F. Zhob Area way, our paths seemed to have crossed many times in the following years, our photos and natterings cover those forgotten days of the Royal Corps of Signals (not to mention a short but recorded time in R.E. Signals in which we originally joined 56–7 years ago) would make very interesting comparisons with today's workings.

Mr Lammas now resides at Gt Yarmouth, is a 'Lifer' in the Association and a subscriber to THE WIRE, I hope to be wandering that way very soon now when the Sun and I are companions again.

Surely we are not the only old 'uns around still 'firing on all four', perhaps this letter may bring more out of storage.

Yours truly,
W. Reeves

48 Rugby Road,
Milverton,
Leamington Spa, Warks CV32 6DG.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER—OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

THE 1977 President's dinner of the Old Welbexian Association will be held at Welbeck College on May 7, 1977. Former students of the College are asked to support this occasion, in which the boys about to go to Sandhurst are entertained at a 'regimental' dinner night. The broad base of the hosts' experience gives the boys an informal idea of the options open to them in their army career. Earlier dinners have been very successful due to the breadth of interests represented and, in addition to their primary aim, have resulted in a most enjoyable reunion of Old Boys at the College.

The dress is Mess Kit. The Royal Signals Band will play during dinner. Accommodation will be provided at the College. The cost will not exceed £4 a head. Any former student of Welbeck College who wishes to attend (whether a member of the Association or not) is asked to contact:

Maj J. R. Drew (REME),
REME Officers' School,
Arborfield,
Reading,
Berks RG2 9NN
(Telephone Arborfield Cross 760421 Ext 486)
or Capt D. J. G. Davies Pellow (RAOC),
Adjutant,
Welbeck College,
Worksop,
Notts
(Telephone Worksop 6579 (Home) or 6326 (College)

RSYC REGATTAS 1977

- **The RSYC (UK) Annual Dinghy Regatta** will be held at HMS *Excellent*, Whale Island, Portsmouth, on May 27–28, 1977, in Bosum dinghies. Entry forms can be obtained from your unit or direct from:
  Maj H. J. P. Exon (Royal Signals),
  School of Signals,
  Blandford Camp, Dorset.
- **The RSYC Seaview Regatta** will be held at Seaview, Isle of Wight, on May 31–June 1, 1977, in the Seaview Mermaids (25ft oa keel boats). Entry forms can be obtained from your unit or direct from:
  Maj C. K. Powell (Royal Signals),
  School of Signals,
  Blandford Camp, Dorset.
- Travel authorities exist for both regattas and Service accommodation can be arranged.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

WE periodically draw the attention of those nearing retirement to the Regular Forces Employment Association. Those in that category will be interested to know that during 1976 the Association registered 4,035 men and women from Regular Army service and placed 2,421 of them in employment. In the latter figure 241 had left the Corps on retirement.

The head office of the Association is 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN, Telephone (01) 637 3918. The addresses and telephone numbers of the 42 branches of the Association throughout the United Kingdom can be found by reference to local telephone directories.

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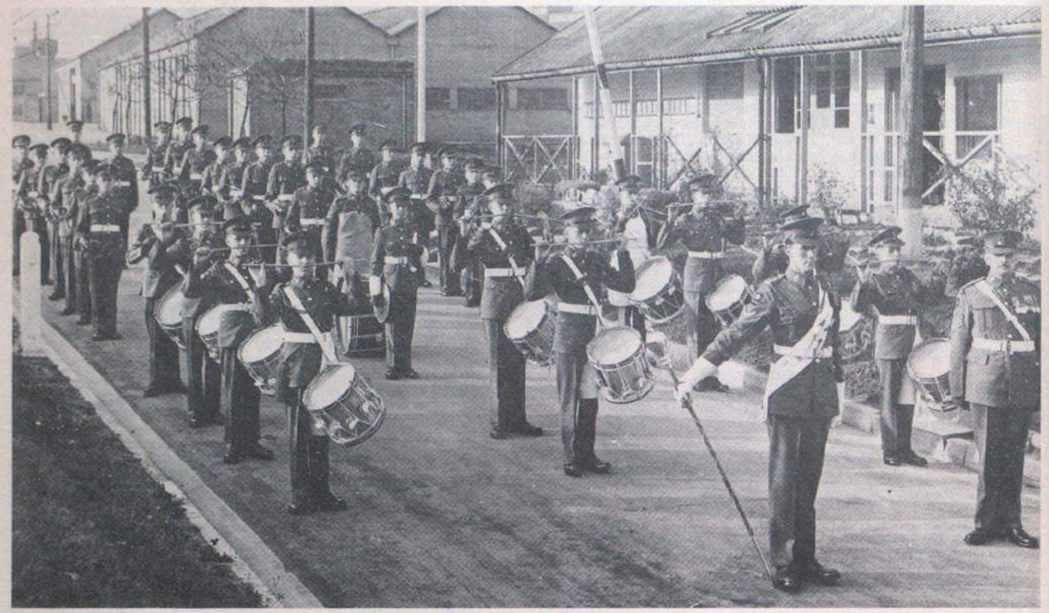

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? No 5

Report by WO2 (F of S) J. Hill

YET another 'blast from the past' this month comes via our researcher from **WO2 (F of S) Denis Hall** of 8 Sig Regt. 1977 is a far cry from those good old days at 6 (Boys) Trg Regt in 1953. Having flashed the photo around 8 Sig Regt, we have already unearthed one or two career men.

The 'wee' fellow with the cymbals in the centre is ex **Boy-Sgt (now Lt) John Morrison** who has recently left the Yeoman of Signals ranks to serve as a Troop Officer with 9 Sig Regt—and who is the trumpeter third from the rear of the right-hand rank? Our spies tell us he was to rise to fame as an ABA boxing champion and Boy-RSM (if I remember rightly) and is no other than (now) **Lt Mick Hall** now serving with 2 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt, and now better known for his ability on the squash courts.

Those vintage days were not complete without the bellow of the Provost Sergeant at the time—even now the thoughts drift back and bring terror to the pit of the stomach—known to every Beverley boy as **Bob Humphries.** We also happen to know the angelic drummer to his immediate right. He is now a technician here in Catterick and is not so angelic—**Ssgt Norman Hill.** But what of the other 30—who are they?—and where are they now?

'SECRET' HISTORY OF THE CORPS

No 5—SON OF CAXTON By John Hole

PASTURES NEW

I WENT down to the stables and said goodbye to my long-nosed chums. There was weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. I told them I was off to pastures new and that on my return I would bring them back a stick of rock. The drabbie was outside with a GS wagon. I climbed aboard and he drove me to Uckfield railway station. I had been posted to the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, on a special course.

Alas no lass

I found much to interest me in the town. In those days we had the largest navy in the world and Chatham was lousy with matelots. Walking down the High Street on the Saturday evening I saw a young Salvation Army lass coming towards me with her arms outstretched. She was so beautiful I stopped in my tracks. She said, 'Would you like to be saved?' I replied, 'Yes, please'. Just then two sailors barged into me and when I looked round my angel had disappeared. So Britain lost a new General Booth. Alack, alas!

Protracted printing

I had a talk with **CSM McCudden** and **Sgt Godfrey** who, between them, ran the printing office. First he told me about his nephew who had enlisted as a boy in the Sappers before the first world war. After he had joined the ranks he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, then in its very infancy. This young chap went down in history as **Maj McCudden, VC, DSO,** etc., etc. He then told me the purpose of the course. It was to be of one month duration in which I was to learn the craft of printing. I made no comment but thought a lot. Before joining the Army (which I did not do to dodge the police or a paternity order, but to improve my health) I had been apprenticed as a compositor with Vacher & Sons of Westminster for seven years. In that period I had been trained in all the ramifications of the printing industry. Nowadays it is all divided into about six different sections and boys learn one part and serve for four years only. They are called craftsmen. So I had to pack into one month seven years of hard study. I soon discovered that my mentors were what we used to call in the trade 'Winkle bag printers'. I did not tell anyone that in 1919, just before I had enlisted, I had got the highest qualification in the printing trade—the First class City and Guilds certificate grade one for typography. **McCudden** told me that he and **Godfrey** intended opening a printing office in Gillingham as soon as they had finished their pontoon. He realised that it would pay to pick my brains and so add to his scanty knowledge. As the month drew to its end he advised his superiors that I needed another month's tuition. The Commandant at Maresfield, thinking I was mentally retarded, reluctantly agreed. So we were all happy.

Reality

In the fullness of time I returned to Maresfield. My immediate boss was the chief clerk—**RSM Roberts**, the Army's top football referee. Quote a nice chap. I was installed in an old sports hut and all the paraphernalia for a printing office was laid out on the floor. He expected me to start printing in 24 hours. I had to clean and assemble the printing machine. Quite a job. Then set up all the compositor's frames and tables. It took 10 days. They all thought I was lazy as well as mentally retarded. I could not argue with my superiors. **Martin,** who went to Chatham with me (a winkle bag printer) was discharged from the Army as time expired two weeks later. So I was on my own. I asked **Roberts** for an assistant. He sent me—guess who—a professional footballer! Some mothers do have them. I found that apart from printing daily orders I had to print books for the students of the School of Signals **(Col Mordaunt). Roberts** said 'Print me some football posters'—just like that! I needed a printing block of a football and two figures of Mercury facing inwards. I made these blocks myself out of thick lino. They were perfect. **Roberts** was pleased. I began to realise I was indeed a genius! They got the credit. Everybody seemed to be able to steal my thunder. Of course, I was retarded. Later my staff was increased to five. A useless lot. One day the Commandant came into the office. I had a good look at him. A big strong healthy huntsman who had been CSO to **Gen Gough** in France. He asked me if anybody had interfered with my work. I told him a number of officers kept coming in and asking silly questions. Next day the camp was plastered with notices saying that the printing office was barred to all officers, NCOs and men.

The sack

I was working round the clock every day and it began to tell. My staff got Bolshie so I laid them all out on the grass. When they recovered they complained to **Roberts.** I was sacked on the spot and returned to duty.

The finest

I was told to lay my kit. I was being set up. Normally everybody took their kit, when it was issued to them, to the QM stores where some droop-eyed dope of a storeman marked all the items with the man's regimental number. The result was enough for the poor chap to be put on a charge for a scruffy kit.

I laid down my kit on the McDonald bed, cleaned my buttons and boots. After a time an officer came into the hut (of which I was the sole occupant). He looked at me and then my kit. His eyes stood out like organ stops. He got very nervous. After a lot of humming and hawing, he dashed off. A bit later the CSM came in. He nearly had a fit. After he had departed a sergeant came in. He looked shocked.

'You have not done any parades for about a twelve month'.

'No, I have been running the printing office.'

'Ah', he said, his face lighting up, 'that explains.' He relaxed. 'I've seen some kits in my time but yours must be the finest kit ever laid down in the British Army. The numbers stand out a mile. Every item is perfect. They have tried to set you up. They hoped you would now be in the clink and in debt for half your kit. They picked the wrong bloke. Pack up your kit before anyone sees it.'

I did just that. Next morning a GS wagon took me and my kit to the railway station. I had been posted to the 4 Div Signals at Colchester. Get THE WIRE and read the next thrilling instalment of 'Secret' History entitled 'Halcyon Days'.

ESSEN 1960

Editor's Note : We are indebted to Capt A. M. Lovatt for this photograph taken in Essen of 1 Multi Carrier Channelling Troop, No 1 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. The Troop Officer is seated between Sgt Dobson (1) and Sgt (now Capt) (TOT) M. D. Cherry. We hope this may stimulate some memories for our not-so-old readers

Movements

Officers

MARCH 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj J. H. Almonds	11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj W. J. Armstrong	School of Signals
Maj J. E. Barnes	Defence Sales Organisation
2 Lt J. A. Barry	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. W. Batho	11 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Offr) J. W. Birkwood	HQ UKLF
Maj A. R. Bushell	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. C. Chambers	1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj A. S. Cheal	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
2 Lt J. P. M. Coulthard	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj C. J. Crow	HQ Northern Ireland
Maj D. G. Dudley	BDLS (Army) Ottawa (HS)
2 Lt A. Field	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2 Lt P. J. Filby	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. C. N. Genders	HQ DAAC
Lt Col P. Goldney	10 Sig Regt
Capt I. R. Grant	225 Sig Sqn
2 Lt J. E. Hogan	16 Sig Regt
Capt W. J. Hough	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. T. Innocent	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj P. F. Kavanagh	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt N. E. Ladds	10 Sig Regt
Capt G. McGilvray, MBE	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt D. W. McKenzie	8 Sig Regt
Lt A. McMullen	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. F. Maynard	MGO Secretariat MOD (PE)
Lt Col J. D. Morris	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Peake, BEM	35 Sig Regt (V)
2 Lt S. J. Perkins	7 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) D. F. Rees	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. F. Rutherford	Attch BATUS Canada
Lt J. M. Shaw	School of Signals (course strength)
2 Lt P. J. Swindlehurst	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. J. Ventham	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj N. A. Walter	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. B. Webster	Defence Sales Organisation
Lt A. P. R. White	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (QM) B. Cleaver	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate

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

MARCH 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (F of S) P. S. Jones	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO1 (F of S) C. J. Field	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
WO2 (Y of S) J. R. Meehan	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (Y of S) J. M. Ross	30 Sig Regt
WOS (Supvr R) H. Parkinson	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
WO2 R. C. Briant	48 Gurkha Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 J. H. Brown	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 D. A. Lamerton	10 Sig Regt
A/WO2 T. P. D. Roberts	8 Sig Regt
Ssgt (Supvr R) W. R. Jones	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Ssgt (Y of S) R. A. Hogg	602 Sig Troop (Special Comms)
Ssgt S. G. Marshall	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt J. M. W. Richardson	SHAPE Support (International) (BAE)
Sgt C. M. Platts	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt T. M. Witts	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt M. E. Pawlak	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. N. Bovenizer	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Back	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sgt B. Hudson	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt B. E. Mower	10 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Luis	11 Sig Regt (D/Troop)
Sgt N. J. MacPherson	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. Jones	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt F. P. R. Coleman	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Johnston	11 Sig Regt (D/Troop)
Sgt B. Nevins	School of Signals
Sgt P. O. Whitbread	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt D. R. Horne	526 Rear Link Det (Fd Regt)
Sgt R. M. Todd	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt W. Kitching	11 Sig Regt
Sgt C. G. Cox	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. L. Henderson	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt C. W. Peach	234 Sig Sqn (Malta)
Sgt G. C. Air	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt J. Mullen	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Forster	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Farrell	11 Sig Regt (Junior Signalmen's Wing)
Sgt D. W. Miller	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Merrick	HQ Berlin (British Sector)
Sgt M. J. Price	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt G. M. Horan	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bradley	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Sgt J. S. Bailes	545 Rear Link Det (LT AD Regt)
Sgt D. K. Tidy	633 Sig Troop
Sgt H. Million	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. H. Audsley	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Carty	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt B. Inglis	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt L. Pickersgill	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt D. E. Cleggett	9 Sig Regt (Radio)

Welfare

JANUARY 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**24**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**70**
Amount spent	**£1,159·04**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, served 1940–46 and discharged with a small pension for gunshot wounds. He is now permanently disabled and unable to work, and one of his two children is an invalid. The Association made a grant of £45 for fuel bills, and the wife's letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

ON behalf of my husband, may I express our thanks for the grant you sent us through SSAFA. It certainly will be a great help. My husband would have liked to write himself, but he finds it very difficult since his illness. We thank you most sincerely.

SSAFA also wrote as follows:

Thank you for your generous help. The family were really moved by your thoughtfulness. It gives heart to me in the work as well when someone who is deserving gets help such as this.

THANK YOU

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

Col R. A. Chell, Lt Col I. C. Spear, Mrs M. Purdon, Maj G. O. Foulton, Mrs V. E. Haslett, Lt Col J. Bayfield, Maj Gen and Mrs M. D. Price, Col P. R. Hoskins, Maj J. M. Sweetman, Mr and Mrs C. Fry, WO2 J. W. L. Frost, 56 Div Old Comrades Association, Brig J. D. T. Brett.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1977:

	£
7 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	1·50
83 (London) Sig Sqn (V)	2·00
Hartlepool and District Branch Royal Signals Association	3·00
P. M. O'Mahony, Esq	2·75
R. N. Hutchins, Esq	5·00
G. B. Hollins, Esq	5·00
N. H. Chadwick, Esq.	5·00
Anonymous	11·50
J. H. Westaway, Esq	1·70
Col D. S. Clark	2·75
Col F. S. Morgan	1·25
Maj J. F. Everard	1·00
Col J. F. Longfield	1·00
Col G. H. T. Shrimpton	1·20
L. C. Hall, Esq	5·00
Miss J. Buchanan	5·00
Miscellaneous minor donations	1·85
	£56·50

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A Special Thank You Crossword Puzzle No 14

CROSSWORD ANSWERS to No 14

Across: 1, Monsoon; 5, Park; 9, Clergyman; 10, Sprat; 11, Item; 12, Train; 13, Inch; 16, Eternal; 18, Noticed; 19, Gherkin; 21, Riddled; 23, Road; 24, Falls; 25, Uses; 29, Floor; 30, Esperanto; 31, Spot; 32, Exposed.
Down: 1, Machine; 2, Niece; 3, Orgy; 4, Numeral; 5, Pension; 6, Rose; 7, Hatched; 8, Ironical; 14, Snake; 15, Study; 17, Elevator; 19, Giraffe; 20, Nearest; 21, Relapse; 22, Discord; 26, Sinks; 27, Grip; 28, Trap.

The solution to our last crossword ends the present series. WO2 (F of S) John Hill (8 Sig Regt), our compiler for the past 15 months, will be a civilian by the time this issue of 'The Wire' is read. John was also active in picking up our regular Editorial theme of 'looking back' and all readers will join us in thanking him most sincerely for his contributions. We wish John and his family every good fortune in civilian life.

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

DEATHS

Rogers—Cyril Rogers (ex-Sig 1942–45) died on March 3, after a short illness. Cyril joined the Bournemouth Branch of the Association in 1946. He was chairman of the branch for 1976 and was always a hard-working loyal member, deeply respected by all who knew him.

Stibbs—Lt Col T. Stibbs, MBE, enlisted at the age of 16 in 1916. He served for 34 years before retiring on medical grounds in 1949. He was commissioned in 1940 and appointed MBE in 1948 whilst serving in the Far East. He died on January 30, at the age of 78.

PERSONAL

The official 19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn ties, which incorporate a red panther motif on a blue background, are now available, and any past member of the Squadron may purchase these ties on application to PRI, 19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7NZ.

Attention ladies. A limited number of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

WANTED

Walking-out leather belt or waist strap of a Sam Browne belt. Please contact Jack McKowin, 44 Church Lane, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4AD. Tel: (0522) 50483.

SITUATIONS VACANT

The Corps of Commissionaires is seeking a new Clerical Assistant (male or female) at these offices, but moving shortly to new premises in Fleet Street, EC4.

Age 45–55 preferred. Requirements: previous military (or police) service with very good character on discharge. Must be prepared to join the Corps; uniform is provided but will seldom be required to be worn. Duties: 5-day, 40-hour week. Reception, filing, office duties, some typing. Some minor accounting work is involved. Opportunities for evening and weekend work. Salaries depending on qualifications, but not below £2,250 p.a. with LVs; some pension arrangements; three weeks' leave rising to four weeks after one year's service. Applications to:

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CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

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Security/Reception. Grays Inn Road WC1. £70+
Security/Doorman. Knightsbridge SW3. £3,000
Driver/Office Help. Gt Peter Street, SW1. £2,725
Security. Deptford, SE8. £3,000+
Reception/Messenger. Clifton Street, EC2. £2,500
Driver Rolls-Royce. Erith, Kent. £40p.w.
Arabic-speaking Reception/Security Officer. Berkeley Square, W1. Good salary.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

FOR SALE

Various items of Royal Signals Officer's uniform; including Mess Kit jacket, to fit height 6ft, 38in chest. No. 1 Dress hat size 7¼. Buttons, badges, etc. Offers to Capt R. G. Howard, 91 TIO Course, RAPC Training Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

HISTORY OF THE WHITE HELMETS

The well-known author and military historian, Mr James Ladd, has recently completed a book on the history of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. In it he traces the story of stunt motor cycling in Royal Signals from its very beginning. It has taken him four years of research, during which time he has interviewed many ex-members of the team and collected their stories, anecdotes and photographs covering the 50 years of the Team's official existence and before to the time when despatch riders did individual tricks on their motor cycles for fun and to show off their skill.

The book is entitled:

'The White Helmets' 'The Royal Signals Display Team'.

It will be published by G. T. Fowlis Ltd on April 29, 1977, at £5·95. If you would like a copy of the first edition signed by the author on publication day, fill in the coupon below and send it with your cheque or money order to:

The White Helmets
Gaza Barracks
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EXERCISE JOLLY LODGER

Report by Cpl Bob Wilson,
19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

KENYA BOUND

ON a cold and frosty English morning our RAF VC10 roared off. One hundred and forty soldiers sang and joked as our aircraft headed on the first leg of our journey to Kenya, East Africa. After a short refuelling stop at Athens we arrived at Nairobi Airport at 0400hrs, tired but eager to do our job. The exercise was designed to test 1 Bn Royal Regt of Fusiliers as a '650 battalion' in hot and arid conditions. Attached to 1 RRF were four Royal Signals personnel, namely **Cpl Bob Wilson, Lcpls John Howat, Steve Chopping** and **Sig Mick Armstrong.** We were going across to provide the important HF rear link from the main base camp at Nanyuki to the administrative camp at Kahawa (a distance of 110 miles).

Reliable link tested

We were given orders to set up our station in the admin camp. We had to be careful about the siting of our sloping wire as Mount Kenya (19,000ft) was in the way! Fortunately, 1 RRF said 'you're the experts', and allowed us to put our training into practice and for some reason communications came easily. At first **Lcpl John Howat** and **Sig Mick Armstrong** provided the link at the main camp, but later a detachment of 30 Sig Regt (on Exercise Swift Eddy) were kind enough to take over responsibility for 'one end'.

The importance of our job was brought home to us when the Battalion suffered some casualties. We were fully tested and earned praise for our reliable communications, especially at the crucial moments.

A scorpion problem

Of course, working in Africa provides some unusual challenges. There was the time a message was being taken down, and a scorpion walked across the pad—I must admit a few words were missed in the panic. Although pets were not encouraged we adopted a praying mantis, 'Humphrey', by name. I am sure he was pleased with his name. However, when 'Henrietta' entered his life he deserted us. We still don't know why.

Experience to remember

We were lucky enough to go to a game reserve on Lake Naivasha (about 60 miles from Nairobi). It was a fantastic experience, well above a five-star holiday. However, all things must come to an end; all too soon we found ourselves getting ready for our return to the UK.

Our detachment had enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot. I cannot finish without thanking the detachment from 30 Sig Regt and all the other Corps members on hand, and to all of them I say, 'Jambo'.

'The Kenyan Quartet'

Sig Mick Armstrong (*kneeling*). *Standing from left to right*—Cpl Bob Wilson, Lcpl Steve Chopping, Lcpl John Howat (*behind*)

'Kahawa' Commcen

Cpl Bob Wilson exercises 'Humphrey'. Lcpl John Howat looks on

ALPINE SAFARIS

Report by Cpl Bernie Temmen, 30 Sig Regt

NOT THE TOURIST SCENE

SNOW, ice and glaciers. Who would ever have thought that one would travel in these conditions in Kenya, East Africa! Well, having arrived out in Kenya on Exercise Swift Eddy and after setting up my plant for the exercise, I was deployed with **WO2 'Jack' Frost** (rear party, 14 Sig Regt) to Liki north hut at 13,100ft. This is situated on the northern side of the Mount Kenya range well away from the much-used routes by tourists. The hut which we had rented, like most others in the mountains, belonged to the 'Mountain Club, Kenya' and could sleep 10 people. This was to be our home for the next 18 days, up among the Alpine mountains of Kenya.

Little plant or animal life

We were to act as mountain guides for companies of 1 RRF. The first four days we spent getting to know the area. Very little plant or animal life is found at this altitude, although we often awoke most mornings to find snow buntings attacking our food. Having the wild hyraxs (like a large hamster) eat out of our hands was a good indication of how often people use this side of the mountains. One of the very first things we did find out was that our water for coffee boiled at 85°C.

Altitude sickness

On our fifth day at Liki north hut, the first Company arrived. Each was to spend two days with us and travel up into the snow line to visit a col between peaks 'Terer' and 'Sendeyo' at 15,400ft. This was achieved by most of the Infantry who joined us at the hut. Each party departed from the hut to the col at 0700hrs and, after 2½ hours' climb, reached their objective. Quite a few dropped out along the way with altitude sickness. **WO2 'Jack' Frost** found one rifleman sat on a rock crying his eyes out suffering from a very bad headache. Panadol tablets were issued and he was returned to the hut. One keen Sergeant from 1 RRF said he'd seen a lion or something big (maybe the African yeti!) while up in the snow.

New objective

With a three-day break after the first three Companies, **WO2 'Jack' Frost** and myself decided to strike out for higher peaks on the other side of the mountain range. With all our kit packed plus an A41 set for company (known on the 1 RRF radio net as 'the dreaded S2 from the mountains') we set off for our next hut, Kami, at 14,564ft. This journey meant crossing over many ridges to place us in the right valley that would lead to our objective. Near the hut we came upon a wrecked helicopter from a civilian firm. What they'd been doing to crash here we never did find out, although it was mentioned at the AAC Troop at base camp that they'd been 'joy riding'. We reached the hut earlier than expected and decided to press on to 'two tarn hut' for our night's stop.

Capt Martyn Reid, Cpl Bernie Temmen (1 Sqn), Sig 'Geordie' Fraser at the summit of Point Lenana (16,355ft)

Now came the hardest part of our journey this day. At many times on this last leg we were considering turning back but with the thought 'It's always better on the other side of the hill', we pressed on. We reached the hut after seven hours, and the next morning we set out to climb up the glacier and snow to Point Lenana at 16,355ft. This being the third-highest peak in the range and fourth in Africa, it afforded us a fine view of the Mount Kenya range.

Corps Pennant raised

After our descent of Point Lenana and return to Liki north hut, OC Swift Eddy, **Maj Seward,** sent a small part of Royal Signals and RAF (38 Group) up to the hut for a holiday away from the Commcen and late nights. They were to carry out the same climb as the Infantry. This they all did but when we reached the col the mist came in so the view of the main peaks was very limited.

A few days later it was decided to ascend Point Lenana again but this time four were to try for the peak, **Capt Martyn Reid, Sig 'Geordie' Fraser** and myself as guide/radio operator. This proved to be the worst day I spent in the mountains for we had a snow blizzard right to the top. Everybody reached the summit but we were surrounded by mist. Anyway, we raised the Pennant and took photographs of the great event, and then returned to Austria hut at 15,720ft. I now look forward to a return trip in the near future and may be raising a Corps flag on the highest peak.

THE ARK

Report by Cpl B. R. Coombs, 30 Sig Regt

LACED WITH RUM

IMAGINE coming eye to eye with an elephant! This is the chance that faces visitors to The Ark, a game lodge in the Aberdare game reserve in Kenya. The trip starts with lunch at the Aberdare Country Club, the RV for all visitors to the lodge. We discovered the one of the sweet dishes was, unfortunately, laced with rum. Eventually we were persuaded to get on to the coaches!

The salt attraction

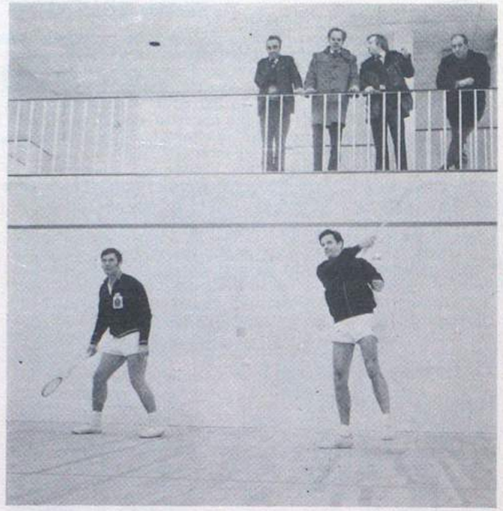
On the way through the Reserve we stopped to film interesting items. On one such stop to watch warthogs the whole scene suddenly froze. A sudden flash of movement—leopard. Another flash—one dead warthog. The speed of the kill had to be seen to be believed. Onwards once more and we arrived at the Ark, which is shaped as its name, with decks instead of floors and cabins instead of rooms. It stands on the edge of a waterhole, but it is the salt which is laid which attracts the animals. At dusk they move in: warthog, elephant, jungle hare (the original jungle bunnies), impala, water buffalo and so on. As darkness deepens so the waterhole becomes lighter. It is softly floodlit. Perfect for photography without the use of flash. For those less hardy who retire early there is a buzzer alarm to awaken you when anything interesting enters the area, or happens, eg, hyenas attempting to bring down a buffalo.

A close view

For really close-up views there is the dungeon. A solid building at the base of the Ark, with slits instead of windows. This brings you within 12 inches of the aniamals, with only fresh air between you—a bit heart-stopping when an elephant decides to take a close-up of you! The two stalwarts of the trip were **Sgt Harry Ridley** and **Cpl Brian Coombs** who eventually turned in at 0230, missed the buzzer and the herd of elephants that came an hour later. After breakfast, back to the Country Club and the end of the trip. After the Ark and the Game Reserves we all felt that no UK wild life park would ever be the same.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809



PROGRESS?

IN August 1976 it was decided that the best interests of the Squadron would be served by uniting Alpha and Bravo Troops under the title 'Comms' Troop. In February 1977, it was decided that the best interests of the Squadron would be served by dividing 'Comms' Troop into two, under the titles Alpha and Bravo Troops!

Since the exceptionally high level of Squadron efficiency continues it would seem that such an apparent step into the past reveals a great deal of foresight and planning . . .!?

THE CONQUEST OF 'MOUNT' CROOB

Following blizzards in mid-January (it's not only rain which bedevils us here in Northern Ireland you know) the road to a strategically important rebro site was closed by deep snow drifts. Coincidentally, a piece of equipment was in need of urgent replacement and the formidable task of relieving the stranded crew fell upon the 3 Bde Sig Sqn mountain rescue and human mule pack team. Preparations for the 'Arctic'-type expedition were completed and a 'base camp' was established at 141800 Z Jan.

TREACHEROUS DRIFTS

The initial ascent was difficult enough, with treacherous drifts and ice flows created by overnight sub-zero temperatures, without the added 'flavour' of **Cpl 'Blue' Baker's** driving techniques and **Lcpl Dave Browne's** choice of route. 'Camp 1' was established at 141915 Z Jan (since the vehicle was immobile in a drift it was considered as good a place as any) whereupon **Cpl Ron Woodger** and **Ssgt Ken Harlick,** our intrepid climbing/mule team, donned their packs of supplies and replacement radio equipment (one complete C42 plus ancillaries no less). 'Camp 2' was established the moment **Ken Harlick** found himself chest deep in snow; however, since his companion was only knee deep (in the same depth of drift, or so it has been said) it wasn't long before both our heroes were attempting the assault on the summit.

Amidst howling 'Arctic'-type winds, drowned only by our heroes' shouts of triumph, the summit was reached at 2030hrs and the detachment relieved almost immediately. Communications were restored shortly afterwards and any delay was due only to frostbite and the associated shivers! For those of you who have experienced the north face of the Eiger this conquest compares equally as a test of human strength and stamina—at least that is what our heroes would have us believe!

NEW SQUASH COURTS

The new squash courts were opened recently and have been heavily booked ever since. It is a building of which we are justifiably proud and which is the envy of many. Our photograph shows **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Collins** and **WO2 Fred Rowberry** (Supt Clk) playing the first match on one of the two courts before an audience of DOE representatives (who seem almost sorry that it is open to the public!).

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP 1977

This year the Championships were sponsored by the Squadron, the event being held at Hillsborough Forest Park, one of the many truly picturesque spots in the Province. The weather was extremely kind, the rain holding off until the moment the last prize was presented. Our photographs show **Pte Fitchett** of our Pioneer Platoon looking as though he might be in need of confirmation of his position and **Maj Roland Ebden** of the CR Signals Branch team receiving his individual prize for third place from **Mrs Ian Shapter,** who kindly presented the prizes. The team winners will no doubt be covering their own publicity adequately. A successful day thanks largely to the many who took part and the great help received from the local civil orienteering club.

LOST IN A MAZE?

'TM' Troop was recently reinforced by four sterling linemen from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, namely **Sigs Chris Szabo, Nigel Witheridge, Francis Scott** and **John Alden.**

Upon arrival, the Foreman detailed their first task—rewiring the Maze Prison, a task considered much too dangerous for 'TM' Troop's resident linemen. They were briefed to be on the look out for any trace of those who began the same job three months earlier and were still missing . . . Thank you, chaps; no, it's all right we will finish the job off.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

Finally, amongst many too numerous to mention, we bid farewell to **WO2 (F of S) Tony Brittenden** and his wife, **Jean,** who are off to SHAPE. We wish them every success for their new tour. We welcome **WO2 (F of S) John Francis** and his wife, **Lesley,** who have come from SHAPE. We are assured that the apparent 'one for one' really is a coincidence!

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj K. P. Burke** (Royal Signals)
2IC	**Capt N. O. Williams** (Royal Signals)
Capt QM	**Capt (QM) H. Bell** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer	**Lt R. W. Coleman, MBE** (Royal Hamps)
OC Comms Tp	**Lt M. S. Fisher** (Royal Signals)
MTO	**Lt K. J. Hadfield** (Royal Signals)
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) R. I. Buckley**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) C. J. F. Hemstock**
Y of S	**WO2 (Y of S) J. T. Nichols**
F of S	**WO2 (F of S) N. C. Cowell**
ORQMS	**Ssgt (ORSQMS) R. J. Duffy**

HECTIC-IVITY

JANUARY is always a difficult month to write WIRE notes which may be why 'Q' Troop have been asked to set pen to paper and produce a few more of our priceless gems of information and hilarity! It should have been a quiet, peaceful month following the hectic festivities of Christmas and New Year. However, here in 8 Bde, it was just about the other extreme; controlled Hecticivity we call it.

FRIENDLY TICK

I know that PREFFR looks like just bad spelling, but if you insert a full stop it reads PRE.FFR which, as if we did not have enough to occupy ourselves, means that this month the REME have been giving us a right grilling on everything that mechanically records-transmits-receives-photographs-lifts-fires-drives-generates etc. Next month the Brigade staff will order it all to stand still for an inspection of a different type, our Fitness for Role, as it is now called (what was wrong with Administrative Inspection?).

One of the REME examiners was heard to mutter on arrival, 'All those nice shiny wagons lined up with their front wheels wavering like a nervous pair of knees, it's a good job we only look underneath or we might make them all dirty'. One early statistic that emerges is that when all the G1098 watches were withdrawn for inspection, it created absolute turmoil. There were some sore wrists when we had to resort to the hacksaw to get some of them from their temporary owners. Did I say temporary? It is indeed a strange sight to see an all-night queue outside the stores waiting for the instrument examiner, just to make sure they get 'their own' friendly little tick-tock safely back where it 'belongs'.

SHINTY TO THE FORE

Our many and varied gladiators have not let the snow and ice spoil their pleasures or interrupt the training schedules, rugger under the coaxing whip of **Lt Mike Fisher** and **Sgt 'Scouse' Davies,** football under manager **Sgt Brian Bradbury,** and the cross-country team prodded along by **Norman the Foreman (of Signals) Cowell.**

It seems that while the QM, **Capt Harry Bell,** was on a quick trip to Scotland, the RQMS, **WO2 Harry Hemstock,** organised a Squadron shinty competition and with a little aid from TM Troop, beat the mighty men of Comms Troop and the toughies of the MT/LAD. I always thought that the combined brains of the technicians and superior intellect of the RAMMACOT (Resupply and Material Management and Control Organisation Team) were better suited to indoor games like elbow bending and talking about the problem, but this really was a thrashing which will be long remembered. The score: Played 4, won 4. Goals for 21, goals against 3.

LADIES GUEST NIGHT

On the social side, the officers of the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn entertained their ladies at a ladies guest night. The function was very well supported and enjoyed by all. Even **Maj Peter Burke,** the OC, was seen to enjoy himself when the seating plan settled into its final (extra final) shape!

SHREDDER TALE

Finally, I know that Irish jokes do tend to get a bit overworked but did you hear the one about the young Irish police constable who walked into a busy ops room and asked if he could photograph a very important document? The busy clerk said, 'OK, just put it through the machine yourself'. There was a pause, then a brief sound, 'Brrruup! and the constable said, 'How long do you wait for it to come out?' The clerk turned towards him impatiently and saw him standing in front of the 'shredder'! Quick as a flash he asked 'How many copies did you want? Because I think you now have about four hundred!' True story. (Not this unit!)

LADIES AGAIN

Later, on January 14, 1977, the officers combined with the officers of 2 Bn Goldstream Guards and their ladies entertained the warrant officers and senior NCOs and their good ladies of both units at a cocktail party at which a good time was had by all. Some of the survivors also attended the Defence and Employment Platoon farewell party to **Cpl Gibbin Fitzgerald, Ptes 'Robo' Robinson, Price, 'Jock' McLean, 'Brummy' Bardell, 'Taffy' Wilkins, Lcpl Jeff Parker, Sig Jed Philips.** This was hosted by **Sgt Bill Turner** assisted by **Cpl Steve Paige.** The lads departing were really well seen off and their friendly faces will be missed for some time to come.

VARIETY

The Lemon Club still thrives and entertains with such variety as the New Year's Ball, a Folk Night, and the latest being a go-go dancer and disco. The club committee, **Cpls Mick Reid, Dave Frost, Jerry Turnbull, Lcpls John (Topshot) Arkless, Allan, Sig Frankie De Souza, Pte Dennis Price, Dvr Bill Kirkland,** are to be contratulated on their energy and bright ideas.

SEARCHING QUESTIONS

The Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, **Maj Gen D. T. Young, DFC,** paid us a lightning visit on December 22, 1976, and showed a very keen interest in all he saw and had some very searching questions for everyone he met.

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FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

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

INS AND OUTS

CAPT STEPHEN PAUL left us in January for the School of Signals. We wish him and **Lesley** well, and trust that the good Blandford 'huntin', shootin' and fishin' ' will compensate for his leaving the Squadron. **Capt Stephen Siddall** has taken over as second-in-command, and has been looking increasingly harassed as the enormity of the task becomes clearer! We have had many other departures and new arrivals in the last two months; to all of them we wish the best of luck, whether it be in the challenging environment here or the relative relaxation of postings elsewhere.

The presentation of the horseshoe to the Squadron
Left to right: Lt Col John Bromley, Maj Conrad Garton, Lt Col Ian Shapter

WELCOME VISITOR

Lt Col John Bromley (Royal Signals) returned on January 26 to visit the Squadron which he commanded from 1972–74. As well as a guided tour of the Squadron and a 'cordon bleu' lunch at the Divis radio site, he joined us for a drink and buffet in the Horseshoe Club for the purpose of presenting the Squadron with a beautifully-mounted shoe worn by the famous racehorse 'Red Rum'. He, in turn, was presented with a framed print of Ken Howard's painting 'Royal Signals in Northern Ireland'. **Lt Col Ian Shapter,** CR Signals Northern Ireland, joined us for the presentation. He was the Brigade Major when **Lt Col Bromley** commanded the Squadron.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Squadron's team for the Northern Ireland cross-country championships was:

WO2 (AQMS) Bob Chapman (REME)
WO2 (SQMS) 'Dolly' Gray (RAOC)
Cpl Dick Doyle-Davidson
Cpl Brian Howe
Lcpl Tom McCallion (RAOC)
Lcpl Dave Burkhill (RAOC)
Pte Dave Hogg (RAOC)
Sig 'Smudge' Smith

The team was placed third in the Minor Units, **WO2 Chapman** putting in a magnificent performance, coming in third overall, and the first regular soldier to finish in a field of almost 200. All in all, a very fine effort by the whole team, who have relatively little opportunity for training.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

A large Christmas cake complete with sugar mountains was presented to the Lagan Valley Hospital by the Squadron
Left to right: Sig 'Bobby' Bush, Cpl Brian Howe, Capt Robin Burrows

LOOKING BACK

To describe Christmas festivities in the March issue is definitely 'not on'—but we must say that we had an excellent time, and would like to record our great thanks for the magnificent donation towards the entertainments for those serving in Ulster made by the Royal Signals Association. We, in turn, were involved in our usual community activities at the local Old Folks' Home, orphanage and hospitals, which we hope will have helped to make Christmas a brighter time for a few less fortunate than ourselves.

Lcpl Mick Halford and Sig Tony Eager erecting a Heli-Tele antenna
In the background: Divis Flats

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

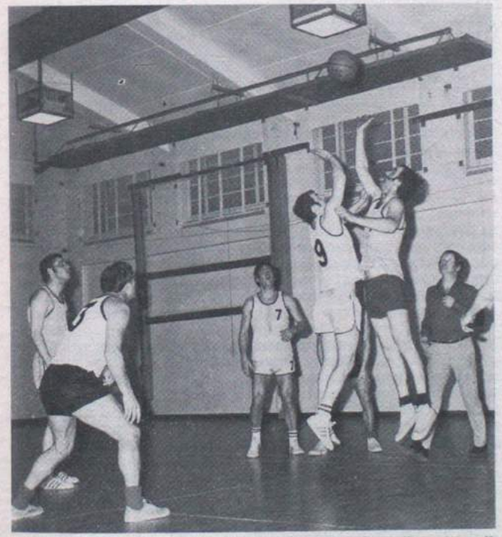
CASUALTY REPORT

Child: 'What happened to your knee, Grandad?'
Grandad: 'Well, bonny lad, it was like this. It happened when I was on Active Service in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, in January 1977. That's the green and purple medal here. I was leading my men into an attack and was positioned out on the left flank with cover from **Nick Lynn** way out to my right. Suddenly three tough-looking characters from the other side appeared, I was alone, there was no escape so I decided to shoot, but alas was too late! I felt this excruciating pain in my right leg and I was down, finished! Men came to my aid and called the medic. Ambulance, blue light flashing and I was admitted to BMH. They operated and removed my shattered knee cap. It was magic, da di da '

That, we propose, is **WO2 (SSM) Martin Hanlon's** account, in his dotage, of how he sustained a knee injury whilst playing four-a-side football in the gymnasium at Lisburn Garrison earlier this year. Who can blame him!

THE FUGITIVE FOREMEN

There is no truth in the rumour that **WO2 (F of S) John Guest** has been away on an emergency tour in England for the last six months. He has now become acclimatised to the air-conditioned comfort of 'W' Troop and assures us that he is making an extra effort this year to qualify for both separation allowance and his GSM. It has also been reported that the ever increasing welfare visits to the Stranraer Detachment by **WO2 (F of S) Nick Lynn** and other members of the 'Portakabin fraternity' has resulted in plans for a more permanent rest and recuperation site to be established at that location.



No 7 (Capt Alan Chapman) watches for the ball, from the jump off, from *No 9* (Lcpl Paul Milner). The other star showing (behind *No 3*) is Sgt Tom Hall

BASKETBALL—A CLOSE THING

The action picture shows the very successful Squadron basketball team rising to the occasion, during the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships. We had a lot to live up to as the cupholders. Early games with results 54—12, 84—18 and 74—16 in our favour gave us great confidence. Alas, 9 Para Sqn, RE, beat us 49—55 in the final.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome: **Cpls Moor, Parsons, Darlow, Davis, Dixon** and **Lcpl Marshall.**
Bon voyage: **Sgt Conlin, Cpls Walker** and **Wright.**

PEAKE INN

For those of you who remember that illustrious establishment the 'Peake Inn' as a place to stub out your fag ends on the floor and spill your beer, well those days have gone. The Admin Officer decided to splurge some of our well-spent beer money and give the club a face lift. The disco room was removed from the centre of the club to give us some more drinking space and at the same time the club was given a lick of paint. New carpet tiles were laid by the Squadron's 'terrible trio', **SSM Martin Hanlon, F of S Nick Lynn** and **RQMS John Hepworth.** The work was all done voluntarily, except for the barman who had to be on permanent call while the work was being done!

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—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

DEFENCE ADP TRAINING CENTRE REPORT

A MIXED BAG

THE unprepared visitor to the Blandford Garrison, known primarily as the home of the School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt, could be forgiven an element of surprise if the anticipated environment of khaki uniforms and 'Jimmy' insignia, was found to contain a moderate-sized helping of the other Services, covering a range of ranks up to Colonel equivalent level. In what is basically a male domain, some additional reactions could be stimulated if the first unexpected encounter should include some female 'persons' of the Royal Air Force, WRACs or WRENs! In all probability this leavening of the Royal Signals community would be attributed to the presence within the Garrison of the Defence ADP Training Centre (DADPTC).

Increasing computer applications

The DADPTC is a joint service training unit sponsored by the Directorate of Army Training, and is responsible to the Ministry of Defence for a large proportion of the computer training for all of the military services, and for many MOD civilians. To accommodate this task the unit is manned by approximately 30 uniformed personnel and 40 civilians, whose duties include the main task of instructing, the running and maintenance of a £400,000 computer installation, and provision of many administrative support services.

Since the initial formation of the unit in April 1969, the work of the Centre has increased from 140–500 students per year. In spite of the defence cuts, some further increases are expected, which truly reflects the growth of computer applications within the MOD environment.

Personalities

Senior appointments on the unit, change colour of uniform with each successive incumbent such that each service has its senior representative. Currently in command is **Gp Capt P. J. Wells,** to be succeeded in June 1977 by an Army Colonel; **Lt Col I. M. Birkett** (RAOC) is the chief instructor, to be succeeded in May by a Commander RN, and newly in appointment as head of the technical support division is **Wg Cdr B. King.**

The administration staff is headed by **Lt Col (Retd) M. E. E. Truscott,** whose team endeavours to permit a large measure of independent administrative function of the unit, but overall, the final dependance (and responsibility) for administration lies with the Commandant School of Signals **(Brig J. H. Hild),** i.e. DADPTC is the lodger; School of Signals the landlord; a close relationship requiring goodwill and co-operation on both sides.

Photograph courtesy Photographic Section, HQ School of Signals

Our picture shows one small aspect of this association. During a familiarisation tour of the DADPTC shortly after taking appointment in December 1976, **Brig Hild** took the opportunity to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to one of the RAF computer operating staff **(Cpl Palmer).** So far none of the Wrens qualify for any awards of this type, but the occasion is awaited with some interest!

Students learn practical programming

For those who have a technical or practical interest in such matters the unit's particular claim to notoriety is the elaborate computer installation (based on a Digital Equipment Corporation KI10) which provides a presently unchallengeable facility for students to learn and execute practical programming. Terminals to the system consist mainly of visual display units (VDUs), fast teletypes and one graphics display unit. Most of the learning is obtained through the medium of the VDUs, but in addition there are facilities for use of punched cards and paper tape. Reflecting the currently increased trend of computers to enter the operation field, a separate system is being developed to accommodate the special requirements of this work.

A majority of the students arrive at the unit with no knowledge of computing and depart after a few weeks of fairly hard, but rewarding labour, able to give immediate practical support to their own computer-orientated establishments. The more advanced students (endowed with appropriate stamina) stay for approximately one year, departing with qualifications to the standard of the British Computer Society (Part I). If you encounter any of this select breed you would normally find them as project leaders, controlling a team of ADP practitioners a large number of whom would also have trained at the DADPTC.

With a total of over 2,000 students who have so far attended for training at DADPTC it will not be long before YOU are one of the few who has not been a customer. If nothing else, having read thus far, you will at least be able to explain the unusual assembly of uniforms on the Blandford Camp.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY IN UNPLEASANT WEATHER

LAST winter term's Graduation Day was held on Thursday, December 16, 1976, when the parade was most ably commanded, despite the inevitably unpleasant weather, by **AT/RSM John Jefferson.** The Reviewing Officer was **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane,** Chief of Staff, UKLF, who was Adjutant of the College (then School) from 1950–52. At that time his QM was **Maj (now Lt Col) H. G. Humberston,** and his RSM was **RSM Sam Lonsbrough** (Coldstream Guards), father of the renowned Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer, Anita. It had been hoped that both these gentlemen would be 'on parade': in the event, **Lt Col Humberston** was unfortunately unable to make the long journey, but his former 'pupils' and old friends will be pleased to know that **RSM Lonsbrough's** back is no less straight than it ever was.

A MATCHED PAIR

Partly thus, the Commandant, **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** referred to the day as 'a nostalgic' occasion: we were delighted also to have with us **Mrs Barbara Drake** and **Mrs Zena Walker,** whose husbands, before their untimely deaths, had rendered to the College such loyal and devoted service. Reviewing the term's events and achievements, too many to enumerate here, **Col Ramsbottom** congratulated **AT/RSM John Jefferson** on 'the highest accolade the College can bestow on an apprentice'—and commiserated with **AT/SSMs Graham Lathbury** and **Ron Taylor** who were in such close contention for the honour of being appointed Apprentice Tradesman RSM.

In welcoming ex-**RSM Lonsbrough,** who had started the practice of having 'Stick Orderlies', **Col Ramsbottom** confessed to having rather cheated in his efforts to find a 'matched pair' by selecting **AT/Lcpls James** and **Michael Boyle,** who are identical twins—well, we suppose *they* know the difference.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM REVIEWING OFFICER

In a speech equally divided between the serious and the amusing, **Gen Macfarlane** said that it gave him 'enormous pleasure to come back and take the Salute at a thoroughly good military performance'. He assured his audience that the latest defence cuts would not affect the apprentices' careers and quoted George Washington: 'The nation ready to go to war is more likely to preserve the peace'. He had seen, said **Gen Macfarlane,** a dictionary definition of a gentleman as 'one who bears arms; is noble, courteous, honourable and kind'. These, he said, are the qualities which a soldier needs, and ones which the College inculcates in great measure. Thus he ended his speech: 'Thank you, *gentlemen*—and thank you for a most excellent parade'.

ENTERTAINING PRIZEGIVING

To the huge delight of the audience, the Mayor of Harrogate, **Cllr W. R. Beaumont, JP,** immediately proved his determination not to be outdone by either the Commandant or the Reviewing Officer in terms of wit. Indeed, this was by far the most entertaining Prizegiving of the many your correspondent has had the pleasure of attending. Not least one enjoyed the Mayor's tongue-in-cheek definition of NALGO as 'Not a lot going on'.

During the parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 Brian Fisher,** the College MTWO and **Ssgt Denis Handley,** of the Technical Stores.

One sad note was that this was the last Graduation Parade to be held under the eagle but kindly eye of **RSM H. Forrest** (Scots Guards), who is retiring from the Army, and to whom the College owes much.

Prizes were presented as follows:

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD (for the best all-round Apprentice of the Term)—won by **AT/Sgt I. Hugill.**

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD (for the best all-round Tradesman of the Term)—won by **AT/Lcpl P. Packwood.**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE (for Conduct, Discipline and Example)—won jointly by **AT/RSM J. Jefferson** and **AT/SSM G. Lathbury.**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE (for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College)—won by **AT D. O. Allen.**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE to the best Apprentice of the Term in each trade:

Technicians—Radio—won by **AT/Cpl R. P. Moren**
Terminal Equipment—won by **AT K. Meek.**
Radio Relay—won by **AT/Sgt I. Hugill.**

The Reviewing Officer inspects the Senior Squadron

Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane pauses for a chat during his inspection of the Graduation Parade, while AT/RSM John Jefferson and AT/SSM Ron Taylor look on. On the left is Capt Dick Carman (QLR), ADC for the day

Telegraphist—Special—won by **AT/Lcpl P. Packwood.**
Data—won by **AT K. Cunningham.**
Radio—won by **AT J. A. Bainbridge.**

EDUCATION PRIZES (for the best academic progress during their time at the College):
Technician—won by **AT A. Wilson.**
Telegraphist—won by **AT/Lcpl R. L. Hyde.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES (for the best essay on local government):
Technician—won by **AT A. G. Rawling**
Telegraphist—won by **AT K. W. Barker.**

THE CHAMPION SQUADRON CUP—won by **Rawson Sqn.**

CDCN, RAF, Rudloe Manor

THE FORM

FOR those readers not familiar with the term DCN, it stands for Defence Communication Network. The DCN provides the strategic common user communications worldwide and within the UK for the three services and certain other Government Departments. The Controller Defence Communication Network (CDCN) is the Network Operating Authority responsible for the efficient operation of the DCN to meet the communications requirements of the Chiefs of Staff of the three services. To carry out his responsibilities CDCN has a joint service staff made up of 4 members of the Royal Navy, 5 Royal Signals, 21 members of the Royal Air Force and 8 civilians (1 Royal Signals retired). The present Royal Signals' incumbents are: **Lt Col (Retd) R. Barrett, Capt (TOT) I. R. Lidstone, WO2 (Y of S) P. J. Cadman, WO2 (F of S) J. Hough, Sgt B. E. Young** and, last but by no means least, **Cpl K. Offley.** Recent highlights of interest in DCN follow below.

ON THE MOVE

In September 1976, because of the Defence Review and the pending closure of RAF Medmenham, the Office of CDCN left the pleasant surrounds of Buckinghamshire to RAF Rudloe Manor. The move will eventually allow CDCN to effect rapid functional control of the DCN via the communications node of Commcen Rudloe Manor.

CONTROLLERS CHANGE ALSO

It seemed most appropriate that on the day of transfer, September 17, 1976, of the CDCN to the new offices at RAF Rudloe Manor that the responsibility of Controller was handed over from **Gp Capt P. A. Law,** who was retiring from the RAF, to **Gp Capt P. L. T. Owen.** For those of you who have not heard of Rudloe Manor, it is situated straddling the A4 near Corsham between Bath and Chippenham. For a more comprehensive report of the DCN, its responsibilities and personalities, see the latest issue, No 14, of LONG HAUL, the Official Journal of DCN.

Cpl and Mrs Offley with the GOC SE District, Lt Gen Sir James Wilson, KBE, MC

It was at an informal presentation in the GOC's office on November 18, 1976, at HQ SE District, Aldershot, that the GOC, **Lt Gen Sir James Wilson, KBE, MC,** presented **Cpl Keith Offley** with a commendation certificate. After discussing the civilian traffic accident involving a motorcyclist and the quick and precise action of **Cpl Offley**—which led to the commendation—both **Cpl** and **Mrs Offley** talked informally to the GOC over sherry and were shown photographs of past Generals who had held office at Aldershot. These photographs cover quite a span in British military history, a subject familiar to **Cpl Offley**—it being his hobby—and he amazed the other Royal Signals' onlookers by his knowledge of the subject and the apparent ease with which he discussed finer points with the GOC. Perhaps the sherry helped!

WO2 (F of S) and Mrs Hough with Gp Capt Law after the presentation

To round off this occasion the evening was spent by all DCN Royal Signals staff and their ladies gathering at the home of **Col Barrett.** Here we toasted **Cpl Keith Offley** and his wife, **Irene,** and were well wined and dined by our hosts, **Col Bob** and **Mrs Peggy Barrett.**

It was at a further informal occasion, in the pleasant surroundings of the hall of the old Manor House at RAF Rudloe Manor, that the Controller Defence Communication Network, **Gp Capt P. L. T. Owen** presented **WO2 (F of S) Jim Hough** with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the GSM for Dhofar. The occasion was rounded off by sherry and canapes provided by the courtesy of the Station Commander, **Sq Ldr N. R. Langdon** (RAF).

PRESENCE FELT

Although small in numbers the members of the Corps make their presence felt in this joint organisation. Members are involved in youth work with the Guides and Schools, assisting in station welfare with fund-raising, running the station gliding club and generally getting in the way. Other immediate claims to fame: **Sgt Brian Young** has been selected for redundancy and **WO2 (Y of S) Peter Cadman** has been selected for promotion on posting, we wish them both well in their future careers.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Royal Signals Manning and Records, Reading

VALE

RECENTLY we said 'goodbye' to **Maj Harry Gully** after 41 years' service to the Corps. **Harry** joined on April 27, 1933, and first served in 'A' Corps Signals, Aldershot, where he made a name for himself as more than just a useful boxer at welterweight. In January 1937 he went to India and joined 1 Indian Div Signals in Rawalpindi which was engaged in operations on the NW Fronteir. As was often the case in those days he might have stayed in India for years but the outbreak of war found him on leave in England and in no time at all he was sent to Catterick to join the newly-formed 1 Operators Training Bn.

Maj Harry Gully

In 1942 he joined CSO Branch HQ 8 Corps and served with HQ 8 Corps throughout the campaign in North-West Europe until drafted in June 1945—destination Burma. However, with the advent of VJ Day he found himself back in Catterick where he served 3½ happy years in HQ Signal Training Centre under **Brigs Cary, Straight, Wheatley** and **Galwey.** After cipher training he went to 3 GHQ Sig Regt in Fayid, where he was commissioned as a Cipher Officer in February 1950. In March 1950 he joined Egypt Command Signals (later 3 L of C Signals). Always a keen hockey player, he ran a very successful unit side and was also secretary to the newly-formed Royal Signals Egypt Hockey Club.

Back to the UK in July 1952, he was put in charge of the Cipher Training School of 4 Training Regt, followed by a tour in Tactics Group School of Signals instructing in communications security, cipher and, finally, traffic handling to many of our Subalterns and present Traffic Officers. Next came a tour in Malta 1959–62 with 235 Sig Sqn (COMCAN) as CDSO, serving with **Maj (now Col) Curl.** He regarded this as a very happy tour and managed to run a most successful hockey team (combined with 234 Sig Sqn) and soccer team.

He then decided to try his luck in civil life but after two years in banking was back with the Corps at Manning and Records as a RO3 dealing firstly with mobilisation planning and admin of the TAVR, and for the past five years as OIC Section 'A' planning the careers, promotions and postings of Radio, Data and Special Telegraphists.

To both jobs he brought a wealth of experience, an eye for detail and a rare degree of conscientiousness all of which stamped him as an ideal Section Officer. We shall miss his presence and his wise counsel. To **Harry** and his charming wife, **Lillian,** we send our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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

SKI-ING REPORT

BY publication date, most people's thoughts will have turned to spring and summer activities. However, such has been the success of our Snow Queen exercise this year and the participation of our ski teams at Divisional level that, although similar to programmes run by other units, no apologies are made for reviewing the winter sports season.

The basis of our Langlauf team were the cross-country runners who came third in the BAOR championships on December 15 and drove virtually direct to Bavaria, where they were to put on skis for the first time. The really notable successes were **Sig 'Titch' Ashley** and **Dvr 'Poss' Postle** who skied to placings within the first 30 (out of 160) in the 15km individual race and were unlucky not to win a novice award. **Capt Malcolm Emslie** then captained the team over various courses at Seefeld (where last year's Olympics were held), always finishing in the top half of the results, except when a broken ski in the patrol race literally stopped the team in its tracks. Our downhill team played a good supporting role and whilst not matching the artistic performances of the winners, finished well.

The lure of the chalet at Moosbach has been so strong that even the Adjutant volunteered to leave his desk in RHQ, in company with over 100 personnel from the Regiment at the final tally, to breathe the rarified alpine air. Much credit for the really smooth running of the exercise goes to **2 Lt John Ewbank** who started the course off and **Lt Chris Parsons** (ACC) who has throughout set the highest standards in ensuring all enjoy a thoroughly worth-while exercise.

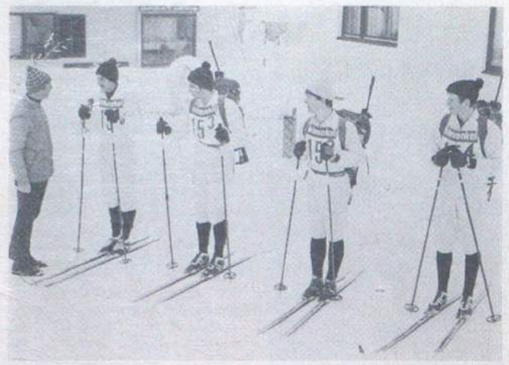


Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Div

Langlauf team in good heart before 20km patrol race. CRA inspects the team of Capt Enslie, Dvr Postle, Lcpl Sloane, Sig Ashley

Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Div

Heading for the bottleneck at the corner of the field; 400 runners on the first of the CO's monthly cross-country runs

CO's RUN

The children at afternoon lessons in Churchill School are agog at the sight that now presents itself on the nearby playing fields one Friday in every month. It is a super diversion, and noses press against classroom windows as they see if their dad is in the line-up.

This is the occasion of the CO's run and a hush falls on Sheil and Caithness Barracks broken only by the bells of so many unanswered telephones. And then the 'off' and the paths of Stadforest Verden are beaten down by the trampling of over 400 pairs of assorted feet. For the next 20 minutes all attempt to keep ahead of the CO. About one-third of the runners fail to do this and are left with problems of how to shrug off the nagging question, sure to come from their offspring, now home from school: 'How did you do, Daddy?'.

THE MUSEUM

We now boast a comprehensive museum. Begun by **Lt John Davies** last year and carried on by **Capt Brian Ivison,** the finishing touches were made in time for the outgoing CSO BAOR to view the complete range of signals documents and equipment. There is a 1922 Enfield in the Blandford Museum which might once have been used as a DR machine. The writer is working on an 'adventure training' exercise which will require him to spend at least a fortnight in the UK to put the machine in full working order. It could then make the final centrepiece for the museum, replacing the memorable cannon that is seemingly awarded to our dinghy sailors indefinitely!

FAREWELLS

The Regiment said its farewell to **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge** when they visited prior to their departure to the UK. Having toured the Regiment and lunched in the Sergeants Mess they were entertained to dinner in 'Jimmies' Club in the Officers Mess. As the General was Second-in-Command here some nine years ago the subalterns duly performed an amusing calypso cabaret which drew the parallel with **Maj Bev Austin,** our 2IC, who is posted to the UK himself shortly.

We also said farewell to **'Mac'.** For three years **Capt McGilvray** has held a job with the unglamorous title of Regimental Administrative Officer, but what a multitude of tasks and responsibilities that has covered! He has acted as editor of 'Mercury', our station magazine; furthermore, he has managed our football team with the skill of Matt Busby and, at the time of writing, we are all set to knock 22 Sig Regt out of the BAOR Cup in the semi-final. He has earned a well-deserved posting to Cyprus, provided we win next Wednesday!

SAILING VACANCIES

The CO, as chairman of RSYC BAOR, visited Kiel recently. *Petasus* is in good shape for the coming season and **Maj Keith Ryding** mentions that there are still some slots available for 1977 bookings.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are exercising and experimenting with our own internal organisation and equipment which has resulted from some major changes to the old order of battle. The bare frosty woods and barns full of stored machinery add to the complications of those in the recce world as the new commhead layouts are visualised and take shape. The comfy existence we provided for the Headquarters staff is fast disappearing as tent and troop carrier take over from pantechnicon and caravan. This has led to a number of side wagers. It is rumoured that the CO and OC 1 Sqn stand to win a crate of whisky from CCR Signals over proof of a particular technical point that has arisen; good luck, OC 1!

BULL PROBLEM

Adjutant's note to CO:

'*BULL*

- Bull loose in bks late afternoon today.
- Chased by:
  - 2 x farmers
  - 2 x German police with machine pistols
  - 'N' x RP Staff
- RMP called when Germans started shooting.
- Bull left via Med Cen gates approx 1715hrs, apparently unscathed.'

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

REORGANISATION

THE Regiment re-organised on December 1, 1976, to make us the first of the new re-structured Armd HQ and Sig Regt. We include some notes from Task Force Delta (Pisces) Troop who now form part of the Regiment's fourth squadron.

Photograph courtesy Barney Paradine Buende

Lt Col Halford presenting Maj Gen Sturge with a memento from the officers of his old Regiment

On February 3 we received a farewell visit from **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge. Gen Sturge** was bid farewell not only as CSO but as an ex-Colonel of the Regiment. We wish him luck in his new appointment.

THE BIRTH OF A TROOP

Pisces Troop, which is responsible for Task Force Delta HQ in the field, sprung into life on December 1, 1976. **Sgt Brian Wilson** led a nucleus of 16 hardened professionals, comprised of 'old soldiers' of 4 Guards Armd Bde Sig Sqn and others posted in and formed up outside the old Bravo Troop block. They pulled together and set to work decorating and cleaning the place up before the arrival of 11 men, the cream of the old 12 Mech Bde Sig Sqn and their 13 Panzers (APCs).

Facing the New Year with the daunting prospect of 13 Panzers and five drivers, a tracked driver training course was organised. This had many highlights, amongst them **Lcpl Jim Gooch** learning to refit tracks in 2ft of mud and **Sig Philip Mathew's** accident. Having passed his test he managed to practice filling in an FMT3 whilst the QTO was still on board the vehicle by colliding with a Chieftain tank! The New Year saw the arrival of more equipment and personnel including the Troop Commander, **Capt Tony Whipp,** who had been known before to 'live' in the adjutant's office at Bunde. The first Troop exercise proved amusing! The majority of the Panzers were driven by men who had held their licences for a mere 48 hours. **Sig Tony Jones** was a cause for concern when he, two of his crewmen and his message centre were disorientated (ie, lost) for 13 hours in thick fog.

The Troop 2IC, **2 Lt Doug Rowlinson,** whilst doubling as a recce officer, was seen to disappear fast in the opposite direction as **WO2 (Y of S) Jim Creevy** arrived at his fourth boggy location surrounded by fragrant manure heaps. Whilst Pisces Troop is only entering its first exercise year, it is determined to live up to the reputations of the two fine squadrons from which it is formed.

4 SQUADRON—BAOR MINOR UNITS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

Many people thought that the unit would not be represented in the cross-country circuit this season, due solely to the fact that over 50 per cent of last season's successful team having gone their different ways. However, the response to the initial 'official' request for persons who had half a mind—literally, in some cases—to represent the Squadron was enthusiastic.

Such was the response that the squad list ran into double figures; but not for long. The eventual outcome was that there were three newcomers to the team: **Lcpl Tony Hancock, Sig John Douglas** and **Lcpl 'Magic' Fettes.** Remaining from the last season, and in some case seasons, are **Lcpls Dennis (Gasper) Jones, 'Paddy' (Legs) Verdon, Sig Steve Wright** and **Cpl 'Jig'** or **Kerr.** Last but not least is the old man team **Cpl Jack Ferguson.**

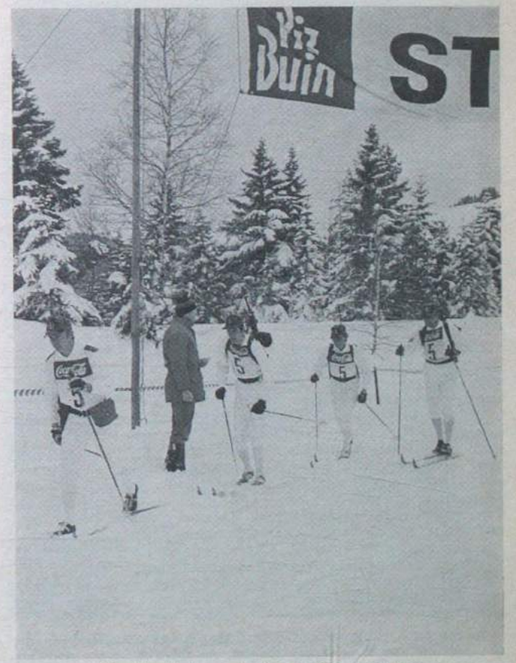
Of the four league races so far run, we have won three, we have also been successful in the Brigade, Division and the BAOR (for the third year running) competitions. The team has recently started an intensive training programme with a view towards the Army finals. So far we have shown that we have a winning formula, mainly through the enthusiasm and determination of the whole team, especially the newer members of the team, and we feel that, with the time we have been given to train, we will make our presence felt in what must now surely be an open field, for minor units, at Tweesledon on February 24.

REGIMENTAL SKI TEAMS' OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Christmas time this year saw the blue Land-Rovers of the Nordic and Alpine ski teams motoring towards a rendevous at Oberjoch from their respective training in Norway and Austria. The time had at last arrived for the 2 Armd Div ski meeting and both teams were anxious to put into practice all that they had been training so hard for.

The meeting started with the individual giant slalom which was won by **Cpl Nick Doveton** giving the teams their first taste of success. On the following day the Alpine team won the team giant slalom with **Cpl Nick Doveton, Sig Paul Ford** and **Lt Gary Watchus** all putting in extremely fast times, giving us a lead of half a minute over our nearest rivals. This good start was continued on the following day with a win for the Nordic team in the 4×10km relay. It was an exciting race in which the final runner, **Sig Steve Mawdsley** caused a great deal of excitement by losing and taking the lead from the opposition several times before finally crossing the 'Ziel' in first place.

In high morale and first-class snow conditions, the Alpine team achieved their next victory in the team slalom race with a



Our Nordic team starting in the patrol race
From the front: Lt Mike Telfer, Sig Steve Mawdsley, Sig Danny Martin and Cpl Dave Stanton

convincing win which resulted in **Cpl Nick Doveton** winning the fastest individual trophy and **Sig Mick Pearce** the President's prize for the fastest in his group. It now looked as though all the months of hard training had paid off and the 15km race finally convinced us of this. The conditions for this event were far from perfect with a near blizzard in full force. Despite this, the two teams entered won both the 'open' and 'novice' team trophies and **Cpl Dave Stanton** and **Sig Steve Mawdsley** won prizes for the fastest individuals in the open and novice classes. **Sig Kevin Randall** won the Chairman's prize for the fastest skier in his group.

With only two events left in the meeting, the teams were hoping to make a clean sweep, but second place in the patrol race prevented this. Nevertheless, the Alpine team won the final race—the downhill and with the meeting at a close, it was just a matter of collecting our prizes! Having won all four of their races the Alpine team, under **Lt Gary Watchus,** was presented with the Alpine combination cup and the Nordic team, under **Lt Mike Telfer,** received the Military combination cup. Perhaps the best moment at the prizegiving was the presentation of the 'Champion Unit of the Meeting' cup. This is certainly the most sought-after trophy and it made everything worth while, both for the ski teams themselves and for all those back in camp who had helped us get off to such a good start.

Photo courtesy PR HQ 2 Div

Mrs Kitson, wife of GOC 2 Armd Div, presenting prizes to the champion unit Alpine team

From left to right: Lt Garry Watchus, Sig Paul Ford, Sig Davey Cowan and Cpl Nick Doveton

ARMY MEETING

After the meeting, the teams moved on to the Army meeting, in Ischgl for the Alpiners, and again in Oberjoch for the Nordic team. Competition was extremely fierce and the ski tracks and slopes were now crowded with the British national skiers returning to compete for their units. In the giant slalom we were fourth and in team slalom we gained fifth place whilst in the downhill event, we came second after an excellent performance by the team. The news of second place in this last event quickly reached Oberjoch and spurred on the Nordic team to fourth in the 4×10km and fifth in the 15km. **Sig Steve Lancashire,** our latest arrival in the team and a novice skier, won well-earned prizes for his position of tenth in the 10km race and twentieth in the 30km tour race. An encouraging start for a novice and encouraging for all those who may be reading this article, who have never skied before and would like to try. The final event, as always, was the patrol race. We achieved seventh place and that concluded the Army ski meeting.

In the final count we came third in the Princess Marina cup, the preview award in Army ski-ing. As third we were the first team in order of merit not to contain any national skiers. The team for this year were, with the exception of two stalwarts, novices. We look forward to greater things once again next year.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

2 SQUADRON REPORTS

THIS month's WIRE notes are contributed by 2 Sqn, which has had a considerable change in personalities over the past few months. It now 'fields' the following:

OC	—	**Maj Peter Dale**
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Capt Phil Grey**
2IC 'A' Tp	—	**Lt Bob Holmes**
OC 'B' Tp	—	**Capt Clive Moody**
SSM	—	**WO2 Sid Crumbie**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Jim Henderson**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Tony Lomax**
	—	**Ssgt John Coultish**
F of S	—	**Ssgt Brian Carter**

VISIT OF SO in C

THERE we were only six days into the new year and already displaying our various talents to a distinguished visitor, namely the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE.** Whilst half of HQ Sqn decided to invite the SO in C to classify on the SMG, the other half, after much taking of 'Philisan', decided to display physical jerks in the gymnasium.

3 Sqn combined work and play in the guise of a line det race. However, true to 2 Sqn form anywhere, we decided to prove ourselves competent at both work and play; to this end, Alfa Troop provided a spearhead det for inspection passing through the unit check point. Meanwhile, Bravo Troop took 1 Sqn on at football, with the happy result of beating them 4—1.

SO in C receiving fine points of SMG classification from WO2 Eddy Davies (Royal Anglian) (*partially hidden*)

Left to right: Cpl Marcus Sullivan, Cpl Adrian Flannigan, Lcpl 'Jock' Melrose (RHF), Lcpl Colin Brooks (RCT), Cpl Nigel Stevens (1 DERR), Cpl Reg Douce (RCT), Sgt John Freeland (RCT)

SO in C presents an appropriate prize (a pack of beer) to winning det of line race

Cpl 'Ginge' Doake, Sig 'Taff' Evans, Sig Billy Kidd and Sig John Hadland; Col Ronnie Stonham, Lt Col Ray Bell, Maj Lee Tilson, Lt Hugh Colborn, SSM 'Taff' Buxton and Sgt Bill Burley look on

Sig Pete McElwee of 1 Sqn displaying the cross-country cup

EXERCISE MOTO FRENZY (or how to replace the Regiment's vehicles in one easy movement)

Either by accident or design the Regimental motor rally just happened to coincide with the SO in C's visit. Each Squadron had to provide two teams. The rally was designed to test not only the normal skills of both driver and navigator, but also their military skills. To accomplish this aim 12 stands were set up, consisting of: first aid and accident procedure, camouflage, weapon handling, written highway code, vehicle-borne orienteering, cross-country driving, map-reading, wheel changing, reversing, fault finding, timed runs and, finally, a night rally. It was a close contest between HQ, 2 and 3 Sqns until the final competitor returned from the night rally. After much nail-biting and deliberation the result was as follows:

1st	HQ SQN 'A'	**Ssgt Y of S John Coultish**
		Lcpl John Jarvis
		Dvr 'Swede' Coulthard (RCT)
		Dvr Reg Reeves (RCT)
2nd	2 SQN	**Sgt Chuck Kemmal**
		Cpl 'Paddy' Goslyn
		Cpl Peter Adams (RE)
		Spr Ray Croft (RE)

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Regimental cross-country was due to be held on Thursday, January 13, but the Arctic conditions forced a postponement until January 18. The race started with the usual sprint across a ploughed field followed by another five muddy miles across Salisbury Plain. One unexpected hazard occurred on the run in when an AAC Beaver aircraft had to be diverted from landing across the path of the oncoming runners. The race finished with the following results:

1st	**Sig 'Chalkie' Brown**	3 Sqn
2nd	**Cpl Peter Adams** (RE)	2 Sqn
Winning team	1 Sqn.	

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

FAST AND FURIOUS PACE

AMID the many Troop and Squadron parties and other festivities for which this time of year is renowned, the Regiment had to find time to fit in its second(!) FFR of the year. The date picked was December 15, and the inspecting officer **Brig A. A. Fielder,** CRA 4 Div.

The programme for the morning consisted of various formal inspections of soldiers, equipment and accommodation by the CRA and his inspection team. After a short lunch break the inspection continued with a Regimental competition run on the lines of 'it's a military knock-out'. The pace was fast and furious (see photographs) but enjoyable, and the liquid refreshment for the winning teams dispensed at the closing address made it seem all worthwhile.

Who has arrived to inspect who? The CO, Lt Col David Whitehead, receiving the inspecting officer, Brig A. A. Fielder. The Adjutant, Capt John Stokoe, and the RSM, WO1 Frank Worrall, look on

A day to remember (yes, that is snow)!

Lt Gus Carr is presented with the LS and GC by Brig A. A. Fielder, CRA 4 Div. In the background waiting their turn, WO2 Charlie Mathews and Ssgt 'Dinger' Bell

FFR Mark II—December 1976—The start of the log race—FFR competition

Ssgt Vince Flaherty (APTC) and his PTIs urge the runners to greater efforts during the FFR competition

EXERCISE COLD FURY

Exercise Cold Fury was the name given to the work-up training period for our ski team prior to entering the Divisional ski meeting at Ischgl. Our two intrepid ski-ing Yeomen, **WO1 Andy Harkins** and **Ssgt Lemmy Lomas,** organised the exercise to run from December 11–January 10 with a short break in peace location for Christmas. The first phase took place in Schladming, Austria, and the second in Oberstdorf in Southern Germany. From the original hundreds of volunteers (some people will do anything to miss an FFR), the final team consisted of **Sgt 'Mac' Mackenzie, Cpl Derek Bowstead, Lcpls 'Fergy' Ferguson** and **Fred Smith** and **Dvrs Ian Fisher** and **Brian Maio** plus the two Yeomen. The training was hard, enjoyable and successful and, prior to departing for the ski meeting (report next month), **Cpl Bowstead, Lcpl Smith** and **Dvr Miao** passed the BSFGB Langlauf test at bronze standard and **Dvr Fisher** at silver.

FAREWELL VISIT OF CSO

On February 3, we were pleased to welcome **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge** who were on a farewell visit of BAOR units. Whilst **Mrs Sturge** was whisked away for coffee with the Regimental wives, the CSO toured the Regiment saying farewell to those who were fortunate enough not to be out on exercise. Before having lunch in the WO and Sgts Mess, the CSO presented to the Regiment the Royal Signals Canoe Club (BAOR) champion unit cup. It was received on behalf of the team by **Ssgt (Y of S) Lemmy Lomas** who had the expensive task of filling it with champagne—it's a big cup! The CSO returned to the Regiment on February 5 to watch a sporting programme of the Regiment versus 7 Sig Regt. Football, hockey and basketball were the attractions and, suffice it to say, that 7 Sig Regt came second—which makes a nice change.

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

COLD AND SLIPPERY

JANUARY has been an energetic month as the Regiment stirred after the festivities of Christmas and the New Year. The exercise season had a very cold and slippery start with the Regiment venturing out into the snow and ice on Exercise Winter Frolic.

STAFF SIGNALS STUDY DAY

As a result of our immediate preference of villages to woods for exercise locations, we stayed right at home for the annual HQ 1 (BR) Corps Staff Signals Study Day held on January 27, 1977. North Camp was cleared of cars and vehicles (it's never looked so tidy) and renamed Nordkamp to accommodate Commhead Oscar. (If you don't know about Commhead Oscar read the 3 Sqn notes.) Commcen Bravo (2 Sqn) hid themselves half a mile away in the woods. 1 Sqn (Commcen Alfa) decided to keep well away and took themselves off to Bavaria for exercise Snow Queen. The Staff Signals Study Day produced a number of cryptic quotes such as:

Staff Officer to technician explaining multiplex equipment, 'How do you tune it up then, Corporal?', and

Staff Officer to Radio Relay detachment commander, 'When do you expect to be getting Triffid, Corporal?'

Corporal, 'Hang on, Sir, we've only just got 58 pattern webbing!'

WO2 Roy Cockcroft receives his signed photograph from WO1 (RSM) Nick Nicoll

FAREWELL

On January 14, 1977, **WO2 Roy Cockcroft** was dined out of the Sergeants Mess after serving almost nine years as Mess Manager. In the company of the CO, **Lt Col M. R. Topple, Mr Cockcroft** was presented with numerous gifts from the Mess by the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Nick Nicoll,** including an autographed photograph of his meeting the Master of Signals, when the Master visited the Regiment on October 15, 1976. The Mess, and all his friends in the Regiment wish **Mr Cockcroft** many happy years in his retirement from the service and hope that he will revisit us in the near future.

3 SQUADRON (third in the series 'Meet the Squadrons')

OC	**Maj George Sulc** (Royal Australian Signals)
2IC	**Capt Les Smith**
OC 1 Tp	**WO2 Bob Patterson**
OC 2 Tp	**2 Lt Andy Johnstone**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) 'Chippy' Woods**
Y of S	**WO2 (Y of S) Jim Rayment**
F of S	**Ssgt (F of S) Bert Taylor**
SQMS	**Ssgt Matt McBirney**
MT Sergeant	**Sgt Geoff Norman**

THE TASK—AUSTRALIAN FASHION

3 Sqn makes up Commhead Oscar, one of the two commheads for HQ 1 (BR) Corps. As well as the normal facilities found in commheads at all levels in BAOR we provide some 'extras' which include a CCTV and intercom service in the major staff vehicles, which the Corps Commander uses for conferences.

The Squadron, at present, is made up of two Troops designated in Australian fashion. 1 Troop is the Line Troop, which was commanded until recently by **Sgt Roy Smith,** who at the time of writing is enduring his Staff Sergeant's course at Catterick. He was handed over the reins to **WO2 Bob Patterson** who joined us just after Christmas and has already made his mark—not only on the football field. The linemen have the unenviable task of laying some 7 tons of line, including TV cables, in each location. 2 Troop is composed of the operators, technicians and drivers for the commhead. The Squadron has the distinction of being commanded by a refugee from the Australian Army, **Maj George Sulc,** who has now heard all the jokes about Australians, and endured some terrible Aussy accents. We hope to teach him some proper drill before he returns down under. **Capt Les Smith,** the 2IC, is a keen cross-country runner, as the Squadron is only too well aware.

THE POWER

The real power though, in the Squadron, is wielded by **Cpl Ted Kilpin** who runs the Squadron Office. It's said that he can write **Maj Sulc's** signature on orders better than the OC himself. During the cold winter, **Sig 'Scouse' Favager** has also made a nest in the Squadron Office where it is warm. Other powerful men include **Cpl John Tindall,** controller of the armoury and resident drill-pig, and **Cpl 'Chuck' Wright,** janitor of the Squadron's accommodation, and who is very house proud.

FMT 3 KNOWLEDGE TELLS

In December 1976 we had a Squadron driving competition which yielded some surprises—not least of which was the winner, **Sig Jim Fowkes,** whose success some attribute to his intimate knowledge of the FMT 3 which came in useful at the accident procedure stand!

TALENT

Since the recent departure of **Lcpl 'Brummy' Seaton,** our resident exponent of wheelchair drill, the Squadron needs another cabaret performer to support the singing talents of **Cpl 'Splodge' Ward. Sig Bob Quinn** went so far as to break his jaw and have it wired up so he could become a ventriloquist. Unfortunately, now he moves his lips and his teeth stay still. **Sig Tim Ward,** unfortunately, broke his leg ski-ing which means he can't go on his tap-dancing course.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

To our new arrivals, **WO2 Bob Patterson, Sgt Kevin Stock, Lcpl Tim Hardy** and **Sigs Paul Molloy, Len Hilton, Gary Benton, Jim McLachlan, Colin Marsden, Allen Young, Phil Harris** and **Tom Holmes,** we say welcome and have a good time. And to those who managed to foil the system and get away, **Sgt Brian Hudson, Cpl Owen Deowenley** and **Lcpl 'Junior' Winstanley** and **Sig Jonathan Clarke,** we wish good luck for the future.

DRINKS ON THE WESER

The New Year had a cool beginning for a number of members of 3 Sqn. At 1200hrs on January 1, 1977, six members of the Regiment's Sub-Aqua Club joined the DLRG (Deutsche Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft) to swim 5km down the Weser from Porta Westfalica to Minden. The DLRF, the German equivalent of the Royal Life Saving Society, conducts this annual event to welcome in the New Year. Some 70 members of the DLRG branches in Westfalen took part this year. A number of DLRG branches took with them floating refreshment stations for the swim and offered a New Year drink to passing swimmers.

Despite the swimmers' wet-suits and the warmer temperature which had begun to melt the snow, the 1¼ hours' exposure in the 50°C water took its toll, with five of the six swimmers finishing at Minden. On arrival, each swimmer was welcomed with a drink of hot tea and rum which was very acceptable, though a few were shaking so much from the cold that they could not hold the cup. The Club later joined the DLRG in a meal at Minden during which a number of new acquaintances were made with members of the DLRG and some old friendships were renewed.

Those taking part were **Maj George Sulc, Cpl 'Scotty' Scott, Sig Mark Salmon,** of 3 Sqn, **Lcpl Ian Douglas,** of Corps Lighting Troop, 7 Sig Regt, and **Sgt Gerry Craggs,** of HQ 4 Div and Sig Regt.

Message Centre Boys. Left to right: 2 Lt Andy Johnstone, Sig 'Scouse' Favager, WO2 (Y of S) Jim Rayment, Cpl 'Splodge' Ward, Sig Jim MacLaughlan and Sgt Norman Siggs

3 SQN ON WINTER FROLIC!

Line party. Left to right: Sig 'Scouse' Fielder, Sig Mark Salmon, Lcpl John Larley, Cpl Donald Cleghorn, Sig Ken Fudge and Sig Phil Harris

The Weser swimmers. *Left to right:* Maj George Sulc, Sgt Gerry Craggs, Sig Steve Nickerson, Sig Mark Salmon and Cpl 'Scotty' Scott

Sgt Phil Phillips (ACC) (3 Sqn cook on exercise), an entrant from 7 Sig Regt in the 1977 4 Div Field Cookery Competition. Results are not yet known

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

FILMING WITH ERIC AND ERNIE

Report by Cpl Graham Lonsdale

Into showbiz

WE have been called upon to do some strange stunts in the past, but none more demanding and rewarding than that which we did recently for the 'Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show'. The BBC, to whom we owe a great deal of our publicity, asked us if we could help them with a stunt, involving a mororcycle combination and 10 riders from the team. Volunteers were easily come by and a machine was prepared with the help of the LAD. The scene was a World War I despatch rider **(Ernie Wise)** and his pillion passenger **(Eric Morecambe),** so the 1969 Triumph Tiger 100 was made to look like a 1916 Triumph by the application of 'olive drab' paint.

Front line Aldershot

Sunday, November 7, was the date set for the move to the 'front line' which was Satons Camp, Aldershot. The scenery was ideal, the area had been charred by fire brought about by the recent summer drought. **Lcpl 'Budgie' Burgess** and **Sig 'Jethro' Nash** were detailed to take the motorcycle and sidecar in the back of a Bedford truck while the remainder travelled down by private car. We stayed overnight in a barracks in Aldershot, the name of which escapes me (they all look alike anyway!).

Into action

At nine o'clock on Monday we arrived at Satons Camp where the BBC were already set up with a mobile canteen serving hot breakfasts, which, due to military timings, we had just missed. **Morecame** and **Wise** were not due to appear until the following day, so the co-producer of the programme, **Mr Bill Erser,** asked us if we could do the minefield and pyramid distant shots which didn't require Eric and Ernie. **Lcpl Bob Ellis** and **Cpl Dave Marland** were picked as the most likely looking Eric and Ernie stand-ins we had. There were promptly despatched to the make-up department where **Dave** was attached to a pair of horn-rimmed 'hey, hey, hey' spectacles and **Bob Ellis** attached to a pair of short, fat, hairy legs.

The props men had prepared a minefield for the bogus Eric and Ernie to go through. The remainder of the lads, suitably dressed in German World War I infantry uniforms, remained in the background to watch and hear **Bob** and **Dave** perform. Above the sound of exploding mines could be heard the faint cry of 'slow down, Bob, for Chrissake'!

Dummies essential

After the minefield it was our turn to come in on the act. The combination was to plough into a bunch of card-playing 'jerries', the result of which was a bunch of dummies being thrown into the air and landing on top of the combination in the form of a pyramid and, afterwards, being impaled on the outstetched branch of a tree (dummies again!). That finished the day's filming. We returned to Aldershot for a very un-exciting evening in the NAAFI.

Apt pupil

Tuesday saw the arrival of **Eric** and **Ernie.** The latter arrived in his white Rolls-Royce and immediately came across to bid his welcome to us, which was a great gesture. He then asked us who was his instructor. 'Instructor?', we repeated, whilst re-treating making excuses like 'must check the spark plugs on this TK8', or 'who's that going backwards quicker than me?' It ended up with me having the privilege and he turned out to be quite an apt pupil even though we had to put blocks on the footrests. **Eric** was the same as he is on TV, there never being a dull moment when he was around.

Improvisation and myth exploded

The following day the filming location was changed to Wimbledon, where we did the English and German HQ. This part of the show brought in the stars of 'The Sweeney', **John Thaw** and **Dennis Waterman.** There was only one hitch when we reached Wimbledon—the Ernie side of our Eric and Ernie team was missing as was **Lcpl Steve 'Malachai' Clements.** We had stayed overnight at Hounslow and just outside the camp gate **Malachai's** car packed up. We managed to carry on filming using a substitute (very versatile, the 'Helmets'), **Sig 'Geordie'**

Shreeve standing in for the absent **Bob Ellis** and the filming was completed without any further delays. **Ernie** exploded the myth of being stingy by giving us a 'fiver' for a drink—! 'Thanks', we said.

WERE YOU IN HONG KONG BETWEEN 1966 and 1970 ?

IF you were in 253 Sig Sqn or CR Signals Branch between 1966 and 1970 we would like to meet you again here at Catterick. It is hoped that we may have a reunion on Saturday, May 28, 1977, at 8 Sig Regt. To make this evening a success, accommodation will be available from Friday, May 27, by contacting:

Officers: **Maj S. Law** (Royal Signals),
HQ Training Group Royal Signals,
Scotton Road,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorks Tel: Catterick Mil Ext 676

ORs: **Sgt A. D. Innes, BEM,**
3 Sqn,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorks Tel: Catterick Mil Ext 575

It's all up to you now so get cracking, contact one of us and we will furnish you with the details. Please let us know if you will require accommodation.

BASKETBALL REPORT

The Catterick Garrison League commenced with a League Cup competition which resulted in some exciting cup-tie basketball. The final saw a well-trained team from 3 Queens against the 8 Sig Regt 'A' team. This was a ding-dong battle with a half time score of 20—20, a full time score at 48—48 and an extra time period which saw both teams losing their best players on the five-foul rule. The final score saw a win for 8 Sig Regt by 53—50. In a recent league match the Queens had a measure of revenge by one basket and it looks like another series of hard games will be played before the league championship is decided. The recent snowfall in Catterick brought a humorous incident worth noting. In a league match the 3 Queens played 666 Sqn AAC and had to abandon the game because *snow* was falling through the roof of the gymnasium.!

8 SIG REGT BASKETBALL TEAM—WINNERS CATTERICK GARRISON LEAGUE CUP

Left to right. Back row: Cpl Steve Peacock, Sig Chris Nevoll, Sgt 'Ginger' Bayne, Lcpl John O'Donnell, Sgt Chris Bond

Front row: Sig Gan Bahadur, Cpl John Robertson, Lt Dave Llewellyn, Lt Col Joe Fitzgerald (USA), Sgt Paul Anderson, Lcpl Mick Bohanan

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY—No 5

The Catterick sports wonder—2 Lt Lynne Marsh (WRAC)—An Autobiography

HOW did this Regiment cope without me before Easter? Since becoming assistant sports co-ordinator I have had my finger in most sporting pies. I stunned our small world at the beginning of the athletics season by hurling the shot a mighty 25ft—what a distance for an ageing 9½-stone amazon. Our team won the Northern Zone championships, and then went on to Aldershot, where we came a creditable fourth. We then went on to greater heights with our rounders team, in which I played like a 'demon' on first post and, as for batting, I believe I have the distinction of scoring ½ a rounder in each match—That was due to three 'no balls'.

My one claim to fame, of which I am proud, is that I played tennis for the Royal Corps of Signals—not a mixed team either—five full-blooded males and me. I played a blinder, and finished up fresh as a daisy, not a hair out of place, but I cannot say the same for my partner, **Lt George Wilton,** who looked a wreck. Thanks, **George,** I enjoyed winning all our matches. In my spare time in the summer I played badminton, went for a walk (once), took up gliding (once only—don't have a head for heights), had a go at canoeing (just one go) and then the winter sports started. I entered the Army trials in netball and hockey. In the netball I was picked for the team and, due to my vast experience, or so I like to think, but it was probably because I'm so old, and therefore much slower than the rest and have to 'stand and stare' a lot, I was made captain of the Army team—briefly, I may add, due to my premature retirement from Army sport, a case of creeping senility.

I, instead, had the good fortune, or should I say our PTIs had the good sense, to be selected for every WRAC sports team for every match that I was here for—not surprising as there is just enough WRAC for a netball team, nothing to do with my abundant talent. I have played hockey, netball, badminton and table tennis and surprised everybody with my wide and varied talents.

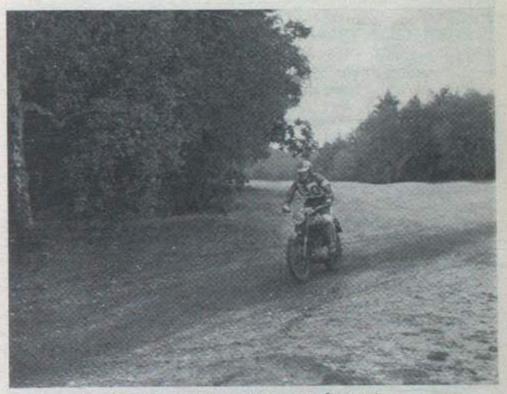
In my spare time I have been known to drop in to the gym for a spot of keep-fit (made me so stiff, I promptly found other things to do on Wednesday evenings), play the 'odd' game of squash, and creep down to the fantastic dry ski slope that we have here in Catterick, and any spare time after that I crash out.

Believe it or not, I have been known to work occasionally, when I think my OC, **Maj John (huntin', fishin', shootin') Messer-Bennetts** and my Admin Officer, **Lt Dave (Stand by your beds) Llewellyn,** deserve me.

ROYAL SIGNALS TRIALS TEAM (CATTERICK)

HAVING been through a very low period the team has started once again to produce some good results. **Lcpl Ken Hardman** took the 'best novice award' at the Trial on July 4 at Broxhead Common. In September **Cpl Nick Cole** also took the 'best novice award' at the Metropolitan Police trial. On the same trial, **Lcpl Hardman** made a name for himself when his bike burst into flames; he did, however, complete the course using a borrowed bike. The team consists of **Sgt Roger Le Lacheur, Cpl Nick Cole** and **Lcpl Ken Hardman,** with other riders when available. At a second trial in September, held at Pirbright, a visiting rider, **Sig Keith Randle,** from 21 Sig Regt, took the 'best novice award'. On this same trial **Sig Minton** performed with great determination bending the front of himself and his bike after a free-fall attempt from a 20ft bank. He is now thinking of fitting wings to the bike.

The team also gave the Corps motor cycles an airing away from home when they took them to Salisbury Plain in November, **Sgt Roger Le Lacheur** taking second place in the competition class. The rest of the team took fifth, seventh and eighth places. Though the Corps OSSA motor cycles have only been taken to the one Army event they have been used extensively in 'local' trials. Although there have been no results to speak of, these events have ensured that the team has continued to improve. The Scott trial proved to be a disaster, however, with **Cpl Nick Cole** running out of petrol after bending the rear shock absorbers. **Sgt Roger Le Lacheur** also ran out of petrol but as a result of being lost. These events are becoming more popular with the team and seem to be doing the Corps image a world of good. People have even been heard to say that if Army riders are that good it can't be such a bad organisation!



Sgt Le Lacheur coming out of a section

Cpl Cole at speed

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

1 SQUADRON (WILTON) REPORT

JANUARY 1977 started with yet another change of personalities with the arrival of **Capt Valerie Trout,** Admin Officer, from the Army 'metropolis' of Aldershot. The senior citizens' Christmas party held on January 19 was most successful. Having been 'sated' with salad and cream cakes supplied by the junior ranks kitchen, they retired to the comforts of the Merry Warrior for drinks, entertainment and old time dancing. A most talented skit was performed by 'Some mothers do have 'em' team. Followed by a melodious rendering of 'Send in the clowns' performed by **Pte Giovanna Sorella** and **Pte Mary Corbett,** finally concluding with a sing-song.

The Communication Centre at Warminster improved on their record of awards and were presented with a Gold Comstar by **Brig Anderson** on January 12, 1977. It would appear that **Messrs Bryant** and **Walford** are attempting an entry in the 'Guinness Book of Records'. January 13 qualifies for an entry also in the Wiltshire weather records, when snow fell and fell, which is abnormal for this part of the world. The result of all this 'white stuff' was chaos on the roads and the loss for approximately four hours of **Jack Fenner** (CTO). The intrepid **Jack** had set out at 1100hrs for a vist to Warminster. Several mishaps and bruises later he staggered into the Squadron at 1500hrs mercifully with his sense of humour and Ford Escort intact. Perhaps he should have driven a 'Husky'!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT) MISCELLANEA

The last few weeks since Christmas have been very quiet, with members of the Squadron finding out how difficult it is for them all to go on leave at once! We have, however, welcomed our new Chief Clerk, **Sgt Irene Lockwood,** from travels in New Zealand; **Sgt Kathy Gemmell** from the wilds of the Lisburn switchboard and **Lcpl June Rigby** from down the road at the Army School of Physical Training.

In the near future we will be losing **Cpls Mitchell** to 9 Sig Regt, **Thomas** to 16 Sig Regt, **G. J. Smith** and **Amos** to British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn, Hong Kong; **Ptes Ray, Thompson, Cable** and **Vowden** to PA RAF Hospital, Wroughton, **West** and **Roberts** to 16 Sig Regt and **Schofield** and **Kendall** to 9 Sig Regt. **Capt Wendy Le Gassick** is also on the move to Shrewsbury. We wish them all well in their new locations, and look forward to welcoming our new 2IC, **Capt Celia Ready** who will be arriving here for her first tour with the Royal Signals. We are sure that there is no better place to start.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK—Report by Cpl D. Walker

In August last year, a total of 120 soldiers and WRACs assembled at South Cerney for Exercise Long Look, which was to be an exchange tour with the Australian and New Zealand forces. We separated into the two groups at Singapore, 89 for Australia and 31 for New Zealand. Out of the total of 31 there were four Royal Signals personnel, **Capt Bob West, Y of S Kevin Straw, Cpl Jeanette Mitchell,** and myself. The first two days in New Zealand were spent on briefings and welcoming everyone to the country. After which we dispersed to our host units. **Capt West** to Papakura, **Y of S Straw** to Linton and myself and **Cpl Mitchell** to Wellington. Both myself and **Mitch** (as she likes to be called) were to work at the Defence/Communications Centre which was in the centre of the city and took a 30-minute bus ride to get there from the barracks. Being in the centre of the city entitled us to wear civilian clothes to work, of which we took full advantage. Our first days at DCC were spent being introduced to everyone including the Director of Signals. During our interview with him he asked us what we would like to do while being attached to the New Zealand forces. This was then worked out so that we both worked and got a chance of seeing the country. Our first trip away from Wellington was to the South Island to a small camp on the outskirts of Christchurch, where we met up with **Capt Bob West** and **Y of S Kevin Straw** again.

An early start

Unfortunately for **'Mitch',** it was an all-male camp so she had to live at Burnham Camp, which was approximately 15 miles away. It also meant that she had to come into work by mini-bus, therefore having to get up early every day to catch the transport. As it turned out, the unit I was to be attached to did not have work for both of us so I was transferred to another unit to go on exercise with them including **Bob** and **Kevin.** This left **'Mitch'** behind to instruct a basic commcen course and to journey to and from both camps. For the first two days of the exercise we were to be located on the outskirts of Dunedin with the radio exercise. From there we had to deliver a generator to Greymouth which we did as well as taking time off to sightsee on the West Coast. It also happened that the route we had planned went right by **Bob's** relatives' farm and we lost him at this stage of the journey. It was then back to Christchurch and the last ferry to run between Christchurch and Wellington and the all-night party that went with it. We were also allowed to claim about £20 for our little exercise!

A damp exercise

The next move from Wellington was to 2 Sig Sqn at Linton Camp after a formal dinner on the Friday which did nothing to improve our three-hour journey by coach. To welcome us to the unit was an OHMS envelope with the key for my room and instruction on the reverse to report to the unit Monday morning ready for exercise. The exercise was to last for a week and we were once again to meet up with **Bob** and **Kevin.** On arrival at the exercise area it had been raining so much that the field which we were to pitch our tents on was almost completely under water. At first, it was hoped that the exercise would be called off but we had no such luck as we just pitched our tents on the dirt-track road. Tuesday was spent on a map-reading exercise in the hills. My particular patrol decided to go its own way and managed to add on a few extra miles as well as having to walk in a stream for a few miles as it was the only way down the hill we were on, and to proceed in the right direction. Wednesday was to be an exercise with dinghies on a river which I declined as there was not enough room for everyone and there was to be a second chance the following Sunday. Everyone left behind had to help move camp to a sheep farm some hours' drive away. This time we had the luxury of sleeping in the sheep-shearing quarters, or should I say the senior NCOs and officers did, and the rest had the shearing shed which had a rather unpleasant smell until you got used to it! At least it was dry. The afternoon had been arranged to go and sample the local beer at the brewery but unfortunately for the boat party they did not arrive in time and only the tent party had the pleasure. I must add it was quite a pleasure as we were left alone for three hours with as much beer as we could drink.

Schoolchildren riot

On Thursday, **Capt West** was to instruct everyone in riot drills for in the afternoon the local schoolchildren were going to riot. This had been planned for many weeks and they had saved eggs plus all the bad fruit and veg that they could lay their hands on. **Capt West** was to be with the party of children to make sure they did not get out of hand and make sure he was in a safe place. Myself and **Y of S Straw** were to be part of a snatch squad as well as 2 KIWIs, I'm sure with the intention of getting the worst of everything. As it happened we got away without being hit but I can't say the same for everyone else. Friday was to be a rest day as some of the unit had to return to camp for courses starting the following Monday; later that day the territorial forces were to join the exercise for an escape and invasion exercise and our other trip down river. The escape and invasion exercise went just as planned, apart from the weather which rained all the time, with the regular force coming out on top. Sunday, and my turn to go down river only this time there was no way out of it. All went well until one mile from the finish and we just happened to hit the only wooden stake sticking out of the water in that area. There was a total of five in our boat which included two females, or did until we hit the stake, and then there was none as both went over the side. One scrambled out of the river approximately 30 yards down and the other was picked up by one of the other boats. I'm happy to say that apart from getting wet everyone was OK. So ended the exercise.

Catterick weather matched

I spent a further week with the Squadron before moving on to Waiouru which is New Zealand's equivalent of Catterick. Just to stress the point further it even snowed the first day of summer. We had been told all about the place as soon as we arrived in the country and managed to arrange that this be our shortest stay in any of the camps. We then had four days off, as it was a public holiday, and had managed to arrange ourselves a lift back to Wellington in the General's car, rather than stay there for the long weekend.

Extra weight

Our next unit was to be Northern Sig Troop, Papakura. Here we worked in the commcen which are very similar to our own. That is apart from the two days we went to work at Ngaruawahia so that a trip could be arranged to see the Waitomo Caves as this was out of the travel range of Papakura and would have required special permission to send us that far. From there I had the experience of flying back to the South Island in a C170. I only hope that I never have that experience again, as it only flies on goodwill. If I ever have to fly in the aircraft—if that is the right word for it—I must remember to wear the warmest clothes that I can as heating is non-existent. This time I even had to work for a living teaching basic typing for two weeks. Apart that is from the trip to Dunedin so that we could do maintenance on equipment down there. It was also arranged so that I could have a look around but it ended up by me showing the KIWIs around as I was the only one to have been there before.

It was then back to Wellington for the final week which was to be a week of farewell parties before our return journey to the UK. Apart from all the souvenirs, I also had an extra stone in weight from all the hard work!

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

BIRGELEN THESPIANS

ON January 27–29 the Birgelen Players staged their third show in 10 months, a very successful production of Aladdin. Produced by **Rosemary Breese** (or theatrically, **Campbell**) with musical direction by **Cpl Pat Heyland,** it was performed in the gymnasium, which had been converted into a theatre for the occasion by **Ssgts Bill Garner, John Bandy, Sgt Peter Shepherd** and **Cpl 'Opie' Openshawe.** Among the principals were **Jenny Hale** *(Aladdin),* **WO2 Roger Nadin** *(Widow Twankee),* **David Wass** *(Abanazar),* **Christine Lumb** *(Um-Lei-Tung)* and **Sandra Rose** *(the Princess).* Amongst those playing (dare we say it) 'lesser' roles were none other than the CO, **Lt Col Martin Pickard, Mrs Anne Pickard** and the RSM, **WO1 Tony Jones** who was one of the several occupants of *Puff the Tragic Dragon* (though his was far from a leading role!), we will not dwell on some of the reptiles'(?) obnoxious behaviour in public. With some 50 acting and backstage participants there is only room to mention a few: **Peter Ricketts,** who dared to borrow the RSM's best uniform for his part, **Cpl Geoff Howe, Christine Nadin, Janice Lawrie** and **Cpl Peter Garthwaite** were all on stage, whilst **Betty Roberts, Anne Edwards** and **Judy Cheese** worked wonders behind. Perhaps more important than all this was that **WO2 Bill Kelly** and **Ssgt Bill Irving** produced a splendid theatre bar. What next is now the Thespian cry!

Three of the stars of the Birgelen Players' production of Aladdin. Mr David Wass as Abanazar, Sandra Rose as the princess and Ssgt Bill Garner as Wun, the queer Genie

WARRANT OFFICER ARRESTED AND CHARGED

Take a large amount of Mess members and soak well in Regimental wine. Stuff with trout and steak. Add a little port and simmer for a couple of hours. In the centre place a soon-to-be-commissioned Warrant Officer Class 1 and let him stew. This can be helped along by a few knowing glances and shakes of heads. Throw in a Court Martial and a little stocks.

These were the ingredients cooked up for **WO1 Dave Dyke's** dining out from our Mess. **Dave** is leaving the Mess on commissioning and posting to Liverpool. After an excellent dinner he was 'arrested' and tried on charges ranging from ambition to partaking of physical exercise. Although ably defended by the CO, **Lt Col Martin Pickard,** the case for the prosecution was overpowering. **Ssgt Bill Garner** got down to the bare facts and presented his briefs admirably. Guilty! The stocks were brought in and a sackclothed **Lt Dyke** was led out of the Mess. Surprisingly, the only thing thrown was good-natured abuse, although for one Provost Sergeant the target was almost too tempting.

Dave will be missed by a lot of people from within the Regiment and we would like to wish him and his wife, **Pat,** all the best in the future. We also welcome his replacement, **WO1 Harry Cooke.** We hope that he enjoys himself as much as **Dave** undoubtedly did.

MESS FOOTBALL

The RSM's attitude to the Mess team can be summed up by the following conversation between himself and **Sgt Geoff Helme,** the team manager:

'Where are you going, Sgt Helme?'

'I'm getting a bag of oranges for the football team, Sir.'

'That's a good swap.'

INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY—January 14, 1977

On January 14, the Regiment had the pleasure of hosting one of a series of international cross-country races organised by the Dutch Army. The Regimental team competed against police and army teams from Belgium, Holland and Germany. A feature of these races is a section for Prestatiloepers (over 35s) in which our first finisher was **WO1 Andy Roberts** in third place. In the main race **Sig Daz Cann** put up a very creditable performance by finishing 25th (out of 85), but, more important, taking first prize in the Junior class (see photo). The CO, **Lt Col Martin Pickard,** kindly agreed to present the prizes at the pub-lunch held afterwards in our Junior Ranks Club.

Sig Cann finishing first in the Junior Class of the International Cross-country

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

RECOVERY

THIS month we have been putting our house in order before the onslaught of the major exercise season (commonly known as recovering from Christmas). Our exercise of the month was rather more concerned with snowy slopes, broken bones and apres ski than with communications. On another exercise members of the RAF stayed with us for a few days testing life with the Army in case the RAF/Army merger takes place as mentioned recently in Parliament!

The Dortmund Commcen team with their hat trick of Comstars

HAT-TRICK FOR DORTMUND

Congratulations to our small Commcen detachment at Dortmund which has gained distinction by winning three Gold Comstars in a row. The latest one was presented on Tuesday, February 1, 1977, to **Cpl Barry Dawson,** the NCO in charge of the detachment, by **Maj Gen F. E. Kitson, CBE, MC,** Commander 2 Armd Div. **Cpl Andy Dingle, Sigs Mark Toner** and **Miles Douglas** were also there, as was **Cpl Trev Colley,** who is taking over as detachment commander shortly. Only **Sig Dave Speechley** was missing.

KEEPING COOL

Somehow we always manage to keep cool for better or for worse. In the summer we had conferences in the swimming pool and a ducking stool for the hierarchy, and when winter came it was fires in the boiler-room or a stray hand turning off the main water-heating switch. When we hosted the 4 Sig Group study day in our gymnasium, a day when we might have expected warm, if not hot, air to be blowing out from the fans, a chilly breeze was all that we got. The QM (Gen), **Maj Keith Rothwell,** kept a thermometer at his feet and at the critical stage produced blankets, which, even after lunchtime fortification, were well used. Next year we are thinking of using the main square—it might be warmer!

SKI-ING REPORT

Capt Peter Hallett, who did the initial organisation of this year's ski-ing training was unluckily injured in a road accident so couldn't take part. It's a bit difficult ski-ing without a knee cap! **Lt Richard Blum** took over and numerous people have since enjoyed two weeks' ski-ing at Bad Tölz in Bavaria as guests of the American Special Forces. **Sgt Tom Wilson** ran the MT and did much of the ski instructing.

Life was fairly quiet for the first few days and people were just beginning to enjoy themselves when the first panic occurred. **Sig Frank Spencer** was whisked away to the Medical Centre after an attempt to get his name in the 'Guinness Book of Records' as the first person to try and commit suicide by cutting his wrist with a ski whilst still wearing it!

Perhaps the star prize from the first fortnight should go to **Lcpl 'J. C.' Burris.** Before leaving for Bad Tölz he was asked if he could ski; 'Oh yes, a little'. After breaking a ski at the top of the mountain he was forced to ski down on only one ski. By the time he reached the bottom his performance on one was better than most of the course on two. On someone enquiring on the standard of **Lt Richard Blum's** ski-ing, someone, who managed to remain anonymous, was heard to say, 'He can get from top to bottom, although it's more by luck than judgement. There's no style, but an uncanny sense of balance'.

The apres ski was nothing spectacular, and after being woken by the American NCO's academy doing drill outside the windows at 0530, people were quite glad that the evenings were not too exciting. **'J. C.'** and **Sig 'Porky' Gibson** did try to find out if it was true that anyone who was seen in the bar drinking heavily more than two nights was taken away to 'dry out' and declared an alcoholic. All they succeeded in doing was coming to the conclusion that the company wasn't as good as in their local tavern bar in Krefeld although the scenery was better.

Every course has its prime destroyer and **Sig 'Smithy' Smith** proved to be the one on Course II. During his two weeks he managed to break two skis, rendered two ski sticks unserviceable and was accused of causing some unknown mechanical failure of the ski tow bar. **Maj Ben Bolt's** ski-ing proved one of his theories; it takes a long time for the signals from his brain to reach his feet.

After the first week the course as a whole were ski-ing well and were ready to take on bigger challenges. The social highlight fell on the intervening Saturday when **Ssgt Le Carpentier** had his umpteenth birthday. The Americans were kind enough to bake a cake and as they hold a weekly dance on Saturdays it proved to be an enjoyable occasion. The Sunday was spent quietly recovering.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

On good form before the kick off
From the top: Sig Jim Miller, Cpl Johnny Boyd, Lcpl John Dyer Sgt Pete Dyson and Cpl Steve Baldwin

IMPORTANT SOCCER SUCCESS

FOOTBALL must be head of the list this month as the Regimental team slowly but surely reaches once again for the BAOR and, it is hoped, the Army Cup. After a somewhat 'hair-raising' quarter-final against 26 Armd Engr Regt at Iserlohn where, anxiety to score, pressure of the occasion and over-zealousness combined to nearly cause what would have been an undeserved defeat, skill prevailed, and the Regiment went on to the semi-final with a 2—1 win.

22 Sig Regt in the white vests
Lcpl Mark Tibble, Sig Alan Percival, Lcpl Zafar Iqbal, Cpl Anthony Vincent, Lcpl Richard West in the 4 Div cross-country

CROSS-COUNTRY

Whilst we don't always win, the Regiment are usually well represented in most sports which is really what it's all about. We were well represented in the recent 4 Div cross-country event, as the photograph shows, by **Lcpl Tibble, Sig Iqbal, Cpl Vincent, Lcpl West, Sig Percival.**

BADMINTON OFF THE GROUND

I reported last month that **Capt Malcolm Cherry** was busy trying to get this sport off the ground. He has succeeded. He has already matched his new team against one of the local German clubs and although the Regiment were beaten it was a great standard setter and the prelude to more games on the local scene.

SWIMMING/WATER POLO CALL TO ARMS

There has already been a 'call to arms' in this respect. The swimming officer, **Capt John Culbert,** has laid the basic plans for the Regimental gala and the teams are about to get down to some training. A couple of stalwarts, **Majs Geoff Maude** and **Ian Penny,** will not be here for the peak of the season but the **Bevan** brothers remain and we have had new faces like **Lcpl Nall** join us. **2 Lt Alistair Blease** is still with us, the potential is there, so watch this space.

FENCING

We were all delighted to see **Capt Richard Skaife** presented with his BAOR Fencing Colours and we hope this will be the prelude to an active Regimental interest in this particular sport.

WIVES CLUB

Capt Richard Skaife has not only been excelling himself with fencing but has been thrilling the Wives Club with the story of the Zaire Expedition. He apparently held them all spellbound with a well-presented tale supported by slides. I'm sure they would like me to publicly thank him for this.

LIPPSTADT PLAYERS

It is always a constant struggle getting plays off the ground in such an active unit as this. Producer after producer loses his hair trying to get complete casts together for rehearsals. However, things looked good for the festival play. The play 'Blithe Spirit' was selected, the play was cast with **Capt Mike Powell, Mary Bonaker, Wendy Masarrati, Capt John Culbert, Florence Culbert, Pam Evans** and **Tess Hewitt,** the producer, **Ken Christie,** got rehearsals off the ground early, only to be told the theatre is unsafe. However, with plans to produce it in the SKC the rehearsals continue undeterred. What a life! The competition night is April 30.

SHOOTING

The officers are at it again! A competition is arranged against the local Polizie and 7 Fernmelde Bn for March 3. A big social event, too. I'll give you a report next edition.

STRONG RUMOUR

It is not generally believed but the rumour is strong that **Lt Col Wheawell,** the CO, is going off football and his mind and body have turned to ski-ing! This apparently is a result of his recent visit to a Pension—located at Hochalm just outside Sonthofen in the Allgau. For those of you who have spent most of your service in such exotic places as Aldershot and Blandford

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that is just on the Austrian border. It is, in fact, where Exercise Snowqueen is taking place. **Col Wheawell,** I am told, was a daunting sight as he plunged fearlessly down the lower slopes doing his thing—racing snowploughs! The CO was not alone in setting the scene. **Lcpl Dave Buttons** made an impressive sight as he took off over a jump, realised how high he was, threw away his ski sticks and plunged to earth with his hands over his eyes. Trying to control such firm intentions to suicide have been **Lcpl 'Fergy' Ferguson** and **Sig Trev Hamer** who, as course instructors, will return to the unit fitter but balder.

The *piece de resistance* of the whole exercise though has been the attempt by the mouse-like figure of **2 Lt Dick Good** to 'deski', by collison, the bear-like figure of a local German. The latter finally caught up with **Dick Good** in the 'pub' that evening, and only the smooth tongue backed by the heavy wallet of the 'Snowqueen' officer, **Capt (Ski-ing) Gordon Raku,** saved the day. I suppose one can say a 'Good' time was had by all in the process.

FLASH

Regrettably I have to report that the result of the semi-final match against 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt was a loss for the Regiment 3—2. They played a hard game right until the last minute and can take pride in getting so far in the second year running. Well done, and good luck to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt in the final.

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INTO 1977

FOLLOWING the Freedom of St Tonisvorst in 1976 the whole Regiment looked forward to a quieter 1977. As the effects of Christmas and New Year celebrations wore off people suddenly realised January was not to be the quiet month they had thought. The month was packed with activity, Exercise Franski, internal trade and military courses, sport and a multitude of visitors.

WHAT HAS SGT BARRY VARGAS SAID?
Sgt Vargas meets Gen Sir Frank King
Left to right: Gen King, Maj Pat Thomas, Lt Col Terry Byrne (CO), Sgt Vargas

VISITS

The Regiment have had two visits this month from senior officers. On January 14, 1977, **Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE,** Commander Northern Army Group, paid a visit to the Regiment. Although the Commander has visited a number of times on exercise, this was his first visit to us in barracks. Having expressed a wish to meet soldiers, we duly obliged, and he went away having spoken to a number of men in the Regiment. On leaving the barracks the General was presented with a souvenir of his visit—a framed and mounted photograph of his arrival.

Our other visitor was Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** who had a similar tour to **Gen King.**

Exercise Franski

Each year we hold a Regimental Ski Exercise in January which is a 28-day exercise, split into two 14-day periods. Approximately 20 members of the Regiment attend each period. **Maj Dennis Bees** is IC the Exercise which is held at Habach, Oberammergau and on the Zugspitze. **Maj Bees** leaves a few days before the main body, as an advance party he claims, but we believe it is in order to get a few days' quiet ski-ing on the virgin snow before the masses arrive. A good time is had by all and the tolerance and ability of the Bundeswehr instructors 'Mike and Bert' were amazing. They managed to instruct, between fits of laughter, and seemed to enjoy themselves even more than those on the course. After initial problems, such as falling off ski lifts, the beginners began to master the arts of the snowplough, stem and parallel turns, some to a greater extent than others. **Sigs Mag Benson, Paul Ventre** and **Des (Wrecker) Birt** specialised in going straight down the slopes. Stopping? That was easy, they just fell over! The weekends were spent on trips to the saunas and other places of local interest.

A BRIEF VISIT

2 Lt Steve (fresh) Heath had not realised maps are made to various scales. Looking at a small-scale mape he decided to go to Venice for the weekend, believing it to be fairly local! With **Cpl Ian Morrell, Sigs Don Ireland** and **Mike Moss,** he set out. They arrived in Venice, had breakfast and then started the drive back for more ski-ing—what a life!

KRANKENHAUS AID

Two broken legs, three sprained ankles and a twisted knee provided the local Krankenhaus with their best business since Franski '76. They are now looking forward to welcoming us for Franski '78! **RSM Frank Atkins** was soon one of the walking wounded—it's his age; you know old men aren't very supple. As if this wasn't enough, a German had the cheek to damage his car, by braking, causing the RSM to run into the back of the German car. It's all a plot, RSM, never mind now that British Leyland are nationalised we may make a profit!

2 Lt Steve Heath deciding that wrecking cars was the 'in thing' left his 500km from camp up the E5 suffering from 'big-end bangs'. Subalterns never learn—they will buy cars from Yeomen. Next year we will continue the saga with a report on Franski '78.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG MEN GONE

During January a horde of ant-like figures could be seen scurrying into Training Wing in the morning and away in the evening. **Maj Ken Goulding** had organised a series of military and trade training courses to shake off the New Year blues. So many courses were running that on occasions the Foremen's refresher course were using the rugby club as a classroom!

FORMIDABLE SOCCER RECORD

The Regiment are doing quite well having won their last 15 games. They are playing in the league, league cup, Rhine Area and BAOR section of the Army cup. Our league position is third, being seven points behind Scribes and two points behind RAF Rheindahlen. However, we do have four games in hand on Scribes and three on RAF Rheindahlen! In the league cup we won 10—0 in the first round against 438 MCLG after beating RAF Rheindahlen 7—1 in the preliminary round. On January 16 we managed a 14—0 win against 12 Lt Air Defence Regt in the semi-final of the Rhine Area cup. On March 23 the final is against either 16 or 21 Sig Regt.

In the Army cup BAOR semi-final we played the 5 Inniskillin Dragoon Guards. The result of this match was 6—0 to the Regiment. For those interested in statistics—total goals this season: for 94, against 9.

RUGBY REPORT

During January five games were played and four cancelled. A very weakened team was fielded against RAF Wegberg who beat us three penalties to nil. A better game, but still with an incomplete side, took place against Wulfen Casuals which we won 30—15. A match the team always look forward to was against British Brussels XV. Again we were so weakened by injuries even the trainer, **WO1 Dennis Gallacher,** had to play. This left the team captain, **Cpl Keith Leighton,** with two jobs to do, his and the old man's! Although the score was 28—3 against us it in no way reflected the standard of play. Some of the injured returned to the side for the match against 40 ASR which we won 32—3. Despite the win it was a disappointing game. **Sig Neil Thomas** is rapidly improving as a scrum half and is giving **Sgt John Clark** excellent service.

CAR ACCIDENT

On January 23 **Sigs Edward O'Brien** and **Neil Thomas** were both seriously injured when crushed by a car when helping a friend push his broken-down car off the road. Both received multiple breaks to both legs and will be in RAF Hospital Wegberg for several months.

We all wish them as much comfort as is possible in the circumstances and a successful recovery. If you do know them do try to drop them a line or pay a visit, a long stay in hospital can be very tedious.

DINING OUT

On January 21 **Majs Mike Burridge** and **Jimmy Robinson** were dined out by the officers at a lunch attended by the Burgermeister of Tonisvorst, **Herr Beckers,** and all British and Belgian officers in station. After short speeches the Burgermeister presented both with gifts in appreciation of their services to Tonisvorst. The CO, **Lt Col Terry Byrne,** usually starts by complaining he cannot read the Adjutant's notes before making his speech. On this occasion he couldn't as the Adjutant had typed the notes; he complained instead of the size of typescript. We think our Adjutant, **Sandy Lovatt,** should stick to rugby, as an Adjutant he just can't win!

FAREWELL

WO2 Stan Braithwaite has left along with **Lcpl Mark Hirdle** from Training Wing; both will be missed. We wish them good fortune in their new careers as civilians. **Ssgt 'Geordie' Atkinson** and **Sig Chris Wilkinson** both leave on posting and we wish them both well.

WELCOME

To **Maj Dick Hoghton** our new 2IC, to **Maj Dicky Bird** our new OC HQ Sqn, and to **Sgts Edgington, McShane** (ACC), **Cpl Hutchinson, Lcpls Schofield** (RPC), **Walsh, Sigs Phillips, Blackmore, Grove, Hubbard** and **Lcpl Windle,** all of whom arrived this month!

VERY NEW ARRIVALS

Lcpl and **Mrs Paul Mather's** baby son and **Lcpl** and **Mrs Mark Golden's** baby daughter. Congratulations to both sets of parents.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

NOTABLE PENALTY

IT'S all go in the Regiment in the so-called 'quiet month' of January. **Yeoman Henry Higgins** has returned from the Gambia leaving the lads to carry on communicating, but bringing with him a bad tummy and dark mutterings about 'listening to the tom-toms and wondering about whose menu he was on'. He was unfortunately not well enough to keep goal in our District cup hockey match against 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt, but was well represented by the Tech Adjutant, **Capt Damian Buckley,** who turned out to save a penalty in the last minute to win the match. He must have done his career a lot of good because it was the CO, **Lt Col Byng,** who gave the penalty away! We've had a fair smattering of 'Belize-itis', and the Ops Room, 'Q' Troop and 'M' Troop were bobbing about to get all kinds of strange kit crated up to send out to **Sgt Bob Webb,** together with the lucky lads whose turn it is to taste the pleasures of central America.

EXERCISE PASHA IX

But closer to home, the vehicles, cabins, generators and trailers streamed out of Blandford Camp to drive to Thorney Island in a simulated air move, in packets representing chalks, for a quiet few days to practise communicating drills. After setting up communications plans were made to keep everyone in trim for potted sports, bird watching, and football matches against the local Royal Navy. Then came the howling gales, blowing canvas and guys into the air, and thereafter no-one had time for games, being wet and tired from trying to keep everything down or replace that which had blown away!

Lt Bill Blair of 103 Sig Sqn briefs Sgt Stan Howard on 'down under'

EXERCISE LONG LOOK

Luckily, old **Sgt Stan Howard** has returned from a four-month tour with the Australian Army in the Antipodes. Within 24 hours of arriving at 103 Sig Sqn in Townsville, Queensland, he was at work in the Squadron Communications Control, helping to plan for Exercise Kangaroo II, which, in the words of the Squadron Commander, was the 'biggest thing we've done since WW II'. **Stan** had a variety of jobs in the exercise ranging from rebro to SDS and line repair work, at night, in 'enemy' territory. He was not bitten by koala bears or run down by stampeding kangaroos but the work was certainly interesting, and so was the social life. He didn't actually suffer from frost bite from holding ice-cold tubes of Fosters but he didn't look too well when he got back. He wanted to put his name down for the next Long Look, but no chance, cobber!

Cpl Jim Coglan after the presentation of his LS and GC by Col R. Benbow
Left to right: CO, Lt Col A. B. Byng, Cpl Coglan, Mrs Coglan, Col R. Benbow, Comd I Sig Group

PRESENTATION

The Group Commander, **Col R. Benbow,** visited the Regiment informally and presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Cpl Coglan** of 'EW' Troop. **Mrs Coglan** was able to be present and the rest of the lads from 'EW' Troop were on the spot to drink their health.

HQ SQUADRON REPORT

The Regimental Recruiting and Information Team has acquired a new caravan (*circa* 1948, but didn't they build them well then?) and will soon be heading for the hills and sunshine of the South West and Wales. Overall chief is **Capt (We don't have problems!) Leitch,** with team leader **Ssgt John Hodgkiss** supported ably by **Lcpl John Walker** (Driver), **Sig Chris Baker** (Data Tg) and **Sig Brian Kelly** (Tele Mech). We can guess that ex-RRIT Team regulars make good luxury holiday tour operators in civilian life, but we're not jealous!

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Our nine-man cross-country running team, captained by **Lcpl Larry Tullet** who has been training the team mercilessly since September, competed in the South-West District championships at Bulford on Wednesday, February 2. **Cpl Martin Green** was our first man home, finishing a very good fourth, and qualifying for the Army championships. The rest of the team, finishing fourth overall, were: **Lt Tony Wood, Lcpls Steve Fisher, 'Bev' Beverley, Nigel Johnson, Ssgt Ray Marshall, Lcpl 'Mac' MacKenzie** and **Sig Nigel Courtney.**

5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

THIS month our article is composed by budding reporter **Sig Jon Wheeler.** After some moments of panic he got down to work and has since been rushing around the Squadron Troops annoying everyone! **Sig Wheeler** joined the Corps after a short stay with the Intelligence Corps. He completed his basic training at 11 Sig Regt, much to his surprise; and started trade training at 224 Sig Sqn in Loughborough. He then changed his trade to clerk, and has been with us since April 3, 1975, with short absences in Cyprus, in an infantryman's role with the RWF, and on a sailing trip in the Mediterranean.

FLAGGING ENERGY

With the changeover from 5 Airptble Bde HQ and Sig Sqn to 8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn looming ever closer, activity in the Squadron mounts steadily. **Col Benbow,** Comd 1 Sig Group, visited the Squadron on Friday, January 28, to discuss various aspects of the Field Force with the OC, **Maj Dick Smith.** The date for the 8 Field Force flag-raising parade has been set for April 1. Although the change-over is bound to cause major upheavals, the OC has prevailed upon the 'powers that be' to make it as gentle as possible; indications are that the unit will not move for some time yet.

BIONIC SIGNALMEN

Weekly runs have been introduced for the Squadron in the hope of training us to a higher level of fitness. Not, of course, that we are unfit. Far from it. Yet the OC thought that one of us may become the bionic boy or even replace the bionic man. The runs involve toiling up a large and muddy hill, at the foot of which lies the Tidworth 'ammo compound'. No doubt the alsatians patrolling there help to raise our flagging energy and spur us on to even greater efforts. If we look bedraggled enough the various heads of departments take pity on us and generally send us away. All things considered, the run is fast becoming a Squadron tradition; a good thing, since we all benefit from it.

SOCCER REPORT

The Squadron football team are again doing well after a good season last year. We lost to 22 Loc Bty RA, who knocked us out of the South-West District Minor Units cup but are still sitting comfortably at the top of the Salisbury Plain Services football league in the 2nd Division. Our record of games played in this league is thus:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	Goals For	Goals Against
9	8	0	1	16	34	19

You may remember reading in THE WIRE last year that **Cpl Steve Swann,** the team player/manager, had at last retired for the ninth time. Owing, however, to unfortunate circumstances beyond his control another pair of very large shorts have been ordered and he is now running around like a two year old. . . He is, I'm assured, finally hanging up his boots at the end of the season!

RUGGER SUCCESS

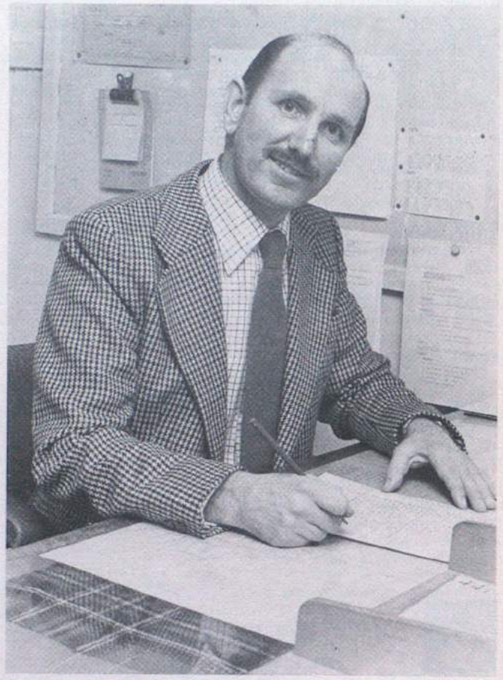
The rugby team have fought their way through to the semi-final of the South-West District Minor Units rugby cup, a game which they play in the first week of March against the already-mentioned 22 Loc Bty RA. May they have better luck than the football team!

CROSS-COUNTRY INTO LIMELIGHT

The cross-country team burst out of obscurity into the limelight by winning the 3 Div Minor Units cross-country championships on February 2. **Sgt McMeekin** did a sterling job in training them so hard. The fact that most of the team are now suffering from mental and physical exhaustion is hardly important. The team was as follows: **Lcpls Paul Hill, Ray Haury, Charlie Bowden** and **Pete O'Doherty, Sigs John Barnett, Tony Robson, Martin Glover** (reserve), **Pte Martin Hallam** and **Cfn Duncan Vavangas.**

TRIALS (AND TRIBULATIONS)

It seems that someone in 3 Div is keeping an eye open for aspiring rugby players, as **Cpl Paul Elkington, Lcpls Ray Haury, 'Jock' McAveety** and **'Willie' Henderson** have all been selected for trials in the coming weeks. **Sig 'Tich' Anderton** has been selected to play for the Corps hockey team, and we wish him success in securing a regular place.



Capt A. S. Heybourn (SG), Admin Officer

AU REVOIR

Despite instructions not to turn this article into a series of 'Hellos' and 'goodbyes', I feel that I must mention **Capt Tony Heybourn** (Scots Guards), who has been our Admin Officer, contributing much to the smooth running of the Squadron. We wish him all the best in his new role back at Bn.

We also bid farewell to **RSM 'Gerry' French,** who is being attached to AAC, Harrogate, for his last six months of service, in April this year. We will be sorry to lose him, and wish him and his family a smooth transition to civilian life.

NORWAY BOUND

In order to further Anglo-Norwegian relations, a group of 13 of us went to Norway on an adventure training scheme. The party left Tidworth while a heavy blizzard was blowing. **Sig Dave Conley** sat shivering in a Bedford MK, and somehow managed to smile weakly when informed that it was even colder in Norway.

The aim of the exercise was, basically, to instruct the party on how to ski. It also covered some aspects of winter warfare and survival in sub-zero conditions. The hardest task in survival, according to one certain member of the party, was the lack and expense of drink! The personnel who took part in the exercise were: **Capt Lloyd-Jones, Sgt 'Jimmy' Johnstone, Cpls Don Bruce** and **Rod Daddow, Lcpl John Carmagnole, Sigs Nick Devon, 'Joe' Layfield, Sean Wratten, 'Danny' Daniels, Dave Conley, 'Charlie' Brown, Ptes Mick Pays** and **Ian Leslie.**

Exercise Viking Quest
Left to right: Cpl Don Bruce, Sig Joe Layfield, Cpl Rod Daddow, Sgt 'Jimmy' Johnstone, Lcpl John Carmagnole, Sig 'Danny' Daniels, Sig Nick Devon, Sig 'Charlie' Brown, Pte Ian Leslie

SAILING—COURTESY OF 'KHAKI TOURS LTD'

I was most fortunate in being selected as the unit representative for a Royal Signals sailing cruise recently. The trip went by the name of Exercise Winter's Tale (I can't think why) and was classed as adventure training. After the crew had spent a week in local waters around the Channel area learning such basics as knots (the bunny comes out of the hole, round the tree and back down the hole) and how to steer the yacht, we were ready for the trip proper. The crew consisted of Corps personnel only, and taking part were **Majs Stewart Read** (skipper), **Ken Ferguson, Helier Exon, Capt Mike Shaw, WO2 Bob Wherry, Ssgts Joe Brant** and **Fred Calvert, Cpls Bob Cobb** and **Paul Budden, Sig Chris Geelan** and **Capt (Retd) Alan Wilkinson,** who was the Joint-Services Sailing Centre representative.

We spent two weeks sailing from Malta to Cyprus, stopping off at Crete and Rhodes on the way. Despite some trouble with the engine, all went well and we arrived in Larnaca Bay in Cyprus tired, but exultant. I never thought sailing could be so physically demanding. I do, however, recommend it to all members of the Corps when and if the same opportunity arises. After all, in civilian life such a trip would normally cost you at least £200. I take this opportunity to thank the 'skipper' and all unseen organisers who made the trip possible.

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

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

LOOKING back through THE WIRE notes' file, seeking inspiration, I note that this time last year Malta was deluged with rain. I'm happy to report that this is not the case this year and to those ex-234 Sig Sqn members who enviously consult the temperature charts in their newspaper, I confirm that the mid-day temperature has seldom dropped below 65 F.

LARGE TURNOVER

This month has seen a large turnover in Squadron personnel including our SSM and chief clerk. Notes from our Sergeants Mess correspondent on the farewell dinner in honour of **WO2 (SSM) Danny Lamerton** appear below but **Ssgt (ORSQMS) John Richardson** does deserve a special mention for all that he has done for the Squadron in the sporting field. **John** has run very successful hockey and cricket teams during the last two years participating in all the local competitions and producing consistently good results. Highlights were the Army victory in the inter-Service cricket competition and the surprise win in the local Maltese Valliere sixes hockey competition last April. To **John** we say a big 'thank you' and we wish him and his family success in their new post.

'TM' Troop said farewell to **Sgts Tony Halliwell** and **Neil Macpherson,** both sadly missed supporters of the Mess and the Squadron sporting fraternity. **Tony** will not be easily replaced in the squash and tennis teams and whilst the hockey team definitely miss 'Supermac' it is not quite true that we haven't won a game since he left. Best wishes go to both families in Ashford and Aberdeen respectively.

Line Troop lost two of its Airfield detachment stalwarts, **Cpl Cliff Price** and **Lcpl Steve Harrison. Cliff** has decided to see what the big wide world has to offer and **Steve** has gone to 21 Sig Regt. Both will be surely missed for their hard-working ability and cheerful natures and, needless to say, the hockey team has suffered again! Best of luck to them both.

Last but by no means least we offer our best wishes to **Lcpl Steve Wetherall** who left the quiet secluded ACE High station on Gharghur Hill for the no doubt more hectic life of 8 Sig Regt. Good luck.

On Friday, January 21, the WOs and Sgts Mess dined out **WO2 (SSM) Danny Lamerton** who goes on promotion to RSM at 10 Sig Regt. The meal was of the high standard to which the Mess has become accustomed and for this **Sgt Danny Holmes** and **Cpl John Morris,** our resident ACC experts and their able civilian assistants, deserve our praise. After-dinner entertainment was provided by a magician ably assisted by two volunteers, **Sgt Martin James** and **Mr Remy Hals** who produced various items from the oddest places! The rest of the evening was spent shaking down the meal with a few quiet games which resulted in a fine selection of sore heads and aching backs. As dawn broke the ten remaining stalwarts said farewell to **Danny** over breakfast. We wish him and his wife, **Barbara,** who did so much for the Wives Club the very best of luck in their new post.

'SLAVE QUARTERS' RE-VISITED

No, not one of the latest epics to be turned out by the local Maltese film facilities, but one of the many important frame rooms round the island and one which has to have the most evocative name (there is no truth in the rumour that the bones of long-dead linemen have been found there). It was recently re-visited by Line Troop when they laid a new 50 pair poly-armoured cable across Grand Harbour to back up the existing Lascaris–St Angelo link. Not counting the time taken to transfer the cable from the drum to the boat, the job of laying 800m down into the murky depths took only 10 minutes, including the lashing-on of some old rusty shackles to ensure that the whole lot went to the bottom. The first few ships to cross the cable were watched with horrid fascination, but so far Grand Harbour hasn't been closed by ships with poly-armoured festooned round their props. Those who remember the halcyon days of submarine cable and cable barges may sneer but it is quick and it works, and if it breaks we can do it again in 10 minutes.

WO2 Tranter and Cpl Mizzi at Lascaris

Cable barge 1977

WELCOME

Finally, all that remains is to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies, Ssgt (ORSQMS) Alan Benson, Cpl Brian Niel, Cpl Gerry Talbot, Lcpl Steve Groom** and **Sig Graham Thornton** and their families to the Squadron and hope that they enjoy their tour in Malta.

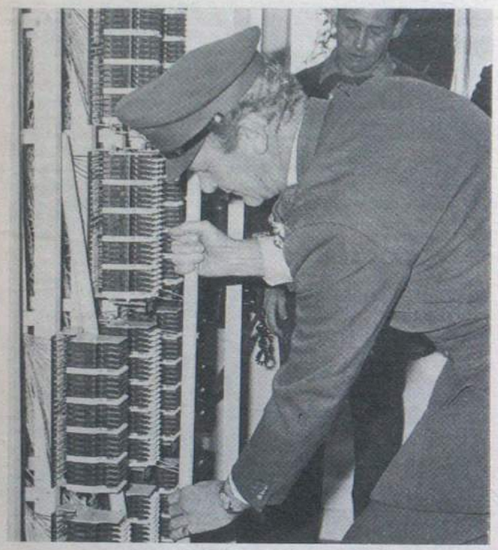
262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj F. Smith**
2IC	**Capt R. A. Wannell**
OC Systems Tp	**Capt (TOT) R. Staniford**
OC Commcen Tp	**Capt (Tfc) K. M. French**
OC Field Tp	**Lt D. J. Elson**
SSM	**WO2 B. Greatorex**
RQMS	**WO2 K. R. Clark**

NEW DHEKELIA MILITARY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE INTO SERVICE

ON January 21, 1977, **Brig J. H. B. Ackland,** Commander Land Forces Cyprus, visited the Squadron to commission the new telephone exchange, serving Dhekelia Garrison, and make the inaugural call on **Air Vice-Marshal R. D. Austen-Smith, CB, DFC,** Commander British Forces Cyprus, in his office at Episkopi.



TRYING TO CONNECT YOU

Brig Acland removes the wedges watched anxiously by WO2 (F of S) 'Spud' Murphy

The commissioning ceremony was an important milestone in an ambitious project designed to improve telephone communications in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). The officer responsible for the project, **Maj (TOT) Pat Soward,** who had planned this moment for months, breathed a sigh of relief when at 1403hrs **Brig Acland** withdrew 1,400 inserted wedges to connect all subscribers, and the new exchange buzzed into activity.

Work started in March 1976 under the direction of **Maj (TOT) Norman Webb,** of the Communications Project Agency, Blandford. A CPA team of five was attached to the Squadron for duration of the project and they were all present at the opening ceremony. This ceremony was geared to the rapid transfer of subscribers from the old exchange, installed in 1957, with a capacity of 400 lines, to the new automatic exchange and manual switchboard with a capacity of 650 lines. The smooth transfer could not have been brought about without the detailed line work carried out by Field Troop of the Squadron, who, under the professional eyes of **Ssgt Roy Milner** and **Sgt Jim Smith,** laid 6,000m of cable and made about 9,000 connections in 44 joints.

CPA Installation Team, WO2 (F of S) 'Spud' Murphy, Sgt Maurice Snook, Maj Norman Webb, Sgt Gerry Mullen, Sgt Stan Stanley, Sgt Pete Gardner

Champagne marks event

After the commissioning, the installation team and many others who had been involved in one way or another were invited by **Col M. U. Ryan,** Commander Dhekelia Garrison (3 Signal Group), to enjoy a glass of champagne at an informal gathering to celebrate the occasion. This gave both Commanders the opportunity to meet the men employed on the project and visit a small display of equipment and diagrams depicting much of the work involved.

Our photographs show the combined efforts of det CPA and the Squadron and we are grateful to **Maj Norman Webb** for the close co-operation which existed throughout.

A water problem

As always, much goes un-recorded but one story worth relating is that of the Tele Mechs who were scheduled to carry out a certain joint at a certain time to meet the very rigid programme of transferring the subscribers. **Sig 'Tam' Tulloch** and **Sig Cliff Gibson** had just opened their prescribed joint when, as is the rule, 'the heavens opened'. The GPO tent shielded them from the downpour—but much to their horror the level of water in the trench rose rapidly. The two stalwarts raised their joint and tried hard to seal it—but the water rose faster than they could complete their work, which eventually had to be abandoned under 3ft of water!

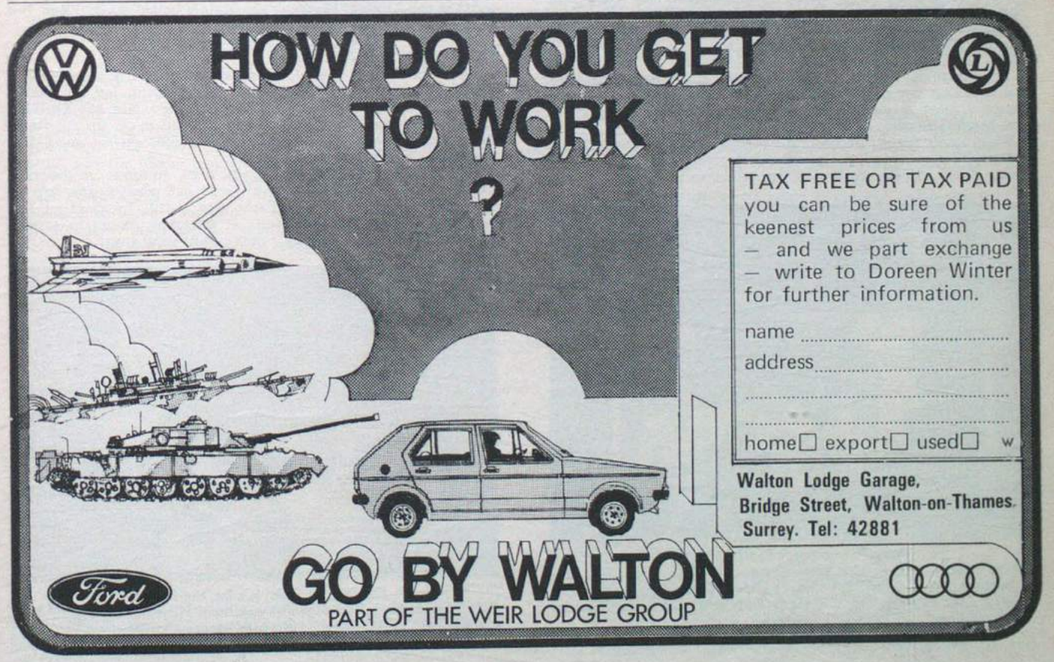
After the rains
Sig Willie McLay and Sig Cliff Gibson

Meeting the voices behind the calls; Brig Acland talking to Gabriella Zambakidon, the new exchange supervisor

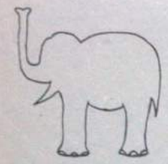
The Brigadier meets Ssgt Roy Milner whose Line Section completed all their cabelling on schedule. WO2 (SSM) Brian Greatorex has heard it all before

'Spaghetti Junction'
Sgt Mark Eaton (262 Sig Sqn) and Sgt Maurice Snook (CPA) at the half-way stage, June 1976

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY



News from Troops



603 Sig Tp, (AS) B.F.P.O. 65

PONGO POWER PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 (F of S) A. Hall**
Troop/Line Sergeant	**Sgt V. Buttery**
Chief Clerk	**Cpl B. Thomas**
i/c Salalah Det	**Cpl A. Dubois**

TIME AND TIDE

Time passes all too quickly in tropical paradises, and Masirah and Salalah are no exception, unfortunately; there has not been very much worthy of note in the last three months, so these notes will attempt to cover the period of December 1976 to February 1977.

WITHDRAWAL PREPARATIONS WELL UNDER WAY

All those who read the report by '603' in the October edition of THE WIRE, will appreciate that a target date of March 31 has been set for the withdrawal of HM Forces from Oman. To this end preparations are now well under way, with the thousand-and-one items on the books being retrieved from the arms of skeletons in various cupboards, identified by our Clerk Tech, **Cpl Mick (the mouth) Leek,** and returned to our parent unit, 30 Sig Regt, in the UK.

'HIT' SQUAD ACHIEVES RESULTS

Part of the rundown plan included a reduction in capacity of the Rurax automatic telephone exchange, enabling us to return half of the exchange early. This was achieved with surprising ease, the hard part was the recovery of some 150 telephones from the clutches of their users. **Sgt Vic Buttery** formed a 603 'hit squad', headed by **Lcpl 'Rolly' Thompson,** with **Sigs Daz 'the Wrecker' Dalziel, Dave Toon** and **Sean Plowden-Wardlaw** as members. They achieved remarkable results despite threats of personal vendettas against the OC, **WO2 (F of S) Allan Hall,** and themselves.

The remainder of the exchange is now working at full capacity, with a calling rate much higher than was intended by the manufacturers, creating overheating problems for the resident technician **Cpl Mick Sponner.**

We are now eagerly awaiting the installation of a new exchange for use by the Sultan of Oman's Air Force (SOAF) which will enable the complete removal of our exchange.

Pongo's five-a-side football team
Left to right. Standing: Cpl Steve Potts, Sig Dave Toon, Sgt Vick Buttery, Wing Cdr T. S. B. Boyce (RAF), Station Commander
Kneeling: Sgt Bill Blackey, Cpl Andy Fullwood (Capt), Sig 'Scouse' Creighton
Absent: Sig Neil Watson, Cpl 'Taff' Thomas

MOONIES AND GOZOMIES

The arrivals and departures lounge at air movements has seen many Pongos pass through since 603 last appeared in THE WIRE. with a fast turnover of personnel, it is difficult to keep track; however, here goes:

Gozomies

WO2 (F of S) Pete Wagstaff, Sgt John Garbutt, Cpls Stan Whitfield, Rick Libby, Dave Thompson, Steve Potts, Andy (POSB) Fullwood, Lcpls 'Tich' Peck, Bob Crossley, Sigs George Cripps, 'Arfur' Nicols, Steve Brunsdon, 'Scouse' Creighton, 'Mac' Macmillan and **Dave Ryan.**

Moonies

WO2 (F of S) Allan Hall, Sgt Vic Buttery, Cpls Mick Spooner, 'Vince' Vincent, Lcpl 'Rolly' Thompson, Sigs Dave (Mr Neutron) Toon, Sean Plowden-Wardlaw, and **'Daz' Dalziel.**

Seen: **Sig 'Daz' Dalziel** cleaning windows—on a pushbike?

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

LAND OF ETERNAL SUN

AFTER reading so much about snow and ice it is good to be able to write from the land of eternal sun. Belize continues to thrive on the various ambitious tasks set by our OC, **Capt Brian Chubb.** Not least of his outlandish schemes being to drain the swamp for Christmas. This set the scene for the opening ceremony of a barbeque to name our new Club, the Ming Inn. Palm trees, paved walk, patio, soft lights and sweet music were tastefully complemented by the disused cable drum tables and old packing-case seats. Fortunately, the rain held off and the evening was crowned by superb food served *in situ* by courtesy of the ACC. The whole affair was a fitting farewell to **Y of S Tony Lomax** who did so much for the Troop throughout his stay.

Sgt Sam Saunders had his final fling when, with **Sgts Keith Kennard** and **Andy Hunt,** he spent Christmas and New Year touring the United States. They didn't bring much back, but then hangovers come very expensive these days.

INTERPRETER DUTY

Not content with Miami, **Keith Kennard** acted as interpreter for the Combined Services Belize rugby team, led by **Y of S David Thomas** during their tour of Mexico. **Sig Mo Quirke, Lcpl Steve Ward** and **Ssgt Rupert Lund** made up the Royal Signals contingent, who put up a noble fight against good-class opposition in ideal surroundings.

While not so exotic, the Cayes trips continue to flourish, mainly due to **Cpl Trev Calver,** who has taken a firm grip of the whole venture. He regularly gets a full boatload of sun worshippers to leave their beds at unearthly hours to sample Caribbean scenery with ample supplies of local brew.

Don't pose, lads, it's for the 'WIRE'
Cpls Alan Roberts and Steve Wyles, Lcpl Mick Boxall, Sigs 'Paddy' Patrickson, Chris Sugden, Bahnhof Mitton, Mo Quirke and Gladys Firth

A REQUEST FOR RECORDS

At last CPA have left us to our own devices. **Sgt Graham Russell** bowed out after several hairy escapades in the six months he spent with us. Not only are we expected to run the DCN circuit to the UK, the camp telephone exchange and radio watch for RAF aircraft, but also the local radio station as well. **F of S Chalkie** continues going **White** keeping Radio Airport Camp on the road and the RAF off our lines. **Sgt Allan Hill** is now filling the gap as resident APC tech, left when **Cpl Hughie Layland** flew out in mid-January. The meagre record library content has only recently been catalogued and is woefully small for the number of hours broadcasting we do each week. Help from any units or individuals who have records in a reasonable condition will always be very welcome.

SPORT OUT AND IN

El Supremo (Sport) **Andy Hunt** has only just got over the sad loss of ace hockey star **Cpl Allan Reece,** but can take consolation in his replacement, **Cpl Al Howarth,** who is proving to be a stalwart on the football field. Not all our games are played in open combat, as **Sgt Ian Buick** and his entertainments team proved when we challenged the Sappers to a games evening at the Ming Inn. This was to be a grudge match by Tele Mech's **Steve Ward** and **Nev Williams** in retaliation for the Sappers digging up their cable again. This, however, did not transpire, and the visitors managed to win every event. As it was so wet and dark we let them have their ill-won victory provided honour can be satisfied at a later date.

WORK CAN BE FUN

Proving that work can be fun, the Jocomex with HMS *Tartar* worked like a charm, Comms took about three hours to establish, then their first signal to us was, 'Closing down for six to twelve hours'. It's a great life in the Navy. **Rs Lou Providence** brought three junior ratings to look around our Commcen, so, of course, we returned the visit. While **Cpls Terry Roper, Trev Calver** and **Sig Bahnhof Mitton** stayed with the kiliks, the Troop seniors were treated to real English beer in the POs Mess. Official invites to the traditional Sea Day were taken up by **Sgts Mick Watson** and **Ian Buick,** who spent much of the time watching and sampling Naval gunfire.

Royal Signals Universities OTC Presentation Team

INTO BEING

THE team was established in September on the recommendation of the Pickard Report on Royal Signals officer recruiting. The terms of reference were laid down by MOD as 'to visit each UOTC and give a presentation on the role of the Corps and the part the young Royal Signals officer plays'.

PERSONALITIES

We were gathered from all parts of the world; the team leader, **Maj Francis Wilkinson,** came from Sandhurst, where he didn't get the sword of honour despite his seniority! **WO2 (Y of S) Bill Donnelly** also came from the RMA. Rumour has it that he had to lead the 'boss' down to Blandford in case he got lost on the way. **Capt Chris Harper** came down from Tidworth to add Liverpudlian eloquence to the team. **Lt Jim Cadwallader,** the fourth member, was still with his Infantry Battalion until November.

THE PREPARATION

Whilst waiting for **Lt Jim Cadwallader,** the others spent hours each day gaining background information and assembling a presentation which lasts an hour with over fifty slides and two film clips. Once written and learnt, still without **Jim Cadwallader,** the presentation was performed before the Signal Officer-in-Chief and several senior officers in MOD. Some minor adjustments to the script had to be made.

THE ROAD SHOW—PHASE ONE—BY ROAD

A week afterwards, we were ready to go 'on the road', almost literally as the transport provided was a Ford Escort Estate—and a shoehorn. All the administration had been done by **Capt Chris Harper** and so it was no surprise when we arrived at Birmingham to find everything superbly organised. (The RSM, **WO1 Smart,** was really responsible but we have to humour **Capt Harper.**) The only hitch was finding the town centre on our visit to the ACIO:

Capt Harper: 'Here luv, where's Bermigum?'
B'ham lady: 'Yer 'ere luv, this is Bermigum.'
Capt Harper: 'What, all of it?'

At the time we were on the Bull Ring. At the presentation at Birmingham UOTC we had a large and responsive audience, which gave us confidence for the remainder of the tour. At East Midlands UOTC in Nottingham the Training Major, **Maj Blight** D+D, having impressed on us the importance of avoiding any direct recruiting, stood up at the end of the presentation, gave a five-minute oration on the excellence of Royal Signals and exhorted as many as possible to join straight away!

THE ROAD SHOW—PHASE TWO—BY RAIL

If we had problems fitting into the car we had greater problems carrying the kit on the train, but worse was to follow. In the University of London OTC a last-minute change of venue turned into our annual battle efficiency test. We had to go down a spiral staircase, across a badminton court which was in use, through a garage, up another staircase and through two sets of swing doors, all this carrying our slide and film projectors, screen, cables, slides, display boards and, not least, glasses of water; well, have you tried talking for an hour in a hot room? In the Mess afterwards we met a young man who was singing the praises of his airportable bakery—capable of getting 500 tons of dough to anywhere in the world within 24 hours. We were enthralled.

From London we travelled overnight to Aberdeen where it was really cold, or keen, as they say. It was so 'keen' that our film projector seized up and 'combat communicators' came over at half speed, which was even funnier than normal. Despite this technical hitch the audience showed great interest and asked us a lot of questions.

At Northumbria UOTC the turnout was the largest yet, no doubt due to **Maj Erroll Hunt** (Royal Signals), who, as the Training Major, had enthused about us for weeks in advance of our visit. We were so tired the following day that we went for a turkish bath in the municipal baths. Each of us (exept for the 'boss' who was with **Maj Hunt**) lost over two pounds.

PHASE THREE—BY AIR

The team's only incursion into active service came when we visited Queens University, Belfast, for 24 hours. The three officers were nervous before leaving Blandford, but when **Yeoman Bill Donnelly** turned up with his Army-issue suitcase, panic set in. Normally when travelling we talk constantly but in Belfast not a word was spoken and the driver was looking around more than at the road. The UOTC PT was scared! In the event all was well, the double-layer windows were not really necessary and our audience was probably the most inquisitive we have had.

LOOKING BACK

Throughout the tour **Y of S Bill Donnelly** has had the unenviable task of controlling the slides. When **Capt Chris Harper** gets into his stride he pays no attention to the 'script' and when the next slide should come on is anybody's guess, but the Yeoman manages it—probably more by luck than judgement! Our reception in every OTC has been good and although audiences have varied considerably in size the response has been enthusiastic.

THE FUTURE

We have five universities still to visit as well as a number of schools, to which we are giving an amended version of our presentation. A similar, though less elaborate, tour for next year is being considered which we very much hope will take place.

UK Element HQ, Landjut, B.F.P.O. 27

CORPS REPRESENTATIVE

HQ LANDJUT has appeared in THE WIRE lately (see December 1976) but only by name. As many readers know a lot about us, we feel that some may not. We will now brush away the 'cobwebs' and reveal ourselves and at the same time, pass on some information to any prospective members of this small UK Element. Being the sole representative of the Corps, I now find myself in the position of having to do just that.

HEADQUARTERS WITH A DIFFERENCE

For the benefit of those who have never heard of us. We are not located in Denmark! This is a myth. The headquarters is situated in Rendsburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and to give the full title, Headquarters Allied Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and

Jutland. Within the headquarters are Canadian, Danish, German, United Kingdom and United States personnel and what is so unique is that we are the only non-national Corps Headquarters in the NATO Alliance.

SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE

Our biggest exercise of last year was the successful Beacon Glare, when 3 Div and a number of allied units practised their role under command of HQ LANDJUT. It was pleasant to meet up with a few of the 'old firme'.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

September 21 saw a change in Commanders when we said goodbye to **Lt Gen H. Schwiethal** (GE A) and welcomed **Maj Gen P. O. W. Thorsen** (DA A). This event was highlighted by a ceremony during the evening on the sports field. All five Nations were represented. At this point I apologise for the lack of photographs, but the lighting for the ceremony was provided by German Army torch bearers, this proved a spectacular sight but not to the eye of the camera!

WHAT TO SAY

Due to the size of the Element and the nature of our work, it is difficult to report on outstanding achievements and highlights that would be of any interest. This is certainly an unusual and interesting job worth mentioning and our aim is to place us firmly on the map!

PERSONALITIES

We cannot end without seeing our names in print for the first time. OC, **Maj J. D. Rose** (Queen's Lancashire Regt), who makes sure we keep our eye on the ball!
L/Sgt Eddy Larrard (RAOC)
L/Sgt Martin Brown (RAOC)
L/Sgt Pete Green (Royal Signals)

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

TRAINING EMPHASIS

OUR notes this month consist of reports of 83 Sig Sqn and 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington Regt) Sig Sqn who recently held military training weekends at Crowborough camp in Sussex. The latter Squadron held a military training weekend at Crowborough camp on January 15–16 where the emphasis was firmly placed on physical fitness and mental alertness.

The events, organised on a competitive basis, included a 5-mile map-reading exercise over the rugged terrain of the Ashdown Forest. This particular trial was slightly more complicated (and longer) than anticipated owing to an error on the part of the DS (the officer responsible has not yet been identified but the 2IC was significantly more generous than usual at the bar that evening)! A series of demanding initiative tests (devised by **Sgt Jim Hodge**) sorted the brawn from the brain and to maintain the excitement this was followed by an assault course without which no weekend would be complete. All teams tackled the course with determination (if not with enthusiasm) and even the girls lived up to their new role by proving that they could perform as well as their male counterparts.

MYSTERY NOISE

The night patrol exercise contained a few surprises including a mystery laughing noise which was suddenly emitted from a Tannoy loudspeaker located 20ft above the patrols in the trees—this, and other theatrical effects were supplied by **Capt Mike Lucas.**

The evening's entertainment (disco by kind permission of **Sig Ted Ramaya**) resulted in a few thicker heads than usual in the morning but **SSM Steve Bland** had the cure for this particular malady—a drill competition made slightly more interesting by employing the ice-covered surfaces of Crowborough camp's drill square.

The points for each event were awarded on an 'it's a knockout basis' and **Sgt Peter Thornbury** collected the crate of beer on behalf of 'J' Troop, who won by a short head.

OPTIONAL POLICY PROJECTION

Training in the New Year started early for 83 Sqn with Bravo Troop, Cobham, deploying its radio relay detachments in a wide-ranging step-up Exercise, Rural Ride III, covering a large area of the south east. Newly arrived Troop OC, **Capt Jim Mill,** cunningly delegated much of the planning to **Sgt Ian Davies** who, when in doubt, referred to the all-wise PSI, **Sgt 'Dusty' Miller,** with his optional policy projection (guesswork for those not in the know!). Two weeks later saw the Squadron at Crowborough camp for a weekend of military training. Highlights to be remembered are the VCP where **Sig Rudolph Lazarides** now realises he must *not* touch funny objects under bonnets, and the gas chamber where **Lcpl Terry Bray** found it would have been far healthier to draw a deep breath *before* removing his respirator.

41 Sqn Stalwarts
Left to right: Maj Bob Simpson (OC), WO2 (SSM) Steve Bland, Ssgt Jim Makinson (Troop Sgt 'K' Troop)

Pre-Exercise Wintex training
Sgt Ron Spence from Signal Support Group at SHAPE talks to some of the Data Telegraphists

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

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

WO2 Blackburn taken in 1942

Report by WO1 (RSM) K. A. Childs

OUR WIRE notes for this month consist of a short biography of one of the characters of the Regiment and of the Corps. Anyone who has served in or had any contact with 31 Sig Regt will have made the acquaintance of **Mr Vic Blackburn** who successfully wears two hats as Mess Caterer for the Regimental Sergeants Mess and as storeman in HQ Sqn stores.

On September 9, 1919, as a fresh-faced lad of 15 Vic Blackburn enlisted into the Royal Engineers and went to Bedford RE Signals School. After being kitted out, Vic went to Maresfield Park in Sussex, where he did his recruit training and then to 'F' Coy where he was trained as an Electrician Fitter. This training period took Vic into 1920 when he transferred into the newly-formed Royal Corps of Signals. Maresfield remained his home until 1923 when he was posted to 4 Div Signals, which was based at Colchester until 1935 when it moved to Cavalry Barracks in Canterbury. In 1935, 5 Div Sig Coy was formed and, complete with Sig Blackburn, went to Egypt when the Italian-Abyssinian War broke out. After 12 months in Mersa Matruh, he moved to Palestine when the riots broke out in that unhappy country.

Two months later the Company returned to the UK and Vic found himself back in 4 Div Signals in Canterbury. He stayed in Canterbury till the Second World War broke out, during which time he rose to the rank of Sergeant. In April 1940 Vic took 63 Tele Op Section to Arras in France as part of the BEF, where the Section formed part of GHQ Signals. Later, in May 1940, Vic found himself on the beach at Dunkirk where he was picked up by the Royal Navy and landed at Ramsgate. He then was posted to Chiswick to what was left of 4 Div Signals, which became 2 Army Signals. That Regiment moved to Weybridge to consolidate before splitting into two Command Signal Units. Vic was promoted to Warrant Officer Class II at this time and filled the post of MTO in 1 Command Signals at Luton Hoo. After a brief visit to Catterick he was posted to Bromley in Kent to become part of 22 Anti-Aircraft Bde Sig Section.

In October 1942, WO2 Vic Blackburn set off overseas again, this time to Algiers to provide communications for the Ack-Ack Bde at Ben Bachir. After taking part in the capture of Tunis he was posted as RQMS to 46 Div Signals with which he crossed to Italy and fought through the Italian campaign to Milan, where he finished his very eventful war. After his discharge, Vic came home and, on reformation of the TA, joined the Army Phantom Sig Regt where he once more assumed the appointment of RQMS. He stayed with the Regiment till 1956, when he retired. Vic then came back to the Regiment as a civilian storeman, and is still with us, participating fully in the life of the Regiment, which includes finding devious ways and means of travelling to North-West Europe with us on our training camps. He is a sprightly 72 year old, still drinks the younger members of the Mess under the table when he feels so inclined, and his stories don't become too exaggerated as the evening wears on! Vic is a tremendous asset to the Regiment and we hope he will remain with us for many more years to come.

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

Sgt George Austin telling Ssgt Ted Dawson and Ssgt 'Geordie' James to 'Get Some In' after the medal presentation parade

HONORARY COLONEL PRESENTS MEDALS

ON Thursday, January 20, 1977, we were honoured with a visit to Alamein TAVRC by our Honorary Colonel, **Col J. Graeme Bryson, OBE, TD, JP, DL, LLM,** who presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Ssgt Ted Dawson** (REME) and **Ssgt 'Geordie' James** (Royal Signals), and the TAVR Efficiency Medal to **Sgt George Austin,** who retires in February 1977, after completing 37 years' service. The parade was a most memorable occasion and the long service of the recipients an inspiration to all. Both **Ssgts Dawson** and **James** are due to leave the Army after completing 22 years' service and we shall miss them greatly, good luck in 'civvy street'. No doubt we shall see **'Geordie'** again as he intendeds to settle in Liverpool. He's been indoctrinated!

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

LOOKING BACK

IT is 18 months or so since 34 last reported its doings in THE WIRE. Our silence has not been due to lack of activity—quite the reverse. We have had two annual camps, run a WRAC recruit camp, assisted at Armex 75 and, in between times, done all the usual weekend exercises, recruiting drives, Remembrance Parades, etc. We have a new CO, new RSM, new Training Major, new Senior Ma'am, new TOT, new MTO, RQMS, various SSMs, acquired a second lieutenant-colonel in the Regiment. . . .

'PRIVATE WIRE' OF 1975

In the summer of '75 we returned to Crowborough, scene of our first camps in '67 and '68. The sun shone, mostly, and although we missed the freedom and open spaces we had enjoyed on Salisbury Plain the year before, we had a good exercise and, in between communicating, a good social life. Such was the rapport established with the local community that the first extension of licensing hours in living memory was granted for 90 Sqn's party.

We also established a newspaper, 'The Private Wire', which was issued daily. After a slow start when the Editor had to invent news, write and reply to letters and dress up 'small ads', it rapidly gained an enthusiastic readership and about 500 would-be contributors, so that the second-in-command, who had been 'volunteered' as Editor had to wade knee-deep through hopeful scripts each morning. Despite pleas to continue on a regular basis throughout the year it closed down at the end of camp, to the immense relief of the Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Russell Adey,** and his staff.

One real highlight was Beating Retreat by the Band, who excelled themselves in a magnificent display of marching and counter-marching on the uneven surface of the football field.

ARMEX '75

Armex was held in Harrogate in August 1975 and we were there. We provided an LMC detachment in the TAVR stand and ran an Officers Mess on behalf of TAVRA.

Most of the load fell on the permanent staff, particularly **Maj Roy Simmons,** the Training Major, and 49 Sqn from Leeds.

The exhibition itself was a great success, and we were modestly pleased with our contribution.

GLORIOUS '76

The glorious summer of 1976 ended just as we left for BAOR. The weekend of our departure was marked by storm-force winds, torrential rain, floods and other natural disasters. The air party travelled from Teesside airport in RAF VC10s but even they were tossed around, while the road party did not look forward to the voyage from Hull to Europort. However, the ferry was super-stabilised and they were able to travel across to Holland, still in the rain, unaffected by travel-sickness.

For the first time all the Regiments of 12 Group took the field together. We were in our usual area west of the Rhine, with elements up with 36 Regt near Dortmund, and a substantial commitment in and around the exercise hub in the gym at Rheindahlen. On a previous recce the CO, **Lt Col Colin Beadle,** had found a small disused camp near Wildenrath into which HQ and 50 Sqns were crammed, while 49 and 90 enjoyed the comforts of living under canvas out in the woods.

In the course of our stay we went from 'quick canter' to 'fast gallop' and then switched smoothly to 'jog trot', as the real time staff participation took effect. We cleared a lot of traffic, sorted out a few mistakes and all learned a lot. Half-way through we were called upon to answer a cry for help from 16 Sig Reg, and despatched a group of switchboard operators with **Capt Mary Nicholson** and **Sgt Jean Douglas** to Commcen Kilo. This put additional pressure on our remaining switchboard crews, but service was maintained.

MAYORAL BED PROBLEM

As in all BAOR exercises we had a number of visitors. We were delighted to see the CSO again—the breakdown of his helicopter at Commcen Oscar was just a coincidence—and our other visitors included **Brig Peter Prescott** from North-East District and the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough. The Mayor's bed collapsed early in his stay with us, thus giving the LAD a chance to show their welding skills.

When it was all over and we were ready to return, the weather broke and we arrived back on one of the wettest days of the year. But somehow the journey home always goes very smoothly and vehicles got back to TAVR centres, were unloaded, cleaned and parked up in remarkably good time.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have a new CO. **Lt Col Keith Olds** left us in the autumn of 1975 to go to a staff appointment in 1 (BR) Corps, where he claims to be working very hard. **Lt Col Colin Beadle,** our new CO, is a home-grown product, having 'switched' from Regular to Volunteer.

We have a new Training Major, **Maj George Finney,** replacing **Maj Roy Simmons** who has left the Service. Our RSM is now **WO1 Rod Dixon** ('dog-end' Dixon or 'tab hunter' to his friends). The RSM, when we last wrote to THE WIRE, was **WO1 Reg Heath** who is now **Lt Reg Heath,** serving with 21 Sig Regt at Gutersloh. **RQMS Len Brown** has taken the place of **RQMS Ken Woods** who with several years of good volunteer training behind him is now sergeant-majoring with 22 Regt.

We were delighted when our Ops Officer, **Maj Peter Halsey,** was promoted to Lieutenant-colonel (TOT). Our TOT, **Maj Rod Walker (V),** has left after more years of service than any of us can count. His replacement is **Lt Ron Williams** from 81 Sig Sqn (V). **Maj Dorothy Clark** (WRAC) has stepped down from the 'Senior Ma'am' position but will remain with us for a while. **Maj Lee Tibbs** (WRAC) has taken over. **Capt Bill Langmaid** has left us to RARO, while **Lt Rod McConnell** has gone to the delights of 81 Sig Sqn (V).

As we go to press we are about to say farewell to our Adjutant, **Capt Alan Brown,** who is going to 8 Sig Regt on promotion, and welcome **Capt Peter Studd** in his place.

WO1 John Robinson, our first Senior Volunteer WO, completed his tour in October and **WO1 Derek Graham** has taken over. The volunteer WO2s have been shuffled around with almost bewildering speed and we now have **RQMSs Dick Richardson** and **Keith Coates** training; **WOs Harry Bent** and **David Sparks, Eddie Egan, Derek Probert** and **Bert North** as SSMs of HQ, 49, 50 and 90 Sqns, respectively. Our first volunteer Y of S is **Ssgt Alan Tibbett.**

Our F of S, **WO2 John Gallagher,** and WRAC PSI, **WO2 Ollie Addison,** are now married and manage to see each other from time to time, whenever we fail to find a good military reason to separate them.

71 Sig Regt (V) Bromley

A DOUBLE FIRST

JUST to get the new year off to a good start a very welcome piece of news arrived on my desk from the Training Group. On Recruits course no. 28 the Regiment not only had the best shot but also the overall best recruit. **Sig Barry Titmarsh** of 265 (Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) was the best shot and **Sig Trevor Pyne** of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) was the Best Recruit. That has certainly set an excellent standard, now all we have to do is to keep it up!

January also saw the first dinner and social event held by the Regimental shooting team. The team meet regularly at the Regimental hut at Bisley to train under the guidance of **Lt R. P. G. Duxbury** who loves to amuse yours truly by signing his official letters as 'Regimental musketry officer' (must be something to do with being a Yeoman). **Lt Duxbury** is rumoured to have a highly secret long-term plan for the shooting team to achieve a major coup at Bisley. Certainly, if current progress is any guide then the Infantry had better look out. My spies inform me that the dinner was a great success with the meal itself in the London Scottish hut and the entertainment back in the Regimental hut. There is a story circulating that in the boat race the team under the RSM, **Bill Naismith,** won because the RSM started with an empty glass. I presume from this that the glasses started off with whisky in and he just couldn't wait.

ANOTHER PARTY

I wouldn't like you all to conclude that life in this Regiment is just one long round of parties but I could not let these notes pass without mention of the permanent staff devolution indoctrination session. At least, that's what it turned out to be although it was heavily disguised as a Burns' night. The occasion was the second of the permanent staff dinners and **RSM Bill Naismith** decided to have a birthday party for Robert Burns and to ask all the permanent staff along to help. Accordingly, on January 28, some 40 members of the permanent staff and their ladies (and a sprinkling of guests) assembled at Lincolns Inn in central London to drink whisky, eat haggis and learn about Burns. **F o S Ben Lawson** gave a splendid ovation to the haggis and then, thankfully for the sassenachs present, stabbed it to make sure it was dead. So the evening went on with a toast to the lassies (courtesy of **Mrs Linda Knock**) a toast to the laddies from the Adjutant, a toast to the Troops from the Colonel, a quick run down on Burns' life story from **Maj David Lamb** and back to **Ben Lawson** for something totally unintelligible that ran to about six pages and involved drinking large measures of 'Scottish wine'. It was a memorable evening and a special vote of thanks must go to **Sgt Pete Marsh** for keeping the haggis under control in the kitchen whilst he cooked it.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Burns' night was also a chance to say farewell to **Maj John Garratt** and his wife **Jane. Maj Garratt** has been Training Major for the past three years and has now decided to take the plunge and to try being a civilian. I know there are many people around the Corps as a whole who will join us in the Regiment in wishing **John** and **Jane** all the best in the future.

To replace **John** we have **Maj Trevor Hendren** and his wife, **Ruth,** who join us from Harrogate along with their two, three, four or five children depending on what the doctor's latest estimate is! As long as the Training Major hands out double measures of cigars for twins I am sure we will all be happy.

We have also recently said goodbye to **Sgt Colin Parsonage** and **Rita,** his wife, who left us for Germany and also our RQMS, **Eddy Phillips,** and his wife, **Margaret,** who have now left the Army to try their hands at being civilians. To replace **WO2 Phillips** we have **WO2 Jeoff Bartet** who joins us from 14 Sig Regt. Just to show it's all go in the Regiment we have also just lost **WO2 Iris Wackett** on retirement and welcome **Sgt Barbara Johnstone** as her replrcement.

The final note in this motley round up is to offer congratulations to our chief clerk, **Ssgt Dave Vockings** on his recent marriage and to wish him and **Brenda** all the best in the future.

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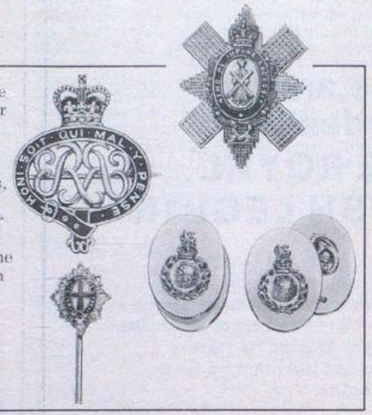

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April 1977

THE wire

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 4**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

The final photograph of 216 Para Sig Sqn before they were re-designated 6 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron on April 1. The picture was taken in front of the World War II Dakota aircraft, outside the Depot of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot. This was the last occasion on which the Red Beret and Parachute Smock were worn by all members of the Squadron. A fuller account is included on page 154

VALE

Miss Molly Hyde-Parker has served as the Senior Welfare Officer of the Royal Signals Association since November 1949 and retires at the end of this month. During the past 27 years, it is assessed—on a conservative basis—that Molly has dealt with some 15,000 Welfare 'cases', each involving detailed and patient research. A very high proportion have been concerned with the relief of poverty and distress and all have been handled with humanity, sympathy and fairness.

Molly has performed her duties with devotion, marked ability and warm human understanding. Many thousands have derived new hope and encouragement from her efforts and all our readers—serving and retired—will join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

All will also be glad to know that Molly's retirement is to be marked by a special luncheon on the occasion of the Branch Representatives Meeting of the Association, later this month, in London.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our monthly cycle of publication means, regrettably, that achievements are reported several weeks after the event—and normally in Unit Notes. As we explained last month, the final proof reading of THE WIRE does afford the opportunity to incorporate significant items and we are delighted to illustrate this by highlighting some recent successes in the sporting field.

Pride of place must go to **28th Signal Regiment** who defeated **SEME, Bordon** 2—0 in the final of the Army Football Cup at Aldershot on April 6. A climax to a wonderful season for the St. Tonis XI.

An all Corps final saw **1 Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron** win the BAOR Minor Units Football Trophy during March. In a finish of high drama, determined by 'penalties', they defeated **227 Signal Squadron** 5—4.

4 Task Force Squadron of **2 Armoured Division** achieved an equally notable success by winning recently the BAOR Minor Units Army Hockey Cup.

And all will wish to congratulate **8th Signal Regiment** on reaching the final of the Army Rugby Cup and after a great struggle going down to the **Royal Regiment of Wales.** We can't win 'em all!

An Important Handover

Photo courtesy of PR HQ BAOR

Our photograph was taken outside HQ BAOR on February 28. On this date **Maj Gen John Sturge** *(right)* began handing over to his successor, **Maj Gen Peter Baldwin.**

Maj Gen Peter Baldwin joined the Army Technical School, Arborfield, at the age of 15 and was commissioned into the Corps in 1947. During his first tour of duty, he was radio officer in Berlin during the emergency Airlift. In 1950, he was a signal officer with HQ 27th Infantry Brigade, the first British formation to go to the Korean War and earned a Mention in Despatches during the Borneo operations in 1967.

After teaching at the Staff College, Camberley, command of 13th Signal Regiment (1969–71) preceded an appointment as Secretary for Studies at the NATO Defence College in Rome. He has since commanded 2 Signal Group and became Senior British Staff Officer at HQ Allied Forces Central Europe in January 1976. **Maj Gen Baldwin** assumed his new appointment on March 3 and, thus, we have the first Apprentice Tradesman to be promoted to the rank of Major-General in our Corps.

Maj Gen John Sturge was trained as a Radio Technician during 1945–46 and was, also, commissioned into the Corps in 1947. He commanded a wing of young soldiers in the Boys Squadron, 1st Training Regiment and set up the Technician Training Wing at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

He has instructed at the School of Signals and at Sandhurst, held regimental appointments in the Canal Zone, BAOR, with Gurkha Signals in Malaya and Hong Kong and staff appointments in Operations, Staff Duties, Intelligence and Signals. His commands were of 2nd Signal Regiment and 12 Signal Group. He was CSO BAOR from June 1975 to March 1977.

Maj Gen Sturge took up the appointment as Assistant Chief of Staff (Signals) on March 28 and as Chairman of the Defence Signal Board will, therefore, have a continuing interest and influence in our affairs.

The Freedoms of Cities and Boroughs

Report by Lt Col Denis Dickson

THE origin of granting the Freedom of Cities and Boroughs can be traced back to the time of the Roman empire when to be 'Born Free' as a citizen of Rome contained many privileges and rights which were not available to citizens of other cities. Best-known instance of this was St Paul, who although a Jew, was also a citizen of Rome and exercised his right as such a citizen to be tried before Caesar, instead of being tried before a prejudiced court in Jerusalem. The granting of 'Freedoms' developed in England over the centuries and was of particular importance to the trade and craft guilds, when charters were granted by successive Sovereigns in many cities where none but 'Freemen' were allowed to trade wholesale and retail. As times changed the need for these particular freedoms became less and, by 1855 had virtually fallen into disuse. Now the 'Freedom' of a City or Borough is conferred as a mark of honour to someone of distinction or someone who has rendered eminent service to the City or Borough.

The practice of conferring the honorary 'Freedom of Entry' upon Regiments is a fairly recent one. The earliest is believed to have been in 1943 when the Corporation of Sheffield conferred the honour upon the York and Lancaster Regt. However, its roots lie deep in the history of local and central government and affords an example of the power of the old Cities and Boroughs in relation to the Central Government. Of these the Cities of London and Edinburgh are the most notable. In the 18th century, when the Army required more men, it was the custom to send a recruiting officer and party to various cities and towns and to draw public attention by the steady beat of a drum. In the Cities of London and Edinburgh, and some others, the Army had to obtain prior permission from the Corporation, which was not always granted, to enter and 'beat the drum'. It was also necessary to obtain the consent of the Corporation before troops could march through the towns. Hence developed the practice of conferring, as an honour upon individual regiments, permission 'to march through the town with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying'.

This practice has not been in use in Germany until fairly recently. Now the Germans have adopted the British tradition and a number of 'Freedoms' have been granted to British regiments by towns and cities in Germany, as a sign of mutual respect and co-operation, and after close relationship has been established over a number of years between a town and a particular regiment.

Freedoms which are known to have been granted within the Corps are as follows:

The Corps—Borough of Richmond in 1964
—Borough of Blandford Forum in 1972
Army Apprentice College—Borough of Harrogate in 1972
7 Sig Regt—Herford, Germany, in 1972
14 Sig Regt—City of Gloucester in 1966
16 Sig Regt—Krefeld, Germany, in 1972
22 Sig Regt—Lippstadt, Germany, in 1974
28 Sig Regt—Tonisvorst, Germany, in 1976
34 (Northern) Sig Regt—Borough of Tyne/Teesside and West Riding in 1969
35 (South Midland) Sig Regt—City of Birmingham in 1970
45 (Essex) Sig Regt, now part of 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt—Borough of Wanstead and Woodford in 1963
49 (Yorkshire) Sig Regt, now part of 34 (Northern) Sig Regt—City of Leeds in 1967.

There may well be others, particularly amongst Volunteer Units. If anyone knows of any, please report details to Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Historical Officer, Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS—1977

FULL details of the Blandford and Catterick reunions have been passed to all branches of the Association and to individual members requesting them.

The dates are:

BLANDFORD	—	June 12
CATTERICK	—	June 25–26

Corps Old-Timer makes his mark in Tasmania

WE publish below extracts from a letter received by **Maj Gen Michael Whistler, CB, CBE,** from a well-known Corps character of past years—**Maj John Thom.** A number of our readers, particularly those who served in pre-war India, will remember him as Cpl Thom—an instrument mechanic. His great love was horses—and as we learn from his letter, the fair sex had their attractions, too!

John Thom, who writes from Glen Shee, Milabena RD 96, Tasmania 7321, Australia, has with his own hands and the sweat of his brow carved out for himself a 279-acre farm from virgin country—a remarkable effort. In his letter he remembers a number of Corps personalities but one thing is clear—his love of horses is as strong as ever.

. . . It has been my intention to write this many times during the past 25 years during which period I have owned my 200-acre farm.

As an OR, who was particularly appreciative of the attractions of the opposite sex, I found service in India hard to bear. The one great antidote which made life bearable was horse riding and the opportunity to hunt with the Nerbudda Vale Hunt and later, when commissioned, with the Peshawor Vale Hunt for which I owed (and felt) gratitude to you, **Jock Plummer** and **Desmond Goldsmith.**

I left the Corps in 1945, having been selected for a course on Civil Affairs and eventually joined the Colonial Administrative Service in Malaya. I thoroughly enjoyed my spell of five years in Malaya as a District Officer and Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat, but as home rule was to come into effect, I decided to go farming here in Tasmania in December 1950. During my spell in Malaya I met **'Jock' Heap** and **Desmond Goldsmith** who had commanded the Command Sigs Regt at that time there, also **Charles Ommaney** and last, but not least, a Naik Mohd Yusuf and a Lance Naik who turned up in my district from a Division of Signals that had returned from Indonesia. These chaps had been with me in Nowshere and gone down into the Arakan, Burma, with my old 71 Ind Inf Bde Section.

Whilst in Malaya I became enamoured of the American author Louis Bromfield's books 'Out of the Earth' and 'Malabar Farm', which dealt with converting arid wastes and exhausted earths into productive pasture. I accordingly bought 279 acres of bracken- and log-covered country here and set about doing what Bromfield did. It was a monumental struggle but after 15 years' hard labour I cleared it, whilst rising inflation swallowed the benefits I gained. I actually enjoyed beating 'the daylights' out of this undertaking.

I have found myself back in the saddle again. I hunted with our local 'Drag' last year. A thoroughbred filly I broke in about six months ago bucked me off and shook me up a bit so am not quite as keen as of old, but still enjoy hacking on my stallion. I now have a thoroughbred stallion, one 4 years throughbred mare, a seven-eighths thoroughbred mare, a pony and three other young horses coming along. I run about 60 or 70 head of cattle on the farm to augment my salary as an Assayer in a local Iron Pellet works.

Tasmania is a quaint place, some years behind the times (which is one of its attractions), mild climate, large trout, which kids here get out of the local lakes and rivers with worm and frog bait. Some of these trout weigh between 10 and 20lb, much bigger than the glassy-eyed 4-pounder I saw in a glass case in a pub in Glen Orchy.

I have met a few old Indian Army 'Koi Hai's' who live here. I was saddened to read in THE WIRE of the demise of Sir William Scott. He was instrumental in giving me my first 'stripe', doing so against the RSM's wishes, who regarded me (with some justification) as one who spent too much time chasing the local girls and touring the many pubs. He knew me for a 'Barrack Rat', whose forebears on both sides went back in the Sappers for three generations. My initial schooling being in the RE and ASC School at Aldershot, where I was also a member of the 2nd Aldershot Troop of Boy Scouts in 1920 with ex-**Maj (QM) Chidgey.**

I retire from my job in 1984, unless they find out my age, which I think a remote possibility, I am fit and hope you and your family are also. . . .

Request from Author

From: **Mr C. Lord**
Dear Sir,

I am compiling information for a book on the world's Army Signal Corps. The aim of the book is to show as many different badges, insignia and unit emblems that are unique to Signals. A brief history will be included. If you would like your unit device/emblem included, or if you are an overseas reader, your Corps included, please contact me at the following address.

Yours sincerely,
C. Lord.

Unit 4,
3 Camden Road,
Mt Albert,
Auckland, New Zealand.

St Boniface Church Reunion

From: **Col R. N. Cooke**
Dear Sir,

I know that many members of the Corps and their families have sung in the St Boniface Church Choir and Choral Society at JHQ Rheindahlen. Many more have attended the church.

A special Choir Reunion Service is to be held at the Chapel of Chelsea Barracks, on Whit Sunday, May 29, 1977, at 6pm to which all past members of the choir and congregation are cordially invited. Ex-choirmasters should write to me at the address shown below for details including the music to be practised, but congregation members should just arrive. After the service refreshments are being provided and there will be an opportunity for old friends to chat.

The service is being led by Padre Murphy, helped by other Padres who have served at Rheindahlen. The music is being arranged by four past choirmasters spanning the period 1965–76; Mr Michael Mates, MP, Lt Cols Ken Lloyd and Peter Hole, and Wing Cdr Ken Diffey.

This should be a memorable reunion. Please pass the word on. Further details can be obtained from:

C/o
Chaplains' Branch,
HQ SouthEast District,
Aldershot, Hants.

Yours sincerely,
Col R. N. Cooke

Looking Forward

From: **Lt Col J. MacLean** (Royal Signals)
Dear Sir,

I read with fascination the reminiscences of your veteran correspondent, and look forward in my turn to the day when an ambidextrous, well-disciplined, administratively capable Royal Signals tennis team takes on the World at Wimbledon—and wins.

As another veteran, I for my part am much more concerned with the short-term objective of producing a Corps tennis team capable of winning the Army League. Our performance over the past two years has been extremely poor, even though we have within Royal Signals players whose ability equals that of their opponents: two Corps players reached the final stages in the 1976 Army Championships, and one went on to represent the Army in the Inter-Service Championships.

To enable the selection committee to assess the available players, and choose the strongest possible team for the coming season, it has been decided to stage the 1977 Corps Tennis Championships earlier in the year than is usual. They will now take place at Blandford on May 24–28, and full details are being sent to Units in due course. I hope that Unit Tennis Officers will give these championships the maximum possible publicity, and encourage as many players of unit standard or better to attend. Weather permitting we will promise plenty of tennis for all. Let 1977 be the year when Royal Signals tennis emerges from the doldrums.

Yours faithfully,
J. MacLean,
President Corps Tennis

Headquarters South-West District
Sherford Camp,
Trull Road,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 4RF

LOOKING BACK

BOYS' COMPANY 1946

Where are they now?

Inspired by the January issue, we are indebted to K. Beadle (formerly WO2 (ORQMS)) for this photograph of the 1946 intake to the Boys' Company which, we hope, brings back memories to some of our readers

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? No 6

Report by WO2 (F of S) J. Hill

Judging by the dateline of July 1956, if any of these recruits of 34 Troop, Regular Sqn, Gallowgate, stayed the course, they should be coming very close to pensionable age. But who are they, and where are they now? Names that have been mentioned are: Tom Kerr, George Selby, 'Darky' Williams and 'Jock' Green. Did they go out? Did they join the TAVR? or are they still serving, as is WO1 Bill Kerr, currently the School Warrant Officer at the Trade Training School here in 8 Sig Regt. A younger version of Bill is centre row, third from the right (angelic little devil, isn't he—you should see him now). Since those days, Bill has served in Cyprus, Singapore, Borneo, Malaya, Aden, Gibraltar, Northern Ireland, Kenya, Norway, BAOR and the UK

Pictured in a 'before/after' pose, we now see Bill here in the Trade Training School, where he is responsible for the day-to-day discipline of a large empire—with the sometimes unenviable task of preparing for the reception and well-being of the many dignitaries who visit the TTS. But enough of Bill Kerr—where are the rest of you? Bill would love to hear from any of his old comrades of yesteryear

'SECRET' HISTORY OF THE CORPS

No 6—HALCYON DAYS

by John Hole

ARRIVING on my tod in a snowstorm I found Reed Hall, a wartime camp, a very dreary camp, just outside Colchester—this was on April 3, 1922, the time of the Kingfisher, and was supposed to denote calm, peaceful and happy days. That first impression was depressing but later proved to be false. For the next few months up to the time I reached the Land of Fragrant Streams, turned out to be the one period that I often look back on as those halcyon days, of a long and terrible life.

There was no NAAFI in those early days. Our canteen consisted of a large wooden hut with a bare floor. At one end a trestle table with a tea urn on it; a few tables and chairs. It sported an old piano. This was in the days of the Nackerbee—Navy and Army Canteen Board.

Maj Sampson was CO of the 4 Div Sigs. Two persons impressed me—**Capt Bridgland** (the only Signal Officer to wear the ribbon of the DFC), a gentleman with a cultured voice and good manners. I was to meet him again years later when he took over our Signal Section in China, as I was saying goodbye. The other personality was **Sgt Kneebone**—a tough riding instructor who had won his spur at Weedon. Feared by all, he and I seemed to click like a couple of billiard balls.

At peace

I was given the job of Postman and twice a day had to collect, on my bike, the mail from Div HQ. There I often saw the GOC, **Maj Gen Shute** (more anon). I was also given the job of billiard marker, for the camp had a first-class billiard table in a separate hut which was kept locked. The chap who handed over to me was a really good player and knew the art of keeping a full-sized table in tip-top condition. He was delighted to learn I had a proper billiard room at my home in Clapham. He completed my education and left for civvy street at peace with the world.

Unlikely response

One day **Gen Shute** inspected us. Most of those on parade wore medals. He noticed one man wearing ribbons but no medals. The culprit made the excuse that he must have left his medals on his pyjamas. Another man who looked rather old but wore no medals when asked what he was doing during the war replied, 'Minding my own business'. He had been on munitions and joined up when the balloon was lowered.

New fields

My name appeared on orders to play centre forward at hockey against the Leinster Regt. The left back was **Sgt Kneebone.** The rest were officers who had all been to schools where the finer points of the game had been taught. I had never played hockey in my life before. But orders were orders. Being quick on the uptake, none realised my deficiency—but it was a bloody battle, as is with Irishmen.

Sitting in our miserable canteen one evening I found that there was a practice dance. A **Miss Watts,** one of the those rare breed who do good by stealth, asked me to dance. I assured her I could not dance. But she ordered me to! Being a good soldier, I obeyed. I went round in a daze. 'I thought you said you could not dance', she queried. 'It's true', I replied. 'You can now. You must be a natural.' 'You mean a liar or dancer?' 'Both', she said. We both laughed and my education continued. So the sun broke out on the foothills of my young life. I had begun to live.

New talents applied

Only officers were allowed to wear civvies. But I had a P.P. with permission to wear plain clothes (can you hear the click of billiard balls?). One Saturday afternoon I walked out of the camp wearing brown shoes, yellow socks, flannel trousers, brown tweed jacket, white shirt and a straw boater. As I passed the guard I was given a butt salute and I duly raised my straw hat. The sentry recognised me but thought I had just left Sandhurst. I went to a dance at the Moot Hall and got dancing with a young lady. She insisted that I meet her father. Guess who? **Gen Shute,** in civvies, of course. He was delighted to meet me! He thought I had just come down from London on business.

Sgt Kneebone asked me if I would teach his wife to dance. I did. She was so pleased to acquire the main social grace that she asked me to teach her husband. I did. At a big dance some time later I watched them both dancing beautifully and looking like a honeymoon couple. That gave me great pleasure. The billiard balls had clicked again. Besides learning the true art of billiards, hockey, dancing, I also added tennis to my repertoire. Halcyon days! I was indeed a Kingfisher.

Astair production line

On February 16, 1922, I sailed for China on the SS *Huntsend.* After nine days we dropped anchore in Valletta Harbour. There we found that the ship had been requisitioned. Mustapha Kemal (later Ataturk) was making a nuisance of himself and Smyrna was burning in Turkey. **Gen Harrington** took all the troops from Malta to settle his hash. As far as I could gather 13 men were left to defend Malta. We had been dumped at Fort Tegne in Sliema. This 'Army' consisted of two corporals of the Pay Corps; three Gunners; five Signals and three Sappers. We led the life of Riley. In the morning after breakfast I got one of the lads to play the fiddle and I taught the rest to dance. It was not long before we all became 'Astairs'. It had the effect of keeping them all away from the low dives of Strada Stretta.

The Governor of Malta was **Field Marshal Lord Plumer,** who had commanded the Second Army in France. He came to our church one Sunday and inspected his new army. He looked us up and down and remarked that it was a bit of a comedown. He had always taken my fancy with his snow-white blow-out moustache; his monocle and his rosy cheeks. He said: 'Let's all go in and praise the Lord in a loud voice'. We did.

Wolves in evidence

In the afternoon I used to go roller skating and in the evening we all went over to Valetta to a dance. I had as a constant dancing partner the wife of a sergeant in the artillery who was in Turkey. I allowed no one to go near her for two reasons. She was the ideal dancing partner and she needed someone to protect her from the wolves. There was no funny business.

In the fullness of time, Ataturk ascended his throne and the P & O boat SS *Delta* was detailed to take our little band to the Far East. The day before I sailed, a young chap in the RFA asked me if he could take over my job as dancing partner. I said yes. Later, by bush telegraph, I learned that he had been given three years for attempted rape. It just goes to show!

Incentive payment

The SS *Delta* was a cargo boat that carried a few passengers. Our first stop was Marseilles. To digress—in 1919, when demobilisation was well under way, the 'powers that be' realised that they were running out of soldiers. So they offered £100 to all ex-Service men to enlist for one year (£200 for two years). Hence in our squad at Maresfield we had all kinds, including a chap who had just done five years in the French Foreign Legion. I learnt much from him. So at Marseilles I visited the HQ of the Foreign Legion and found that what he had told me was true. Very different to 'Beau Geste'. I was there for three days. The franc was 128·5 to the £ and I spent 15 shillings and had a wonderful time.

We stopped at every port unloading and loading and going ashore made us seem like millionaires. At Colombo I found I had been down to play for the Army at cricket against a civvy team. It was very different to playing in Sussex and Essex. We dropped some of the spare files at Singapore where we spent three enervating days.

In the false dawn I had my first sight of Hong Kong Harbour. The finest harbour in the world according to those who had seen Rio. I was to know the waters in and around like the back of my hand.

Thus ended my halcyon days. The journey from Reed Hall had taken six months and I got the impression that at all the stations along the line the troops had a cushy number.

Get THE WIRE and read my next article, 'The Land of Fragrant Streams'.

STILL LOOKING BACK

'K' SECTION, 3 COY EGYPT SIGNALS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM 1934

Where are you? *Left to right, back row:* Frank Bibby, 'Rusty' Dyson, Jimmy James, Don Smith, 'Busty' King. *Middle row:* Tim Healy, 'Badgy' Chambers, Sgt 'Jock' Laurie, F. Holbrow, ? Dobson. *Front row:* W. Dransfield and 'Busty' Beresford?

B. J. Jordan, of 24 Elmcroft, Fairview Avenue, Woking, Surrey GU22 7NX, Tel Woking 67924, would be pleased to hear from any of the old Egypt Signals members

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CYPRUS COMMUTERS

PATSALIDES TRAVEL OPENS IN LONDON

PATSALIDES TRAVEL, the leading Cypriot travel agency, have opened a branch in London at 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

Now members of H.M. Armed Forces can arrange their personal and family travel requirements conveniently knowing that they are dealing with the specialists.

Flights are daily from Heathrow on scheduled British Airways and Cyprus Airways. Patsalides offer these special fares to H.M. Forces.

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For further information, write, phone or call Mrs Cost at 01-263 4203. 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7, and Cyprus Offices at Limassol—119 Makarios Avenue, PO Box 1311, Tel: 051 53222. Larnaca—Kition Buildings, PO Box 395, Tel: 041 55301/2.

Movements

Officers

APRIL 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin	CSO HQ BAOR
Maj (QM) W. A. Barnes	HQ Rheindahlen Garrison
Maj B. J. Burke	7 Sig Regt
Capt P. A. Cooper	ADP Development Team BAOR
Capt (QM) M. J. Dunmall, BEM	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col T. R. Eamey	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj A. F. Eastburn	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2 Lt R. J. J. Ellis	School of Signals (Course)
Capt A. H. Gibb	22 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) J. E. Gill	MOD (DM(A))
Capt G. H. Goodman	Computer Centre BAOR
Maj R. P. Gravestock	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt A. Helm	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. S. A. Henderson	13 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. N. Last, OBE	MOD (DMO) (HS)
Maj A. P. H. Marley	16 Sig Regt
2 Lt T. S. Maynes	School of Signals (Course)
Capt H. A. C. Meekings	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. C. Milford	ADP Development Team BAOR
Maj C. R. M. Noonan	Royal Aircraft Establishment
Maj C. J. Rayner	9 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) R. J. Robinson, MBE	MOD DSS (A)
Lt S. J. Smith	639 Sig Troop (94 Loc Regt RA)
Lt Col I. O. J. Spracklíng	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Maj R. W. Stark	RARDE
Maj A. L. W. G. Steane	244 Sig Sqn
Capt M. K. Stretch	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Thewlis	21 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. P. Vann, MBE	BATUS
Capt (TOT) C. G. Webb	5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (HS)
Lt Col T. H. Wheawell	HQ BAOR

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

APRIL 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (F of S) T. Kay	242 Sig Sqn (Mormond Hill)
WO2 (F of S) A. G. A. Brittenden	227 Sig Sqn (ALFCE)
WO2 (F of S) J. N. Rogers	241 Sig Sqn
WO2 E. W. Percival	35 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt D. E. Martindale	10 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Anderson	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt R. E. G. Thomas	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. I. Harris	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt G. Cuthbertson	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt A. P. Holland	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt D. M. Osborne	1 Artillery Bde HQ Sig Sqn
Sgt R. W. Mee	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt J. B. Harvey	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt D. Malcolm	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt J. E. Matthison	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt D. E. Webb	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt A. W. Blackwell	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. G. Cartwright	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt C. E. Ackroyd	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt N. L. Potter	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt P. L. Hyatt	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. G. Hardie	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt J. Smith	11 Armd Bde HQ Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Rankin	1 Artillery Bde HQ Sig Sqn
Sgt P. G. Bovenizer	2 Armd Div HQ Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. Steele	HQ APNORTH (BAE)
Sgt D. Brown	Project Wavell Military Team
Sgt A. C. Ross	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt A. S. Hunt	248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt R. W. Sellars	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt M. Smart	226 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sgt G. A. Muir	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt C. Brooks	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt B. M. Burton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Gallagher	11 Sig Regt ('D' Troop) Attached to 35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. Walker	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt D. Roper	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt H. B. Wishart	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt E. Massam	2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Farrell	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt P. Campbell	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn (British Army Element)
Sgt J. C. Wootton	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Stevenson	1 Div HQ Sig Regt
Sgt B. G. Duffield	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt N. G. Baird	School of Signals
Sgt V. H. Shillingford	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt R. P. Stokes	233 Sig Sqn

Welfare

FEBRUARY 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**33**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**29**
Amount spent	**£1,187·95**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, served 1930–45. In poor health for some years, he was looked after by his wife who died suddenly in December. The Association helped with a grant of £140 for funeral expenses and other needs. A letter received on his behalf is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

MR ——— has asked me to write and thank you all most sincerely for your wonderful help in paying for his dear wife's funeral expenses. It almost broke his heart to ask for help. But he is *so very proud* that his old Regiment was the only one to help him in his time of need.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1977:

	£
234 Sig Sqn	100·00
1 Artillery Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	23·73
49 (West Riding) Sig Sqn (V)	1·05
Rt Hon The Earl Kitchener	2·00
T. N. Barton-Ancliffe, Esq	2·00
H. G. V. Bloodworth, Esq	3·75
M. E. Holdsworth, Esq	1·00
A. D. Trevethick, Esq	100·00
	£233·53

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

MARRIAGES

Brannigan—Todd—On September 4 at St Andrew's Church, Darlington. Sgt Robert Brannigan (21 Sig Regt) to Carole Lesley Todd, daughter of Maj (TOT) R. S. Todd.

Stockill—Hewson—On April 2, 1977 at St Cuthbert's Church, Well, Capt Jim Stockill of Royal Signals Manning and Record Office and Jane Hewson, widow of the late Maj 'Big Jim' Hewson.

DEATH

Beckley—Capt Alfred Edward Beckley enlisted as a boy with the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1915. He joined the RE Signal Service in 1918. He transferred to the Corps in 1921 and retired in 1945. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster and died on December 21, 1976.

FOR SALE

Various items of Royal Signals Officer's uniform; including Field Officer's Forage Cap size 7¼; Officer's Coloured Side Hat size 7¼; Mess Kit; Waterproof Coat; Greatcoat and Same Browne with Sword frog. To fit person 5ft 6in 38/40 Chest, Waist 32/34, inside leg 29½in. Apply Maj F. Sloan (Retd.) Royal Signals Manning and Records.

The Garrard Silver Jubilee Collection

A commemorative edition of superb sterling silver, bearing the 1977 Silver Jubilee Hall-mark, featuring richly gilt reproductions of the ten Queen's Beasts. The edition is strictly limited to the following items, each individually numbered, with a signed Certificate of Authenticity.

2,500 individual Queen's Beasts Goblets (*The Black Bull of Clarence illustrated*) £250 each; 250 Lion & Unicorn pairs of Goblets £500 per pair; 250 pairs of Bon Bon Dishes (*one illustrated*) £625 per pair; 250 Lion & Unicorn pairs of Candlesticks (*the Lion illustrated*) £740 per pair; 25 Wine Jugs £2,000 each; 25 sets of ten Queen's Beasts Goblets £2,500 per set; 25 Centrepiece Bowls £4,950 each.

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Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

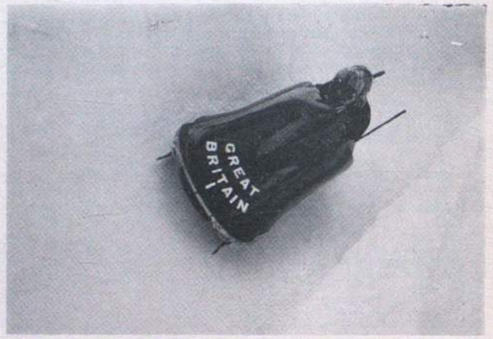
BOBSLEIGHING AT THE TOP

Report by Capt D. B. Jones, 21 Sig Regt

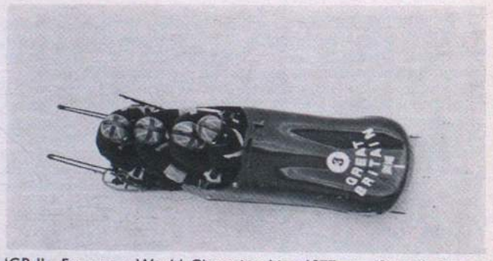
THE DAY OFF

THE trials and tribulations of five years' bobsleighing have at last begun to pay off, and in addition, the Corps is establishing itself on a broader base at the sport, with the successful introduction of **Cpl Davies** from the Regiment to the ice.

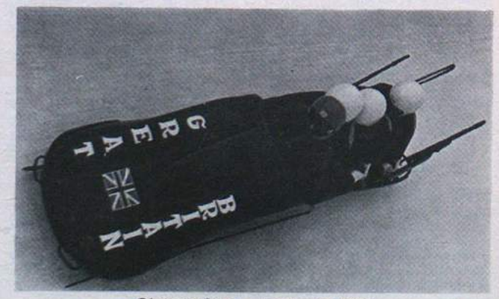
The season began with the British Championships, which incorporated the inter-Services event, on the Olympic track at Innsbruck and proved to be both interesting and successful. As I do not believe in 'Silent Heroes', **I have no hesitation in telling all that I achieved—Army Champion, Combined Services Champion, Captained the Army team to a win and, above all, drove the bobsleigh to win the British Championships, all with the aid of my talented brakeman from the infantry.** I returned to my Adjutant's desk for a short while before the two major international races started, the Nations Cup and the World Championships. The former was used as much for training as competition but it was an encouraging sign to finish two-tenths of a second (after four runs) behind the driver who was to become World Champion in the two-man bobsleigh. The World Championships in St Moritz proved to be a very fast and exciting combination of races for which I drove Great Britain's number one bobsleigh in both the two- and four-man event. We finished sixteenth in the two-man event, setting a new British track record but the four-man event is where we wanted to establish ourselves. I had an excellent crew behind me, all Army, and we had four days' practice before the race, during which the Swiss and East Germans repeatedly broke the track record and we were hovering about a second behind them. The race at the weekend was very close and exciting, particularly as we finished tenth—equal with the number one Austrian team. The British TV condescendingly called it a 'Very creditable performance'. The number two bobsleigh had its problems but **Cpl Davies** can tell you more of that and his impressions of bobsleighing:



'GB I'—Two-man World Championships 1977—Capt Jones and Lt Ogilvy-Wedderburn in 'Dyke' corner



'GB I'—Four-man World Championships 1977—in 'Sunny' Corner Capt Jones, Lt Carey, Lt Norton, Lt Ogilvy-Wedderburn



Olympic Games—Innsbruck 1976

Hanging on for dear life

'Ardent readers of this magazine will no doubt have read enough stories of Spearpoint '76 to fill an encyclopaedia. This article, however, is not about Spearpoint but about the thrills and spills which follow bobsleighing. Having not long arrived back in the unit from the exercise area, I was hastened into the Adjutant's office and cordially invited to go bobsleighing. I readily agreed to this unusual proposition, without really taking time to consider what, in fact, I was letting myself in for!

'I needn't have worried, for after my first run on the Olympic bob track in Innsbruck, my first thought was to get back to the start as quickly as possible to have another go. Of course, apprehension always exists at the start of a run, though it soon vanishes once you are on your way down and hanging on for dear life. The impression of speed at the bottom of the course is absolutely tremendous, by which time, of course, you are holding on even tighter! My job on the bobsleigh was to stop it at the end of the run which I am happy to say, on several occasions, I successfully accomplished even when my eyes were shut.

Army success

'After two weeks' training, however, I became fairly competent and in due course took part in the British Championships held during the first week of December. Congratulations must go here to the Adjutant, **Capt D. B. Jones,** on gaining an impressive victory fighting off strong competition. I finished fifth although my driver from the Queen's Dragoon Guards must take most of the credit. The Army consequently won the Inter-Services Shield.

The world scene

'I then took part in a number of minor races and was selected to crew on the four-man bobsleigh to compete at the World Championships in St Moritz. St Moritz is a town of mink coats, banks, Range-Rovers and watch shops. The rest of the space is taken up with hotels, restaurants and a superb bob tack. As I overheard one competitor remark, 'It's a real man's track'. It certainly makes the course at Innsbruck look like a child's toboggan run.

'If I was apprehensive at Innsbruck, then here I was positively terrified. A man-made course of 16 exacting bends and over 1,500m long; it descends through pleasant woody glades to a finish 1,722m above sea level, a total drop from start to finish of 130m. Over a period of time I found that my backside was turning black and blue caused mainly by hitting heavily against the walls. However, on reaching the finish safely the heart finally slows down a little and one is able to breathe normally again! We were set for the championship proper with the track thronging with eager spectators and camera crews in strategic positions.

Disaster

'Each competing nation is allowed two teams and each team is allowed four runs over a two-day period. Our team successfully completed two runs without too much anxiety, but, alas, disaster struck on the third run. The bobsleigh was driven quickly out of start, but as the number three was getting in he tripped and fell across the seats, effectively stopping me gaining entry to my place. Consequently, I had to stand on the back. Subsequently, when the bobsleigh hit the wall I lost my balance and fell on to the track. This little incident, unfortunately, disqualified us from taking any further participation in the competition.

'However, might I finally add that although it was rather a disappointing ending to an exciting season's bobsleighing, it had been a tremendous experience and I eagerly await the start of next season.'

The future

Suffice it to say that **Cpl Davies's** account is a modest one, considering the competition he was up against and the determination he showed. The season for me had purposely been a very short one as it was the post-Olympic year and I succeeded in doing what I considered to be the bare essentials to keep my rating as a driver. For **Cpl Davies** it was an insight into what goes into international sport and I am sure he will prove to be even more successful. My placing in the World Championship was the best Britain has had since the late 'sixties, so, hopefully, it bodes well for the next three years and the Corps will be represented internationally again.

COLOMBIAN AMAZONAS EXPEDITION 1977

Report by Ssgt (Y of S) P. S. Derry

FOLLOWING on the first article on the Colombian Amazonas Expedition 1977 (December 1976, p. 425), it is rather difficult to know where to begin. In those first few months since I arrived 'much' has happened in every conceivable direction.

Training under way

Our training programme was at first rigidly laid down to Monday and Tuesday of every week but it soon became apparent that this was virtually impossible because of the military members having such varying projects, not to mention such tasks as gaining sponsorship from every possible angle—food, equipment and, of course, money. However, some training has taken place including four of the team attending a Royal Marine Cox'n Course at Poole. Myself and **Sgt Dave Woodroff** (ACC) spent the first day of the course on the outboard motor maintenance and repair, followed by four exciting days with Geminis and 35-knot raiders. Not many seagulls stayed on the water especially when I started the outboard in gear, throttle wide open—thank goodness for the ACC, for hanging on to my heels!

ASM Gordon Sands (REME) and **Ssgt Geoff Tancred** (REME), also on the course, had to stick two days on the outboards which gave **Dave** and I some joyous moments. We had already practised our 'power beach landings' so were able to watch from the shore as **Gordon** and **Geoff** raced to the shore forgetting to close the throttle and ending up in the boat shed. Great nights were spent starting up bar stools and roaring round the RM Mess.

All our other training is done when and where possible. Such as the days travelling round in civvies in private cars, stopping, throwing out a long wire and calling up Bordon on the 320. Amazing how much instruction you can get into such strange instructional periods.

All the military team managed to get together for five days and base ourselves at Okehampton. Such skills as rock-climbing, pot-holing and the inevitable mad dash across Dartmoor. We also had a brief but exciting few hours with the Royal Marines Raiding Squadron at Plymouth. **Sgt Ian Tutt** (REME) and myself found it quite unnerving to see a 40-hp outboard fly off the transom of our Gemini. This was after a lengthy lecture by a Royal Marine Cox'n explaining that it couldn't happen if the clamps were tight. So he gave us a practical demo with a tight turn at full throttle. Fortunately, the outboard safety chain was on. Expensive things engines!

Trials hitch

Unfortunately, the manpackable satellite unit we were going to use had hiccups in trials. This meant that our HF link with the UK had to be more positive. It was pointed out to me that an active loop antenna array was being used by a military unit in the UK for one of its overseas' links. After one or two enquiries and an enjoyable visit, the firm manufacturing this equipment agreed to sponsor us by setting up and loaning the Expedition this antenna.

Two more firms have kindly agreed to supply us with equipment. One a peak and notch filter and the other with a 65ft sectional mast ideal for our sloping vee.

PR and functions

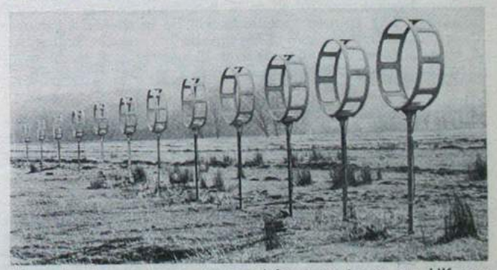
One Monday morning the Press and TV invaded our secluded world at Guadaloupe Lodge, Bordon, clicking cameras and asking lots of questions. However, our main headline was that **Geoff Tancred** had left his oily overalls over our Reliant (custom built) moon buggy's battery and **Geoff** practised a Naval smoke screen escape in front of the cameras.

Escalating from this day, three of the military team and **Dr Bob Howells** (leader of the medical team) appeared on BBC 1 in 'Pebble Mill at one'. An experience not to be forgotten and it really is true that free beer tastes better. . . .

On March 20 the Expedition's representative football team takes on the Ex-Portsmouth Championship and Professional XI at Bordon to raise funds. We are offering a football signed by the players of Southampton and Manchester United FCs as a prize for the winning programme number. How to keep that ball under lock and key until the match?

Sailing date near

All the military stores and equipment and civilian supplies are gradually arriving, which brings about problems for our QM, **Capt Stuart Cameron** (REME), of the accounting and packing ready to catch the boat on April 20. We are really beginning to see daylight now. Tripping over boxes of coffee, tubes of glue, small generators and radio stores, as we step inside the Lodge, makes us realise that the jungle and its river will soon be upon us. And then the phone rings. . . .



The active loop antenna array used for reception at our UK rear link detachment

The Expedition sat on its Amazon Queen
(before the smoke screen)

Left to right: Capt John Saunders (REME), Ssgt Geoff Tancred (REME), WO1 (AS) Gordon Sands, Sgt Dave Woodroffe (ACC), Ssgt (Y of S) Phil Derry (Royal Signals), Capt Adrian Goldsack (REME), Capt Stuart Cameron (REME), Sgt Ian Tutt (REME), Ssgt John Gallagher (RE)

JOINT SERVICES EXPEDITION TO LIVERPOOL LAND, EAST GREENLAND, 1977

Report by Maj Rod Dransfield, 8 Sig Regt

INTRODUCTION

THE expedition will carry out a scientific exploration of Liverpool Land and the associated coast of East Greenland during the summer of 1977. The location will be the region north of Scoresbysund from 70° 30′ to 72° North and from 21° 30′ to 23° 30′ West. The 14-man expedition will be in the field for over three months from the end of May to the first week in September. A range of weather conditions from the spring melt to the commencement of snow storms in September will be experienced.

Aim

The expedition is to extend the scientific coverage of a remote corner of East Greenland, while the carrying out of the tasks under arduous conditions will help develop an individual's abilities in unusual situations.

The team

The team has been selected on the basis of having specialists in most aspects to be covered by the expedition. However, every member had to show a genuine interest in the Natural Sciences while at the same time being able to stand up to the arduous conditions that will exist, especially in the early stages of the expedition.

Lt Martin Sessions, MA, FRGS (RN)	Leader
Maj Rod Dransfield (Royal Signals)	Quartermaster and Communications
Mr Robert Burton, MA (Naturalist and Author)	Scientific Projects Co-ord
Dr John Lydon, PhD (University of Leeds)	Specialist Projects (Hot spings)
Lt Bob Hall, BSc (DWR)	Botany
Lt Brian Witts (RN)	Ornithology
Cpl Eric Johns (RAF)	Ornithology
Cpl John Coull (RAF)	Mountain safety
PO John Smith (RN)	Entomology/Medical
Pte Paul King (RAOC)	Sound recording/Ornithology
CPO Alan Booth (RN)	Mammals
Fl Lt Dave Smith (RAF)	Mountaineering
Fl Lt Tom Norcross (RAF)	Air drop
CPO Steve Williams (RN)	

Operation of the expedition

1976	
September	Team selected.
1977	
January	Two weeks' mountaineering course at JSMTC Tulloch, Scotland. This was the first time that most of the team had met.
April 12–22	Ten days' fitness and scientific training based with 8 Sig Regt at Catterick Garrison and the Lake District.
May 5	Part of stores loaded at Felixstowe for Iceland.
May 10	Freight sails from Felixstowe for Iceland.
May 17	RAF Recce flight to Greenland by **Sessions, Dransfield, Witts** and **Norcross.**
May 18	Return of Recce via Iceland, drop off **Witts** and **Norcross. Witts** and **Norcross** collect stores in Iceland.
May 27	Remainder of the expedition fly commercial flight from Glasgow to Iceland.
May 30–31	Flight of team and advance stores from Iceland to Greenland in Fokker Friendship F27.
June 1	Sledge stores from Mestersuig 70km to Base Camp at head of Carlsberg Fiord.
June 20	Remainder of stores and mail RAF Air drop.
June 21–August 15	Scientific studies undertaken by three- or four-man teams operating from Base Camp on two to three week mini expeditions.
August 15	Nimrod air photo and mail drop.
August 15–30	Transport stores to Scoresbysund for backloading to the UK via Denmark.
September 3	Flight out to Iceland.
Sept 4–5	Flight Iceland–UK (Glasgow or London).

The Scientific programme

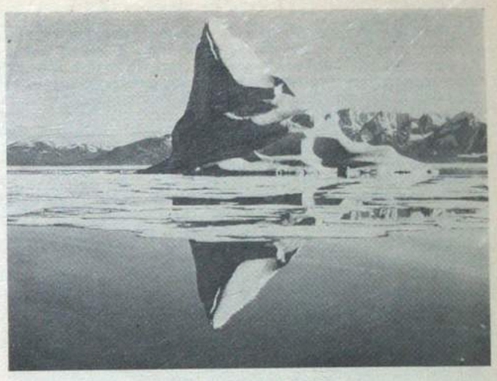
The scientific programme has been drawn up in collaboration with universities and institutes who have on-going studies in the region. The expedition will cover the early part of the summer following the thaw. The projects are summarised as follows:

a. Survey of land birds including the recording of breeding. Special projects on the inland breeding sea birds, waders and skuas will be undertaken.
b. Survey of sea birds and census of sea bird colonies.
c. Survey of terrestrial invertebrates by trapping for a bird feeding ecology study.
d. Botany—collection of vascular plants for the Arctic Herbarium.
e. Hot spings—specialist project.
f. Land mammals—census of musk, oxen and seals.

In addition, several other collections will be made as well as a record of key activities being recorded on still and cine film.

Conclusion

Obviously, these short notes will have hardly whet the appetite of the avid adventurer. A full expedition report must be submitted to the Joint Service Expedition Trust at the end of the expedition. The author of these notes, **Maj Rod Dransfield,** currently



THE SCENE AHEAD

serving with 8 Sig Regt, will submit a full report on the expedition from his point of view some time in October/November. The report will cover equipment procurement, communications, and an account of daily life in the middle of isolation.

Final note

Any expedition is extremely expensive to mount and running costs for this expedition (excluding equipment, clothing, food and fuel) are about £10,000.

We still need money. To this end, to commemorate this unique occasion in Jubilee Year, the issue of philatelic covers has been arranged and will be available to the public as well as to Service personnel.

The covers to be issued are:

A plain cover with a drawing on the left face, and a special commemorative frank at 40p each.

As above but signed and taken to Greenland at £1 each.

As above but triple signed and taken on the longest trip at £2·50 each.

The covers will be allocated in the order that applications are received. Applications should be forwarded with accompanying cheque or postal order, which should be made payable to:

JSE GREENLAND 1977

Address for applications:

Maj R. Dransfield (Royal Signals),
2 Squadron,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 3PS

If applicants wish their covers to be sent to them through the post, their application should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed enveloped not smaller than 7×5in.

A FIRST TASTE OF CIVILIAN LIFE

Report by ex-WO2 (SSM) G. C. Davies (Royal Signals)

THE 'FIFTIES

LIKE many school-leavers in the early 'fifties the prospects of a good apprenticeship, particularly for educationally unqualified youths who had spent much of their school years working on farms, was nil. The only alternative open to them was the Services. So, without further ado, I took the plunge and signed on. There was, of course, no such thing as a three-year option in those days. It was two-and-a-half years' boys' service automatically followed by 21 years' regular service.

In a nutshell

After enlisting at the Army Careers Office in Lincoln, I soon joined 6 Boys' Training Regt at Beverley, Yorks. From graduating into man's service, I served with 8 Sig Regt, Hong Kong Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt, 3 Div Sig Regt, 232 Sig Sqn Park, 6 Coy RAOC, 17 Gurkha Sig Regt, 610 Sig Troop, 604 Sig Troop, 234 Sig Sqn, 259 Sig Sqn (Radio Relay), before reporting back to 11 Sig Regt for discharge on completion of 24 years and 255 days' service on November 4, 1974!

Although I had a very interesting career from Signalman to SSM and Clerk Technical to captain of the British Army basketball teams in both Hong Kong and Cyprus the one nagging thought was that eventually I would return to civilian life. As early as 1966 whilst serving with 610 Sig Troop, I began preparing myself for this eventuality. Always interested in owning my own business on discharge from the Services such as a fish and chip shop or something similar, I took the advantage of obtaining a correspondence course in bookkeeping. Since COD Donnington was a very modern depot with the latest techniques in accounting, storage, packing and preservation, I spent much of my spare time studying these aspects.

Basic economics

Eventually my turn to leave the Service arrived and, having prepared myself educationally and mentally, I looked eagerly forward to my resettlement course at Norwich in fish and chip shop management. The course was very thorough and interesting. However, the owner of the shop soon convinced me that it would be unwise to try to start up a new business under the prevailing economic climate. He was himself going out of business due to the three-day working week and ever increasing cost of the basic necessities such as potatoes, fish, oil and running costs.

My ego had, of course, been deflated. Like many ex-Servicemen before me, I joined the humiliation of the dole queue. During that first week I looked back over my Service career and asked myself, 'has it all been a hopeless waste of time?'

Decisions and problems

My family and I were living in a council house, since I had decided that my money would be used in starting a business. By the second week on the dole I had decided on two definite things, viz:

- Use what money I had saved as a deposit on a house of our own.
- Find a suitable job.

This seemed simple enough since I would be receiving two-thirds of my Service pension each month. I figured a regular income of this sort would convince the building society to allow me mortgage facilities. After all, I had been saving with them since I joined the Army. But alas, they politely told me, the day you left the Services your account closed. It is then necessary to start all over again as a civilian and, of course, you need a regular job to maintain the payments although a pension is useful.

Opportunity

The employment exchange could not offer me work so my chances of ever owning a house had been reduced to nil. At this point I decided to visit every factory and building on the three industrial estates in King's Lynn to see if any of my military qualifications or training would be useful. Unfortunately, there were literally hundreds of people with better civilian qualifications than me out of work. After many hours of walking and talking to factory managers, production managers, stores managers, transport managers, accounting managers, the result was always negative. By this time I had made a habit of taking a few notes at each interview. Vaguely I remembered one manager mentioning the problem he had over transport and delivery dates. Searching through my notes I soon found the firm concerned. A further interview with the factory manager confirmed he was unable to meet a six-week delivery date to customers, due to transport problems. Customers were now in the habit of telephoning the company shortly after the promised delivery date and cancelling their orders.

A contract

Stepping in with two feet I said 'you guarantee me three days' work per week for a lorry and I guarantee to deliver your goods within three days'. We both agreed on areas, distances and rates with a view of me commencing on January 1, 1975. Fortunately, whilst serving with 604 Sig Troop, I managed to obtain my HGV Class II driving licence. It was now November 18, 1974. I had six weeks to find a lorry suitable for the job, obtain an 'Operators' licence, register with HM Customs and Excise for VAT purposes, obtain all the necessary stationery and legal documents to run a haulage business and last, but not least, find an office to operate from. It really is amazing what the Government requirements are to run a haulage business, particularly where vehicles of your own are used and not hired. Joining the Road Haulage Association (RHA) was a tremendous advantage.

Flying colours

I managed to find an old removal van which had been standing for almost 18 months. Taking a gamble, I bought it, had it repaired and serviced by the local main agents who presented it for its MOT at the nearest DoE testing station. Fortunately, it passed first time with flying colours although it had cost me a considerable amount in repairs. A few days later a representative of the DoE visited me to inspect my operating base and vehicle area and left very satisfied. My 'temporary' Operators licence arrived with the compliments of the RHA within the week.

Into action

Everything had gone so smoothly, I just could not believe my luck. With just under three weeks to go before actually commencing work I telephoned the factory manager to let him know I was all set to start. He said if I was to bring my vehicle down to the factory now he would load me up for a two-day run. Ignoring the speed limits, I arrived at the factory within ten minutes. The manager explained the trouble he had had with one particular haulage firm and that he no longer intended using them again; instead, if I proved myself suitable, he would use me.

Since that day, I still carry their furniture. The manager would like me to extend my carrying days to seven per week. Occasionally I do this but, not wishing to put other carriers out of work, I stick to the three days agreed.

Ambition

Six months after commencing business we moved into our own house. I still have the original old lorry with its new engine and a recently-bought new van for removal purposes. A short time ago I started renting a warehouse for storing furniture and boast a number of clients, including Service personnel, for long-term storage. My ambition, making full use of my knowledge in storage, is to have my own warehouse built to my specifications which would include facilities for occasional running of electrical goods such as washing machines, cleaners, radiograms, etc, to ensure they do not become seized due to lack of use as a result of long storage. Time will, of course, tell, but I feel more than qualified for such work, and better apt to do it than many well-known international firms.

My ultimate aim is to store and convey MFO between the UK and BAOR, but expect it will take me a few years yet to obtain Government service contracts for such work. What with the continued defence cuts each year it will soon be cheaper and quicker to dispense with MFO facilities altogether and allow removal firms to carry out this task.

Finally, may I say to those who are due to leave the Services in the near future; be determined for no one wants to know you until you are already successful, be it a building society, bank manager or even the employment exchange.

Good luck to you all.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj A. W. de V. Hunt** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt D. F. M. Collyer** (Royal Signals)
QM	—	**Capt M. J. Dunmall** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer		**Capt A. Beveridge** (RCT)
OC 'B' Tp	—	**Lt R. J. Turnbull** (Royal Signals)
OC A/TM Tp		**Lt H. A. R. Hancock** (Royal Signals)
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) E. T. A. Webster**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) A. T. Jackson**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) J. Francis**
MTO	—	**WO2 B. Hudson**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt (ORSQMS) I. L. Dudding**

THE Squadron continues to cope admirably with the stresses of Northern Ireland and morale remains high despite the Squadron Commander's incessant mutterings of joy (between ATCC cases) over his posting in May—USA and then Hong Kong, would you believe! But then I suppose it really is something to shout about.

The Squadron 2IC has made a significant difference to the Squadron hockey side since he became goalkeeper—they are losing more often! However, keep at it Sir we have faith in you.

TM TROOP REPORT

Having dispelled the myth of Northern Ireland mist, for good it is hoped, our Radio Techs, **Sgts 'Chalkie' White, Steve Harrison** and **Cpl John Wright,** have spent the recent past commissioning new hill-top sites. Although the equipment was previously used by Noah (it is rumoured), results have been good.

Our other Radio Tech, **Cpl John (I've got no hair) Findlay,** has just arrived back with shiny boots from a sucsessful Det Comd course. **Sgt Fred Biddle,** no doubt assisted by **'Jock',** has successfully proved that it's even easier to modify equipment than try to breed three-handed men!

The Linemen, ably led by **Cpl Tony Woolley,** and our two Tele Mechs, **Cpl Dennis Corser** and **Sig 'Brummie' Gray,** have been equally busy—squash coming along nicely is it boys?

'B' TROOP FROM AMALGAMATION

The recent amalgamation of the Commcen, MT Section and LAD into 'B' Troop has given 'rumour control' something to think about. Fears that our intrepid trio of **Lcpl 'Sammy' McKee, Sigs Kev Enfield** and **'PJ' Lacy** would love to swop their driving seats for teleprinters have been dispelled, much to the relief of **Ssgt Bill Metcalfe** and the lads in the Commcen!

The LAD continues to do brisk business under the scrutiny of **Cpl 'Wolf' Inman.** The latest addition is a crypton analyser and **Cfn 'Taffy' Bassett** and **'Paddy' Trimble** are confident that they can work wonders with their new 'toy'. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the first unsuspecting vehicle.

On the sporting scene **Cpl 'Frankie' Vaughan, Lcpl John Saunders** and **Sig Brian Letham** have been chosen for the Northern Ireland rugby select trails. Well done.

D and E PLATOON GET ON WITH THE JOB

The D and E Platoon goes from strength to strength. We welcome back **Capt Mick McMahon,** who left us last May and can't seem to stay away. More recent arrivals are **Cpl Butler, Ptes Redfern** and **Wilson,** we wish them a happy tour with the Bde Sqn. **Sgt Noonan,** our Platoon Sergeant, leaves us this month after completing his tour of two years. We wish him and his family *bon voyage* and thanks for all the good work.

The Platoon still bashes on with its job of guarding the soft target areas in Portadown, although some of the men swear that the 'Sangers' can now talk following a recent story overheard in the 'Plastic Pub':

Cpl Williams, Ptes Atkinson, Ballantine, Richardson and Pitt at the ready

Pte Almond—'I cannot see out of the Sanger'.

Sanger—'Don't worry little chunkie, I'll hold you up to the window'.

Our photograph shows five sterling chaps looking for one such Sanger.

In the sporting world three of the Platoon have made the Squadron hockey team. They are: **Capt McMahon, Cpl Davies** and **Pte Eastwood.** Our daily training consists of our Watch Programme and with the return of the OC from his keep fit course it's all go. This coupled with the introduction of 'Aikido Trg' has left many sore arms and wrists, and one broken arm. With the aura of the weather we are all looking forward to the summer, the Squadron Camp and the Ship-boarding exercise to get everyone out and about.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

B.F.P.O. 807

JUDGE AT RISK

DESPITE the Squadron's operational commitments, there has been no respite from those activities which mark the calendars of all units wherever they may be stationed. Last month the PRE took place and this month saw the unit receiving its Fitness for Role inspection. As a preliminary to the inspection it was felt that perhaps the Squadron should brush up on its driving skills and trade knowledge. Two competitions were therefore organised. **Cpl Mick Davies** (REME) of MT Troop, littered the square with a maze of obstacles around, or through which (depending upon who was driving) teams drove their Land-Rovers. Also included was a Highway Code test which appeared to indicate that a few participants believed they were still in Germany! **Lcpl Alan Fishpool** (RCT) of QM Troop showed his prowess behind the wheel by negotiating the course without knocking over a judge and was therefore deemed the winner.

Comms Troop laid on a 'University Challenge'-type quiz to baffle the Data Telegraphists and Combat Radiomen. **WO1 (RSM) 'Bamber' Buckley** acted as questionmaster. There was a certain amount of dissension over the answers, and even some of the questions, and these were dealt with by a high-powered committee. Even they were stumped when the answer to the question 'What is the sequence of colours in traffic lights?' was given as 'Green on top of Amber on top of Red'!

EXCELLENT FOUR-COURSE MEAL

The FFR inspection was carried out by the Brigade Commander, **Brig Brian Webster.** It was also his last look at the Squadron in detail before handing over the Command of 8 Inf Bde. The inspection took the form of a walkabout of the Squadron in the morning. During his visit to the new-look Commcen, which he formally opened by receiving a message from the Controller DCN, the Commander was presented with a print depicting the many roles of Royal Signals in Northern Ireland. (Copies available through our PRI at only £2·50.) While visiting MT Troop the Commander asked the Master Driver to test our driving skills. (How did we guess!) This was very successfully completed much to everyone's amazement.

The remainder of the day was spent visiting Tac HQ in the field. After a splendid four-course meal, cooked solely by the aid of hexamine cooker under the watchful eye of **Ssgt Ken Fuller** (ACC), the Commander inspected all elements of the HQ. He returned to Londonderry by helicopter visiting the rebro and relay site on route.

The rebro det had gained notoriety in the previous week by causing the disappearance of a MK 4-ton vehicle and two Scammels into an Irish bog!

SKI-ING IN CAIRNGORMS

Lt Ken Hadfield has now left for the ice fields of the Cairngorms with a party of 15 would-be downhill champions. Altogether it is hoped to send some 30 members of the Squadron to the slopes. Last year's score was two broken ankles and many bruised limbs, we shall wait and see if the total is surpassed this year (OC please note!).

DO-IT-YOURSELF RADIO ROOM

The present economic climate caused the cancellation of **Lt Mike Fisher's** grandiose scheme for a £3,000 face-lift to the radio room. It was, therefore, left to Comms Troop to go it alone in its efforts to ease the Chancellor of the Exchequer's problems. After many hours of sawing and hammering in the hobbies room, the new radio room was opened by the OC, although by the look of OC Comms Troop in the photograph it was a breathtaking moment.

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KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

AROUND AND ABOUT

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Brig Webster visits TAC HQ in the field
Left to right: Bde Comd, Lt M. S. Fisher, Maj K. P. Burke, Capt N. O. Williams, WO1 (RSM) Buckley, Ssgt Bellamy

Self-help at its best—The new D.I.Y. radio room
Left to right: Cpl Rees, Lt M. S. Fisher, WO1 (RSM) R. I. Buckley, Sgt Marven and Ssgt Bellamy

Maj Burke presenting print to Brig Webster during the FFR

The CSE Show perform in front of an appreciative audience

OC opens new Brigade Radio Room while Lt Fisher (*left*) waits for bang!

Lt Hadfield introduces Bde Comd to the Admin Section
Left to right: Lt K. J. Hadfield, Bde Comd, Cpl Howard (RCT), Cpl James (RAOC), Cpl Casey (RCT), Sig De Souza

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

BELFAST QUIET

The last month has been fairly quiet in Belfast, but we have, nevertheless, found plenty of work moving operations rooms, maintaining communications and just keeping on top of the routine jobs that never seem to stop coming our way.

SPICE

Early in February we held a comms conference for Regimental Signallers. Over forty communicators from units in the Brigade came to us for a day's mutual ear-bending, and we all finished the day with a much better understanding of other units' ideas and problems. With such a rapid turn-round of roulement units in the city it is especially important for us to make this kind of effort to keep the Signals' effort 'on the rails'.

Later in the month a party of about thirty young officers and officer cadets from Queen's University OTC came to visit the Squadron for half a day. The Squadron's at first slightly neutral attitude to visits (which are very much in our routine) was transformed when it was learnt that there were to be some fifteen young ladies in the party. **Lcpl 'Scouse' Lambird** stole the show and receives the Horseshoe Chivalry Award for 1977.

EXCELLENT START TO RUGBY SEASON

This has been an excellent season. To date the team has played 14 matches, winning 13 and losing 1. Unfortunately, the lost match was the Northern Ireland Minor Unit Final against 9 Indep Para Fd Sqn RE, a very strong team indeed. The top point scorers have been **Sgt Alan James, Maj Conrad Garton,** playing stand-off, and **Lcpl Dave Burkill** (REME). Overall an extremely fine team effort has pounded most opposition into submission including, of course, our arch opponents 3 Bde, 8 Bde and 233 Sig Sqn.

The victorious squash players pictured after the Northern Ireland final. *Left to right. Standing:* Maj Conrad Garton, Rev 'Paddy' Craig, Capt Jeremy Gaskell. *Kneeling:* Maj Tony Meagher (captain), Sgt Bill Hutton

SQUASH SUCCESS

So far the Squadron's team has managed to make it to the UK quarter-finals of the Army Cup, having beaten 2 Coldm Gds in the Northern Ireland final.

News from Regiments

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

ARU

THE ARU visit on Tuesday, February 15, was made by **Brig B. P. McGuinness,** CRA 1 Div. The Brigadier was shown a large variety of activities in most parts of the Barracks and seemed pleased with what he saw, especially **Sgt Clive Elliot,** his RA Troop Sergeant, carrying out his PFA tests. The photographs show a variety of 3 Sqn activities during the visit.

Brig McGuinness in Line Troop accommodation admiring their trophies, with OC Line Troop, 2 Lt John Ewbank, trying hard to get into the picture

A team from Bravo Troop in the Indoor Assault Course Competition. Despite appearances this team under Lcpl Mick Helliwell, the one hanging about at the back, won the competition

SSM Bob Bates hardly daring to listen to Sig 'Pip' Piper's reply to this question, during the inspection of Echo Troop garages and MT

LIGHTWEIGHT

The Regiment spent the week February 21–25 flexing its muscles in the new 'Lightweight' role. The pace was hot, particularly when in full NBC kit. On the last afternoon the Whole Divisional area was 'crashed out'. All the officers were then withdrawn from the exercise to dine out the 2IC, **Maj Bev Austin,** leaving the SNCOs to sort out the mess left behind amid mutterings of 'the things they'll do to lay on a party'! (It can be reported that the 2IC was dined out in style even though a certain Traffic Officer went to sleep in the middle of the CO's speech!)

WIVES DINE

The Station Wives Club continues to meet, and all enjoyed a pleasant dinner at a local Gasthaus to welcome the CO's wife, **Mrs Julia Davies. Cpl 'Scouse' Tennant** (after a little persuasion by **WO2 Jim Miller**) gave a most interesting demonstration on the art of biscuit making. We have, we hope, an interesting programme planned and look forward to hairdressing demonstrations, fashion shows, etc, in the months ahead.

SPORT IN SHORT

The soccer success story, reported in the last WIRE has continued. In the BAOR quarter-finals the Regiment eventually beat 1 Cheshire 3—0 after three attempts. The first game was abandoned because of deteriorating conditions when we were leading 2—0 and the second game ended in a 1—1 draw after extra time. In the BAOR semi-final, after a very close game, we beat 22 Sig Regt 3—2 at Lippstadt. At Sennelager in the BAOR final on March 2, the boot was, unfortunately, on the other foot and we lost to 28 Sig Regt 0—3. We lost to a better team on the day, but what a magnificent cup run. Well done the soccer team.

THE SOCCER SQUAD

Left to right. Standing: Cpl John Taylor (spongeman), Lcpl Mick Pickersgill, Sgt Barry Thompson, Cpl Mick O'Brian, Cpl Dave Hendry, Lcpl Billy Stanger, Sgt Ralph Porter (manager), Dvr 'Manni' Mancini, Lcpl 'Taff' Symons, Sig Lew Anderson, Sig Lenny Lawrence, WO2 Jim Miller

Kneeling/sitting: Pte Bob Davis, Sgt Willie McKay, Ssgt (Y of S) Glen Bartliff, Lt Col P. R. Davies, Lcpl John Scheltens (captain), Capt G. McGilvray, MBE (football officer), Lcpl 'Scouse' Clair, Pte Nordie Cameron, Lcpl 'Jock' Shiels

Not shown: SSI Bob Duncan and Sgt Dave Brown

The Novices boxing team lost 3—4 to the Kings Own Border Regt. It was a very close match which could easily have gone our way. The team all did credit to their trainer, **Cpl Mick Keenan,** especially **Pte Clive Hutchinson** (ACC) at welterweight who was very fast and skilful.

The rugby team have been much more successful in the second half of the season with 4 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses so far this year. Their latest success was against Hamburg Police at Hamburg where they won 12—8, thanks to tries by the centres. The CO scored between the posts from an interception and **Lcpl Mick Helliwell** scored from a very determined run through the thick of the Hamburg defence.

In the Divisional semi-finals the hockey team lost 0—1 to QDG, who went on to win the final. They fought well, but missed their skipper, **Capt David Lowe,** who was unable to play.

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

WELL OCCUPIED

THE Regiment's first exercise of the year, Exercise Bronze Key, took place during February, producing pleasing results. This took up most of the month keeping everybody well occupied. Snow Queen still thrives and, hopefully, there will be a report in the next edition of THE WIRE.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

RHQ Sqn Before Christmas we said farewell to **Capt Tony Whipp** and his wife, **Shelagh.** He has moved to 4 Sqn in Munster to take over Task Force Delta. We wish them both well. We welcome in his place **Capt Martin Bevan** and wife, **Elizabeth,** formerly of 1 Sqn. Under our new task master the complement of RHQ, RSM, WRAC and all, have been seen flitting around the shadows in running kit. A sight to behold!

1 Sqn Once again a busy time for the Commcen Sqn and a time to bid fond farewells and polite hellos. **Maj David Hodges** has gone the way of previous Squadron OCs and is now deskborne at Div HQ in Lubbecke and in his place comes **Maj Bill Roper** fresh from a MOD desk. Farewell also to **Cpl Les Beatson** and **Lcpl Trev Smith** who are both UK bound—both will be missed for their sparkling contribution to 1 Sqn.

Welcome back to **Capt Mike Telfer** and the Nordic/Alpine section who did so well in the BAOR and Div ski meets this year. **Cpl Dave Stanton** pausing only briefly before also departing for the UK. With the return of the sun to BFPO 46 thoughts are beginning to turn to summer activities and we all have our eyes on the wide blue oceans and rolling green hills for a combined work and sports spring.

PS—Will take these notes to be typed as soon as it stops snowing—Amend last para!

To all who have gone we say only remember us—and to all who have arrived we say *you will* never forget us.

2 Sqn An apology is owed to **Maj Barry Rowe** whom we omitted to welcome into the Regiment on his arrival in September. We also welcome his wife, **'Paddy',** who will be joining him this summer. At the moment **Barry** must be the only officer who maintains a married quarter 400 miles away. Residence to place of duty claims are giving the Adjutant cause for concern!

3 Sqn Sgt Pete Hallsworth, of Line Troop and late of the Royal Signals Display Team, left 3 Sqn recently on redundancy together with his wife, **Annette,** and family. He has moved to Yorkshire and his last six months with 38 Sig Regt (V). Having motor cycles in the blood, **Sgt Hallsworth** has often tried to persuade the OC to let him have a bike—for, quote 'Line recce purposes', as he put it. Quote: 'Can I have a bike, Sir?', came up at every exercise debrief. At a party given by Squadron officers and NCOs he finally had his way. He was presented with (on loan belonging to son of **Ssgt Craig**) a half-scale, battery-operated Honda!

4 Sqn continues its series of first and lasts by saying goodbye to **Maj Russel Maynard** and his wife, **Marguerite,** the last OC 4 Gds Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and the first OC 4 Sqn. **Maj Maynard's** tour was characterised by successes both in sport and in restructuring to our new role. We wish both of them well in his new position at the MOD. At the same time we extend a warm welcome to **Maj Alan Eastburn** and his wife who will be joining us shortly from Middle Wallop.

SUSPICIOUS PARCEL

On March 2, at 1625hrs the RMP Lubbecke Garrison were informed of a suspicious parcel found sitting outside the Officers Mess. The parcel was, in fact, one blue suitcase. The ATO at Bielefeld were informed immediately and at 1800hrs a controlled explosion was made on the suitcase. The suitcase was found to contain 1 × a rather holely 3-piece suit, 1 × pair of shoes, 1 × shredded tie, 1 × burnt shirt and 1 × sock (to go with the one-legged suit). The innocent contents belonged to **Maj Colin Rayner** who had packed his one and only change of clothing in preparation for his move to Cyprus. However, he always did look nice in khaki. *Bon voyage*—we hope the arrival isn't quite as exciting.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED

CPL GORDON (PADDY) GOSLYN: 'Why are the Corporals not in a Mess, similar to the SNCO's?' **WO1 (RSM) Sandy Reid:** 'I agree, the Corporals have always been in a mess for as long as I can remember, why should they be different in 3 Div?' The Corporals Club 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt was about to be reconstituted at long last. Three months later after much hard work, writing Mess rules, negotiating with NAAFI and forming a committee, the Club was finally opened on Monday, February 7, 1977.

Pulling the first pint in the new Corporals Mess
The GOC, Maj Gen Walsh, Cpl Gordon 'Paddy' Goslyn—PEC (*centre*) and Cpl Keith Bates—PMC (*right*)

GOC PERFORMS OPENING CEREMONY

The PMC, **Cpl Keith Bates,** on behalf of all the Junior NCOs, welcomed the GOC 3 Div, **Maj Gen Mike Walsh, DSO,** to perform the opening ceremony. The General was accompanied by the CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell. Cpl Keith Bates** invited the General to sign the visitors' book and to pull the first pint of beer. In his opening speech **Maj Gen Walsh,** stated that he was extremely happy to open the Corporals Mess, that they could count on his full support, and wished them good luck in the future, especially when the Regiment move to Germany later on in the year. The PMC thanked the General and proceeded to show off the Club facilities which include a colour television in a comfortable TV lounge, games room with cards, darts, dominoes, table tennis, etc, and last, but not least, the very modern lounge bar, the pride and joy of the NAAFI manageress, **Mrs Natalie (Abbey) Daniels.**

LS and GC PRESENTATION

The GOC having opened the Corporals Mess, then presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Cpl Minoo Mehta. Cpl Mehta** had been recruited into the RAF in his native Malaya. After service there as an aircraft electrician, he joined the RAF in Britain as a teleprinter operator in 1962 and served in Aden, Singapore and Gloucester before leaving the Air Force in 1971. He joined Royal Signals in 1972 and has been with 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt for the past 18 months. **Cpl Minoo Mehta,** in the tradition of those people who are awarded the LS and GC, bought everyone in the Mess a beer—the Mess has to date 230 members—Pay Board please take note!

ABBEY TO CHARITY

The NAAFI manageress, **Mrs Natalie (Abbey) Daniels** had to slim. Recently **Abbey**—she gets her nickname from a model of the Abbot self-propelled gun presented to her by the Royal Artillery—was told by the hospital she must lose weight. 'It is not an easy thing to do', said **Abbey,** who is very 'full of life' but she finally agreed to go on a 'sponsored slim' to raise money for charity. Accordingly she weighed in last month at a hefty 18st 4lb and already has lost nearly a stone. She will be weighed finally on April 8. Meanwhile, the Regiment are being urged to sponsor her by a cheeky poster put up in the camp which reads 'Help renovate the Abbey'.

Despite the jesting, however, **Abbey** is taking her diet seriously. She's given up all her favourite dishes and drinks, including curry and rice, spaghetti bolognaise and brandy.

The diet does not seem to have affected **Abbey's** sunny temperament or her popularity with the Regiment. Says **Col Bell:** 'She is so popular she has been asked to come with us when we go to Germany at the end of the year'.

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

NO WHEELS FOR 1 SQUADRON

FOR a unit who are used to going on exercise on four wheels, Exercise Crows Foot was unique. It was an exercise designed to see how the Squadron would fare as infantry patrols crossing open and wooded country at night with over 12in of snow on the ground. The idea was simple; six patrols would each be given a number of objectives to be completed between 2200hrs and first light. Even the total distance to be covered was a conservative 10km.

First mistake

Some say the first mistake was allowing OC 'C2' Troop, **Capt Dick Hoyle,** to do the recce. Even the newest member of the Squadron could have foreseen that if you let the Divisional Orienteering Officer do the recce there could be problems. The older hands of the Squadron tried to follow **Capt Ian Noble's** example and get themselves detached on duty.

I told you so

It was on the pre-exercise briefing when the patrol leaders were issued orienteering maps that the first murmurs started. Even the high-powered protestations of **Ssgt (Don't cry for me) Aquilina** that the maps were no good unless they were printed in Maltese, if only for himself and **Cpl Joe Busuttil,** fell on deaf ears.

How to defeat an ambush

The task given to **Sgt Terry Toye** seemed straightforward. He was to set up an ambush in order to attack **Sgt Mal Smith's** patrol who were following some 30 minutes behind. The ambush location was chosen with all the skill of an experienced campaigner and the patrol hid themselves amid the snow and pine trees to await the arrival of their unsuspecting quarry.

One hour passed and the scene at the ambush location was all quiet. Two hours, then three hours passed and the ambush party, resembling Abominable Snowmen, had to admit that their quarry had found the perfect way to defeat an ambush—avoid it!

Sleeping beauty

There were many trials and tribulations before the patrols reached their final objective. Worthy of note was **Sgt Coppinger's** patrol who, whilst being checked in by **Ssgt (F of S) Tony Lowery,** discovered one of their erstwhile members, **Sig Lee Hunter,** missing. A search of the track they had come down soon revealed a **Sig Hunter** asleep in the snow, obviously awaiting the arrival of his princess.

Final say on the exercise must go to **Ssgt (Y of S) Nigel Cox** who now agrees with the F of S that if the maps had been printed in Maltese at least one patrol might have reached his check point.

2 SQUADRON COMPETE

This month, instead of waxing forth into prose in praise of our Squadron, we have directed our efforts at a small competition to select the best caption for a particular photograph. The photograph rather selected itself as it concerned the handover of OCs and, as you can see, the outgoing **Maj David Dudley** is seen standing and gesticulating (as is his wont!) and seems to be passing on some gems of information to the new incumbent, **Maj Adrian Bailey,** or was he . . . ? The captions show what suitable advice was given.

'Oh No! I can't tell you what the Sqn does, it's a need to know basis and They seemed to think I didn't need to know.'

'For DM 5-00 I'll throw in my Jag as well'.

'We throw it all up in dee air and what comes down is yours ma boy!'

'This squadron runs itself—it had to for the last two years.'

'If you survive two years here you get a silver tray and FREE drinks in the Sergeants Mess.'

'What do you mean you don't know anything about:
a. Hang Gliding
b. Amateur Dramatics
c. Vintage Cars
d. Old Fire Engines
e. Clocks
f. C/S 98 Charlie?'

'That's it then—only five things wrong . . . . . four troops and SHQ!'

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

THE 26th annual dinner will be held at the Victoria Services Club in London on Saturday, May 7, 1977. Members should have already received details, but anyone else interested should get in touch with Maj D. J. Roberts, Westmead, Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts, Telephone: Chorleywood 3144, immediately.

Membership is open to All Ranks who have served in the Regiment—new members will be most welcome.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

BURYS COURT PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Leigh, Nr Reigate, Surrey.
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Boarding School for 8-13½ year olds. Good academic foundation given to prepare boys for their Senior Schools.

Very good facilities for science, recreation and sport.

Apply Headmaster

Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge and Ssgt (Y of S) L. Lomas

FAREWELL VISIT OF CSO

As mentioned briefly last month, the CSO, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** accompanied by **Mrs Sturge,** paid a farewell visit to the Regiment on Thursday, February 3. During his visit the CSO presented the Royal Signals BAOR Canoe Championship Team Trophy to **Ssgt (Y of S) Lenny Lomas.** This was in recognition of the many achievements of the Regimental canoe team during 1976.

Mrs Sturge discusses the 'real' problems with the wives of the Regiment

WIVES' COFFEE MORNING

Whilst the CSO said his farewells to the soldiers of the unit, **Mrs Sturge,** accompanied by **Mrs Whitehead,** met the wives of the Regiment.

VISIT OF CHIEF OF PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS

On February 23 we were pleased to welcome CPL, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, KCB, DFC** (RAF), to the Regiment. He was accompanied by the Deputy Under-Secretary (Personnel Logistics), **Mr Alistair Jaffray,** and the Brigadier AQ HQ 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig Jimmy Hellier.**

He visited the new single soldiers' flats in 2 Sqn and chatted at length to the fortunate incumbents. Pre-lunch drinks in the Corporals Mess where he found out how it all really happens, followed by lunch in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess.

This lunch was supposed to convey to CPL the difficulties encountered in maintaining our standard of living in BAOR. Nevertheless, the GOC, **Maj Gen N. T. Bagnall, MC,** said afterwards that both he and CPL really enjoyed the fillet steak.

Photo courtesy PR HQ 4 Div

Brig T. R. Jones, OBE, our recently-arrived Garrison Commander, presents the Divisional Major Units Squash Trophy to Lt Col John Mayrick (CAES, HQ 4 Div)

DIVISIONAL MAJOR AND MINOR UNITS SQUASH FINALS

The finals in the Divisional Squash Competition took place on Saturday, February 12, 1977. Against keen competition and despite their Brigade Commander playing, 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn lost the Minor Units competition to 65 Corps Support Sqn. The Major Units final saw the Regiment matched against 1 RTR and the final score of 3—2 to the Regiment reflected the high standard of play between the two finalists.

Sgt 'Matt' Mathews receives the 4 Division Basketball Cup from the CO, Lt Col David Whitehead. WO1 (RSM) Frank Worrall makes sure nobody receives more than his fair share of the spoils

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

On March 5, 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt won the 4 Division Basketball final played at Rippon Barracks, Bielefeld against QOH.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

FEBRUARY VISITORS

DURING February, 8 Sig Regt entertained two Heads of Corps: On February 18, 1977, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE,** SO in C, visited the Regiment as part of his tour of Training Group Royal Signals.

The SO in C visited accommodation recently refurbished under the 'Vimy Project'—Medical Centre, Dvr Pwr Gp, Mil Trg Gp, Draughtsman/Clk Trg Wing, as well as touring the new Vimy Social Club and Sergeants Mess. The SO in C also met members of the CAMOL project, about to take delivery of their computer.

Whilst with us, the SO in C just couldn't resist a 'go' on **Sig Barry Robert's** racing bike—a member of the White Helmets—who races in Royal Signals colours.

The SO in C with Sig Barry Roberts and Capt Mike Prymaka (OC White Helmets)

The following Tuesday, February 22, 1977, **Brig E. J. Nolan, CB,** Hon ADC, Director WRAC, visited the Garrison for a farewell tour of the WRAC. The Brigadier met the girls under training in the School, with their instructors, as well as touring accommodation.

DWRAC talking to members of Co 81, Pte Katherine Hould *(far right)* and Pte Diane Mills

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS

On January 31, 1977, **Brig N. A. Butler, CBE,** Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, presented the following medals:

MEDAL PRESENTATION, JANUARY 31, 1977
Left to right: WO2 (ORQMS) Derrick, Ssgt Kennedy, Ssgt Lindsay, Sgt Muir and Mr MacSkimming

WO2 (ORQMS) Keith Derrick—LS and GC

Q Derrick joined the Army as a National Serviceman in 1958, subsequently transferring to the Regular Army. After training as a clerk he served in Gibraltar, Cyprus and BAOR as well as working with the TAVR (34 Sig Regt (V)) and in Recruiting at ACIO Birmingham. He is currently employed as Group Supervisor, Administrative Trades Group, in the Trade Training School.

Ssgt Bob Kennedy—LS and GC

Ssgt Kennedy joined the Army in 1959. After training as a line technician, he was posted to Singapore, followed by tours at The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and the School at Blandford. Since then he has served in BAOR, at ACIO Portsmouth and in Cyprus.

He is currently serving with Maintenance Troop.

Ssgt Jim Lindsay—LS and GC

Ssgt Lindsay enlisted as a Junior Leader in 1957, entering man service in 1960. After training as a lineman, he served in BAOR, the UK, on attachment to HMS *Hermes*, Singapore and in Malta, where he was involved in re-establishing the military telephone network after the return of British troops to the Island.

He is currently employed as Assistant Group Supervisor in Line Group at the School.

Sgt John Muir—LS and GC

Sgt Muir re-enlisted in the Regular Army in 1957, having done National Service and two years with the Territorials. His first post was with 1 and 2 Light Insulation Troop, where he became involved in installing the communications for the Rocket-Testing Range on South Uist, Shetland Isles. He has since served in Singapore, BAOR and other areas in the UK. He is currently employed in Maintenance Troop.

Mr David MacSkimming—Imperial Service Medal

Mr MacSkimming joined the Royal Signals Training Establishment, the old 1 Training Regt, in 1950. Since then he has instructed soldiers on the principles and techniques of line and cable communications, surviving the many re-organisations of the Royal Signals Training establishments in Catterick.

FULL SEASON FOR WHITE HELMETS

WHITE HELMETS REPORT

The team is now organised for 1977 with a full season looming ahead. **Sgt Roy Coffill** has returned as team sergeant, having left five years ago, and the team corporal is **Cpl Mick Palladini.** All the new bikes are now with us, being looked after by term mechs **Sigs Loz Wilson, Phil Cowderoy, 'Clagger' Clarkson** and **Ian Ashe.** The stores are under the steadying influence of **Lcpls George Franklin** and **Fred Alexander. Fred** can't wait for the show to get on the road, the influence of his Romany ancestors, no doubt.

Progressing well

The new intake is settling down to training—13 of them ranging from **Sig 'Big John' Coutts** (stands at about seven feet) to **Sig 'Doddy' Dodsworth** who has trouble with his eyes, on account of how they're too close to the ground! The new team members made the graduation from B40 training bikes to Tiger 750 show machines a short while ago, the tyre tracks still being visible on some of them! Still, in spite of the odd mishap or two, they are getting the hang of things pretty well on the show training area at RAF Catterick, and are progressing well.

Sig Chris Little is getting square eyes watching television as he appears on the 'Nationwide' titles every night, even if only for five seconds. With the team having been on television six times in the last 12 months, some people only watch the 'tele' if they are going to be on it.

The team's answer to David Bailey, **Sig Nigel Nicholls,** continues to snap away with the team camera, although we have heard that *Playboy* has turned down his feature on **Sig Colin Pitman.**

Full season ahead

Looking ahead, the season is as full as ever, from North Scotland to Berlin, and hopefully, this year it will include a tour of units in BAOR.

THE RRIT

The RRIT (Regimental Recruiting and Information Team) of 8 Sig Regt began the season with the following members:

Lt Ian Grant
Sgt Geof Abel
Sgt Brian Jolley
Cpl Charlie O'Neill
Cpl Garry Coxon
Sig John Bridgewater

plus two 4-tonners, one Land-Rover, two 6kVA generators and one 28ft silver caravan that sometimes seems to have a mind of its own. The season began in April, with our first show at Harrogate, followed by a quick succession of shows, tattoos and KAPE tours. In June we had a quick change of members, when **Garry Coxon** was posted to Northern Ireland and **Charlie O'Neill** decided to spend the rest of the season in pasture at sunny Catterick. The new members, **Cpl Ian Cross** and **Sig Tony Johnson,** fitted in well and were soon at work with the public.

True recovery

Tony Johnson proved his worth at recovery when, after driving about two miles, he felt something missing. Stopping to check, he found that he had left the generators behind at the Lincoln Showground. Having recovered them, we carried on our way to the next show. **Cpl Ian Cross** also proved his worth at recovery when he found **Sig John Bridgewater** trying to swim in a paddling pool. He didn't swim but he did find a quick way to get sober. We were in Aberdeen at the time and it tends to get cold at nights!

Goings

Towards the end of the season, **Capt Ian Grant** (third pip gained on tour—what a party!) was posted to 2 Sqn as a Troop OC, followed by a posting to Germany in March. All the best, Sir!

Cpl Ian Cross has decided to have a go at his T1 course (thinks he's clever) whilst **Sgt Geof Abel** is to carry on recruiting on the staff of the ACIO at Sunderland. All the best, **Geof!**

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

Into the new season

We are working like mad designing and building a new layout in the caravan ready for the new season, with another two new team members. The 1977 season begins with:

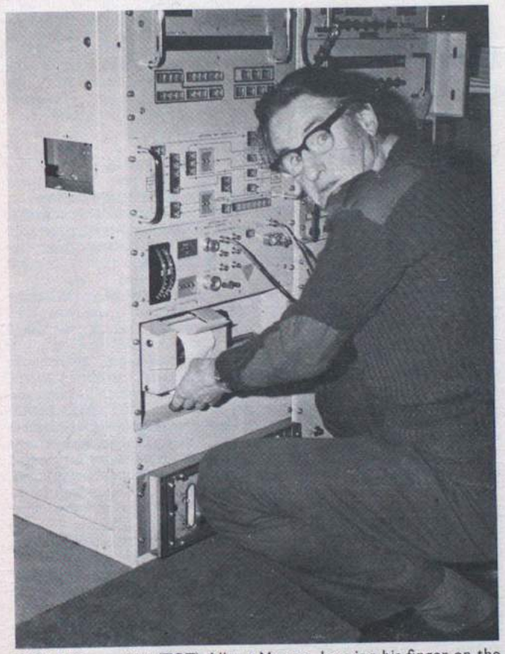
Sgt Brian Jolley
Cpl John Chapman
Lcpl Tony Johnson
Lcpl John Bridgewater
Sig Barry Roberts (White Helmets attached)

still with two 4-tonners, one Land-Rover, two 6kVA generators, and a 28ft silver caravan, that still has a mind of its own!

Before starting the new season, we would like to thank **Hammie Linsey,** ACIO Aberdeen, and all staff of other ACIOs for their help during last season. See you next season!

MAINTENANCE TROOP REPORT

I would like to start by dispelling the rumour that, due to the number of rugby players in it, our radio relay section does not have time to do any repairs. When the six 'gladiators' are away, the remaining four work through the ten-man programme quite comfortably—that is, when **Sgt Bill Anderson** isn't away playing basketball!



OC 'M' Troop, Maj (TOT) Albert Mercer, keeping his finger on the pulse of the Automatic Test Equipment for Clansman and Larkspur

Ssgt Norman Hill, Sgt Tom Lovell and **Cpl Arthur Alderson** keep asking for some of the muscle power of the rugby players to help them with the installations of the new exchange which, our 'Three Musketeers' assure us, is the largest jigsaw puzzle on the go at present. Among our other normal duties the light radio workshop continues to repair the occasional television and radio as well as all their other jobs.

The TE section always seems to keep well on top of its work—as soon as **Ssgt Dave Jolly** goes to do a job for the Sergeants Mess **Cpls Mick Crabtree, Ray Leitch** and **Roger Nichol** congregate over the *Telegraph* crossword! In the D11 section **Sgt Colin Harvey** is normally playing badminton whilst **Sgts Mick Pawlak, Ray Goodwin, Arthur Pearce** and **Cpl Eric Pickering** normally argue about which one will not be playing Sarn't Major. **Mick Pawlak** doesn't like having to be the one as the rest play while he's at the rugby. In the Troop Office **Margarete,** when not making coffee, manages to keep the error rate of her forward

Sgt Bill Anderson of 'M' Troop repairing one of the multitude of Training aides currently in use in the TTS

reports down under 2 per cent. At present she never stops telling people who criticise her work that her last return was 0 per cent!

The Foreman, **WO2 Den Hall,** would like all who wish to phone him to know that 10–10.30 and 3–3.15 is his official coffee. break and he does not like to be disturbed. During his unofficial coffee breaks, though, he will answer the telephone!

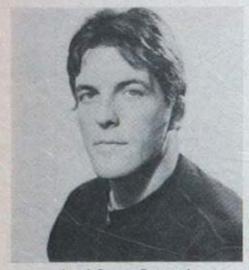
THE TOPS

'A' GRADINGS
Pte Carolyn Beall seen here receiving her 'A' Grading presentation from Lt Col Gordon Young, OC TTS

Pte Jill Perring also shown receiving her 'A' Grading presentation from Maj John Selby, Chief Instructor, Operating Wing

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY—No 6

'HE'S good at the 100 litres and he can down 14 pints in an hour', a friend of **Lcpl Steve Peacock** volunteered. This description indicates a good rugby player, amongst other things, and this is exactly what he is. He joined the Corps in 1972 and by the following year was playing for both the Army U-19 and Combined Services U-19 teams. In 1974 he progressed to the senior teams, being a member of the Combined Services team which played Australia, Japan and the French Forces in 1974.



Lcpl Steve Peacock

On the local scene **Lcpl Peacock** represents Yorkshire as well as playing for the Middlesbrough team who won the Yorkshire Cup last year. Needless to say, he is a key man in the Regimental team, helping to win the UK Army Rugby Final at Aldershot against the Guards Depot and will be in the team to play the final of the Army Cup versus 1 RRW on March 23. His latest achievement in the field of rugby is to be included in the England U-23 squad. He is also being considered for selection for its tour of Canada in May and June this year. We are keeping our fingers crossed for you, **Steve!**

Being an A/I down in the gym, he plays most sports but apart from the '100 litres' he is actually rather good at athletics, representing the Army U-20 athletics team against Wales in 1974 and being a member of the Regimental team since 1973. In basketball, his skill and his 6ft 4½in are a great asset for our team which won the Catterick Garrison inter-Units League in December 1976, and represented NE/NW District in the Northern Area Championships. In short, **Steve Peacock** is a useful chap to have around and if he gets accepted for the APTC, as he hopes, the Corps will miss him—after all, quart-sized men are hard to come by!

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

BRAIN OF HOUNSLOW EMERGES

OF the 16 teams entered, the 4 teams that reached the semi-finals were: Sergeants Mess versus 90 Security Section and No 1 AIDU versus 2 Sqn, the latter being our last remaining Regimental hope of winning the competition. At the semi-finals on February 15, 90 Sy Sect had their worst evening of the competition (nerves) and were convincingly beaten by the Sergeants Mess. The second game of the evening was an exciting game with 2 Sqn cleverly dropping **WO2 (SSM) Arthur Cotillard** (due to operational commitments?) and substituting their Squadron Commander, **Maj George Fulton.** They were, none the less, narrowly beaten, by 1 point, allowing No 1 AIDU through to the final.

The final, a tense game, was won by AIDU (The Animals) and was concluded by a spontaneous outburst of 'We are sailing . . .', unlike their answers, terribly out of key. The individual highest scorers of the first round were subject to 15 minutes of quick-fired questions, they were: **Sgt Andy Cunningham** (RADC), **WO2 Graham Griffiths, Cpl Bridget Castle** (WRAC) and **WO2 Wally Marsden.** The winner was **Sgt Andy Cunningham.** The quiz was a complete success and no doubt next year another 'Brain of Hounslow' will emerge.

BASKETBALL REPORT

On January 24, the Regiment presented their challenge for the London District Minor Units Basketball Championships at Woolwich. We had only got as far as Parliament Square when a Jaguar took a dislike to our Minibus and did minor alterations to the bumper. Still, we all arrived safely at Woolwich and were pitched straight in against the RMSM, which proved to be our easiest game and gave the Regiment a win by 50 points to 34. The next game was a cliffhanger against HPCCD RE. The game swung back and forth and we eventually emerged winners by 26 points to 24. **Lcpl Rod Whateley** and **Sgt Chris Endean** really came to the fore in this game and even surprised themselves when they found out that they could actually score points.

The last game was against HCR which was again a win for the Regiment by 60 points to 28, though not as easy as the score suggests. This gave us the Championship and a place in the East Area Final. Outstanding for the team in these matches were **Ssgt Howard Emerson, Cpl Norman Brown, Lcpl Rod Whateley** and **Sgt Chris Endean,** not forgetting the hard work and enthusiastic support given by the other team members, **Sgt Marsh Davey, Lcpls Ian Hastings, Steve Jackson** and **'Geordie' Lee.** In the East Area Final we came up against 244 Sig Sqn and a ding-dong battle ensued, with the score going backwards and forwards with 244 emerging the winners by 38 points to 36 points. A disappointed team returned to Hounslow but not without wishing 244 Sig Sqn all the best for their assault on the Army Cup in March.

ALDERSHOT PERSONALITIES

It's been another one of those months—this year doesn't seem any better than 1976. SHQ moves along; as some would have it, it's 'just a normal day in 3 Sqn'. Your anonymous scribe would like to thank the 2IC, **Capt Wendy le Gassick,** for presiding over things so well during her tour. **Wendy** is about to turn her talent to something completely different and we wish her all the best for the future.

To **Capt Celia Reddy** we say welcome and congratulations on being awarded a 'Jimmy' to replace whatever it was you wore before! We won't promise you'll enjoy every minute, but there won't be many dull ones.

We may have mentioned before that there are only three male soldiers in this Squadron—perhaps we should introduce them. One you will have gathered is composing this epistle, and apart from the large and imposing presence of our TOT, **Maj Geoff Hudson,** who occasionally calls in for a travel warrant or to feed the shredder, there remains only our MT NCO, **Cpl John Archer,** who spends his time patiently advising all and sundry on points and plugs and all things mysterious which constitute the workings of mechanical transport. As the 'Mr Fixit' of the Squadron he is invaluable and seems to have acquired a wealth of local knowledge and contacts to go with his tins of touch-up and filler!

But what of the important members of SHQ you ask? These can only be **Cpl Elaine Smith,** our knowledgeable and generous clerk, aided and abetted by **Pte Christine Trenam** and the SSM, **WO2 Carole Austin. Elaine** is always up to some mischief; sending anonymous cards, masquerading as a Bunny Girl or calling the male OC, 'Ma'am' (score 8 so far!) are examples of detectable misdemeanors, but she always contrives to give the impression of being up to something far worse!

Though impossible to mention all our personalities and do them justice, we wish farewell and good fortune to **Lt Caroline (Got-a-bit-of-trouble) Lee** and welcome to **2 Lt Stephanie Westall,** who joins us this month.

TROPO SIG TROOP DOVER REPORT

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Capt (TOT) George Norton**
Foreman	—	**WO2 (F of S) Malcolm Douglas**
Tp Ssgt	—	**Ssgt Tom Trent**
Tp Sgts	—	**Laurie Adams, Jim Carnegie, Morgan Davies, Chris Harris, Graham Hopper, Pete Knight, Dave McKay, Bob Scott, Terry Spicer, Charlie Walker** and **Hadge Watkins**

THE New Year has seen fervent action by the Troop gardening club. **Ssgt Tom Trent** has erected a cold frame adjoining his plot, whilst the latest gardening recruit, **Sgt Terry Spicer,** is endeavouring to clear his plot of jungle before potato-planting time. Meanwhile, **Sgt Bob Scott** is obviously conscious of his coming responsibilities to his new wife, **Sue,** by providing her with free potatoes! The Foreman is hoping for better luck than last year, when persons unknown removed his spuds from the ground and carefully replanted the plants in their original positions. If anyone in Cyprus can help in the investigation into this matter, please get in touch. Further to that, if anyone in Cyprus or Hong Kong can help us with our unfinished monster in System Control, we would be eternally grateful.

USAF DARTS SUCCESS

Sgt Jim Carnegie, our ever ebullient entertainments member and PR man, did us proud by organising an Anglo-American darts match. Our USAF neighbours narrowly beat us, but we thoroughly hammered them at the last ditch to win the gallon of beer. This occasion was the first opportunity for the Troop to celebrate their mammoth pools win, under the management of our resident football expert, **Sgt Chris Harris.**

MISCELLANEA

Cecil Beaton's protege, **Sgt Graham Hopper,** is constantly hoping to announce a press conference to talk about his forthcoming Troop dark room. We all live in hope. **Sgt Morgan Davies** was trying to avoid the Press with his car problem (I'm 'the Press'). However, 'the Press' exposed his problem when 'the Press' was dragged into helping his wife push the car while **Morgan** sat in and steered it! We have since heard that the car went through the gates of the scrap dealer and has not been seen to come out. Newly promoted **Sgt Pete Knight,** rumour has it he is a Corps cricketer (that was our sports section). We warmly welcome along **Sgt Hadge Watkins** and his wife, **Jeannette,** and family.

Our eloquent OC, **Capt George Norton,** cannot go without mention. He and the Foreman, **Dougie Douglas,** have started early morning runs (walks) before commencing work. They were persuaded into this action by the antics of the Troop's own Eileen Fowler, **Sgt Charlie Walker.**

Although I described the OC as eloquent, we must have met his match with our final star, **Sgt Laurie Adams.** As our First Aid Instructor, Troop members who were here last summer will remember with a certain amount of nostalgia, his lengthy and never-ending lectures which we eagerly soaked up. Well, don't worry lads, he is starting again in April. Enough of this banter, let us congratulate **Laurie** and his wife, **Muriel,** on their newborn son, **Phillip.**

In conclusion we would like to wish our recently-moved-on member, **Cpl Al Dixon,** well on his T1 course. To our other recently moved members, **Sgts Keith Morrissey** and **Eric Stout,** we hope they further their Army careers in their own inimitable way.

11 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

THIS month is 'Poetry' month in 11 Sig Regt. We give two offerings from the latent talent of the Regiment.

DRILL COMPETITION

By Peter the Poet

(Cpl P. J. Antrobus)

The day is dawning, oh so near,
That all the Troop has learnt to fear
Days of work and toil and grind,
Quite enough to warp the mind.

Turn the body, FORCE it round,
Laddy, don't look at the ground.
Take your hands out of your pockets.
Rattled eyeballs in their sockets.

On it goes, day by day,
RIP your idle arms away,
Bend the knee up from the ground,
Thirteen up and fourteen down.

The day has come, the dreaded time,
The corporal he will be a swine,
If we do fail upon our mission
To secure the competition.

Fall in lads, you know the score,
I've taught you all, can't teach you more.
It's up to you, now do your best,
The God of Tup Three does the rest.

Left turn, right turn, by the right,
The dizziness you try to fight.
The sinking feeling in your belly,
You know your knees are Chivers jelly.

That's your lot, Sir, may we go?
Thank you corporal, damn good show.
Marching off with lots of swagger,
Round the corner start to stagger.

Now the waiting does begin,
We tried so hard we ought to win,
The Captain he looked so impressed,
He knows damn well we are the best.

The waiting's over, work is done,
Now just think back, it's really fun,
Drill competitions make a thirst,
Specially when you come in first!

JUNIOR SIGNALMAN WING

Peter the Poet (Cpl P. J. Antrobus) briefs the competitors under the water towers, now well known by over 1,000 combat tradesmen who have passed through Albemarle Barracks

INSTRUCTIONAL WING

The second rhyming offering covers the comments of Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course No. 119 at the end of their course. This contribution should be sung, but we can't remember the tune.

LAMENT OF COURSE RSSSC 119

We started the Course on the 10th of November
The sun it was shiny and bright
But when we got on the square I really declare
We b----- well froze up with fright

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

There a drill staff did come with a loud voice
And drum, which he beat and did rage and did glare
But to those that were slow he just ordered them GO
'But don't quote me', and get off the square

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The cinema then was our next port of call
After fighting to open the door
When a thunderous voice said 'I've no b----- choice
But to teach you some military law

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Then joy it was over the charade it was dropped
These devils were human—they say
But alas and alack on the square we were back
For inspection by old Henry J.

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The course really started with drill, drill and drill
Lots of bending the knee on each turn
But when Paddy's about there's an awful amount
Of language to make your ears burn

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

There's swearing and cursing and shouts, groans and growls
Each time that he thinks that you shirk
And go talk to Jimmy and similar things
And the dustbin if that didn't work

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The classrooms were better but God only just
With Service Funds Military Law
Then IS and Tactics, Fieldcraft Q Accounts
Duty student you haven't altered the door!

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The PT Staff would greet us with press-ups and heaves
So our muscles would strengthen and flower
But this time we'd abuse
We'd most energy use
Trying to be the first back to the shower

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

On one of those wintry and cold clammy mornings
We all had to go for PT
When they counted the heads there was one still in bed
Airly just never bothed you see

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Then up to the top of the camp we do go
To the Arms team of Jerry, Dave and Jo
Like three wise men of old
Or three monkeys I'm told
To teach us the drills we don't know

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Now all the instructors are smokers and they
Like to break for a while for some drags
It's a shame though you see unfortunately
There's but one in the Course carries fags

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The practical test of our stamina came
When to Warcop we all then did go
Where Oh! deary me, Ken Preston proved to be
More deadly than all of the foe

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

We made a mistake or two up on the moors
Captain Mac though I'm sure didn't mind
And although they were strange
We worked well on each range
Until Geordie that is threw a blind

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Mr Irons was nonchalantly smoking his pipe
Shouting change, ready, throw (what a bind)
But when Geordie let whang
There was nary a bang
Only Condor muttering damn in his mind

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Now map-reading there was an interesting tale
Go by night don't get lost who knows how?
We do but one here quietly sipping his beer
Thought the North Star was south of the Plough

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

We came back to camp on a cold freezing Friday
To get rid of our wet muddy clothes
And try to get warm but all was forlorn
The heating was off so we froze

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

The last week's been terrible trying to think
Of the things that were practised and learned
But tonight it's all over it's time to relax
And our notes were symbolically burnt

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

Now too soon it is over—the fun and the laughs
The sweat and frustration and pain
As we go on our way to you staff we all say
Fare you well 'till we meet once again

Singing bend the knee then drive it down.

AFFILIATIONS

In our last Regimental WIRE notes we gave 4 Sqn Troop affiliation with Regiments. Here are 3 Sqn's affiliations:

Triangle Troop	—	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Kohima Troop	—	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
White Spear Troop		7 Sig Regt
Bonus Troop	—	10 Sig Regt
Beaufighter Troop		21 Sig Regt

TAIL PIECE

You'll NEVER BELIEVE IT, but . . . we had a fire in the accommodation block during January. It was discovered by **Sig Jerry Fry** and **Lcpl Pete Burns**—Yes, it's true. And just to prove it—they awoke the whole Regiment to witness it.

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

THE TIME FACTOR

THIS month's notes from Birgelen seem to have 'time' as a recurrent feature. Perhaps this is understandable, since Old Moore and HMSO desk diaries notwithstanding, February always seems to be the longest month of the year. On the 22nd **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** Chief Signal Officer BAOR, visited the Regiment whilst **Mrs Sturge** met the wives of the Regiment at Huckelhoven and Wassenberg. **Maj Gen Sturge** accompanied, in the absence of the CO, **Lt Col Martin Pickard,** due to illness, by the 2IC, **Maj Brendan Kavanagh,** and **WO1 (RSM) Tony Jones** watched the first two teams competing in that highlight of the Regimental year, The Colonel's Cup.

Maj Gen Sturge talks to some of the competitors on completion of the assault course

The real test

This is a competition in which teams of eight men and one WRAC 'volunteer' compete against each other over a course which involves light rescue, the assault course and marksmanship, though devious minds insist that the real test is to find those with sufficient initiative to avoid being involved at all. That is as may be, the routine is to secure a WRAC 'casualty' to a stretcher, double quarter-of-a-mile uphill (not forgetting to take stretcher and casualty along), manhandle said unwieldy and by now incredibly heavy object over a 6ft wall, in one piece, the casualty that is. Then they tackle the assault course, where spectator highlights and competitor traumas include a 10ft wall and a set of nets which are undoubtedly possessed by a particularly malevolent demon. Thirty seconds after completing that lot, there is the test of marksmanship, the idea being to fire either when one's arms are not shaking, or between the shuddering, convulsive breaths, or, if exceptionally lucky, in a lull when both the previous conditions coincide.

Success to 2 Squadron

So back to the relativity of time. This year's winners, 2 Sqn 'A' team, taking advantage of a handicap-for-age system, fielded a team containing several 'Golden Oldies' and somehow or other, handicap combined with excellent results on the course, finished on a corrected time basis, 22sec before they began. Congratulations to **Ssgt Dave Smith** (captain), **W/Cpl Anne Anthony, WO1 Jim Bone, WOs2 Rod Willars** and **Martin Hagger,** and **Cpls Len Dunbar, Ken Livingstone, Andy Livesley** and **Bob Hodges.** Theories that members who competed during leave, having completed a so-called closed loop in time, need never return to duty are being investigated but Combined Records Office are thought to be unsympathetic, unscientific, or both.

CONGRATULATIONS

Three soldiers of the Regiment have recently been honoured. Firstly, **WO2 Martin Hagger** who joined the Regiment just before Christmas from 9 Sig Regt was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List. Our warmest congratulations. Secondly, **WO1 Pete Goonan** and **Sgt 'Dusty' Millar** have received their LSGC; once again our congratulations, the usual remarks about the inefficiency of the crime-detecting agencies are probably in order!

Sgt Miller receives his LS and GC from Lt Col Pickard

FROM THE SERGEANTS MESS

It was with regret that the Mess, at a Ladies Dinner Night, held on Feburary 12, said goodbye to two very well-known and liked members and their ladies. Firstly, **WO1 Tom Neil** and his wife, **Helen,** who are returning to the UK prior to leaving the Service. **WO1 Neil** joined the Corps in 1955 after serving in the Merchant Navy and has served with 7 Sig Regt, 9 Sig Regt and many detachments, as well as here at Birgelen. Along the way he met and married the then **W/Sgt Helen McConnell.** Whole generations of trainees are grateful to you, **Helen.** Our best wishes go with you both into civilian life. The second farewell was to **WO2 Alan Tomlinson** and his wife, **Joan Elizabeth,** on posting to SHAPE. You won't be too far away; come back whenever you can.

Collared at last, WO1 Dyke enjoys the bar stock

FLASHBACK

Ref last month's 'WO1 Courtmartialled' for all who knew **WO1 (as was) Dave Dyke** we now have the pictorial evidence, which due to technical difficulties (please do not adjust your WIRE) did not appear last month.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Welcome to **Padre Peter Marshal** who has arrived to take over the spiritual guidance of the Regiment. **Padre Marshal** was ordained in Barbados in 1958 for the Diocese of Trinidad. He is married and accompanied by his wife, **Pamy.** He has considerable experience of Signals units, having served previously with 22 Sig Regt and 9 Sig Regt. **Padre Marshal** replaces **Padre Michael Ryall** after an interregnum of nine months during which the spiritual affairs of the Regiment were largely cared for by **Padre John Fail, MBE,** DACG. Our sincere congratulations to **Padre Fail** on the award of the MBE in the New Year Honours List.

SPORTS

The sporting scene this month is just a bit hazy. Winter leagues are mostly waiting to clear up the backlog of previously postponed games and the summer round of sports is still to begin.

Cross-country running and Orienteering standards have improved greatly over the season and look like providing a good foundation for next year. The badminton team finished third in the league, HQ BAOR 'A' having finished first and unbeaten for the third year in succession. The squash team, led by **Maj Ken Aitken** (the human hairpin), with two matches still to play has won six and lost four. Best wishes go to **Capt Ken Day** temporarily out of the team, due to illness. Finally, the hockey team after a very successful season is waiting to complete its programme.

The winning 2 Sqn team get their 'casualty' over the wall

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

QUIET SCENE

THE unknowing visitor to Bradbury Barracks at the moment might be led into thinking how quiet and peaceful everything is—the trees outside RHQ coming into blossom, very few vehicles around, and hardly a soldier in sight. Very misleading it is; for underneath it all is feverish activity, and there are no soldiers to be seen because they are scattered far and wide over Germany deployed on Exercise Wintex.

Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge presenting LS and GC to Ssgt Roy Lee. Sgt Ray Hughes looks on

While we were working up to Wintex we were pleased to have a farewell visit from the CSO, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** and his wife. During the day the CSO presented the LS and GC Medal in the Sergeants Mess to **Ssgts Roy Lee, Alex Dunbar** and **Barry Ibbertson.**

MUSICAL SSMs

This month we have been playing what one person has called 'Musical SSMs'. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Freeman** has gone to HQ Sqn to work with **Capt Harry Feber** on the departure of **Maj John Ient** to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Northey** has shuffled sideways to 3 Sqn and is getting his first taste of 'the field' now out on exercise, while **WO2 (SSM) Tom Hazel** has found out that there really are people working underneath RHQ in 'the hole' and is now SSM of 1 Sqn.

SPONSORED NON-SMOKE

If you're thinking of giving up smoking you might as well make it profitable! **Maj Geoff Granger** has done just that and stands to lose about £500 if he smokes before May 8, 1977! It all started out as a joke one night in the Officers Mess bar but once the number of sponsors started to rise rapidly he realised that he couldn't afford to give in and has done without a single cigarette since November 7, 1976. Mind you, as another Major in the Regiment will agree, it is very expensive in chewing gum!

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

FAREWELL VISIT

WE were pleased to receive **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge** on their farewell visit to the Regiment. **Mrs Sturge** was hosted by the ladies of the Regiment at a coffee party while **Gen Sturge** toured the Regiment meeting the soldiers at their place of work. At the end of his visit the General was presented with a carved statuette of 'The Traveller' by the Sergeants Mess, as a memento of his tour as CSO BAOR, a souvenir which he thought was highly appropriate!

Hmmm . . . GOOD QUESTION!

Left to right: Lt Col T. A. Byrne, Commanding Officer; Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge, CSO BAOR; Maj R. B. H. Cox, OC 2 Sqn; Capt K. H. Dewis, 2IC 2 Sqn

BOXING EXCELLENCE BY NOVICES

On Friday, February 18, the boxing team met 16 Sig Regt in the final of the Rhine area section of the BAOR Novices competition. Both teams must be congratulated for an excellent afternoon's entertainment where 'sweat and blood' were the order of the day. Results as follows:

Lightweight	WO	Winner	**Sig Jones**	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Featherweight	KO	Winner		16 Sig Regt
Light Welterweight	KO	Winner	**Cpl Sharkey**	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Light Middleweight	TKO	Winner	**Sig Dunk**	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Middleweight	TKO	Winner	**Sig Hagen**	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Light Heavyweight	TKO	Winner		16 Sig Regt
Welterweight	Points	Winner		16 Sig Regt

Overall result: Winners 28 (BR) Sig Regt 4—3.

PRAISE INDEED

The following is reproduced with the only comment: 'Are we real?'

Department of the Army
Company B, 32D Signal Battalion Corps
APO New York 09757
5 Nov 76

Subject — Letter of Appreciation
Thru — LTC Byrne
28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Thru — Maj (TFC) Cotton
Tare Troop
1st Squadron
28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
To — Commander
C & E Division
HQ NSSG

1. It is with sincere pleasure that I present you with this letter of appreciation for the outstanding manner in which 'A' Troop 1 Sqn 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) supported this Command during Able Archer 1976.

2. The professionalism, competence and devotion to duty displayed by your men in solving complex differences between American and British Communication equipment is highly commendable. This outstanding performance of duty reflects great credit upon yourself the British Signal Regiment and NATO.

3. Please accept my sincere thanks for a job well done and the best wishes of myself and all other members of this command.

Gary D. Brichfield
Commcen Platoon Leader.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We say farewell to **Sgts Shaw, Cox, Cpl Anderson, Lcpls Hillsley, Tilley, Sigs Fulton, Love, Hagen, Wilkinson** and **Taylor.** And welcome **Lcpls Berrie, Goor, Lynch, Young, Cfn Bailey** and **Sig Bartlett.**

WINNERS OF THE BAOR ARMY FOOTBALL CUP
28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)

From left to right. Standing: Sgt Campbell, Pte Cole (RPC), Lcpl Rosslee, Ssgt Lockwood, Sgt Garrow, Sig Edwards, WO1 (Y of S) Golledge *(Trainer/manager)*

Sitting: Cpl Dignam, Sgt Parkhill, Sig Horan, Sgt Nelson *(captain)*, Lcpl Murray, Sgt Badeley. *Missing:* Sig Moulds

SOCCER SUCCESSES

The Regimental soccer team continues to have a successful season. On Wednesday, March 2, the team travelled to Sennelager to play 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt in the final of the Army Cup (BAOR section). Both teams took time to settle down before playing good cup football. The Regiment, after one or two early scares, took the lead and by half time were three goals up, with goals from **Sig Tony Horan** (2) and **Cpl Peter Dignam. Sgt 'PC' Campbell** had been injured during this half and was substituted by **Pte Danny Cole** (RPC). The second half was not as entertaining as the first half, due to both defences being on top. Special mention must be made of **Sgts Brian Parkhill, Maurice Nelson, Mickey Baddeley** and **Sig 'Taff' Edwards,** who all had an outstanding game.

Final score: 28 (BR) Sig Regt 3, 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt 0.

In the domestic competitions, ex-members will be pleased to know that we are also doing well.

North Rhine Inter-Services League — League leaders.
Rhine Area Cup — Through to the final against 21 Sig Regt.
League Cup — Through to the semi-finals.

The Regimental team also played RAF Germany and won 2 goals to 1.

All games	P	W	D	L	F	A
	23	22	0	1	125	11

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

NEAR AND FAR

IT has been a fairly quiet month for the Regiment. As many people as possible are taking part in Exercise Snowball, a ski-ing exercise in the Cairngorms, which continues until early April.

1 Sqn successfully completed, and very much enjoyed Exercise Fallback, which was undertaken in lieu of two overseas exercises, one in Norway and one in the Gambia. One detachment went to St Mawgan and had the opportunity to try some surfing, whilst the other detachment went to Catterick, where the weather was equally as harsh as ever it would have been in Norway; however, they had the opportunity to do some canoeing in the wild waters of North Yorkshire.

EXERCISE SHORT SWITCH (Report by WO2 (Supvr R) C. Honor)

We departed from Lyneham during a heavy snowstorm by courtesy of the RAF in a Hercules arriving in Cyprus on February 1, and work commenced at 1800hrs the same day. The main body of the Troop was working in Episkopi under **Capt Dick Stokes** while a detachment under **WO2 Clive Honor** was deployed to Dhekelia in an helicopter, for the duration of the exercise. The EW play finished on February 4, from when it was decreed it was kebab and meze week. **Capt Stokes** then deployed the main body of the Troop into Limassol to sample the local fare. They found an exotic wine at 25p a bottle which they drank in large quantities accompanied by plenty of food; in fact, **Sgt Jim Green** ate a whole raw cabbage with his wine. By the 7th the Troop was spread the full length of the island and a magical move ended with the whole Troop arriving at Troodos for a games evening hosted by 259 Sig Sqn (Mountain Troop). It turned out a very enjoyable evening and as often is the case the result was of secondary importance. We must thank **Maj Colin Grundy** for being an excellent host throughout our stay in Cyprus; EW Troop finally departed from Cyprus somewhat sadly on February 11. Footnote—our two super heavyweights, **Sgts Jim Green** and **John Carr,** have gone on crash diets.

START YOUNG

If you want to be an expert in any field start young! That applies to judo, and the Mercury Judo Club on Blandford Camp is an excellent example; 56 young people from the ages of 5–14 are trained in the art, and enjoy it so much that they turn up three nights a week. On Fridays **Lcpl Larry Tulett** provides the basic keep fit training so important to the improvement of agility and speed. On Mondays and Thursdays there are instruction classes. **Pte Stuert Hogg** (ACC), the instructor for the last 18 months, and an Army Judo Middleweight Champion himself, is busy qualifying for his Black Belt. Good luck, **Stuert,** not far now! **Sqn Ldr Ron McIntyre** assists in the instruction. **Cpl 'Jock' McClorey** (ACC), and his wife, **Ruth,** have been chief treasurers and organisers. Thank you for all your hard work, and we wish you well at HQ Scotland!

High praise

Prior to April 1976, the club met in the gym, but has since acquired its own clubroom in the Youth Club building. It has been decorated and kitted out with the help of Judo Officer, **Capt John Hayes, Ssgt (F of S) Crowder, Cpl McClorey, Lcpl Inglis** and parents and friends. The Club did very well at a recent grading. The judge, who trains the Army Youth Team in judo, was so impressed by the general standard, and that of eight members in particular, that he commented that he'd love to have them in his squad.

Special mention

A special mention for **Graham,** son of **Ssgt Hall,** of the School of Signals, who reached 9th Mon (Orange Belt, 3 bands, to the uninitiated!) and to **Mark,** son of **Sgt Bentley,** of 1 Sqn, who reached 4th Mon after only four months. The Club gave a display recently in which £45 was raised for the local Primary School funds.

Photo courtesy S. Jardine, Photographer, 61 East Street, Blandford Forum

Left to right. Back row: Shaun Flanannagan, Robert Grant, Derek Siviour, Sarah Crowther
Front row: Suzanne Flaherty (6½ yrs), Ingrid Lonsdale, Tonia Dalton, Guy Gyspeerdt, Clifford Marshall, Wendy Jones (5½ yrs)

RUN RAISES FUNDS FOR SPASTICS SOCIETY

There can't be many people who get up early on a Sunday morning and run 44 miles for charity, but four of our lads did just that on Sunday, February 20. **Sgt Dave Bayley,** HQ Sqn, and the athletic 1 Sqn contingent of **Cpl Pete Watts** and **Lcpls Willy Ireland** and **Mike Leslie,** set off from the 'White Hart' in Blandford at 0700 to run to Salisbury, supervised and aided by **Miss Barbara Ashford,** driving her Mini, who works in the Sergeants Mess.

The lads were canny enough to time the run so that they arrived back just after opening time. **Barbara** provided a taxi service, but we won't ask how many pints they downed.

The final total raised, £63, was presented to the Bournemouth Branch of the Spastics Society. Well done, lads!

Left to right: Sgt Dave Bailey, Miss Barbara Ashford, Cpl Willy Ireland, Lcpl Nick Leslie

News from Squadrons

3 Commando Bde Sig Sqn, RM Barracks, Stonehouse, Plymouth

WELCOME BACK

IT is said that one man who volunteers is worth a dozen pressed men, but as we could not all hold the pen at once I might be called the 'one volunteer'. It is not very often that we submit WIRE notes from Royal Marine Barracks, Plymouth, but just to let people know that we are still here, here goes.

PERSONALITIES

First let me introduce the members of the detachment: our boss is **WO1 (F of S) Barry Hassel;** then we have the operators: **Sgt Mike Hogben, Cpls Stan Skidmore, 'Dino' Derrick, Graham Cross,** and we have just said goodbye to **Cpl Bill Lofts** who has gone to that great institute in Yorkshire, the TTS, to get transferred to another trade. Then we have our techs: **Sgt Pete Archard** (who we all congratulate on his recent promotion), **Cpls John Bakker** and **Frank Anderson** and, due to join us soon, **Lcpl Dave Ladbrook.**

COMMITMENTS NEAR AND FAR

Our exercise commitments are not heavy, but well varied. The detachment has been as far afield as Istanbul and as close to home as the Dartmoor training area (a very nice place once you get to know it). **Cpls Stan Skidmore** and **John Bakker** are, at the time of writing, away with 45 Commando Royal Marines who are doing a three-month Arctic warfare exercise in the cold reaches of Norway. On their return both will be lucky enough to go through the rigors of the three-week pre-Commando course, followed by the five-week Commando course at CTCRM Lympstone.

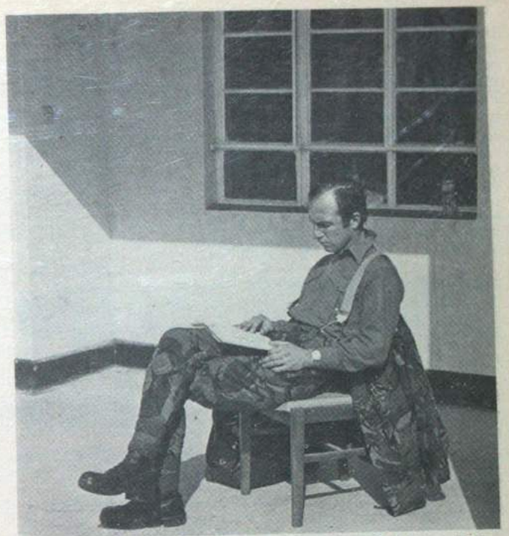
As a complete detachment the last exercise we did was a month's trip aboard the LPD HMS *Fearless.* From *Fearless* we did landings in Holland, Denmark and Norway. It also gave us a chance to brush up on the ship's routine, and the often strange terms used by the Marines and Navy (anything from a clear lower decks to a quick stand easy followed by an out pipes). While in Scapa Flow one member of the detachment **(Cpl Graham Cross)** learnt about getting on the right side of a landing craft when running into the sea, as his very wet kit proved.

CONGRATULATIONS

Green hats are a favourite subject of some and the bain of others, at the moment there is an equal balance of hats, we have all had a go at the course or parts of it, some have passed, others have come off with a variety of injuries from sprained ankles to broken bones and worse. A special word of congratulation must go to **Sgt Mick Hogben** for his achievement in getting the Commando Medal on his course—no easy task for the Commando Medal is only awarded to any officer or man who shows throughout training that he possesses the following qualities to an outstanding degree: Leadership, unselfishness, cheerfulness under adversity, courage and determination; these qualities defining the Commando spirit. But despite the injuries, those without the green hat are ready to give it their all and have another go at it for there is nothing a Marine can do that the Corps cannot do as well.

AN INVITATION

Being a very small volunteer posting we do not get many new faces, so if there are any Data Tg or TE Techs 'out there' who are willing to take on the rigours of the Commando course, and if there is a vacancy, you are welcome to come and give it a try!



Overworked Admin Officer, Capt Michael Whitfield (Scots DG)

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

A WINTER BREAK

EXERCISE Pin Stripe took us not to the City of London, as you would imagine, but to Aphrodite's island and the warmth of a Mediterranean winter. These month-long periods of overseas training are normally allocated to infantry companies, so as a Brigade Signal Squadron we were fortunate in getting the slot. Well done, Brigade HQ Troop. However, we had to earn our place on a CPX Exercise Short Switch 8. Land Forces Cyprus wrote us into their own CPX as a reinforcing brigade and gave us the unusual opportunity to practice our operations outside the more usual NATO setting.

Simulation and away

Prior to our trip to Cyprus we had to run our own domestic CPX where we tried to simulate all aspects of the forthcoming exercise at Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. As you might imagine, this proved difficult especially when the sun refused to shine and the local wine proved to be Adnams Ales. In fact, it snowed for good measure. However, the greatest flaw in the simulation was in the Army 39-seater bus (representing an RAF VC10) when the driver pulled up at '35,000ft' and got out to answer a call of nature! Once the communications and staff procedures had been successfully practised, we returned to Colchester, prepared our equipment and vehicles for an air move, and, a few days later, found ourselves escaping from the cold and snow of England as we winged our way to Cyprus for a month.

Dubious priority

The Squadron quickly and efficiently deplaned and, for the sake of realism, customs and immigration facilities were waived. The reinforcing Headquarters had arrived. The contingent of 54 taking part in the CPX moved swiftly into the hanger and changed into combat kit—we were soldiers again. Here, the OC, **Maj Iain Kerr,** learnt what Suez must have been like when the Mess silver arrived in place of the communications equipment. In our case the Hercules carrying the adventure training stores had arrived, but that carrying all the communications equipment, command vehicle and Brigade Commander's Rover was delayed for 24 hours.

After a leisurely lunch we drove down to Dhekelia in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area and took over the Operations Centre, our home for the next five days. There we met our colleagues from HQ 3 Sig Group and 262 Sig Sqn. They were to give us much help during our stay in Cyprus. In fact, to cite one example, **Cpl 'Geordie' Muncaster** was so keen to rectify a faulty neon light, that he overlooked the presence of our OC beneath, and dropped the tube squarely on the OC's head. Relations were slightly strained.

'You should have seen me'. Lcpl Denehy explains to (*from left to right*) Sig 'Budgie' Parry, Sig Dick Hornby and Sig Pat Sutton

A rest in Larnaca Bay
Left to right: Cpl Bob Beebee, Sig Pat Sutton, Cpl Wilf Morris, Lcpl 'Geordie' Bincliffe and Sig Dick Hornby

The CPX went well. It was soon over and **WO2 (F of S) Graham Laws** rapidly recovered from the bed sores he had developed on his first exercise with us. The Staff disappeared and left the Signal Squadron to concentrate on its own interests without the worry of administering an HQ. It made a most pleasant change.

Riot drill—a formidable square

Weeks fly

Magic lantern-like, the next three weeks flashed by. Military training leavened by ski-ing, canoeing, dinghy sailing, sub-aqua diving, free-fall parachuting, hill-walking, military training were some of the activities which spring to mind. We also enjoyed the less-well-known pastimes of sunbathing, eating traditional mezze and drinking Keo or village wine.

The Squadron split into three composite Troops for military training. The most successful combination was a mixture of RMP, RCT and REME! Nevertheless, all received valuable training in infantry skills set in a CRW context. The syllabus included riot control, ambushes, platoon attacks, defensive positions and map-reading, was sounded off by a two-day patrol exercise which was mysteriously won by that strange combination.

Among those attached to us were two trainees from MOD. One of them, **Mr Stephen Douglas,** had strange ideas about patrol exercises and brought his silk pyjamas along. **Sig 'Mac' MacFadyen** might have been dressed properly, but his actions were equally unusual. He approached a shadowy figure with the cry, 'Is that you, Jim?'. The shadow replied 'No, it's **RSM Wally'. MacFadyen** vanished! On another occasion **Capt Carl Conlon** was having difficulty getting through on a manpack radio. He turned to the nearby lineman, **Lcpl Steve Chopping,** and said, 'Get out of the radio path'. **Lcpl Chopping** moved to one side, and when **Capt Conlon** was still unable to get through, retorted, 'There must be someone else standing in the way'.

Popular snow

Ski-ing was one of the more glamorous pastimes offered and was well supported. **Capt Edmund Thewles** (WFR) (our G3 Int) ably assisted by our **Lcpl Paul Gildert** put class after class through their paces.

However, the Signal Squadron's most notable achievement in the world of ski-ing was carried out in preparation for the Cyprus Championships. Troodos was suffering from a shortage of snow, and so **Sgt George Francis** (RPC) of the D and E Platoon and several others managed to shift eight tons of snow to prepare the course. **Sgt Francis'** reward for his efforts was a piggy-back ride to camp on an Austrian instructor's back. He was quite grey on arrival!

We consider ourselves very lucky to have had **WO2 (QSMI) 'Dicky' Dart** (APTC) attached to us. He gave us all much valuable advice on a variety of sporting subjects and ran a series of sea-canoeing courses, which finished with a seven-mile trip from Larnaca to Dhekelia. On one such course **Cpl Bob Beebee** found his forte was continuous left-hand circles, while **Cpl Wilf Morris** and **Lcpl 'Geordie' Bincliffe** decided to stare at fish eyeball to eyeball.

Tests of initiative

Although organised initiative tests were run on the patrol exercise, the SNCOs and the officers did not like being omitted. So when **Ssgt 'Scouse' Lawlor** (ACC) was asked to produce a birthday cake for the OC at short notice, he quickly gathered the basic ingredients, but the decorations were a problem. One large candle solved the lighting problem, while bars of compo fruit and nut had their ingredients carefully separated, and were used to make a chocolate-covered cake.

On one occasion the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were invited to a fancy dress party so they took themselves off to a local jumble sale. While **WO1 (RSM) Wally Lockwood** was trying on a tattered jacket, **WO2 'Dicky' Dart** sold the RSM's own jacket to another customer for 250 mils (about 30p). The RSM was most grieved, especially when it cost him a good argument and a lot more than 250 mils to recover it.

RSM Wally Lockwood is presented with his *new* jacket. RSM Jim Brown and WOs Bill Clark and Ian Ryder look on

Finally, a word about our MTO, **Capt John Knight** (RCT), who spent all his time obtaining transport for everybody and found himself without. Not to be outdone, he managed to get a lift to the Mess in a laundry van with 'We do all your donkey work' boldly painted on the side.

Energetic and happy conclusion

As a finale to a hectic and varied programme of events we arranged a Games and Sports Day against 9 Regt, which took place at Ayios Nikolaos on Wednesday, February 23, 1977. Fully aware, as we were, of the sporting strength and ability of our hosts, such a venture could be considered to be over-ambitious to say the least. However, and not in retrospect, our aim was not necessarily to cover ourselves in sporting glory but more important to involve the majority of the Squadron in some sporting activity. Gladly and without tainting our competition spirit this aim was fully achieved.

The events we competed in were soccer, squash, hockey, rugby, volleyball and pistol shooting. Including the officials, such a turnout left only those with broken limbs and torn muscles on the sidelines as spectators. What we lacked in playing ability and finesse we made up for in fitness and enthusiasm. It was most encouraging to see new stars born. **Cpl Fred Knox** on the hockey field, **Cfn Bill Stevely** (REME) at soccer, **Lcpl 'Geordie' Bincliffe** in the scrum, **Sig Jo Stroud** on the squash court, **Dvr 'Brickwall' Weekes** (RCT) on the volleyball and **Pte 'Smokey' Graham** (RPC) to mention but a few.

Our greatest success was surely on the volleyball court. With all other events completed the volleyball was played in front of a packed gymnasium. Our win was all the more surprising as our team lacked such known volleyball personalities as **Capt Brian Turner** and was made up of players who, until that day, had never seriously played the game before. The day was finalised by games nights in the respective Messes and, in the early hours of the morning, we bid our hosts farewell and departed, tired, a little 'tipsy' but heads held high.

Thank you

Our month in Cyprus had been well spent. We had made many new friends and had tried out new adventures, few of which would have been possible without the help of 9 Sig Regt, 262 Sig Sqn and the Joint Adventurous Training Centre. We are most grateful to them and all others who showed us kindness on Aphrodite's island.

SERGEANTS MESS MISCELLANEA

These notes could well be captioned 'Have bar will travel', as most of the membership have over the last month been deployed world-wide. The following report, whilst acknowledging an empty house at home, dwells upon the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn membership and their 'arduous' tour of Cyprus. The RSM and some 25 Mess members found themselves in Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia, without a Mess. It is a credit to their versatility or maybe a reflection of their needs that within 24 hours of arriving a barrack-room type Mess had been established.

Sgt George Gallant found the task of beers, wines and spirits member much to his taste whilst **Sgt Dave Powell** came into his own as the entertainments member. Exercise and Mess members are sure to understand why. The reasons for the once dark, dank little barrack room suddenly looking like the Nicosia Hilton was due to **Sgt Peter Wilson** and his many hundreds of cousins on the island. We, of course, are very beholden to those who helped us. So numerous are they it would be impossible to name them, suffice it to say that Mess life without the help of **Capt Peter Dick** and **WO2 (ORQMS) Stan Long** of the Dhekelia Garrison would have been very difficult.

The RSM and members of 9 Sig Regt Sergeants Mess very kindly entertained us on a number of occasions, culminating in a games evening which coincided with the inter-Unit games day. The evening went well and we were royally entertained. The highlight of the event was a special presentation of a leather jacket by **WO1 Ian Rider** to **RSM Wally Lockwood,** who was seen to smile out of the corner of his mouth. Now we are home and again getting used to the expensive luxuries, snow and sleet, we look back upon an excellent month where the true meaning of Mess friendship was displayed by all our hosts.

216 Para Sig Sqn, Aldershot

CHANGING ROLE

ON April 1, 1977, the Squadron expands into 6 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

It is interesting to note how various Signal Squadrons have marked the demise of their Brigades and the birth of Field Forces. As an independent unit which has been involved in some unique experiences it was decided that the best tribute to its changing role would be a brief summary, supported by a pageant of photographs.

Numerical significance

Following World War II, the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions were disbanded and a new Brigade was created, taking its title from the numerals of the old divisions. Hence 16 Ind Para Bde and Sig Sqn was formed in 1948 and initially posted to Brunswick for three years. An insurrection in Egypt prompted their move to the Suez Canal. Following this tour they returned to England, but the Squadron was quickly redeployed to Cyprus on internal security work. In 1956 the Squadron, once again, found itself in Egypt where it was involved in the Suez Crisis. However, by Christmas everyone had returned to Waterloo (East) Barracks in Aldershot.

Notable commitments

From this time the notable active service postings included Jordan in 1958. On this occasion the unit was supporting King Hussein against rebel forces. This was followed by support for the Civil Powers in Kuwait in 1961. The campaign in Cyprus had special significance because in March 1964 the Red Beret was changed for the Light Blue of the United Nations. The Squadron's involvement in Northern Ireland started in 1970, and continues to this day.

No. 2 added

From 1958 the Squadron was accommodated in Barossa Barracks. A year later the unit's title was prefixed by a '2' in order that it should be part of a coherent series of Independent Signal Squadrons. In 1960 another move was made, this time to Elles Barracks in Farnborough, where it remained for the next five years. Subsequently it moved yet again to its present location in Montgomery Lines.

Near and far

Detachments from the Squadron have found themselves as far afield as Bahrain, Belize, Borneo, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, Guyana, Hong Kong, Jordan, Kenya, Sharjah and in many parts of Europe. Parachute training has never been neglected and many of the Squadron have received wings from such countries as Germany, Canada, Sweden, France and the USA.

Aircraft conversion (Hastings)—May 1951

Arnhem Day Parade 1954

THROUGH THE YEARS
216 Para Sig Sqn

'En route' for Aqaba—September 1958
Capt M. U. Ryan (*driving*), Sig Stewart (*batman*) and Sig Appleton—Mentioned in Dispatches for his efforts in Jordan

Fitting for first Hercules descent—1967
Left to right: Lcpl 'Roy' Jakins, Ssgt 'Pete' Studd, Capt 'Robby' Laing and Sig 'Taff' Duffy

1967—Brig (now Maj Gen) A. H. Farrar-Hockley, DSO, MBE, MC, inspecting members of the Squadron. *Left to right:* Lcpl 'Chalkie' White and Sig Jim Coffee. *Looking on:* Capt W. J. P. Robins and Maj M. U. Ryan

Royal Review—April 24, 1967

1975—Lt 'Nigel' Jackson training with the Swedish Special Forces

AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION AND OPEN DAY 1977

THE Dinner and Open Day will be held on July 22-23, 1977, in Aldershot. The total cost will be £5·00 per person or £8·00 per couple.

Those who wish to attend or would like to have more information please contact **Lt P. L. McDouall** (Royal Signals), 216 Para Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AU. Telephone: Aldershot 24431 ext 455.

AND MORE RECENTLY

The Squadron prepared for an operational role in 1975

216 Para Sig Sqn on exercise, dropping on Hankley DZ
In front, left to right: Sig Robertson (now Sgt), Sig Dillon (now Mr), Cpl Kennington (now RSM)
Centre foreground: Cpl McGovern (now RQMS)

Lcpl George Burrows and WO2 (Y of S) George Devine fly the Para Sig Sqn flag 1½ miles high over Peterborough during a training session for the Blue Helmets

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Old Sarum

EXERCISE HARDFALL 1977

East of Bergen

A REPORT on the exploits of 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) training for war in the Arctic region of Norway during January/February 1977. From the peace and quiet of Old Sarum we departed, on four different dates, in four modes of transport, in four phases and eventually through luck, good fortune or plain good organisation by RCT movements, we arrived as one unit in Voss—some 55km east of Bergen. Dalane Hostel Voss was to be our home for the duration of our stay in Norway, from where, we were to carry out our annual Arctic acclimatisation programme—the theme of Exercise Hardfall as many before us are only too aware.

Hectic programme with Norwegian liaison

The training programme for this year was master-minded in the luxury of heated rooms, carpeted floors, soft chairs and coffee by the Squadron 2IC and Training Officer, **Capt John Ambrose.** Training was to consist of snow-shoe walks, bivouacing, snow caving, ski-ing, ranges, ski oreing and a Volvo driver course; a hectic programme that had to be fitted into the 14 days we had available. We were ably assisted in our tasks by three Norwegian liaison officers, who became very much part of the Squadron—their sense of humour was as twisted as ours by the time we parted company. **Capt (Warx the skis) Hagen, Lt (Double push) Fed,** and **2 Lt (don't forget to service the tractor) Gutraume,** helped make the training most enjoyable, though at times, it was extremely hard work.

A la Eskimo

Training commenced with a 'breaking in' night spent in a five-man Arctic tent in the grounds of the hostel, followed by a 5km snow-shoe march—a further night in Arctic tents was then spent 'half way' up the mountain. The climax to the nights out was the snow cave. A chance to live a la Eskimo was not to be missed—the part we could have done without was digging the damn thing! Unfortunately, snow caves do not come ready made so the back-aching task of digging them out began—five hours later—a five-man snow hole. The final night out brought us to our mountain hut, a remotely situated, ski training hut some 3,000ft up, where, when the wind blows, inside the hut is the only sensible place to be.

Circus Britannica

Then the entertainment started. Now it seems we are to be known as the Royal Signals White Plank Cross-country Display Team—or, to put it in a nutshell, Circus Britannica. It does not help matters when one commences ski lessons at lesson No. 6 instead of lesson No. 1, but this was how it was to be. A short sharp rise in the ground contours lay in our way to the basic ski training area. Amidst cries of 'Our leader has fallen', the OC, **Maj David Walden,** followed by his equally painful ally, **Ssgt (the one with the short fat hairy legs) Rick Garrod,** made their way forwards, backwards, sideways, one ski over the other, to learn what it was all about. Those NATO 'planks' received an abundance of abuse during the next few days. To some the idea came naturally, to some it was a struggle, to others it was pure aggravation. We were beginning to wonder if we were doing the right thing when we observed members of the Squadron talking to their skis, begging them to co-operate, while everyone's favourite Lineman, **Sig Quasey Aitken,** spoke of insufferable consequences if his skis did not do as they were told. Twenty-three broken skis, numerous sprains, knocks and bruises later—ably dealt with by the way of our resident doctor, **Sgt 'Doc' Wroe,** assisted in everyway by **Sig 'Nurse Chalky' White**—the ski training ended up with a 10km ski race. This was a two-event affair—the advance skier's plaque was won by **Cpl Dave Turner,** the novice's by **Sig Shaun Wilson**—well done.

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

Not quite according to the book

Some found it easy

Advanced skiers, led by a Norwegian LO and Lt Paul Gorford

Distinguished visitors earn Arctic goggles

Visitors during the exercise were plentiful, the highlight though being that of the SO in C, **Maj Gen Tighe,** and Commander 1 Sig Group, **Col Benbow.** They spent two days with the Squadron, who impressed upon them that Exercise Hardfall is not one big holiday but that plenty of good, hard, useful training does take place. Their second day with us saw **Sgt 'Sandy' Geddes,** our resident Volvo instructor, insisting that our two distinguished visitors earn their Volvo driver Arctic goggles. So, after a quick brief on driving techniques, two Volvos with **Sandy Geddes** and **Lcpl Kev Froggett** as co-drivers, disappeared over the snow-clad hills en route to the mountain hut where **Lt Paul (Grass-hopper) Gorford** was in action with the advanced skiers, the Volvo driver's course were busy changing tracks and, finally, where our mountain cook, **Sig 'Geordie' Ramsey,** with his excellent morning porridge, proved he could do better than any laxative on the market.

An important thank you

An army marches on its stomach, so they say. A mention must be made, therefore, of our 'chef' as he demands we 'Jimmies' call him. **Sgt Phil Roe** provided us with food of quality and quantity. The problems were with his own cooks, broken windows and falling out of bunk beds!

Force 11 and Helicopter lift

February 19 came too quickly for most of us. A short trip to Ulvik, our port of departure, and there, awaiting our pleasure, was the LSL *Sir Geraint*. Events were not at an end though, for on the second day at sea, having experienced a force 11 storm, **Lcpl Ross Miller,** vomitting blood, had to be helicopter lifted from the ship, off the coast of Lincolnshire. He was transferred to a hospital in Norwich. **Lcpl Miller** had earlier been involved in an accident when a Volvo overturned on the mountainside; **Miller** bruised his shoulder while his co-driver, **Ssgt (Y of S) Mal Channing,** suffered injuries to his back that resulted in his being casevac to England (still not Hardfall trained). Happily, both are now well on the road to recovery.

Relief

Our Squadron 'sailor', **Ssgt (short fat hairy legs) Rick Garrod,** tried to ease a rather unpleasant jouney back with some nautical lessons, but most of us were feeling a little uneasy in the stomach to digest(!) the information. It was with some relief when we reached port, green grass, no snow, warm weather and home!

Photo courtesy of Public Relations, UKLF Mobile Team (York), HQ North East District

The SO in C, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE, with Lcpl Chris Rogan, Sig Jim McMahon and Sig Fred Dudden

Cpl Dave Turner, winner of the 10km ski race

259 Sig Sqn, B. F. P. O. 53

Report by WO2 (F of S) G. Yule, BEM

A ROYAL VISIT TO AIRFIELD TROOP

ON Wednesday, November 10, 1976, **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon,** arrived at Royal Air Force Akrotiri, aboard a Royal Flight VC10, for a two-day visit to selected Service Units in the Western Sovereign Base Area. It was decided that on the Friday visit to RAF Akrotiri a number of stands showing a cross-section of the role of RAF units in Cyprus, civilian departments and Army units at Akrotiri would be laid out as a 'static display of support activities'. Airfield Troop of 259 Sig Sqn (West) who are resident in RAF Akrotiri were invited to participate.

Preparation

After much scratching of heads and wondering how to show the work of the Troop to the best possible advantage in a space 30×10ft inside an enormous RAF hangar, it was decided by the Foreman, **WO2 George Yule, BEM,** and the chief Tele Mech, **Ssgt Phil Evans,** that we would build a cable pit from sand bags in the hangar, lay a 100-pr poly cable through the pit with a party doing a working joint to a GPO street pillar and to a mobile 40/160 field exchange manned by one of our RAF telephonists, **SACW Linda Penson,** with working Ccts on the exchange.

A display of the multitude of telephone instruments installed by the Troop and test equipment from Davy lamps through the Foreman's Safety Helmet to the Pulse-operated fault locator were also laid out. After a succession of dry runs by various high-ranking officers the day arrived and on the stand, the OC, **Capt Mike Jefferis, Ssgt Phil Evans, Lcpl John Maycock** and **Sig Gary Gillings** waited for **HRH** to arrive.

Walkabout on a perfect day

On a typical Cypriot November morning—blue skies and sunshine—Her Royal Highness arrived on the airfield where she first of all watched a flying display. **HRH,** accompanied by the Station Commander, did a Royal 'walkabout', stopping to speak to some of the many spectators, one of her stops taking in some members of the Troop and their wives.

HRH visited a static display of aircraft then entered No. 3 hangar, aptly signposted AKROTIRI EXPO 1976, to look at the stands. During the lunchtime period **Ssgt Evans** and his wife, **Magdeline,** were presented to **HRH** in the WOs and Sgts Mess, and **Capt Jefferis** attended a Royal Luncheon in the Officers Mess.

HRH talking to members of Airfield Troop and their wives

HRH being shown the connections to the GPO pillar by Lcpl Maycock

THE MEDITERRANEAN MOUNTAIN MEN

'This is the land of Aphrodite, born from the sea to create an Island of Dreams; such a sweet land . . . ah . . . nurtured by love, scented by orange blossom and toasted in wine.' There is a spot in the Northern Hemisphere whose co-ordinates are 34° 55′ N, 32° 53′ E where a small happy band of men reside. This is a place where a variety of Royal Signals tradesmen work at the absolute peak of their profession. Of course, we have heard all the old cliches, 'Up the sharp end'; 'it's tough at the top'; 'come up and see us sometime'; 'we're at the hub of the system'. All these can be attributed to this elite group of professionals who, ably assisted by others, maintain a Microwave Radio System supplying telephonic, telegraphic and even telepathic communications for a variety of customers (mainly the Royal Air Force). They maintain and repair their antiquated radios like witch doctors with magic wands. In addition they maintain and service a telephone exchange with associated lines providing a service that everyone wants but no one seems to appreciate.

In order to join this select band of men you have to answer at least one of the following questions:

- Do you know where the Jolly Green Giant keeps his Golf Balls?
- Can you train penguins?
- Do you ski?
- Do you drink Glühwein?
- Have you got a head for heights?
- Do you know where Mountain Troop is?

REMOTE AND HIGH

Mountain Troop is that indefatigable Troop that works on top of the highest point in Cyprus, Mount Olympus. We claim to be one of the most remote outposts and highest Troops in the Corps both physically and spiritually—being at 6,401ft most of the time. The Troop's mascots are penguins who dress in blue and spend most of the time flapping about trying to achieve unaided flight.

On Mount Olympus are three white spherical objects balanced on stands. There are plainly visible from Troodos and have only one obvious use: It is well known that **Sigs 'Jonah' Jones** and **'Geordie' Shave** have, through a blurring haze, seen the Jolly Green Giant tee-up.

LIGHTNING PROBLEM

Line Section is commanded by **Sgt Chris Jones** assisted by technician **Cpl John Gallagher** and four linemen but none of them can be found when we get thunderstorms complete with lightning strikes. One fateful night **Cpl John Wyllie** and his linemen had just replaced all 200 line fuses in Troodos after a lightning strike, when, standing back to admire their handiwork, they watched all 200 melt as the mast was struck yet again.

THE ICE CHIPPERS

Sgts Doug Currie and **Barry Trundle** are two relative newcomers to the Troodos Radio Relay detachment (well they weren't here for the coup or last winter). They were seen to re-check their Ristacomm notes when **Cpl Dave Ray** informed them, in a somewhat superior tone, that if they lost communications to Akrotiri they should go outside and chip the ice off the antenna and all would be restored! Anyone know the relative 'permitivity' of high-altitude ice!

FILM STAR LINE-UP

Olympus Radio Relay section boasts a film star line-up: leading role is played by **Sgt Eddie Higgins** and the other actors and comedians are **Sgt Danny D'Anastasi, Jack Smart, Cpls Roy Jarvis, Chris Gallagher** and **Al Harding.** The DoE have recently supplied this section with a £10,000 air-conditioning system made and disguised as a Hoover vacuum cleaner to blow cold air over a travelling wave tube. When this masterpiece first failed the carbon brushes were diagnosed as having worn away. Two new brushes were requested through a locally employed civilian working for DoE. He appeared 30 minutes later proudly carrying two new bass brooms!

STATE OF FLUX

The Repair Team seems continually in a state of flux. **Sgt Roger Price** leaves the team very shortly to become a civilian once again. No doubt **Sgts 'Badger' Paulley, Ray White** and **Cpl Paul Wilson** will be able to maintain the mystery of what happens in the Third Line Hut.

RADIO SECTION PERSONALITIES

Cpls Joe Emmerson, Brian Armstrong and **Sigs 'Geordie' Shave** and **'Big Rick' Marriot** spend a large proportion of their time listening to everybody and talking to nobody. Their Re-broadcast Station can communicate with anybody, anywhere anytime; even the Olympic Gods manage to use this system as a medium via the magic 'NRA Box'.

THE FURRY SEASON

The MT section is run with gusto and vigour by **Lcpl 'Jock' Marshall, Sig John Richmond** does all the running. At present we are in the grip of the 'Furry' season when half shafts break out of . . . trees jump out at . . . and passengers leap out from Land-Rovers, all due, I'm told, to this blinding white stuff lying on the ground. (Quartermaster: please believe us, it does snow at Troodos!)

CONTOUR OBSTACLE

We boast the smallest membership and highest profits on the Island. **Sgt Tony Craddock** (bar manager) and **Cpl Arnie Fleischer** (barman) have recently found the 5,800ft conour line right outside the Signals Club door which explains why so many patrons trip up when they leave!

Finally, the hierarchy on the mountain is in a state of flux. **Foreman Dave Pyke** and **Ssgt Ray Georgeson** have gone back to base at Episkopi and **Foreman Pat Baldwin** has just got his head in the clouds. The skipper, **Lt Gordon Hughes,** has maintained the art of high-altitude control by keeping our sun-kissed masters in Episkopi at bay, trying in vain to keep us fit and generally replenishing the spirits of the Mediterranean Mountain Men.

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

BACK 'HOME'

BY the time this gets into print the Squadron will have returned from Northern Ireland, had two weeks' leave and started to retrain on our radio relay and multiplexer equipments. Our four months in the infantry role has been a very interesting and enjoyable experience. It has cemented friendships and enabled all ranks to get to know one another better. It has enabled the less confident to gain confidence in themselves, something that is difficult to achieve in barracks or on short communications exercises in Germany. The stories of bomb hoaxes, incendiaries, shootings, searches and one riot will keep some members of the Squadron in beer for months to come!

STATISTICS

Fortunately, our tour (up to the time of writing) has been quiet—we have had shootings, two bombs, ten incendiaries, five fire bombs and one small riot to deal with. Those interested in statistics may be interested to read the following:

Cars checked	39,047
Cars searched	2,531
Searches	69
P checks	3,184
Arrests	32
Finds	12
Baton rounds fired	2

The *modus operandi* for the Squadron's three Troops was one day of guard duties; which included the town bomb watch, where four men patrolled the shopping centre whilst the shops were open; the eight-man guard at the Electricity Station; and manning the Camp (our temporary but pleasant home). One day of operations which included foot and mobile patrols, railway line searches, vehicle check points (VCPs) and searches. And lastly, if all was quiet, one so-called Alert Day when rest was achieved. The 'days' were 24 hours long and not the 0830hr to 1630hr one is normally accustomed to!

WELCOME DIVERSION

We worked closely with the RUC as well as with the UDR, two of whose sub-units were based in our area. The Ops Room was able to talk direct to the RUC Ops Room as well as the UDR. This, on occasions, made for a lot of noise. With five telephones and three radio nets, shouting was inevitable during the odd incident. Each night a Greenfinch (W/UDR) would come in to assist the manning of the Ops Room, a procedure no one objected to.

Now that we have left, we miss the friends we have made both in the RUC, UDR and in 3 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We will, in time, miss our Camp and Portacabin accommodation.

IN RETROSPECT

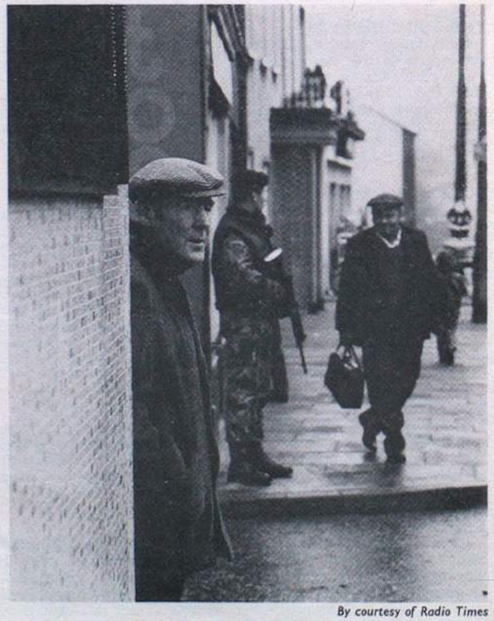
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

With on top of the Saracen: Maj Rumford, SQMS Wilcox, Cpl Leggatt, Lcpl Wade, Cpl Mayers (REME), Lcpl Ellis (REME), Pte Hartley (ACC)
Standing: Sgt Hobbs, WO1 (F of S) Sawyer, Cpl Graham, Lt Kelly (RA) (the IO), Cpl Restan, Cpl Webb, Sig Miller (as 3 Bde Officers Mess barman), Sgt (Wooff Wooff) Forbes, BEM, Ssgt Bardsley BEM, Cpl Dipple, Cpl Moseley, Cpl Howden, WO2 (SSM) Payne, Sgt (MML) Thomas, Pte Brady (ACC) and Capt Bloom
Absent on duty: Cpl Wilkinson and Cpl Mitten

By courtesy of Radio Times

Cpl (Now Sgt) Smart, LCpl Blondell and LCpl Tabak, on foot patrol

Town centre at night



By courtesy of Radio Times

Sig Boyle on watch in Tandragee

FAREWELL

Finally, we say goodbye to 35 members of the Squadron, who are posted in April and May to various Units of the Corps. Their numbers include **Capt Nick Mansfield** who is off to 14 Sig Regt, **2 Lt Ken Soar** off to the School of Signals, **Ssgt Jim Downie** and **Sgt Tom Chhetri** to 1 Div, and **Lcpls Wade, Sloan** and **Blondell** to 1 Arty Bde.

'Y' TROOP DISBAND

By the time readers see this, 'Y' Troop will have ceased to exist. It is fitting it should end on a high note after a successful tour in Northern Ireland. Soldiering as Infantry is soldiering indeed, and everyone in the Troop gained invaluable experience. We achieved no small measure of success. The infamous 'Yachtsman Inn' bomb got us on the national news and **Ssgt (now WO2) Jim (Coat-hanger) Allen** on to the front page of the following day's *Sunday Mirror*! The inquisitiveness of **Cpl Mick Eady** led to a search of one 'local' with a 'pay off'. A number of smaller successes have enabled us to say that we have done our bit for peace and security. During the tour we said goodbye to **Ssgt Allen** who went to Cyprus on well-deserved promotion — 'Good luck, Jim, from us all'.

Praise has come from few directions as this is a job that normally draws cursing and swearing. Understandably some of the population do not like their cars being searched, nor from time to time being woken up at 5 am to have their homes searched!

Congratulations to **Cpl Jimmy Smart** on his promotion. Our congratulations also go to **Lcpl 'Jock' (Birdseed) Gray** and **Lcpl John (Reynard) Fox** on gaining their tapes during the tour. **Sig Chris (Willie Warmer) Lees** has field tested the 'Willie Warmer' of *Daily Mirror* fame and is pleased to report that they passed all tests but could he have a larger one next time.

Of course, whilst over in Northern Ireland we have learnt a new language peculiar to IS operations. To help anyone going over there, here is a short guide of what certain phrases do *not* mean:

P check	is not a visit to the loo
Head check	is not a visit to the psychiatrist
VCP	is not a vist to the MO
REST	is not a period of leave
FELIX	is not a cat
SOCO	is not a new form of
YELLOW CARD	is not connected with Yellow Fever
LIFT	is not a machine found in high-rise buildings.

We could go on but if you are intrigued enough volunteer for one of the resident Signal Squadrons!

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

WRAC TO THE FORE

DHEKELIA Military Exchange and Army Commcen Dhekelia were the venues for a visit by **Col H. Powell** (WRAC), AAG, AG16, on Wednesday, February 23. **Capt (Tfc) Ken French** introduced **Col Powell** to the intricacies of the new military exchange which although manned permanently by locally-employed civilians provides useful PABX employment training for our WRAC Data Telegraphists. On then to Commcen Dhekelia, the only Army Commcen in Cyprus, where **Col Powell** met **Ssgt Jan Patilla,** the Commcen Supervisor, **Cpl Brenda Burnett** (Shift NCO), **Pte Val Holsgrove, Lcpls Sue Green** and **Gill Bonner. Cpl Burnett** (who is married to **Sgt Alan Burnett**) expressed, with feelings, the problems of having a husband posted to the same unit but who works 30 miles away at FSS Cape Greco. Clearly not all is sweetness and light on the Island of Venus!

Lcpl Sue Green (*centre*) convinces Col Powell that life is great in Cyprus, while Pte Val Holsgrove (*left*) and Lcpl Gill Bonner (*right*) agree politely

WATERLOO 8

Each year a number of road runs are held in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA). These races are characterised by their different nature. The Waterloo 8 is an eight-mile circuit within the Dhekelia Garrison and covers some long, steady up-hill gradients. The Squadron entered 4 runners, out of a total of 91 entrants from within the Garrison, for the race held on March 2, 1977; these were: **Sgt 'Stu' Bromidge, Cpl Fred Bennett, Sigs Chris Eades** and **Jim Dowling.** Strong running by **Eades** and **Bromidge** earned them first and second place overall with **Dowling** trailing slightly into mid-field. **Bennett** kept going, as he always does, and was rewarded, at long last, by gaining a team trophy, for third team overall, out of 21 teams entered. **Mrs M. U. Ryan,** wife of the Commander Dhekelia Garrison (3 Signal Group), kindly presented the prizes and, to the delight of **Col Ryan,** President of the Dhekelia Hash House Harriers, the Hash teams took first and second places overall.

Mrs M. U. Ryan congratulates Sig Chris Eades on his first place overall

News from Troops

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

Report by WO2 (Y of S) D. M. Thomas

MIAMI BOUND

SIG 'PADDY' PATRICKSON could see the headlines even before the two burly American immigration officials led him away to the secluded interrogation room. How was he to convince them that he was simply a Radio Telegraphist embarking upon a 'once in a lifetime' holiday in the States? **Bahnhof Mitton,** who should have been with him, was still back in Belize impotently shaking his fist in a last despairing gesture at a long departed 'plane. But wait, why should he worry? He had all the money for both of them and, after all, there's always another 'plane. So for four hours poor **'Paddy'** was left cooling his heels in Miami while **Bahnhof** waited for the next flight. This was the start of five action-packed R & R days, planned, financed and executed by two enterprising operators from 633 Troop.

They hired a Pontiac Firebird sports car from the Airport and, as soon as they cleared customs, took Miami by storm in a frantic effort to see everything possible. After visiting Palm Beach, the sun-drenched holiday resort, scene of so many Hollywood films, they spent two full days in Disneyland, watching films and seeing characters from the World of Makebelieve. With so much activity both were loathe to return, but money and beer cannot last for ever, so back to Belize they came.

SAN SALVADOR HOSPITALITY

While those two went north, **F of S 'Knocker' White** led a mixed bag of five Seniors south to El Salvador. Apart from going to war over a world cup qualifying match, this Central American state provides hospitality of a kind seldom equalled anywhere. **Sgt Keith Kennard,** who had been before, acted as guide and shopping advisor to **Sgts Andy Hunt** and **Ian Buick,** thus enabling them to return laden with trophies. The weekend provided an ideal opportunity to dine out **Ssgt Rupert Lund** who has now left the Troop for 7 Sig Regt. Our commiserations go to **Sgts Alan Hill** and **Mick Watson,** who, but for an untimely motor accident, would have taken the whole party to Mexico.

THE LOCAL SCENE

Taking full advantage of recreational transport, **Cpls Chris Evis, Terry Roper, 'Bluey' Neale** and **Sig 'Taffy' Walters** set off to explore the ancient Mayan temples at Alten Ha. These ruins have lain largely undisturbed since the demise of the Mayan Empire at the hands of the Spanish Conquistadors 400 years ago.

Cpl Don Wilson, never one to walk far, found a more relaxing way to spend his days off. He and **Mick Woolley** hired a small boat to cruise the local saltwater creeks fishing for Tarpon. They caught three huge ugly beasts, all of which were over 30lb, and saw several Manatees (Sea Cows), which they claimed would tip the scales at a ton. Sadly, all the fish got away; not an unusual occurrence, so other fishermen assure me!

BELIZIAN NAVY

No it's not an April-fool's joke. RCTV *Medway* has joined the British Forces in Belize and created maritime history by running aground on her first trip. The Troop also caused a stir by successfully working to HMS *Fearless,* kept guard for the *Medway,* Flight Watch to an RAF VC10 and still maintained our standard UK and Foreign and Commonwealth Office links. It must be one of the first times a JOCOMMEX has involved all three Services. Incidentally, the FCO comms are more reliable now, thanks to the efforts of **Sgts Bob Webb** and **John Bellamy** of 30 Sig Regt, who rushed out here at short notice, but have since returned.

A little-known, and recent addition to the Troop's role is the Rebro Site 'Down South'. A permanent fixture now with a weekly roulement of crew. The present detachment commander, **Cpl Bill Medland,** is helped out in turn by an assortment of Troop personalities, including **Sig Willy Maggs** (Combat Powerman), **Lcpl 'Paddy' Lindsay** and even TE Techs have been known to draw rifles and head off into the sunset.

SPORTING FEUD

The age-old feud between Technicians and Operators thrives on the sportsfield. After the Ops' tremendous win at volleyball, the Techs had lucky wins at football 5—2, and hockey 6—5. Fortunately, the softball was abandoned, otherwise the story would be different. In Troop hockey, jungle rules prevail with most of the decisions benefiting **Capt Brian Chubb** and **Sgt Ian Buick,** because they've played before. All this is about to change now that the Operators' new signing, **Lcpl Steve Buxton,** is in action.

SET FOR THE 'OPEN'

During the last week the Troop Seniors have taken up golf and, after only one game, are set to enter the Royal Signals (Belize) Open Tournament. Results next month!

Association News

CHESTER BRANCH

Report by Capt J. R. Way

CHESTER Branch held their 31st Annual Dinner on Friday, February 11, 1977, at the Upton-by-Chester, Royal British Legion. The official guests were: The Mayor and Mayoress of Chester, **Ccllr** and **Mrs J. Arrowsmith,** and **Brig W. P. M. Robertson, CBE,** Deputy Commander North-West District, and **Mrs Robertson.** We were also pleased to have with us **Maj Harrison** from the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, and **Capt Hatfield** from 11 Sig Regt, Catterick. The Toastmaster was **Maj K. R. West, TD.** The dinner was presided over by **Lt Col E. C. Lavis-Jones,** our president, who proposed the Loyal Toast.

The Toast, Royal Signals Association, was proposed by our vice-chairman, **Mr H. Underwood,** and replied to very ably by **Brig W. P. M. Robertson, CBE.** Special mention being made to our oldest member, **Mr R. Hill,** who is 86 and who enlisted in 1908, was in India in 1910 and has the Delhi Durbar Medal. The chairman, **Capt J. R. Way,** read a telegram which had been sent earlier to HM The Queen.

'In this Jubilee Year the Chester Branch Royal Signals Association assembled for its Annual Dinner at the Upton Branch, Royal British Legion, tonight send their loyal greetings to Your Majesty'. To which the following reply was received:

'I have received the Queen's command to thank the members of the Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association for their kind message of Loyal Greetings in this Silver Jubilee year (Signed) Private Secretary.'

The chairman then proposed the toast to the guests. The Mayor of Chester replied with an entertaining speech. Some 90 members and guests sat down to dinner. After dinner, it was on with the dance. This part of the function was in the very capable hands of **Mr W. G. Faircloth.** The whole evening was voted a complete success and enjoyed by all attending.

Sport

CORPS BASKETBALL

UK tour November 19-28, 1976

Report by Capt (TOT) T. J. Everett

Corps team:

Ssgt (Y of S) George Stubbings (captain)	—	2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt Doug Poultney (player/coach)	—	21 Sig Regt
Sgt 'Matty' Matthews		4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt Geoff Back	—	School of Signals
Sgt Chris Bond	—	8 Sig Regt
Cpl Tony Bird	—	13 Sig Regt
Lcpl Fred Tedby	—	2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lcpl Bob Mahoney	—	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sig Joe Stroud	—	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt Henry Jennings (Secretary)	—	11 Sig Regt

THE players assembled at Blandford on Friday, November 19, 1976, and were greeted by **Capt Henry Jennings,** who happily reminded everyone that training would start first thing Saturday morning, and it did.

The first game was against a South Dorset Select side on Sunday the 21st. The game went very well after a little hesitation by the Signals in the first six minutes when they went 12 to nil down—then settling, soon recovered and always looked like winning with all the players making baskets. Final score: Signals 75, South Dorset 44.

The team now had two days before the next game and these were put to very good use by **Sgt Doug Poultney** who had organised a rigorous training session, during which time a training game was played against the Blandford Station side who acquitted themselves very well—the best of luck to them in the South Dorset League.

The second game was on Wednesday the 24th against a Royal Artillery Select team, which included a guest player, **SSI Bernie Berneston,** the Army coach. The game started evenly and three-quarters of the way through the first half the score was Signals 25, RA 22. At this point Signals took control of the game and ended the first half ahead 35—26. In the second half the RA started badly and the Signals maintained their form to increase their lead to 56 against 37. About halfway through the second half the Signals lost their rhythm and the RA came back to reduce the deficit to 10 points but the Signals rallied and held them off to run out winners, scoreline: Signals 70, RA 59.

On the following day, Thursday, the third match was played against a Royal Navy side from Portsmouth. The game started evenly and, after seven minutes, the teams were level at 10 all, both sides playing skilful basketball. At this point the Signals side really slipped into top gear and took off, the Navy never getting back into the game, half time: Signals 52, Navy 31, full time: Signals 109, Navy 62. This was without doubt the Signals' best performance, a pleasure to watch, good skills on both sides and the Corps never putting a foot wrong.

Friday was a day off, if a full day's training can be considered a day off—nevertheless, something had been achieved as remarks such as 'it doesn't hurt any more' were heard—by now they were numb all over.

Then to Saturday and the final game against the arch rivals, REME. Signals started with their tails up, quickly notching up 8 points without reply but as the vastly experienced REME side settled down they had the answers and slowly but surely took control of the game scoring freely from good plays and breaking down the Signals' attacks and rhythm with good defensive skills and anticipation. At half time the score was Signals 26, REME 40. In the second half the REME came in hard and fast to increase their lead to Signals 33, REME 58. Now it was time for the Signals to show their character and they made a determined effort to get back into the game and reduced the deficit to 18 points but REME stopped the rot and came back to run out worthy winners. Signals 62, REME 86.

Hard luck, Signals, perhaps we will sink them yet, I hope so.

All the team worked hard throughout what was a successful tour, winning three of the four representative matches. Well done.

Many thanks to all those who assisted us at Blandford, especially **SSI Alan Faulkner** and his gymnasium staff.

Now to finish on a sombre note. **Capt Henry Jennings** announced his retirement as Corps basketball secretary and introduced his successor, **Capt Terry Everett. Henry** will be missed by all those who have been involved in Corps basketball over the last six or seven years. He gave rebirth to the game at Corps level and nurtured it over those years to its now flourishing success.

At an informal get together on the Saturday after the final match, he was presented with a suitably engraved memento by **Sgt 'Matty' Matthews** as a token of the team's appreciation over the years. Good luck in the future, **Henry**—we will invite you to future tours while you are still around but you will have to work.

[*Editor's note:* Published by special request. It would be greatly appreciated if contributors who write this type of report do so shortly after the event.]

STOP PRESS

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt have won BAOR Inter-Unit Basketball Championship for the second successive year.

ARMY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS—NORTHERN AREA STAGES

THE Northern Area Stage of the Army Basketball championships were held at Alma Barracks gymnasium, Catterick Garrison, on the weekend of February 26–27. Teams were as follows:

Major Units	*Representing*
1 Gordons	**Northern Ireland**
1 KOSB	**Scotland**
8 Sig Regt	**NE/NW District**
Minor Units	
233 Sig Sqn	**Northern Ireland**
Scottish Infantry Depot	**Scotland**
11 Sig Regt	**NE/NW District**

The Major Units' pool was won by 1 Gordons and 233 Sig Sqn won the Minor Units' pool. Both units go forward to the UK finals to be held in Aldershot in March.

The game between 11 Sig Regt and 233 Sig Sqn in the Minor Units' pool final and that between 8 Sig Regt and 1 Gordons in the Major Units' pool showed tremendous fight, ability and nail-biting finishes. Nothing came easily in either game.

Gordons started with a full court press against a Signals half court and for three minutes the baskets were empty. Gordons opened the scoring and, from then on, a ding-dong battle ensued. The break saw Gordons ahead 24—22. The second half quickly saw both teams on 10 fouls with aggressive players 5 fouled off. Free shots see-sawed the score and, at 20 seconds to time, only 1 point held the teams apart. Free shots put away very well under considerable tension gave the Gordons a 3-point margin and the final score was Gordons 49, Signals 46. Gordons deserve to do well at Aldershot, and we wish them good games and a lot of points.

The Minor Units final was between 11 Sig Regt led by war horse **Capt Henry Jennings,** and 233 Sig Sqn with **Capt Alan Chapman** on court and **Sgt Gordon** managing the bench. 233 pulled away to a quick lead with fast controlled basketball, **Jackson** stealing the points, fed by a hard-working front four. The break saw 233 comfortably ahead by 28—16. Tactical changes by 11 Sigs saw a revitalised team turn the tables in the second period and the Northern Ireland team were hard pressed throughout. 11 Sigs actually won the half 25—19, but the early fast attacking play from 233 held the gap and the final score of 47—41 allows a little extra credit to the Lisburn lads.

The very high standard of play was due in many respects to the very good refereeing throughout all six games. **WO1 Pfeiffer** (Royal Signals) travelled from Northern Ireland as a volunteer referee and **SSI Morris** not only loaned the gym but controlled the games admirably. **WO2 Lawrence,** travelling with the Scottish Infantry Depot, added his civilian league experience and made a most useful contribution.

Cpl Robertson, of 8 Sig Regt, was at his usual high standard. Our thanks to all those who were volunteers and happy to do the job.

SQUASH REPORT

by Maj A. P. H. Marley

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1976-77

THIS year the Corps Championships were held in Catterick. There were only 25 entrants (25 last year) for the main event of whom 3 withdrew for reasons of injury. Of those entrants 3 also entered for the Veteran Squash Competition. The top seed, **Lt M. G. E. Hall** (8 Sig Regt), was prevented from competing for the second successive year—this time due to injury. As last year, this affected the draw but a late entry by a capable Corps player, **Sgt D. J. Higginson** (264 Sig Sqn) helped redress the balance.

Higginson defeated his half of the draw in good fettle although **Lcpl S. Burke** (10 Sig Regt) took him to 5 games in his semi-final. Meantime, **WO2 J. P. McGovern** (216 (Para) Sig Sqn) was cruising into his place in the final although I did think I had the slimmest of chances of beating him at the semi-final stage—at least I took 1 game! The final was quite well disputed but it was quickly apparent to the spectators that for all his fitness **Higginson** was under severe pressure by a better player. Eventually **McGovern** won in 3 games to retain his title as Corps Champion for the second successive year. In the play-off for third place I beat **Burke** in 3 games.

In the Plate Competition **Capt (QM) A. J. Simpson** (249 Sig Sqn) narrowly lost to **Sgt J. F. Hanifin** (8 Sig Regt) after winning the first 2 games. **Hanifin** has good Corps potential

and he, **A/T M. F. Potts** (AAC Harrogate) and **Lcpl C. A. Kerry** (8 Sig Regt) are new 'finds'.

The Veterans Squash Final was a replay of last year's final. **Lt Col P. C. Tripp** (HQ London District), our President, beat **Maj J. K. Heyes**—this time by 3 games to 1.

After a good weekend's championship games our President presented the prizes to:

1977 Corps Champion		**WO2 J. P. McGovern,** 216 (Para) Sig Sqn
Runner-up	—	**Sgt D. J. Higginson,** 264 Sig Sqn
Third	—	**Maj A. P. H. Marley,** HQ School of Infantry
Plate winner	—	**Sgt J. F. Hanifin,** 8 Sig Regt
Plate second	—	**Capt (QM) A. J. Simpson,** 249 Sig Sqn
Veteran Squash Champion	—	**Lt Col P. C. Tripp,** HQ London District

AN APPEAL

Once again the call for entrants for a major Corps event, made to every conceivable unit in the UK (including MOD in its myriad of departments) fell on seemingly dull ears. The result was only 27 entry forms and one letter of regret from 224 Sig Sqn to me, from which a final player total of 21 resulted. In view of the interest in squash throughout the Army this tiny entry seems regrettable, to say the least.

ASRA INTER-CORPS COMPETITION (Div 3)

This competition was played at Aldershot over the weekend January 21–23, 1977. The Corps was represented by:

Maj A. P. H. Marley	—	HQ School of Infantry
Maj J. F. Storr	—	School of Signals
Lt N. H. Stewart	—	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt M. G. E. Hall	—	8 Sig Regt
WO2 J. P. McGovern	—	216 (Para) Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Higginson	—	264 Sig Sqn

The competition is for a division of six Corps/Inf Div teams to dispute promotion to ASRA Division 2. We had been relegated from Division 2 last year and were determined to regain our place. The matches, Corps' players names first:

Friday, January 21, pm *v* Para Regt. The 'Paras' withdrew at the last moment due to its inability to raise a team. This reduced the league to only five teams.

Saturday, January 22, 1977

Morning: *v* ACC

Stewart beat Denham	3—0
Hall beat Clarke	3—0
McGovern beat Thompson	3—0
Storr beat Ferguson	3—0
Marley beat Torrington	3—0

Afternoon: *v* RAMC/RADC

Stewart beat Beattie	3—1
Hall beat Jones	3—0
McGovern beat Stock	3—0
Storr lost to Beale	0—3
Marley beat Shaw	3—0

This side was the only side in any sort of competition with our very high quality Corps team. In particular, **Lt N. H. Stewart,** current Combined Services and Army Champion and a Scottish International, had a very good match against **Maj J. Beattie** (RADC), who is a Welsh International and Army player.

Sunday, January 23, 1977

Morning: *v* RAEC

Stewart beat Cooper	3—0
Hall beat Hilton	3—0
McGovern beat McManus	3—0
Marley beat Hunter	3—1
Higginson beat Reece	3—0

The only match of note was **Stewart** against **Maj Denis Cooper** who was Army Champion in 1966. **Cooper,** now over 50 years old, displayed fine skills but was no match for a high-class international player nearly 30 years his junior.

Sunday, January 23, 1977

Afternoon: *v* AAC

Stewart beat Baines	3—0
McGovern beat Hyde-Smith	3—0
Storr beat Bailey	3—0
Marley beat Edgecombe	3—0
Higginson won AAC conceded	—

The AAC team played the entire competition with one player short and they suffered for that. However, they did at least turn out a side. The Corps team gained only 1 point less than the maximum possible and consequently earned promotion. Although the opposition was not particularly good the key factor was that **Stewart** came from BAOR to represent the Corps which enabled the rest of the team to have that extra edge over their opponents. All the remaining players played extremely well and their fine efforts merited the result.

SQUASH SEASON 1976-77

The season has not progressed very well due to the constant lack of players, especially in the early weeks of 1977. In all, 18 players have represented the Corps in 10 matches, they are:

		Played	*Wins*
Maj A. F. Carter, MBE	HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals	3	1
Maj J. H. Lowe	DOAE	4	0
Maj J. G. McLuckie	MOD	1	0
Maj A. P. H. Marley	School of Infantry	6	4
Maj J. E. Neeve	MOD	3	1
Maj J. F. Storr	School of Signals	5	3
Maj M. P. Walker	RMA Sandhurst	9	4
Capt L. G. French	School of Infantry	2	1
Capt N. D. Illman	AAC Harrogate	1	0
Lt N. F. Fisher	RMCS	5	3
Lt M. G. E. Hall	8 Sig Regt	4	4
Lt N. H. Stewart	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	5	5
WO2 J. P. McGovern	216 (Para) Sig Sqn	8	8
Sgt D. J. Higginson	264 Sig Sqn	5	5
Sgt W. A. Hutton	39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	2	2
Sgt J. Taylor	School of Signals	1	0
Cpl R. P. Dean	264 Sig Sqn	3	3
Cpl N. White	School of Signals	1	1

With one match, against RMA Sandhurst, to be played the season's record is:

1976						
October	26	Home	*v*	REME	L	2—3
November	2	Home	*v*	RAEC	W	5—0
November	9		*v*	RA	Cancelled	
November	16	Home	*v*	RCT	L	2—3
November	23	Away	*v*	RE	L	1—4
November	30	Home	*v*	RAOC	W	4—1
1977						
January	11	Away	*v*	RAEC	W	4—1 (1 game conceded by us)
January	18		*v*	RA	Cancelled	
February	1	Away	*v*	RCT	L	1—4 (2 games conceded by us)
February	15	Away	*v*	REME	L	0—5
February	22	Home	*v*	RE	W	3—2
March	1	Away	*v*	RAOC	W	3—2

Analysis: Played 10 Won 5

The matches against the Gunners were ill-fated. In the 1976 match they were unable to raise a team, whilst in the 1977 game they had double-booked us with RMAS and asked us to stand down! The concessions in the RAEC and RCT matches were due to lack of players.

FOR THE RECORD

The best Corps side has fine potential and of known players only the inclusion of **Brig E. J. Hellier, OBE,** and **Dean** to the Inter-Corps team pool could better that side. If such a side can be assembled next season we have real hopes of further promotion! Of personalities, pride of place must go to **Lt N. H. Stewart.** He won his fourth successive Army Cahmpionship in good style at Aldershot this year. He also retained his Combined Services Championship by beating **Wg Cdr P. Stokes** (RAF) and **Lt Cdr W. Pool** (RN) without conceding a game. This fine result helped the Army to their fourth successive victory in the Inter-Services Tournament—he is also the Army team captain.

WO2 J. P. McGovern is notable for his enthusiasm and his regular place in the Corps side. He is an Army 'A' team player and a member of the Army's Cumberland Cup team. Next year he will be eligible for the Corps Veteran Championship and will probably be favourite for that title. The season's delving for new and preferably young (under 21) talent has been fairly disappointing. It behoves all individuals and particularly Regimental squash officers to augment my searching by encouraging potential Corps players to volunteer for the honour of representing their Corps. I emphasise youth because the current Corps representatives with only two or three exceptions are mid-30 years old and more—some much more!

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May 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, O.B.E.

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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Editorial

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF REVIEWS CORPS AFFAIRS

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE, addressed Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on April 23, 1977. We are pleased to publish the substance of this address, with the knowledge that it will be of great interest to our readers.

It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to talk to you today about the state of the Serving Corps, particularly since, through the medium of 'The Wire' in which my remarks are published, I can also address the whole Corps. This is my third and last year as SO in C and in November I shall be handing over to Brig Alistair Anderson, who will have the unique distinction of following in his brother's footsteps. It is therefore a good time to be taking stock, to see where the Corps is going in the years ahead.

First of all I must mention the Defence Review and the many recent reductions in defence expenditure which the Government has been announcing, sometimes, it seems, at monthly intervals. And I take this point first not only because it takes up a great deal of our time, but because it is important to see things in perspective. It is true that the Serving Corps, like all others, is having to make do with fewer soldiers and with less money than we feel we need to do our job. We have to take a critical look at a number of things which in the past we have taken for granted, and it is right that we should. It would be unforgivable in these critical days for our country if we were not searching for the most efficient and the most economical way of organising our affairs.

Putting the Defence Review into effect, therefore, does take up a lot of our time, but I do not want to give you the impression that we spend all our waking moments cutting this or abolishing that. It is true that at the end of the day we shall be 100 officers and 800 or 900 soldiers fewer than we were, but the Corps will still have over 1,100 officers and nearly 11,000 men. A sizeable force by any reckoning!

Perhaps the loss we shall feel most keenly is the disappearance of the Brigade Headquarters and its Signal Squadron. For many years now this has been a superb command for a young and energetic major with a handful of officers and 150 soldiers, offering plenty of opportunity for our Warrant Officers and NCOs to prove their worth. It is at this level of command that integration of staff and signals has had real meaning and been most rewarding, and I know of few officers or men who have not enjoyed their service with a brigade. There are, however, compensations and in the long term perhaps the net loss will not be quite so serious when the new organisations have been fully tested.

In any case, we are not leaving the task of soldiering at the sharp end to others. As part of the Army Restructuring Plan we are again assuming full responsibility for manning infantry battalion and gunner regiment rear links, and already half-a-dozen detachments are in position with their parent units. By the end of next year 350 operators will be serving in this way with over 50 battalions and regiments.

Our own Signal Regiments, too, are still well represented in the Order of Battle and, depending upon events in Northern Ireland, we shall keep the same number of Regiments as before. Indeed, later this year we shall be forming a new EW Regiment in BAOR—a big step forward in a field of activity that perhaps has been rather neglected in the past.

Nearer at home, in this country, we have created at Old Sarum a bigger and independent Squadron for the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force, and I have revived the number 249 as the Squadron number. We are building up the former 216 (Parachute) Brigade Signal Squadron to almost twice its former size to fit it for its role with the 6 Field Force at Aldershot. We will continue to man the Parachute Battalion rear link, but only a handful of the Corps will in future wear the red beret.

Whilst all this reorganisation has been going on the Corps has been playing a full operational part in Northern Ireland and in Belize. In Ulster we have been manning the full range of communications, as you would expect, and several you might not! Rhine Army continues to provide a Signal Squadron in its turn at the Maze Prison, and all of you will have read recently in 'The Wire' that 260 Sqn has been employed in the Infantry role in company with its parent Heavy Regt RA. I hear only good reports of the showing of the Corps in Northern Ireland.

We must never take for granted the high quality of our soldiers, nor forget that, before they arrive in a field unit, they have passed through a recruiting and selection procedure, and then through what we used to call the Training Brigade and is now known as the Training Group Royal Signals. I am always impressed by our soldiers wherever I visit, and I am particularly conscious of the hard work which goes on at the Junior Unit at Ouston, at Catterick and at the Apprentices College at Harrogate. Over the last two years we have recruited nearly 2,000 Junior Soldiers and Apprentices, all of high quality, who are just now finishing training and joining their first unit. Our wastage rates are well below the Army averages. We seem to be able to acquire good young men, and to keep them.

We are making a concerted effort to improve our officer recruiting, principally by putting ourselves across at universities. Whilst our commissioning prospects from the ranks remain good, it is absolutely vital that we attract a good young entry as the basis of our commissioned structure.

The organisation of our Territorial and Volunteer units has been less dramatically affected by the Defence Review than the Regular Corps. We have lost only one squadron, that with 44 Parachute Bde, and we are hoping that many of its men will wish to transfer their allegiance to 39 Sig Regt. Further west, 55 Sig Sqn, based on Liverpool and Cardiff, is being given a new role linking it more directly with the regular squadron responsible for Home Defence communications. All our TAVR units will benefit from a re-equipment programme in the years ahead, and it is to equipment in general that I now turn.

Most of you will know of the improvement which the Larkspur range of net radio sets brought to communications in the '60s, and those with experience of BAOR will know how the Corps led the world in area trunk communications with the introduction of Bruin in the mid-1960s. The years have passed and new developments are crowding upon us. The Clansman range of net radio is now just being introduced into field units and the Training organisation, and this multi-million pound project will gives us markedly better net radio in the '80s.

An even bigger step forward will be the introduction into Germany of the new area system, Ptarmigan, which promises facilities and a degree of reliability unthought of a generation ago. This is a multi-million pound project, with which the Corps at large must now begin to come to terms. For the last three days all Signal Group Commanders, CSOs and Regimental Commanders have been assembled at Blandford to be briefed on the state of this project, and to discuss the myriad of interesting problems which will face us in the next ten years. User trials of Ptarmigan are less than three years ahead, so our discussions on organisations, and manning, were by no means academic. Communications for the Army are going through an exciting time and will present a challenging and fascinating future for all who are involved with them.

Finally, I close with a few words on Regimental affairs. The Corps will be playing its part in HM The Queen's Jubilee, notably at the Royal Review of the Army in Germany in July, providing a Guard of Honour for Her Majesty's visit to Newcastle, together with many other events such as the Review of the TAVR at Wembley.

Many of you will have served with or alongside our affiliated Regiment, Gurkha Signals. All of you will be delighted to know that on Her Majesty's Birthday in April Gurkha Signals received the new title of 'Queen's Gurkha Signals'. This is a great honour and splendid recognition of their loyal and devoted service.

The Motorcycle Display Team will be appearing at this year's Royal Tournament and at the Berlin Tattoo. The team is in splendid form this year, thanks in great part to the support given by British industry, Meriden, Lucas, British Leyland, to name only a few.

Our sporting successes are many. Army Champions at athletics, cross-country, Association football, unit cricket, unit golf, finalists at rugby, with individual champions at ski-ing, bob-sleighing and canoeing.

This being the last time I address you as SO in C, I must record my appreciation of the loyalty and devotion to the Corps shown by the Signals Association and its members. I take great pride, as you have done, in being a soldier of the Queen, and I am most conscious of the honour of having been Head of the Corps. Thank you for all your support and continuing interest.

OUR COVER PICTURE

The Corps exercised its right of Freedom of Entry to Blandford Forum on March 18; a right which was conferred in 1972. Our cover picture captures a component of the parade, commanded by Lt Col Arthur Byng, 30 Sig Regt.
A full account is included on page 175

From our "In" Tray

QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN bestowed her Royal Title upon Gurkha Signals on her birthday, April 21, 1977. The Master of Signals, Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO, sent immediately the following letter to Brig W. P. W. Robertson, CBE, Colonel, Queen's Gurkha Signals:

'We, in Royal Signals, many of whom have had the privilege of serving in your Regiment, are very happy to learn of the high honour that Her Majesty The Queen has bestowed upon the Regiment.

'I should be most grateful if you would convey to All Ranks of the Regiment the congratulations of the Master of Signals and All Ranks Royal Signals, serving and retired, on this great distinction. At the same time, would you please also tell them of our admiration of the qualities and service, which have earned such recognition and of our heartfelt good wishes for the future of Queen's Gurkha Signals, in which we in Royal Signals shall be proud to share.

Lastly, perhaps this old Regimental pensioner may add "sablai syabash ani Goorakh ki jai".'

[The Editor gratefully acknowledges the following statement by **Brig Robertson** which will be of particular interest to many of our younger readers.]

Early days

Gurkha soldiers were first enlisted as professional signallers in the Indian Army Signal Corps in 1921. In 1938 more Gurkha Signallers were trained and served in Brigade Signal Squadrons throughout the second world war. At the end of the war when the size of the British and Indian Armies were reduced, no further recruitment of Gurkha Signallers was required and they wasted out.

Transferred to British Army

Following the partition of India in 1947 four Gurkha Rifle Regiments, each of two battalions, were transferred from the Indian Army to the British Army. The 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifle Regiments moved from India to Malaya. In Malaya in 1948, Communists began a campaign of terrorism with the aim of destroying the Government and creating a Communist State. As part of the plans to counter this emergency Her Majesty's Government formed 17 Gurkha Infantry Division in which the major units were Gurkhas. A unit of this division was a Signal Regiment and on May 1, 1949, the Ministry of Defence approved the first Gurkha Signals establishments as part of the British Army.

Component of Brigade of Gurkhas

On formation, these units wore the Royal Signals' cap badge and were titled Royal Signals Gurkha. This was subsequently changed to Gurkha Royal Signals. On September 23, 1954, Her Majesty The Queen approved the taking into use of the present Gurkha Signals badge; the Royal Signals badge surmounted by two Kukris pointed upwards, the handles crossed in saltire with the cutting edges of the blades inwards. In 1955, Gurkha Royal Signals became a component part of the Brigade of Gurkhas, and all units and sub-units were then titled Gurkha Signals.

Service in Malaya, Borneo and Cyprus operations

In August 1950 the first Royal Signals Gurkha Independent Signal Squadron took over the operational commitments of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron. By 1953 the communications for Headquarters 17 Gurkha Infantry Division and four Gurkha Infantry Brigades in Malaya were provided by Gurkha Royal Signals and were maintained throughout the Malayan emergency. In December 1962 elements of a Gurkha Signal Squadron deployed as part of the initial task force despatched to put down the Brunei Rebellion. During the Borneo confrontation between 1963 and 1966 two Gurkha Signal Squadrons were deployed to provide communications for 51 Infantry Brigade and 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade. Gurkha Signals officers and soldiers in the Gurkha Parachute Company also took part in these operations. Officers and men of the Regiment have also served in Singapore, Nepal, the United Kingdom, East Pakistan and, most recently, in Cyprus during the Cyprus emergency of 1974.

Decorations won by officers and men over the period 1948 to 1966 speak for themselves: OBE 2; MBE 5; BEM 5; Mention in Despatches 25.

Affiliation with Royal Signals

Throughout its existence officers and NCOs of the Corps have served with and worn, the Regiment's Badge. In 1957, an affiliation between Royal and Gurkha Signals was approved, and Her Royal Highness, the late Princess Royal, presented her Royal Pipe Banner to the Regiment. An affiliation with 51st Highland Divisional Regiment was established in 1955 and the Countess of Scafield authorised the wearing of the Grant Tartan by Gurkha Signals Pipes. This affiliation continues today with the 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment (V).

Service today

Today, the Regiment is stationed in Hong Kong with detached Troops in the United Kingdom, Brunei and Nepal. All officers and men of the Corps who serve in Hong Kong are selected for, and posted to, the Regiment and wear its Badges and Titles. It is perhaps most appropriate that in this year when the Queen has honoured the Regiment with its new title that one of the two Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers is **Capt (QGO) Shymlal Gurung** and the Gurkha Major, **Maj (QGO) Tanghun Limbu,** is visiting the UK and BAOR.

Northern Ireland Honours List — April

Many congratulations to the following:

BEM

Ssgt K. A. Underwood
Sgt M. G. Healy

Mention in Despatches

Cpl S. A. L. Fuszard
Lcpl A. R. C. Gladwell

A MATTER OF COINCIDENCE

Report by 260 Sig Sqn (SAM) BFPO 20

IN 1964 whilst serving as a Signalman with 3 Div Sig Regt, **Sgt Alex Forbes, BEM,** was sent to Cyprus as part of the build up of forces to combat terrorism there. He was subsequently assigned to the original UN Force (3 Div element). He returned to the United Kingdom in April 1964, was posted to British Honduras, and did not receive the UN Medal to which he was entitled. In February this year, **Sgt Forbes** mentioned this to **SSM Don Payne,** who referred the matter to the Chief Clerk, **Sgt Pete Thomas.**

Enquiries made to Royal Signals Manning and Record Office established that **Sgt Forbes** was entitled to the medal, and application for issue of the medal was made to HQ UNFICYP on March 3. On Saturday, March 12, the Mayor of Southend, **Cllr Neville Moss,** formerly **Maj Neville Moss** (Royal Signals), arrived at the Squadron's Op Banner location on an official visit. Coincidentally, **Sgt Forbes'** medal arrived in the lunchtime post! The Squadron Commander, **Maj Rollo Rumford,** thought it would be a nice gesture to have **Cllr Moss** present the medal; and when he asked the Mayor to do this, it transpired that **Cllr Moss** had commanded 2 Sqn 3 Div Sig Regt in Cyprus at the same time as **Sgt Forbes** served there!

Our photograph shows **Cllr Moss** presenting **Sgt Forbes** with his UN Cyprus Medal—13 years after he had earned it!

From: **Maj R. P. Jenkins** (Royal Signals) (V)
Dear Sir,

Following your article on lawn tennis earlier this year you may be interested to know that two serving Royal Signals officers have appeared on court, at the same time, officiating at significant lawn tennis occasions.

Maj Peter Webster (currently with MOD Defence Sales Organisation) and myself are both members of the Lawn Tennis Umpires Association of Great Britain. We were both on court at the Men's Singles Final at Wimbledon 1976, the Wightman Cup in November last, and recently at the final of the Men's Singles in the WCT Tournament at Earls Court. We hope to be at Wimbledon this year.

If any other Corps members would like to become a member of the Lawn Tennis Umpires Association, **Maj Peter Webster** or I will be delighted to hear from them.

Yours faithfully,
Bob Jenkins

University of London Contingent,
Officers Training Corps,
Yeomanry House,
Handel Street,
London WC1N 1NP.

From: **WO2 (F of S) J. Hill**
Dear Editor,

May I use your medium to say a short but sad farewell to the hundreds of friends I have worked with and been associated with during my career in the Corps. I have enjoyed some tremendous experiences and met an *esprit de Corps* indescribable on paper, and can only hope that in civilian life I can discover some of that comradeship—a forlorn hope no doubt. I expect to be working in Iran for the next year, among several ex-squaddies so the break will be gradual.

To my many buddies, good luck, and thanks for the memory.

Yours sincerely,
John Hill

8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire.

From: **Lt Col D. A. Dickson**
Dear Sir,

Recent visitors to the Museum at Blandford have commented on the fact that in the medals' display there seems to be a preponderance of sets awarded to officers as compared to soldiers and asked why this should be so. In case other visitors might have a similar comment I thought it might be helpful to clarify the situation.

First, all the medals on display have been voluntarily donated or loaned by the individuals concerned or members of their families.

Second, the object of the display is twofold:

- To illustrate, in a practical way, part of the history of the Corps by showing, through the medals, where our members have served and the contributions made during that service;
- More importantly, to serve as a permanent memorial to the individual. (Each set of medals is backed-up by a short biography in the Medal Memoir Book.)

Third, no distinction is made between different sets of medals. All those offered, whatever they are and however many in a set, are received with equal gratitude. We consider it as much of an honour to receive a single campaign medal as a set of several with perhaps some Order included.

There is no attempt to grade the medals in any way in the display, except that sets awarded to members of the same family are grouped together. The only factor which determines the layout is economy of space. Of the medals on display the number of sets awarded to soldiers is 45 and to officers 57, but of the latter, 24 had served in the ranks before being commissioned. The only way in which this imbalance can be corrected, and it is an imbalance as many more soldiers receive awards than officers, is by individuals concerned or their families presenting their medals to the Corps. We would consider it an honour if they would do so.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. Dickson
Historical Officer

Regimental Headquarters,
Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
London SW3 4RH

From: **Yeoman Warder A. Copestake**
Dear Sir,

Those who knew ex-Royal Signals RSM **'Nobby' Russell** will be pleased to hear that he has been kicked upstairs to the appointment of Yeoman Clerk (a sort of 'mediaeval civvie' ORQMS) joining the Chief Yeoman Warder and the Yeoman Gaoler as one of the three supervisors of the Body of Yeoman Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London.

'Nobby' will now deal with the correspondence related to the comings and goings of the many VIPs and the 3 million per year visitors to the Tower and, with the four gold stripes and crown of the Yeoman Clerk on the right arm of his scarlet watch coat, march in the centre of the front rank of the military escort carrying the great keys of the Tower in the 'Ceremony of the Keys'. He will also on occasions discard his Partizan and carry the great Axe of Justice when acting as Yeoman Gaoler when the Resident Governor of the Tower is escorted by the Yeoman Warders in Full State Dress to the Chapel Royal at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide. **'Nobby'** has strong ties with the Royal Signals Association in the London area. He has now been a Yeoman Warder for 13 years and is my most able secretary and treasurer in the Yeoman Warders Club—Well done, **'Nobby'**!

Finally, best wishes to all from ex-**WO2 'Len' Harvey, ex-RSMs John Maher** and **'Nobby' Russell** and yours truly in the Bloody Tower.

Alan Copestake

Chairman, Yeoman Warders Club,
HM Tower of London, EC3.

ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM REUNION—SEPTEMBER 24-25, 1977

AS advised at the Royal Signals 'At Home' committee meeting on March 31, 1977, the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, 'The White Helmets', intend to hold a reunion of former members of the team at Catterick on September 24–25, 1977.

'The White Helmets' have requested that the event be publicised by any means among Association members with a view to former members of the team contacting them and obtaining details of the Reunion arrangements. The team are anxious that as many former members as possible participate. Enquiries regarding attendance should be addressed to:

OC 'White Helmets',
c/o 8 Sig Regt,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire.

The White Helmets also intend to publicise the event by means of posters etc, at the Catterick Reunion.

DINGHY SAILING QUALIFICATIONS AND COURSES

Anyone interested in learning to sail or improving his dinghy sailing qualifications is strongly encouraged to apply for a course at the Netley Sailing Club. These courses are run by the Army Sailing Association between April and September; types of course ranging from Elementary (for novices) to the level of Instructor. Tuition at each level is given under the method approved by the Royal Yachting Association.

Details of the courses and application details are given in UKLF Order No. 21 of 1977.

From: **Rowland Ryder**
Dear Sir,

I am writing a biography of General von Ravenstein, who commanded 21 Panzer Division in North Africa from June 1941 until his capture by New Zealand troops near Sidi Rezegh in November 1941. During the battle of France he was a Colonel in 6 Panzer Division.

I would be most grateful to hear from any of your readers who have any memories of them. All letters will be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,
Rowland Ryder

14 North Drive,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham 5

REPORT BY PIGEON

From: **Maj M. H. Priestley**
Dear Sir,

The enclosed photograph shows the Army (Scotland) football team during a visit to the Orkneys in the Second World War to play a local Royal Signals team. Footballers might like to try to identify the players: Matt Busby being the centre of the front row and Tommy Walker on his right. It is recorded that the goals were reported by pigeon to Stromness as they were scored. As there were eight pigeons and the score was 7—1 there were just enough!

Yours sincerely,
M. H. Priestley

242 Signal Squadron,
Craigiehall,
Edinburgh

A NOTABLE APPRECIATION

IT is with great pleasure that we pusblish the terms of the letter which **Lt Gen Sir James Wilson** sent to **Lt Col Terry Byrne,** 28 Sig Regt, after the Army Cup Final in April.

'I felt I must write and offer you my formal congratulations as Chairman of the Army Football Association on the outstanding performance given by your Regimental Team in the Army Cup Final this year. It is always pleasant to win the Army Cup but to win it in style as you did is an honour given to very few regimental sides. I do not remember seeing a regimental side play better at Aldershot since the ending of National Service and the departure of the professional players. Your side had obviously worked extremely hard at their game; they were fit, skilful, played to the whistle, and represented the very best kind of advertisement for the Army. I would be most grateful if you would please pass on my thanks and congratulations to them and their manager on putting up such a distinguished performance on what is the annual showpiece for Army Football.

'On a different topic—I am particularly pleased that we should have cracked the idea that it is impossible for a team to come from BAOR and win at Aldershot under floodlights. I always knew this view was nonsense and am delighted to have had my opinion proved so conclusively and in such admirable fashion.

'Well done again, and many congratulations to you all.'

Movements

Officers

Rank and Name	MAY 1977 Unit to which posted
Maj R. G. Aitken	22 Sig Regt
Capt J. N. Allan	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) D. Allen	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj H. B. Bennett	HQ Dhekelia Garrison (3 Sig Group)
Maj W. K. Butler	HQ BAOR
Lt Col T. A. Byrne	AD/SANG, D/Space
Capt W. M. Clarke	8 Sig Regt
Maj D. L. Copeland	HS 4 Signal Group
Capt I. M. S. Cross	HS RAPC (Depot)
Capt N. C. Fairley	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2 Lt N. J. Handy	School of Signals Course Strength
Capt B. C. P. Higson	226 Sig Sqn
Capt D. P. Howshall	9 Sig Regt
Maj A. W. De V. Hunt	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt J. Kay	13 Sig Regt
Capt J. L. Kennard	HS AAC Centre
Lt R. D. Lane	HS RAPC (Depot)
Maj D. P. J. Lavender	DOAE
Capt N. P. Mansfield	HS 225 Sig Sqn
Lt Col F. R. Maynard	Staff College
Maj N. J. Mayne	MOD DSS (A)
Maj T. P. Moncur	9 Sig Regt
Capt I. J. Oddie	HS BAOR Computer Centre
Capt N. R. Pullman	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt J. W. Rollins	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Rowbory	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj A. J. Saunders	22 Sig Regt
Capt J. C. B. Simpson	7 Sig Regt
Capt M. S. Wallis	School of Signals
Maj P. Webb	HS HQ NW District
Lt Col H. R. Williams	HS BDS (A) Washington
Lt Col (TOT) R. D. Willingale	HQ Dhekelia Garrison (3 Sig Group)
Col A. Yeoman	HS DAT

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

Rank and Name	MAY 1977 Unit to which posted
WO2 (F of S) F. Gadman, BEM	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 (Y of S) M. Campbell	11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) J. M. Creevy	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 (Y of S) W. J. Donnelly	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 (Y of S) J. E. Lovell	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) I. Sleightholm	4 Sqn, 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Supvr R WO2 G. G. Eagle	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Supvr R WO2 J. R. Hague	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 R. Hughes	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Ssgt (F of S) J. A. Jones	1 Ary Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) P. J. Selby	241 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) D. R. Davey	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Ssgt (F of S) J. P. Rees	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt A. J. Bryant	Queens University OTC
Ssgt (Y of S) D. G. Weston	School of Signals
Sgt D. Stuart	HQ 1 Signal Group
A/Sgt R. Carty	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
A/Sgt B. A. Robjohn	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt J. W. Laflin	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Trg)
Sgt J. P. Grocott	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Macdonald	8 Sig Regt
Sgt E. J. Larkin	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn (Hong Kong)
Sgt G. Cairns	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
Sgt M. Hemmingway	Army Air Corps Centre
Sgt C. A. Thackwell	20 Maritime Regt (RCT)
Sgt M. W. Watson	592 Rear Link Det (Inf Mech Bn)
Sgt W. A. Hutton	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
Sgt P. Murdie	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Fuller	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt D. W. Quick	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt V. A. Hoyle	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt F. Mackender	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Sgt F. G. Murphy	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt R. Shelton-Smith	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sgt C. S. Carveth	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
Sgt G. W. Cutler	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Rigby	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Bonsor	School of Infantry (Warminster)
Sgt R. K. Cameron	11 Sig Regt (Junior Signalmen Wing)
Sgt T. Hornby	11 Sig Regt (Junior Signalmen Wing)
Sgt J. I. Davis	11 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Broadley	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. R. Casburn	6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt S. V. Erasito	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt N. Blavins	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt J. M. Downie	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Hunt	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Pennington	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Martin	248 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn
Sgt L. Payne	40 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Brown	633 Sig Troop (Caribbean)
A/Sgt I. Daniels	233 Sig Sqn
A/Sgt J. D. Lister	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
A/Sgt T. W. Welsh	13 Sig Regt (Radio)

Welfare

MARCH 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	52
Number of clothing parcels sent	37
Amount spent	£2,464·86

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	3
Amount spent	£138·00

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

LANCE-CORPORAL, war-time service in Royal Artillery and Royal Signals. Owing to a severe stroke he has been unable to work since 1973 and is cared for by his wife. The Association made them a grant of £50 for floor covering and clothing, and his letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WE are very grateful for your kind help and take this opportunity of thanking you for the £50. We are very pleased with this, and you could never guess what joy it has brought us. Thank you again.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of February, gifts of clothing, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:
WO2 J. W. L. Frost, Col and Mrs G. M. Welsford, Miss F. E. Williams, Lt Col E. J. Beale, Maj and Mrs F. Iveson, Ssgt C. H. Story, Mrs Thyer, Lt Col D. A. Dickson, 21 Sig Regt, Maj and Mrs A. E. Carter, Maj and Mrs G. W. Howard, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Thrift Shop 10 Sig Regt, Mrs G. Haliburton, Lt Col C. J. Bayfield.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1977:

	£
22 Sig Regt	7·95
241 Sig Sqn	30·00
Mrs M. E. Payne	5·00
Mrs Haliburton	4·00
Maj A. Gould	1·50
Ssgt G. Hardaker	30·00
P. B. Cairns, Esq	2·00
	£80·45

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication he following month).

DEATHS

Gilhooly—Lt Col A. L. Gilhooly enlisted in 1938 and was commissioned in 1960. He retired in 1964. After retirement he was appointed D Signals of the Zambian Army at Lusaka. He died on April 9, aged 59.

Maskell—Lcpl R. J. Maskell has informed us of the death of his father, Mr A. E. Maskell, who died of a heart attack on March 5. Eddie Maskell spent 22 years in the Corps and during that time made many friends. He left the Army in 1970 with the rank of WO2, and joined the GPO as a telephone engineer. He left a loving wife and two sons who are both serving in the Corps.

McIntyre—Ex-WO2 (TAVR) C. H. McIntyre (annual member of the Bristol Branch, Royal Signals Association), died on April 3. His sudden death was a terrible shock to all who knew him. He leaves a widow, Jean, and two children, Penny (15 years) and Andrew (10 years), to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Robinson—Maj C. Robinson enlisted in 1940 and was commissioned in 1941. After the war he served in the Middle East with the Arab Legion and was awarded the Order of El Istiqal 3rd Class (Jordan). He retired in 1962 and died on April 20 after a long illness, aged 55.

Shepherd—RQMS Frederick Sydney Shepherd, BEM, enlisted in the Corps in 1940 and trained as a wireless operator. He served for 24½ years, during which time he was an instructor at Catterick, was with 6 Airborne Divisional Signals in Palestine where he was Mentioned in Dispatches. After the war he was in Egypt and Cyprus where he was awarded the BEM. He later served for four years with 3 Div Sig Regt, then at the Signals Wing of the Small Arms School, Hythe. After retirement he was employed at the MOD Middle Wallop. He died on March 14, aged 59.

Spencer—Col Harry Arthur Spencer, OBE, MC and bar, who died on April 28 will be remembered with affection and admiration by all the older members of the Corps. He enlisted in the RHA in 1910 and was commissioned in the RFA in 1916 whilst serving in India. Shortly afterwards he was posted to Mesopotamia, where he won the MC and bar and was Mentioned in Despatches whilst serving in North Russia after the end of the war. He was seconded to the Corps in 1920 and transferred in 1924. Apart from his cheerful, enthusiastic and helpful personality, his main, and fully justified claim to fame was his outstanding achievements in the boxing world, not only was he the Army Lightweight Champion in 1922–25 and ISBA Champion in 1922 and 1925, but until he went to India in 1929, he built up and trained the highly successful Corps Team which won the Army Championships on four occasions and were runners-up or semi-finalists for the other three years during the seven years between 1923 and 1929. The team included 12 Army Individual champions, 5 ISBA champions, 2 ABA champions and 2 England representatives; a fine record due entirely to Harry's enthusiasm, dedication and ability.

Wall—Maj Roland Hampden Wall was commissioned into the Somerset Light Infantry and was seconded to the Army Signal Service during the first world war. He subsequently served in India. In 1939 he took 3rd AA Bde Signals to France with the BEF and was evacuated through St Nazaire in 1940, after which he was retired on medical grounds. He died on April 26, at the age of 85.

PERSONAL

Mrs Bernice Moss, 43 Manor Street, Accrington, Lancs, is seeking information/photographs of her father, 2594224 Cpl John E. Whitworth, Royal Corps of Signals, of Burnley, Lancs. He served with 1st Armoured Div and was killed at Alam el Haifa on September 4, 1942, aged 30. He is buried in El Alamein Military Cemetery, Plot 33, Row B, No 10. Mrs Moss adds: 'I am his only child and would dearly like further details from anyone who knew him. . . I never saw him.'

Attention ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Storno Radio Communications. An ex-member of the Corps, now Spares Controller, advises that a vacancy exists for an Assistant Spares Controller which would suit an ex-SNCO/WO, technical or administrative but particularly an ex-Clk Tech, £3,000 per annum, 5-day week. Also a vacancy for MOD Sales Office Administrator at £3,500. Details from: **J. G. Widdicome, 96 Manor Park Drive, Yateley, Nr Camberley, Surrey.**

Easams Ltd. This firm is interested to hear from F of S and Senior Techs. Work involves Systems Engineering, Military Consultancy, Project Management and Project Studies. Details from: **W. T. A. Collyer, Easams Ltd, Lyon Way, Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5EX. Tele: (0276) 63377.**

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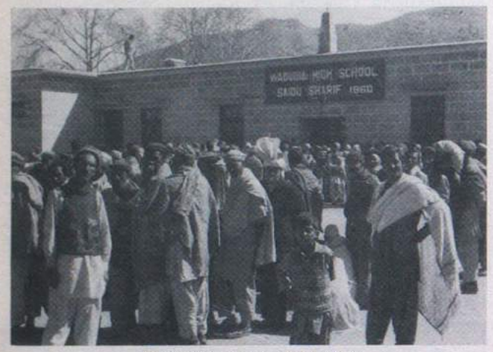
Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs

PAKISTAN REVISITED 1977

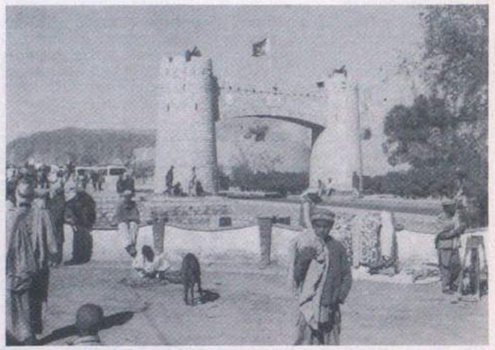
Report by Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB, OBE

RETURN TO FAMILIAR GROUND

SOME will remember the NWFP in the '20s and '30s, and places like Peshawar and Razmak, but very few of us have been lucky enough to return in recent years, as I have done twice. I went officially in 1959 and again this year as a tourist—a member of a large party of retired officers and their wives—who knew the North of India before 1947. Our planned two weeks' holiday was rearranged unexpectedly, by the Pakistan Army, who had heard of our coming from their military attache in London. Two officers were attached to us, and everywhere we went receptions and parties were given. Bands played and soldiers gave displays of Khattak and Luddi dancing. The Chief of the Army Staff received us, and he saw us off when we left.



Polling Day, Swat, March 1977



New archway at Jamrud at entrance to Khyber Pass

Overwhelming goodwill

The goodwill and friendship we found everywhere was overwhelming, and the Pakistani officers and many of their wives spoke fluent English.

Our tour took us to Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Muree, Nathiagali, Abbotabad, Nowshera, Peshawar, Landi Kotal, Mardan, Malakand, Swat, Taxila and Lahore. We met Corps and Divisional Commanders, heads of arms and services, and some pensioners.

Old friends

Maj Gen Mian Abdul Qayoom, the Signal Officer in Chief, known to some of us while he was on a long telecommunications engineering course at Catterick, gave a guest night in the Signals Mess in Rawalpindi for my wife and myself. The Corps Band had been brought from the STC in Kohat for the occasion. At this dinner were also two former SOs in C, **Maj Gens Obedur Rehman** and **Abdul Rahman,** the latter having commanded the Boys Regiment under me. In Lahore, we met another ex-SO in C, an old friend of many British officers, **Brig Mohammed Suleman.** He had been host during my visit in 1959.

Pride in traditions

The progress and changes we noticed, and the impressions made on us, were many. Pakistan is a wonderful country whose people are proud of their traditions and history, and of their independence. They have overcome many difficulties since 1947 and, although no longer within the Commonwealth, they are delighted to receive their British friends as equals, with kindness and affection.

Distances seem less

Distances seem so much less today. Our flight, by Pakistan International Airlines, took only seven hours from Heathrow to Islamabad direct, although early morning mist prevented our landing, and we were diverted to Karachi for a two-hour wait. Internally, three 40-minute flights a day in each direction link Islamabad and Rawalpindi with Lahore.

New capital city almost complete

The new capital city of Islamabad, begun in 1961, is now almost complete. It stands near the Muree foothills 14 miles from Rawalpindi. We saw its fine parliament buildings, the President's new house and many embassies and legations. Water supply comes from a vast new artificial lake which looks most beautiful from the Muree road. Islamabad International Airport, which also serves Rawalpindi, is the old Chaklala Airfield much enlarged.

Medical breakthrough

Great strides have been made in the medical services. We met the Army Surgeon General and talked to several young Army doctors. There are now many medical colleges and teaching hospitals. We were told that smallpox has been completely eradicated. We noticed, too, that stray dogs are almost non-existent, and that beggars are far fewer.

TV and washing machines in the Khyber

A large proportion of the old horse tongas have gone. In their place there are scores of motor cycle rickshaws, with little covered bodies and handle-bar steering. There are no longer camel caravans in the Khyber. Everything now goes by brightly-painted lorry or bus, and between Ali Masjid and Landikotal a filling station stands on the roadside with its tall 'Esso' sign. Landikotal is now a family station, and the local bazaar is full of modern electrical and household equipment. Some of the Khyber houses have television and washing machines, and the people in tribal territory seem more interested in new schools than in fighting and family feuds. There are no longer regular troops in tribal territory, only the Scouts and Levies with seconded regular officers.

Beautifully dressed ladies emerge from Purdah

Perhaps one of the most delightful things to Western eyes is the gradual emergence from Purdah of the women. The process is slower on the frontier among the Pathans, but in many Messes we met wives and daughters looking very beautiful in their lovely saris and jewellery.

Immaculate soldiers

Although not unexpected, our strongest impression was in the quality of the soldiers. Those tall, good looking, loyal and cheerful men, are as good as they have ever been. We saw many brass and pipe bands in full dress uniforms, and a number of guards of honour. All were immaculate. As they have always done, they show great regimental pride, and the family spirit is very strong. Sons follow fathers into the same regiments generation after generation, and pensioners return to reunions year after year.

Stimulating and nostalgic

In these difficult days with so many misunderstandings between nations it was stimulating and nostalgic to go back to Pakistan and to find so much friendship for the British. Our visit was a wonderful experience.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

The Rover Group pull out the old Brigade Commander

FAREWELL TO BRIGADE COMMANDER

THE Squadron gave the departing Brigade Commander, **Brig Bryan Webster,** a bit of a rocket! The rocket was under the control of the stalwarts of Rover Group who provide a 24-hour travel service for the Commander and Deputy Commander. This time the trip was only to an awaiting helicopter. Earlier in the week the WOs and Senior NCOs of the Squadron dined out the Brigadier in fine style. After an excellent dinner, the RSM, **WO1 Ian Buckley,** presented the Commander with two porcelain ornaments in the shape of a wise owl and a crested tit. No comment. The evening was rounded off by community singing led by the OC and the Admin Officer!

HADFIELD'S RENT-A-CAR SERVICE

This month MT Troop insisted on being mentioned, and **Sgt 'Scouse' Davies** was seen to disappear with an HB pencil to hide behind a pile of FMT3s. The MT Troop in 8 Bde consists of 26 personnel: 9 are RCT, 4 REME and 13 Royal Signals. The MT are responsible for cars and vehicles with an average total mileage of 440,000 miles per year! The cars average 8,000 miles per month! The MT has just gone through a very busy period in that we have had our PRE in January and FFR in February, which both resulted in excellent results, due to much hard work by the Troop.

PERSONALITIES

The MTO, **Lt Ken Hadfield,** one of our tourists, is on the look out for any spare crash helmets or motorbike spares as he is off to be a White Helmet. **Cpl Mick Davis:** a well-known member of all Squadron sports teams (when the time comes for him to be buried he has requested to be entombed in the squash court!). **Lcpl Eric Smeeth:** a popular face in Derry, his second tour in this city. Must report to psycho soon! **Sigs Smith (143)** and **Fekete:** regular members of the Oyster Club, who are repeatedly being asked by the Admin Officer if they want any shares in the Club. **Sig (2359) De Souza:** one of our Cbt Pmn posted to Cyprus to improve his sun tan. Ladies beware!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The MT changes faces quite quickly and we have recently said goodbye in our own way to **Lcpls Dave Nurse, Willy Wilson, Cpl John Hutton** (RCT), **Sig 'Fat' Smith (189)** and **Cfn Stan Sonka** (REME). Similarly, we have bid welcome to **Dvr Jeff Packer** (RCT), **Cpl Ray Newman** (RCT), **Lcpl Steve Wroe** (REME) and **Cfn Frank Self** (REME) and wish them all the best in their new posts.

Mrs Claire Burke shows Mrs Mason the NAAFI.
Left to right: Mrs Burke, NAAFI manager, Mrs Mason and Mrs Buckley *(extreme right)*

MRS MASON VISITS THE WIVES

The Squadron was pleased to play host to **Mrs Mason,** wife of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Accompanied by **Mrs Claire Burke** and **Mrs Julie Buckley, Mrs Mason** visited the home of **Ssgt** and **Mrs Carl Bellamy** for coffee before moving on to see the NAAFI. We hope **Mrs Mason** gained an insight into family life here in Derry. This is an appropriate moment to praise all the wives and families who are out here supporting their husbands and who bear the considerable stress and strain of life in Northern Ireland in traditional British manner. The Wives Club recently held one of their regular dinners during which vast quantities of food and wine were consumed. **Ssgt Ken Fuller** (ACC) was again responsible for producing an excellent meal. There was no truth in the rumour that the Wives Club were looking for a male stripper for the evening! Some 64 of an approximate 90 wives attended the evening. Well done, the Wives Club.

Mr Zammit, from the QM's department, receives his Imperial Service Medal from the Brigadier for long service to HM Forces

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

Maj Gen D. T. Young, DFC, presenting the Gold Comstar award to the Traffic Officer, Capt Don Reed

WORK AND PLAY HARD

233 SIG SQN is continuing to work and play hard and is in the throes of making final preparations for moving into our new building within the HQNI compound.

In February the Army Commcen Norireland manned by Squadron personnel was presented with its first Gold Comstar award by the Commander Land Forces—**Maj Gen D. T. Young, DFC.** A great achievement working under what can be at times very trying conditions.

The Squadron hockey team has had a very successful season this side of the water but unfortunately was knocked out in the semi-finals of the UK Minor Units Cup. We say goodbye to **Sgt Pete Bovenizer** and thank him for the success that his endeavours have brought to the Squadron. He has left us on promotion to go to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and we congratulate him in advance on his forthcoming marriage.

233 SIG SQN HOCKEY TEAM 1977

Left to right. Back row: Maj Neil Horler, Cpl Roy Pickersgill, Lcpl Benny Bennett, Sgt Pete Bovenizer, Cpl 'Sparks' Robertson, Cpl Alan Smallwood, Cpl Dave Randall

Front row: Cpl Larry Groom, Sgt Bob Faulds, Cpl Ian Mather, Sig Tim Dale and Lcpl Ken Bowe

The basketball team's story was, sadly, much the same. The Squadron sent a team to Aldershot representing Northern Command but was beaten in the Army Finals.

Another Commcen Troop presentation from the CLF came on April 5 when **Ssgt Barrie Hives** was presented with his LS and GC and **Sgt Garry Mason** with his BEM for his work in SHAPE. Congratulations go to them both.

And now for something completely different . . . **Cpl John Topping** tells of his activities with an infantry patrol.

North of the border

'Spread the blacking carefully, not forgetting to break up the head shape by leaving some pink bits . . .' I never expected for one minute that the fieldcraft and patrol techniques we had performed on our Det Comds course would even be used for real—and here I was, volunteered to go as the radio operator to an infantry patrol on a live op! My mind boggled and then started to dredge up all I had learned, mainly with a view at the time of remembering it only for the final test. Now my survival and that of my yet unfamiliar comrades might depend on a potential cuckoo like me! Where we were going no warnings were given (which sound dramatic but is very true).

Crash refresher course

We received our patrol orders about two hours before drop off and in that time I got down to a crash refresher course on tactics and fieldcraft. The 'five S's' began to make sense and my fellow patrollers kept up a constant stream of advice and useful tips: 'Walk in the wheel marks on any road so that the DMS tread doesn't pick up stones and make a noise'. 'Irish hedges in this part are normally double banked so don't try to "fall through" as normal—lie up along the bottom'; 'When moving, break down the aerial and secure it with an elastic band'. These tips and many more were given and, during the course of the patrol, most were used to get one through.

Tension

We were delivered to the start point in a covered vehicle which finished off its journey coasting along minus engine and lights. We debussed and moved quickly into an all-round defence position. For almost five minutes nothing seemed to move around us; the quietness was heavy and oppressive and when I had calculated it might be time to move I heard a low-pitched whistle and everyone froze again. One of the patrol had a starlight scope and had spotted something moving along the road.

You could have cut the tension with a knife and I swear everyone could hear my heart tumping away.

The mental checklist started again.

- is my safety catch off
- have I got tracer in this mag (it was checked 10 times earlier on!)
- was that dark patch there before . . .
- what is my alternate fire position . . .

Finally, right into the ambush walks a young girl. She is terrified as the patrol emerges seemingly from nowhere. Before she can become hysterical and start to scream she is quickly re-assured and, when calmer, tells us she has been to a friend's house to watch television. It all happened so quickly. She must have thought it was a bad dream, and by her reaction I'm not so sure the SF are welcome in her area.

Superswish

It was after we moved off that I picked up my first nickname. The Colour Sergeant who was doing point dropped back and asked me if I was trying to get them all knocked off. I couldn't understand—*I* thought I was ultraquiet. He then pointed out that a loud swishing noise was coming from my baggy (by comparison with the patrol's tailored drainpipes!) combat trousers as the extra material between my legs rubbed together. 'They can ———— well hear it in Dublin', he whispered, 'forget you're Royal Signals and open your legs like any normal infantry soldier!' I did try, but I don't think it had much effect because when we reached home base 'superswish' was the vogue phrase.

Back at camp, still in the early hours of the morning, the incidents and seemingly narrow escapes didn't seem quite as bad. We had a good laugh together and at each other, and I suppose our safety valves were working.

On reflection, it was a time in my life during which I was totally committed to the patrol and its (my) survival. It was a frightening, harrowing experience and it brought home very forcibly to me that the squadron military training periods and the course I had attended were not such a waste of time after all!

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

A UNIQUE EVENT

ON March 18, the Corps exercised its right of Freedom of Entry to Blandford Forum. The event was unique in two ways, it was the first time that the Corps has staged a drive-past through Blandford and, secondly, it was the first time that a British General has presented an American medal to a woman officer of the US Army.

CLOSE RELATIONS

This important occasion started with a march by a Guard of Honour led by the Corps Band from the outskirts of the town to the Market Place. There the guard and Band were inspected by the Mayor, **Dr D. H. Davies,** accompanied by the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers, CB, MBE.** It was particularly fitting that the Mayor on this occasion should be **Dr Davies** because he first came to Blandford as an RAMC officer at Blandford Camp. For many years he and his wife, also a doctor, have run a surgery at the camp for the families of servicemen. They have also worked hard to foster close relations between the camp and town.

After the inspection, **Gen Sawers** presented the MSM to **Capt Joe Izzo** in recognition of his 27 years' service. **Capt Izzo** enlisted in Malta in 1949 and since entering adult service in 1952 has served all but five years overseas. He came to Blandford in 1974 as Superintending Clerk and was commissioned in 1976.

Gen Sawers next presented the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service to **Capt Patricia M. Mack (Patty)** of the US Army Signal Corps. Her award was for meritorious service while stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, during which time she was responsible for the transfer of the TV system from Fort Monmouth and for the introduction of colour TV at Fort Gordon.

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

The Mayor inspecting the Band

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

WO1 Jimmy Greer leads the Band marching past the Mayor

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

Capts Joe Izzo and Patty Mack after receiving their medals with Lt Col Arthur Byng, the parade commander, in the background

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

Capt Joe Izzo after the ceremony with his wife, Marlene, and daughter, Diane

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

Maj Gen Sawers discussing the ceremony in the Corn Exchange with Capt John Doody, WO1 (RSM) Fred McMillan and WO2 Clive Honor

GUARD OF HONOUR FOLLOWED BY 70 VEHICLES

After the presentation the Mayor made a short address in which he thanked members of the Corps for their numerous unpublished acts of friendship and support to the less fortunate members of the community and stated it was the wish of the community that camp and town should share in a family spirit of belonging.

The Band then led the Guard of Honour past the Mayor and marched round the town. This was followed by a drive-past of 70 vehicles drawn from the School of Signals, 30 Sig Regt and 249 Sig Sqn. The parade was commanded by **Lt Col Arthur Byng** of 30 Sig Regt with **Capt John Doody** of the School commanding the guard and **Capt Dick Stokes** of 30 Sig Regt commanding the vehicle column. The parade RSM was **WO1 Brian Green** and **WO1 Jimmy Greer** led the Band. After the vehicles and weapons had been returned to camp those taking part in the parade were entertained to drinks by the Mayor in the Corn Exchange.

Courtesy: Photographic Section HQ School of Signals

The 'Sno cats' of 249 Sig Sqn driving past

News from Regiments

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

COOL LIGHTWEIGHT

'END EX' for Morning Glory missed being called on April Fool's Day by a matter of minutes. So it was genuine! It concluded a week of permanent teeth chattering by all participants in this first Divisional Staff CPX of the year. The Staff got used to doing their own and each other's work in the confines of one tent having discarded the individual, warm and fuggy office vehicles where they were connected to the outside world by cable only. Now the elements were able to take a hold and we all had to endure one of the coldest spells of March weather for some years with just a layer of canvas between survival and hypothermia. It was noted that occasional attempts to simulate Oates' bravery when he left the tent on Scott's Antarctic expedition were all misconstrued as efforts to get back to Verden early. After all, there might have been some justification in doing this, since the exercise had actually started early with a crash out from barracks. Several had therefore ignored packing those extra layers of clothing, presumably taking the lightweight HQ concept as literally as possible. Clearly, **Lt Simon Kidner's** vehicle was trying to shed weight as the offside wheel loosed off for a jaunt down the overtaking lane on the autobahn! To balance this, **Lcpl Jim Pickles** gathered additional load on his line vehicle when some warning signs became attached to his bumper. Fortunately, those digging the hole in the road escaped the same fate in the nick of time. **Sgt Sammy Bondin** always became very attached to the commcen locations he found himself in: he was bogged down on numerous occasions. But despite several sheets of Post Exercise Report from the CO which have just appeared in the 'in tray', the team work showed up well on the exercise and easily able to cope. However, all were at a loss for a suitable reply to the question to Sig Ops posed by a new Staff Officer: 'My remote is noisy, please can you send a tech down to re-tune it'!

WITH SUMMER IN MIND

At the transitional stage between summer and winter sports, we are now beginning to start our swimming training (at 0630hrs every day) and on the Baltic **Ssgt Bob Mawson** and crew are taking an Easter cruise around the Danish ports. Our tennis team is training on the new all-weather courts and the squash players will soon have the third court in operation, which will now provide a facility second to none in this part of the world.

SOCCER AND RUGBY SUCCESS

The football team has done what was expected of it and beat the Kings Own Border Regt last week to win the Divisional Cup and the Rugby Club has just hosted a return tour by the Malmö Rugby Club from Sweden. This was a thoroughly well contested open match which the Regiment won 8 points to 6. **Lcpl Mick Hellewell** scored out on the left then the CO in the second half intercepted a pass meant for his opposing winger and sprinted three-quarters of the pitch to score under the posts. Such is the loneliness of command, that he has not (yet!) relived those moments with us, but it really was an excellent try. The opposition contained six players from the Swedish national side, so it was on a high note that the team finished the season. And probably it was the last game that **Ssgt (F of S) Gary Sharp** will play for a bit. We don't think they do too much of this in the Sudan!

PALED INSTRUCTORS

An audience of over 80 officers and SNCOs attended the recent two-day study period held in Verden. Topics for presentation were not only confined to the problems of signalling from a Divisional HQ but ranged throughout the formations. Very useful contributions were made particularly in the syndicate discussions by the Regimental signallers who attended. On the second day we welcomed CCR Signals and our own GOC, who at one point in the discussion of defence of detachments against intruders, recommended that we practised all more frequently in the techniques of grenade throwing. Squadron weapon training instructors paled noticeably and have since all been remarkably silent.

SHORE AND SEA LEGS

It was particularly pleasant to welcome **Maj John Hincks** from the School of Signals who gave us demonstrations on the long-awaited Clansman sets: actual sets indeed and not wooden mock-ups! During the evening, we entertained our guests at both the Sergeants Mess with a games evening and the Officers Mess with a drinks and supper party. We were joined by the CPOs and Officers of 7 Frigate Sqn who were on a goodwill visit to Bremerhaven. Whilst the officers and SNCOs of the Regiment had been applying a measure of brain work to the study days, teams from these ships had been down to play us in various sports. We therefore assisted the Navy to get their shore legs in return for visits to the ships (or rather the Wardrooms and Mess Decks on board) from which, judging by the subsequent rolling gait, most of us gained our sea legs.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

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

NOTABLE FIRSTS

THIS month has been particularly good for competitions, with notable successes in basketball, rallying and cookery contests. In addition, Exercise Bright Spark gave everyone a chance to practise their military skills.

DIVISIONAL AND BAOR CHAMPIONS

The Regimental basketball players have done it again! **Ssgt (Y of S) George Stubbings** has lead the team through a remarkable year and at the moment we are both Divisional and BAOR champions. In the latter contest we sailed through the first two rounds and then overwhelmed 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt by 63 points to 38 in the semi-final. We then met 10 Regt RCT in the final. There was some good shooting by **Lcpl Fred Tedby** and **Cpl Brian Rees** to put the Regiment 20 points up after only 6 minutes' play. **George Stubbings** and **Ssgt (F of S) Jan Jasiok** helped keep the pace going, and by half time we were winning by 48 points to 15. In the second half, after five substitutions, **WO1 (RSM) Mike Jennings** led the junior members of the team to a comfortable victory of 80 points to 38. Our next hurdle is the Army Cup.

RALLYING SUCCESS

The time has come to reveal the achievements of our shy rallyers, **Ssgt (SQMS) Pete Shotts** and **Ssgt Derek Maguire. Pete Shotts** navigated **Derek** through to success in the BAOR championships which, as you will agree, is no mean feat for an SQMS, who can never find a coffee cup! German-sponsored rallies open to NATO countries and also the prize for the best Land-Rover crew. The photograph shows **Derek Maguire,** the CO, **Lt Col John Halford,** and **Pete Shotts** with their trophies. If anyone makes any comments about the good, the bad and the ugly, they will be sent to the salt mines. Regrettably, we have now lost **Derek** on posting and we wish him the best of luck. **Pete Shotts** has been selected to navigate the BAMA BAOR 850cc Group Mini in the 1977 Welsh and Scottish rallies.

Lt Col John Halford with Ssgt Derek Maguire and Ssgt (SQMS) Pete Shotts

COOKS TO THE FORE

The Regiment has again achieved a creditable success in the 2 Armd Div Cookery competition which was held here at Birdwood Barracks on March 3. Our team, consisting of **Cpl Alan Paskell, Lcpls Bob Hornal, 'Dusty' Miller** and **Pte 'Jock' Campbell** were runners-up in a close-fought competition. We were beaten by the Irish Guards who are the current [that's an ACC joke] Army champions. **Sgt Bill Clague** won the static class with his decorated chicken dish; he hopes to repeat his win next year by decorating his quarter.

NATIONAL SKI TRIALS

As a result of their successes at the 2 Armd Div and Army ski meetings earlier in the year, three members of the Regiment's langlauf team were selected for trials with the British National team. These were **Sigs Steve Lancashire, Kevin Randall** and **Bob O'Dea.**

Several weeks after the Army meeting they returned to the snow. This time the location was the British team's training camp in Switzerland. The training was intensive and the competition fierce. The results will not be known for some time as further trials are to follow. However, **Steve Lancashire** is considered a strong contender for the National Squad.

ARMY COLOURS

Alpine. **Cpl Nick Doveton** was once again selected to ski for the Army team but reluctantly declined as he was down to leave the Army. This ended a brilliant ski career during which time he dominated Corps ski-ing and Army Slalom. Following in his footsteps is **Sig Paul Ford** who came seventh in the Army championships and won the prize for the 'Army's most promising Alpine skier'. He went on to ski for the Army squad in the inter-Services meeting and the German Army championships and deservedly won his Army Colours.

EXERCISE BRIGHT SPARK

This exercise was planned to brush up the military skills of the Regiment. The Regiment was divided into seven platoons and most activities were designed as competitions which had the effect of encouraging 100 per cent effort. Overall, the exercise was a complete success with some remarkable achievements. **Lt Gary Watchus** commanding 5 Platoon led them to victory in the March and Shoot competition and managed second place in the swimming gala. There were so many competitions that even listing them here would take up the majority of the magazine.

2IC, Maj Peter Jones (*right*) on completion of the March with Maj Ian Crouch who organised the event

2 Lt Richard Evans and Sgt Chris Maynard with Line Troop before they attempted the March and Shoot

MISCELLANEA

2 Sqn has said a sad farewell to a number of its members lately. **Capt Malcolm Sinton** is going to MOD to take up a special appointment—a new project called 'coffee boy' is the rumour we've heard.

Capt Jim Kennard has also gone to train as a helicopter pilot at Middle Wallop and is shortly to get married. We wish him and **Chris** the best of luck for the future.

Sgt Pat Allen (RCT) has moved on after providing a superb service as MT Sergeant for the Squadron.

We also welcome **Lt Tony McMullen, Sgts 'Mac' Cambell** and **'Paddy' Brown** (RCT) to this foremost radio squadron in the world.

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

PREPARATIONS FOR MOVE

MARCH has been another busy month with the Regiment preparing for its move to BAOR (and 1 Sqn to 30 Sig Regt) later in the year. Exercise Trial Notion, followed closely by Exercise First Shot, practised the Regiment in its future role and was the last time we shall exercise on Salisbury Plain (!). The weather behaved true to form and gave most people a muddy farewell to the 'Plain'. It will be a surprise on the next exercise not 'to go out of the gate and turn left'.

WIVES SHOOT

The Wives Club has continued to meet regularly, and among other interesting activities, holds shooting nights twice a month. These are run gallantly by **Lt Vaughan Smedley,** and any rumours that he is organising his own private army are completely unfounded!

SQUADRON MISCELLANEA

Capt Alan Hutt and **Capt Sam Sherman** have both left 1 Sqn for JDSC prior to going to Cyprus. **Capt Graham Elliot** has arrived from Hong Kong to take over as 2IC Squadron and OC C3 Troop. SSM 1 Sqn, **WO2 Joe Albon,** has been selected for promotion to RSM.

3 Sqn has a new SSM, **WO2 Steve Marshall,** who has come from 216 Para Sig Sqn, and is working hard at keeping the Squadron fit.

Three members of Delta Troop, **Cpl Marty Lewis, Sigs Dougie Harrison** and **'Paddy' Boyd,** went on Exercise Hot Line with 216 Sig Sqn and came back so 'cammed up' that they were unrecognisable!

Lt David Proctor has been playing Army hockey regularly and **Lt Vaughan Smedley** is taking part in the International Flying Dutchman pre-Olympic regattas in France and Italy, in preparation for the Olympics later this year.

PROBLEMS OF A QUARTERMASTER

Our QM(A), **Maj Alf Buckley** (LI), who has previously also served with 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, recently confessed to having some trouble with technical terms during his time with the Regiment. He accordingly made the following appeal:

Having served with 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt for two years I felt confident that I was fully integrated. I had been politely informed that when 'PAPA' and 'OSCAR' were mentioned on 'O' groups they were not the christian names of the Master Chef and OC HQ Sqn. Since then I have been completely baffled by the gobbledegook used on briefings, debriefings and 'O' groups, some of which include the following:

'We must change that pony to a tandem'
(I thought we were being mechanised)

'It would be a good idea if we could have a Step Down as well as a Step Up'
(Here we go again getting fitness to fight mixed up with comms!)

'The Col AQ insists that a Nympho Post be established in Bellerby Camp'
(After going to a great deal of trouble to find the right type of girls, I was deflated to find that the Col AQ wanted an INFO POST)

'I have just passed track junction GR 000000, get those hedgehogs out of sight'
(I could not find any hedgehogs—all I saw was some line equipment)

'The QM(T) is taking his JENNY to workshops'
(Really, the things the QM(T) gets up to!)

Please when you say 'Whiskey' and 'Mushrooms' and the rest of your jargon remember I am only a thick Light Infantry man!

Thank you, **Alf,** for pointing out our bad habits. We promise to try to speak English in future.

FAREWELL RUGBY

The Regimental rugby team has lost **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Buxton** who has been OIC rugby for over three years. **WO2 Buxton** is leaving the Army after serving for 22 years, and a Testimonial Officers and Seniors *v* Juniors match was held as his farewell. The final score was 15—9 to the Juniors, the scorers being **Cpls Chris Harden, Eddie Doubtfire** and **Davy Philpott. Lcpl George Bates** narrowly missed scoring when he went over the line at the corner flag and had the try disallowed. The 9 points for the other side were scored by **Lt David Proctor** who successfully kicked 3 penalties (yes—the same officer who plays hockey for the Army!) After the match the traditional celebration was held in the Rugby Club and **WO2 Buxton** was presented with an engraved pen as a token of appreciation for his three years' hard work.

Putting the finger on Buxton!

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

VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES

THE Regiment has spent five of the last six weeks on exercises of various shapes and sizes. Fortunately for us, Exercise Wintex was spent in the comfort of our own barracks. The only dissatisfied soldier was **QMSI Vince Flaherty** who, having waited for over six months for his gymnasium to be re-modernised, was promptly ejected at its reopening so that it could become a Control Headquarters. (We wish him the best of luck in Hong Kong anyway.) Our Regimental and Divisional exercises culminated on Maundy Thursday in two inches of snow in them there hills. However, to more interesting topics.

ORIENTEERING EMPHASIS

The first few months of 1977 have been both busy and successful for the Regiment in Orienteering. A 'teach in' preceded the Regimental Championships on February 11. This score event was dominated by the Div HQ Staff; however, good runs were produced by **Lt Nigel Jackson, Capt Ian Noble** and **WO1 Andy Harkins** in 4th, 5th and 6th places, respectively.

In the 4 Div League the Regiment has run consistently well, winning the events on January 12 at Hameln and on February 9 at Herford. At Hameln, **Capt Dick Hoyle** finished 2nd, **Cpl Mick Clapham** and **Lt John Thomas** 11th equal. In February, the team was greatly strengthened by the arrival of **Capt Alan Meekings** (REME) to HQ REME. However, owing to ski-ing and courses the Regiment was not very well represented in the Teutoberger Triathlon, although **Capt Meekings** won the individual prize and **Lcpl Stewart Ferguson** ran three creditable races.

The highlight of the year to date has been the 4 Div Championships on March 16. The 'A' team won the event and the 'B' team were 8th out of 11 Major Units teams. The top three were: **Capt Meekings** 1st, **Capt Dick Hoyle** and **Cpl Mick Clapham** 3rd and 6th, respectively. Having come second in the BAOR Championships, thoughts are now on the Army Championships being held in Scotland.

P.S. Those of you who saw the photograph of **Capt Dick Hoyle** in the *Daily Telegraph* recently may wish to know that he was receiving the 4 Division Championship Cup from the GOC and not the BAOR Cup as suggested!

CANOEING IN A BLIZZARD

On April 3 the first ever BAOR Canoe Rally was held on the River Lippe at Schloss Neuhaus. This event, organised by **Ssgt (Y of S) Lomas,** started in an April shower and ended in a blizzard. However, there were 60 starters from BAOR units, and three German Canoe Clubs also took part. From the Regiment **Ssgt (Y of S) Lomas** achieved a gold medal and **Sig Mick Garland,** a bronze. Communicating canoeists may also like to know that **Cpl Bob Robertshaw** of 22 Sig Regt achieved a gold medal in the day's fastest time and **Sgt Frank Kelly** of 7 Sig Regt, a silver.

FENCING OFF THE GROUND

Towards the end of 1976 the 2IC, **Maj John Dawson,** was approached for some money to buy some fencing equipment so that a team could be produced and trained. With half an eye on PRI funds he decided that a team could be formed using the old equipment in the sports store and when it proved itself he would think again.

Well a team was formed, and on March 23 it won the 4 Division Fencing Championship. The team was: **Cpl 'Athos' Parry, Lcpl 'Pathos' Fowler, Sig 'D'Artagnan' Arundel, Gnr 'Proder' Pooley, Dvr 'Kendo' Maio** and last but not least **Sig 'Fairbanks' Vickery.**

The team also fenced in the BAOR Championships on April Fool's Day and came fourth. In the individual foils and epée **Sig Arundel** came third. Perhaps the 2IC will now have to 'cough up'.

2 SQUADRON SMOKER

Having been tasked to write a report of the 'goings on' at the Squadron Smoker, it can safely be said that a good time was had by all. The evening was opened by a sketch from **Sgt Jimmy (Fix it) Flockhart,** who with the aid of **Sgt Eric Shreeves** and **Sig Hamish (Legs) Hermiston** described to us how everything went at the Battle of 'Albuhra' which turned out to be a very witty short history of a typical British reaction to going to Battle.

Alpha 1 Troop followed the Battle with a series of witty ditties aimed at personalities in the Squadron, with a rather obvious slant towards para-wings, football and Black Belt karate experts; it's rumoured that **Lcpl Billy (I'm on a diet) Tulip** really did need crutches to take him to his bed.

Then our duty star, **Cpl Russ (Rustic) Thompson,** came into the scene and gave everybody a chance to singalong; the audience loved it and I think **Russ** enjoyed himself too (I've heard that he is even better when he is sober)!

The next act came from 'the lads' of the Troop who really bowled everyone over with their version of 'George and the Dragon', with star quality stuff coming from **Sigs Mick (Brillo) Sheehan** and **Dave (The hulk) Sanders** being very well backed up by **Sig 'Ginge' Rogers, Lcpl Carl Strefford** and **Cpl Gary (Boobs) Thomas.**

The next act came from 'Our Sergeant Major' and **Ssgt 'Gorgeous' George Paton** who did their own thing with a space 'Oddity'. Staff said later he was only acting, but we know better.

A3 Troop then came to life in the form of **Sig Dave (Dog) Humphries** who completely astounded us with some very funny jokes while sitting on the toilet. Just for the record 'No, Hamish did not rip the toilet from its mountings'. He was followed by **Lcpl Terry Dooley** who showed us all that he really can sing. Well done, **Terry.**

Alpha 4 (Rat Pack) then did their thing, well really nobody knows even to this day what it was supposed to be but **Sigs Charlie (Bo Dudley) Roost, Al (The Jaw) Wallis** and **Lcpl Terry (Bruce 2) Woolcombe** looked as if they were enjoying themselves. Mind you, most of 'Rat Packs' performing was done in the auditorium.

Hamish Hermiston then got on the stage and tried to give

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us 'Three Wheels on my Wagon' but was bombed out yet again, so **Sgt (Cliff the Civvy) Salisbury** entertained us with his mouth-organ and brought the evening to a great end. A great end to a great evening and everybody went home singing.

But not to forget the people behind the scenes, **Sig Cedric (Starting Motor) Carter** who worked the lights, **Cpls Pete (Strawberry) Jenkins** and **Tony Wise** who kept everybody P.O.L'd from their well-stocked bar and everybody else too numerous to mention, 'well done'.

A special mention to our OC, **Maj A. Bailey,** who gave the go ahead for the evening and I hope that this is the first of many such occasions. I think that he made a great start to his tour with 2 Sqn.

MOVING THE MOUNTAIN?

One recently-arrived signalman from Catterick provided the following interlude, on a recent exercise, having parked his vehicle and erected a 27-ft mast, he found that the 50-ft coax would not stretch between his vehicle and mast. He started fussing around the mast. When asked what he was doing he replied 'Moving the mast closer to the vehicle'!

WIVES CLUB FASHION SHOW

Since the strength of man is exceeded only by the power of women, we feel it politic and, of course, right to mention a most successful fashion show organised by the Regimental Wives Club in the Lister School Hall on March 31, 1977. After several weeks of planning with the enormous assistance of Klingethel's of Herford (which produced the clothes and models) the committee members sat back to watch the fruits of their labour. There was an excellent range of clothes on display to suit all ages (and figures) although the commere, **Mrs Val Dawson,** had to urge the audience not to convert the prices to pounds.

The two models, **Uwe** (as in washing machine) and **Thomas** were undoubtedly the stars of the show, particularly after the interval when wine was served. Even though the beautiful model evening dress presented at the end cost DM500·00, it was greeted with such spontaneous applause that it is considered that a close watch should be kept on cheque books for the next few weeks.

We know that the models were delighted with the reception given to them at the end by over 150 wives in the audience. Klingethels presented everyone with a print of Herford and, judging by the comments heard later, it is a venture well worth repeating in the not too distant future.

Frau Vogel of Klingethels, Mrs Angelika Darlington, interpreter for the evening, and Mrs Valerie Dawson, Commère, discussing the translation of fashion jargon during the show

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

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

FINAL VISIT BY CSO

THE Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** paid his final visit to 7 Sig Regt on Friday, February 4, 1977. He spent the morning touring the Regiment saying farewells and meeting soldiers while his wife joined a number of soldiers' wives for coffee. During his visit the General presented a number of LS and GC awards to members of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer and all ranks send their very best wishes to the General and his wife, **Jean.**

Cpl Fred Hodsoll receives his LS and GC, waited on by Sgt 'Lofty' Arnold

Cpl Ian McPhail receives his LS and GC

The CSO presents LS and GC awards to WO2 (SSM) Howard Parks, Ssgt John Lawrence, and Sgt John Hughes

CHAMPAGNE FROM GERMAN LANDLORDS

The German owners of the blocks of flats at Gohfeld, near Herford, decided to show how pleased they were with their British tenants. They held a reception for the British and German officials who had helped to make the project such a success. Speeches by the Herford Station Staff Officer, **Maj McLean** and **Herr Wehmeyer,** one of the owners, told of the harmony and good feeling in the flats. Although 96 Army families live there surrounded by their German neighbours, there has been no friction and no complaints from either community. Our picture shows a delighted **Herr Wehmeyer** toasting one of the families who are his tenants. He paid a surprise visit with a bottle of champagne to **Cpl Bob Pakes** and his wife, **Joanna.** Their 4-year-old daughter, **Nichola,** wasn't old enough for champagne but she obviously enjoyed the party. Also in the picture is **WO1 Powell,** the warden of the flats.

Photograph courtesy of PR, HQ 4 Div

4 SQUADRON EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN 76-77 — SONTHOFEN

Report by Ssgt (F of S) Alan Eames

We all boarded the coach at Bielefeld on a cold and frosty February morning for the 11-hour trip to Sonthofen. The party consisted of 16, of whom 6 had previous ski-ing experience. We were met in Sonthofen by the course 'Fixit and Gofor' man, **Lcpl Fred Farrow,** who took us to the Regimental Ski Hut—Gasthaus Pension Edelweiss in Hinang. The course programme was then outlined by **WO2 (Y of S) Colin Bland** and his charming wife, **Cathy** (both qualified BASI instructors). Then a few Do's and Don'ts by Admin Sgt, **Ray Coulson,** set the scene for the following two weeks.

A few lectures and away

After a few more lectures, we were then fitted out with the necessary ski kit . . . and so to the slopes of Oberjoch! The weather was marvellous, with both snow and sunshine in abundance.

The party was split up initially into three groups depending upon individual experience. After the basics, a test was carried out and the groups again re-arranged. Those who could bend their knees went with **Cathy,** those who made an attempt to bend something went with **Colin,** and finally, those who could sit on a T-bar for two minutes with **Cpl 'Jamie' James** (4 Sqn's own ski instructor). The pattern was set and inter-group rivalry proliferated. Each instructor soon realised who the comedian was in his group. These were namely: **Capt Graham (It's not so much my technique, more the state of the piste) Hand;** our 2IC, **Sig Tonkes (Gorilla) Toye** and, lastly, **Cpl Bob (I can bruise trees) Kerwin.**

The evenings were spent amicably over a 'few' beers with individuals comparing the day's events and mishaps.

Parallel achievement

The highlight of the course was the final 'Slalom' won well by **Sig 'Stevo' Stevenson.** Two days of free ski-ing ensued followed by the end-of-course 'do'. The evening lived up to expectations as did the course overall, as all members on the course achieved parallel ski-ing by the finish. Many thanks were extended to the course organisers overall and we all look forward to Snow Queen next year.

GRAND RE-OPENING

A GRAND re-opening of the Corporals Club took place on February 24. After six weeks of intensive decorating and building **Lt Col Topple** pulled the first pint which was downed by the Mess PMC—**Cpl 'Robbo' Robertson.** The opening was followed on the Saturday night by a dance and buffet. Special thanks go to **Mrs Rosaleen Cooney** who spent much time and hard work in preparing the Club for the re-opening and **Cpls Chris Stone, Jimmy South** and **Jason Cooney** who, along with others, worked to make the Club a place to enjoy.

Opening of the Corporals Club: The CO Lt Col M R Topple pulls the first pint, faithfully supported by WO1 (RSM) Nick Nicoll and Cpl Robbo Robertson

They prefer the bottled stuff!

Left to right: Cpls Jim Peat, Steve Dunderdale, Lcpls Dave Pennington, Steve Jones, Cpl 'Paddy' Crooks, WO2 (ORQMS) Les Wilkinson and WO2 (SSM) Howard Parkes

Sgt Roy Smith scores a try in the 4 Division Cup Final against 26 Engineer Regt. 7 Sig Regt won 39—3

SCHOOLCHILDREN VISIT 6 SQUADRON

While the rest of the Regiment were returning from their spring holiday, called 'Wintex', 6 Sqn were coping with schoolchildren from the local Flemming School.

Cpl Colin Cambell explains the intricacies of the Bruin system

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Regiment welcomes two new Squadron Commanders—**Majs Bill Buxton** and **Roy Westerman**—who take over 2 and 6 Sqns, respectively, and **2 Lt Bob McGregor.** The Sergeants Mess bids welcome to **WO2 (F of S) John Gallagher, WO2 Ken Henman, WO2 (SSM) Arthur Smith** and **Ssgt Geoffrey Shergold.** Farewells to **Ssgt 'Taff' Roberts** and **Sgts Bert Connor** and **Brian Hudson.**

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

HIGH STANDARDS IN NEW SERGEANTS MESS

TWO HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY Mess Members and over 30 guests were present when the GOC NE District, **Maj Gen H. G. Woods, MBE, MC,** officially opened the new Sergeants Mess, another phase of the vast multi-million pound Vimy project. **Maj Gen Woods** conducted by the RSM, **WO1 David Hughes,** and Mess Manager, **Mr Mick Palmer,** toured the lavish accommodation, commenting on the high standards, particularly the splendid wall-to-wall carpeting and modern furnishings. During his tour, he visited the rooms of **WO1 Jackie Foulds** (WRAC), **WO1 (F of S) Terry Brabon** and **Ssgt Jim Salter.**

The Vimy project officer, **Col John North,** then introduced the General to the visiting 'dignitaries', including the architectural staff, planners and engineers who have been involved in the Mess since the blueprint stage. The GOC also spoke to every Mess Member, a mammoth task in itself! The opening finished with a magnificent buffet lunch of banquet dimensions—credit indeed to **Capt John Brumfitt** (ACC), **WO2 Stan Bell** (ACC) and their staff.

Opening of the Sergeants Mess
Left to right: WO2 (RQMS) Gordon Blood, Maj Gen H. G. Woods, Ssgt Gordon Philbrook, Sgt Harry Worthington and Sgt John Davidson

MEDAL PRESENTATION

Whilst visiting the new Sergeants Mess on March 1, 1977, the GOC NE Dist presented **Sgt Sandy Innes** with the British Empire Medal. **Sgt Innes** joined Boy Service in 1960, enlisting into the Regular Army in 1962. Since then he has served with 640 Sig Troop in Aden, Malawi, Mozambique and Kenya, followed, in 1968–70, by a tour with 253 Sig Sqn in Hong Kong. He then served in BAOR with 6 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. In 1973, he moved to Northern Ireland, first with 233 Sig Sqn and then with 12 Int and Sec Coy. **Sgt Innes** is currently a Troop Sergeant with 3 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt.

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY—No 7

MOTOR cycle road racing is **Sig Barry Roberts'** scene! Within a year of enlisting into the Royal Engineers he had a go at the 1971 BAOR Championship Trials—the result was a smashed bike with himself ending up in hospital! Always having been interested in road racing, he decided to branch off into this field of sport, starting with racing at Brands Hatch and Lydden circuits, but alas, like his last attempt in BAOR, he bit the dust, this time taking straw bales and marshals with him!

Sig Barry Roberts

In 1973 he bought his first proper racing bike, a 125cc Bultaco, but this was so small that he kept falling off it! However, after much perseverance (plus the accumulation of many bruises) he mastered the techniques of staying upright and soon found himself crossing the finishing line first—1974 saw him winning the 350 'Stars of Tomorrow' race at Brands Hatch on his new Yamaha. On joining the White Helmets Motor Cycle Display Team in 1975 his bike really began to fly, bringing him a second placing in the 500cc British Championships and a personal record, in the 1976 Isle of Man Grand Prix, of 98·1mph.

This year, he has launched himself into the season on a 1,000cc Laverda Jota Racer, on which he is, at present, riding around the roads of Catterick, running his engine in, annoying all the grannies and waking up the dead! All the best, **Barry,** for the new season!

A TRICKY TRANSFER

Tuesday, March 1, dawned dully (like many other days in Catterick!) with the Trade Training School quietly going about its business. It had been nursing in its bowels a large wooden-crated package weighing about half a ton. Shrouded inside this lurked the largest technological marvel to be installed in the forbidding many-windowed building—an integrated central processor, card reader and disc drive for the ICL2903 Educational System Computer, to be used to support the CAMOL (Computer Assisted Management of Learning) Research project currently going on in the School.

For some weeks a room on the top floor had been undergoing a transformation to make it ready to receive the computer. Walls had doors cut in them, holes prepared for air conditioning and a special power supply installed. A coat of paint and an anti-static carpet is all that remains to complete the job. But, alas, the package was four inches too long to go into the lift so a complete outside window in the room soon to provide a permanent home for the computer had to be removed!

On this auspicuous day, at 1200hrs, a large mobile crane suddenly entered the lines. Two or three people were galvanised into life—the big hoist was to begin at 1245hrs! Heavy straps were gently placed about the package, the crane tentatively lifted it, then lowered it to the ground again and the straps were repositioned to accommodate the non-central load. At last the move was beginning. The crane carried the crate round to the south side of the TTS. A small gang of men waited in the upstairs room with bated breath, whilst two were positioned on the scaffolding outside.

Gradually the computer's heart was lifted skywards. It was swung gently towards its future home, and inserted carefully into the window space. Inside anticipation turned into frantic activity; the crate was slid in on planks and finally released from its restraining slings. The planks were lowered and the computer was allowed to slowly descend the incline. At last, to the relief of all, it arrived on the floor, at 1345hrs.

A few days later, covered with polythene sheets, the computer formed what must be the most valuable painter's table in the world, as the interior decorator completed the computer room's face lift!

AT LAST

The subject of Clansman radios has been talked about for so long now that, for some, it has come to be regarded in the same light as Billy Bunter's food hamper—imaginary items long promised but never to materialise! For the past 18 months, however, members of Radio Equipment Group in the Trade Training School have been busy writing precis, planning works services and generally preparing the path for the introduction of the new equipment. Finally, in January 1977, sufficient had arrived to make instruction a practical proposition and the Clansman era, at least in 8 Sig Regt, had begun in earnest. It is perhaps a sign of the times that the first course should be an overseas one. However, from March 1977 all basic and upgrading Radio Technicians from courses RA21B and RA19U will receive instruction on Clansman.

Mr Gordon Parkin, Radio Equipment Op Instructor, with Lcpl Williams (*standing*) and Sig Ritchie. WOI (F of S) Terry Brabon, Sigs Newsome and Rowland in the background (*left to right*)

Brig N. A. Butler, CBE, with members of the First Clansman course in 8 Sig Regt

CONSTANT BARRAGE

In September 1976 a group of nine Iranian instructors from the Imperial Iranian Ground Forces Technical High School started a course of instruction in the repair and maintenance of Clansman radio equipment. Having done a Basic Electronics Course at SEE Arborfield two years ago, the Iranians were eager to complete their technical education. That a few questions remained unanswered at the end of this period casts no reflections on their ability or keenness to learn—certainly those instructors who taught them all admit that they have never been subjected to such a constant barrage of questions in their lives. The main problem posed by this course was how to compress a year's normal instruction into 22 weeks. We now await reports from the Royal Signals presence at the Technical High School, Masjed-Soliman in Iran, regarding the success of our first venture!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A few words of acknowledgment are due to the members of the staff who have worked with the Radio Group Supervisors, **Maj (TOT) Bob Todd** and currently **Capt (TOT) Jim Phillips,** to produce the first course. **WO1 (F of S) Terry Brabon** and **WO2 (F of S) Frank Jones,** who have both been associated with Clansman during the development and trials stages, have provided most of the expertise and material from which the first courses have evolved. **Ssgt (F of S) Dave Hirst, Messrs Gordon Parkin, Dennis Stiller** and **Alan Hardwood** comprise the team who have taken over the equipment training. Two members of Electronics Group deserving a special mention are **Ssgt (F of S) Roger Foster** and **Mr Denys Tetlow,** who have done a great deal to take the mystery out of the new range of equipment by establishing a special techniques laboratory in which they explain, with the aid of modern devices, exactly what goes on inside the radios.

Finally, a quick mention of the remaining Group Instructors whose achievements have been somewhat overshadowed recently, but whose consistently high standard of instruction has benefited the bulk of Radio Technicians serving in the Corps. Larkspur radio will not, of course, disappear overnight so **Sgts Joe Murtagh, John Watson, Messrs Dennis Stiller, Jeff Jones** and **Frank Cawkill** will be kept busy for a considerable time to come, as will **Mr Mick Bennett** and **Cpl Brian Smith** with their antennae and propagation!

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS!

ON April 3, 1977, in the Northern Area Orienteering Championships, run by HQ NE District (with excellent admin support from **Capt (QM) Grahame MacDonald** and members of 2 Sqn), 8 Sig Regt swept the board—the Regimental team won the Major Units competition and in the men's individuals **Capt Brendon Hughes** took first place, **Cpl Bill Graham** was second and **Cpl Michael Crabtree** was fourth. The third place went to **Sgt Dagnall,** late of 8 Sigs! Not to be outdone, **Cpl Pat Cowie,** WRAC PTI, took first place in the Women's individuals!

8 SIG REGT RUGBY TEAM

Left to right. Back row: Ssgt Kubu *(coach)*, Col D. G. Cattermill *(Commanding Officer)*, Jones, O'Keefe, Lytyllas, Hickling, Peacock, Rudd, Kesssel, Pocock, Dunlin, Fuller, Capt J. Grigsby *(Rugby Officer) Front row:* Williamson, Davies, Lee, Gilder, Pawlak, Hales, Wood, Johnson. *Missing:* Kennedy and Baines

8 SIGNAL REGIMENT 9 PTS—1 BATTALION ROYAL REGIMENT OF WALES 22 PTS

In front of a large crowd of spectators and a strong contingent of Regimental supporters from Catterick the Army Rugby Cup Final took place at Aldershot on March 23, 1977. The unit team, having trained hard, were confident that they could win and were looking forward to taking on the RRW. Within minutes of the kick off, 8 Signals took the lead with a penalty by **Pawlak,** who kicked all our points. RRW soon equalised and, with a fourth penalty taken by each side, half time appeared with the score 6 points all.

During the first half, play was even with **Wood,** a new player at stand off for the Regiment, making some elusive runs. Our backs were quicker in the direct attack, **Dunlin** and **Gilder** making some fine runs, whilst pressure by the Welsh forwards on the line was overcome by some excellent covering by **Johnson** and **Jones.** The Welsh fly half, **Rees,** then kicked a further four penalties, two from half way, and although with constant good ball from their forwards, the blacks were unable to cross our line until the last few minutes of the game. This was the first and only try scored against us in the cup competition. The final score was 6 penalties and 1 try to 3 penalties.

Mention must also be made of the coach, **Ssgt Kubu,** and of the hard work and organisation by our Rugby Officer, **Capt John Grigsby.** Without their efforts the team would not have reached the final.

The team line-up was as follows:

Sgt Mick Pawlak	**Sgt Steve Dunlin**
Cpl Q. Guilder	**Cpl Alex Kennedy**
Sgt Gil Williamson	**Sig Dave Wood**
Lcpl 'Taff' Davies	**Sig Derek Pocock**
Sig Bob Lee	**Lcpl 'Taff' Kessel**
Sgt Andy Hickling (capt)	**Cpl Dave Rudd**
Lcpl Steve Peacock	**Cpl 'Blod' Jones**
Sgt Paul (Honey monster) Baines	**Sgt John (Moan) Fuller**
	Lcpl Clive Johnson

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10 Sig Regt Hounslow

CHANGE OF COMMAND

ON the evening of March 18, 1977, the Officers Mess was in full swing. The occasion was a Ladies Dinner Night to dine-out **Lt Col Dick Nice,** who is also retiring from the Army, and to say goodbye to our other great friend, **Christine Nice. Brig** and **Mrs Pat Webb** were able to be with us, as were the (soon to be) new management **Lt Col Peter Goldney** and his wife, **Penny.** The meal was delicious and we were entertained royally by the Corps Band (and several speeches!) but the fun really began after midnight. Conversation stopped, drinking ceased and heads turned abruptly as a huge grisly bear lumbered into the bar. To shrieks of laughter he lumbered up to **Col Dick** and led him outside. There a 'Colonel's Carriage' awaited him. It looked rather suspect and was, to say the least, unstable. It was an old cable cart borrowed for this occasion from our old friends Christ's Hospital CCF and specially adapted to take one passenger. Gingerly the Colonel alighted: **Capts Richard Hoole** and **Richard Harrison** provided the horsepower, **Capt Noelle Vickers, Lt Caroline Lee,** and **2 Lts Linda Heath** and **Stephanie Westall**—in great danger of committing Hara Kiri—carried torches and the party was ready to roll. The obvious comments ensured, such as 'I've always carried a torch for you, Colonel', and 'I'm glad to see you've got your unit on a tight rein', but with support from behind given by 'Bruno the Bear' the carriage lurched off at a walk. This did not satisfy the Colonel so the party broke into a trot, and then a gallop which is no mean feat in evening dress (we are told!). About a mile further on (well—say, two hundred yards) the carriage stopped to allow the Colonel to travel home by more conventional means—in his staff car. Back in the Mess 'Bruno the Bear' decided to let his hair down, or, to be more accurate, took his head off, to reveal the bright and shiny face of **Maj George Fulton.** Will he ever live it down?

A fond farewell to our CO, **Lt Col Dick Nice** and **Christine** and a warm welcome to his successor, **Lt Col Peter Goldney** and **Penny.**

Lt Col Dick Nice is led off the premises by 'Bruno'

INVERTED PYRAMID

Not so long ago **Sgt Marsh Davey,** Radio Troop Sergeant, remarked about the grave shortage of NCOs in his Troop. Not any more—in the last month there have been no less than four sergeants in the 17-strong Troop. They are: **Sgt Marsh (Why do I never get a mention?) Davey, Sgt Sean (Let's do it my way) Dillon-White, Sgt Dave (Don't shout) Walker** and **Sgt Eric (Don't touch it) Stout.**

Signalmen are becoming more of a rarity in Radio Troop. Perhaps someone is trying to turn 'the pyramid' upside down! **Sgt Dave Walker** is congratulated on his recent promotion which is still a rumour as nobody has seen him yet—he's only been with the Troop 18 months after all!

NB—To the Signalman that OC Radio Troop thinks nominated himself for a commission on April 1, 1977 (**Capt Harrison** knows better). There seems to be hope for you yet according to the RSM as he says that you're not going to be a Signalman much longer. Keep trying.

'Bruno' welcomes Lt Col Peter Goldney to the Regiment

QUIET MONTH FOR 1 SQUADRON

February has been a relatively quiet month for 1 Sqn, the 'lull before the storm' possibly, which broke with the advent of Exercise Wintex on February 28, 1977. Visits have been minimal for a change, our only 'caller' being **Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** Commander 2 Signal Group, who visited SWS Troop at Bulford.

COMINGS

Lcpl Gerard Barr from 28 Sig Regt, who is to be congratulated on achieving an 'A' grading on his Telegraphist Crypto Supplement course. **Cpl Bob Anderson** also from 28 Sig Regt and **Cpl Malcolm Wright** who, hopefully, is enjoying the peace and tranquility at Wilton after his tour in Northern Ireland.

GOINGS

Cpl Bob Hutchings who successfully completed his re-settlement course with a security organisation and is about to take up his employment in civilian life. **Lcpl Val Hall** who is hoping to work on the Continent with a travel organisation. Sportswise, it is again the girls who are showing the way, only narrowly being beaten by Donnington and thus not able to demonstrate their hockey skills at Aldershot.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

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

BRAIN OF BIRGELEN

THIS month saw the final of yet another very successful 'Brain of Birgelen' quiz contest. Quiz master, **SSM Tony Orrell,** with the help of **Ssgt Bill Irving** organised a very interesting and enjoyable knockout contest in which every department of the Regiment fielded a team. The winning team, after an incredible one-point victory in the final, were 2 Sqn stalwarts **WO2 John Berry, Capt Arthur Cooke, Sgt Dougy Kempster** and **Sgt 'Paddy' Roberts.**

ORIENTEERING CATCHES ON

This is a comparatively new sport to the Regiment. However, as the number of figures charging through the woods recently shows, it has caught on. In the recent 1 BR Corps Relay Championship the Regiment came a very creditable twelfth, followed by third in the Rhine Area Championship. The girls of the Regiment came second in the WRAC BAOR Championship.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING

The Regimental small-bore team has been successful this season. The team, comprising **Maj Rick Davidge, WO2 (F of S) Brian Pettifer, Ssgts (Y of S) Alec Janaway, (F of S) Mick Provart, Tony Cheese, Sgt 'Taff' Murphy,** and **Pte Joe Prescott** with **Maj Roger Breese** very ably standing in for **Cpl 'Oppy' Openshaw** at the last minute, came first in the Rhine Area Major Unit League. Most of the team came in the top dozen individual places. After a shoot off at Sennelager, the team also achieved second place in the Rhine Army Championship, with second and third individual places going to **Ssgts Tony Cheese** and **Mick Provart.** These two also represented Rhine Area at the Inter-District Championships at County Hall in London. **Pte Joe Prescot** (RPC) was honoured by being chosen to represent his Corps in the Inter-Corps Target Rifle match to be fired during April.

ARCHERY

The Regimental Archery Club has produced a real champion in **Cpl Rick Retallick.** He won the individual BAOR Indoor Archery Championship for 1976–77 at Munster. A first-class effort.

SUCCESS FOR THE COOKS

Ssgt Lance Whiteley (ACC) and his team of young cooks hit the jackpot at the Rhine Area Cookery Finals held at Rheindahlen by first-class awards in the WRAC team and five individual classes. The results were fitting rewards for the ACC and WRAC cooks who strive to produce exceptionally high standards of catering within the Regiment throughout the year.

Courtesy: PR HQ BAOR

'THE WINNING WIGLEYS'

Pte Nigel Wigley keeps pace with his wife, Janette, by winning the Rhine Area Egg Competition

W/Cpl Janette Wigley and **W/Lcpl Irene Payne** now go forward to compete in the Army Finals at Aldershot and the remainder will submit their exhibits to the BAOR Competition at Gutersloh. We congratulate them on their attainments to date and wish them the very best of luck and success in the coming competitions.

RUGBY

The Regimental rugby team had a marvellous weekend tour of Berlin on March 12 and 13. Apart from the super entertainment and various sight-seeing enjoyed by all, the visit was capped by the team winning both fixtures. The two games were played in the best spirit, albeit an uncompromising one, with the Regiment winning 22—12 against BMH Berlin, and, with the help of several BMH players, winning 6—0 against PRO Coy RMP.

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CLUB NORWAY TOUR 1977

CAPT RAY LLOYD JONES is planning to attend the Sorlandsgaloppen in Norway, July 23 - 30, 1977, and has offered to organise a RSOC team of up to six members of the Corps.

Entries must be in Norway by June 13, so if you are interested in joining the tour please contact Ray direct as soon as possible and certainly by the end of the month (by Signal if necessary). Address: 8 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn, Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, Hants. Tel: Tidworth 6221 Ext 2375.

Firm plans depend upon response and the location of participants. It may be possible to fly RAF or, alternatively, travel by ferry and overland. It will definitely involve personal expense though RSOC may pay entry fees.

Although the standard of orienteering is very high in Norway this is an excellent opportunity to enjoy some of the best events in Scandinavia. Improve your techniques in fine forests against experienced opposition. Act now as priority will be given on a first-come-first-served basis and will be decided on current form and enthusiasm.

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16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

1 Sqn HQ and TRC Troop before the Dispersal Parade

KREFELD TRC CLOSES

1 Squadron Report

IT'S ALL HAPPENED

IT'S all happened in 1 Sqn. After years of slipping dates and extensions the TRC has finally closed. The Troop notes have been included as a separate article, The End of an Era. In the present climate of Defence cuts and reviews, closure and change is perhaps all too common. Restructuring and reorganisation of communications units is hardly news. What is news is the making of history.

LAST CIRCUIT HANDED OVER

The handing over of the Defence Communications Network has been a gradual process spread over many years. At 0809hrs on March 31, the last circuit was handed to TARE HEHN. TRC Krefeld became non-operational for the first time in 17 years. Its final form was quite different from the TRC of 1960, but men and women were still tackling the same basic job, 'pushing tape'. Exercise Wintex '77 was, perhaps, the climax of its operation with over 11,000 messages in a 24-hour period being the recorded peak.

Many of the Corps will remember their own postings to Krefeld. The myths and memories will start to take over. Why shouldn't they? The teamwork, dedication and high standards are surely the hallmark of our job. The many signals of congratulations and best wishes have been appreciated and we hope the customers will not be the poorer for the TRC going.

THE FUTURE

The immediate future of 1 Sqn is tied into the reshaping of the RCZ communications and new establishments. As the larger half of the Squadron has now departed to new challenges and new postings, the SHQ is to relocate to Rheindahlen. New accommodation, new faces and new tasks. The first operators for the Rhine Army switchboard have already been taken on strength. But all of this is for the future.

LASTING TRIBUTE

WIRE notes are usually about the past and about personalities. The comings and goings, the events and achievements of a unit. If you mention one you should mention them all. The Squadron says farewell to the TRC Troop. This change effects 3 officers and 133 men and women. There are too many to name. We've had the party, a memorable occasion, with the gym packed with well-wishers and friends. Over 350 attended one of the most successful functions ever held in the Squadron. A special thanks to those who worked long and hard to get it all just right. The speeches were made, and the farewells said. The final dispersal photograph and parade was held on the following Tuesday.

The spirit, friendliness and skills of the TRC Troop will be a lasting tribute. In the traditions of the Corps the TRC will be remembered. In these memories the TRC will live. To end, the final word is given to the Squadron Bard, **Ssgt Ray Jones:**

Thursday, March the thirty-first
The time was O nine ten
The TRC had sent its last
Ne'er to send again
A quietness settled over all
First time for seventeen years
TARE HEHN had taken over
To allay all our fears
Captain Kelly's Kingdom
Had had its final day
No more would tapes be relayed
Krefeld RBFA.

Let's spare a thought for all the Ops
Receive, transmit and router
Victims of this modern age
Replaced by a computer
And now they've left the TRC
Following the closure
We may have some reporting sick
Suffering from exposure.
And what about the DSOs
In number quite abundant
Yet, they must have been required
Charley wasn't made redundant.
The Techs have gone their merry way
From Workshop and Control
Except, of course, John Batley
They've locked him down the hole.

Barbara Gibbon will be happy
No reason to complain
The corridor will be spotless now
Not a single coffee stain.
Terry, Taff and Geordie
Les and George the Gate Police

Have volunteered to work in pairs
They just can't stand the peace
At least that's what they're saying
But if the truth were known
When checking on the corridor
They're frightened on their own.

Two minutes after closing down
QM Tech were there
Ledgers at the ready
Searching everywhere
And yet you cannot blame them
They had to find their kit
Before Collis and McGovern
Had time to raffle it.

One man I must mention
Who tonight could not attend
And that is Yeoman Curly
We hope he's on the mend
He'll want us to enjoy ourselves
Although on him it's rough
He can't complain if we get drunk
He's been plastered long enough.

And now it just remains to say
To each and everyone
Best wishes when you're posted
And thanks for all you've done.

THE END OF AN ERA

The Tape Relay Centre at Krefeld, more commonly known as the 'HOLE' has closed. Many of you in the Corps, both past and present members, know all about TRC Krefeld and a good number of you will remember the days when the TRC was located elsewhere in BAOR. We have finally succumbed to the electronic beast called TARE at RAF Hehn. The control of the BAOR Permanent Telegraph Network has given way to progress and has passed on its many subscribers into the vary capable hands of the 'Blue Jobs'.

It was a sad affair; when the lads and lassies from 'A' Shift filed quietly out of the Traffic Hall which was still; the DSO's desk was empty; 'Finals' to our 24 connected stations had been done and Cross Office completed for the last time; just a heap of cleared tapes left—someone would go back and 'burn' later. Syscon was always a 'hot seat' but for the first time it was getting cold, no more heat was being generated as the System Controller switched off his various 'rigs'.

LOOKING BACK

We wonder what would have been the thoughts of the signallers who first opened the various Signal Offices in the 'good old days' just after the war, if they could take a look over our modern techniques here in BAOR. There are still a few veterans around who are taking an active part today. **Maj 'Dickie' Armstrong** remembers well when the Signal Office staff in HQ BAOR's Sigcen comprised:

DSO
Radio Officer
Line Control Officer
Cipher Officer
Finished Check Officer

Routine traffic had to be kept and delivered by SDS at the weekend and from what we can gather from **'Staff' Dunbar** who was the Receive Op in TRC Rheindahlen in 1958, the full strength of his shift at that time was 45 personnel, including the SDO and SDS elements. What is particularly interesting is that the traffic totals in the Krefeld TRC in 1960 were in the region of a quarter of a million, as against two-and-a-quarter million today, working a full shift strength of 20 Ops. Modern standards surely have changed?

16 Sig Regt established itself here in Krefeld in 1959 and was formed from 2L of C Sig Regt, then commanded by **Lt Col 'Paddy' Burke.** In 1960 the TRC of BAOR moved from Rheindahlen to Krefeld; 1 Sqn still operated this TRC and thus the 'Hole' was born. The first consignment of ladies arrived in early 1963 and by the end of that year a full 'shift' strength had been built up. Incidentally, **Sig Keenan** won the BAOR Featherweight Championship that year and many see the two events as not entirely unconnected. . . .

TO OUR MANY SUBSCRIBERS

We may have given some of our connected stations a hard time over the past years, but our one aim at all times was to communicate and we hope that in most cases we have been able to please as well. From now on, if your 'channel checks' are not returned straight away, the great gremlin at Hehn will be responsible and up to the time of writing this, it has not been programmed to speak back to you over the 'phone. Should this computer at Hehn program itself out of business, a further computer called TARIF will be made available at Krefeld. Should a 'hiccup' occur during a major exercise life could become interesting. It's not been exactly a bed of roses living here in the 'Hole', so if we've not always been polite to you in the past, then perhaps after our rehabilitation course into the outside world, we will be more approachable. We have lived uneasily with the sword of Damocles threatening us with the 'chop' these past months but now all is at an end, the axe has fallen, the 'Boys and Girls' depart to serve as communicators elsewhere, and soon, we suppose, TRC Krefeld will have faded into the past.

TEN MARRIAGES A YEAR

Long be the memories of the happy times shared by so many. Although gone, it will not be forgotten because TRC Krefeld has not only been a creator of punched tape but also an indirect creator of life itself—something like ten marriages a year have flowered from amongst the many budding romances which the TRC has fostered during its existence!

May we in closing, thank all our compatriots at Boddington and Portsmouth for putting up with us and our predecessors over the years. We can only hope all is forgiven and that TRC Hehn will serve you well.

WINTEX '77 AS SEEN BY 2 SQUADRON

In this unexpurgated report the dreadful truth is told. The gruesome truth about exercises and visits is at last revealed as never before in the happy pages of THE WIRE. Once upon a time Kilo went out on exercise. Not with guns, since there were some rules about carrying guns in barracks that made carrying guns in the field too complicated for such simple souls. However, the vehicles were noticeably bow-legged with basic Kilo comforts. Home-baked cakes, thermos flasks, lilos, civilian camp beds and even, it is rumoured, electric blankets, were piled with the *Playboy* and *Mayfair* magazines and the television sets and toasters as we went to rough it.

In our wood we found **'Peg-leg' Capt Peter Hallett** poised to park the complex. Since the paths were specially prepared with two feet of mud, the lorries could be drifted sideways as easily as they could be moved forwards or backwards. Soon the vehicles were bounced off tree trunks into their locations and everyone settled down to some work; except, of course, **SSM Pete Rossall** who had to keep his boots clean! At this stage **Capt Hallett** had had enough so he hobbled back to camp to plan some fun-filled training to follow our return to base.

The next few days were thoroughly enjoyed by the sadists and masochists amongst us. They loved to do six things at once whilst fobbing off the fuming complaints of the seventh to twelfth customers. They liked to be spreadeagled in Commcen Command answering two telephones at once and typing on a printer, shouting at the intercom and trying to engineer a radio relay shot. Usually both telephones and the printer were asking what they were doing and when were they going to stop mucking about and get it all sorted.

ANONYMOUS FIGURES

In time, however, the patches were ravelled and tempers cooled and a few wan smiles were sometimes seen. The OC then cunningly stepped in to prevent personnel getting eye strain by reading their magazines. There were nuclear attacks, gas attacks and plain old enemy attacks, we shouted down telephones in our gas masks and anonymous figures in gas masks and NBC suits were rude about our professional skills. We even held PT step-ups on our Mess tent chairs to ensure we were fit to faint. We produced our own alternative news bulletin which showed only that rudeness is not confined to the Ops staff.

A special mention is due to **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** (WRAC) who joined us on the exercise and who cheerfully did night shift in Commcen Command and shared our amenities. We won't mention the other visitor who arrived on a Sunday after we had been out for two weeks and said: 'When do I go back? This is my day off!'

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

FIGHTING FIRST REPORT

THIS month's WIRE notes are written by 1 (Heavy Radio) Sqn—'The Fighting First'—second to no one and leaders in all things communicating, and fashionable military. Our job in life is to provide contingency rear links using E21/R241 or D13/R234. There are few places we haven't battled through in the last couple of years and we will be visiting many of them again in the very near future. In 1977 we have Sardinia, Denmark, Italy, BAOR, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Malta, Canada, Kenya, Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia lined up for different parts of the Squadron. We are heavily involved in the Army Show at Aldershot, the Royal Tournament, the Welsh 3000 and Cambrian Marches. We seldom allow leave to interfere with pleasure and we are already planning an energy-sapping exercise in the West Indies in February 1978. Our adopted motto is 'Train Hard—Fight Easy' and we are willing to travel thousands of miles in all sorts of heat to prove it.

The CO and the RSM being shown the finer points of the Carl Gustav during their visit to the 'Fighting First's' battle camp

BATTLE CAMP—'TRAIN HARD—FIGHT EASY'

Training going with a bang—Sgt 'Taff' Assender and Cpl Ritchie Gunson under enemy mortar fire

FREEDOM CEREMONY A GREAT SUCCESS

On March 18, **Terry Wogan** on 'Breakfast Special' advised West Country travellers to stay clear of Blandford—the occasion was the Corps Exercising its Rights in the town. A combined contingent from the Regiment, the School of Signals and 249 Sqn formed a dismounted guard and also provided a drive-past of virtually every sort of vehicle deployed by the Corps, including Volvo Snowcats, and snow-camouflaged D13/R234 cabins from the 'Fighting First'. Shortly before the church clock struck 11 o'clock, to the tune of the Corps Band, the Guard of Honour, under our Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Arthur Byng,** emerged rank by rank with bayonets shimmering, from the shade of East Street, into the bright sunlight in front of the Corn Exchange. The Guard was inspected by the Mayor of Blandford, **Dr D. H. Davies,** and **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers, CB, MBE,** the Representative Colonel Commandant, and then marched past, followed by the mounted column under the command of **Capt Dick Stokes.**

Maj Gen Sawers and the Mayor of Blandford take the salute as a D13/R234 passes the rostrum

CROWDS ENJOY THE SPECTACLE

The crowds were large, at a conservative estimate, and many of the local schools closed to witness the spectacle. At the end of the morning the Mayor entertained the parade to drinks in the Corn Exchange and was then, in turn, lunched-in at the Headquarters Mess. It is significant in these days of inflation, economic gloom, falling standards and general cynicism that so many wanted to make half an hour in the middle of a busy Friday morning to take part in this simple ceremony. Why?—colour, music, something different—all of these and maybe something slightly deeper—an expression of involvement from the ranks of a Nation who form their own Army. Whatever the reason, March 18 was a great success.

DIFFERENT FREEDOM

It was freedom of a different sort the following weekend. On Saturday, Wales thrashed Scotland at Murrayfield to win the Triple Crown, and on Sunday the Principality celebrated by giving 1 Sqn the Freedom of Sennybridge. At midnight the contingent crossed the Welsh border and debussed some two hours later at Cefnowllhen which, as everyone knows, is only two miles from Pentrebach. There weren't too many there to greet us, so, with bayonets fixed, we pushed on in the mist and mud to (or somewhere near) the secret RV. The first aim was to find the grid for the bivvy area—and as a separate part of the same exercise—the whereabouts of the bivvies!; by some this was achieved rather later than sooner. For those who 'summon up the blood' at the whiff of cordite or just enjoy seeing techs in boots, the 1 Sqn Battle Camp was undoubtedly the highlight of the Sennybridge Sadists' Year. The CQB, IBSR, 'pers in def posns', L2A2, all combined magnificently in an atmosphere of the 'Welcome in the Hillside' to discover 40 'Audi Murphies' and twice as many blisters; patrolling, house clearance by day and night, cordon and search and the assault course were also part of the fun.

Table for two—Sennybridge style. Sigs Bryan and McInnes combine to use a single mess tin

A blend of fine malts and Sainsbury's plonk

Throughout the week the pressure was applied with decreasing subtlety by that mafia of 'ne'er-do-wells'—the DS. Who could have doubted the sincerity of Thom and Jerry, briefing, debriefing, encouraging, dropping hints, building us up and making us believe it was all OK and then producing that characteristic sleight-of-hand which changed a minor reverse into a wholesome rout. What plans for military memoirs were shattered by the well-chosen phrase or the sideways glance from 'Big J' at the debriefs. On one occasion even **Cpl Hugh Allison** was stuck for a word or six. Silence, like a picture, can often be worth a thousand words, at the right moment.

DESCENT FROM 'E' LAYER

Late on the Thursday afternoon saw all the seniors clutching **Sgt Ted Bentley's** *aide memoire* and engrossed in a TEWT—with the most original solution to be selected as the basis for the night's 'def posn'. The knowledge that the CO and RSM would visit the camp next morning made the blood run fast and the chosen warrior, **Sgt 'Taff' Assender,** must have felt like being appointed chief plumber on the Titanic or asked to keep goal for England. Befitting a full-blooded Celt, with superb presence and confident oral orders, he placed the platoon firmly in a swamp and they settled down for the night. A quick fighting patrol saw the small hours come and go, and at 11 hrs **Sgt Maj Jerry Jarrett** raised both hands to the skies, and amid awesome noise and cannisters of red smoke the CO and RSM descended from the 'E' layer. **Sgt Assender** showed his guests around the humble platoon abode and then reacted swiftly to an enemy sniper adjusting mortar fire on to the position. The quick-reaction quintet under **Sgt Harry Ridley,** with **Lcpl Bren Gun-son** on lead gimpy, quickly dispatched the intruder and returned to bass [*sic*]. A session on the anti-tank range, with the Carl Gustav and 70 bombs, and a night shoot on the IBSR ended a very successful exercise, and with one day's remission of sentence, we marched out and made for Blandford and a warm weekend.

On the Sunday after the Camp when all was forgiven and forgotten, **Foreman Brian Livesey** settled down to write 'Sennybridge Soldiering—The Facts'—another best seller in the 'Smallest Book in the World' series. We suspect it may have been ghost written.

SUBTLE BLEND

Anyone who sees a lighted beacon on a hill on June 7 will know that rugby is on the move again in 30 Sig Regt. In the Annual Charity Match for English Fullbacks and Blind Dorset Referees, the Regiment overcame the School of Signals (courses an' all) in a close-fought battle where nerve and determination far outshone skill. This was rugby of the old sort (about 1846!), and with no places in the British Lions at stake, both sides were able to settle down to play their normal uninhibited game. It was clearly the Regiment's first game of the season, and it looked as though the School side had played only two games less, although some of their stars from the Garrison Club were obviously in good voice. Like any good whisky, the Regimental side was a subtle blend of fine malts and the usual Sainsbury's plonk. Of the malts, the right-hand side of the scrum, **Sgt Sid Soqo,** A. N. Other and **SSI Jim Millward** totalled 112 years whilst the plonk was clear for all to see between the two wings. The final result was a win by 11 points to 8 points and this included a fine loop try under the posts by **Cpl Mick Babb.** After the match, and a few pints, **Lt John Fletcher** again exposed for all the intricacies of running in a straight line with the ball in his hands—an art once demonstrated we would surely never forget! Since that opening match, the team have settled down to a playing pattern based on a very strong mobile pack and a set of backs who have the flare to turn a cottage industry into a major catastrophe. Training, under **SSI Jim Millward,** has been hard but enjoyable with the emphasis on skills—**Sgt Stan Howard** has been practising the dropped goal and **Sgt Mick Knights** has similarly perfected the dropped pass. The big message of all this is that there is plenty of untapped enthusiasm in Blandford and this augers well for next season. The unit Consumer Council Guide, 'The Blandford Watt' (a powerful magazine!), says that there is a definite need for rugby in the Regiment and we now look forward to 1977–78. Next season we must get organised! Finally, we congratulate **Lt John Fletcher,** our skipper, on being selected for the South-West District XV to tour Guernsey—and we congratulate Guernsey since he is now back with us, with more stories of straight running and bent referees. Finally, the Garrison Sevens were held on April 2 and both the Regimental sides met in the final. The result was, therefore, immaterial but just for the record, the 'A' side beat the 'B' side by LVI—VI points, which, by any standards, is an L of a difference! For the 'A' side **Cpl Marty Webb** and **Sgt Ian Plenderleith** played well whilst for the 'B' side **Cpl Al Ming** and **Cpl Brian Coombes** had an excellent tournament.

FOOTNOTE

In the last 15-a-side match of the season the Sunday side defeated HM Borstal Ray Marsh—a good omen for next season.

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

After rugby, orienteering—now there's a word to juggle in the imagination, the picture of a suntanned Finn, map and compass in hand, eyes set to the horizon, straining every sinew to navigate his way to a Britt Ekland-type creature, in his crisp Nordic air and all to the sounds of Sibelius. Well, we can't give you Scandinavia, the air which feels like a menthol cigarette or Sibelius but we have recently got together a happy band of one-legged ex-cross-country ramblers and, under the eye of **Capt Martyn Reid,** they have formed the Blandford Organisation of Long Defunct Idle Ex-Sportsmen (the OLDIES for short).

Joking apart, they have generated their own enthusiasm and, through hard training against the odds, have gone from strength to strength. The South-West District Orienteering Cup—whilst not being an Inter-Galactic happening—is the biggest thing in these parts and has hitherto always been won by either the infinite ranks of Gunners from The Plain or the Commando Forces from Plymouth. To our knowledge a Corps unit has never previously entered this competition so it was with even greater pleasure that on March 17 in the Quantock Forest the Regimental team won

the Major Unit Competition, and **Foreman Ken Suckling** lifted the individual title. Well done all concerned and perhaps a special mention for **Cpl Jim Leggate** who finished fourth in his first orienteering season. We now look forward to the Army Championship, although **Ken Suckling** may be sunning himself on an exotic island in the central Mediterranean. If nothing else 1 Sqn will find someone suitable from the extended service list to take his place. Our photograph shows the winning team with the Longevity Cup and the bars to their LS and GC medals.

BADMINTON VETERANS WIN

We congratulate our Chief Clerk, **WO2 Stan Hargreaves,** and **Sgt 'Jock' Brown** on winning the Army Veterans' Doubles Badminton Championship. This is another 'first' for the Regiment and the Corps, which we may not be able to repeat next year as **'Q' Hargreaves** has been selected for promotion and a move to Verden.

There is never time to mention everything, we could have spent pages on **Foreman Pritchard's** trip on HMS *Hermione* to Gibraltar, 2 Sqn's JOCOMEX on April 1 with HMS *Hero,* now safely back in home waters from Hong Kong, or the Adjutant, **Capt Derek Hadden,** on returning from ski-ing in Scotland only just in time to go on leave. We are now going on block leave ourselves prior to building up to a PASHA exercise at the end of April and the Squadron summer exercises in Sardinia, Italy and Singapore. Next report from the 'Fighting First' in the autumn.

OUR ORIENTEERING TEAM

Lcpl Hossel, Cpl Leggate, Lcpl Ireland, Capt Reid, Ssgt Suckling, Capt Pavlow

News from Squadrons

CCV

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

A NEW DIRECTION

As this publication goes to print, the pennant of 5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn will have been lowered for the last time. On April 1 we became 8 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron.

A small 'flag-raising' ceremony was held where the salute was taken by the Commander in Chief UKLF, **Gen Sir Edwin Bramall, KCB, OBE, MC.** We are, as the C in C said, his personal force for the defence of the United Kingdom, and it is with great pride that we adopt this role as well as continuing the more familiar airportable role.

On assuming our new title and role at this time of such far-reaching reorganisation within the Army, we are very much aware that we are directly involved in military history in the making. Past members of the Squadron will be delighted to learn that we have retained our original identity of '205 Sig Sqn', and it is that pennant that will continue to be unfurled daily at the Signal Squadron Headquarters, whilst the new 8 Field Force pennant will be raised outside the Field Force Headquarters.

LOOKING BACK

Before any building project can begin, a foundation must first be laid that is strong and dependable; therefore, before we go striding on into our new role, we should perhaps pause for a moment and consider that foundation. 5 Brigade was first formed in 1806 to take part in the Peninsula Campaign, and was in the front line at Waterloo; since that time the Brigade has served in Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium and Germany. It has played a most significant part in the South African wars 1899–1902, but suffered the most dreadful casualties.

The first world war saw the Brigade fully committed and extended at the retreat from Mons, the Battle of the Marne and Aisne, Ypres, and the Somme.

The second world war saw the Brigade as part of the British Expeditionary Force in France at Dunkirk. After reforming and re-equipping in Yorkshire, after Dunkirk, the Brigade was designated 'Independent' and committed to Burma, where it took part in its first engagement at Kohima and then onward relentlessly against the Japanese until reaching Mandalay.

The Brigade was sent to Japan in 1946 as the British contingent to the Commonwealth Occupation Force until ordered to Germany

WO2 (SSM) John Smith standing by the new 8 Field Force sign for the Signal Squadron

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Gen Sir Edwin Bramall, KCB, OBE, MC, C in C UKLF, inspecting the centre rank of the Guard of Honour on the Inauguration Ceremony April 1, 1977

in 1948, where it has since served in the UK, BAOR, Northern Ireland and, latterly, Tidworth. To all readers of this article who have served either in, or in support of, our unit; we owe a most sincere debt of gratitude. It is they who have set the standard that we must prove the new formation and, more importantly, the individuals that make up the unit, are capable of living up to and surpassing in the future.

VISITORS FROM ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORDS OFFICE

Left to right: WO1 (RSM) Gerry French, Mrs Joan Selwood, Mrs Doreen Blackwood, Mr Nick Church, Mrs Nancy Beards, Maj (Retd) Henry Scott, Mr Tom Nash, Mrs Margaret Roberts, Maj Dick Smith, Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones

THANK YOU

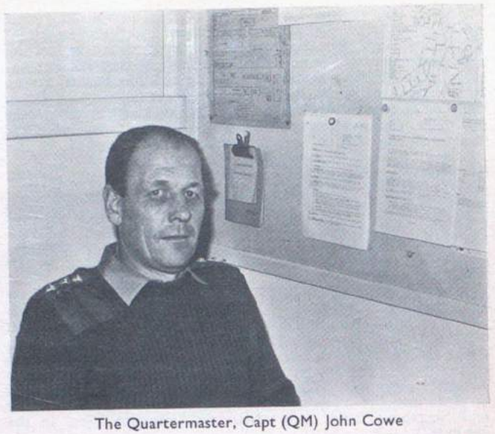
The most important consideration, in old as well as new organisations, is as always the soldier. In planning the many individual moves, and dovetailing of personalities to jobs, our Manning and Record Office staff (at all levels) have had their tenacity and patience tested to the full and every one of our soldiers is extremely grateful for the very personal service that each and every one of them has received.

THE WAY AHEAD

Leading us forward to pastures new is **Maj Dick Smith,** who joined us last July from being Manager of the British Biathlon Olympic team. He has already turned us all into fresh-air fiends, who crave exercise as a glutton craves food. He is ably supported by his 2IC, **Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones,** who is again, a rather physical creature, his particular obsession being orienteering.

Completing the management are our new SSM, **WO2 John Smith,** a scuba-diving enthusiast of considerable merit; **Y of S Bob Burrows,** who climbs hills as readily as most of us climb into bed; finally, **F of S Bob Phippard,** who revels in sailing boats and insists that his associates follow his example. With so much fresh air being inhaled by 'our leaders' we should certainly be fit to tackle the many challenges ahead with clear heads!

Left to right: 2IC, Capt Ray Lloyd-Jones, OC, Maj Dick Smith and SSM, WO2 (SSM) John Smith



The Quartermaster, Capt (QM) John Cowe

THE CORNER STONE

Whilst our gladiators rush about the countryside the solid corner stone we all look to, in minor and major adversity alike, is our QM, **Capt John Cowe. John** is the very caricature of the dependable Quartermaster. As a result of reducing the Squadron from 210 men to 85 with a corresponding decrease in equipment, the load on the QM and his department has been great. They have risen to the occasion with never (well hardly ever) a complaint.

ONWARDS

We look forward to our future as 8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn with enthusiasm and determination to follow the example of our Saxon Horse symbol to search ahead and lead onwards.

OUTSTANDING ORIENTEERING ACHIEVEMENTS

CORPS Orienteering goes from strength to strength as the results of our fixtures to date and the success of our unit teams at the Army Championships indicate.

They include a clean sweep at the Army Relay Championships:

Major Unit Winner:	**4 Div HQ and Sig Regt**
Minor Unit Winner	**AAC Harrogate**
TAVR Winners	**89 Sqn, 35 Sig Regt (V)**

and an impressive set of victories at other Corps Championships:

Mar 2 77	**Royal Engineers Championships**	**Winning Guest Team**
Mar 30 77	**RAF Championships**	**Winning (Services) Guest Team**
Apr 2 77	**RA (UK) Championships**	**Runner-up Guest Team to REME**
May 4 77	**REME Championships**	**Winning Guest Team**

Twenty individuals have represented the Corps so far this year which clearly shows that our strength lies in depth of talent rather than resting with a handful of gladiators. The Royal Signals Orienteering Club (RSOC) keeps all Corps Orienteers up to date with news and views through its journal 'The Platform', which is published at least twice per year by the secretary.

226 Sig Sqn (Radio)

B. F. P. O. 23

CSO UNDER SUPERVISION

At the beginning of February we were again very pleased to welcome **Maj Gen** and **Mrs H. A. J. Sturge** to the Squadron whilst they were on their BAOR Whistle Stop Farewell Tour. During their short stay the CSO kindly agreed to plant a Juniper Tree (his first, he said) in our ever increasing forest. For this operation he was supervised by **'Willie'** our local gardener; also seen in the photograph are **Fl Sgt Mick Gaughan, WO2 (F of S) John Wills** and **WO2 (AQMS) Tom Beech. Mrs Sturge** was, in the meantime, being entertained to coffee by several of the Squadron wives in the Sergeants Mess Lounge.

After a walk around the Squadron the CSO was escorted to our accommodation block to rejoin his wife and to meet the Squadron families.

Left to right: Fl Sgt Gaughan, WO2 Wills, WO2 Beech, CSO and Willie

A POPULAR BAR

It had been planned that before joining the ladies the CSO would pop into the Kellar Bar to say farewell to the lads. Such was the speed of the walk around that he was the first one to arrive in the Bar, but on hearing that the Squadron Commander, **Maj Chris Glydon,** was buying the beers the bar was soon brimming as were our glasses. The CSO then went up to a 'snack buffet' superbly prepared by our three chefs, **Cpl George Piper, Lcpls Wes Seviour** and **Roy Howard,** of which our two VIP visitors were noted to have had 'thirds'. All too soon **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge** had to continue on their way, in the safe care of their driver, **Lcpl Dave Lock;** we wish them both well in their new appointment in MOD.

LUNCH-TIME LAUGH-IN

Left to right: WO2 (SSM) Robinson, Maj T. Cantle, Mrs Sturge, Mrs Robinson

SPORTING ROUND UP

The table tennis players, **Maj Terry Cantle, Sgt Roy Smith** (RAPC), **Cpl Stewart Parrish** and **Sgt Mick Whalen** (RAOC), won the 1 Div Trophy for the second year running and have just competed in the BAOR Final in which they became the BAOR champions.

The footballers, managed by **Capt David Thorp** (Int Corps) and shouted at by **Sgt Mick Whalen,** were beaten in a very hard-fought semi-final of the 1 Div Minor Units Cup.

Our hockey team has had a most successful season. Under the watchful eye of **Mr Charles McCarthy** they have won the 1 Div Minor Units Knock-out Cup, the Northern Hockey League Trophy by an astonishing margin, and were beaten in the BAOR Minor Units semi-final by a very good team from 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

THE BAOR TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

Receiving the 1 Div Inter-Unit Shield from Lt Col R. J. Crossley, CO 94 Loc Regt RA. *Left to right:* Lt Col R. J. Crossley, Maj T. Cantle, Sgt Smith and Cpl Parrish

THE SQUADRON HOCKEY TEAM

Left to right. Standing: Lcpl Tam Frize, Cpl Steve Cameron, Cpl Geoff Stockdale, Cpl Tony Davies, Mr Charles McCarthy, Cpl 'Spy' Dyer, WO2 Pete Robinson

Front row: Cpl Stew Parrish, Sgt Mich Whalen, Lcpl Tony Quinn, Lcpl Stu DeGernier, Sgt Ian Hawey, Lcpl Bernie Meehan

Absent for the photo: WO2 O'Brien, Sgt Inglis, Sgt Green, Sgt Smith and Cpl Dunnill

LADIES SHOW THE WAY

And now a few words from the ladies—since most of our menfolk participate, most successfully I might add, in a number of sports, we decided, 'if you can't beat 'em join 'em'. So Squadron history was made when 226 ladies formed their own netball team (and recently won their second game). New faces are always most welcome—so ladies, if you find that your husband is posted to 226—dig out your shin pads and give it a whirl.

THE LADIES NETBALL TEAM

Left to right: Andrea Robinson, Terry McCarthy, Christine Dunnill, Pamela Davies, Lynn Hawey and Jean Barker

Absent for the photo: Aileen Devlin, Sheila Inglis, Margaret Burd, Maggie Frize and Brenda Smith

Maj J. E. Barnes hands over the Squadron to Maj M. J. Cartwright

BERLIN

229 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 45

OC — — —	**Maj M. J. Cartwright**
2IC — — —	**Capt J. A. Speakes**
OC Radio Tp —	**Capt (Tfc) D. V. Boddington**
OC MQ & Line Tp	**Capt (TOT) E. Holland**
OC Commcen Tp —	**WO2 (Y of S) E. Jones**
SSM — —	**WO2 (SSM) R. While**
RQMS — —	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Tunney**
F of S — —	**Ssgt (F of S) J. Wells**
Chief Clerk — —	**Sgt I. Murray**

GERMAN ORPHANAGE BENEFITS

CHRISTMAS for many of us is but a distant memory but for members of the Squadron the highlight of the Christmas activities was the party, held for 40 children of a German orphanage in the Squadron Club, on December 18. The grand sum of £300 was raised for this event through the 'Flash Club', founded by **Sigs Benson** and **Worsell,** and we extend thanks to them both for their hard work.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The month of January saw the departure from the helm of **Maj J. E. Barnes** and his wife, who has taken up his new appointment in the UK. We say many thanks for all the hard work put in by both of them and trust your stay with the Squadron was a happy and enjoyable one. In return we welcome **Maj** and **Mrs M. J. Cartwright** who, we hope, will enjoy their time in Berlin.

INFORMAL VISIT BY CSO

On Monday, January 31, the Squadron was visited by the Chief Signal Officer BAOR, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge.** The visit became an informal 'walkabout' which gave the CSO time to meet and talk at length with many Squadron personnel.

BMW FACTORY VISIT

In February, members of Radio Troop spent an extremely interesting morning at the BMW motorcycle factory in Spandau, where they watched the assembly of the RS 1,000-cc machine. The visit was rounded off with a demonstration of coach painting by **Lcpl McAleer**—it was not a success!

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Despite the recent bad weather, we continue to hold our own on the sporting scene and were successful in the 1 Div Motorcycle trials, held at Verdun in November, when the team came a very creditable third overall in BAOR. The cross-country fanatics, undeterred by the elements, have been out and about, training in earnest for the new season whilst the dolphins of the Squadron are in the process of erecting their accommodation next to the Brigade swimming pool it seems, as they prepare for the defence of the Army Minor Units Swimming Championships, to be held later in the year.

The Squadron soccer team under the guidance of player-manager **WO2 (Y of S) Eddie Jones** to date have had quite a successful season. The highlight so far has been the winning of the Viscountess of Kemsley Cup in the Berlin Minor Units knock-out competition. Our opponents, 38 Fd Sqn RE, gave us a very hard game indeed and the final score of 4—0 was not really a true reflection on the game. Goals by **Sig Chris Heeles** (2), **Sgt Mick Smith** and **Lcpl Alan Mott** saw us home. Sweet revenge indeed for our earlier defeat by 38 Fd Sqn, in the league.

With the league programme three-quarters completed, our chance of winning the league seem to have disappeared, with two very narrow defeats in the last two weeks. Finally, no soccer notes would be complete without a mention for our number-one fan, **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Tunney.** Come rain or snow he's always there encouraging or barracking whatever his mood may be. Thanks, **Jim,** keep on shouting.

LOOKING BACK

Towards the end of last year, Commcen Troop distinguished themselves by winning the first ever Berlin Silver Comstar award, which is a commendation for signals transmitted accurately and rapidly over a six-month period. The Brigade Commander presented the award to **Sgt Seales** who received it on behalf of the Troop. Also in November, during his formal visit to the Squadron, **Brig Grey** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to the SSM, **WO2 (SSM) While,** to whom we offer our congratulations.

Presentation of the Silver Comstar award by the Brigade Commander to Sgt Seales on behalf of Commcen Troop

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, we offer our congratulations to **Sig** and **Mrs Spencer** on the birth of their son, **Francis,** and to **Sgt Bob Walton** our BFBS Berlin representative on his recent promotion.

WO2 (SSM) While receiving his LS and GC Medal from the Brigade Commander

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IMPRESSIVE PARADE MARKS RUNDOWN

THE impending rundown of British troops in Malta was very much in mind on Wednesday, March 16, when many members of the Squadron attended the impressive final parade of 41 CDO Gp at which the Salute was taken by the Admiral of the Fleet, **The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, KG, PC, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCIE, GCVO, DSO, FRS, LLD, DCL, DSc,** Colonel Commandant Royal Marines.

FAREWELL

For ourselves, the loss of several of our LEP (Maltese) soldiers, while unavoidable, is a sad event and they leave with our thanks for a job well done and with our best wishes for the future.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Arrivals. We bid warm welcome to **Sgt Peach** and family, **Lcpl Peck** and **Sig Keil.** Departures. Goodbye and best wishes to: **Cpl Hall** and family, **Cpls Belcher, Zammit, Attard** and **Mamo; Lcpls Mifsud** and **Briffa; Sigs Delorenzo** and **Magri.**

IT'S NOT THE WINNING, BUT PLAYING THE GAME . . . OR SOMETHING!

The month of March has been blessed with blue and sunny skies and above average temperatures. The fine weather, however, has sadly failed to inspire our sporting personalities and the month has seen heavy defeat for the Army squash, rugby and badminton teams. We were also defeated, but not disgraced, in the Inter-Service soccer matches. To put things in perspective I must add that a total of only 12 members of the Corps were involved in all. We shall continue to participate in all that goes on.

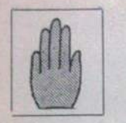
MALTA WALKABOUT

It was our ladies who brought us some welcome glory and publicity by their very plucky performance in a recent 'Malta Walkabout'. They did so by being the only ladies' team to complete the gruelling course, during which they walked some forty miles and beat some of the male teams participating.

The course took them (give or take the odd diversion) from Luqa No. 2 Site through Tal Handaq to Rabat, Dingli cliffs, Gnejna Bay and Manikata. Thence along Mellieha Ridge to Mistra and back home via St Paul's, Mosta and Balzan to the finish and a rousing reception at No. 2 Site. Our photographs give some idea of the type of ground covered and were taken at the 20-mile point: hence the scarcity of smiles! Having started at 0620hrs on a warm Saturday morning it was 1840hrs before they finished and were able to impress their husbands with the quantity and size of their blisters. To **Barbara, Marion** and **Karin,** the wives of **Ssgt Brian Peel, Cpl Peter Reed** (PCCU) and **Capt Alistair Clark,** respectively, our congratulations. Well done also to **RQMS Jim Moody** who completed the course despite his advancing years!

'Smile please . . . Shurrup!'

Left to right: Karin Clark, Marion Reed, Maureen Dowling (RAF) *(collected en route). 'Offstage' right:* Barbara Peel



244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

Officer Commanding	—	**Maj G. A. Allen** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt D. J. Case** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer	—	**Capt T. Keany** (Royal Signals)
TOT	—	**Maj K. A. Rutter** (Royal Signals)
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Capt J. Boyle** (Royal Signals)
OC 'E' Tp	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens** (Royal Signals)
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) A. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Brackston**

AS can be seen we have been re-located since the last WIRE notes from the Squadron. We are now firmly ensconced in our new home, described by a certain TV reporter as the 'Heathrow of the RAF'!

FLY 244—FLY RAF—FLY CONCORDE

Can the Squadron claim a first for the Corps? **Phil Tuppenney,** the outgoing RQMS, was fortunate enough to go for a two-hour flight on Concorde, we feel sure he must be the first member of the Corps to have had the opportunity. In fact we can claim a double first! The RSM's son, **Darryl Morgan,** also went for a two-hour flight along with his Cub Pack. The first dependant to 'Go Concorde'? This opportunity for the lucky two resulted from British Airways holding a course for Concorde pilots here at Brize Norton after Fairford closed.

NEAR AND FAR

We are at a very busy stage in our Squadron life, with detachments deployed as far as Kenya, Norway and Germany. With exercises forecast for Denmark and Italy. In recent weeks we came through the Defence Audit, PRE and Stocktake for the new RQMS with flying colours. Now we are in the throes of all the delightful pre-FFR activities such as range details, gas chamber fitness tests, etc. Talking about fitness tests, a member of the Squadron, who shall not be named (he is one up from the RQMS!) who failed his 1½-mile run by a few seconds, the following morning sent the Squadron runner round the course with a measuring wheel and discovered the distance to be over 1½ miles by a few seconds' running time!

JOTTINGS FROM THE TROOPS

SHQ. The RQMS department is now under new management. We bid a fond farewell to **RQMS Phil Tuppenney,** who left us to face the rigours of civilian life. Cheerio and good luck, **Phil** and **Sheila.** In his place we welcome **RQMS John Brackston** who comes to us from 8 Sig Regt. Hello to **John** and **Shirley.** Our congratulations go to **Sgt Norman** and **Mrs Anne Whaley** on the birth of a daughter; to **Sgt Phil** and **Mrs Irene Atherton** a son. To **Sig Lyndon 'Taff' Jones** and **Kay Sonia** on their marriage.

'M' Troop. Apart from their normal work load 'M' Troop, under the management of the TOT, **Maj K. A. Rutter** and the **F of S Martin Coley,** have been converting an old dentist chair into an adjustable feeding table for Penhurst School, a school for the handicapped that the Squadron have adopted.

Alfa Troop. After many years of freedom **Cpl Wyndam (Dum Dum) Neish** has surrendered to one of the fair sex (a 'blue job' at that!). After what was rumoured to have been a hectic final fling at a local hostelry **Wyndam (Dum Dum)** departed on leave to marry **Lynne Durran,** an SAC WRAF from RAF Benson. Congratulations to you both.

CW LINK KENYA—UK

The Royal Engineers were tasked with the job of building a high-class bridge over the River Mara approximately 150km west of Nairobi, 244 Sig Sqn were given the job of providing them with communications for the period they were there; seven men were deployed by air on December 14 to Nairobi, the equipment followed three days later on the 17th, and communications were opened back to the UK (via Cyprus DCN) on December 18; and from that date until April 15 a 'High Speed' CW link was open daily to keep the engineers in contact with the outside world and pass valuable stores requests. The main party arrived on January 7.

INSTANT SWAHILI

In the off-duty time all members of the Squadron managed to get away on 'safari'. After two weeks 'up country' the customary greeting of 'Good morning, Sir' was replaced with the more apt 'Jambo, Bwana'. Everybody had a good time and many sights were seen during our stay out there.

SHOCK DRIVING

Under the control of **Capt Geoff Strivens,** Echo Troop were out on exercise again. This time deploying from RAF Lyneham bound for Detmold. The Troops were split into two, main under the control of **Capt Geoff Strivens** and Step-up under the firm control of **Cpl Fred Kirk** who himself was under the eagle eye of **Ssgt Dave Longhurst.** The Detachments deployed to Haltern as our first 10C carries were quickly established. Leaving **Lcpls Les Donno** and **Steve Parry** to clear our traffic. The remainder of the Detachments were left to erect AE for our UK link. The erection of the 48-ft masts proved a hilarious experience. **Sig Wally Walton** had a slight accident with the first mast—a base-plate hitting him on the chin. The erection of the second mast went well under the directions of **Sig Ray Brown** and **Bill Thompson.** Our next move to Sennelager gave some of us quite a shock. We had **Sig Bill Thompson** driving on the wrong side of the road, ignoring priority signs and forgetting about traffic lights, but after a rifting from **Cpl Fred Kirk** he soon switched on and was OK for the rest of the exercise.

UNFORTUNATE CASUALTY

Once set up, a new member of the Troop, **Sig 'Paddy' McGaughey,** was left on set for a while, the main detachment needing an interpreter. Back on his feet again, **Sig Jim Stretton** enjoyed his try on the set. The rest of the moves went smoothly, finally back to Detmold. Most of the lads were eager to get back to Blighty. A slight mishap on the plane going back, as there was a fire on board, the alarm was sounded and everyone took their 'duty Frees' off—all except **Capt Geoff Strivens,** whose bottle of Glenfiddich was smashed in the rush.

LOCAL RELATIONS UNDER STRAIN

Once again it was time for Exercise Hardfall, and nine of us rubbed our hands together and went to collect our LOA for Norway. With all the vehicles painted green and white we set off for Marchwood ready for three boring days on the LSL, but it didn't quite work out that way. With **Cpl Davy Cowan** as head of entertainments and **Sgt John Harper** with connections behind the Mess bar it turned out to be quite a trip and, I think, we were all sorry to leave the ship. We arrived in Norway on February 15 at a place called Verdal where we were guided to a Norwegian army camp at Rinnteiret which was to be our home for the four weeks.

If any of us thought it was going to be a 'Swan' we were sadly mistaken. It was a very physical exercise with cross-country ski-ing nearly everyday with a burgon on our backs and the odd night sleeping in a snow hole. We were all glad to crawl into our warm beds at night. Considering the only 'hot spot' was a cafe in a small town called Lavanger we had quite a social life. With the natives being very friendly we did our best to improve Anglo-Norwegian relations and succeeded except when we got on the down-hill slopes when, I'm afraid, the lads (I'd better name them all or they might get upset) namely: **Sgt John Harper, Cpls 'Davy' Cowan, 'Smudge' Smith, Lcpls Barry Martin-Pitt (Muppit), Andy Winter, 'Ginge' Thomas, Sigs Gus Healey, 'Taff' Jones, Davy Anderson** and **Kev Falconer (Kamikaze)** causing chaos amongst the locals and consequently they asked us to leave and don't come back!

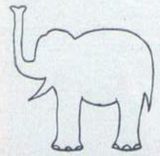
Overall, I think everybody enjoyed the exercise, but we all started to feel homesick and then we redeployed further north into the Arctic Circle for Exercise Cold Winter. It took the edge off our spirits but we still kept a smile on our faces and a can in our hands and managed to get through the one-and-a-half weeks with no problems arising. Then the day came on March 24 when we all boarded that beautiful ship that was to take us home to the UK.

COMINGS

WO2 (RQMS) Brackston, Sgt Blackwell, Cpl Wilson, Lcpl Bathe, Sgt Botfish, Cpl Edwards, Sig Mardon, Cfn Hooper, Sig Sharman, Lcpl Hull, Sigs Crosbie, Barton, McGaughey and **Ratcliffe.**

GOINGS

WO2 (RQMS) Tuppenney, Sgt Guy, demob; **Sig Cornell,** demob; **Cpl Best,** 604 Sig Troop; **Lcpl Morley,** RMA Sandhurst; and **Cpl McDonald,** NORTHAG.



603 Sig Tp, (AS)
B.F.P.O. 65

OBITUARY

IT is always an unpleasant task to announce the closure and disbandment of a unit, and the sands of time have finally run out for 603, ending an era of Royal Signals in support of Air Operations in the Middle East. Another page is turned in the Royal Signals history book—gone is 603 but, I would hope, not forgotten.

The future of Masirah and Salalah

603 Signal Troop has been more fortunate than most in this position, for instead of all the sterling work done by members past and present going to waste and rotting in the salt-laden atmosphere, ours will continue to be used after our withdrawal. The Sultan of Oman's Air Force (SOAF) have taken over the bases at both Masirah and Salalah, and with them the associated cabling and telephone systems.

Salalah will eventually become an airport of international standards. Already a new runway and air traffic control tower are nearing completion and new building projects can be seen everywhere in the town of Salalah itself.

A flying training school is to be established on Masirah, using Strikemasters and eventually Jaguars. A strong SOAF presence has made itself felt, and 603 assisted wherever possible.

The last few days

The last few days of any establishment are usually frustrating, with target dates to be met whilst still trying to maintain communications standards until the 'plugs are pulled'. This has not been the case in this instance, for, as I have said, the majority of facilities are being handed over to SOAF.

The Salalah 50-line Rurax exchange was removed well ahead of schedule, all circuits being switched to the Dhofar Bde Sig Sqn 350-line Rurax, with **Cpl Dave Thompson** initially, and **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** latterly, keeping a fatherly eye on their exchange and assisting the Sultan's Armed Forces Signals (SAF Signals) on fault-finding and maintenance.

Masirah was fortunate enough to see a brand new Pye/Philips UH900 automatic telephone exchange installed next to our ancient 150-line Rurax, the two Pye engineers, **Messrs Ray Thompson** and **Andy Lawrence** kindly allowing us to continually peep, finger-poke and ask intelligent (?) questions.

It is not often, in these days of Government thrift, to see new equipment installed and so we were extremely interested in this new 200-line Common Control exchange for two reasons. One was the obvious, something new to play with and understand. The other more obscure reason being that as soon as the new exchange was commissioned and put 'on load', so to speak, we could remove our 150-line Rurax for packing and shipping to the UK. This was achieved three weeks ahead of schedule with accompanying sweat from the workers and large sighs of relief from the Foreman!

Takeover bid

It is possibly a sign of the times when a whole Signal Troop is replaced by two men. However, such has been the case in Masirah. Two SAF Signals Corporals have taken over our role, and the best of luck, they will need it!

They will not be entirely on their own, for Royal Signals maintains a technical presence in the form of two seconded warrant officers, **WO1 (F of S) Bob Cooper** and **WO2 Mick Wringe,** who will pay 'flying doctor' visits from time to time to keep the system going.

The end

It now only remains for me to thank all those Units and Headquarters, both Army and RAF, for their support over the years. Particular mention should go to HQ 3 Signal Group and 259 Sig Sqn, our early mentors, and HQ 1 Signal Group and 30 Sig Regt who have had the unenviable task for the past 18 months. Those serving with 603 at the end were:

Masirah	*Salalah*
WO2 (F of S) Allan Hall	**Cpl Tony Dubois**
Sgt Vic Buttery	**Cpl 'Vince' Vincent**
Cpl Mick Spooner	
Lcpl 'Rolly' Thompson	
Sig Sean Plowden-Wardlow	
Sig Dave Toon	

639 Sig Troop B.F.P.O. 23

Report by Ssgt Jim Reid

THE ALTERNATIVE

IN writing THE WIRE notes I have chosen the lesser of the two evils, the other option being, buying the OC's car... The year 1976/77 has seen many changes in the Troop, the most noticeable in the last three months have been the many postings in and out. **Cpl 'Paddy' Davey** has already left on promotion to Sergeant for a tour with the TAVR and will be sorely missed by 94 Loc Regt RA rugby team. This same team will be losing yet another star when our OC, **Capt N. C. Fairley,** departs for 2 Div at the end of April. We are also sorry to say farewell to such Troop stalwarts as **Cpl Dave Griffiths, Sigs Nick Burke, John Marsden, 'Mcnasty' Hendry** and **Dave Woosey.**

We welcome our new arrivals to the Troop, **Cpl 'Paddy' Buckley, Sigs Keith Brownless, Graham Cardall, Steve Clements, 'Swampy' Marsh, 'Dusty' Miller, 'Taff' Rand** and **Andy Stephens.**

CSO AND CCR SIGNALS VISIT

In company with other units in the area, we had a farewell visit from **Maj Gen** and **Mrs H. A. J. Sturge** at the beginning of February. While the CSO was conducted on a whistle-stop tour of the Troop, the wives and younger children spent a pleasant hour entertaining **Mrs Sturge** in the Sergeants Mess. At the end of March we were paid a flying visit by the CCR Signals, **Brig G. W. Gittings.**

WELL REPRESENTED

The Troop, although small, is well represented in our parent Regiment's sports teams. Congratulations for sporting achievements go to: **Sig Paul Brickle,** runner-up in both the BAOR and Army Judo Championship in the special class KYU-B.

Capt N. C. Fairley for his part in helping 94 Loc Regt RA win the BAOR Mcilwaine Rugby Cup—all the best against the UK winners.

Sgt Dennis Sage in 94's fencing team, winners of the BAOR Team Championships, good luck in the Army Championships.

Sig 'Dusty' Miller who won 94's Lightweight Boxing title.

639 Celery players football team for winning a match. Trainer: **Sgt (Tommy Docherty) Hambling.** Permanent casualty: **Ssgt (Jim'll Fix it) Reid.**

Cpl Phil Codd, Dave Griffiths and **Lcpl 'Tug' Wilson** have all played hockey for 94, **Cpl Phil Codd** has also played football for the Regiment.

VERY NEW

We should perhaps have included in our new arrivals lists, the son sof **Lcpls Sandy Macdonald** and **'Nobby' Clark** who arrived in January and March, respectively. Congratulations and best wishes to the proud parents.

FAREWELL

Our most recent Troop social event was our unofficial farewell to **Capt** and **Mrs Fairley** at which they were presented with an inscribed silver tray and a bouquet of flowers. **Mrs Fairley** got the tray.... !

For the future we will continue to support 94, and run 'rent a det' for the local area, and on the plus side an adventurous training exercise in Bavaria.

The Maritime Detachment, RCT, Gosport

THE Who? Where? Well, readers, after a long silent period I feel it is time this small Troop of communicators tucked away in 'Sailorsville' made a contribution to our Corps voice. We were, until the 'Re-org Beast' caught up with us, 20 Maritime Regt RCT, based at Gosport in Hampshire, the name has changed but the location remains Gosport. Before proceeding let me say 'Hello' to all ex-Troop members who, I hope, are reading this article. They will possibly be somewhat taken aback at my audacity in submitting this, the second article in four years.

[*Editor's note:* Stay with us, please!]

PERSONALITIES

The 'Guv'	—	**WO2 (Y of S) Pat Mahoney**
Tp Sergeant	—	**Sgt Tony Thomson**
HMAV *Audemer*	—	**Cpl Rab Galbraith**
		Lcpl Dave Smy
HMAV *Agheila*	—	**Cpl Bill Huffey**
		Lcpl Mark Harbour
HMAV *Abbeville*	—	**Cpl Frank Leigh**
		Lcpl Val Shaw
HMAV *Ardennes*	—	**Sgt Steve Tucker**
HMAV *Arakan*	—	**Sgt Phil Crone**
		Cpl Mick Kenney
Commcen	—	**Cpl John Henry Chilcott**
		Cpl Dougie Bristow
		Lcpl Chris Aitken
		Lcpl Stu Winmill
		Lcpl Jim Sykes
		Lcpl Dave Wright
		Sgt Tony Spark (REME)

ELITE

The job of this Elite Troop? We provide radio communication from RCT vessels at sea to RHQ in Gosport. We, of course, man both ends of these circuits which normally work morse. We also work schedules with the Royal Navy and are responsible for the Army Commcen Gosport, operators on board ships are also the ship's Clerks. I won't say anything about our equipment other than I feel 'steam' was a great discovery!

TO AND FRO

HMAV *Agheila* continues to plow her way back and forth to Antwerp, however, she is to be handed over to a civilian crew at the end of April and the operators will join other ships. **Cpl Bill Huffey** will join HMAV *Ardennes* with **Sgt Steve Tucker** who is already part of the crew, this is one of our new ships and is due to be commissioned later this year. HMAV *Abbeville* will, by the time these notes are printed, be steaming North for a season of Hebrides supply, and the operators, **Cpl Frank Leigh** and **Lcpl Val Shaw** will be looking forward to their Helensburgh 'run ashore'. HMAV *Audemer* continues with local and Antwerp details and should take over the Hebrides run in August. HMAV *Arakan,* well she is another new ship and is due to be launched at Lowestoft in April and should be commissioned next year. **Sgt Phil Crone** is senior op designate and he is at the moment umm, umm ski-ing? sailing? basketballing? Well, anyway, he's here somewhere. His 2IC, **Cpl Mick Kenney,** is enjoying the delights of Catterick at the moment, and will soon return to do battle with the 'tiddlers' in Hilsea Moat.

THE HOME FRONT

On the home front the workers continue to slog away in the Commcen, **Lcpl Dave Wright** relishes in his appointment as training aids NCO, while **Lcpl Jim Sykes,** being the only occupant of the Soldiers' Flats, enjoys his 'ly-ins'. **Cpl Dougie Bristow** has not been idle either. Congratulations **Dougie** and **Linda** on the birth of your son, **Robert,** on January 24, 1977. **Lcpl Chris Aitken,** when he's not doing Chief Clerk, is away on courses and has relinquished his appointment as Troop carbreaker. **Cpl John Henry Chilcott** keeps disappearing on mystery courses and appears to have mastered his *Mal de Mere,* he uses the Portsmouth ferry 'every day' now. **Lcpl Stu Winmill** leaves shortly on posting to Catterick and we all wish him good luck. It wouldn't be right to leave out our REME Tech he most certainly will appear in the 'Guinness Book of Records' as the first Technical Author of an EMER for Dartboards. Finally, the Directors: **Sgt Tony Thomson,** who is the longest serving member of the Troop, has finally been discovered by records and will leave on posting in June, as my right-hand man he will be missed. 'Good luck, Smiler'. Yours truly, well, apart from being Troop OC, PMC Sergeants Mess, OIC football, Secretary fishing club and the odd Audit Board (long aah!), things are fairly steady. The odd trip now and again keeps the 'spirits up' (duty free), and I continue to convince the RCT that they need us. On a serious note, we are all proud to serve in this Regiment and have the greatest respect for the expertise of the RCT Maritimers. Incidentally, the Regiment is to be granted the Freedom of Gosport on April 6, 1977.

FOR THE RECORD

As an outpost we sometimes tend to lose track of Corps' matters and welcome visitors who can bring us up to date with the gossip! If you are in the area and fancy a cup of coffee and a yarn please drop in. One of our recent visitors was **Ssgt (Y of S) Phil Derry,** who is a member of the Colombian Amazon Expedition and we wish him and his colleagues good luck on this venture (**Phil,** do you really need our number's stamp in the Amazon?).

If at the beginning of these notes I gave the impression that no one knew us, I must quickly rectify this by mentioning our immediate superiors—HQ 2 Signal Group. The Commander, **Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** visited the unit on February 15, and left well pleased with all he saw. During the visit he was entertained to lunch aboard HMAV *Agheila,* his host being **Lt Col T. C. Street** (RCT) CO, and **Capt A. M. Paterson** (RCT) (Ship's captain).

That's it! Thank you, Editor, I hope now that the Junior NCOs of this Troop will take the hint if the 'Guv' can do it, so can they!

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

BE TESTS FOR THE REGULARS

ON March 15 and 16 all the Regular members of the Regiment from the Commanding Officer to the PSIs assembled at Westdown Camp, Warminster, to attempt to complete the annual BE tests. It also enabled the Regulars to get together for a couple of days away from the smoke of London. On March 15 a nine-mile march from Westdown to Larkhill was completed in driving rain. Once at Larkhill, tired and wet, all attempted to jump a 6ft ditch full of water, and climb over a 6ft wall. The afternoon's entertainment was completed by carrying each other for 100 yards (nearly). The Quartermaster, **Maj Bill Sinclair,** who retires in a few weeks time, brought up the rear, completing the course at the wheel of a Land-Rover claiming he was the Safety Vehicle to pick up casualties.

Once dried out and following an excellent dinner, cooked by **Cpl Ali Matabdin,** the Regulars gathered in the Rose & Crown for the remainder of the evening.

The second day was devoted to ranges. A cup was presented to the best SLR shot and **Sgt Jeff Lawrence** was the worthy winner.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORARY COLONEL

On Saturday, March 19, we held the annual Ladies Dinner Night. The occasion enabled wedding presents to be given to **Lt Jenny Brooks** who married in February and is now **Mrs Bubb,** and to **Capt Paul Whittle** and **O/Cadet Stephanie Birch** who were married on March 28. We wish them all the best for the future.

Among the guests were our Honorary Colonel, **Col B. R. Wood, OBE, TD, DL,** and his wife, **Marjory; Col Reg Wood** retires as Honorary Colonel at the end of April. **Col Wood** was presented with a Wine Cooler and his wife with a Spode porcelain 'bird' by the Regiment. The Honorary Colonel in return, presented the Regiment with a fine picture of himself to hang in the Mess.

We were pleased to welcome amongst our other guests, **Brig** and **Mrs D. H. Baynham** and **Brig** and **Mrs I. Rose.**

The evening as usual was well organised by our Mess Secretary, **Capt Keith Beaumont,** who, unfortunately, due to the pressure of business, is retiring from the Regiment.

Lt Col John Brian presents the wine cooler to the honorary colonel, Col Reg Wood

EXERCISE SPRING TRAP

Over the weekend of March 26–27 the Regiment took part in the 11 Signal Group (Volunteers) Command Post exercise at Sutton Coldfield. Many of our officers found themselves in the 'hot seat' for the first time, dealing with problems from idiot 'Radio' Operators and 'linemen' with voices very similar to the Training Major, **Maj Tim Hallchurch.**

NINE-MILE MARCH

Tired and wet but still cheerful. Lt Col Brian sets the example

Cheerful faces at the end of the march. Sgt Terry Deakin, RSM Keith Childs and Ssgt Bill Smith

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

SEWS

DURING March the Regiment undertook its first 'SEWS'. An 'SEWS', as the Training Major was at pains to explain, is a Ski-ing Exercise Without Snow. A fairly common form of Military Training designed especially for people who could not ski and who did not want to be placed at a disadvantage by rather flashy Austrians, Italians and such like who, quite frankly, ski rather too well.

Faulty planning

In the event, due to faulty staff planning, the party did have some four days of residual snow at the beginning of the exercise. Even so that snow was somewhat sparse and this meant that only one at a time could fall over. This was somewhat limiting as everyone was apparently impelled by an irresistible desire to fall over as often, and in as spectacular a manner, as possible. The solution adopted was to combine a series of individual crashes into one really major 'pile-up', often generously allowing innocent civilian bystanders to join in. In truth, it was not, perhaps, quite so bad as the foregoing might suggest. The long and rather tedious journey up on the Sunday was completely forgotten when the party was greeted at Aviemore in the Cairngorm Mountains by a quite definitely 'four-star' camp which had been set up by **Cpl 'Taffy' Williams** and his two volunteer assistants **Sig 'Geordie' Bradley** and **Pte Alan Johnson.** It seemed incredible that the three of them could have done so much in the one day that they had at their disposal and their efforts set the administrative tone for the whole camp which was run no less well than a sort of 'Cannes Hotel'.

Fashion show

As an extra mural activity during the first evening, **Lcpl Stewart Convery,** prompted by a recent centrefold in the *Drapers and Haberdashers Journal,* kindly put on a fashion show. In fact it was a combination of fashion parade and magician's performance since he proceeded to produce some six or eight different forms of dress out of a small handgrip. These ranged from a selection of kilts and sporrans, through combat kit and 'go faster ski kit', to his city suits. Most of the officers only had old 'jeans' and pullovers and were a little put out by all this, especially when it was subsequently discovered that he could also ski rather well.

The only challenge to **Lcpl Convery's** sartorial pre-eminence was made by **Capt Alan Davies** who replaced the Training Major for the second half of the exercise. He arrived for breakfast one morning elegantly attired in British Warm, Townsuit, brief case and a copy of the *Telegraph* (crossword completed). This got rather wet and crumpled ski-ing, and he, too, went into 'jeans' and pullover on the second day. Further reinforcements arrived in the shape of the RSM, **John Scrutton,** and RQMS, **Nick Robinson,** together with the Y of S, **Bob Badger,** who at once started to threaten to sue British Rail under the Trades Description Act.

The word 'sleeper' is a misnomer. The 'sleep if you dare' technique used in Northern Ireland would be a more appropriate description for use by British Rail.

Variable performance

For most the ski-ing was fun. **Lt Ross Redwood** took the whole affair most seriously and was so intent on mastering her snowplough technique that she carved through a class of students, was chatted up by the (handsome) instructor, received some gratuitous instruction and declined a date. It was only later pointed out to her just what an opportunity she had missed.

Pte Pat Dodd, an enthusiast at all things, quickly established herself as the most elegant 'faller-over', some suggested that it was easier for her as she hadn't so far to fall. Her cheerful smile ensured that there was no lack of helping hands. **Sgt Laura Nuttall** began at last to get the basic ideas of ski-ing, and it wasn't long before she was winging her way down the slopes. Not always in the direction that she would have wished it is true, but the refinements would have to come later. On one occasion she caused much amusement by completely demolishing a class of young soldiers—and that was before she had even got her skis on.

RSM John Scrutton retired from the fray with an old knee injury and returned to Huyton. His cries of, 'all aboard the liberty boat for a run ashore', were sadly missed. By this time the snow had almost gone, so most members of the party took part in an orienteering exercise.

Sgt Laura Nuttall preparing to launch herself down the slippery slopes

Sig Steve Ralston decided to do his own thing and take an 18-mile stroll across the mountains. **Capt Alan Davies** was convinced that the Forestry Commission was moving markers, but offers from **Cpl Marie Watkinson** and **Pte Pat Dodd** to replace them in correct positions were ignored.

Potato coffee

When the more energetic members of the party returned one night from the local disco, they found that strong winds had caused havoc in the camp. The male officers' tent had collapsed and the cookhouse was reduced to half-star service. Frantic tent pegging and removal of kit to the Y of S's tent soon had order restored. The female members of the Regiment in the party made some coffee to revive flagging spirits. Unfortunately, it contained potato powder instead of milk. Anyone can make a mistake, particularly in the dark! One of the most unforgettable experiences was the fishcakes produced by one of the cooks which consisted of salmon mixed with crushed oatmeal blocks. The dish was brilliantly conceived, a masterpiece of improvisation —and ----- awful!

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

OUT OF HIBERNATION

IT is six months since the Regimental scribe went into hibernation for the winter months, worn out by his efforts to adequately describe Annual Camp in BAOR and other happenings during 1976. He was rudely awakened the other day by the Commanding Officer who remarked that it was time something about the Regiment appeared again. Winter is traditionally the time when the Regular Army settles down to life in barracks and concentrates on trade and military training and preparations for annual inspections. It is the same in the TAVR.

CENTRALISATION PAY OFF

With Annual Camp safely behind us the Training Major, **Mike Alden,** commenced his campaign to qualify and upgrade as many tradesmen as possible. In order to standardise trade training he held centralised training weekends every two months. Data Telegraphists, Switchboard Operators and Combat Powermen assembled at Gillingham; Technicians and Clerk Techs went to Wanstead; REME tradesmen to Newbury Park; Combat Radiomen to Bedford; Combat Drivers to North Weald; Combat Linemen to Ilford and Clerks to Vange. A lot of hard work goes into centralised training by the instructors, administrators and, of course, the students. It is too early yet to say if it is a success but everyone connected with it is to be commended for their keenness.

MILITARY TRAINING POPULAR

Military training has not been neglected. Every month the RSM, **WO1 Frank Jepson,** runs a Cadre Course Weekend at Vange Training Centre. They are very well attended as military training is very popular with the volunteers. During the weekend March 5–6, 1977, the Training Major and the RSM held a Detachment Commander Course at Colchester for senior corporals and sergeants. The course included a night exercise. Although they worked hard and got very little sleep, the volunteers participating thoroughly enjoyed the course. Since the beginning of the year all the Squadrons have organised at least one range weekend and all included night-firing for the first time. Again the activities were well attended and the results obtained were very encouraging.

The officers held a Study Period at Brentwood during the weekend January 15–16, and the warrant officers and sergeants held one at Crowborough February 12–13, 1977.

LOOKING BACK

In November, the Regiment was honoured by being selected to provide a detachment for the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and the Cenotaph Parade at Whitehall. The detachment chosen for the Festival of Remembrance were all members of the WRAC and came from a good cross-section of our Regimental Parish. They were: **Ssgt Marie Cates** and **Cpl Daphne Brown** of Gillingham; **Ptes Patricia Poulson** and **Carol Wrenn** of Brentwood; **Christine Giddins** of Cambridge and **Jeanne Brown** of Norwich. The Regiment provided the detachment of one officer and 27 men who represented the TAVR at the Cenotaph Parade at Whitehall. The detachment was commanded by **2 Lt Ron Wilkinson** of Gillingham and the SSM of 45 Sqn, **WO2 'Larry' Gray** was also on parade. **WO1 Alec Dormer** and **Sgt 'Taff' Lewis** were given the task of selecting and training the men and eventually 7 men from HQ Sqn, 8 from 44 Sqn and 12 from 45 Sqn were chosen. All the volunteers who took part in the Service were conscious of the great honour both for themselves and the Regiment.

The Regiment also participated in nine other Remembrance Day services in East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex.

INSPECTIONS

January and February were busy months. Altogether there were 40 separate equipment inspections at 10 TAVR Centres during the eight-week period. This involved a lot of hard work for the permanent staff and the volunteers.

COMPETITION BONUS OF FREE BEER

On successive weekends in March the Regiment took part in two competitions.

During the weekend March 19–20, 1977, the TAVR Association ran its Courage Trophy Competition for all the units in the Greater London Area. In all, 35 teams of eight entered the competition to compete against each other in Military events organised by Armour, Arty, Engineers, Signals, Tpt, Med and Ord. The Regiment entered two teams, one from Wanstead TAVR Centre and one from Ilford Centre; 45 Sqn were given the task of organising the signal competition at Ilford. This consisted of a message-passing race including line-laying, radio, telephone and teleprinter message passing. The teams were led by **Lt Charles Herbert** of Ilford and **Lt Archie Gibson** of Wanstead; **Charles'** team pipped **Archie's** team by coming two places above them in the final placing. Everybody who took part enjoyed themselves, particularly consuming the free beer provided by Messrs Courage at the end of the competition.

The following weekend, March 26–27, 1977, the LAD took part in Exercise Southern Craftsman, the competition for all REME units in London, South East and South West Districts. The team, Commanded by **Lt Jim Rennie** and Masterminded by **WO2 (AQMS) Alec Begg,** did very well, winning two of the three trophies and coming fourth overall in the whole exercise. They won the Martin Brown Trophy for the best repair job when they had to replace a leaf spring and a water pump and correct a carburettor fault. They also won the DDEME Trophy for the best metalwork and manufacture. They were required to make a tin jug and a tool for extracting a broken half shaft. 45 Sqn provided the communications for the exercise.

Not quite the correct way to do it

One of the TAVR teams competing in the Courage Trophy, during the line-laying section. Among the onlookers is the Training Major, Mike Alden *(third from left)* and Ssgt (Y of S) Ron Lingard *(fourth from left)*

Photo courtesy of London & Essex Guardian Newspapers Ltd

Ssgt Colin Dyball and Pte Sue Batt handling a message in the Message Centre during the Courage Trophy Competition

SOCIAL ROUND-UP

The Officers Mess held its Annual Ball at Wanstead on Friday, November 19, 1976. Over 120 officers and their wives attended the Ball. Among the guests were the Mayor of Redbridge and his wife, **Ccllr** and **Mrs Mountier,** and the Honorary Colonel and his wife, **Brig** and **Mrs Vaigncount-Strallen.**

The officers held a Regimental Dinner at Brentwood Post House Hotel on Saturday, January 15, 1977. Among the guests were the Honorary Colonel, the Deputy Commander 12 Signal Group (V), **Col R. M. Stewart, OBE, TD,** ADC, DL, and the Secretary for East Anglia TAVR Association, **Col W. Pakenham-Walsh.** The opportunity was taken to dine out **Capt Bob Jones,** our regular Quartermaster, **Capt Mike Simmons** of 44 Sqn and **Capt Geoffrey Searle** our Public Relations Officer, all of whom had recently retired.

The warrant officers and sergeants held a Regimental Dinner at Crowborough on Saturday, February 12, 1977. Among the guests were the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Swindells,** and OC WRAC, **Maj Pat Ruston.** Being dined out were **Capt Bob Jones, WO2 Ken Bartlett,** the former SSM of 44 Sqn, and **Sgt Ann Seager,** PSI from Wanstead, all of whom had recently retired.

Taken on the occasion of the presentation of decorations and medals by the Honorary Colonel. *Left to right:* RQMS Mick Smith, Maj David Morfoot, Ssgt Barry Greenwood, Sgt Barry Sharman and Brig P. D. Vaigncount-Strallen

VISITORS

During this period the Commander 12 Signal Group (V), **Brig W. A. Sykes,** ADC, paid visits to the TAVR Centres at Cambridge, Eastbourne, Brentwood, Norwich, Ilford, Newbury Park, Wanstead and Gillingham. The Deputy Commander 12 Signal Group, **Col R. M. Stewart, OBE, TD,** ADC, DL, spent a weekend with us during March and visited Wanstead, Ilford and Eastbourne. He also saw parts of the Courage Trophy competition.

The Colonel TAVR North London District, **Col G. S. P. Carden, TD,** visited Wanstead on December 9, 1976.

The Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col R. W. Gilbertson** visited Wanstead on November 11, 1976.

Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow, MBE, visited Gillingham TAVR Centre on November 18, 1976 where he presented some Efficiency Medals.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF PERMANENT STAFF

During this period we said goodbye to **Capt Bob Jones** and **Sgt Ann Seager** on retirement and to **Sgt Ken Robson,** posted to Northern Ireland. We wish them well for the future. We welcome into the fold **Maj Bill Gahan** our new Quartermaster from Malta, **Sgt Albert Vaughan** our new PSI at Bedford from Northern Ireland and **Sgt Wendy Cracknell** our new WRAC PSI at Cambridge who joins us straight from civilian life and the TAVR.

Capt Bob Jones, pictured before his recent retirement, with WO1 Alec Dormer in the Sergeants Mess, Wanstead

Royal Signals Sub-unit, University of London Contingent OTC

REWARDING AND ENJOYABLE EVENT

AMONGST the many activities of the year, one of the most rewarding and enjoyable is providing a Guard of Honour for our Honorary Colonel, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, on the occasion of the presentation of degrees to graduates of the University. The Corps is normally well represented by the Signals Sub-Unit, including WRAC, but this year the Corps was further represented by **Maj Bob Jenkins,** who, sporting his newly-earned Territorial Decoration, accompanied Her Majesty through the inspection. Despite the fact that this has been an annual event for many years, this was the first time the Guard had been armed and it is hoped that this precedent will be maintained.

MISCELLANEA

On the wider issues, it can be said that the Sub-Unit prospers well under the new firm of **Lt Steve Bright** and **WO2 Dave McGurk** despite the harassment of the builders who are trying to make our Drill Hall fit the Fire Regulations, and keep on wanting to move the Signals stores. As you may have read elsewhere, we have duly listened to **Maj Frances Wilkinson's** lecture team from the School and thank them for their visit. We hasten to add that the late switch of lecture rooms was not intended to be a new BE test.

Finally, to conclude, an answer to the question posed in the recent examination set for Officer Cadets:

Question: What is Clansman?

Answer: The sort of fearsome, wild, Highland laddie, designed to frighten Ivan back to Vladivostok. Apart from that, it is a new range of signal kit—I think!

Association News

ROYAL SIGNALS EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

Report by Ssgt Gordon Pickard (Royal Signals)

AT last it has been decided that an Association for all ex-Boys of Royal Signals should be formed. Membership is open to all ex-Boys serving or non-serving. All those who have served in a Junior Unit such as 'F' Coy—Boys Regiments or Squadrons—Army Apprentices School or College and Junior Signalmans Squadron are eligible to join. In response to the tentative enquiries sent out by me, letters from all parts of England have been received expressing great satisfaction that such an organisation is to be formed and the keenness to join. Very encouraging.

It must be appreciated that there is still a lot of ground work to be covered before such an organisation can get into its stride. If there are any ex-Boys of the Corps who would like more information of this Association please drop me a line (address below). I will be only too pleased to give them any information they require.

The objects of the Association are briefly:

- To encourage *Esprit de Corps* by providing a means of uniting all past and present members.
- Maintain old friendships by a means of social gatherings.
- To keep contact through the medium of the Headquarters Royal Signals Association which will help as far as possible in keeping trace of all past and present members.
- Generally to maintain and further the dignity and good name of all Junior Units and of those who have passed through them.

All points considered, it must be agreed that it is really something of an achievement to have 'Passed Out' from a Junior Unit. The subjects taught give each boy a thorough grounding for his future life both in the Corps and in civil life—making him self-reliant, quick thinking, and in many cases more than a match for his civilian counterpart. This, irrespective of the trade chosen with the Corps and the many units which he eventually serves.

'Jangor',
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Comradeship particularly is of a very high standard. You describe it as 'mucking-in' the High and Mighty call it the 'team spirit', but whatever the name, it is this spirit that brings out the best in every one and, sad to say, is not always found in civil life. In the days before apprentices, when each Corps or Arm trained its own Juniors, they were known (affectionately) as 'Rats' and, of course, ex-Boys as 'Ex-Rats'. There was a certain amount of jealousy between the Regulars and so-called 'Ex-Rats', but these 'Ex-Rats' mucked in and were more than able to hold their own. They helped each other to improve their lot and evidence of this may be found on comparing the proportion of officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers who were Junior entrants. This is the spirit we wish to keep intact and each and every one of us should encourage it as far as possible.

The Association, when properly functioning will enable us to keep trace of all members. Who knows? You may want to find the whereabouts of an old 'buddy' to renew old friendships and to talk over old times.

In my next report I will give you the findings from the Working Committee set up under the chairmanship of **Lt Col (QM) R. Laing** (Royal Signals).

Sport

ARMY SOCCER SUCCESS

Report by Lt Col Pat Massey

TWO members of the Corps played a prominent part in the Army's winning of the Inter-Services Championship last month, **Lcpls Alex Hamilton** and **Bob O'Hara.**

Both were acknowledged to have played exceptionally well in both games. **Alex Hamilton** scored one goal in each match and was 'man of the match' against the Royal Air Force (Army won 2—1) and almost repeated the performance against the Royal Navy (Army won 3—1).

Alex Hamilton also played against the Belgian and French Armies in the Kentish Cup and **Bob O'Hara** played his first fully representative game against the French Army in France.

Photograph courtesy of Soldier Magazine

Left to right: Lcpl Bob O'Hara (216 Sig Sqn), Lt Col Pat Massey (MOD DSS Signals 4)) and Lcpl Alex Hamilton (2 Sig Regt) with the Constantinople Cup (the Inter-Services Challenge Cup for Association football)

ARMY MINOR UNITS SOCCER CUP

The Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, won the Army Minor Units Soccer Cup beating HQ Postal Communications and Courier Unit RE in the final 4 goals to 3, at Chelsea, on April 15, 1977.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1977

THE championships were held in Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld, on the weekend March 19 and 20, 1977. There were a total of 20 entries. It was particularly encouraging to see so many young soldiers participating, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to get to Bielefeld. The standard of play varied considerably but there was no doubt that everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves; that is with the exception of **Cpl Sloggett** from 16 Sig Regt who was hit directly in the eye by a squash ball in his very first game and was eventually admitted to hospital. The final of the open competition was very tense and although **Brig Hellier** won in straight games to retain the cup for the second successive year, this was not a true reflection of the play. It was an exciting match and only fitting that the loser, **Cpl Robertshaw,** of 22 Sig Regt, should have the consolation of winning the Soldiers event. The winner of the plate was **Sig Mathieson.** The weekend was brought to a successful conclusion when **Mrs W. Gittens,** wife of the CCR Signals, **Brig G. W. Gittens,** presented the prizes.

Brig Hellier receives the individual Open Royal Signals BAOR Squash cup from Mrs W. Gittens, wife of the CCR Signals, Brig G. W. Gittens

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIG P. BRICKLE

BAOR—Runner-up Judo Special Class KYU-B.
Army—Runner-up Judo Special Class KYU-B.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available.
Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	1·85	2·00
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Corps cravats—terylene	1·60	1·70
Corps cuff links	1·40	1·50
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·75	4·20
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	13·50	14·75
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	3·75	4·00
Corps scarves—Woollen	3·30	3·55
Corps squares—terylene	2·45	2·65
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 3¾"	1·35	1·45
terylene	0·20	0·25
terylene type 'E'	0·20	0·25
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅜")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·75	1·85
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
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Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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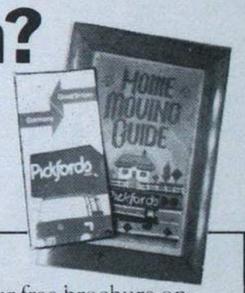

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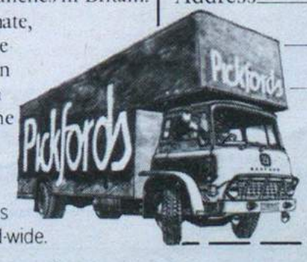

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THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

June 1977

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Editorial

OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, a number of appointments were made to Members of the Royal Family. The Princess Anne is now our Colonel-in-Chief and has also been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, the Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Branch and the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals.

A message expressing the pleasure of her Corps on her appointment has been sent to Her Royal Highness by the Master of Signals which, at the same time, conveyed loyal and sincere greetings from all ranks, serving and retired.

The Silver Jubilee

Loyal addresses presented to Her Majesty The Queen by the House of Lords and the House of Commons in Westminster Hall on May 5 marked the start of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in the United Kingdom. During the coming months the Corps is proud to participate in many events, the most significant of which are listed below:

June 30 — **Review of the Reserve Forces at WEMBLEY**
Seven TAVR Signal Regiments and 55 Sig Sqn (V) are providing contingents.
The Corps Band participates in the Musical Pageant.

July 7 — **Royal Review of the Army at SENNELAGER**
Detachments from 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, 6 and 20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqns and 7 Sig Regt take part in the Review.
Supporting communications will be provided by 7 and 22 Sig Regts.
4 Regt are arranging a Static Display.

July 13 — **Army Apprentices College route lining for The Queen's visit to the Great Yorkshire Show.**

July 15 — **Junior Signalmen of 11 Signal Wing provide Guard of Honour for Her Majesty at NEWCASTLE. The Corps Band is participating at MIDDLESBROUGH and HARTLEPOOL.**
The Corps was also represented on the Jubilee Parade in CYPRUS, and Queen's Gurkha Signals in the HONG KONG Jubilee Tattoo. In addition Corps soldiers took part in the Bonfire chain throughout the UK on June 6, and will be providing radio and PA equipments at many Jubilee functions.

THE COVER

(The portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief by Barry Lategan, Camera Press London)

superb simplicity

Here indeed is classic beauty and purity of line. This handsome Silver Jubilee dish from designer and silversmith Gerald Benney is in sterling silver bearing the 1977 Silver Jubilee Hallmark, with a gilt central medallion. Measuring 132mm in diameter and 25mm in depth, the dish weighs 200gm.
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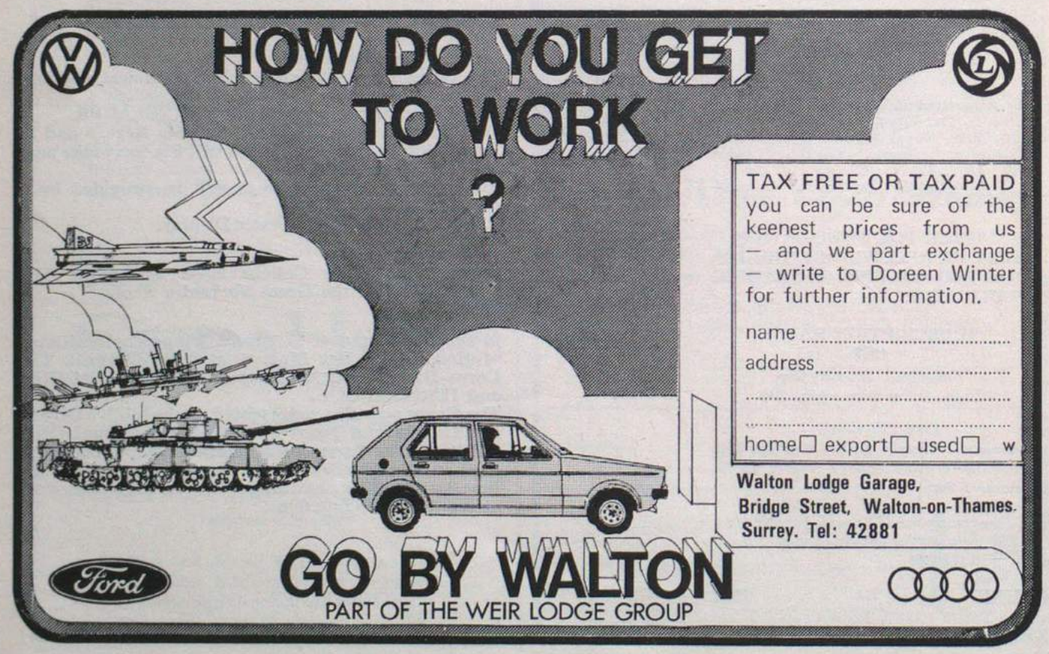


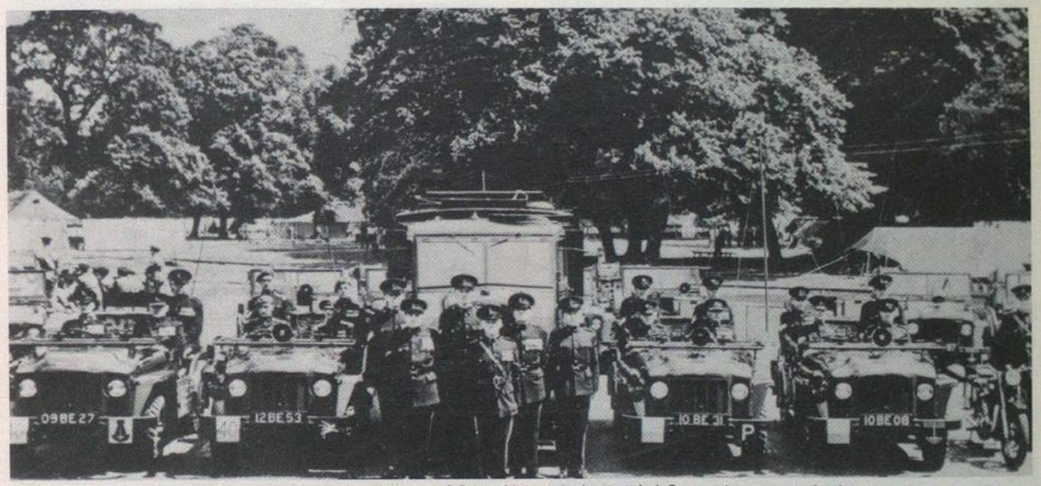
1952 - 1977

In looking back over 25 years, it is, perhaps, a sobering thought that many of our serving soldiers were born after 1952. In examining our archives, it was apparent immediately that we faced a difficult task in selecting a photographic representation of the Corps and its many activities and achievements over such a lengthy period. The task is complete and a modest photographic record is included in this issue, which we hope may arouse happy memories for many and be of general interest.

Looking back over a Quarter of a Century

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Lt Col D. A. Dickson, Historical Officer, Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, who provided the following photographs from his records.

The Coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



1952 Representative Detachments of Corps Units which provided Coronation communications

1957 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visits the School of Signals at Catterick

1958 Her Majesty The Queen inspects 90 Sig Regt at Colchester

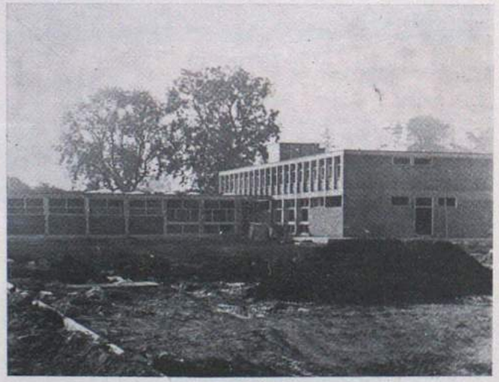
1960 HRH The Princess Royal celebrated 25 years as our Colonel in Chief

1962 Master of Signals, Maj Gen Sir William Scott, KCMG, CB, CBE, presents statuette of 'Jimmy' to Capt O'Brian, DSC (RN) to commemorate the affiliation of the Corps and HMS *Hermes* on her commissioning

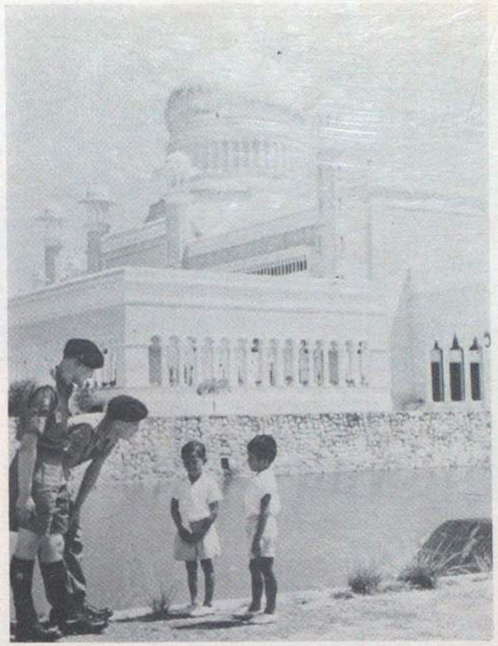
30 Sig Regt is welcomed in Blandford Forum

1963 The Rebuilding of Catterick—Mons Lines down . . .

1961 HRH The Princess Royal presents Pipe Banner to Junior Leaders at St James's Palace



. . . . Helles Lines up



1963 Our Corps in the Far East—Brunei

. . . On the Border with Red China . . .

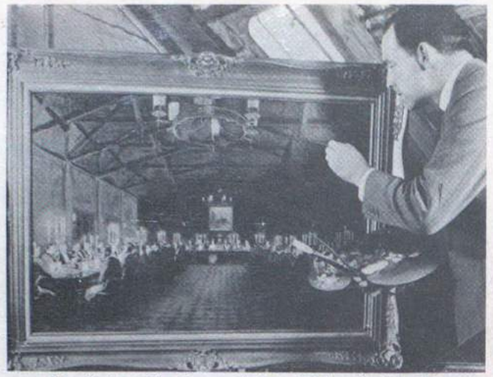
. . . and cable-laying in Singapore

1964 HRH The Princess Royal and the Mayor of the Borough of Richmond take the salute at the march past during the granting of free entry of the Borough to the Corps

The Corps provides Garde d'Honneur for President de Gaulle at the commemoration of the Battle of the Marne

Closed-circuit TV introduced into the Corps in the field

1965 Her Majesty The Queen meets members of the Corps in Berlin



Her Majesty The Queen dining with her Senior Officers in Germany—a painting by Brig Peter Hutchins

Massed Bands of Scottish Signal Regiments (TA) at Edinburgh Castle

Air Formation Signal Base for Radfan Operations

The Earl Mountbatten of Burma becomes an Honorary Member of our Institution and Association

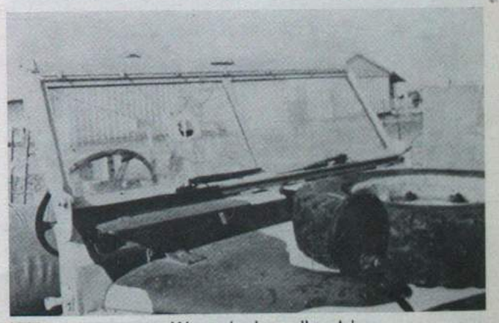
The last of the Corps to say 'goodbye' to East Africa

In the 1965-66 Sporting Season we saw a 'page' of Champions . . .

. . . had a second BR engine named after us . . .

. . . and provided the Army 'Beat Group' Champions!

1966 The Corps provides communications for Malcolm Campbell's fatal attempt on the World Water Speed Record



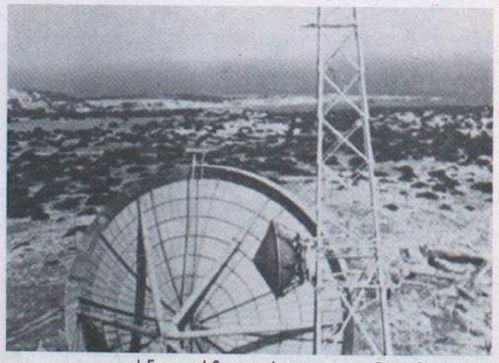
1967 We are 'welcomed' to Aden

1967 15 Sig Regt celebrate another Jubilee—25 years in the Middle East

1968 222 Sqn in deepest Trucial Oman

1969 RAF take over Signal Centre at Boddington

1969 Antenna 1,260ft up in County Londonderry . . .



. . . and Forward Scatter Antenna over Cape Greco

1970 Corps' Golden Jubilee Celebrations. SO in C, Maj Gen P. F. Pentreath, MBE, with the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral after Thanksgiving and Rededication Service

'Jimmy' takes his place among the famous Fovant Badges

Rt Hon Edward Heath, MP, makes Election-day speech at Bexleyheath

HRH The Princess Anne visits Blandford and meets Capt Boulding, Director of Music

1971 249 Sqn on SEATO Exercise in Manila

1971 18 Sig Regt disband in Singapore

New Trade Training School opens at Catterick

1972 21 Regt Army Cross-country Champions

Her Majesty The Queen visits Gan Island

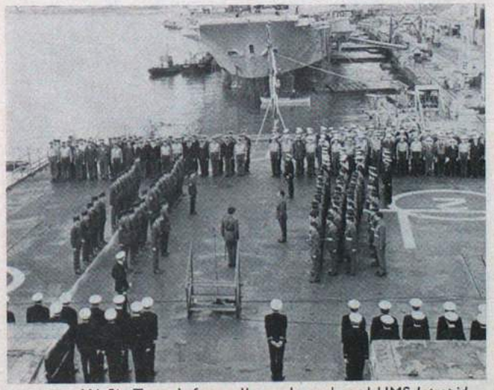
HRH The Princess Anne inspects 30 Regt on the Isle of Alderney

HRH The Duchess of Kent with the AAC on THEIR Silver Jubilee

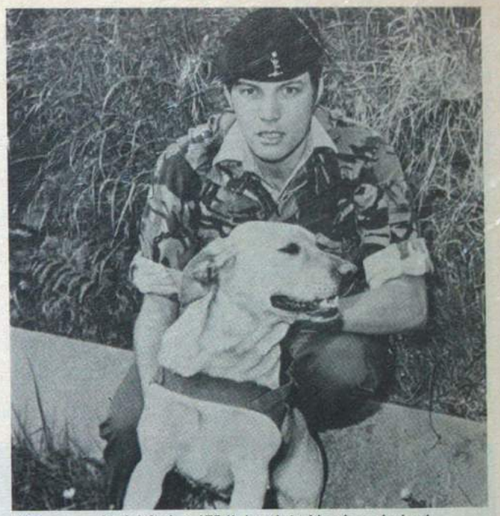
Corps Canoeist Champions show off their multiple trophies

1972 First time the Corps was on Public Duty in London

1974 Her Majesty The Queen of Denmark visits a Troop of 30 Sig Regt



661 Sig Troop's farewell parade on board HMS *Intrepid*



1975 'Sady' finds a 175-lb bomb in Northern Ireland

HRH The Princess Anne meets members of 71 Sig Regt (V) at a Pageant in the Guildhall

28 Sig Regt—Army Small-Bore Champions

1975 To mark the 50th Anniversary of the presence of Royal Signals in Catterick, Her Majesty The Queen unveiled the statue of two Signalmen

8 Sig Regt members of outstanding achievements and trophies, rugby, soccer (Army Cup Winners), hockey (Army Cup Winners), motor cycling, cricket, badminton and basketball . . .

. . . and 1976 Army Cricket Champions

Windows in All Saint's Church, Blandford Camp, were dedicated as a memorial to HRH The Princess Royal

1975 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits Alderney—members of 30 Sig Regt in attendance

1976 Amalgamation of 14 and 30 Sig Regts. CO 14 Sig Regt hands over Regimental flag to Signal Officer in Chief for safe keeping

1976 The hottest summer on record! 16 Sig Regt CO's conference!

1977 28 Sig Regt Winners of Army Cup Final 'in style'

From our "In" Tray

SILVER JUBILEE AND BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Our sincere congratulations to the following who received awards in the Silver Jubilee and Birthday Honours List.

CB
Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE

OBE
Lt Col A. C. Dexter
Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling

MBE

MBE
WO1 (Supt Clk) F. R. Lee
Maj W. C. Nicoll

MBE (Civilian List)
Miss Molly Hyde-Parker (formerly Senior Welfare Officer, Royal Signals Association)

BEM
Sgt (Y of S) M. Altham
Ssgt T. J. Avery (V)
Sgt R. Hancock

COMMENDATION BY 1st CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

[*Editor's Note:* We are glad to publish in full a Commendation Citation prepared by 1st Canadian Signal Regiment]

CANADIAN ARMY MOBILE COMMAND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CAPT WALLACE was employed in the 1st Canadian Sig Regt from August 1974 to October 1976 as System Control Officer with the responsibility for co-ordinating all operations and training in the Regiment's communication squadron. During his tenure in the job several innovative and evolutionary changes have occurred in land force communication philosophy. It has been largely due to **Capt Wallace's** ingenuity that the ideas have been translated into reality in the Regiment and now form a model upon which Canadian Armed Forces communication doctrine is being formulated.

When **Capt Wallace** first arrived in the Regiment, the unit had just returned from the Middle East and was in a rebuilding stage, having left much of its equipment in Egypt. A concept previously used by 4 Canadian Mechanised Bde Group, that of a communication centre, had been proposed and was being considered for implementation. This concept would considerably reduce the size of the communication element in a field headquarters, and thus the probability of detection by the enemy, by removing the majority of the communication equipments and concentrating them in a communication centre several miles from the Task Force Headquarters. The main problem in creating a communication centre in the Regiment was co-ordinating the communication components making up the centre and integrating them into a homogeneous, workable system. Once complete, working procedures and movement drills required definition in order that the centre could fit into normal tactical operations.

Capt Wallace was the main force behind the translation of the communication centre idea into a working entity in the Regiment and its integration into major field exercises. He personally supervised the building of several installations and conducted close liaison with research and development establishments who furnished new pieces of equipment. Of particular importance was the construction of a teletype exchange from local resources and the introduction of automatic telephone exchanges.

Using sound military judgment and knowledge of basic communication practices, **Capt Wallace** developed working procedures and movement drills for the communication centre and proved their viability on Exercise Rite Simple I, the first Divisional Headquarters size exercise in Canada since 1964. He commanded the communication centre complex on every major exercise during his tour. The procedures and drills which he developed have been adopted by Combat Groups and the communication centre project has precipitated a working group at NDHQ for development of communication doctrine. **Capt Wallace,** in his day-to-day work, commanded the respect of the entire Regiment, superiors, peers and subordinates. In his dealings with personnel from other units he acted tactfully but firmly to create a spirit of co-operation. His high degree of professionalism and devotion to duty combined with his exceptional ability brought credit to him and to the Royal Corps of Signals.

Capt Alan Wallace receiving a Commendation Certificate from Brig H. Hild, MBE, Commandant School of Signals, in recognition of his service to 1 Canadian Sig Regt while on exchange duty

MANY CONGRATULATIONS
Capt Nick Mayne, winner of the Wemyss Prize and the Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal for Professional Attainment on No 4 TEM Course, May 1976–May 1977. Seen here receiving his prizes from Brig H. Hild, MBE, Commandant School of Signals

INTERESTING 'FIRST' CLAIM

From: **Lt Col (Retd) E. A. Sinnock, FRVA, FRO**

Dear Sir,

You are always asking for interesting copy or copy slightly out of the ordinary, and some of your readers who may remember me may be interested to know that I have been elected National Chairman of the Institute of Rent Officers being inaugurated into the Chair at Caxton Hall during the Annual General Meeting of the Institute on May 27, 1977.

After 30 years' service first of all with 44 Div Signals TA, and subsequently Supplementary Reserve and, finally, in the Royal Coprs proper, I retired from the command of 11 Sig Regt having amalgamated the Depot Regt Royal Signals from Saighton Camp, Chester to 11 Sig Regt, Catterick. I retired from the Service in 1961.

For the record, despite what anyone else may have written or said, I was the first officer posted to Queen's Gurkha Signals when they were formed at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, then known as X Bde Sig Sqn.

After leaving the Service and various experiences I was appointed as the first Rent Officer for Hove and Portslade, Sussex. I was a founder member of the Institute of Rent Officers and have held the honorary post of Registrar since its inception.

My best wishes to old friends.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Sinnock

9 Palmeira Mansions,
Church Road,
Hove BN3 2HA.

From: **Lt Col D. A. Dickson**

The Editor,

In the April issue you published a report from me on the Freedoms of Cities and Boroughs, as a result I have received a letter from Col B. R. Wood, OBE, TD, DL, pointing out that I had omitted 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regt) TA from the list of regiments who have been awarded Freedoms. I would like to take this opportunity of apologising to Col Wood and all past and present members of this very distinguished Regiment for this omission.

In 1905, Princess Louise's Kensington Regt TA had been 'adopted' by the Royal Borough of Kensington and, in 1951, it was formally agreed that the Regiment should remain a ward of the Royal Borough in spite of the fact that it was then situated in Hammersmith. In 1959, the Regiment celebrated its centenary when it was granted the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Kensington, this was a particularly distinguished honour as at the time only two other Freedoms had been granted, one to Princess Louise and the other to Winston Churchill. The Regiment was the first unit in the Corps to be granted a Freedom. Sadly, as a result of numerous cuts and alterations in the Territorial Forces the Regiment has been reduced to 'squadron level' but still retains its honourable title as 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron in 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V).

Yours faithfully,
P. A. Dickson,
Historical Officer.

Royal Signals Institution,
Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
London SW3 4RH.

From: **Maj L. J. Taylor, MBE**

Dear Sir,

The Royal Signals Museum's collection of Formation Signs has recently been transferred into new display panels and we are very conscious that our display is incomplete. May I ask any of your readers who have shoulder Formation Signs and are prepared to donate them to the Museum to forward them to me at the address below.

Yours faithfully
Leslie Taylor.

The Curator,
Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RH.

When **Sgt Mike Burton** tells prospective recruits that motor sport is possible in the Army and especially the Royal Signals he is not kidding them. **Mike,** a Special Recruiter at the ACIO in Telford, Salop, is at present contesting local and national Autograss events in the car he built himself along with the welding help from **Ssgt Ted Stephenson** (REME). The car, now painted in Corps Colours, originally started life as a Hillman Imp but is now extensively modified and carries **Mike's** last three of his regimental number as its race number.

Sgt Burton is shortly to be posted to 8 Sig Regt where he hopes to join the local Autograss club and continue to fly the Corps flag.

LOOKING BACK

Report by Brig B. B. Kennett, CBE

PHOTOGRAPHS of the 'good old days' are mainly of interest to those who can identify the subjects—especially if the subjects include themselves; and perhaps 52 years is too far back for such interest, when most of those depicted will by now have 'gone aloft'. However, at least two of those shown here are included in the 1976 Retired List; and I hope that many of the others are still veteran members of Association branches. They were taken towards the end of a period when Egypt Signals teams were leaders in many branches of sport—among them athetics, cross-country, boxing and cricket.

Inter-unit boxing in those days differed from similar competitions today in that there was a wide gulf between officers and other ranks. The difference was emphasised in two ways: Officers wore vests, while other ranks fought stripped to the waist. For the sake of discipline [*sic*], officers and ORs were not allowed to fight one another publicly in the ring. Unit teams included three officers—catchweight, welter and light—who fought against three officers in the opposing team. Consequently, in order to make up a full unit team, officers with little boxing skill were often press-ganged into the ring, with no prospect of winning their fight, in order to earn a loser's point for their team. In the 1925 competition, for example, I was the only Signals officer who boxed because he liked it; **Owens** and **Patten** were reluctant volunteers, who gallantly took a bashing to help their team.

It was not until the early 'thirties that this stupid rule was deleted. I was stationed at Catterick then; and I had the experience of being the first ever Royal Signals officer to fight three 2-minute rounds with a Signalman in the Blood Tub ring, in an inter-Company competition. I believe I won on points; and there was no subsequent court martial when he made my nose bleed!

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM
Winners of Army Championship Egypt 1925
Left to right. Back row: CQMS Nichol, Sgt Carpenter, Sig Thomas, Sig Carpenter, Sig Ratledge, Sig Hunter, Sig Stillwill, Lcpl Clarke, Sig Samworth, Sig Soloman, Sig MacFrommel
Front row: Sig Gray, Lt Kennett, Sig Cauldwell, Sig Beeton, Sig Clarke

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS—EGYPT
Runners-up Command Team Boxing 1925
Left to right. Standing: Sig Soloman, Sig Dawson, Sgt Massey, Cpl Carpenter, Sig Richards, Lcpl Wales, Sig Matthews
Sitting: Sig Jones, Lt Patten, Lt Kennett, Lt Owens Sig Cauldwell

Movements

Officers

JUNE 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt R. Acott	32 Sig Regt (V)
Maj M. J. M. Alden	School of Signals
Maj G. A. Allen	MOD DM (A)
Capt (TOT) R. Banham	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. R. Bannister	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt C. W. Bone	RAPC Training Centre (Course)
Capt (Tfc) S. A. Brice	9 Sig Regt
Maj C. A. Brown	RMA Sandhurst
Lt D. R. Case	RAPC Training Centre (Course)
Capt J. R. B. Cook	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) W. Coxon	16 Sig Regt
Capt C. G. Cruickshank	School of Signals
Lt A. W. Cudlip	8 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) J. V. Culbert	241 Sig Sqn
Lt R. G. Dibley	RAPC Training Centre (Course)
Maj J. S. Doody	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. Mc D. Edgar	HQ 2 Signal Group
Maj G. A. Granger	5 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt S. M. Green	639 Sig Troop
Lt R. M. Gurr	22 Sig Regt
Maj D. G. Halliburton	9 Sig Regt
Capt J. P. Hayes	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. M. Hincks	HQ BAOR
Lt B. M. M. Jackson	16 Sig Regt
Lt A. Leather	11 Sig Regt
Col A. W. M. McKinnon	HQ 2 Signal Group
Capt C. H. Moody	10 Sig Regt
Lt M. C. O'Donoghue	School of Signals
Lt R. W. Palmer	1 A and SH
Maj E. W. Penny	DGGWL(A) MOD(PE)
Maj J. Radford	36 Sig Regt (V)
Capt P. Richards	216 Para Sig Sqn
Maj E. H. Sambell	MOD DSS(A)
Lt B. J. Scott-Morton	70 AYT
Maj T. N. Singleton	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. M. Sweetman	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. C. A. Thwaites	229 Sig Sqn
Capt J. C. Wollaston	11 Sig Regt

W.O.s and Sergents

JUNE

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 J. C. Banks	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
WO2 S. I. Elliott	8 Sig Regt
WO2 B. Greatorex	13 Sig Reg (Radio)
WO2 (Y of S) K. D. J. Donaldson	QATAR Security Force
WO2 (Y of S) A. A. Winstanley	10 Sig Regt
WO2 D. S. Berry	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
WO2 R. Benwell	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
WO2 (F of S) I. Forbes	Communication Project Agency Royal Signals
WO2 (F of S) R. S. Kidd, BEM	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) K. V. Austin	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
WO2 (F of S) H. J. Latham	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) D. J. Harries	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
WO2 (Supvr R) C. T. Honor	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt R. H. Iredale	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. H. Close	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. Semple	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt (Y of S) M. Altham	16 Sig Regt (HQ BAOR)
Sgt (Y of S) J. N. Gelling	22 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt (Y of S) D. Lomas	633 Sig Troop (Caribbean)
Sgt (Y of S) T. J. Evans	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt (F of S) H. G. Taylor	School of Signals
Sgt (F of S) S. M. Crowe	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt (F of S) G. B. Clark	22 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt J. J. M. Campbell	Aberdeen University OTC
Sgt P. S. Shotts	1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. G. Taylor	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt J. H. Willock	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sgt J. A. Woolley	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
A/Sgt C. Hayton	6 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt H. P. Smith	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Watson	NITAT
Sgt P. Brown	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Graves	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt R. B. Garvey	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt F. P. R. Coleman	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Rodgers	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt D. R. Toleman	48 Gurkha Field Force and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Mottram	1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. M. Watkins	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt G. J. Yates	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt R. Wilson	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt G. W. Graham	1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Bainbridge	633 Sig Troop (Caribbean)
Sgt G. D. McGrath	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Sgt A. Fleck	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Sgt C. G. Harris	5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Wheeler-Lilley	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt D. J. Stanbridge	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt J. Wharton	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Underwood	216 Sig Sqn (Para Bde)
Sgt D. B. Humphries	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. Robertson	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt M. R. Everett	
Sgt P. S. Drury	
Sgt V. Thomas	
Sgt B. K. Billsberry	
Sgt G. D. Crabb	
Sgt J. B. Connolly	
Sgt M. J. J. Kelly	
Sgt R. L. Gibson	
Sgt D. P. Jackson	
Sgt T. M. Witts	
Sgt K. V. Hawke	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. Buick	11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Hodge	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. H. Harris	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt W. Fryer	22 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt A. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Snowdin	School of Mechanical Transport
Sgt V. M. Buttery	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt P. G. Marvin	36 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. S. Burnett	HQ AFCENT Support Group (International)
Sgt M. G. Healy	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt A. J. Wroe	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt L. W. Downie	RSA Larkhill
Sgt A. J. Cerqua	School of Signals (Courses
Sgt S. J. Chalk	
Sgt M. Corcoran	
Sgt B. Greenwood	
Sgt J. Haldane	
Sgt J. T. Haycock	
Sgt B. E. Lawrence	
A/Sgt W. Wingate	
A/Sgt A. Edwards	
A/Sgt D. A. Gruncell	
A/Sgt D. Rodgers	
A/Sgt A. M. Scott	
A/Sgt D. C. Smedley	
A/Sgt D. L. Walker	
A/Sgt R. L. Waller	

Welfare

APRIL 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**29**
Number of clothing parcels	**33**
Amount spent	**£1,083.00**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£41.44**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

WIDOW of a Driver who served from 1939–45. She had always managed to pay her way without help from anyone, until recently her purse was stolen on a crowded bus. As this contained her rent money, she was very much distressed, and the Association made her a grant of £30 to replace the loss and put her straight. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

THANK you very much for your letter and the grant of £30. I am most grateful to you, because it would have taken me such a long time to replace the stolen money. You have taken such a weight off my mind.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of April, gifts of clothing have been received from the following:

WO2 Woods, Col P. R. Hoskins, Lt Col and Mrs D. A. Dickson, Bristol Branch of the Royal Signals Association, Col and Mrs I. G. Swan, Mrs V. P. Lightfoot, Wives' Club of 225 Sqn, Mrs J. Bradford.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1977:

	£
36 Hy AD Regt RA	8·50
56 Div OCA Branch RSA	10·00
Glossop and District Signals OCA Branch RSA	21·00
Reading Branch RSA	25·00
Shrewsbury Branch RSA	100·00
P. Drummond, Esq	2·50
W. R. Frazer, Esq	2·50
W. Gray, BEM, Esq (in memory of WO1 (RSM) R. A. McGregor)	5·00
Maj F. R. Partington	25·00
Col J. F. Worth	3·00
	£202·50

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

DEATHS

Bloodworth—Brig H. V. G. Bloodworth, CBE, MSM, enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1920 and transferred to the Corps shortly afterwards. He was commissioned in 1939 and served in Malta, North Africa, and Italy during the war. He retired in 1946 and died on May 16, at the age of 75.

Chamberlain—Capt Lionel Jack Chamberlain enlisted in the Corps in 1924 and retired as a Quartermaster in 1947. He died on April 21.

Epthorp—Sgt Alan Epthorp enlisted in Royal Signals in April 1965. He served in Cyprus, Northern Ireland, and BAOR, and died suddenly on May 23 at the early age of 32. He leaves a widow and two young daughters, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

FOR SALE

Complete Sergeants Mess Dress—as new. Worn only twice. To fit person with 42in chest and 36in waist. Apply: Cpl P. A. Radley, 'J' Troop, 19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7NZ.

Service Dress (No. 2) by Moss Bros. Height 6ft, Chest 43in, Waist 38in, Inside Leg 33in. Little worn and in excellent condition; SD Cap (khaki), by Alkit. Size 7¼. With badge and buttons. Clean and in good condition. Tel: Bristol 567839.

Attention ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

PERSONAL

All friends of Mrs Violet Smith (late RMAS) are asked to note her new permanent address, which is:
101 Penlands Vale, Steyning, W. Sussex BN4 3PL.

NEW OFFICER RECRUITING 'CELL' AT BLANDFORD

A NEW officer recruiting cell has been established at the School of Signals. It comprises an Officer Recruiting and Liaison Officer (ORLO), **Maj Francis Wilkinson;** an RO3 recruiting, **Lt Col (Retd) John Ellis;** and an attached officer, at present **Lt Jim Cadwallader. Lt Col Ellis,** no stranger to the School, having been the DAQMG up to his retirement in March this year, will provide the long-term continuity necessary in all recruiting teams. **Lt Cadwallader** leaves in July, and is replaced by **Lt Richard Mardo,** who arrives in September.

The cell began work in April, after the Easter break, and is now a permanent feature at the School, with an office in the Headquarters. It handles all individual enquiries, potential officer visits, arrangements for RCB and a host of related matters. The telephone extension number is 308, and anyone who knows of a potential officer should forward his name, with details, to the ORLO office. All the necessary follow-up action can then take place.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre

THE Centre's Engineering Support Group has occasional vacancies for Communications Technicians which may be of interest to ex-Royal Signals personnel with T1 or T2 qualifications and with digital communications experience. The Group supports a large data communications network serving distributed University/Research Council computing interests at speeds in the range 110–50K bit/s. Enquiries from appropriately qualified personnel seeking employment in the rapidly expanding field of computer communications are invited by

The Manager,
Engineering Support Group,
Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre,
James Clerk Maxwell Building,
The King's Buildings,
Mayfield Road,
Edinburgh EH9 3JZ.
or phone 031-667 1081, ext. 2604/2617

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES MOVES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 120 YEARS

AFTER nearly 120 years at the same headquarters where it was founded in 1859, the Corps of Commissionaires, the world's leading organisation responsible for finding jobs for ex-servicemen and women, has moved. Its head office is now at 3 Crane Court, Fleet Street, London EC4 (01-353 1125).

The Corps last year, despite the recession, filled a great many jobs of one kind or another. As well as the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force, its services are available to those who have served in the Police, Fire Service, Coastguards, Civil Defence, etc.

Col Geoffrey Pring, the National Commandant of the Corps, said: 'Increasingly businessmen throughout the country are realising the very high standards of loyalty and integrity available to them from ex-servicemen on their staff. This is one of the main reasons for the high demand. Increasingly, however, as times and needs change, many of our Commissionaires are being found work in 'civvies' instead of the familiar peak cap and cross-belted uniforms that have been seen at no less than 10,000 royal occasions since the Corps was founded.'

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

We always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free but limited accommodation. We are able to put applicants in touch with Divisions in major cities throughout the United Kingdom. Whatever type of employment *you* want we will do our best to suit you.

For example:
Exceptional residential posts available in Amersham, Bucks.
Hampstead, London.
Aylesbury, Bucks.
Hammersmith, London.

Commissionaire exclusive Jewellers in West End of London. £50+ neg. (Note urgent need for large impressive man.)
Reception. Hotel, W1. £60.
Supervisor of small staff, catering maintenance, courier service, WC1. £3,300.
Reception/Driver, WC1. £70.
Reception/Porterage, Kensington. £50+.
Security, Kingston-upon-Thames. £2,500+
Supervisor of domestic work, Library, SW1. £60.
Reception/Messenger, Albert Embankment, SE1. £52.
Several Drivers/Chauffeurs needed in the City. £3,000 approx.
Hall Porters, NW1. £43 p.w.
Reception/Drivers, Slough, Berks. £40+.
Security posts available. £60 approx.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

Men are advised to bring their Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

SHADES OF 1689

THOSE members of the Squadron with an eye to the future could be seen recently dashing about collecting such items as candles, extra tinned food and other goodies to withstand a siege. The words 'general strike' immediately conjure up pictures of meat wilting in inoperate freezers and families huddled around hexamine cookers. So far this stage has not been reached but it is rumoured that **Sgt 'Scouse' Davies** has already taken deposits on 6KVA generators! The Squadron has been particularly busy implementing various plans to cope with the situation including laying in extra stocks of beer! **Lcpl Cameron,** who runs the Oyster Club at present, has not yet rationed beer but proposes the 'one for you and one for me' system.

COMMANDER VISITS

The Squadron was pleased to receive a visit from the new Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE.** After a short briefing there followed a rapid walkabout which included all departments of the Squadron.

TM TROOP TAKE TO WATER

There is a story, hotly denied by the Foreman, **WO2 (F of S) Norman Cowell,** that he has become the first airborne voyeur after dropping in by helicopter on a suspicious car parked on a mountain track. Mike Troop has not been without its success this month. Hanging now in the entrance to Mike Troop is the Winner's Shield for the latest Driving Skills competition. **Ssgt Harvey, Lcpl Dave Johnstone** and **Sig Steve Garrish** defied the punters to beat the previous holders, QM Troop, by a comfortable margin.

Some members of the Troop recently took to the high seas. The opening trip of the sea-fishing season was, however, less than successful with little chance of any environmentalists complaining of over fishing. **Ssgt Carl Bellamy,** the guest angler, said of his one and only catch: 'The fish just jumped on to my specially-baited hooks'. **Sgt Dennis Mustard,** a veteran of three such trips, has still to break his duck whilst **Lcpl Jim McGowan** spent the time using his plastic catchbag as a raincoat. Later, when the catch was divided up, it is said that even the cats had difficulty in seeing the spoils.

Awaiting a flight
Left to right: Sgt Roper, Ssgt Bellamy and Pilot

Coaching on the indoor range
Ssgt Bellamy (*Master Coach*) helps Sig Brisk

Sig Martin begins the ascent of man to change some antennae

MISCELLANEA

Cpl Glen Baldwin is to be congratulated on his marriage and his dedication to duty by his return to work after only a four-day honeymoon. The Troop said farewell to **Sgt Pete Martin** recently who has gone to Hong Kong. **Sgt Martin** served 2½ years in the Squadron and will be missed both for his technical and sporting abilities. We wish him well and good luck in his F of S selection.

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

CHAMPION RETAINS TITLE

DVR **TED ABBOTT** retained his title as Northern Ireland Table Tennis singles champion. In the final his opponent, from 8 UDR, won the first game but lost both the remaining games to **Ted.** In the winner's words: 'It was a stiff fight—much harder than last year'. We trust that we shall be able to record a similar victory next year.

ARMY CUP SQUASH

After our report in April the Squadron squash team won their matches against Depot the Queen's Division and the School of Infantry, taking them to the UK final against 1 RHA. This they lost 1—4 after a hard struggle, but, neverthless, it was a magnificent effort for a minor unit's team to make such a good showing against all comers at this very competitive sport.

TENDER MOMENTS

During March the Brigade Commander carried out our FFR inspection, taking the opportunity to probe the inner workings of the Squadron and meet many of the men behind the scenes. **Sgt John Hughes,** of the power section, has been keeping rather more behind the scenes of late, possibly because of the generator which refused to start at the critical moment. Apart from this minor mishap the whole inspection went like clockwork.

Also in March seven men from the Squadron, **Cpl Jim Stott, Cpl Gus Hartin, Sig 'Scouse' Hogan, Ptes Andy Bishop, Kevin Galloway, Sig Marty Brewer** and their intrepid leader, **Lt Alan Poppleton,** went for a short ski-ing trip to Aviemore where the weather was changeable, the beer and company excellent—oh, and the ski-ing was pretty good. The motto of the course was 'out of control but looking good'; however, for most the degree of control improved as the backsides grew more tender.

THUMBNAIL PROFILE No 1—THE BACKROOM BOYS

Perhaps this profile should have been entitled 'behind the veil', as those it describes live in the holy of holies behind a locked door and a black curtain—you must have guessed: the cipher office. What actually happens in this inner sanctum is a mystery to most of us although the smell of tea does waft through from time to time. This ties in with the fact that **Cpl Lew Oehme** has been known to post tea-bags to himself. . . . Meanwhile, it seems that **Cpl John Goodman** is setting up a flourishing business printing his own leave passes, and **Cpl Terry McLoughlin** has recently gone into high finance behind the bar of the Horseshoe Club. We have no accounts of irregular activities by **Cpl 'Jock' Hogg**—which is very worrying. Obviously something of a dark horse! Next profile: The Radio Room.

BANDIT COUNTRY
Our rooftop merchants, Mick Halford and Tony Eager, on the roof of Albert Street Mill (recently demolished) guying an antenna—or is it removing a drainpipe?

ALL GO

AT the time of writing, the Protestant strike is still very much in progress, and although it has affected life in the Province very little so far, much additional work has come the way of the Squadron. The Spearhead Battalions came into the city over the weekend May 1–2, the mobile teams in Communications Troop and the Radio Technicians bearing the brunt of the installation work in operations rooms and talkthrough sites all over Belfast. At the same time the Quartermaster's staff have all been working very hard to keep up with the issuing of the reserve 'packs' of commercial radio equipment, and the load on the Commcen and Radio Room has rocketed. In many ways this is very much a 'Q' battle, with all the resources poised to meet power cuts, petrol supply failures, transport blockages and shortages of all kinds; this especially has contributed to the increase in signal traffic.

Our powermen have done sterling work, providing generators and cabling for standby power for the several ops rooms and unattended talkthrough sites which are without permanent standby facilities. MT Troop, as always, the unsung heroes, have been finding transport of all kinds at minimum notice right round the clock, and the administrators have helped greatly by taking much more than their fair share of Regimental duties.

HATCHES AND MATCHES

Happily, there are no despatches to report (other than the twice daily SDS), but we must congratulate **Cpl Brian Howe** and **Cpl Susan Sharman** (WRAC) on their recent marriage; **Mrs Sue Dobson** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Dobson** on the birth of a son; and **Mrs Joan Tiplady** and **Cpl Ivan Tiplady** on the birth of a daughter.

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

PRESENTATIONS BY CLF

THE Squadron has been busy the last few weeks with various activities. The inter-Troop quiz was won by NICAST—congratulations to them and to all the other teams on providing some splendid entertainment. And our thanks must be given to **WO2 Roger Courtney** who prepared the many hundreds of questions and acted as quizmaster.

As one of his final presentations, the retiring CLF—**Maj Gen D. T. Young, DFC**—presented **Sgt Garry Mason** with his BEM for his work in SHAPE, and **Ssgt Barrie Hives** with the LS and GC. Congratulations to them both.

Because it is so difficult to plan ahead over here, separate Troops are organising their own Jubilee celebrations. Commcen Troop are off picnicking down to Tollymore Forest near the Mourne Mountains and Admin Troop are planning a bid for freedom and going over to Stranraer for the day.

Left to right: Ssgt Hives, Mrs Hives (*wife*), Maj Gen Young, CLF NI, Mrs Mason (*wife*), Sgt Mason

AVIEMORE BOUND

During April two parties of eight went and stayed in Aviemore for a week. The first group, led by the RQMS, **WO2 John Hepworth,** managed four days' ski-ing and three days' good walking but the second party, led by the 2IC, **Capt Ian Morris,** were not so fortunate. They made the slopes the first day but then the weather turned against them and they spent the rest of the time visiting local areas and the local pubs!

At the time of writing the strike has not hit 233 Sig Sqn too hard except perhaps for the lack of bread. Certain married members of Comms Troop were overheard at one time complaining like little old women about the lack of this basic commodity, and how scandalous it was that one woman was seen coming out of the NAAFI with **two** loaves!

QUIET SPORTING SCENE

The sporting front has been fairly quiet these last few weeks but congratulations must go to the Squadron Four-a-side football team **(WO2 Nick Lynn, Ssgt Mick Huggins, Sgts Gus Hartley** and **Ricky Gordon,** and **Lcpl Bob McQueen)** who won the Garrison League. In mid-June the Squadron is holding the inter-Troop athletics match. A good chance for the athletes to show what they can do and a good opportunity for the non-athletes amongst us to laugh and cheer from the beer tent!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CYPRUS COMMUTERS

PATSALIDES TRAVEL

YOUR LINK BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE U.K.

PATSALIDES TRAVEL, the leading Cypriot travel agency, have opened a branch in London at 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

Now members of H.M. Armed Forces can arrange their personal and family travel requirements conveniently knowing that they are dealing with the specialists.

Flights are daily from Heathrow on scheduled British Airways and Cyprus Airways. Patsalides offer these special fares to H.M. Forces.

RETURN

Adult: £123.50; Children (2-12): £80.50
Infant: £13.00

ONE-WAY LONDON-LARNACA

Adult: £68.00; Children (2-12): £44.50
Infant: 10%

For further information, write, phone or call Mrs Cost at 01-263 4203. 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7, and Cyprus Offices at Limassol—119 Makarios Avenue, PO Box 1311, Tel: 051 53222. Larnaca—Kition Buildings, PO Box 395, Tel: 041 55301/2.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

—News from Headquarters—

Project Wavell–Fort Halstead

A NEW LOOK

FOR those in the Corps who have not yet heard, Project WAVELL has left JOCPT and is alive and well and living under a new disguise in Fort Halstead. Management changes recently have seen **Col Gordon Oehlers** replace **Col Tony Baker** as Project Manager for WAVELL and BATES whilst **Lt Col Tony Sammes** leads the recently-formed WAVELL Military Team. Not that the newness ends there, a Project WAVELL Implementation Team (PWIT) of Royal Signals Technicians and Operators has started to assemble in readiness for the WAVELL Trials which start at Blandford later this year. Chiefly concerned with the PWIT's activities are **Maj Bob Siderfin, WO2 (Y of S) Terry Mack** and **WO2 (F of S) Pete Davis.** Theirs is the task of running trials both in the UK and BAOR and demonstrating to the user that the system will work.

VISIT BY ACGS(OR)

We were fortunate enough a short while ago to receive a visit from **Maj Gen H. E. Roper, CB,** and he kindly presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 Mack** and **Ssgt Claffey,** the latter having since left us for sunnier climes. Another recent departure for the sun has been **Maj Tom Scarff** who is on his way to Dhofar. The troubles of WAVELL with its bits and bytes were as nought to the trouble the ethereal **Maj Tom** experienced with coloquial Arabic.

OTHER NAMES

As Fort Halstead features but seldom in THE WIRE notes a mention must be made of other members of the Corps working here. **Maj Tony Edmonds** continues to assist the Gunners in the BATES Team to understand the mystical wiggly amps whilst **Maj Bryan Postlethwaite** alternates between ADP for WAVELL and Wombling and Symboling with NATO in Brussels. **Ssgt Alan Forrest** has recently joined from the School of Signals to give **Maj Postlethwaite** a hand with the software. The author of these notes will shortly be replaced by **Maj Ian Penny** and it is to be hoped that **Maj Penny** will have time to appreciate the subtle delights of the rarified Kentish air on top of this hill and see WAVELL 'through to the 1980s'.

The reader could be forgiven for forming the impression that Project WAVELL is entirely run by Royal Signals. However, much of the analysis work has been done by other arms and RAOC clerks have contributed much to keep the paper flowing. The analysts assure us that it is they who control and order WAVELL thoughts—but for them the project would still live by imagination and passion alone.

OVERHEARD

If you think you know the solution to all WAVELL's problems, you are ill informed . . . and in the same conversation . . . the greatest danger with you scientists is that, left alone, you will develop solutions for which there are no known problems!

SHERRY AFTER PRESENTATIONS OF LS and GCs
Left to right: Maj Bowen, WO2 Mack, Maj Gen Roper, Lt Col Sammes and Ssgt Claffey

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

THE SCHOOL REGIMENT

A WELL-USED Army expression has returned to the vocabulary of The School of Signals, namely that of 'The Regiment'. It returned very quietly and with little fuss and became effective at the commencement of the summer term. The Administrative Wing of the School of Signals is now The School Regiment, School of Signals. Needless to say, the change of title produced a few 'aside' comments from the 'other' Regiment at Blandford, particularly when it was known discussions were taking place to produce a Regimental Flag and Tie and that a suggestion had been put forward to use the insignia of the 'Swan Uppers'.

NEW LOOK

Very few visitors to the School appreciate that behind the polished facade presented by the schoolmasters of Instructional Wing, the philosophers of Combat Development Wing and the whizz kids of Engineering Wing, there lurks the School Regiment grinding out the support in the form of manpower and hardware on which all of these Wings depend for their continued existence. The School Regt consists of RHQ, HQ Sqn, 1 Sqn (Training Support) and 2 Sqn (Trials) and is commanded by the former Admin Commandant, **Lt Col George Ferrier.** The principal changes stemming from the reorganisation have been to place 1 and 2 Sqns under command of the School Regt, day-to-day operational tasking of 1 and 2 Sqns, however, is still the responsibility of the Chief Instructor and Trials Director, respectively. The selected band of Warrant Officers, Senior NCO and NCO Instructors formerly referred to as 'corridor' personnel have now been formed into a new Troop called 'Division Support Troop' and are part of 1 Sqn.

HAND OVER AND ENGAGEMENT

Maj Ken Wright has recently arrived to take over from **Maj David Chappell,** currently attending his resettlement course at Catterick and is now settling down as OC HQ Sqn (ex-2IC Admin Wing). **Maj David Chappell** appears to be taking his resettlement very seriously and is to be congratulated on his recent engagement to **Miss Anne Stenhouse.** We wish them both a very happy and prosperous life together. One cannot pass on without mentioning two of the well-known personalities of HQ Sqn, **Lt Col Robby Laing** (QM Gen) and **Maj Mike Ham** (QM Tech), both of whom were most surprised by the change of title, this had its advantages.

1 SQUADRON

Commanded by **Maj Sid Falla** (ex-Training Support Sqn), went to Scotland in March to provide a welcome break from CQ officers, TE officers, Potential Foreman and Yeoman training support and to give the Squadron personnel a taste of the snow slopes.

WO2 (Y of S) J. Doherty recounts their experiences on Exercise Groundwave 1977.

Scotland the Brave

It was a beautiful, crisp day and the afternoon sun hung lazily above our heads as we made our way through the rugged glens of Scotland to Aviemore. It was with a sense of wonder and awe that we noted those famous places where history had so often been made, in blood. Perth, Glengarry and Killiecrankie to name but a few. Suddenly, the peace of my reverie was interrupted by **WO1 (F of S) Gerry Hunt** enquiring: 'Wasn't there a song about Killiecrankie?' Without a second thought I replied 'No'. If I had known what that 'No' was going to cost me, I would cheerfully have made up a song on the spot and sung it to him. For the rest of the week the pubs of Aviemore rang with the request 'Can you sing Killiecrankie for a Scotsman who has never heard it?' Finally in desperation someone sang it for him. Beer was bought and honour was satisfied.

The Lodge

But I digress, our home for the week was to be Rothiemurchus Lodge, tucked up in the hills 7 miles East of Aviemore. Two and a half miles of pot-holed track separated the Lodge from the road. It came complete with all amenities; central heating, drying rooms, kitchen, showers and dining room. There at the door to meet us was the advance party headed by **Ssgt (SQMS) Tom Ditch** and **Sgt Pat Quinn.** Exhausted after our journey, we enquired where we might lie down. This request was treated with contempt by **Maj Sid Falla,** OC Exercise. An hour later we were on the slopes and Exercise 'Break a Leg 1977' began.

To the hills

The next morning one body was left behind to help our ACC Cook, **Cpl 'Jock' McClory,** this job proved very popular as the week progressed. Everyone else went to the slopes to have their bodies claimed by instructors. We were divided into three groups: beginners, intermediates and experts. The writer was a bit put out to find himself in the beginners' class until we were introduced to our instructor, a beautiful New Zealand girl called **Lucy.** She had that refreshing candour which is so typical of our Commonwealth brethren (unfortunately, I can give no examples which the editor would not censor). Straight away the beginners' class swelled from two to six. So far as I could see there was now no incentive for me to progress to the intermediates' class and I therefore use that as my excuse for being the butt of the slopes.

Lucy's limbs

WO2 (SSM) Chris Davidson was quickly christened 'The Green Terror' as he hurtled down the slopes with his green anorak billowing behind him, looking rather like an escapee from a Batman serial. **Lcpl 'Polly' Perkins** who is famous for his rhetoric, suavity and the beautiful women he is seen around with, made an impression on Aviemore which will survive long after the ski championships have been forgotten.

In one day he cleared the Cairngorm nursery slopes with his ski-ing and the Red MacGregor pub with his singing the 'Flower

Next week they are going to let us go on the snow. Lcpl Irwin and Cpl Neale

Now, where is that needle?
WO2 (Y of S) Doherty

of Twickenham'. Under **Lucy's** expert tuition the beginners' class blossomed forth with two notable exceptions: **Lcpl Jimmy Mullan** and myself. **Sgts Lenny Payne** and **Denis Morgan** together with **Lcpl Albert (It's Magic) Allison** progressed rapidly and their week culminated in a slalom race which was won by our **Albert.**

The intermediates

The intermediate class after getting over their disappointment at not being selected by **Lucy** for her class, soon settled down and had a very good week's ski-ing. **SSM Chris Davidson** tried to get his name into the 'Guinness Book of Records' as the first man to come down the Cairngorms using the thumb-and-nose method. Unfortunately, he had his hat on at the time and this additional weight proved too much so his thumb gave way. We hope you get better soon, **Chris. Lcpl 'Paddy' Irwin** was the darling of the ski shop. If any one man could be said to have made a major contribution to the economic future of Scotland it must be him. **Sgt 'Paddy' Quinn** became an expert ski jumper more by accident than design. It was generally agreed that **Lcpl Bob Davies** made most progress in the week and he, in fact, won the slalom on the last day.

The experts

The experts were instructed by **'George'** who had the very difficult task of retraining two Majors, **Majs Sid Falla** and **John Gryspeerdt,** into accepting orders. We didn't see very much of them for, as befits their rank and station in life, they spent their time on the Olympian heights pausing occasionally to come down in a flurry of snow to visit us poor mortals below. All these visits were recorded by **Ssgt Alan Blagg** with his ever present, over candid, camera.

Sgt Morgan's soup kitchen
Left to right: WO2 SSM Davidson, Sgt Morgan, Maj Smart

Exercise ends

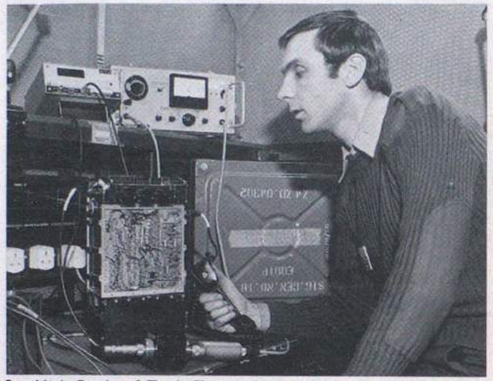
The last night was a huge success when **SSMs Chris Davidson** and **'Kojak' Stokes** organised a games night. This began with a quiz organised by **WO1 (F of S) Gerry Hunt** which the juniors won, much to the embarassment of the seniors. Honour was, however, later redeemed when the seniors won the games night by an overwhelming majority. That was Exercise Break a Leg 1977. We enjoyed it, we came back much fitter and much poorer, but we did learn a lot, and I'm sorry to tell you, Aviemore, that, given half a chance, we'll be back again next year.

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS SQUADRON) LOOK BACK

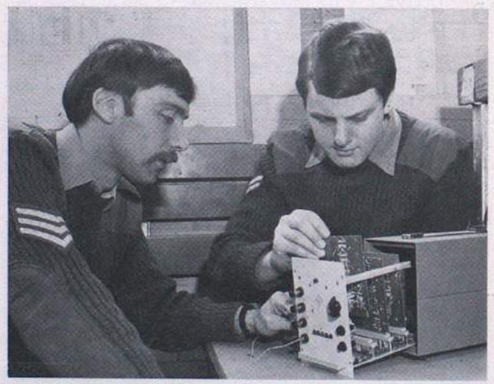
The Squadron is commanded by **Maj John Gryspeerdt** who rumour has it, is a renowed sailor. Some say his own boat has never been in the water—we all wait anxiously for the day the Squadron are invited to Poole Harbour for the grand launching.

THE TRACK RECORD

During the past 12 months Trials Sqn have completed approximately 100 assorted trials tasks. These have ranged from the User Trials of Clansman radios to the development of automatic cable testers.



Sgt Mick Brady of Trials Troop checking the output power of a UK/PRC-344 radio during battery life tests

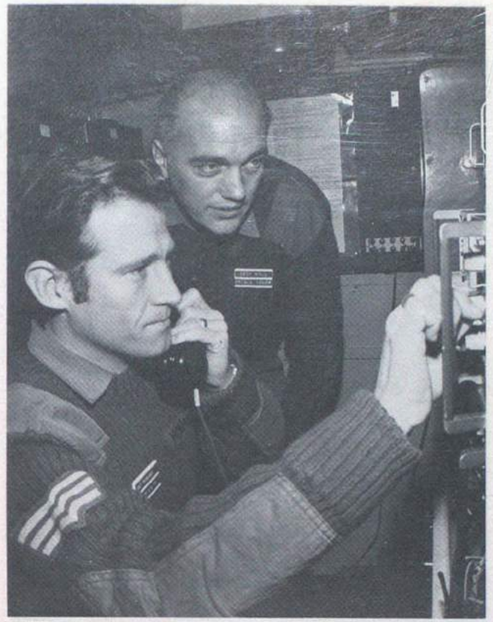


Sgt 'Tich' Manning (*left*) and Cpl Dave Hall, both of Development Troop, building a Bruin Remote Error Monitor Unit

LIGHTER MOMENTS

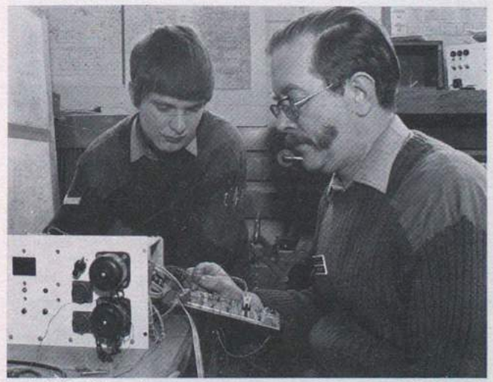
Apart from the hard work there have been lighter moments. **WO2 (Y of S) Rod Mansfield** and **WO2 (SSM) Ray Stokes** organised a grand summer camp at Willsworthy, Oakhampton. The Squadron were seen departing from Blandford with their caravans, fishing rods, sailing dinghies and climbing gear.

Lcpl Steve Hartley was seen thrashing many streams around Dartmoor to no avail whilst **Lcpl Mick Marsh** succeeded in capsizing the Squadron boat on Meldon reservoir on numerous occasions. Treks over the moors were organised by **Y of S Rod Mansfield,** ably assisted by **Sgt Dave Roderick.** The number of nights spent away from base HQ by the trekkers was an indication of the high-quality ale available in the local hosteleries.

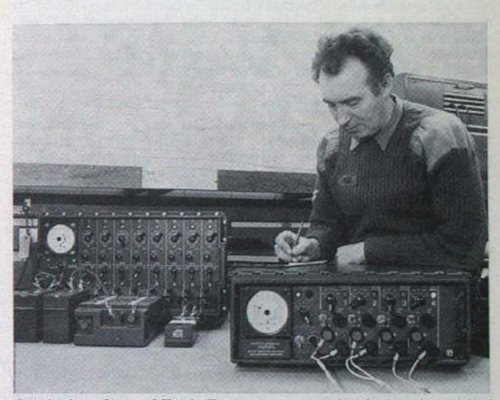


Sgt 'Mac' McMahon and Ssgt Chas Hall check out the Squadron Data Test equipment. This equipment is used to evaluate circuit and equipment characteristics for the transmission of high-speed data

Capt (TOT) Ernie Short watches the testing of a Bruin Remote Error Monitor Unit built by Sgt Graham Reynolds and Sgt Dave Courtenay (*right*). Capt Ernie Short is OC Development Troop, an organisation within the Squadron that is able to develop and produce a quick response solution to users' communications problems



Lcpl Colin Hattersley receives instruction from Ssgt 'CB' Croad-Brangwyn on the latest electronic techniques in integrated circuits used in the Automatic Cable Tester designed and built in the Development Troop laboratory



Cpl Arthur Gent of Trials Troop noting results during the trial of two battery chargers

GOODBYE LEW

November saw the departure of **Lt Col Lew Wood,** Trials Director. After drinks with the Squadron and the presentation of a silver condiment set by **Sgt Dave Challis, Lt Col Lew Wood** said farewell to all. In the evening the Officers of EI Division and Trials Sqn dined out **Lt Col Lew Wood** in the Officers Mess and made a presentation of a mock-up Land-Rover equipped with the Wood Loop Antenna. This was gratefully accepted together with an appropriate Trials Report.

XMAS FARE

With the hot summer days well out of sight the Xmas festivities began. A grand Squadron disco was held in the JRC and the hard work put in by **WO2 (F os S) Pete Appleton** and his team was rewarded by the success of the evening. Principle guests at the party were **Col** and **Mrs Jimmy Blake** (Col Engr) and **Lt Col** and **Mrs George Ferrier** (Admin Commandant).

FREEDOM OF BLANDFORD

After a quiet start to the new year the majority of the Squadron found themselves preparing for the Freedom of Blandford parade. **Capt John Doody** commanded the Guard of Honour and at least 40 members of the Squadron either marched or were conveyed by vehicle during the parade. After the parade, members of the Squadron joined in the main reception in Blandford Corn Exchange and consumed gallons of free beer.

HELLO/FAREWELL

We have said many goodbyes during the year but more recently:

Sgts Dave Roderick, Ed Saxton, Peter Johnson, Geoff Back, Cpl Alan Mountain, Sgt Mick Neville, Lcpl Mick Marsh, Cpl Ricky Cann. We welcome: **Lt Brian Meachin, Sgt Dicky Davis, Lcpls Colin Hattersley, David Anderson, Tam McKerracher, Cpl Ron Thomson, Sigs Bob Lane, Simon Strapp** and **Sgt Hanifin.**

Communication Projects Agency

School of Signals–Blandford Camp

A BAND OF 70 SOULS

MANY readers will have had contact with CPA representatives who travel worldwide in their tasks of planning, installation and inspection of SWS equipments. We are a band of some 70 souls, in eight project sections, based in Blandford Camp. We are administered by the School of Signals which takes a fatherly interest in our activities. Last year saw us active in 10 countries and over 200 overseas visits were arranged by our harassed WRAC officer, **Lt Shan Veillard-Thomas,** who now considers herself a candidate for the top job in Cook's Tours. Some of you will already have seen the free publicity given us by units who have included details of some of our projects in their own WIRE notes—we are grateful to them!

PRIDE OF PLACE

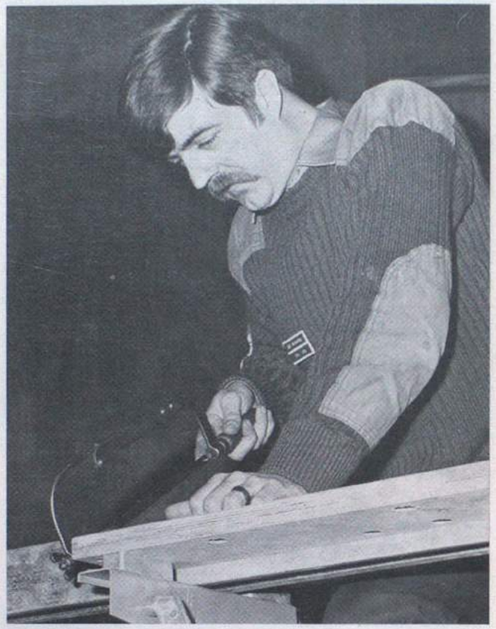
Space will not allow a full account of our doings so, on this occasion, we are giving pride of place to our General Installation Team. Judging by our task list, many consider that we have a bottomless pit of labour! This is not so and the team is limited to five technicians backed up by a tele mech, two antenna riggers and two metalsmiths. The team is commanded by **Ssgt (F of S) Fred Brown,** ably assisted by **Ssgts Sam Williamson** (REME) and **Dennis (Mr Stores) Mackin.** The jobs given to the team range from a few hours to several months. We illustrate the activities of some of our stalwarts in the photographs.

IMPERVIOUS TO JET LAG

Sgt Dave Bacon, seen adjusting a fuse and power panel, has been with CPA for seven years. He originally worked with the Auto Installation Team for 4½ years before joining the Projects Installation Team over two years ago. His work has taken him to Northern Ireland, BAOR, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Malta, Sharjah, Masirah, Bahrein, Hong Kong and Belize. He suggests that anyone thinking of applying for a job in CPA should be qualified as a T1 R Tech, RR Tech and TE Tech all rolled into one, and totally impervious to jet lag.

RESCUE OPERATION

Sgt Dave Rodgers joined CPA 3½ years ago and moved in September 1975 with the Projects Installation Team from its base in Worcester to the Transmitter Site at Blandford Camp. The photo shows him using his metalwork skills on one of the many jobs that have seen him in BAOR, Belize, Hong Kong, Malta, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and throughout the UK. His last trip abroad took **Sgt Bacon** and him to Belize where they installed the transmitter site and incidentally rescued **Ssgt Brown** who had left the UK in May for six weeks and still had not managed to tear himself away in October!

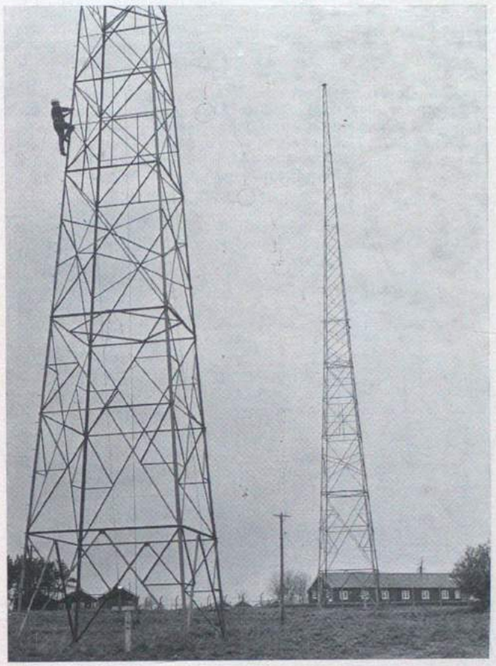


TOP OF LADDER

Sgt Peter Beavan is seen here working on a modem with **Sgt Rodgers.** He has been with CPA's Projects Installation Team for three years but his travels have been restricted mostly to Northern Ireland, North-West Europe and Cyprus. He feels that staying close to the UK gives him a better chance of retaining top place on the CPA squash ladder. He formed part of the team including **Sgts Bacon** and **Rodgers** which moved 3 Bde Commcen last spring and will shortly return to Northern Ireland on another major project.

HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

Cpl John Spencer has been with CPA for a year. Most of his working life is spent at dizzy heights in his role of antenna rigger, and the accompanying photo shows him in a typical pose. Many of his tasks have been in the UK but he did manage a trip to Belize in November. His return flight to the UK was interrupted by a short stay in a luxury beach hotel while he was grounded in Nassau because of aircraft failure. It was then a race against time to get him home before the arrival of his expected baby. We are happy to report his aircraft just beat his daughter to it, but his suntan was the envy of all!



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PERSONALITIES

Gp Capt G. R. Toull (RAF)	School Commandant
WO2 (F of S) James	Your scribe for the next two years
Sgt Robertson	Ace High Instructor
Sgt Morrissey	Ace High Instructor
Ch Tech Jones (RAF)	Satcom Instructor

FOR those not fortunate enough to have attended a course here in sunny Italy, first a brief outline of the school, which is within an Italian Air Force Base at Borgo Piave near Latina. NCS is some 80km south of Rome, 10km from the west coast and with Anzio only 25km away. Naples is some 180km to the south.

As those who have been to the school will have deduced, from the increased numbers of UK staff, we are developing into quite a sizeable organisation with the number and type of courses growing each year. The school trains technicians for NATO to work on the Ace High System and the Satcom System as well as running an increasing number of other specialist courses.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recent arrivals are **F of S Bob James** and wife, **Freda,** from BAOR and **Sgt Keith Morrissey** from the UK with **Sgt Dave Robertson** and wife, **Sheila,** completing the Royal Signals trio, having been here for a full year. Recently departed are **F of S Harry Latham** and wife, **Norreen,** who have left us to join 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish **Harry** and **Norreen** well in their new posting.

Soon we will see the arrival of a new Commandant as **Gp Capt Toull** will leave us in May to walk the corridors of power in Whitehall. We wish him and his wife, **Jenny,** *bon voyage* and every happiness. The new Commandant will be **Col G. Hickman** who is well known to our readers having spent many years with the Corps.

SPORT

We are sorry to inform members of the successful NCS 1976 soccer side that we are not doing as well as last year in the football competition organised in conjunction with our host Air Force Base, having lost three of the first four games. It is said in certain quarters that this is due to the fact that circumstances this year did not permit the arrival of 'The Big British Course' in time for the competition. However, the Corps is represented in our very international side by **Sgt Keith Morrissey.**

SOCIAL

There is now a British Services Club at NCS Latina with a club room in the Hotel De La Ville (the home of our British students), where British Military students can organise their social life. As time and funds allow we hope to develop the activities of the club with the help of the next Ace High course and their 'light blue' colleagues attending the Satcom course. Twelve Royal Signals students will attend the Ace High course initially, being joined later by a further eight, and these days we have a steady intake from 28 Sig Regt for other courses. We have recently opened a library provided from UK funds, and **Sgt Dave Robertson** has become so proficient at making library tickets and sticking ticket-holders into books that it is rumoured he intends taking it up full time.

That's all for what we believe to be the first contribution from NCS Latina but as the Royal Signals staff and student numbers are expected to grow even bigger there is sure to be more news for later issues.

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ANNIVERSARY OF PATENSCHAFT

THE occasion of the first anniversary of our Partnership parade [with 1 FMBtl (the 1st German Signal Regiment) was celebrated with a party in the Officers Mess for the German officers and their wives. Added ingredients to this party were a horse-racing game, subtly divised by **Maj Gordon Howard** with bicycles lent, begged and borrowed from his Squadron and a fitness session of Highland dancing organised by the Training Major. Everyone took to the floor and the Germans danced admirably, occasionally throwing in their own interpretations of 'och aye' together with a burst of Schuhplattler.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

Both Brigade Squadrons and an invited team from 1 FMBtl joined us for our athletics day in the Verden Stadium. 7 Armd Bde Sqn need not have bothered to return the winning squadron trophy since they again carried it off. The tug-of-war was hotly contested but produced no surprises and **Cpl Len Candon** was seen leading his victorious Line Troop (3 Sqn team) on a lap of honour.

Perhaps as a result of the cross-country training and CO's run, the long-distance races were well contested, although it was always for second and third places, since **Sgt George Holden** remains unbeatable. The most exciting race was undoubtedly the 4×400m where HQ Sqn closed the distance that 3 Sqn had opened and our new SSI pipped OC 3 Sqn on the line.

CSO VISIT

We were pleased to welcome the CSO, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** to the 1st Regiment, appropriately first on his curriculum of Unit visits. His first task was to present the Silver Comstar Award to the Static Commcen. **Cpl Sid Phillips** received this on behalf of the Commcen. He was then met on his arrival in Caithness Barracks by the Guard of Honour commanded by **Ssgt Dick Hamilton.** He toured the Squadrons and presented SSM 3 Sqn, **WO2 Bob Bates,** with the LS and GC.

After visiting 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, he returned to a Regimental Dining-in Night at which **WO1 (Y of S),** now **Capt, Derek Allen** was formally dined into the Mess. Our other guests were **Lt Col Keith Olds, Maj John Almonds** and **Maj Sam Cowan.** At the conclusion of the dinner, the Band of the PWO assisted **Capt Chris Speight** to produce from the officers a choral offering that would not have disgraced any Welsh Eisteddfod. Even the Traffic Officer, **Capt John Ankers,** is believed to have split his sides with lusty singing, although some say this injury occurred later on in the evening.

EXERCISE FIGHTING EAGLE

We took to the field on Monday, May 2, after a weekend in which 2 Sqn spent recovering from the farewell party given to **Sgt John Lee** on completing his 22 years' service. The exercise itself progressed in great leaps and bounds to an area in Hochsauerland, well out of the Recce Officers' reference book. Once Main had established for the weekend in an enormous Schloss in Oberhundem, we undertook some additional training with two RAF Wessex at our disposal. Over 200 in the Regiment were given stage-1 training including roping down from about 30ft. Commcens and Radio Villages were attacked or reinforced according to the scenario, although it was Commcen 'Charlie' that eluded the pilots for some time owing to some excellent camouflage. Commcen 'Charlie' also tried very successfully to elude visits by VIPs! The job of the last vehicle to the site is always to pick up the signs into location. On this occasion the signs were put out no less than four times for the benefit of VIP drivers and a succession of vehicles that had either previously broken down or were coming in on an admin run constantly removed them. They brought them back up to the site thinking they were doing a great favour!

Meanwhile, down in the village at Main, we took on the local team at football, and organised an officers *v* signalmen match with the officers hopelessly outstarred apart from the occasional flash of brilliance.

We entertained the SO in C together with CCR Signals, the COs of 2, 4 and 7 Sig Regts and many other guests on Sunday to a curry lunch in the Baronial Hall of the Castle. It has been a tradition in past years to play him in to lunch. Last year it was an accordion, this year a tuba with a superb 'come to the cookhouse door' rendering (we think) by **Capt Robin Holland-Smith.**

1 DIV SKILL AT ARMS

Our team again won all the major prizes at the Divisional Skill at Arms meeting held on the ETR ranges at Hohne. Unperturbed by the Prime Minister's visit, the team shot steadily although a 'dropped' shot or two during the SMG shoot gave us a very close run with 1 DWR in competition for the General's Cup. Our 'B'-class shots led by **Cpl Colin Peck** were consistent and **Sig Gordon Poole** was both the 'B'-class pistol champion and runner-up for the Young Soldiers' Cup. The final total of prizes in addition to this was impressive:

WINNERS	GOC's Cup	LMG Pairs
	Roupell Cup (SLR)	Pistol Team
	LMG Team	

Lt Scott Ewing receiving the GOC's Cup on behalf of the Shooting Team

HISTORICAL CORNER

Here is a photograph submitted by **Mr C. Baker** who visited 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt some time ago. **Mr Baker** was a DR in Burma in a Troop commanded by the previous SO in C, **Gen Sawyer.**

Pieced together, the photo shows the winners of the first ever Army motor cycle championships held in 1937 at Aldershot. It is the School of Signals team showing: **Capts T. E. Dobson, R. Yolland, Smith Wyndam** and **Sig C. Baker.**

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

STOP-GO

APRIL for 2 Sqn was something of a 'stop-go' month. Whilst the thoughts and activities of many turn with increasing regularity towards the Regiment's impending move to BAOR there are still plenty of commitments (HQ RA exercises, Ten Tors, and equipment disposal, for example) in Bulford to keep us occupied.

April 6 was the occasion for our Squadron Smoker, which took the form of a Juniors *v* Seniors games night. A good time was had by all and the outcome, victory for the Juniors, was never seriously in doubt. The culmination of the evening was the usual 'boat race'. In spite of the expected professional performances of such stalwarts of the art as **SSM 'Sid' Crumbie** and **Sgt Pete (Splodger) Whitham,** together with a mettlesome performance from the team's youngest member, **Lt Bob Holmes,** the Seniors were clearly beaten. Although fielding some of their new and promising talent, such as **Sig Keith Williamson** and **'Geordie' Parker,** the Juniors, under the direction of **Spr Ray Croft,** their anchor man, were never really in difficulties.

Special mention, for endurance, must be made for **Maj Peter Dale** and **Spr Ray Croft,** who were last observed in the early hours discussing the relative merits of Signals and RE Signallers.

COMPLEXION CREAM

Exercise Second Barrel took place in Catterick from April 25–28. The full Regiment was deployed to exercise HQ 6 Field Force and HQ 19 Airptbl Bde (in its field force role). A control headquarters was set up near Catterick in windswept Bellerby Camp where Main and Logistic Div HQ remained throughout the exercise. Commheads were loaned to 6 Field Force (late 16 Para Bde) who, we hope, benefited from the experience! Our lads say they now know much more about the effects of camouflage cream on the complexion. From the 2 Sqn point of view the main commitment was VHF, involving Alpha Troop, although Bravo Troop ran their normal message centres, both with the Regiment and one of the Field Forces.

CORPORALS MESS REPORT

Reported by Cpl 'Paddy' Goslyn

As previously reported, the JNCOs of 3 Div finally have their own Mess, opened in February, with **Cpl Keith Bates** as PMC and myself as PEC. Our first two dances seem to have been a success. We had some complaints to begin with from our RCT friends who did not relish the idea of joining a 'Bleeps' Mess but now form one of our main drinking teams. The current committee ended their terms of office with a very successful Cabaret evening and we believe **RSM 'Sandy' Reid's** shoes are still wet after that evening! the Mess is running smoothly now under a new committee and is being supported through the week by the regulars **Cpls 'Big Dave' Higgins, 'Jonah' Jones** and **'Snoopy' Richardson.** On behalf of the Mess I would like to end by thanking **WO2 'Paddy' Boland** for all his help in 'getting us off the ground'.

CORPORALS MESS IN SESSION
Members of the newly-opened bar sampling the beer
Left to right: Cpl Buckley, Cpl McShane, Lcpl Bromet, Lcpl Stachini, Lcpl Bowman, Cpl James, Lcpl Ashworth, Lcpl Ward, Lcpl Turley

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Ray Bell, and RSM Sandy Reid. Sharing a glass with Natalie, the NAAFI Manageress, in the recently-opened Corporals Mess

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INTO BATTLE

IN the Herford Garrison there is a group of hard-core fanatics who delight in ruling the destiny of armies of men. These fanatics are members of the Garrison Wargame Club who meet every Wednesday evening at 7 Sig Regt to fight battles from ancient times to battles that have yet to be fought. Each member has brought his own speciality to the Club, in order to spread the gospel of his particular period of military history.

There is **Lt Colin Whittaker** who specialises in World War 2 and refights battles from Normandy, Arnhem and the Rhine crossing. His other sphere of interest is Modern Armoured Combat, post-1970. Many of the members are following up this interest and are establishing their own Russian Motor Rifle Regiments and allied battlegroups. **Ssgt (F of S) John Jones** is the Club's resident 'Napoleon' and commands a division of troops which frequently beat the British. Moreover, he has represented the Club at a meeting in Dusseldorf, along with **Pte Andy Gibbs,** where they fought some Americans who were commanding a British Army—again the French won!

Left to right: Sgt Mick South, Sgt Dave Barnett and Cpl John Tindall with an Ancient Battle in progress

Cpl John Tindall annotating which of his horse archers are casualties after a charge by Moorish light cavalry in the Ancient Battle

DISASTER

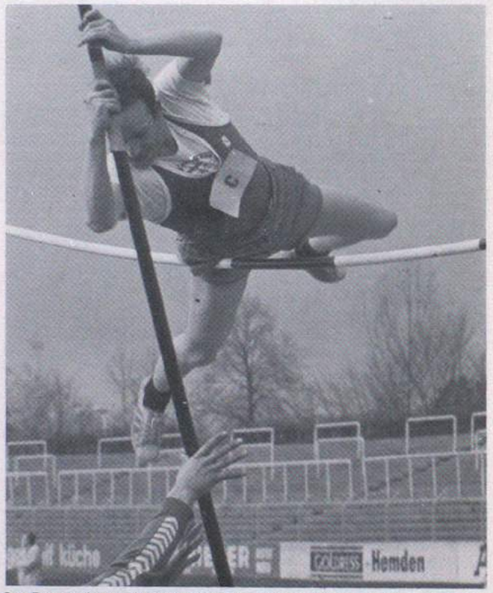
Cpls Dave Barnett and **John Tindall** are the Club's answer to Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, respectively. They both command a large colourful army of 15-mm figures expertly painted. **John** is a newcomer at the moment but is quickly getting to grips with **Dave's** Roman legions, even if he did charge his heavy cavalry across a stream with diastrous results. **Cpl Benny Bennington** has introduced the Club to micro tank warfare of World War 2 and is aiming to be the Club's answer to Rommell. Meanwhile, **Gnr Harry Harrington** is keen to become the First Sea Lord of the Club with his modern naval wargame.

AN INVITATION

Finally, there is **Cpl Pete Turner** who, although a newcomer, is enjoying himself and already proving to be a difficult opponent. We are hoping to get new opponents and players from within the Corps, so if you are at all interested please contact **Lt C. J. Whittaker** at 7 Sig Regt.

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS MEETING

It should have been no surprise to anyone that Wednesday, April 13, 1977, was a wet and cold day in Nordrhein, Westphalia. For it was on that day that 7 Sig Regt held its Page Trophy athletics meeting at the Jahn Stadium, Herford. The bad weather didn't daunt the spirits of the athletes or the spectators. On the track, inundated with puddles, the usual names took the prizes—**Haldane, Gue, Samm, Bain, Arunasalon, Campbell**—but in the field events some new names appeared; **Sig Marsden** (3 Sqn) won the long jump and **Sig Eric Forster** took the discus medal. The weather did brighten up for the prize-giving, carried out by **Mrs Christine Topple.** The end of a wet but enjoyable and useful day.



Sgt Francis Kelly (3 Sqn) dosen't quite make it at the pole vault

Sig Wayne Basnet takes the tape from Lt Keith Pritchard in the 100 m

Cpl John Gumbs hands over to Cpl Nigel Samm, who is chased hard by Sgt Iain Haldane

RUGBY REVIEW

Club captain:	**WO2 Keith Zoing**
Club treasurer:	**WO2 Jim Adam**
1st XV captain:	**Cpl Clive Blackburn**
Club secretary:	**Sgt 'Taff' Maybank**
Trainer:	**Ssgt 'Paddy' Black**

Once again the Club can look back on a good season, winning the 4th Division Cup and seven-a-side competition and reaching the semi-finals of the Army Cup and BAOR seven-a-sides. This season we regularly fielded two and sometimes three sides, thanks in no small way to the efforts of **'Taff' Maybank,** our fixture secretary.

Whilst space does not permit me to name the many stalwarts who have contributed to the success of the Club this season, here are just a few of the players who have played regularly for the 1st XV. **Lt Keith Pritchard, 2 Lt Ian Foxley, Sgts Bill McConnell, Trev Johnson, Stu Gray-Cowan, Terry Beard, Ray Smith, Cpls Charlie Abbott, Sammy Samm, 'Head-banger' Jefferies, Brian Thompson, Bob Lewis, Lcpl Steve Green, Sigs Wally Bacon, Rick Forster** and **'Taff' Williams.**

We are fortunate in the Club to have such a good bunch of supporters, many of whom travel considerable distances to watch the team. In particular **Ssgt Mick Kynaston** and **Sgt Terry Whitehill** rarely miss a game, ably supported by the ladies of the Club who are always ready to offer opponents and referees good advice on the finer points of the game. Finally, a word of thanks to the unsung heroes, the committee members who put a lot of hard work and effort into the running of the Club. Thank you all.

BAOR THREE-MAN TEAM FENCING CHAMPIONS 1977
Lcpl Dave Penington, Lcpl Chris Lumley, WO2 (QMSI) Eddie Davies

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8 SIG REGT FAREWELLS

TWO 'personalities' are leaving the Army after many years of service with the Corps.

Maj Bernard Hodgson, 2IC of 8 Sig Regt, joined the Army in 1955. He has served in the UK, BAOR (with 7 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt) and in Cyprus, where he completed tours with 261 Sig Sqn and 15 Sig Regt. Previous to joining 8 Sig Regt he was SO2 Sigs, HQ Northern Ireland. Well known in the Corps as a keen golfer, **Maj Hodgson** is becoming a golf club manager and we wish him every good fortune in his 'second career'.

WO2 (F of S) John Hill, known to readers of THE WIRE for his 'Beauty spots of Catterick' and 'Where are they now?' series is 'going civilian' after 22 years. **'Nobby'** joined up in 1955 and, after training as a TE Tech, served in the UK, BAOR, Singapore (1966–69), Cyprus (1969–71) and for nine months in Masirah with 603 Sig Troop. In 1976 he came to 8 Sig Regt where he has been working with Audio-Visual Aids Group and, in his spare time, fighting hard for recognition of volleyball as an official Army sport, besides playing in the inter-Services team. All the best for the future!

CATTERICK SPORTS PERSONALITY—No 8

SGT JIMMY TIERNEY's football career started with him representing the Dublin Schoolboys against Belfast Schoolboys at the age of 15. Two years later he played for the Republic of Ireland Youths against England, Belgium and Wales. An impressive start — no wonder the Army lapped him up when he applied to join in 1963!

His first tour was in Germany where he played in the BAOR team, this being followed by two years with 253 Sig Sqn in Hong Kong where, judging by the success of the various teams he played in, he spent most of his time doing football. He captained the Army Hong Kong team from 1966–68, their opponents including such distinguished visitors as Stoke City, Everton and Sheffield Wednesday. He also represented the Hong Kong Combined Services team, was a member of the 1967 Combined Army/Police team, which played a combined Chinese team and besides all this still found time to captain the 1967 253 Sig Sqn side which won the Hong Kong Minor Units Division 1 League, the Hong Kong Minor Units League Cup and the Hong Kong Seven-a-side Tournament. In 1968 he went to 22 Sig Regt where he captained the BAOR team for three years. He came to 8 Sig Regt in 1972 with the result that we won the 1975 Army Challenge Cup, the King's Cup, the NE/NW District Cup and were runners-up in the inter-Services Jubilee Cup! We then lost him for a year to Northern Ireland where he captained 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn team and won the Army Minor Units Challenge Cup, the Province's Minor Units League, Minor Units Cup and Six-a-side Cup! He also captained an Army Northern Ireland team against the Irish Universities. Throughout his Army career he has played for the Corps on numerous occasions including this season when the Corps team won the inter-Corps Quadrangular Tournament for the first time in the nine years that it has been going. Like all good Army sportsmen, he also plays many other sports, having represented his various units at athletics, cross-country, swimming and water polo. Somehow he finds time for other sports too, such as golf, tennis and badminton. He recently returned to the Regiment from Northern Ireland and can rest assured that his wealth of experience, not only on the playing side of football, but the coaching side, too, will be well used. Nice to see you back, **Jimmy**—we look forward to a successful season!

RUGBY 1976-77—REPORT

The end of the 1976–77 season brings to a close a most successful session for 8 Sig Regt RUFC. The 1st XV, with support from the 2nd XV and all other 'rugby buffs' in the Regiment, won the Army (UK) Challenge Cup, were runners-up in the Army Challenge Cup and won the North East/North West Districts Cup. Apart from the cup-run, a good fixture list was maintained throughout the season including such teams as Middlesbrough Wasps, Headingley Wanderers and Cockermouth (the Cumbria Champions).

We were also represented in seven-a-side competitions, North East/North West District (where we unfortunately lost the cup but won the plate), the Army Sevens (where we reached the quarter-finals) and the Huddersfield Sevens (the first time a Signals team entered for many years—again we reached the quarter-finals). At this time, the fixture list for the 1977–78 season is being prepared and looks good, our cup successes bringing in several good fixtures (even Gosforth—but, fortunately, only the Greyhounds!).

We will be having another crack at the Army Cup and, next season, will take part in the Yorkshire Trophy—plus, of course, the social and enjoyable fixtures. This report would be incomplete without mention of our guide, boss, chief whip, *fixer extraordinaire,* etc, etc, **Capt John Grigsby.** He leaves us before the season starts, en route to 9 Sig Regt—he vows that even if they have the best side in the Army, he will not get involved in rugby! To **John** (and his grass widow, **Nan**) we say 'thanks a million—without you at the helm we would never have got as far as we did'.

The final message is: 'if you're en route to 8 Sig Regt and play rugby, even at novice standard, bring your boots—we'll provide the rest'!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The Army Soccer Cup Final of 1930 between 4 Div Sigs and the Sherwood Forresters was, so rumour has it, the first time that the Corps got through to the Soccer Cup Final—we lost 1—2! This photograph was sent to us by then **Lcpl Reg Spencer,** who joined up in 1925 and after various postings including China, left in 1946. But where are the others now?

4 DIV SIGNALS 1930–31—COLCHESTER
Right to left: Shillebaer, Davies, Robson, Palmer, Ball, Dalzeil, Edge, Marshall, Brunt, McClelland, Spencer

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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3 Squadron Buddy System!
Left to right: Back row: Sgt Aldridge, Mr Barraclough and Lt Llewellyn
Front row: Sig Aldridge, Sig Barraclough and Sig Llewellyn

3 SQUADRON BUDDY SYSTEM AT WORK!

The photograph shows **Sgt Brian Aldridge, Mr Jack Barraclough** and **Lt Dave Llewellyn** standing behind their namesakes who are all in the same Troop in 3 Sqn and are: **Sigs Gary Aldridge, David Barraclough** and **Steve Llewellyn.** We nearly made it an accumulator but **Sgt John Bradford** posted **Sig Bradford** out of the Squadron before the camera caught the group. Where else can a trio of young, eager telegraphists be looked after by such a trio of young, eager cadre!

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES?

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 53

VISIT OF SO in C

ON Thursday, April 28, we were pleased to welcome the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE,** to the Regiment. He spent the whole morning looking at every part of the Regiment and talking to as many soldiers as possible. He presented the LS and GC to **Ssgt Peter Sharpe, Sgts Arthur Pittock** and **Dave Armstong,** and stayed in the WOs and Sgts Mess for lunch, seeing many familiar faces in the process. During the afternoon, and in pouring rain, he was taken on a tour of the OP's checkpoints manned by soldiers of the 1 Bn the Royal Irish Rangers. A long day ended with a Regimental Dinner Night in the Officers Mess.

Spot the deliberate error
Col (?) Tighe takes a look at Turkish positions from a sharp-end OP

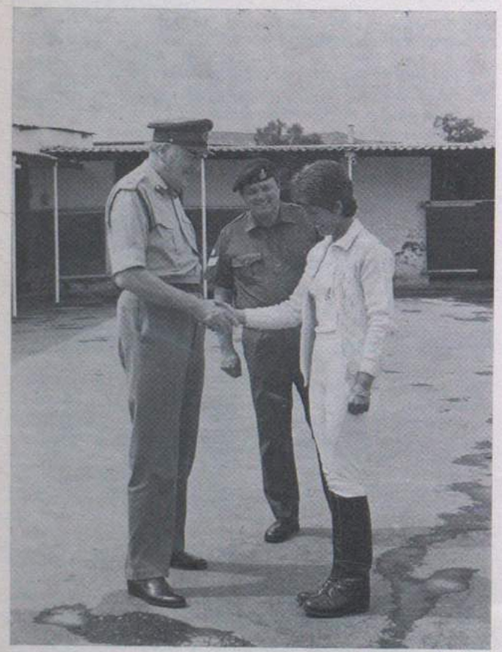
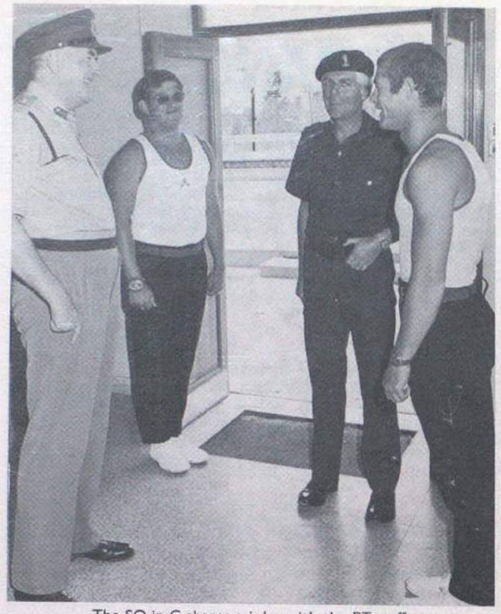


Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson
The SO in C meets the boss of the Saddle Club, Mrs Jane Wells, her other half, Ssgt Terry Wells, looks on



The SO in C shares a joke with the PT staff
Left to right: SO in C, WO2 (QMSI) Pete Perrott, Lt Col R. K. Ward (CO), Lcpl Nev Moore

ALL CHANGE

There have been so many postings in and out recently that we are beginning to wonder if AG11 and Manning and Records have found a new box of pins. To whom it may concern, 'Hail or Farewell'. I shall mention the odd personality, and by a stroke of good fortune I just happen to have a photograph or two also.

Goodbye and good luck to **WO2 (RQMS) Norman Mortimer** and to **Ruth** his wife, thanks for all the hard work in the Mercury Theatre Club. Oh yes—and as RQMS, and may you both enjoy Lisburn.

Farewell and also congratulations to **Capt Bob Taylor** and **Capt Wally Hammonds,** shown in the photograph being evicted from the WOs and Sgts Mess prior to their receiving the Queen's Commission.

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson
'WE'VE BEEN THROWN OUT OF BETTER PLACES THAN THIS'
Left to right: WOI (Supvr R) Tom Cooper, Ex-WOI Bob Taylor, CPO (CRS) Keith Yallop, Ex-WOI (F of S) Wally Hammonds, WOI (SC) Ian Ryder, WOI (RSM) Bob Wade

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

CHANGE OF COMMAND

THURSDAY, March 24 saw the final hand-over of Command of the Regiment from **Lt Col Dick Nice** to **Lt Col Peter Goldney.** Drinks were organised in the Bruno Club. The departing Commanding Officer was then pulled out of Camp by the Regiment's WOs and Senior NCOs from the Bruno to the Guardroom, the route being lined by soldiers and WRAC, to his waiting staff car where he was seen off the premises by **WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton.**

Lt Col Dick Nice hands over command to Lt Col Peter Goldney under the watchful eyes of Bruno

HQ SQUADRON (Hounslow)

Due to the closure of the NAAFI Club, the Bruno Club was asked to organise a function for the whole Garrison. **Lcpl Dave Jones** did his usual gathering of Stars and produced **Frank (It's the way I tell 'em) Carson,** the **Fantastics** singing group, **Mel Peter's Disco** and **The Nomads Musical Group** Ali Baba alias **Sgt 'Bernie' Burnett** and his thieves, **Sgt Eric Stout, Frank Duerden** and **Mr Peter Scotting,** ran a most successful bar and a handsome profit was made for the PRI. A buffet of scampi and chips rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

On the Bruno side the new PMC, **Cpl 'Jock' Thompson,** and his committee still maintain the very high standard of entertainment we have come to take for granted. Our last cabaret being a group called **'The Gentry'** and **Jim Bowen** (Star of 'The Comedians'). Well done to all who assist in these ventures.

RSM TO THE FORE

On the sports side the RSM, **WO1 Danny Lamerton,** is spearheading the HQ Sqn to success in the inter-Troop sports league with successes in football and badminton. **Cfn 'Paddy' Rafferty** who was often seen racing around camp in an attempt to rake up a team has been replaced by the RP NCO, **Sgt Frank Duerden,** who has the added advantage of a large stick to herd the 'volunteers' towards the gym.

We say goodbye to **Cpl 'Taff' Morgan** who leaves on posting to Cyprus and wish him well in his next posting. Also **Sgt Bernie Burnett,** our 'Jack of all Trades', is leaving us for HQ AFCENT. How will the Regiment manage without him!

HM CUSTOMS RUNNERS-UP

As the football season has now drawn to a close, we can confidently look back on our achievements in this field. Owing to the overall effort of the players and the coaching of manager, **Sgt Brian Slavin,** our team managed to come runners-up in the Londist Minor Units Cup Final, the result being decided on penalties after a two-all draw. However, on a happier chord, we did console ourselves in winning the double in the Hounslow District League by finishing top of our Division and defeating HM Customs Lapwing side to take the Jubilee Cup (watch your duty-free's next time you come through Heathrow). After 90 minutes the score was 4—1 to the Regiment with goals from **Cpl Dave Cairns, Lcpl Neil Leyland** and two goals from **Sig 'Jock' Graham.** The game was very competitive and fast with ground being given by neither side due to very good man-to-man marking of both teams. However, we did manage to break the deadlock and score our four winning goals.

LOYAL FANS CONTRIBUTE TO LEAGUE RECORD

It is felt that our league record deserves a mention, having played 20, won 18, drawn 1, lost 1, goals for: 84, goals against: 14. Our congratulations to leading goal scorer for the season, **Lcpl Neil Leyland,** who scored 24 goals overall. Many thanks to our loyal fans whose support it seems was beneficial to our victories. We look forward to another successful season in '77/78.

1 SQUADRON WILTON QUIETLY ACTIVE

1 Sqn at Wilton, have as always been quietly active on all fronts during April 1977. **Lt Sue Baker, Ptes Pam Moss, Chris Frost, Janice Stier,** and **Gill Legge** took part in Exercise Soft Pedal at Warminster, providing not only the femininc element but a touch of realism also. So well did they play their parts of 'riotous villagers' that the Guard Dogs were required to 'quell' them, resulting in **Pte Gill Legge** being nipped but, fortunately, not seriously.

The Junior Ranks Fancy Dress Dance has created much activity in the preparation of outfits and some strange sights are to be seen festooned around the rooms. Already we are into the swing of collecting for The Silver Jubilee Appeal. **Sgts 'Pip' Vaughan** and **Jo Jones,** plus seven others joined the inhabitants of Wilton for a very enjoyable 15-mile sponsored walk.

Comings and goings continue and during April we bid farewell to **Ptes Jackie Adam, Cheryl McGovern** and **Aggie Gray** who have gone to the 'sharp end' as Searchers in Northern Ireland, and to **Cpl Lucas,** posted to York; we say welcome to **Sgt Rena McGreggor,** the Dare Devil Parachutist from Blackdown, and to **Y of S Bird** from the School of Signals Blandford.

Honours and awards continue to come our way and the Commcen at Larkhill are to be congratulated on the Award of a Bronze Comstar.

All activity is now directed towards the WRAC summer camp planned for May.

3 SQUADRON—ALDERSHOT—CLIMB HIGH

In the above picture are seven members of the 'trembling ten' who are about to start their first rock climb at Sennen Cove, during an adventure training exercise based at Penhale Camp.

They are *(left to right)* : **2 Lt Stephanie (Super-sub) Westall, Lcpl Helen Abbott, Ptes Leslie Canham, Aileen Beattie, Julie Parrett, 'Diddy' McCabe** and **Jeanette Wesley.**

'Diddy' was heard to cry as she disappeared over the edge of her first abseil, 'My mother does'nt know I'm here!'

The party also included **WO2 Carole (Can you cook poached eggs?) Austin, Sgt Kathy (I've got a new car) Gemmel, Ptes Liz Finney** and **Jan Stier** who joined us from 1 Sqn. Apart from terrifying themselves during rock-climbing, the 'trembling ten' tried hard but failed miserably at drowning themselves whilst surf canoeing!

Our sympathies and grateful thanks are extended to **Charlie, Roger** and **Steve,** the instructors from 39 AYT RAOC.

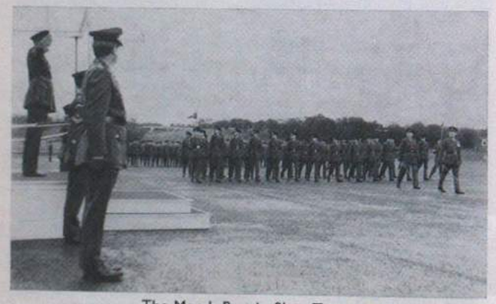
11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Visit of Major-General P. A. M. Tighe, MBE

The SO in C visited the Regiment on February 18, 1977, as the Inspecting Officer for the Pass-off Parade for No. 7624 Recruit Troop. Our roving camera captured for the record some formal and informal moments on this important day.

The SO in C arrives on parade and is greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col H. A. Cuerden, and the RSM, WO1 (RSM) E. C. Hunt

The SO in C inspects the parade and talks to the Pass-Off Troop



The March Past in Slow Time

'Nice one, Jimmy'! The SO in C takes sherry with WO1 Jimmy Greer, Band Sergeant-Major, and the CO

After the presentation of prizes, the SO in C talks to parents and families of the recruits. He is seen talking to the family of Sig Darrel McCluskey, the Best Recruit

POT BLACK
The SO in C opened the refurbished Corporals Club. Here he tries out the pool table, watched critically by Lcpl Andy Davies

After lunch, the SO in C inspects the TAVR Recruit Troop at the end of their two-week course

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

Left to right. Back row: Ssgt Luckett, Sgt Holland, Sgt Thompson, Cpl Bird, Lcpl McMurdo, Maj Grace
Front row: WO2 (RQMS) Hall, Sgt Wilford, WO2 Smith, Sgt Hooper, Sgt Stephenson, Cpl Buckley. *Missing:* WO1 Cooke, Lcpl Carr

SUPER SEASON WITH THE STICKS

The 1976–77 hockey season was probably the most successful in the Regiment's history. The Regimental eleven, managed by **Maj Barry Grace** and skippered by **Sgt 'Steve' Stephenson,** came top of Division 1 of the Rhine Area League in the face of stiff RAF opposition and then completed the magic double by beating HQ BAOR in the Rhine Area Cup Final. With a little more luck we could have beaten 28 Amphibious Engr Regt in the BAOR quarter-finals but we finally succumbed in extra time.

The statistics for the season make interesting reading:

	P	W	L	D	F	A
Rhine Area League	12	10	2	0	48	9
BAOR Cup (including Rhine Area Cup)	5	4	1	0	16	6
Friendlies (including two mixed games)	11	11	0	0	21	1

The leading goal-scorer was **Sgt Dave Hooper,** whose tally was 37, followed by **'Steve' Stephenson** with 14 and **Ssgt Dave Luckett** with 10. It would be invidious to single out individuals in such a spirited team. **Dave Luckett** dominated the mid-field during the first half of the season and it is a tribute to the all-round ability of the other players that his absence on courses did not affect our performances after Christmas. Centre half is never an easy position to fill and we were fortunate that our hard-driving skipper was able to drop back from the forward line to take on this onerous duty.

The team never practised as such but, unlike last year, a number of friendly matches were arranged. This meant that those on the fringe of the Regimental side were able to play hockey at Regimental level. It also meant that we felt free to experiment with new ploys and develop individual skills without worrying too much about the consequences. The success of the team was based on hard running allied to early distribution of the ball. The defence was extremely solid and unusually fast and the halves and full-backs achieved a high degree of understanding early in the season which never wavered, even when they were placed under the greatest pressure. All members of the side were prepared to commit themselves to a certain amount of reverse stick play, without which no hockey player can survive in the higher echelon of the game, and our stopping of the ball has improved out of all recognition this year. Our main weakness was our limited success with short corners but this was more than compensated for by the shooting power of the forwards (and half-backs) exemplified by **Dave Hooper** who showed uncanny accuracy when shooting from acute angles.

We have provided several players for the Rhine Area team, notably **Dave Hooper, Dave Luckett, Cpl Kevin Birrell,** whilst Messrs **Birrell** and **Hooper** represented BAOR in an international festival held at Rheindahlen towards the end of April.

STUFFED DUCK SUCCESS

Pte Frank Halliday has only been with the Regiment for three months from training at Aldershot. In the recent BAOR cookery competition he walked off with one of the much-treasured prizes. He was voted 'best young cook' for his preparation of a duck Ballantine dish. The photograph shows **Frank,** the duck, and **Mr Clive Hall,** catering manager of NAAFI's European Services, awarding him the Rosebowl prize.

'H' TROOP REPORT

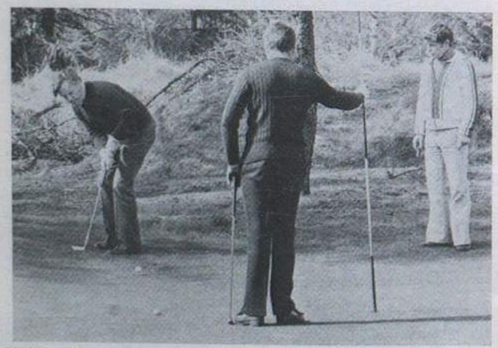
BEING an isolated Troop with our own RHQ some 320 miles away and the nearest service unit 55 miles distant presents many problems. One of these is entertainment. Apart from local football team visits, most entertainment must be self-produced, and can cause grey hairs in many a president or committee member. The club itself is run as an all ranks club but on similar lines to a Sergeants Mess with committee, and club meetings once per month. Of course, the word 'teamwork' figures very highly in our daily vocabulary, and to prove this the president and members of our club 'AM TURM' committee decided to organise, what was as yet, the club's biggest venture. A formal dinner to mark the occasion of Jubilee Year and to combine with it the dining out of the OC, **Capt Eric Sambell,** and wife, **Kay,** who are leaving in the very near future, to take up residence under the brighter lights of MOD. The dinner held in the local Schuetzenhaus, was a rousing success and we were honoured to have with us, for the occasion, **Lt Col** and **Mrs Pickard.**

Presentations were made to the departing couple on behalf of the Troop and a cheque for DM50·00 was handed over to **Lt Col Pickard** to help with the 'Build a Pool Fund'. This money was the proceeds of a raffle held by the wives of club AM TURM and was gratefully received. The highlight of the evening/morning came at 0245. A well-known do-it-yourself expert **Capt Sambell** was hauled away from the Schuetzenhaus sitting on a 'build-it-yourself car trailer', and was heard to murmur to certain by-standers 'I'll get you lot for this'. This function was the first formal occasion to be held outside the Troop lines.

Personalities are, of course, changing all the time. Since our last contribution to THE WIRE we have said *bon voyage* to **Capt (now Maj)** and **Mrs Clowser** and have welcomed **Capt Pete** and **Mrs Mo Merritt.** To bring these notes to a close I would like to say on behalf of us all to **Capt** and **Mrs Sambell** good luck for the future and to welcome **Capt** and **Mrs Kay;** we hope and know that you will enjoy your stay in Dannenberg.

COURSE COMMENTS

'I started with a seven, a six and a nine but then I went off my game a bit'. These words were overheard in the bar after the Regimental Spring Golf Meeting, and thus was the spirit of the day. The competition was designed for both beginners and the experienced golfer and Regimental handicaps down to 36 were allocated for the day by **WO2 Dave Cheyne,** the able organiser. This incentive eventually persuaded 32 assorted golfers (and clubs) to sally forth to the unknown at RAF Bruggen. After much thrashing in pine woods, heather and sand the morning 18-hole medal round finished with **Cpl Al Lindsay** first, **WO2(SSM) Tony Parker** second and **WO2 (SSM) Tony Morpeth** third. Of course, the lunch-time bar session hummed with tips—'Don't use your woods'—'watch the rabbit hole under the tree on the ninth'—'putt on one leg—it works', and thus reassured, we all set forth for the afternoon Greensome. A similar fate befell most in the afternoon with the 'golf-course' gremlins deviating certain putts away from the hole and carrying devastating drives out of bounds. Out of the carnage emerged **Cpl Andy Marshall** and **Lcpl Pete Duxbury** as winners, with **WO1 Fred Mitchener** and **WO2 Dick Good** second and **Maj Alan Browne** and **Capt Peter Fitzpatrick** third. Since **Fred** and **Peter** are our two attached Australian Compatriots I can only conclude that the climate here must do something for them!



Willing the ball into the hole is Maj Gavin Mackay, our new 2IC, with WO2 'Tug' Wilson (*holding the flag*) and Sgt Steve Stephensen willing it out!

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

ON THE CHOPPING BOARD

SINCE Easter things have got very busy again in the Regiment. For two weeks we came under the probing eyes of the Inspectorate of Establishments Team, a visit critical to our future. We expect small increases in some areas and decreases in others, but it looks as though until we gain more WRAC there are going to be more telephone lines in the Orderly Room than clerks!

MORE GOLD COMSTARS!

Both the Sennelager and the Düsseldorf Commcen Detachments are congratulated on being awarded Gold Comstars this month. **Cpl Barry Iseton,** NCO IC at Düsseldorf received the award from **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** Commander Rhine Area, with **Cpl 'Woll' Walley, Lcpl Jeff Noble, Sigs Robert Foote** and **Michael Ridgeway** in support. It was their first award since a Silver Comstar in 1972. Keep up the good work!

Sennelager, on the other hand, have been keeping up with the Joneses at Dortmund in getting three Gold awards in a row! **Cpl Peter Hall** was on leave so his 2IC, **Cpl Dennis Wells,** received the award from GOC 4 Div, **Maj Gen N. T. Bagnall, MC,** while **Lcpl Christopher Newby, Sigs Keith Belcher** and **Craig Ballantyne** (all ex-Apprentices) looked on. Good luck for the fourth in a row!

VISITS

As fate would have it our two visitors this month both came on the same day. The Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training (Army), **Brig O. J. Waldram, AFC,** ADC, came in the morning and stayed for lunch and was closely followed by **Gen Sir Roland Gibbs GCB, CBE, DSO, MC,** ADC (Gen), the Chief of the General Staff. The General was particulary impressed when he saw **Cpl 'Ben' Lee's** flat in the recently modernised Block 3 and congratulated him on the transformation. He also presented the LS and GC Medal to **Ssgt Michael Smith, Sgts Robert Yarnell, Albert Roberts** and **William Stone.** As the Commander Rhine Area, who was also present, said, 'We can't promise to get the CGS to present medals every time you get one'!

Ssgt (F of S) Pete Johnson, Sgt Ron Young of the Royal Australian Signals and Lt Sue Rollo (WRAC) meet the CGS

Ssgt Ray Jones shares a joke with the CGS

Lcpl 'Taff' Witchell explains a problem to the CGS

KATS PERFORMANCE

The Village Hall rang with laughter for days when the KATS put on 'She's Done it Again' this month. A Brian Rix-type farce, it called on all their skill to get the timing and the humour just right and it was to their great credit that there were four superbly funny performances. The Adjudicator was probably rather baffled at the howls of laughter when **Ssgt (F of S) John Mellors** said 'Please try and listen' and the TOT, **Capt Frank Smith,** said: 'I am, but I never seem to comprehend a word you say'. We don't think the sofa was really meant to collapse either, but we are hopeful that the KATS will do well again in the BFG Drama Festival.

SCOTTISH EVENING

Another very entertaining evening was spent in the Village Hall with the Anglo-German Society when our departing 2IC, **Maj Derek Copeland,** organised a Scottish evening. The hall was absolutely packed, with hardly enough room for the Pipers, who included **Cpl 'Mac' McCathie,** to turn around, so when the dancing started, ably led by **Lt Ailsa Ramsay** (WRAC), you really couldn't help but get to know your neighbours! You could learn how a kilt was made, how the bagpipes worked and taste not only haggis and shortbread, but an enormous selection of Scotch whisky, too, with **Sgt Barry Archer** to advise you.

We say farewell now to **Maj Derek Copeland** and his wife, **Valerie,** on their move to 4 Signal Group and wish them well in Rheindahlen and thank them for all they have done for the Regiment.

SPORT GALORE

This has been a very sporting month for the Regiment. We held the Stork-Garton Trophy competition, a six-a-side soccer competition, and numerous teams fought it out, with 3 Sqn coming away with the trophy. They also did rather well in the inter-Squadron tug-of-war, winning both the 560- and 640-kg competitions.

Football enthusiasts had a field day when the BAOR side played a touring Australian amateur side here in Bradbury Barracks. It was a good afternoon's sport and BAOR won 7—1!

Although knocked out in the semi-finals of the Rhine Area seven-a-side rugby, our team goes through to the BAOR competition, so good luck again!

Sgt Tom Wilson has been excelling in golf recently. In the Royal Signals golf at Bruggen he came out with both the 36-hole handicap and one of the 18-hole handicap first prizes. Well done!

Motor cycling has been very much in our minds this month. **Capt Steve Bresloff** and **Sgt Hendry** organised trials on the Leuth Training Area open to all units in BAOR and Berlin. The day was a great success despite it being cold and wet, and there were a large number of entries.

Sig 'Jethro' Nash in action during Exercise Master Rider

Our Regimental team, consisting of **Sgt Bob Gillespie, Sig 'Jethro' Nash** and **Cfn Andy Cheetham** did well to be awarded 'Best Novice Team'. They also took part in Exercise Master Rider, the Rhine Area Trials, and excelled by coming second. **Sgt Gillespie** was awarded runner-up Novice and **Sig Nash** third Novice but **Sgt Ken Hendry** did even better—taking the runner-up award in the Expert Class. Well done!

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES

SHORT AND TO THE

POINT PLEASE

THE WIRE . . .

WITHOUT IT

YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

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

FITNESS EMPHASIS

WITH most of the Regiment deployed on 'Fighting Eagle', apart from 3 Sqn who continue to provide the live circuits for the airfields of RAF(G), and the 1 Sqn elements manning Starnet and the Tropo, and the members of 81 Sig Sqn (TA) who are with us for their annual training, it would seem an appropriate time for our WIRE notes to re-appear after a gap of some months. Fitness and military training reached a crescendo in the week prior to deployment, with an exhausting inter-Troop assault course competition on April 27; 1 Sqn's 'B' Troop were very worthy winners of the competition.

RHQ coach and ORS Sgt Semple demonstrates technique
Note: Spectators' anticipatory glee was well founded!

'G' Troop's turn on the assault course

CONGRATULATIONS

Sgt Tim Healy on the award of the BEM for service in Northern Ireland.

WO2 (SSM) Terry Stacey on promotion to WO1 (RSM) on posting to FSS Mossy Hill.

Ssgt Gordon McInnes on promotion to WO2 (SSM) on posting to 7 Sig Regt.

Ssgt John Woolley on promotion to WO2 (SSM) on posting to the ACC Harrogate.

If you're so broke that this is someone else's WIRE you are reading — boy you sure need sympathy!

FAREWELLS

Personalities change from month to month and are too numerous to mention but the many friends throughout the Corps of **WO2 (Y of S) Jim** and **Joyce Kelly,** and **Ssgt (SQMS) Tommy** and **Marian Smith** will be interested to learn of their departures from their last regular unit to the rigours of civilian life. Both couples left with unusual retirement gifts from the Regimental Sergeants Mess—a Teasmade and clock for the **Smiths** and (would you believe) a fish tank for the **Kellys.**

The following true anecdote will be helpful only to those with over 22 years' 'Q' experience, backed by nerves of steel (or the luck of the Irish). **Tommy Smith,** passing through HM Customs and Excise, with PRI vehicle heavily laden with the Booty of many years.

Customs Officer: 'Why are you returning home, Sir?'
Tommy: 'I've finished with the Army'.
Customs Officer, studying list of declared items: 'I'll see the serial number of that television'.
Tommy, knowing the set is only three months old: 'Right. By the way, how did you find your exams?'
Customs Officer: 'Oh, not too bad, why are you joining the service? I'll give you some tips . . .'.
Tommy (20 minutes later). 'Well, mate, I'd better show you the TV'.
Customs Officer: 'What TV, on your way, and good luck with your exams, don't forget my advice'.

Note. Nobody *said* Tommy was going to join HM Customs and Excise.

Yeomen are not noted for such chicanery, but when the traditional WOs and Wives dining out of the **Kellys** took place on May 4, 1977, it was not unnoticed that somehow the farewell eagle seemed different—was it the biggest ever? Our best wishes for a happy second career to **Joyce** and **Jim, Tommy** and **Marian,** we'll miss you.

SPORT—LOOKING AHEAD

This may be our last season as a major unit in competitive sport—good news for other regiments, bad news for the brigade squadrons; sorry, Field Forces. If we do not retire unbeaten after a unique run of eight years as Army Major Unit Athletics Champions it will not be from lack of endeavour.

ROUND UP

Since our last notes, we have retained the Army Cross-country Championships, and the BAOR versus French Forces Germany Unit Championships. Won the BAOR Major Units Motor Cycling Team Event and likewise Rhine Area, together with lots of individual successes—**Hegarty, Robertson** and **Dring** in cross-country and **Haverson** and **Randle** on the bikes.

We have made the quarter-finals of the BAOR rugby and basketball, and been Rhine Area runners-up in both.

SOCCER

We are both keen rivals and admirers of the outstanding 28 Sig Regt team.

We think that Rhine Area, blessed with 28 and four huge RAF stations, in our local league provides the highest standard of soccer in BAOR. Having despatched a couple of teams from the Corps area in the Army Cup, fate bedevilled us with a draw against 28 (again), otherwise a good run looked certain. The recent Rothman's Sixes saw us through to the Grand Finals but without doubt, the match of the season was the Rhine Area Cup Final against (of course, again) 28 Sig Regt. Our team really rose to the occasion, with a great 'might have been' when, with the score 2—2 in extra time, a good effort bounced the wrong side of the post, with the 28 'keeper beaten. We lost on penalties but SEME and 1 Div (both very fancied soccer sides) would, no doubt, have been pleased to hold their own with the excellent team from St Tonis.

Despite the loss of certain players, we think the Corps will keep the BAOR Minor Units Championship next season. (1 Arty Bde have fair warning.)

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

Keeping the C.O. in the picture for the last time

The arrival of Lt Col Tom Wheawell and Dean at their Dining Out by the officers of the Regiment

Into dinner with Mary Bonaker, wife of the 2IC, obviously running over his coming speech—whilst Mary feels quite gay!

His big moment at last where his simile of 'Big Wood' and the Regiment with discourses on the activities of Water Rat brought the house down

Having got his speech off his chest—a determination to say his personal goodbyes to all!

Given the Boot!
The Officers Mess recognised enthusiasm for sport in general and football in particular with the presentation of a golden boot. Maj Hugh Bonaker does the honours

Capt Jim Thornton, the Football Officer, having been presented with a football game by Col Wheawell, retaliates with a pair of footballing briefs

Dean is presented with a hand-carved flower arrangement by Maj Bonaker whilst Col Wheawell jealously keeps an eye on the proceedings from behind the pillar

Time to leave and a pleasant surprise—The Burgermeister's coach awaits!

Ready, Steady ——

This time the Sergeants Mess and the RSM, WO1 (RSM) Wallace, presents Col Wheawell with a beautiful silver tantalus

Chatting over old times with RSM Wallace

'Now then, RQMS Quinn, what about a few extra bits of packing for my boxes?' Perhaps!

The Regiment parades to say goodbye

A last word with Sgt Gilmer

The Regiment lines the route

COMMAND PASSES

N.B.—The ladies of the Ladies' Club entertained Mrs Dean Wheawell to supper and presented her with a carriage clock. Regrettably, the photographs were not available at the time of going to press

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

ARMY SOCCER CUP 1977

AS the summer draws hopefully nearer, it would seem inappropriate to publish a blow-by-blow account of how our 'great XI' won the Army Cup via the Rhine Area Championship, BAOR Championship and finally the match at Aldershot in April.

We were very proud to have received such a generous letter of congratulations from **Lt Gen Sir James Wilson, KBE, MC,** Chairman of the Army Football Association, which was published in the May issue of THE WIRE.

We look forward with confidence to the 1977–78 season!

ARMY TEN-PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

On a lower key, in the same month that we took the Army Football Championship from SEME REME the Regimental ten-pin bowlers also took the Army Ten-pin Bowling Championship from them!

REGIMENTAL FREE-FALL COURSE

At 1300hrs on Sunday, March 20, an unusual quietness descended on Francisca Barracks as a convoy of cars and minibuses left barracks. The time had come—24 soldiers led by **Lt Peter (Ever ready) Day** and **WO1 Dennis Gallacher** were heading for the Joint Services Parachute Centre, Lippspringe, to embark on the Third Regimental Parachute Course. The drop-outs from the Regiment were ably supported by five members of 16 Sig Regt under **Lt Ailsa Ramsey** (WRAC) to make up a full complement.

The course soon got off to a swing with everyone getting stuck in to the 2½ days' ground training. Jumping off boxes, dangling from ceilings and packing parachutes kept everyone busy and amused. Wednesday afternoon soon arrived and the course braced themselves for their first jump. However, bad weather curtailed activities before the plane had taken off. As dawn broke the following morning it was obvious to all that the time had come. With clear blue skies and a gentle breeze all was set for a good day's jumping. By 0900hrs the first lift was on the way. By lunchtime everyone had completed at least one jump and by nightfall most had completed three, with one notable exception. **Sig 'Jock' McGuire,** belonging to that notorious bunch of bandits in Tropo Troop, decided to keep Troop tradition going. On his first jump young **'Jock' McGuire** piled in and broke his right ankle thereby following in the footsteps of **Sig Mick Wigham** who did the same last November. Surprisingly, our young hero is perhaps the most keen to continue free-falling but he'll have to wait a few months before his next jump!

The local inhabitants of Lippspringe have probably only just recovered from our recent visit. **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** (the Screaming Devil of Lippspringe) decided that the quaint village was far too quiet. Every time he jumped, the tranquility was shattered by screams of glee (?) as he sung, shouted, laughed and screamed at the top of his voice, 1,500ft above the village. How quiet it seems now. Concorde has nothing on our **'Scouse' O'Connor. Lt Peter Day** also shook up the locals (and himself) as he demonstrated the perfect unstable jump. Practising one of his (many) totally uncontrollable descents, he opened very low and found himself a kilometre from the airfield. The choice of landing site was frightening: one large lake (I can't remember my water drills!); one very full car park (am I insured?); several large piles of wood cuttings (= broken leg = hospital); or a factory roof in the village (well I've done rock-climbing before!). After a successful roof landing and a recovery operation that made Laurel and Hardy look like a melodrama, he spent the rest of the evening in the bar supping vast quantities of Barre Bräu, the local brew. **Sig 'Frankie' Massingham** thought that he would never touch land again at one time. After leaving the aircraft first he was still under canopy and floating off the far end of the airfield when the last man out was on the ground. He finished up on a golf course—must be the only airborne hole in one yet! **WO1 Dennis Gallacher** was the first to get on to free-fall but gave his instructor a turn when, after opening his parachute, the pilot chute wrapped itself around his wrist! A few more dummy pulls followed but our erstwhile Yeoman is once again ready to plummet from the skies.

The course was a series of amusing incidents which would fill several issues of THE WIRE. Needless to say, the course was

Right: BAOR Football Challenge Cup
Left: Army Football Challenge Cup

enjoyed by all and no one from 28 dropped out. Despite bad weather most completed over 12 jumps and the Regiment did 300 jumps in the two weeks. At the farewell party at the end of the course **Maj Tom Oxley** (REME), commandant JSPC(L), was presented with an engraved plaque of NORTHAG Headquarters on behalf of the 50 people from 28 Sig Regt who have been through his centre in the last six months. There is still more to follow!

FAREWELL TO LT COL BYRNE

On Wednesday, April 27, the Regiment said farewell to its CO, **Lt Col Terry Byrne.** The occasion was marked by a farewell parade on which **Lt Col Byrne** took the salute and handed the Regiment over to **Lt Col Eamey,** the new Commanding Officer. After lunch **Col Byrne** was towed out of the barracks in a Volkswagen 181B, suitably decorated with emblems of the BAOR and Army football cups by the officers and warrant officers of the Regiment. The route was lined by the other members of the Regiment. We all wish **Col Byrne** and his wife, **June,** all the best in his new appointment.

Farewell of Lt Col T. A. Byrne

WELCOME TO LT COL EAMEY

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** and his wife, **Ann,** to the Regiment. We hope they will enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

POPULAR STUDY DAY

THE last month included a couple of exercises in spite of being the month of our two-week Easter block leave. On April 12, the Officers of the Regiment entertained **Brig Henry Hild** for the first time since his appointment as Commandant of the School of Signals, and **Asst Chief Constable Lennie Burt** and **Chief Supt Ken Arthurs** of the Dorset Constabulary.

On April 22, Commander 1 Sig Gp, **Col Bob Benbow,** laid on a Study Day for all the officers and SNCOs in the Group. The subject was Pay and Soldiers' Finance, the second most popular subject he could have chosen. We had some most interesting lectures and were well received as indicated by the lively questions.

SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE

A Regimental exercise was held during the period April 25–29 to practise an airportable deployment to RAF Colerne with a later road move to RAF Keevil. Rear links were successfully established to Gibraltar together with HF and Radio Relay links back to Blandford. Although it poured with rain for the whole five-day period, the exercise was less eventful than the earlier Pasha IX which produced firstly a 'real' bomb threat and secondly a Force Ten storm that collapsed several 80-ft masts.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the recent Yeoman of Signals selection board, the Regiment was delighted to produce 4 out of the total of 18 successful candidates. They were **A/Sgts Dave Gruncell, Roger Childs, Bob Waller** and **Sgt Tony Cerqua**—all from 2 Sqn—all from HF Troop. Our heartiest congratulations to them all.

GAMBIA REPORT

The Regiment's commitment to Exercise Sun River (which took place in The Gambia) was a three-man crew manning a C11 DSB station communicating in the CW mode to its anchor station in Gibraltar. This provided a rear link for 1 QLR while training in The Gambia for four months.

Advance elements of the exercise flew out by RAF Hercules on January 2, arriving at Yumdum Airport on the 3rd. Only those who have flown in a C130 know the delights of such a trip. As the doors opened on arrival, a flood of soldiers poured out and rapidly dispersed to the safety perimeter (much to the amazement of the locals) whereupon gasps and puffs of smoke soon indicated that they were enjoying in about ten minutes the cigarettes that they had missed over the last nine hours. Fortunately, a police fatigue party were detailed off to unload the aircraft whilst the passengers were transported to the police compound to change into uniform.

Each Company group were to spend a 28-day period in The Gambia doing jungle training. Furthermore, they assisted in training the Gambian Police Force which also doubles up as the Defence Force. The Sappers, with the Company, had to build a Jungle Training Base Camp whilst also assisting the local authorities with road improvements.

EXHAUSTING AND SATISFYING

We had to travel 86 miles up country and a further 4 miles on jungle track to get to the point where the camp was to be established. Grabbing the stores that were immediately necessary for survival, we formed up into a convoy and set off at the steady old speed of 15mph. No prizes for guessing where the Signals Rover was—taking up the rear ensuring that the heavy plant reached the destination! The trip was uneventful, taking about five hours and was broken only by the waving locals which we met when passing through villages. On arriving at the site we found that the police had cleared an area of bush and set up a row of 160-lb tents for us. We harboured up and crashed out for the night, never was sleep more welcome!

Over the next 10 days we recovered all the stores (which had been brought over in massive containers by the LSL *Sir Lancelot*) from the police compound which was about 10 miles outside Banjul (the capital). Gradually the camp took shape, everyone joined in and there was plenty of manual labour, pumping, hammering, cement-mixing and sawing. It was dirty and exhausting work, but satisfying when we looked back on our achievements at the end of the day.

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

From the communications point of view we gathered credits from day one, and when the link to Gibraltar gave very little trouble we went from strength to strength achieving circuit availability figures which would be the envy of any communicator. On one occasion a PRC320 was deployed with **Lcpl Ken Jones** about 15 miles from camp in support of some Sappers who were working on a road project. To work back to base we decided to use the same frequencies as the exercise rear link, thus allowing him to monitor traffic to and from Gibraltar and to come in when the net was quiet (it also allowed us to cut down the operators at base camp). **Lcpl Jones** opened up with a normal call de call using an 8-ft whip, nothing was heard from camp but amazingly enough, a reply came in from Gibraltar (2,500km away) which had received him strength five. This continued for seven days, during which time the operator at Gib relayed all traffic back to base camp.

In all, some 16 members of HF Troop, 2 Sqn, were rotated, three or four at a time on this detachment. Much useful experience was gained of long-haul communications with low-power equipment from a part of the world that sees little of us nowadays. A good and useful liaison was also established with the Gambians, whose friendly support made this a most enjoyable exercise.

LOCAL SCENE

Exercise Grand National II was an HF Troop exercise which took place over the period April 13–15, 1977, in the area covering Blandford, the Purbeck Hills and Bovington Training Area. The aim of the exercise was to practise mobile comms detachments in a tactical situation. Three-man A13 detachments were deployed in a net controlled by a C11 detachment. We started the exercise off with a full airportability check which was carried out in Camp by **Sgt Tony Cerqua.** The inspection was tough and lessons were learnt from this initial phase.

On deployment to first locations, **Sig Eddie Key** and his detachment were neither seen nor heard between 0900 and 1500hrs. As it happened, it was one of the older forms of communications which brought them out, i.e. smoke signalling. A fire started on Bovington Training Area and when it was just about burning from end to end, **Eddie Key** and his merry band rolled up and asked if they could help.

HIGH INCENTIVE

After the excitement of the day we all moved to hides of our own choosing. The incentive for good cam and tactics was that if a detachment was found, they had to change locations. This phase went well as only one detachment was discovered and they were given away by someone closing a Land-Rover door.

The next day we carried out section battle drills and anti-ambush drills. **Sgt Dave Gruncell** had immense fun setting up the ambushes; however, trip flares and the stuff that makes your eyes water are not really his forte (say no more). **Sig John Lathbury** provided amusement for all when he tried to outrun a Schermuly flare that decided it liked him.

A LOT LEARNT

That night the detachments once again moved into tactical locations this time to test how effectively the lessons of the previous two days had been learned. During the night all sites were visited by either the SSM or OC 2 Sqn. When **SSM George Foggo** beat the area for an hour without finding **Lcpl Brian Aldridge's** detachment, it was confirmed that the lessons of the exercise had been learned despite the many mistakes which occurred during the scheme. The new members of the Troop learned a lot about themselves, their role and achieved a firm base for future training.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Regiment bid a fond farewell to **WO1 Tim Southall** and wish him the best of luck in his new appointment—he has journeyed far, to the realms of CPA in the School of Signals. A warm welcome is extended to the new Quartermaster, **Maj Norman Lane** and his wife, **Edna,** and also to **Capt Geoff McKie** and his wife, **Margaret,** who have come all the way from Benbecula; **Geoff** has taken over as our MTO. Welcome also to **WO1 Jim Ross** who has come all the way from the School of Signals to join our Training Wing.

As always the 'comings and goings' in the Regiment have been far too numerous to mention them all individually, but we extend a hearty welcome to all newcomers and wish all the best to those who have been posted.

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

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj James Budd**
2IC	—	**Capt John Chambers**
Comms Offr	—	**Capt James Blake**
OC Commcens	—	**Capt John Hayes**
QM	—	**Capt Gordon Baker** (RA)
AO Commcens	—	**Capt Frank Rogers**
AO	—	**Lt Malcolm Touchin**
Tp Offr	—	**Lt Steve Crane**
SSM	—	**WO2 Brian Young**
Chief Clerk	—	**Sgt Alastair Sykes**
F of S	—	**Ssgt Steve Sims**
F of S Commcens	—	**Ssgt John Jones**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt Bob Holt**
Y of S Commcens	—	**Ssgt Alan Watts**

NEW ROLE

AT the time of these notes the Squadron is beginning to build up for its new role as 1 Sqn, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, as well as simulating HQ RA 3 Div in our new role with the Bde HQ. We began the year by re-equipping with AFV432s, training the drivers and crews, and being operational in 20 days. Once the grumbling has died down we can look back to having been the first and last Armoured Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, and re-roling twice in one year!

All in all a busy time. We look forward to 1978 when we will be firmly established as a Commcen Squadron.

MINOR UNITS SOCCER TROPHY

The football team won the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup at Sennelager on February 24 against 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT); 227 were gallant losers after putting up a fine display. **Lcpl Hughes,** our goalkeeper, was outstanding on the day and managed to keep us in the game. The game ended in a nil nil draw after extra time. It was agreed to decide the match on penalties. We made sure of victory by scoring all five penalties to take the cup in our last year as 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The game was said to be one of the finest finals played in the competition's history. The Corps can be proud that it supplied both teams.

Left to right. Back row: Sig 'Taff' Bedford, Lcpl Ian Foster, Sig Tony Fokouh, Lcpl Dave Whittaker, Ssgt (Y of S) Bob Holt, Lcpl Ken Hughes, Maj James Budd (Royal Signals)
Front row: Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell, Lcpl Mally Chambers, WO2 (SSM) Brian Young, Lcpl Steve Rose, Lcpl Billy Taylor, Sgt Jim Anderson

FAREWELL

The Squadron bade farewell to **Maj** and **Mrs Hunt** at the beginning of the year. We wish them both the very best in the future. The WOs and Sgts Mess dined out **Maj Hunt,** but the evening was cut short at 3 am to allow the OC to practise his fire drills, as can be seen by the photograph. The tardiness of this piece of news just shows how busy we have been.

8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, Tidworth

HMS *Fearless*

WET FEET

IT would seem that when the Royal Navy says 'jump' then 'jump' we do. 'Mike' Troop newly formed inside the Squadron had their first wet baptism recently when they provided HMS *Fearless* with beach landing 'cannon fodder'. The Brigade Major's idea was that we were going to storm a part of the coast of Belize. The 'storm' part was right (it poured) but the coast turned out to be part of Hampshire. This elite force comprised of 8 Field Force and Sig Sqn, a Company of Welch Fusiliers and some Marine Commandos.

The Brigade Major braves the Deep

NEW TERMINOLOGY

The first of wet landings taught us the need to ply our Marine Coxswain with free 'booze' once safely back aboard HMS *Fearless.* **Sig Martyn Aubrey** won the special boat service prize this first trip, for he insisted on inspecting the bottom of the landing craft before wading ashore. Anyway, he certainly lived up to his Troop nick-name of 'Aubrey Murphy'—John Wayne could never have done better!

Our successes became more conspicuous when we discovered that our OC, **Maj Dick Smith,** was unable to walk on water, and **Ssgt 'Spud' Budden** decided that he would go parachuting instead, and pulled the ship's hatches to the boat deck. But the prize awarded to the best connected member of the Squadron must surely go to **Sgt Al Garvie.** He managed to stay dry on board HMS *Fearless,* whilst we, the 'plebs' re-took (to) the Hampshire coast—or was it Belize?

A list of 'navel' terms was drawn up during our stay with the RN. Here they are:

Cut about — What you do to the food
Belay there — A polite way of saying 'shut up'
Lashed down — What happens to sea-sick squaddies
Gash — Junior Officers and Senior NCOs
The Drink — Best place to keep the 'gash'
Heads — Where the heads of department lives—ask **Cpl Roger Calton**

THE MIKE TROOP TIMES—TEAM

Editor	—	**F of S Bob Phippard**
Office Junior	—	**Sgt Mick Burke**
Chief Accountant (Coffee swindler)	—	**Lcpl Andy Hockley**
Censors	—	**Cpl Roger Calton** **Lcpl Jeff (Boot) Rowlstone**
Pics Man	—	**Lcpl Derek Whyle**
Script Writer	—	**Lcpl Dave Horne**
Whipping Boy	—	**Lcpl John Jefferson**
Fashion/Problem Page	—	**Sig Martin Aubrey**
Make Up	—	**Cpl Del Pickstock**
Type Setter	—	**Siv Kev (I'm still bored) Daniels** (From the Hairies)

Our congratulations to **Sgt Mick (Smiler) Burke** and **Lcpl Jeff (Boot) Rowlstone** who recently got married; well I suppose it is all right if they love each other.

PS

We say goodbye to the 'Terrible Triplets' **Cpls Brian Leech, Don Bruce** and **Tony Lee** who are off to 7, 22 and 4 Regiments, respectively. The units have been warned.

Left to right. Top line: Lcpl Derek Whyle and Cpl Del Pickstock *Standing:* Sig Martyn Aubrey, Lcpl John Jefferson, Lcpl Dave Horne, Lcpl Andy Hockley and Sgt Mick Burke. 'AWOL'—F of S Bob Phippard, Cpl Roger Calton and Lcpl Jeff Rowlstone

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

BACK TO MODERATE CLIME

INVIGORATED, refreshed and gently tanned after our month in Cyprus we have returned to the rains of Colchester and the hectic life of UK soldiering—the old routine. With the main aim of keeping the Squadron hard at it and out of barracks we have 'enjoyed' a fulfilling couple of months of training.

First our annual appearance at the Logistics Demonstration to the Staff College at Hawley. This year the audience included aspiring logisticians from 3 Div, beefing up on BAOR systems. Our task of simulating the new BAOR logistics system was not made easier by the deathless Camberley prose introduction to their precis—'Airportable Brigades no longer exist in the British Army orbat'.

Just to prove our continued life as the last Airportable Brigade until we take up our new guise as a Field Force in April next year, we took to the field in two Brigade CPXs, Exercises Round Trip 1 and 2. Venue: our favourite training area at Stanford. Exercise Round Trip 1 ended with a surprise—a check on our physical fitness standards. The Brigade Commander required us to complete a forced march and obstacle course race in Troops, to complete our FFR inspection. All completed the test and Brigade HQ won the race, but they were morally obliged to do so before they test the remainder of the Brigade. The word has spread rapidly around Colchester that all must prove their *fitness* for role.

UNPLANNED FLARE

Round Trip 2 went with a particular 'flare'. As **Maj Gen Mike Walsh, DSO,** GOC 3 Div, was paying Main HQ a lightning visit, one of our line Land-Rovers burst into flames. The excitement and fortunate lack of casualties (except for the Land-Rover) added a certain zest to the visit, which became an instant display of fire-fighting in the field.

The Round Trips were designed to refresh our BAOR-type drills before we made the long round trip to Catterick and back for the gruelling challenge of Exercise Second Barrel—our last exercise under 3 Div. The venue, Catterick and Feldom, allowed us to renew our aquaintances with the Corps' spiritual home, from the distance of the moors. In fact there were so few suitable woods that we found outselves playing 'Box and Cox' with 6 Field Force—queueing to enter the wood the others were just leaving.

CADETS SEE THE FORM

During the Easter school holidays we hosted two groups of cadets. Eighteen young men from Welbeck College spent a week with us getting the feel of life in a regular unit and training with a variety of Brigade units. Then, on Bank Holiday weekend, 50 Essex ACF cadets descended on our barracks, equipment and training theatre. We recovered our composure and equipment just in time for the CPXs.

Our rugby and soccer teams report that they competed in the Eastern Distrinct six- and seven-a-side competitions but as yet our trophy cupboard is no fuller.

224 Sig Sqn, Loughborough

MANAGEMENT

SINCE our last notes we have to report the retirement of **Maj J. M. Ellingworth, MBE** (Royal Signals), we wish him ll the best for a long and happy retirement. **Capt Dave Etherton** has now joined the unit from his tour in Northern Ireland. Their departure and arrival have resulted in a re-organisation of the Squadron management which is now as follows:

Squadron Commander	—	**Maj J. R. S. Ovenden**
Special Project Officer	—	**Maj W. V. Legge**
Adjutant	—	**Capt (Retd) G. Hayes**
Chief Instructor	—	**Capt A. G. Maxwell, MBE**
Operations Officer	—	**Capt D. J. Etherton**
Quartermaster	—	**Capt R. Burns**
TOT	—	**Capt D. C. Ashton**
Troop Officer	—	**Lt A. E. Abbott**
SSM	—	**WO2 J. Acey**

The departure of **Capt Peter Merritt** and **WO1 Stevenson** on commissioning have also rung the changes of management 'upstairs' at Detachment 4 Communications Unit, which now reads:

OC	—	**Maj J. Hedison**
2i/c	—	**Lt P. F. Ashford**
Senior WO	—	**WO1 R. D. Maunder**

SUPERSTARS COME AND GO

One of the many problems encountered in a unit such as '224' is the lack of continuity. Today's winning team is, tomorrow, posted! However, during recent months we have managed to keep teams together long enough to win a few trophies in a number of sports.

BASKETBALL—ON THE BOUNCE

WO1 Rod Maunder has, somehow, succeeded in hanging on to a pool of players who have acquired that magic touch which is needed to turn a good team into an excellent one. The team, comprising **WO1 Rod Maunder, Ssgts Alf Hilton, Jim Kelly, Sgt 'Art' Weaver, Cpls Bruce Ogilvie, Alan Pooley, Paul Williams, Lcpl Pete Gilbert** and **Sig Doug Brodie,** have won the Eastern District Minor Units Championship, The Eastern Area Championship (by beating the South-East District Champions) and were very narrowly beaten in the Army Minor Units Final at Aldershot. Congratulations to the team on their fine record.

ORIENTEERING—ON THE TRAIL AT THE DOUBLE

This is a sport which has really caught on in Britain and, since the arrival in the unit of **Capt Dave Etherton,** is a sport which has been enthusiastically [*sic*] taken up by many members of the Squadron. In February the Squadron team participated in the 35 Sig Regt (V) Orienteering Championship and came second overall, the winning team being an invited civilian one. **Dave Etherton** came in first in this event with the other team members, **Ssgt Martin Bienvenu, Sgt Alan Hale, Sigs Pete Drake, Ian Wills** and **Ian Glasgow**, not too far behind. In early March the team travelled to West Runton and won the Eastern District Minor Units Championship. **Martin Bienvenu** was team manager for this event but still managed to scrounge a run as an individual (SQMS training helps as well).

Flushed with their championship win, the team organised a unit competition in which many of the Squadron personnel also enthusiastically participated. With ages ranging from about 'coming up to man's service' to 'even older than **Capt 'QM] Robbie Burns'**, the times taken for the course were very spread out, with the overall winner (and winner of the under 21s) **Sig Baines.** Most of the competitors had an enjoyable time so there is now talk of another competition in the near future.

Squadron Commander, Maj J. R. S. Ovenden, 'relaxing' at checkpoint during unit orienteering competition

HOCKEY—NOT SO JOLLY

The team's success of last season in winning the Eastern District Championship could not, alas, be repeated although the team did manage to reach the semi-finals in which they were very unlucky to be narrowly beaten by 35 Central Workshops REME.

CONGRATULATIONS

This month we were delighted to receive notification of the award of the LS and GC (Military) to **WO1 (Spvr R) P. J. Smith** and **WO2 (SSM) J. Acey**—36 years' of undetected crime between the pair of 'em! Our sincere congratulations.

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

INTO PRINT

HAVING decided in March that it was about time THE WIRE notes 'roster' was resurrected, it should have come as no surprise to the 2IC/OC Line Troop that it was his turn in April. Nevertheless, it did and, as usual, the last-minute scramble to beat the '12th' deadline is duly underway.

HIGH STANDARD FOR UPGRADING

The final upgrading course for locally enlisted personnel was held at St David's Barracks, Mtarfa, from November 29, 1976, to April 1, 1977. Once again a high standard was achieved by all who attended and no little thanks is due to our instructors, **WO2 (F of S) Chris Shone, Ssgt Ralph Grech, Sgt Charlie Mizzi** and **Cpls Joe Mizzi** and **George Brown.** Those attending were **Cpl Freddie Grixti, Sigs Carmel Chetcuti, Godwin Zammit, Joe Busuttil** and **Freddie Muscat,** who were given their final trade test by those well-known visitors from 8 Sig Regt, **Mr Phil Stock** and **Sgt Geoff Farmer.** Sorry we're running down, **Phil**—no trade testing 'holiday' for you next year.

CABLES AND EXPLOSIVES 'DON'T MIX'

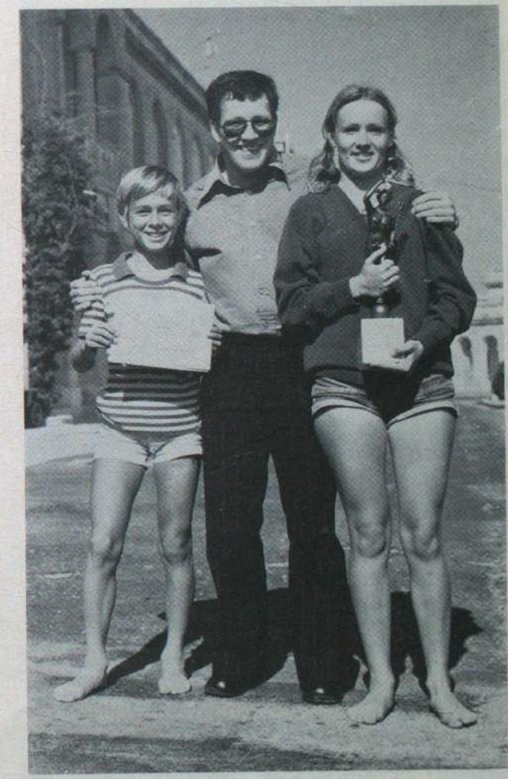
Both Line Troop and Airfield Detachment have had a busy time coping with the movement of various units and departments to new locations on the island. Our progress in this matter wasn't helped by our new 'public enemy No 1', namely a civilian contractor who accidentally blew up three main cables whilst excavating a new stone quarry. Rumour has it that we refused to install a telephone in his house. The problem was soon overcome and all systems were speedily restored under the watchful eyes of **WO2 Mal Tranter** and **Sgt Frans Farrugia,** ably assisted by **Sgt Geoff Farmer,** who went along for the ride.

SPONSORED WALK FOR ABF RAISES £500

Our main item of news this month is the sponsored walk in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund which took place on Saturday, April 30, and raised the princely sum of over £500. Inspired by her success in the Malta Walkabout (reported on last month) **Karin Clark** decided it would be a good idea to organise another walk, this time sponsored. Her husband, **Capt Alistair Clark,** remained hopefully non-committal but in the end gave in and assisted **Karin** with the organisation.

A route was planned, sponsor sheets issued, publicity arranged and, most important of all, volunteers pressed into service to assist with checkpoints, etc.

The day dawned warm and sunny and 43 brave souls turned up at Mtarfa to do their bit for charity. Ranging in age from 2–62, they were all issued with an 'idiot's guide' to 20 miles of Maltese roads and sent on their way by starters **Alistair Clark** and **Ssgt Alan Benson.** They were well supplied at checkpoints with



Prizewinners Keith and Rachel Le Quesne with Peter Johnson

SOME OF THE MAGNIFICENT 43'

'pop' and first-aid, not to mention large amounts of sympathy. Twenty miles and not a few blisters later, the weary walkers returned to a rousing reception, refreshments and hot dogs at St David's Barracks. Meanwhile, **Clark** and **Benson** hadn't been entirely idle and had worked out from the sponsor sheets that over £M378 had been earned and that more than 680 miles had been walked. There were prizes for the child and the adult who individually raised the most money and these were won by **Keith** and **Rachel Le Quesne,** shown in our photograph with **Peter Johnson** of BFBS Malta, who presented the prizes. **Keith** won a record token for £M2·50 and **Rachel** the very handsome 'Jimmy' made by **Sig Mario Tabone** and kindly donated to the walk.

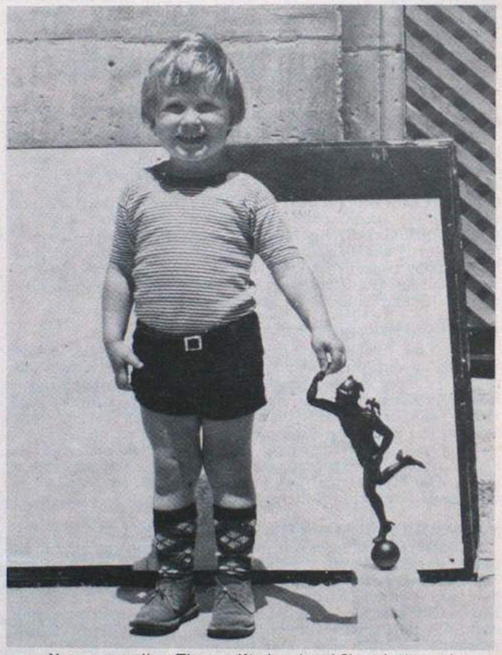
FAMILY SUCCESS

Father, **Capt Eric Le Quesne,** who also took part is justifiably proud of his family's achievement as together the three of them raised nearly £100 sterling. Thank you to all who took part and to all the helpers, especially **Sgt Charlie Peach** who helped to make the event such a great success.

OC, Maj Eddie Pickup and son, David, overtake the Peel family

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcomed the following personnel to this sunny isle in April. **Sgt Peach, Sig Colin Keil, Sig (I'm a Liverpool supporter) Williams** and **Lcpl 'Titch' Peck.** All have been posted into Line Troop.



Youngest walker Thomas Kimber (aged 3) with 'Jimmy'

We said farewell to several long-standing members of the Squadron. **Cpl Hall** departed to the TAVR and eventually civvy street. **Cpls Attard** and **Mamo, Sigs Delorenzo** and **Magri** all departed under the redundancy scheme. We wish them well. We offer our heartiest congratulations to **Cpl Rod Hicks** and his wife, **Val,** on the birth of their baby daughter in February this year.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj A. L. W. G. Steane** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt D. Case** (Royal Signals)
AO	—	**Capt T. Keany** (Royal Signals)
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) T. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Brackston**
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Capt J. Boyle** (Royal Signals)
OC 'E' Tp	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens** (Royal Signals)
TOT	—	**Maj K. A. Rutter** (Royal Signals)
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) M. Coley**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

LAST December the Squadron moved from RAF Benson to RAF Brize Norton. OC, **Maj Geoff Allen,** explained to the Squadron that this was the ideal time to move. During this 'quiet period' elements of the Squadron have deployed to Kenya, Germany, Northern Ireland, Norway, Cyprus and Catterick Training Area. We had our annual PRE inspection in February and FFR in early April. **Maj Leslie Steane** assumed command of the Squadron on May 5 and we wish him and his family a happy and rewarding tour with the Squadron.

The last month has seen several changes in the Squadron; it is with deep regret we say goodbye to **Maj Geoff Allen,** wife, **Maggie,** and family. We wish them all the best in their new posting at AG11. Farewells also extend to **Ssgt Barry Belton,** posted to civilian life. **Lcpl Kev Mooney** and wife, **Katrina,** to 602 Sig Troop; **Sig Paul Norris** and family to 30 Sig Regt. All the best and 'thanks'.

The Squadron was visited on April 14 by **Col R. L. Stonham,** CSO 3 Div, for the annual FFR inspection. The Troops were set varied tasks ranging from a first aid incident to air portabilising C15 Detachments. The inspection was 'highlighted' by the presentation of the LS and GC to **WO2 (Y of S) George Lile, Sgt Eric Stevens** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Hodgson.**

KENYAN MOMENTS

Early April heralded the return of the second change-over of Kenya personnel. The exercise which commenced last December was to provide communications to such places as Mombasa, Gilgil Kisumu and Kisi plus DCN links through Cyprus and Malta for 52 Engr Regt (Airfields) who were building a bridge over the River Mara which is 100 miles into the Masai Game Reserve.

Many interesting and perhaps slightly unamusing stories, at the time, have been circulated around the Squadron—**Sig 'Paddy' Baker** who worked the link from a five-star hotel in Mombasa reckons it was 'dead rough' and **Sig Mick Willey** on the other end of the link at Mara on his first night was visited in the middle of the night by a much too friendly puff adder in his sleeping bag. **Mick** not wanting to be mean was out of his bed in one second flat. After another second had passed, the snake was in a state of shock (it lost its head). The next day, a delicate operation was performed to prise the machette out of his hand. **Cpl Steve Daje's** limited but colourful vocabulary has sadly been reduced to 'Jambo'. Generally, a good time was had by all, the Nairobi night life making up for discomforts of floods and mosquito bites. The final surprise of the exercise was the return of **Sgt Mick Partridge,** still single, his excuse being that he had had a great time but felt a bit 'off colour'.

The Squadron deployed in a Priority One roll with 3 Div on Exercise Second Barrel on Catterick Training Area the last week in April, returning immediately to deploy Detachments to Norway, Sardinia and Scotland. If you enjoy variety, travel and a full diary, 244 could be the place.

SPORTS ROUND UP

The Squadron has had mixed results in the sporting world in the last month, consistently falling at the last hurdle mainly through lack of time to train properly. The hockey team, captained by **Sgt Pete Havlin,** reached the semi-final of the UK section for the Army Minor Units Cup losing in the final to Junior Leaders Regt RAC 3—2, after extra time. **Maj Geoff Allen** and **Sgt Pete Havlin** once again were the Squadron's outstanding players.

A scratch rugby seven led by **Ssgt Dave (Still retiring) Welch**

The CSO presents LS and GCs to WO2 (Y of S) George Lile, Sgt Eric Stevens and Cpl 'Geordie' Hodgson. Capt Tom Keany reads the citations. The medal bearer is Ssgt Dave Welch. Capt David Case stands to the rear of the party

SSgt Dave Longhurst and Cpl Laurence Smith demonstate their first aid skills to the CSO. The amused audience are: Capt Geoff Strivens, The CSO, Maj Geoff Allen, RSM Tony Morgan. An unamused Sig Potter is the prostrate casualty

entered the Station rugby sevens against strong opposition by the RAF reached the final. The final, against Parachute Training School who fielded seven Station first team players including two current RAF players was an extremely bruising but sporting game finished with an 18—4 victory by PTS. Highlights of the Squadron's performance was forward work by **Sig 'Taff' (Whisper) Oatley** and strong running and tackling by **WO2 Ian Sleightholm** and **Ssgt Dave Welch.**

On April 23 the scene was set at Brize Norton for the annual eight-man relay race, each man running approximately 800m. The 244 team consisting of **Lcpl 'Ginge' Thomas, Sigs 'Wally' Walton, 'Tonker' Thompson, 'Taff' Jones, Sgt Pete Havlin, Cpl Percy Drummond, Ssgt Dave Welch** and **Sig 'Paddy' McGuachey** herded together at short notice, put in a remarkable performance by finishing second out of 18 teams by a mere 20m behind the winning team. A fine performance, as at the halfway stage the team was trailing in eighth position.

The Squadron six-a-side hockey team put in another strong performance in the Station competition losing narrowly in the final. Injury in the semi-final to **Sgt Pete Havlin,** who now sports a broken nose, handicapped the team's chances. The rest of the team were: **RSM Tony Morgan, Maj Geoff Allen, Sig Mick Willey, Sgts Pete Hewitt** and **Des Welham.**

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

SOinC met on arrival by the Squadron Commander

SO in C PAYS A WELCOME RETURN VISIT

THE Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE,** visited Cyprus from April 26–29, 1977. **Gen Tighe** was most interested in the many changes in Cyprus since his last visit two years ago. When he arrived at the Squadron on Wednesday, April 27, the General was met by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Frank Smith,** and the newly-arrived SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Jim Allen. Maj Smith** led the General to Squadron Headquarters where, after an introduction to the Squadron officers, he was updated on changes in the unit's activities since the General's last visit.

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

Gen Tighe presents the LS and GC to Ssgt David Lamont

Gen Tighe then presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Ssgt Dave Lamont** of Field Troop, at a prade attended by members of the Squadron.

After the parade, the General was introduced to the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of the Squadron who gave him an interesting account of many activities in which the Squadron was involved. **WO2 (F of S) Trevor Spence,** who leaves shortly on secondment to the Gulf State of Qatar, is currently training the Squadron shooting team for NESAM and hopes to win the team a place at Bisley in close competition with 259 Sig Sqn (West)—an indication of the high standards and friendly rivalry maintained by the two independent Signal Squadrons in Land Forces Cyprus.

The General then saw a photographic display depicting the work carried out by the Squadron, and the Specialist Communications Project Agency Team from the UK, which culminated in the commissioning of the new Dhekelia Military Telephone Exchange by **Brig J. H. B. Acland** on January 21 this year.

This was followed by a visit to the Telephone Exchange where **Gen Tighe** met the Supervising Officer, **Capt Ken French,** and the Switchboard Supervisor, **Gabriella,** who demonstrated

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

Ssgt Paul Glover and Sgt Ken Vince show the General their new automatic exchange

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

Capt Ken French is full of joy with his new switchboard, watched by Gabriella Zambakidon, the SO in C, Col M. U. Ryan, Maj F. Smith

the switchboard in action. In the next room the Senior Exchange Technician, **Ssgt Paul Glover,** explained the layout of the automatic equipment, and outside the building **Ssgt Roy Milner,** the Line Section NCO, gave a brief account of his responsibilities for cables and line work within the Garrison.

The visitors then moved on to the Army Communications Centre, Dhekelia, which is 'manned' by a mixture of Servicemen and Servicewomen. Here the General met **Ssgt Jan Patilla** (WRAC), the senior WRAC NCO in Dhekelia. **Ssgt Patilla** is responsible for the Dhekelia terminal on the Services Telegraph Network, and recalled the General's previous visit when he awarded a special 'Comstar' Certificate for the high standards being maintained by the Communications Centre.

In the Commcen restroom the General took a welcome opportunity to relax and meet other members of the staff including **W/Lcpl Gill Johnston** whose husband is currently serving with the United Nations in Nicosia. The tight schedule of the programme was maintained with a visit to Field Troop of the Lquadron, commanded by **Lt David Elson,** who had his Radio, Sine and MT Sections on parade. First to be met was **Lcpl Chris**

Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

The General recalls a previous meeting with Cpl 'Geordie' Craggs

Deary who proudly showed the General the Command Land-Rover maintained by him for the Garrison Commander and visitng senior officers. The remainder of the Radio Section each had something different to add. **Sgt Alan Brooks,** an Army 100 shot and member of the Squadron team introduced the Line Section crews. These included **Cpl Alan Lawson,** whose golfing reputation is now well established in Cyprus. The General, himself a keen golfer, had someting special to say to **Cpl Lawson,** and only shortage of time prevented a match being arranged there and then.

The visit to the Field Troop ended at the MT Section led by **Sgt Barry Clough,** and rounded off by the re-appearance of **Ssgt Dave Lamont.** He showed the General the Squadron's rally Land-Rover, specially modified to BAMA specifications, and gave an account of the recent successes in Cyprus motor rallies. **Gen Tighe** recalled an occasion when he also participated in international rallies and wished the Squadron team well in their next event.

The final item on his programmed visit to the Squadron was the Dhekelia Radio Relay Site where he met the Troop Commander, **Capt Reg Staniford,** and site NCO, **Sgt Tom Terras. Capt Staniford,** who has detachments spread island-wide, gave an account of the site's routine and maintenance work.

In a packed hour and a half the General had conversed with more than 50 Servicemen and women, having something special to say to each of them. No one who was on duty was missed out and it was clear from their reactions that the extra work in preparation for the visit had all been thoroughly worth while.

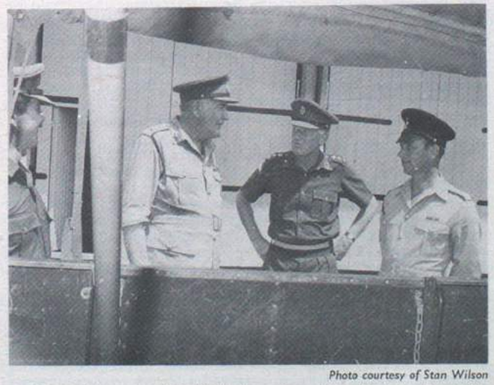


Photo courtesy of Stan Wilson

Ssgt David Lamont and Col M. U. Ryan listen intently to the General's international rally days, after a quick inspection of the Squadron's BMA Rally Land-Rover

News from Troops

571 Rear Link Detachment

Report by Sgt D. J. Morley

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

REUNIONS are normally held on an annual basis, and usually after a unit has been disbanded. Delta Troop of 22 Sig Regt (Lippstadt) decided, in their normal way, to do things slightly differently. The Troop hasn't been disbanded, has never held a reunion before, and there is no guarantee that it will have another before the next 'blue moon'. Delta Troop has always been a bit special, if not a little unusual, in the fact that it is one of the few HF Radio Troops left in the Corps (with 18 D11 stations, if my memory serves me right), and at one stage was over 100 strong with 80 per cent of those being RTGs. As sometimes happens, 70 per cent of the Troop were posted out over an 18-month period. Most of those who left would like to think that this left a large gap in the expertise of the Troop, but if the truth were known, it would probably only mean that Lippstadts bar profits were down for a few months while new lads were trained.

DECISION

As the majority of those posted either went to Blandford, Catterick, or Northern Ireland (IS there anywhere else?), it was decided, by persons unknown, to hold a reunion at Blandford Camp. Easter weekend was decided as the best time, to enable the lads still at Lippstadt to make full use of the grant, and to enable the rest of us to make full use of their 'Duty frees'. Everything was done at such short notice, and the dates and venue changed so often that it was nothing short of a miracle that we ever got together at all. The fact that about 30 people turned up at the right place on the right day must have something to do with good communications, though hardly a triumph for HF.

THE 'DO'

The 'Do' was due to be held in the Rugby Club at Blandford Camp on the night of April 9, but most of us managed to meet in most of Blandford's pubs on the Saturday morning, and so the 'Do' really started then. Everyone settled into some sort of accommodation during the afternoon and then converged on the Rugby Club at about 1930hrs. The first couple of hours were spent meeting old friends and exchanging news of absent ones, and a chance to meet a few of the new members to the Troop. The rest of the evening was spent having a thoroughly good time reminiscing and drinking probably more beer than most of us had drunk in a long time. It would be impossible to try and mention everyone who was there, but if I mention a few 'characters' like: **Pete Grainger** (Catterick), who swears he had nothing to do with anything; **'Posh Scouse' Kurthausen** (Blandford), who says he's a good boy now; **'Tubs' Tubman** (Blandford), who seriously thinks married life hasn't changed him a bit; **Harry Lambird** (Northern Ireland), whose singing hasn't changed a bit; and **'Taff' Jones** (now Y of S), who spent most of the evening trying to get his cellophane off, and fluttering his eyes at the barman. Those of you who know any of them will realise what I mean when I say that anything that happened after midnight remains a blurr. Lots of photographs were taken but, unfortunately, none were suitable for publication. [*Editor's* note: probably just as well.]

THE MORNING AFTER

Sunday lunch-time saw all the wives appear, and 'hairs of the dog' were passed around, and everyone started off where they left off the night before. There are vague memories of a baby's pot being passed around when glasses were running short, but I'll leave the rest to your imaginations. It was decided that Blandford Camp had taken more punishment than it really deserved, and final farewells were said in most of Blandford's pubs on Sunday evening.

APOLOGIES AND THANKS

All good reunions end with apologies and thanks, and this one was no exception. On behalf of everyone who attended I would like to apologise to anyone we upset without knowing, and to the NAAFI staff, for turning their normally quiet Sunday lunch-time into a 'Saturday night'; and many thanks to all the landlords and barmaids in Blandford for being good sports and putting up

with us. Thanks also go to all the wives who found us beds and provided 'solids' at such short notice throughout the weekend. Last, but by no means least, our sincere thanks go to the School of Signals for their hospitality and especially to **WO1 (RSM) F. McMillan** who put his whole career at risk by allowing us to get together again, and supplied the buffet. For those who couldn't make it this time we hope the next 'blue moon' will come around soon and that it will be published in THE WIRE before it happens.

632 Signal Troop (Hebridcs)

BACK IN BUSINESS

IF you are about to be posted to 632 Sig Troop then, like myself, you will have to thumb back through numerous copies to find us mentioned, but don't despair, here we are!

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Capt P. H. MacCulloch**
F of S	—	**WO1 (F of S) P. Cook**
Tp Ssgt	—	**Ssgt D. C. Thurston**

IN RETROSPECT

Looking back, 1976 was another successful year for the Troop, though the Commcen Staff must take most of the credit, having been awarded Silver and Gold Comstar Awards.

The fishing also went well, with **Sgt Mick (the Fish) Norton** winning the RA Range Sea-Angling Trophy, without doubt the most fought-after Range trophy, and **Capt Geoff McKie** who represented the RA Range team at the European Sea-Fishing Championships at Stornoway.

In January this year, we said farewell to **Capt Geoff McKie,** off to 30 Sig Regt, who we feel sure will always have happy memories of his tour in the Hebrides, and welcome **Capt Pat MacCulloch** and his wife, **Sheena.**

The Troop, small as it may be, plays a leading role in most of the Range activities. **WO1 (F of S) Paul Cook** has played a large part in the formation of the RA Range Gliding Club, and now that they are in possession of two gliders we feel sure his efforts have been worth while.

Sgt Mick Norton, Cpl Dave Collier and their two pet ferrets have done much towards stocking our freezers with rabbit.

Capt Pat MacCulloch wasted no time in taking over the Sub-Aqua Club, and hopefully when we next go to press we will have some of his and **Sgt Mick Turner's** exploits.

At rugby, the Troop is well represented with **Sgt Jim McCormick, Cpl Bill Shields, Lcpls Carl Maycock, Mick Tye** and **Sig Steve Kemble,** all regulars for the RA Range team, and **Sgt Jim McCormick** also representing the Combined Services Scotland team.

This may seem all play, but the Troop, especially the Line Section, carry out a lot of work in really treacherous conditions, not forgetting our six-weekly detachment of four on the lonely outpost of St Kilda.

The Senior NCOs of 632 Signal Troop celebrating the occasion of WO1 (F of S) Paul Cook receiving his LSGC
Left to right: Sgt M. Turner, Sgt M. Norton, WO1 (F of S) P. Cook, Sgt J. McCormick, Ssgt D. C. Thurston

Congratulations to **WO1 (F of S) Paul Cook** on receiving his LS and GC. Also congratulations to **Sgt Jim McCormick** and **Lcpl Mick Tye** on their recent promotions, and to **Lcpl Mick Tye** on his recent marriage.

During the past few months we have said farewell to **Cpl Wally** and **Ann Kerr, Sgt Eric** and **Maureen Gunn, Sig Brian Thompson** and welcomed **Cpl Vic** and **Amelia Ransley, Cpl Wilf Greener** and **Sig Ian** and **Pam Winterbottom.**

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

CRICKET IN THE 90s

IT must be summer now—the temperature is up from the mid-80s to the low-90s and **Sgt Allan Hill** has conned the Troop into the first game of cricket. **Allan** led the way with a good knock but was overshadowed by the OC, **Capt Brian Chubb,** who carefully belted the ball around the ground for 50 runs before being bowled trying to put the ball into the swimming pool. **Cpl 'Scouse' Waterson** proved the surprise of the match when he tempted no less than five of the opposition to put up catches off his dolly droppers. **Sgt Ian Buick** trundled up to bowl out the last defiant Sapper right in front of the visiting Commander 1 Signal Group.

MEXICO—CORPORAL'S SOLO TRIP BACK IN TIME

Cpl Trevor Calver travelled overland to Mexico and into another world. By bus, the journey takes 22 hours but for someone who is used to sitting doing nothing for long periods this presents no problems. (Sorry, **Trev,** the Boss said I had to say that!) Surprisingly, the most memorable part of the trip was his visit to the Balet Folkloric, to see performed with authentic conch shells, wooden flutes, violins, guitars and trumpets, a history of Mexico from Aztec and Toltec through Mayan to modern times.

Nearly 400 pyramids throughout Mexico were destroyed by the Spanish in the 16th century to provide the stones for Catholic churches. QMs everywhere will be pleased to hear it was on a one-for-one basis. There are still many of the really large ones standing and even after 3,000 years the pyramids of the Sun and Moon are largely unexplained. **Trevor** was guided round by an Australian travel agent, **Chris Dillon,** and managed to see also the Olympic Stadium, the Museum of Anthropology and the University. That's all he said I could mention.

AMERICA—WHIRLWIND TRIP TO FANTASY

To the overpaid men of 633, the USA still provides the most popular target for R & R. Taking Miami by storm this time were **Cpls Ken Drummond, 'Scouse' Waterson, Angus Reid** and **Mick Boxall.** They hired a fast car and raced around Disneyland like demented children for two days. Everything that could be slid down, ridden on, eaten, drunk, viewed or photographed was treated to the whirlwind approach that ex-633 men will be familiar with. Rushing on from there, the happy group took in the rockets and moon buggies at Cape Kennedy, as well as the famous resort of Palm Beach. This took up their remaining cash and **Angus** found himself a guest of the Sheriff's office on a vagrancy charge. Guilty—caught sleeping on a beach!

VISIT OF COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP

The visit of **Col Benbow** started inauspiciously when the UKLF Movement Staff failed to connect the Commander's movements with those of our local airline. Perhaps they had heard that we call the Honduran Airline SAHSA—'Stay At Home, Stay Alive'. As if this wasn't enough, the 'Blue Jobs' in the VC10 broke down at Gander and the Commander's departure was delayed by three days. The avocado pears and smiles were getting slightly crinkled by then.

Somewhere in that week, the Commander met most of the Troop at work or play. **Sgt Stevie Stevenson,** our football manager, arranged for us to beat Force Troops 3—0, though he couldn't manage to score. Never mind, **Stevie,** we hear they're all dwarfs in 1 Div. **Ssgt Adolf Hardman,** in between ordering haircuts and tidying parades, arranged a Troop smoker at which the Commander was presented with his T-shirt proclaiming him as a fully-paid-up member of the Big C Supporters' Association. Wear that at Bournemouth, if you dare, Sir.

COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP TALKING TO THE TROOP
Left to right: Sgt Ian Buick, Cpls Chris Evis, Clive Turner, Angus Reid, The Commander. *Seated:* Sigs 'Taffy' Walters and 'Dangerman' Groves

The smoker was also a chance to say thank you to **Cpl Trevor Calver** for all his work in organising our trips to the offshore islands. We looked after him OK, **Beryl;** but we left the Pancho Gonzales for you to shave off. As it was at this party that the news came that the flight was delayed, **Trevor** and his able assistants, **Lcpls Mick Boxall** and **Angus Reid,** were detailed to organise a trip for the Commander as he had missed the one arranged for the previous Saturday. Probably just as well, he might not have appreciated the sight of a mid-ocean transfer of ladies effected by **Sig 'Muscles' Maggs** and master-minded by **Cpl 'Bluey' Neale. Lcpl Steve Buxton** was there as well but the tablets have weakened him and he didn't help much. The visit ended with the humiliating sight of our OC, **Capt Brian Chubb,** praying to the VC10 to take off so that he could go back to coming in to work at 1000 hrs and playing sport all afternoon! Seriously though, Colonel, you were one of our 'good visitors', and, secure in the knowledge that I couldn't be here next time, we'd love to see you again!

642 Signal Troop B.F.P.O. 12

THE TEAM

OC	—	**Maj (TOT) L. C. Hooper**
F of S	—	**Ssgt R. B. McInnes**
TE Techs	—	**Sgt D. Barton**
		Sgt W. D. McLean
		Sgt G. Russell
Tele Mechs	—	**Sgt R. Hurst**
		Sgt F. T. Patterson
		Cpl K. Coulson
		Cpl R. Orchard
		Cpl M. Wilson

THE ROCK

AS the DANAIR Charter turns on its final approach, one can look down and see the standard RAOC issue Rock, 3 miles × ¾ mile × 1,400ft, RAF, Army and Sailors for the use of. One's home for the next two Levanter years (Levante—Gibraltar's personal umbrella-like cloud). As the Commander 1 Signal Group, **Col R. Benbow,** managed to 'find' us again recently, we considered that we might as well end our seven-year anonymity by submitting this script. [Nice to hear from you again.]

Apart from swimming:

The Troop is responsible for the maintenance of two PABX, a few thousand PW lines, plan and intercomm systems various, and nearly all the Public Address commitments on the Rock. The latter job is virtually unpredictable; we've covered everything from RSPCA Dog Shows to a Military Tattoo and even a Roman Catholic Mass, would you believe?

EXPANSION

The CPA installation team of 30 Sig Regt knows us quite well, particularly **Maj Norman Webb,** who usually pops out here when his Duty Free spirits run low! Unfortunately, the MOD budget usually only allows him one week in the Holiday Inn. Despite this, however, he still sent us a belated Christmas present in the form of 1 × 50 line Telephone Exchange expansion complete. His benevolence has kept **Sgts Bill McLean** and **Graham Russell** contented for a couple of months installing it. Unfortunately, **Sgt Dave Barton** was motivated to go and get bronzy-bronzy on the Portuguese Algarve about the time it arrived, but his frequent recollections of cheap vino and even cheaper food have kept us all spiritually happier ever since.

Our goodhearted, pay-conscious Tele Mechs, **Cpls Ken Coulson, Bob Orchard** and **Martin Wilson,** haven't exactly been idle either, with re-wiring projects for the resident Battalion (2 Bn The Royal Green Jackets) and Fortress Headquarters, and there are always fishing rods to make during NAAFI breaks!

THE GLORIOUS SEVEN

With the arrival of a new Brigadier, **Brig A. S. Stepto, MBE,** came our Annual FFR and verily, there was much polish and just occasional gnashing of teeth. **F of S Bob McInnes** seems perplexed, however, for despite the fresh paint and high gloss, his Morris Traveller still seems to drop out of first gear!

The morning of the inspection dawned clear and bright, the majority of our 35 civilians were hastily scattered to the four corners of the Rock and then **Brig A. S. Stepto,** accompanied by **Maj P. F. Russell** (Cheshire Regt) and **Maj (TOT) L. C. Hooper,** approached to inspect all seven of us, as **F of S Bob McInnes** brought us to attention in best Catterick fashion (**Cpl Bob Orchard** had wisely 'winged' his way to the UK for the occasion).

The personnel inspection was, as usual, followed by the installation inspection which was followed by the inspection of a few crates of Amstel, the courtesy of Gibraltar Television Centre (our next door neighbours). Still, all's well that lands well (the Brigadier is ex-AAC).

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

NOSTALGIC EVENT FOR HONORARY COLONEL

31 SIG REGT celebrated its tenth anniversary and the Queen's Silver Jubilee by exercising its privilege, honour and distinction of marching through The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea recently. Shortly before 1130 on Saturday, April 16, 1977, the Corps Band, led by their Director of Music, **Maj Keith Boulding, LRAM, ARCM, FVCM, BBCM,** appeared in Kensington High Street at the head of the Regiment. Taking the salute, the Mayor, **Cllr David Collenette, MC,** was accompanied by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE; Brig John Ghika,** Chief of Staff, London District; **Brig Ian Rose,** Commander 11 Signal Group; the Regiment's Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Brian** (Royal Signals) and, making his last public appearance as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Col Reg Wood, OBE, TD, DL,** who viewed the parade rather nostalgically. In 1939, as one of the Ensigns to the Colours, he formed part of the Colour Party which laid up the Colours in Kensington. In 1947, by now **Capt B. R. Wood,** he carried the Regimental Colour when the Colours were handed back to the Regiment.

ORIGINAL COLOURS PRESENTED IN 1799

Royal Signals with Colours? King Edward VII presented these Colours in 1909 to Princess Louise's Kensington Regt, although the original Colours were presented to the Kensington Volunteer Association in 1799. As with most Regiments, names changed but the infantry role of the Kensingtons also gave way after World War 2 to that of Signals when, in 1947, they became part of Royal Signals TA as the 'Army Phantom Signal Regt (Princess Louise's Kensington Regt)' with permission to wear Kensington badges and buttons and to carry the Kensington Colours. In 1967, along with 47 Sig Regt (Middlesex Yeomanry) TA and 83 Sig Regt AER, the Kensingtons were reduced to squadron strength and the three squadrons now make up 31st (Greater London) Sig Regt (Volunteers).

FULL TRADITIONAL UNIFORM

Ssgt Brian Callaghan and **Sgt Brian Carroll,** in full traditional uniform, two members of the Middlesex Yeomanry Sqn, stood guard before the saluting base. The Corps Band was followed by a well-pleased **Maj Peter Thompson, TD,** 2IC of the Regiment who, together with our RSM, **Keith Childs,** had not only beavered away to prepare the march but had rehearsed the Regiment to its high standard that day. Next the Colour Party—**Lt John Geake, 2 Lt Peter Fennemore, WO2 (RQMS) John**

CAMERA CAPTURES NOTABLE EVENT

Courtesy: TYRER 46 Highway Avenue, Maidenheap

1. The Dignitaries assemble on the Saluting Base
2. SO in C presenting SSGT (YoS) DENNIS ROSE with the TAVR Efficiency Medal
3. The problems of marching through Kensington High Street on Sales Day
4. The Band Concert
5. The Colours pass the Saluting Base

Robson and **Ssgts Allan Laffery** and **Jim Makinson** with No 1 Guard—41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Sqn under their Commander, **Maj Bob Simpson, TD,** 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn under **Maj Peter Mather, TD,** formed No 2 Guard and **Maj Peter Harrison, TD,** with his 83 (London) Sig Sqn brought up the rear as No 3 Guard. Unfortunately, just as all concerned were nicely settled in to the march and the Band was rousing many an old soldier along the route, the parade had to end and then it was back to RHQ at Hammersmith not far along the road to lock up the arms and to prepare to receive guests.

HAPPY GATHERING

The Regiment's families were to have lunch and the impossible feat of transporting, parking, identifying and accommodating 900 people and then serving each and every one of them was accomplished by that most important, but so far unmentioned team, HQ Sqn. No glamour for them today, but encouraged by **Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones, TD,** who commands them with such aplomb, they achieved this feat and managed in the middle of it all to arrange for the proper reception of the Colours back into the Officers Mess along with the mayoral party. Whilst **Col John Brian** entertained the distinguished guests, the drill hall was a hubbub of happy old comrades, Chelsea Pensioners, soldiers of all ranks, their wives, husbands, children and friends, eating, drinking, laughing and generally having a splendid day out.

At a formal ceremony held in the Sergeants Mess, the SO in C presented awards to the following:

LS and GC
Ssgt Bob Townsend

1st CLASP TAVR EM
WO2 (F of S) John Stephenson
Sgt John Cook
Sgt George Collins (REME)
Cpl Bill Dent (REME)

TAVR EM
WO2 (RQMS) John Robson
Ssgt (Y of S) Dennis Rose
Sgt John Olohan
Sgt Pat Olohan
Sgt Dennis Peerman (REME)
Lcpl Gerry Roche

AT A STROKE

Suddenly, at the appointed hour and with nobody hearing a word of command, a mountain of debris disappeared and the milling hundreds literally found themselves sitting in chairs in neat banks facing a dais—a miracle performed by a smiling, unflustered **RSM Keith Childs.**

Finally, the gathering was entertained by **Keith Boulding** and the Corps Band—a performance which won great acclaim and we trust, sold many records. 'What a fantastic day' just about summed up everybody's thoughts.

Col John Brian, Adjt Gordon Giles and **RSM Keith Childs** were finally able to relax with a glass and ponder their labours—to them it may be said 'Thanks, it was well worth your efforts'.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

THE FIRST WRAC TAVR STAFF-SERGEANTS' COURSE
Scarborough, April 23–May 7, 1977

Left to right. Back row: Sgt S. Stott *33 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt S. Douglas, Sgt J. M. L. Stout *32 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt M. A. Strachan, Sgt K. M. Pike *37 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt S. A. Legge, Sgt J. Etheridge *39 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt I. M. Hall, Sgt C. Dabb *34 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt A. Rodgers *32 Sig Regt (V)*

Front row: WO1 (RSM) R. Dehdashty *38 Sig Regt (V)*; Ssgt G. H. Jones *37 Sig Regt (V)*; Ssgt J. I. Baldry *37 Sig Regt (V)*; Ssgt G. Stabler *38 Sig Regt (V)*; Lt Col F. H. Pedley *CO 38 Sig Regt (V)*; Col A. Fields DWRAC (Designate); Maj R. Pickard *Trg Maj 38 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt R. K. Smith *37 Sig Regt (V)*; Ssgt R. Higgs *39 Sig Regt (V)*; Ssgt D. Lawrence *39 Sig Regt (V)*; Sgt S. Barnett *38 Sig Regt (V)*

Editor's Note.—We have it on good authority that this photograph has historical significance. the first ever WRAC (TAVR) Staff-sergeants' Course was run by 38 Sig Regt (V) from April 23 May 7, 1977.

Association News

BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH

From the Hon Sec: Mr W. Swanson, 95 Bloomfield Drive, Bath, Avon

WITH our AGM behind us it is pleasing to report increased activity in our branch affairs. Improved facilities for our annual Draw enabled us to make it a good social occasion and put the seal on our main fund-raising effort. For the first time ever, we combined the AGM with a social evening and managed to get through the agenda briskly while the ladies were enjoying their get-together.

We feel privileged to have the **Rev 'Tony' Cato, OBE,** as our Honorary Branch Chaplain. He is a former Assistant Chaplain General and Chaplain to the Queen, and is undoubtedly widely known to many members of the Corps. Soon after joining us he sadly suffered the loss of his wife, **Dorothy,** and we are conscious of the wholehearted and sincere support which she would have brought to our affairs.

We have also suffered the loss of **Mr A. R. 'Chalky' White,** a former Regular Staff-sergeant and Life Member and **Mr Len Bowyer,** an ex-special operator and committee member, both good comrades who had the interests of the Association at heart.

Owing to his commitment to MOD duties in London our president, **Maj Eric Hedger, OBE,** felt obliged to step down and he has been succeeded by **Maj John Everett, MBE, TD,** with **Maj Hedger** as vice-president.

On June 12 we look forward to a very special event, the playing of a Retreat ceremony by the Corps Band at Longleat. The Standard and escorts of Salisbury Branch and our own will participate but rumours that the Director of Music has composed an 'Overture to the Lions' are probably inaccurate.

A warm welcome is extended to any ex-members in our area to join us, particularly former members of the WRAC who have served with the Corps.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

AFTER two Branch meetings and an inaugural general meeting, we're beginning to feel our feet, so we thought it was about time the rest of the Corps got to hear about us.

The Brighton Branch of the Royal Signals Association was born on an extremely blustery night at the end of January under the sponsorship of the Reading Branch. A publicity campaign was mounted which brought in nearly 80 enquiries, from which we have gained 45 members.

The membership comprises about 50 per cent serving members of the 71 Sig Regt (V) and 50 per cent ex-Regulars, so we're catering for a wide range of ages, experience and interests. We're therefore trying to keep the programme as varied as possible and have so far planned talks entitled 'Singapore Slide Show', and 'From Mustard Gas to Noddy Suits'; and a darts match against the Royal Engineers. We're hoping to tour some Sussex 'locals' to meet some colleagues who are unable to attend the Branch meetings; to enter the Brighton Carnival in late July; to make our mark at the Blandford and Catterick Reunions and to hold a formal dinner in October. We've had a very successful wine and cheese party, where 12 different varieties of cheese in five colours were available for members and their guests to sample, provoking interesting discussion on taste-bud differentials.

We hope we've whetted your appetite, and when you come to Brighton on holiday or conference you'll make the effort to call in and meet us at 8.00 pm on the first Friday of each month in the RAMC Bar, which is behind the TAC, Dyke Road, Brighton.

YORK BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: E. A. Leavesley, 14 East Way, York. Tel: (0904) 58928

THE Branch Annual General Meeting attracted a good attendance and plans for the coming year were discussed including an outing and dinner to celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee. It was also resolved to continue the policy of holding regular Social Evenings throughout the year.

In response to many requests it was decided to change the monthly meeting night from the first Wednesday in the month to the **last Wednesday.** The time and place—8pm at the Conservative Club, Exhibition Square—remains unchanged.

Old and new members are welcome. Details from the Hon. Secretary as above or just turn up on the night.

EIGHTH ARMY VETERANS

El Alamein Northern Reunion 1977

THOUGH the El Alamein Reunion ended officially in London last October, there are a number of enthusiasts who have got together to organise a **1977** reunion for Africa Star holders and their ladies at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on October 29.

The provisional programme is for a 'get-together' for early-arriving veterans—11am to 2.30pm.

Then at 6.15pm assemble in the Empress Ballroom for an All-Star Entertainment, Military tableaux, etc., followed by dancing.

Sunday morning at 10.15am it is proposed to have a Parade for an Interdenominational Memorial Service.

Tickets, at £2·50 each, will be on sale from June 1 and for this year will be limited. Applications to:

W. K. Holland, *Hon. Treasurer,*
51 Westmorland Avenue,
BLACKPOOL (Tel: 67479).

Order tickets, enclosing remittance and 9 4 stamped, addressed envelope. Make cheques and postal orders payable to 'El Alamein Northern Reunion'.

This event is being held in the last weekend of the famous Blackpool Illuminations 1977 period and if accommodation is required early booking will be necessary. Members of the Blackpool Hotels and Guest Houses Association are to offer special terms covering two nights. Details will be forwarded with the tickets if so requested.

If further information is required please contact:

Co-ordinator: A. LEWIS,
7 Whinfell Road,
West Derby,
LIVERPOOL L12 2AS
(tel: 051-228 8093)

'SECRET' HISTORY OF THE CORPS

No 7—BOXING By John Hole

THE RING

WHEN I was a nipper I used to hang around a place in Blackfriars Road, London, known as 'The Ring'. It was originally built as the Rowland Hills Surrey Chapel. It was round in structure to prevent the Devil lurking in corners. Later it became a warehouse.

Dick Burge, one-time lightweight champion of England, saw this place and realised that it was just the job for his boxing stadium. In the first world war he was killed in an air raid and his wife carried on in his stead. **Dick** had opened the Ring on May 14, 1910. The ringside seats were 2s (10p) and the balcony 1s. 6d. (7½p). It did not do well until women were allowed in, then things looked up. The matchmaker at that time was **Dan Sullivan** and he had booked a very frail youngster who had the sobriquet of 'The Ghost'—**Jimmy Wilde.**

The Ring became the mecca for boxing. It received a direct hit in the second world war and that was that. There was also the Holborn Stadium where I saw all the old-time greats. When I was at Maresfield I used to go to all the boxing shows put on by **Harry Preston** at The Dome, Brighton. I have seen them all from the early days right up to the present.

A judgment

There has only been one man in the whole history of world boxing who could punch his weight. The records and the experts may say otherwise but **Jimmy Wilde** was the ONLY boxer who could punch his own weight. He was phenomenal. At 6st 10lb he was knocking them out up to ten stone!

There were many grand boxing shows staged at The Dome. One in particular, on December 3, 1921, attended by HRH **The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York, Lord Lonsdale, Sir Thomas Lipton** and many others. On the bill was **Jimmy Wilde; Joe Beckett; George Carpentier; Pat O'Keefe; George Cook; Billy Wells; Kid Lewis** and many others. I got back to camp just before Reveille!

Intuition

The man who really put the Signals on the map was **Capt Spencer,** the Officers' Imperial Services Boxing Champion. I patronised the gym a lot in those days and used to spar with **Ernie Rigg.** In 1919, a boxing tournament was organised between the Allied Forces which included the US Expeditionary Force, in the Albert Hall. **Eddie Eagan** of the US won the heavyweight title and **Ernie Rigg** won the lightweight title for Britain. This is the chap who I used to spar with. In the gym, **Capt Spencer** and his mate, **Capt Wills,** of the tobacco family, used to play around. One day I was watching a rookie picking up pieces of paper. There was something about him that sparked off extra-sensory

(Continued on page 259)

Sport

ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT 1977-8

THE Corps Badminton Tournament is to be held at Blandford Camp from August 30 to September 2, 1977. The Corps' First and Second Teams are normally selected from the players who enter this competition so come along and partake. Entry forms have been sent to units, but further copies and any other information may be obtained from:

WO2 (ORQMS) S. Hargreaves,
Secretary Corps Badminton,
30 Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RP.

Captaincy Honour

CONGRATULATIONS to **Lcpl Alex Hamilton** (2 Div Sig Regt) who was appointed team captain of the Combined Services Association Football team which toured Scotland (May 8–18, 1977).

BOOK REVIEW

The White Helmets by JAMES LADD. Published by the Haynes Publishing Group, 165 pages, illustrated and indexed. Price £5·95.

Presumably the majority of members of the Corps, past and present, will have seen the Corps Motor Cycle Display Team in action, even if it has only been at rehearsal at Catterick. Older members will remember, perhaps with nostalgia, the combined display of horses and motor cycles before the last war, many may have accepted all this as just a routine public relations or recruiting activity on behalf of the Corps. Few, unless they have been directly concerned with the team, will have appreciated the detailed planning, training and organisation which must of necessity go into the production of a display which has now become not only world famous but which must compete on equal terms with professional performances in the entertainment field. **Jim Ladd,** in his history of the White Helmets, has covered all the extensive ramifications involved in the training and production of a display which is second to none in the Services or, indeed, the world. This is probably the first history of the specialist part of our Corps which has ever been written and published. The author has managed to combine the human, military, technical, artistic and public relations aspects of the Motor Cycle Display Team so that whether one is purely a layman, a 'hot rod' enthusiast, a historian, just interested in motor cycles or the background and achievements of a small though important unit of the Corps, this book has much to offer. The scope of the book is amazingly wide considering the size and number of illustrations, covering as it does the whole development of the team from its beginnings and includes the activities of teams that were raised in India, Egypt and by territorial units. If the book can be faulted, which is difficult, perhaps too much emphasis is given to the dangerous aspects of trick riding, however, this may well be justified in view of the fact that the book will undoubtedly be read by many young and inexperienced riders who should be discouraged from trying to emulate the performance of the team without proper training and supervision. Like 'Through to 1970', with which there is a certain similarity, 'The White Helmets' is an excellent history which should be in the possession of every member of the Corps.

(Continued from page 258)

'Secret' History of the Corps

perception in my brain. I rang **Capt Spencer** telling him about this recruit, saying that I thought he was a diamond in the rough and suggesting he run his eye over him. He did and took him in hand. This rookie became European ABA heavyweight champion. He, with the Signals team (which included **Boy Viney** and the brothers **Collins,** etc.), went to the USA and in the Golden Gloves competition showed the Yanks just what Signal Training was all about. In the fullness of time **Stewart** joined the London Fire Brigade and in the Blitz did some wonderful work. He had to retire with injuries. His name is still revered today. Throughout the 'twenties the Signals reigned supreme in every activity. **Capt Spencer** set a standard. What is the position today?

I do not think much of boxing today. Looking back I think the boxers who gave me the greatest pleasure were all those in the Corps. They had talent and boxed for the sheer love of the game.

Murder

When I was at Crowborough in 1920 we had a boxing tournament about once a month. Included in the programme was a Battle Royal—now banned. About nine boxers were in the ring—all blindfolded. The last one left standing was declared the winner. They used to mop up the blood in the ring—it was murder!

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

An important postscript

From: **Lt Col (Retd) R. P. D. F. Painter**

Dear Editor,

Re: Capt R. A. L. Anderson

After five years' retirement, the pride I take in my association during 31 years of service with the fine men and women of the Corps was renewed yet again by the following report in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 14, 1977.

42 Bassett Dale,
Bassett,
Southampton,
Hants SO1 7GT.

Yours sincerely,
Robin Painter

ARMY CAPTAIN GOT FROSTBITE DURING RESCUE

'Capt R. A. L. Anderson of the Royal Signals suffered frostbite to his hands in a desperate attempt to save his partner, 25-year-old company director **Mr A. C. Russell,** who died in an avalanche in the Himalayas, it was disclosed last night.

'Both men, on a climbing expedition, were swept down 500ft. Capt Anderson struggled for 45 minutes to free Mr Russell, who landed on his head under tons of snow. He tried to revive him, but it was too late.

'Capt Anderson then tried to drag the body down the mountain, but it was too heavy and he had to give up. In his struggle he lost his gloves and suffered frostbite to his hands.'

[*An extract from a letter received from* **Brig A. A. Dacre, OBE,** *Royal College of Defence Studies, reads as follows:*]

'You may have noticed short Press reports during the past two weeks about a climbing accident in the Himalayas involving **Capt Richard A. L. Anderson. Richard** is a Royal Signals officer now serving with Queen's Gurkha Signals and appointed as the Staff Captain at HQ British Gurkhas in Nepal; he was my Staff Captain for over 12 months, before I left there last December.

Richard is a competent climber and had been planning an expedition to a remote peak in West Nepal for some time. The party was to have comprised three civilian friends from the UK. Delays caused by climbing permits forced a postponement of the venture and it was not possible to mount the expedition until February/March this year. Two of the team backed down so that Richard's only companion was a Mr Andrew Russell (who I had met briefly in Kathmandu last year). Due to the cost of Sherpa porters and their desire to actually climb the mountain entirely by themselves, they retained only the services of one Nepalese to safeguard their stores at base camp and set off to climb the mountain, named 'Sisne', without other assistance.

'Early in May a report was received in the UK that Mr Andrew Russell had been killed on the mountain. I have just received a letter from Richard in which he gives the following bare details—

'We were both avalanched together at about 17,000ft. We must have started the avalanche as we were going up and were swept down together about 400–500ft. I was lucky enough to land with my head clear but after digging myself out I saw that Andrew had gone in head first. It took a further 45 minutes or so to free him and by that time there was no hope, in spite of trying artificial respiration. I think he must have suffocated, I hope fairly quickly. It has been an exceptionally bad season this year, and out of a dozen or so expeditions only two have succeeded. However, before the accident, despite heavy snow, we were making reasonable progress and had been up to 18,500ft establishing dumps. These things happen and we both knew the risks involved.'

The area in which Richard was climbing is extremely remote, even for Nepal; for a two-man team without Sherpas to climb a mountain is fairly unique and, needless to say, a considerable undertaking; to get down off the mountain by himself after the accident must have called for great stamina and determination.

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

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available.
Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0·72	0·78
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	2·20	2·35
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Corps cravats—terylene	1·85	2·00
Corps cuff links	1·40	1·50
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·22	0·25
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·75	4·20
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	13·50	14·75
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4·35	4·67
Corps scarves—Woollen	3·30	3·55
Corps squares—terylene	2·45	2·65
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 3¾"	1·35	1·45
terylene	0·20	0·25
terylene type 'E'	0·20	0·25
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅛")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·75	1·85
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
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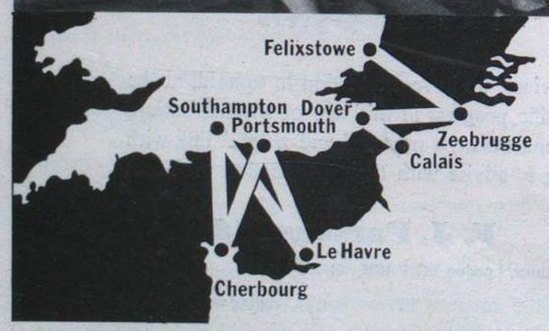

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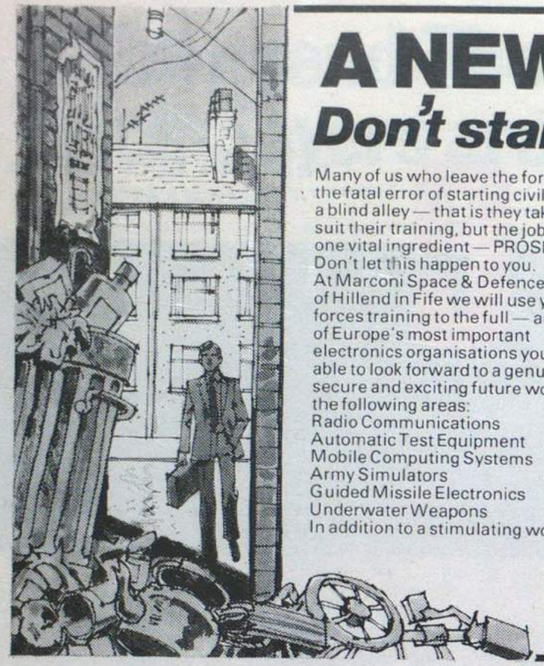
July/August 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

The camera captures an important moment through the eyes of those on parade at Sennelager on July 7. WO2 (Y of S) Pat Paddison saluting the Royal Stand. Other crew members Sig Jimmy Ramshaw, Lcpl Dave Taylor and Lcpl John Streeting. *Unseen driver* Lcpl Stevie Tynan

(Photograph courtesy C Sgt Bill Jones, 6 Armd Bde)

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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A VARIATION

It will not have escaped the notice of our subscribers that the June issue of 'The Wire' was not distributed until the end of that month. This was not due to any shortcomings of our printer. The announcement of the appointment of our Colonel-in-Chief on June 11 was of such significance that it was judged essential to adjust our production schedule.

The significance of Sennelager and July 7, and our desire to provide a timely report of this great event led to the decision to combine the July and August issues. We, thus, go to press with the largest issue of 'The Wire' ever published.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

July 7, 1977, was a unique, splendid and Royal day for the British Army when Her Majesty The Queen Reviewed Her Army at the Sennelager Training Area in West Germany. Reams have already been written and more will undoubtedly follow recording many facets of the event which captured world-wide interest through the eyes of the Press and television cameras of the world. The account included in this issue tells of the part our Corps played in the Review and records in photographic form glimpses of the many and varied activities that made the day the greatest military spectacle ever staged.

The Master of Signals and Signal Officer-in-Chief were two of the many VIPs who travelled to and from Sennelager on the day.

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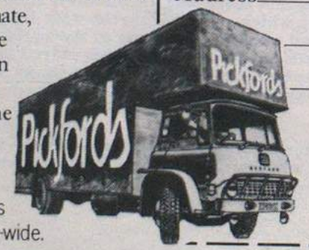

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Her Majesty Reviews Her Army

Report from HQ Royal Signals, Headquarters 1st British Corps

EARLY DAYS

FOR us in Germany, planning began in early 1976. Indeed, the files at HQ Royal Signals—and there are now five of them bursting with information solely about the Jubilee Review—record that, as long ago as February 20, 1976, when most pronto's out here were in the midst of a cold but busy Flying Falcon, the GSO 1 shook the snow from his boots and attended the inaugural meeting of the Jubilee Planning Group. This process continued monthly, weekly, daily, then hourly as the great day neared.

What were the ingredients requiring such lengthy debate and detailed planning? They were these: a parade of the full armoured might of the 4th Division (some 550 tracked vehicles); the parade of some 800 musicians from 24 military bands, corps of drums, pipes and bugles and a display, of super-Armex proportions, by all Arms during the afternoon. The communications for this great event required trunk circuits direct to the MOD, HQ BAOR and all points in the Rhine Army static system (and Sennelager is not exactly the most accessible place in the command), radio nets of all shapes and sizes, some 26 nets in all; local telephone communications to cater for the needs of two whole divisions and numerous specialist staffs 'camping' at Sennelager for some three weeks; Press communications to the world and to cap it all, a super-efficient public address system to cover an area 1 sq km in size, 25,000 spectators, a Royal Speech, a commentary, general announcements and incidental music. That was what it was all about!

It took an immense amount of planning and co-ordination, and most Royal Signals units played a part in the highly successful execution of this great plan. The following Regimental notes give worms'-eye views from the three units most involved.

2 ARMD DIV HQ and SIG REGT

Role—Command and control communications

The GOC 2 Armd Div was appointed Army Review Commander which entailed command of all Jubilee Review activities except the parade and the Royal and VIP lunches. CR SIGNALS 2 Armd Div was tasked to provide the command and control communications to link the key areas within the Sennelager Training Centre such as security HQ and the various command centres. The task called for a comprehensive mix of net radio, radio relay, line and intercom.

The Regiment's TOT, **Capt Dai Brown,** began the initial planning and as the event drew nearer he was joined by **Capt Nigel Fairley** and eventually to stage manage the event, the second in command, **Maj Peter Jones.**

1 Squadron task incorporates garden competition

Number 1 Sqn's task was to provide a series of radio relay shots from the site to the Ebburg, a much-loved hilltop just outside Bielefeld. These radio relay shots were then connected into the civil system to boost the number of circuits available from Sennelager to the outside world. These nets included direct lines to the MOD, secure speech to Rhine Army and telegraph facilities for the units working on site. Once set up, the system gave little trouble and many hours were spent embellishing the hilltop as each detachment prepared its entry in the garden competition organised by **Sgt John Moth,** our resident disc jockey and RCT MT NCO.

The day itself was rather quiet in the Commcen; most of the telephone users were either on parade or watching it, so we also watched on TV and then entertained a small party of wives and children to a hilltop barbecue (Bruin's answer to the street party). The wives then judged the garden competition, awarding first prize to the 'Well in the Garden of Echo', and the booby to Commcen command.

Afterwards, that which had taken months to plan and weeks to build, took just two days to take down. Peace is now officially declared over!

2 Squadron headache

The 2nd Armd Div's share of the command and control radio was 16 nets. Nets were provided for security, close protection, traffic control, spectator control, ushers and various other command functions. The radios used varied from C42/C45 to Pye pocket phones and the GRC 391/392. Taken in conjunction with the 4 Div nets the frequency assignment for all these radios working in close proximity must have given the computer a headache (the computer being **Capt John Beasley** of HQ Royal Signals).

Lcpl Brice and Sig Bradley winners of the Garden Competition—2 Div Commcen Foxtrot

3 Squadron assist TV engineers

The COMMHD and exchange at the Jubilee Site were provided by 7 Sig Regt; 3 Sqn, commanded by **Maj Ian Crouch,** provided a mini COMMHD actually in the Sennelager Training Centre, and provided the lines and telephones that connected everything together. Line Troop, commanded by **Lt Steve Smith,** laid a mixture of 10 pair, quad, a little DIO and much less 20 pair and most of it to be buried. If all the pairs had been connected end to end they would have stretched from London to Cardiff and were used to connect nearly 150 subscribers to the two exchanges.

As the dress rehearsals began and the linemen thought that they had got it all sewn up they were asked to assist the German TV engineers to lay the TV cables. This involved a lot of hard work as the cable was delicate air dielectric coax and multicore camera control cable. This had to be either buried or poled up well out of the way of the many vehicles which might otherwise have damaged it. It is worthy of note that of all the cable laid only one cable went faulty due to damp in the coupler and one other had to be jointed after a picket had been driven through it.

Anecdotes

The following conversation took place outside the line stores in Bunde:

'I have had the Jubilee, right up to here!'

'How often do we have these then?'

'Don't know mate, I've only been here three months.'

The following conversation took place on the Divisional command net at a rather tense moment. The Queen was due to arrive at any moment, and the German Foreign Minister (who was late) had just been spotted by the pilot of a helicopter:

'Hello 86A this is 0. What sort of car is the Foreign Minister in? Over.'

'86A. A very expensive one. Over.'

Collapse of Scout party.

We cannot compete with the Royal Navy who are reported to have produced 1¼ tons of paper in orders for the Spithead Review, but claim the prize for the best umbrella for he who wrote:

'*Res.* All units are to ensure that they take sufficient spare equipment to cover themselves for all eventualities.'

4 DIV HQ and SIG REGT

Role—Parade Division and Static Displays.
Regimental Review personalities were:

Producer	—	**Lt Col David Whitehead**
Co-ordinator	—	**Maj John Dawson**
Parade	—	**Capt John Stokoe**
Parade Communications		**Maj Adrian Bailey**
Display	—	**Maj Brian Belton**
Administrative Sites		**Maj (QM) Maurice Taylor**
Directors	—	*All officers above the rank of lieutenant-colonel*

In total some 350 soldiers either belonging to the Regiment or attached were required to meet the variety of commitments given to us. These extended from the more glamorous tasks of providing troops and vehicles for the parade and for the afternoon displays to the mundane yet important tasks of providing parade communications, static Bruin communications for the Regimental base camp, concentration areas and HQ 4 Div and the administrative support for these areas.

Parade refinements

On June 7, 1977, a month before Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Review of the Army, the soldiers of 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt destined to lead the 4th Division on parade were drawn from all corners of the Regiment and formed into one composite Troop. This Troop, commanded by the Adjutant **(Capt John Stokoe),** included a Brigadier (the CRA), a Colonel (the CRE), CR Signals **(Lt Col David Whitehead),** OC 3 Sqn **(Maj David Strong),** the RSM **(WO1 Frank Worrall),** and 21 soldiers from the Regiment! The 5 AFV 432s and drivers were provided by 7 Sig Regt. Vehicle maintenance was the responsibility of the Regimental EME **(Capt Alan Blofield)** and their parade appearance that of the Royal Artillery Warrant Officer from HQ Sqn **(BSM Dave Williams).**

In the month that followed, the five vehicle crews were groomed and drilled for the parade and the vehicles painted and prepared in all respects for the largest parade of its type for 35 years. Much of the ground work had been carried out in barracks in Herford, including the preparation of a parade Land-Rover from which the GOC, **Maj Gen N. T. Bagnall, MC,** was to command the parade. This Land-Rover included a duplicated PA system built into the empty headlamp sockets of the vehicle, controlled from the rear by **Ssgt Mick Stevenson,** the General's parade radio operator. All was proceeding well until four days before the parade when advice from the Public Relations Officer prompted the General to change his mind and command the parade from an AFV 432! The spare vehicle was requisitioned and **Ssgt Stevenson** built a PA system into it overnight. He however retained his hair and most of his composure, and **Lcpl Crilly** of 7 Sig Regt achieved fame and a television audience of 50 million as the GOC 4th Division's driver!

Early start

The day started early. The five AFV 432s, the GOC 4th Division's in front and the remaining four in line abreast to the rear, were placed on the drive-on markers at 0730hrs. Following a final dusting down to remove what little Sennelager dust had gathered, all crews retired to the tree line at the rear of the ground to await the start of the parade. At 0930hrs the vehicles were manned prior to the drive-on at 1000hrs by which time some of the 25,000 spectators had arrived.

The order to start engines always was a tense moment and this final time was no exception. The will-power generated by each member of the five crews and the thought of being towed backwards off parade were enough to make even the most reluctant engine start.

Gathering momentum

The smoothness of the initial drive-on of the 550 tracked vehicles and 3,000 men of the 4th Division set the standard for the rest of the parade. Success virtually was assured with the arrival of a wandering pigeon on top of the parade control tower as if it were to be a fail-safe addition to the already comprehensive array of radio, lights and mechanical devices used to signal words of command to the troops on parade!

The parade gathered momentum with the march-on of the 750 Bandsmen of the 24 massed Bands and the Colour Parties of BAOR regiments before which the crews of Divisional Headquarters, relaxing inside their vehicles, drank to the health of Her Majesty in good champagne!

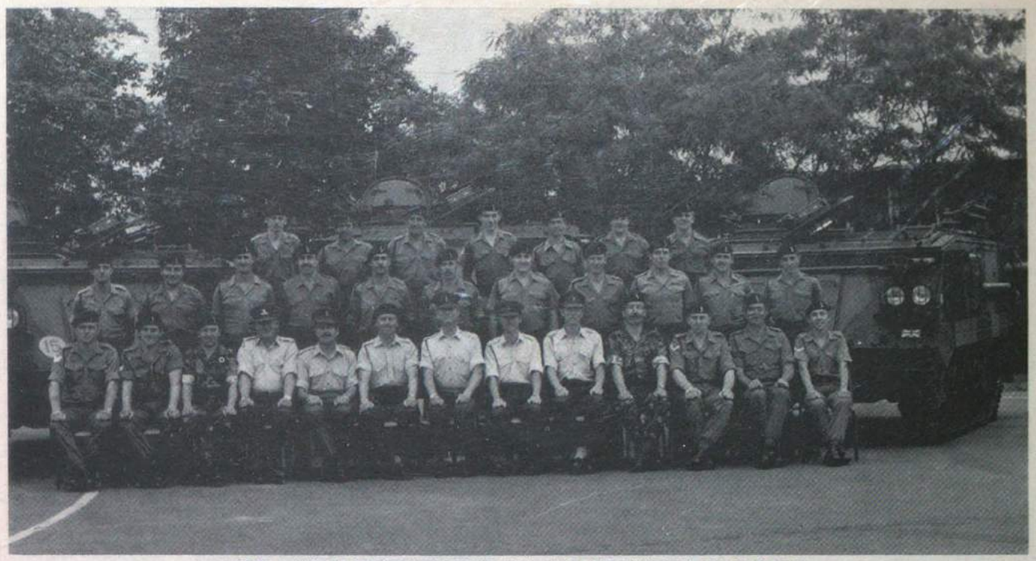
4th Division on parade

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Comd 20 Armd Bde leads his Signal Squadron on the drive past

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt drive past

4 Div give three Cheers for Her Majesty



THE 4 SIG REGT CONTINGENT THAT LED 4th DIVISION ON PARADE

Left to right. Back row: Sig McGonagle, Cpl Pearce, Cpl Garbutt, Lcpl Hoy, Sig Daly, Lcpl Hoyle, Sig Woodcock
Centre row: Sig Sheehan, Sig Showell, Sig Herron, Sig Robinson, Sig Talbot, Sig Barron, Sig McCormack, Sig Bragg, Sig Greaves, Sig Thornton, Sig Talbot
Front row: Cpl Pakes (*7 Sig Regt*), Cpl Simpson (*7 Sig Regt*), Ssgt Sreeves, WO2 (BSM) Williams, Capt Blofield, Maj Strong, Lt Col Whitehead, Capt Stokoe, Lt Thomas, Ssgt Stirzaker, Lcpl Gilbey (*7 Sig Regt*), Cpl Owen, Lcpl Crilly (*7 Sig Regt*)

Justly proud

By 1100hrs we were at attention with crews alert in the vehicles. The arrival of Her Majesty, long awaited by all the soldiers on parade, exceeded all expectations and many a soldier felt justly proud of himself as he dismounted to line the Royal Inspection Route. Following the speeches and a spirited three cheers, the parade finale, the drive-past began. Led by the AFV 432s of 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt the drive-past was described by those present in the crowds as an awesome sight.

With the vehicles of the headquarters of 4 Div, 6 Armd Bde, and 20 Armd Bde carrying the Corps badge, the parade was one which the members of the Corps participating in it will always remember.

Jubilee Parade communications

The essence of the Jubilee Parade was the inspection and drive-past, but some of the goings on behind the scenes are worthy of mention.

The control of this extravaganza fell into the 2 Sqn lap and had its problems (or minor irritations as **Sgt Sandy Catterall,** 'A4' Troop Commander delicately put it), since it was obviously a task for radios, at least initially. It was eventually decided that six radio nets would suffice to control the drive-past. A Parade Command net was established linking every vehicle on parade with parade control in the Windmill located immediately behind the Royal Box. This was a broadcast net only and enabled every vehicle to be briefed, ordered and generally kept in the picture. The task of establishing the control station fell on **Cpl Billy Tulip's** shoulders which, as anyone who plays rugby in BAOR knows, are quite broad enough. He was, of course, propped up by **Sig 'Spud' Fry** and **Sig 'Geordie' Cudgin.** A one-to-one link was established by **Cpl Paul Donovan** between Windmill control and the GOC's APC on parade, and it was over this link that detailed sitreps were sent to the GOC, for example:

'Hullo 9 this is Windmill control, a rabbit has just appeared on your parade but don't worry, it is a 4 Div rabbit.'

The embarrassing net

The Divisional Recovery Net (known as the embarrassing net) was shared by **Cpl Colin Boothby** in Windmill control with the recovery officer and **Cpl Billy Malone** and his detachment, who hid in the woods in the rear of the parade with all the recovery vehicles ready to whisk away non-starters and breakdowns. In addition to the Aviation net which was AAC manned and operated, but under our paternal care, we provided the 4 Div control net to co-ordinate the movement of the Royal Escorts, the bands and pipes and drums, etc. To effect this, **Cpl Pete Jenkins** kept in C42 touch with **Cpls Paul Hanson** and **Pollard** and the 800+ bandsmen (and also kept 2 Sqn in the Royal Eye as his Land-Rover was the first military vehicle the Queen saw on entering the Parade ground); **Cpl 'Road' Mawer** and the pipes and drums and **Sig Steve Memmot** in the ambulance (tasking and not using). A special mention must be made of **Sig 'Jock' Smith,** our newest cambat radioman, who had to bear the brunt of the wailing pipes in the back of **Cpl Mawer's** Land-Rover.

We also produced an administrative net for Squadron domestic use linking our Regimental Camp at Mandalay Range, the Windmill comms site in radio village and our LOs. This net, run by **Lt Roger Clutterbuck** and **Sgt Sandy Catterall,** grew in importance to become an 'official' net by the immaculate way they co-ordinated the LOs in support of the RMP, in the form of **Cpls Terry Leaver** and **'Smudge' Smith, Lcpl Mick Tarmey** and **Sig 'Jock' Shaw** with the mobile PA kit and the efficient use of the NRA equipment which allowed the parade controllers immediate access to a telephone during rehearsals and resolving snarl-ups around the area.

Remote to Windmill

All the control stations were located in a small radio village in the rear of the Windmill and remoted to the top floor where the drive-past was controlled. This little empire was supervised by **Lt Peter White** and **Sgt Pete Findell** with **Y of S Dave Wright** and **F of S Ken Perry** at the Windmill end. In the Windmill itself **Y of S Wright** in his master operator guise controlled the parade command net with the help of **Sig Andy Pludek,** who discovered on a number of occasions that he rather liked being a Divisional Commander. **F of S Perry's** technical experience was well tested and on one occasion had to change a battery in the radio microphone to a count down prior to its use for orders. You might ask where the buck stopped? It did, too—in radio village with **Capt Nick Franks,** and in the Windmill with the Squadron OC, **Maj Adrian Bailey,** who sought the help of Batman and Robin so often that the rings under his eyes gave the impression that he was a fully paid up member of the same comic strip.

We should include some detailed explanations for the more technically minded. With the exception of the Parade Command net the radio nets were normal nets with duplicated control stations and remotes. However, the actual means of communicating executive instructions to the parade were rather more prolific and proficient. Below were the methods used and in no particular order of priority or use:

The Jubilee Dustbin — The mark 10 Jubliee Dustbin was attached to the halyard of the flagpole on top of the Windmill and could be seen by everyone on Parade. It was raised slowly as a warning and then dropped as an executive order for action.

Flashing Lights — The Corps Lighting Troop (from 7 Sig Regt) produced a Dalekian conglomeration of orange and white flashing lights which was to signify the warning and execution of predetermined orders.

VHF Radio (Main) — A C42/C45/B48/A42 radio broadcast net which was received by every vehicle on parade and allowed every vehicle and person on parade to be briefed and also kept up to date on all changes to the Orders for the Parade.

VHF Radio (Standby) — A complete duplication of the main radio using different radios, remotes, etc.

VHF Radio (Standby Standby) — A TSB.

VHF Radio (TSB Standby) — A TTSB.

VHF Radio Microphone — A system to allow receipt of the GOC's words of command should the PA equipment on his APC fail.

GOC PA System — Each smoke discharger on the GOC's APC was replaced by an ALS 24 speaker to announce the GOC's orders and to present the Parade to the Queen. Needless to say there was a duplicate APC. Identical to the first and also a special Land-Rover with the same facilities.

Loudhailers — The last resort for the GOC.

Public PA System — To allow more people to answer the cry for help.

Pigeon No 2148 — A valuable asset which appeared unannounced on the day of the Parade only and perched on the window in the Windmill from the arrival of the Queen until the end of the Parade. This communication system regrettably goes unthanked.

Prayers — Enough were said to warrant their inclusion in this category.

Royal walkabout

After luncheon and prior to the Royal visit to the various displays, the SSM 2 Sqn, **WO2 Tom Foody,** and his wife, **Kay,** had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty in the Royal walkabout enclosure.

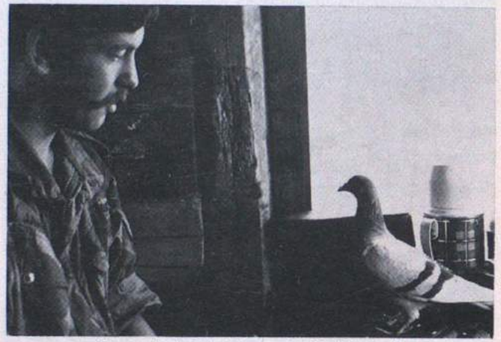
Royal Signals display

The afternoon displays were to be based on two themes, 'The Army Today' and 'The Way Ahead'. The equipment for the former could be obtained from various Royal Signals units in BAOR, but for 'The Way Ahead' it was necessary to call on MOD assistance. As the expenditure on the Review had to be kept to an absolute minimum any equipment coming from the UK had to be tied into the normal schedule of trials, exercises and demonstrations planned for such equipment in BAOR. As a result, some of the equipment was not available until a few days before the Review, causing more than a little anxiety for the officer responsible for the display, **Maj Brian Belton,** of 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Anxious moments

After many rehearsals, on a practise ground at Sennelager (which bore only a superficial resemblance to the real thing), the Corps Display had got its setting up time to well inside the one hour maximum allowed. However, owing to the very uneven

Lcpl McKinnon being visited by Mrs Marion Almonds, wife of OC 11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, on the static display at Sennelager on Queen's Silver Jubilee Review



The arrival of the pigeon in the Windmill

CSO BAOR, Maj Gen Peter Baldwin, discussing points on the Ptarmigan display stand with Maj Peter Chaddock

surface of the practise ground which, under normal circumstances, was a tracked vehicles training area, it was never possible for the vehicles carrying the more fragile displays to practise with the remainder.

At about 1305hrs on the day, the Parade being over and the last of the VVIP cars and buses departed for lunch, the order to move was given to the displays. From three corners of the Review site, large convoys of vehicles of every description started to

trundle towards the ground recently vacated by the parading division. As the displays had to be ready for opening to the public at 1400hrs, the site soon became a hive of activity. The Royal Signals' stand was split into two parts, and had a prime site in the centre of the display area.

The shop-window part of the Corps' stand was an area 50×80m in which the Royal Party were scheduled to spend some seven minutes. Half of this area was taken up by the Command and Signals elements of a Task Force Headquarters; ten 430 series vehicles provided by 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, commanded by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Stephen Carr Smith.** This was the only display of the whole afternoon to be fully camouflaged and a mock battle was being conducted inside the staff cruciform by staff officers using all the normal Task Force communications facilities.

The other half of the shop window showed 'The Way Ahead'. A display console loaned by the Plessey Company gave an excellent display of the PTARMIGAN system. Designed for floor mounting, this console takes three hours to erect, and so had to be pre-erected somewhat precariously on a large flatbed trailer. The fears that the console would never survive the trip to the display site proved unfounded thanks to the expert advice of **Mr David Jary** of Plessey, who together with **Maj Peter Chaddock** of RSRE, presented the display. The high mounting, attractively striped awning and the excellent finishing touches put on by 4 Sig Regt's LAD, made this display an excellent crowd puller.

Links to Christchurch and Blandford

The RSRE Land-Rover mounted satellite ground station which was set up and working to Christchurch in some six minutes was presented by **Mr Martin Weston** and **Mr David Longhurst** of RSRE. It proved a very popular stand although a failure just as the Queen was entering the Royal Signals display caused some moments of anxiety! The failure was probably caused by one of the many spectators rushing to see the Queen, kicking the waveguide. **WO2 (F of S) Tony Lowry** assisted on this stand and added a Royal Signals presence.

Two Land-Rover-mounted C11/VRC 321 stations provided by 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and manned by **Lcpls Don Wyatt** and **Ian (Wince) Winstanley** were working to Blandford throughout the afternoon. The excellent voice link and small size of the VRC 321 contrasted well with the C11. This was proof to all of the goodies to come in the Clansman range.

To add a few more Royal Signals cap badges and some activity to the Royal route part of the display, a well prepared demonstration of underground cable jointing using lead and plastic sheathed cables was provided by a team from 21 Sig Regt led by **Sgt Denniss.** This team would also have gained first prize in the tent-moving competition, having been asked so many times to pick up their display and move it elsewhere to accommodate the less-flexible parts of the display.

Many vehicle installations

The last stand in this area proved to be the largest and most popular of the Corps display. To show the Corps' involvement in the introduction of TV to BAOR, **Maj Bernard Strange,** the project officer, put together a display which showed equipment provided by the main contractors, the progress of the system, and what the service will provide. His team consisted of Marconi and BFBS Germany engineers and the latter were able to show the official TV recording of the morning's parade on six colour TV screens located around the stand. It was these that proved to be the big attraction, as throughout the afternoon people on and off the morning's parade tried to spot themselves on television.

The remainder of the Corps Display consisted of some 20 stands provided mainly by 4 and 7 Sig Regts. The idea of these was to show as many different vehicle installations as possible but to have them all interconnected and working. To this end there was a very non-standard Division Commcen provided by 4 Regt and put together by **Ssgt (F of S) Joe Aquilina** and including a TARIF display from 7 Regt. The 7 Regt team was commanded by **Capt Ian Gordon** of the Royal Australian Signals, ably assisted by **Ssgt (Y of S) Jack Cowan.**

Bruin popular

The Commcen was connected by radio relay FV439 C50 to the Task Force Headquarters mentioned earlier and by C70 to a very non-standard Commhd consisting of staff vehicles, CCTV, and message centre. All Bruin facilities were wired up and working, and proved very popular, particularly with the children.

The opportunity to pump up a Clark Mast provided by **Cpls 'Pigpen' Hogben** and **Jack Lawlor** used up some of the children's excess energy but few adults were tempted to try it in the heat.

The net radio aspects of the Corps were provided by a complete range of Clansman radio demonstrated by **Capt Tes Fish** and **WO1 (Y of S) Andy Harkins.** A C42 Re-broadcast net from a Ferret LO vehicle to the Task Force Headquarters completed the display. The whole display was topped off by Corps and Regimental flags flying from mast tops, the highest flags on the display.

Well camouflaged

Her Majesty was scheduled to visit the Corps display for seven minutes. Unfortunately, her visit was the last item on her programme which inevitably ran late. This, combined with the vast crowd that assembled to see her, prevented her looking at the stands in detail. Nevertheless, she expressed interest in what the Corps was doing and in particular she approved of the projected introduction of BFG TV Service. She was conducted through the Corps area by the Commanding Officer and **Maj Brian Belton** accompanied by HRH Prince Philip. An indication of the size of the crowd can be gained from a remark by Prince Philip that the Task Force was well camouflaged—it could not be seen for the people around it!

The Corps display was very popular and was judged a great success. Certainly those responsible for all the painting, cleaning, preparation and rehearsals thought it well worth the effort which is as good an indication as any.

Post script

The party is over, the parade ground gathers dust, the displays are dismantled and returned from whence they came (well almost). The Review is just a memory. During the build-up our flexibility was tested to the extreme as requirements and plans changed hour by hour. 'Management by surprise' was a somewhat ironic joke at the time. There is the saying that not only does the Army give you a pension but working in it will age you more quickly so that you may collect sooner. We have all aged a bit and are looking forward to the simple things in life—like the next exercise.

7 SIG REGT REPORT

Role—Trunk communications, general support and public address systems.

The Review of the Army at Sennelager is over. The months of planning, co-ordination and preparation, and the days of practices and rehearsals are finished. As the marquees are taken down, equipment returned to store and files closed, we are left with only memories of the most spectacular parade of the British Army for decades. Behind the men and vehicles on parade was another task force of men and equipment providing the massive support for the event. Within this task force 7 Sig Regt played its part to make the Army Review such a memorable occasion.

PA

The overall responsibility for PA was given to the Regiment and the task of organising it fell to **Capt (TOT) Neville Armitage, BEM.** To cover the vast Review area and the many unusual staff requirements, equipment was borrowed, begged and cobbled together from many various places.

In the Royal Box there were three separate microphones arranged so that the pick-up pattern of the microphones could be controlled from the mixing position by an operator observing the Queen on a TV monitor. The operator in the hot seat before the vast array of switches and levers was **Mr Haydon Warren,** a civilian consultant on large outside PA systems. The microphones were raised and lowered by the RSM, **WO1 Nicoll.**

PA Linemen

Lcpl Eddie Helliwell, Sig Stuart Edwards and Cpl Gus Honey. Six miles of PA cable were laid in the Review Area

Maj Gen Bagnall's 432, following the 'Royal Range-Rover', is driven by Lcpl Tony Crilly (RTg) of 6 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Jubilee COMMHD

7 Sig Regt provided the COMMHD at the Review location known as The Jubilee COMMHD. It held six C70 shots which, with one combined, provided a total of 42 voice channels. Two auto 100 exchanges were employed and two manual switchboards—an 80-line and a 120-line. Those sweet voices that answered the Jubilee calls were not 7 Sig Regt's, but belonged to WRAC operators of 16 Sig Regt. The COMMHD was commanded by **Maj John Potier.**

Power

Power for the Review area was provided by Corps Lighting Troop—a Royal Engineer Troop which is part of 7 Sig Regt. **Capt Carel Bouwens** and his men supplied the power demands with 25 27½KVA generators and 53,000ft of mains cable, not to mention the 5,000 litres of fuel each day!

Anecdote

Squadron Commander inspecting site, 'What's that apple core doing there?'

Lance-corporal, 'Having a rest sir—you've had it moved three times.'

Left to right: Capt Neville Armitage, BEM, with Sgt Pete Smith, Lcpl Steve Morton and Sgt Raymond Burgess of 229 Sig Sqn

Capt Ian Gordon (Royal Australian Signals) and his wife, Ula

Pte Wilma Drackett (4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt) and Sig 'Bamba' Gascoigne on the three-position Jubilee Exchange. During the day the exchange handled 150 calls per hour

Commhead Tech Controllers

Left to right: Sig 'Taff' Staples, Ssgt (F of S) Alex Taylor, Lcpl Paul Thompson, Sgt Andy Funnel and Cpl 'Ada' Cook

From our "In" Tray

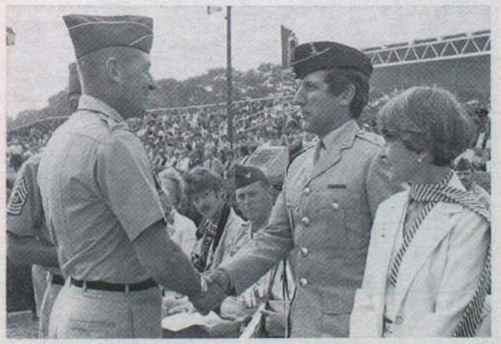
OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The Master of Signals and Signal Officer-in-Chief had the honour of being received by the Colonel-in-Chief at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, June 29. Her Royal Highness was pleased to accept a leather-bound book which showed in illustrated form, the state of the Corps—based on many splendid colour photographs supplied by units at home and overseas. These were mounted and the book beautifully compiled by **Mr John Stewart** and the staff of the Graphics Studio of the School of Signals.

More recently, Her Royal Highness has expressed her delight in accepting the Patronage of The Royal Signals Association and The Royal Signals Institution.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Alexander (Drummond) Gibson, CBE,** on receiving a Knighthood in the Jubilee Honours List. **Sir Alexander** served in the Corps from 1944–48, when he was a member of the Corps Band.



Retiring—British Lt Col Alan Dexter (*right*), the first British exchange officer assigned to the Signal School at Fort Gordon, is congratulated by Maj Gen Charles R. Myer, post commanding general, upon his retirement. Standing beside the British lieutenant colonel is his wife, Celine

(Photo and report courtesy US Army)

SO in C VISITS OLD SCHOOL

SO in C inspecting Christ's Hospital CCF, meets Bandmaster of School Band

SO in C returns to old school and meets Christ's Hospital boys of today

ARMY FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR—
Lcpl 'Jock' Hamilton

LCPL 'JOCK' HAMILTON from Broomhouse in Edinburgh began his Army and football career as a junior tradesman at Troon. His first posting took him to 229 Sig Sqn in Berlin where he played for the Combined Services. He then moved to 262 Sig Sqn where he played for the Army Cyprus team and from there he came to 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in 1973. With the Regiment he has played for the BAOR regular team, the Army UK team and the Combined Services team. He was presented with his BAOR, Army, and Combined Services Colours in 1974, 1975 and 1977, respectively. Finally, this year he was made Army Footballer of the Year. — Congratulations on an excellent achievement.

From: **Maj (Retd) G. McKowen**
Dear Editor,

If you haven't already seen the following Press cutting, I thought you ought to have it and include it in THE WIRE.

It is quite remarkable that a lance-corporal in the Corps Band 30 years ago should now be one of the finest choir trainers in the world, also as a church organist.

The cutting I took from *The Daily Telegraph*, Friday, May 20, from Peterborough's column.

Yours sincerely,
George McKowen.

Sutton House
Squires Walk
Kempsey.

Signal success

'When Canon Robert Holby succeeds the Very Rev Walter Hussey as Dean of Chichester in August, he will be reunited with the cathedral organist, John Birch, after 30 years.

'Holtby, who was Chaplain to the Forces at Catterick just after the last war, gave Birch, then a lance-corporal playing in the Royal Signals Band, his first job as an organist.

'Now he finds himself appointed Dean of a cathedral where his protégé has established himself as one of the finest choir trainers and exponents of the church organ in the world.

'But this is very much in the musical tradition of Chichester. The present Dean is a renowned patron of the Arts; the Bishop, Eric Kemp, used to sing in the choir at Worcester when he was its Dean, and Holtby was a choral scholar at King's, Cambridge.'

[*Re-published by courtesy of* The Daily Telegraph.]

COMMONWEALTH CO-OPERATION

Toronto—**Pte Ray Banks** *(left)* of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, and **Lcpl Graham Guy** of Nottingham, England, prepare lunch during Exercise Northern James.

Pte Banks is serving with the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment stationed at Kingston, Ontario, and **Lcpl Guy** with the British Signal Regiment. Ten members of the British Regiment are in Canada on a familiarisation tour to learn the problems of living, moving and communicating in the north under summer conditions.

(Canadian Forces Photoreport)

From: **L. M. Parrack, Esq.**
Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of attending the 30th Annual Reunion Dinner of the Indian Signals Association at the Victory Club in London on St. George's Day last, and while favourably impressed by the record number of ex-India veterans who had gathered to celebrate with old comrades of long ago, was rather disappointed at the small number of ex-RE Signals present.

Surely, even at this distance in time, there must be many more ex-RE Signals and founder members of Royal Signals who recall with pride and pleasure their early soldiering days at Maresfield and Crowborough and, later, in the 'mysterious East', and who would be glad to meet once again contemporaries of that period and join them in remembering their yesterdays and the events and 'characters' of those past years.

Who of the old timers does not remember 'Dolly' Gray, the middle-weight boxing Champion of all India in 1927; Joe Cotterell, the legendary champion runner of SE England; heavyweight Jimmy Emblem; and other great athletes who added such lustre to the great sporting traditions of the Corps?

I met the two first-named gentlemen, and several other old friends, after well over 50 years at the recent reunion, and we should welcome more of our generation on future similar occasions.

Yours faithfully
L. M. Parrack.

47 Whippingham Road
Brighton BN2 3PF.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB DINNER

THE Royal Signals Yacht Club will be holding a Jubilee Dinner on Wednesday, November 2, 1977. The venue chosen is the TAVR Centre of 68th (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, in Lincoln's Inn. This is both conveniently situated and provides an elegant setting befitting the occasion, which with the presence of the Corps Band and Trumpeters, promises to be a truly memorable event.

It has been decided that each member attending may bring a lady guest and dress will be Dinner Jacket (although dark suits are acceptable).

Most of the known sailors of all ranks in the Corps have been notified by letter and we already have a good turn-out. In case there are some who have been accidentally omitted and who are interested in attending and prepared to go on a waiting list if necessary, they should write for details to:

Lt Col J. M. N. Lyons, Vice-Commodore Royal Signals Yacht Club, HQ 2 Signal Group, Malta Barracks, Aldershot. Closing date: September 5, 1977.

CABLE WAGGON—1977 MODEL

We gratefully acknowledge the two photographs forwarded by 259 Sig Sqn (West) BFPO 53. This unique vehicle—and its 'crew'—were a component in a Silver Jubilee Parade in Cyprus.

WOLVERHAMPTON RETIREMENT

Bert Derrick served for 27 years in the Corps and has recently retired from his post as Chief Clerk at the Army Careers Information Office at Wolverhampton, having then completed some 43 years of service to the Crown. Bert is seen ensuring that Maj B. J. Underhill, the ACO, does not spill any 'Scotch Mist' twixt bottle and bowl, while Sgt Duggan, Royal Signals Recruiter, watches with bated breath and RSM E. R. Harper eagerly waits for the bowl to start its rounds. We wish Bert a long and happy retirement after many years of valuable service

From: **Col M. H. Seys-Phillips, TD,** DL.
Dear Sir,

I was delighted to receive the latest issue of THE WIRE and to see the interesting collection of photographs over the last 25 years. The first photograph of the TA Signals personnel at Her Majesty's Coronation included my motor cycle but only part of me!

Few people will remember that, apart from CSO London District and his staff, communications for the Coronation Procession were provided by Territorial Signal Regiments.

I wonder how many of those in the photograph still keep in touch with the Corps and THE WIRE?

Yours faithfully,
M. H. Seys-Phillips.

The Malt House,
Mereworth,
Kent.

From: **H. Brown, Esq**
Dear Sir,

Being an ex-regular of the Royal Signals (discharged in 1945), I was invited to attend the Old Comrades Reunion at Catterick recently and I realised what I have been missing all these years. We were treated like Lords, the hospitality and the welcome we were given is something I will never forget. I hope I live to enjoy many more reunions.

I was given some back numbers of THE WIRE which I thoroughly enjoyed reading and am enclosing subscription for one year which I will look forward to receiving.

An article (May 1977 WIRE), which greatly interested me was an account of a visit to Pakistan by Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB, OBE, in which he mentions his tour of the North-West Frontier Province. Places like Peshawar, Landi Kotal, Razmak—and I was most surprised when I read that they 'brought the Corps Band from the STC at Kohat'—I served there in 1938 when it was then called 'Kohat District Signals', as a wireless operator working the 'old faithful' (the 'C' set) from D.I.K. to Wana-Manzai-Khairu-Kel and Thal,which were outstations in the mountains of the Frontier, which in those days were 'loaded with trouble' from the tribesmen etc.

I have some photographs of our old barracks at Kohat and would like to get in touch with someone there who might be interested, and I would be glad if you could possibly give me an address to write to. It would be interesting to know what it is like up there now.

Yours faithfully,
H. Brown.

16 Victoria Street,
Church,
Accrington, Lancs BB5 4LB.

From: **Lt Col D. A. Dickson**
Dear Sir,

In reference to your query 'Where are they now?' concerning 4 Div Signals Soccer Team of 1930, on page 234 of the June WIRE, I met **Harry Marshall** on several occasions during the last few years. Sadly, he died suddenly last year. After he left the Corps, before the outbreak of the last war, he joined the Fire Service and had an exciting and generally sleepless time dealing with the results of bombing attacks on Hull and Grimsby.

Yours faithfully,
Denis Dickson,
Historical Officer.

Royal Signals Institution,
Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals,
Cheltenham Terrace,
London SW3 4RH.

BROCKENHURST RADIO 'HAM'S' 50th ANNIVERSARY

[*Editor's note:* The following report was published in the *Lymington Times* on April 2, and is re-published by kind permission of the Editor. The Editor gratefully acknowledges this news item from **Lt Col (Retd) Sir Evan Y. Nepean, Bt,** General Secretary, Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.]

'LAST week **Lt Col Amherst Barrow Whatman,** of Brockenhurst, celebrated a special occasion—the 50th anniversary of his being granted an amateur radio transmitting licence. To commemorate the event, he invited four colleagues, either fellow "hams" or Royal Signals officers, to a lunch party at his home, Maryland, in Wilverley Road.

'It was on March 23, 1927, that the Colonel obtained his first

transmitting licence, call sign G6BW. During his 22 years in the Royal Signals he transmitted from all parts of the world, though there was a short spell when he had to give up his licence and subsequently he was reallocated the call sign G2BQ.

'In 1935–36, he was a member of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition to Northeast Land, 80°N, being responsible for the wireless communications and research on the ionosphere. The expedition members were subsequently awarded the Polar Medal in silver, and their leader, A. R. Glen—now Sir Arthur Glen, head of the British Tourist Authority—received a medal from the Royal Geographical Society.

'During the last war, Lt Col Whatman spent another year, in 1942–43, in the far North, undertaking ionosphere measurements on behalf of the Admiralty, in Spitsbergen, where he was in charge of wireless—and as a result was made an MBE. He continues to transmit from his retirement home at Brockenhurst, where he lives with his wife, Catherine, He is a supporter of the Amateur Radio Invalid and Bedfast Club, such radio communications meaning a great deal to "hams" suffering from ill health. His mother, Mrs Myrtle Whatman, has lived in Brockenhurst for 49 years and, as a 95-year-old, now resides at Forest Oaks.

'Sharing Col Whatman's 50th anniversary were Lt Col Sir Evan Nepean, Bt, Gr Capt Douglas Johnson, Brig Dick Ridley-Martin and Lt Col Freddie Booth.

'Sir Evan has been a friend since schooldays, having been at Winchester College with Col Whatman, and he spent 27 years in the Royal Signals. Sir Evan obtained his transmitting licence a few months later in 1927, call sign G5YN. In 1936, he was one of two lieutenants responsible for the wireless communications of the British Mission to Tibet.

'In his spare time at Lhasa, Sir Evan set up what was probably the most "DX-otic" ever of amateur radio stations, AC4YN (DX is amateur radio shorthand for long distance, and DX-otic is a pun meaning very rare long distance). This was certainly the first ever amateur radio station in Tibet.

'Gp Capt Johnson obtained his licence, G6DW, four years before the other pair. During the 1935–36 Arctic Expedition, he

Photo courtesy: Lymington Times

Brig Ridley Martin, Lt Col Booth, Lt Col Whatman, Lt Col Sir Evan Nepean Bt, Mrs Ridley Martin, Mrs Booth, Mrs Johnson, Lady Nepean, Mrs Whatman, Gp Capt Johnson

obtained special permission from the GPO to send and receive personal messages for expedition members, and to pass on ionosphere measurements to the Royal Society.

'In the last war, whilst in the RAFVR, her became a Group-Captain, and, as head of the radio board of the War Cabinet, was adviser to the late Sir Stafford Cripps. The Group-Captain now holds the record of contacting 560 different amateur radio stations in Australia.

'The third guest, Brig Ridley-Martin, was at "The Shop"—the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, with Col Whatman, and at times they were stationed at the same units during the Brigadier's 33 years' service. Since 1935 he has been concerned with the radio control of model boats and aircraft, and recently the Brigadier and his wife took up residence at a forward strategic position, at September Cottage, next to the Rose and Crown in Brockenhurst.

'Lt Col Booth lives at Home Croft, Sandy Down, Boldre. He and Col Whatman were together at the Inspectorate of Electrical and Mechanical Equipment. Following 26 years in the Royal Signals, he spent 17 years at the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch, retiring nine years ago.

'Col Whatman, Sir Evan and the Brigadier are all members of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society and, in fact, Sir Evan is now secretary. At the lunch party Col Whatman had on show many interesting pieces of equipment and cuttings recounting exploits, also QSL's—acknowledgment cards after making two-way contact—from all parts of the world.'

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

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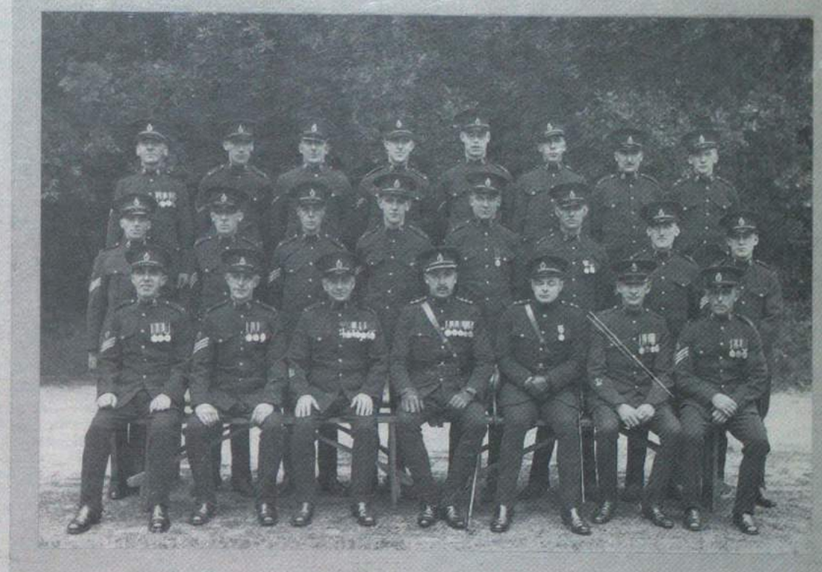
The North Midland Corps Signals
Coronation Party 12th May, 1937



From: **Capt (Retd) J. Cooper**
Dear Sir,

The enclosed photograph was 'rescued' from a local auction for the princely sum of 2½p!

All a little before my time I feel, unless the CQMS C. A. Hart became WO1 (RSM) 'Tiger' Hart, who, in 1946, at 1 OTB at Catterick introduced a large number of potential OWLs to the rigours of military discipline.

Yours,
Jack Cooper.

'Beirnfels',
Old Odiham Road,
Alton,
Hants GU34 4BP

Mr JIM WRIGHT RETIRES

MR JIM WRIGHT retired on June 30, 1977, after 43 years' service to Royal Signals, first as a serving soldier and later as a civilian instructor.

Jim joined the Corps in 1931 and, after training as an Operator Signals, served in the UK for a short time before being posted to India. He has many stories to tell of his spell in India and pride of place in his office has, for a long time, belonged to an old photograph showing **Jim** with a patrol which included 'mule-mounted radios'. He returned to the UK in 1939 for demob but had not completed his terminal leave before being recalled for the war. He served throughout the war with 5 British Div. seeing active service in France, Madagascar, India, Persia, Syria, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Egypt, Belgium and Germany before returning to civilian life in 1946.

After a break of less than four years **Jim** was back 'pounding the key', this time as a civilian instructor with 3 Training Regt in Catterick. Following the reorganisation of operator training, he moved to Newark in 1957 and returned to Catterick in 1960, before being promoted to Supervising Instructor in 1964. In recent years, **Jim** has specialised in the training of Combat Radiomen but he will be known to most telegraphists in the Corps. The photograph shows **Jim** at work interviewing a Combat Radioman Basic Student.

NEW MAYOR FOR WOKINGHAM

WE are grateful to **Col H. C. B. Rogers, OBE,** for forwarding Press cuttings covering the swearing in, on May 25, 1977, of the new Mayor of Wokingham—**Cllr (ex-Sig) Bob Naish.**

Cllr Naish, a carpenter and joiner, came to Wokingham in 1939 and joined the Corps in 1941. He served in India, Burma, Singapore, and Malaya. On his release he started his own business and soon became interested in local government. He was elected to the old Borough Council in 1967, as a representative for Evendons, where he served on several committees, eventually becoming chairman of the public works committee.

Due to illness, **Cllr Naish** retired from his private business in 1974 and took up a lighter form of employment. He joined the Royal British Legion as car park attendant and soon became known as 'king of the car park'!

LOOKING BACK

[*Editor's note.*—Our apologies to the Corps Cross-country Team of 1925 (Egypt) and Boxing Team 1925 (Egypt). The captions were transposed and we apologise to our elderly readers who will already have noted that it is the boxers who were photographed without vests.]

LOOKING BACK
'SECRET' HISTORY OF THE CORPS

LAND OF FRAGRANT STREAMS
By John Hole

SIX MONTHS JOURNEY TO HONG KONG

IT took me six months to reach Hong Kong from Reed Hall Colchester. Those halcyon days and nights came to an end in the false dawn of a morning at the end of June 1923. The harbour, reckoned by those who had seen Rio de Janeiro, said that Hong Kong was the finest and most beautiful in the world. The population then was about half a million, this included all the New Territories, now it exceeds that of all New Zealand—about eight million.

Snakes for company

Communications were run by the 40 Fortress Coy, RE, to whom we were attached. The Signals personnel consisted of a Captain of the Black Watch; a QMS (foreman of Signals); a Sergeant who had spent all his service in the stables; five switchboard operators and one lineman (me). Everything was in a terrible state. Hardly a phone was serviceable. I took over Stonecutters Island. Here was a Naval radio station and an unmanned battery of siege guns. I was there on my jack, but I had the company of a million bamboo snakes.

Typhoon and a mess

On August 23, 1923, the most devastating typhoon ever to hit the China Coast smashed every iron pole, ripped up every submarine cable connecting HK, Stonecutters, Lymun, Cape Diagular, etc. Dozens of large boats were tossed up into the jungle far from the shore. What a mess! I was the only Lineman in South China. The F of S said to me more than once that he and I were the only two who seemed to know what we were doing. And he did not know much! He had been on a cable-laying ship before the war. All I saw him do was to requisition for stores—which he could not get. But he did get me a large Chinese oiled silk umbrella. I was the only British soldier to be issued with a brolly—slope arms!

Holiday promise unfulfilled

All were iron poles so I put them all back on their base and used the 400-lb GI wires to hold them in place—which they did for months. The submarine cables I had to grapple for on the ocean bed from a lighter. The fact that I was a good swimmer saved my life many times as the passing boats in this very busy harbour tipped me into the sea—the lighter being flat-bottomed easily turned turtle. I had to joint the old cables together under most trying circumstances. I was promised a fortnight's holiday in Shanghai for my heroic work—but I never got it. I was on duty all round the clock for over three years. All kinds of 'brass' would ring me up at all times of the day and night. I survived!

Penny per diem

After the typhoon had struck us I went over to the mainlaind with a gang of 12 civilian Chinese men and began to repair the damage. This was after I had repaired the submarine cables. Talk about making bricks without straw. My civvy gang consisted of my No 1—Ah You, a cheerful chap who did exactly as I told him. He could climb an iron pole (barefooted) just like a monkey. Under my guidance he was better than some of the PO engineers I have seen in England. The pay of my blokes was ONE PENNY per diem, half of which they spent on scoff and the other half on Fan Tan, Mah Jongh and sex. They were a happy and willing lot. We were a good team. Within six weeks we were back to normal, if rather shaky. We were waiting for new stores from England.

Soo Foo

I worked hand in glove with all the various public departments such as the Public Works Dept.; Customs; Prison Dept., HK Electric; China & Japan Telephone Coy; Railways; Police, etc. They all came direct to me, bypassing the brass, and we got on champion. Soon I became known to all the inhabitants—from Sir Robert Ho Tung, the Chinese philanthropist and millionaire, down to the lowest coolie. I respect all the Chinese customs and way of life; learnt their language and blended myself into their background. During the troubles when all the troops were confined to barracks I was the only British soldier who was allowed to wander at will in every part of the Colony. The F of S wanted me to go about armed but I told him that my walking stick was a greater protection. I was known to all as Soo Foo—literally Line Man. I had a free pass on the Railway, trams, buses and the Peak Tramway.

Into building with a squeeze

When I had restored communications I was taken off the job. The Foreman of Works (WO1) of the RE, a very efficient and likeable chap, told me I was now working for him. When I asked why he said he had an important building job to be done at Gun Club Hill and that I was the only one in the 40 Fortress Coy who was suitable—you will have charge of a civvy Chinese Building contractors—you speak their language and you will not allow any fiddling—and I outrank Peter (F of S). So that was that. There is a custom in China that dates back to the dawn of time called 'squeeze'. The contractor gave me 10 dollars which I accepted. If I had refused there would have been big trouble. Who was I to kick against this practice? I told him I would not accept any more and that he would do exactly as I ordered. He agreed and everybody was happy. In the fullness of time the F of W told me he was very pleased with the work I had done. Years later I was to meet him again when he had left the Army and had become a Government Building Inspector.

Farewell

I returned to my normal work and during the three years I re-wired every telephone and, for the first time ever, communications were first class. Others stole my thunder. When I took over in 1923 the Japs could have walked in and we would not have been any the wiser. When I left, others got the medals!

The day before I sailed for home from China the Chinese who ran our canteen—one named Deathsead—had a 'whip round' and collected a goodly round sum and presented me with a box of scented soap as a mark of respect to me. All those who contributed were only paid one penny a day and I was deeply touched. Too many left the Colony owing tradesmen sums of money and the inhabitants were glad to see the back of them. The chief steward of the ss *Sarpeden,* flagship of the Blue Funnel Line, made me a big iced cake. There was weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth when I said *adios.*

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Movements

Officers

JULY 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (Tfc) B. Adcock	HQ 2 Signal Group
Col P. D. Alexander, MBE	MOD
2 Lt J. A. Barry	School of Signals (Course)
Lt Col B. A. Blackwell	11 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Bowen	7 Sig Regt
Col D. H. Briggs	RMCS
Lt L. K. Byrne	22 Sig Regt
Lt T. J. P. Bryning	2 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt G. A. Carmichael	262 Sig Sqn
Maj P. D. E. Chase	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj M. F. H. Colman	HS School of Signals
Capt D. W. M. Conran	21 Sig Regt
2 Lt J. P. M. Coulthard	School of Signals
Lt M. D. Crowther	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col H. A. Cuerden	MOD (DASD)
Capt R. J. Evans	7 Sig Regt
2 Lt A. Field	School of Signals (Course)
Lt I. R. Fielder	22 Sig Regt
2 Lt P. J. Filby	School of Signals (Course)
Lt N. F. Fisher	Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj L. G. Fraser	HQ Dhekelia Garrison
Capt D. J. Freeston	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) G. Geldard	AAC
Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves	HQ BAOR
Lt A. J. Grey	7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) J. M. Hammonds	CPA Royal Signals
Lt B. Hewitt	7 Sig Regt
2 Lt J. E. Hogan	School of Signals (Course)
Maj (TOT) H. Holmes	CPA Royal Signals
Lt J. P. Hudson	11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2 Lt C. R. Lawrence	7 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. Leach	School of Signals (Course)
Maj F. C. Lettin	HQ UNFICYP
Lt G. L. Lord	259 Sig Sqn
Lt Col M. Marples	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj G. A. Maude	14 Sig Regt (EW)
2 Lt S. J. May	School of Signals (Course)
Maj (Tfc) G. Oakley	10 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) F. M. Orr	16 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) G. H. Paul	HS 11 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. Perkins	School of Signals (Course)
Lt Col C. K. Powell	CPA Royal Signals
Capt (TOT) D. Prime	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt (Tfc) G. E. Rawlins	HQ 1 Signal Group
Lt I. O. Robertson	1 RTR
Capt (TOT) K. A. Rutter	13 Sig Regt
Lt C. P. Ryan	249 Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) F. P. Searle	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Maj J. R. Selby	CPA Royal Signals
Capt S. E. T. Sherman	UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
2 Lt R. W. Spooner	School of Signals (Course)
Maj (TOT) R. Taylor	8 Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Wills	6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col T. B. Woods	DCGWL (A) (PE) (AE)

AUGUST 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. R. Adams	30 Sig Regt
Maj D. F. B. Anthonisz	HQ BAOR
Lt A. J. Bowering	262 Sig Sqn
Lt R. C. Brodie	MOD DI 24 (A)
Maj D. T. Burton, MBE	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Garrison
Capt E. C. Cameron	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) D. W. Capon	240 Sig Sqn
Col A. H. Dennis	School of Signals
Capt C. J. Durham	22 Sig Regt
Capt G. R. Elliot	30 Sig Regt
Capt A. R. Gale	HS SW District
Capt (TOT) J. E. Grigsby	9 Sig Regt
Lt K. J. Hadfield	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. A. Hood	RSRE
Capt L. S. Hood	16 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) R. W. V. Hutley, MBE	10 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Hutt	259 Sig Sqn
Maj J. W. Ingledow	7 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Jefferis	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Capt (TOT) R. Lund	21 Sig Regt
Capt A. W. Merrick	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) J. Morris	234 Sig Sqn
Lt Col J. M. Newman	RSRE
Capt I. J. Oddie	Fortress HQ Gibraltar
Maj (QM) J. A. Peck	MOD DSS (A)
Lt P. C. A. Smith	30 Sig Regt
Lt K. C. A. Stewart	13 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) L. G. H. Storey	224 Sig Sqn
Maj C. E. R. Story	HQ NORTHAG
Capt G. J. Thomas	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. Thompson	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj C. R. Urquhart	Electronic Branch REME
Lt Col G. C. Verdon	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Lt Col M. R. C. Weiner	School of Signals
Maj R. L. Windmill	3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt
Capt C. L. Wright	7 Sig Regt

MOVEMENTS

WOs and Senior NCOs
Correction on May 1977 List:
For **Sgt J. C. Hunt** substitute **WO2 (RQMS) J. C. Hunt!**

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

JULY 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 D. R. Parker	8 Sig Regt
WO1 C. S. Webb	HQ UKLF
WO2 G. A. Adlington	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
WO2 A. W. Boag	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
WO2 J. G. Albon	30 Sig Regt
WO2 I. L. Dudding	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 W. J. Crumbie	13 Cadet Training Team
WO2 J. Hall	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 M. J. Hanlon	11 Sig Regt
WO2 M. F. P. Little	14 Sig Regt
WO2 A. J. Parker	225 Sig Sqn (Radio)
WO2 M. N. Robinson	30 Sig Regt
WO2 I. C. Rothwell	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. Upton	8 Sig Regt
WO2 R. Watson	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (F of S) M. Scott, BEM	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) R. E. Lidgbird	633 Sig Troop (Caribbean)
WO2 (F of S) K. Zoing	37 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) F. Gadman, BEM	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 (F of S) T. J. Spence	QATAR (Security Force)
WO2 (Y of S) K. A. Allen	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
WO2 (Y of S) C. H. Birchall	5 Fld Force HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) D. A. Dunbar	16 Sig Regt (HQ BAOR)
WO2 (Yof S) K. R. Finch	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 (Y of S) G. Lile	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) S. M. Kitson	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) J. D. Rayment	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) L. Robinson	JOCPT WAVELL
A/WO2 B. N. Jenner	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sqt (F of S) A. J. Hall	16 Sig Regt (HQ BAOR)
Sqt (F of S) R. Horner	262 Sig Sqn (East)
Sqt (F of S) P. Smith	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sqt (F of S) J. R. Jasiok	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sqt (Y of S) G. N. Downey	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sqt (Y of S) B. Hall	14 Sig Regt
Sqt (Y of S) P. Hand	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sqt (Y of S) L. R. Harvey	HQ 2 Signal Group
Sqt (Y of S) S. J. Walls	30 Sig Regt
Sqt R. V. Oxford	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sqt G. L. Paton	6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sqt J. Preston	11 Sig Regt
Sqt J. W. Reid	226 Sig Sqn (Radio)
Sqt A. J. Thomas	30 Sig Regt
Sqt G. C. Watkins	School of Signals
Sqt D. R. Whitrick	8 Sig Regt
Sqt J. W. Curry	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sqt J. Devlin	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sqt A. Dunbar	11 Sig Regt
Sqt S. B. Elliott	30 Sig Regt
Sqt G. F. Gay	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sqt K. Harlick	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sqt G. S. Lowe	30 Sig Regt
Sqt S. D. Witheridge	6 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
Sqt G. C. P. Moloney	HQ 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sqt K. T. Yarker	37 Sig Regt (V)
A/Sqt W. G. Metcalfe	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt T. A. Barton	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Alburey	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Roberts	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. A. Rogers	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt M. D. James	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt N. D. Martin	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt R. J. Bowman	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt O. McGinness	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt K. F. Ball	642 Sig Troop
Sgt J. A. Shorter	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt C. A. Arundel	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt I. R. Smith	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. T. Izzard	216 Sig Sqn (Para Bde)
Sgt A. Barron	SHAPE (UK Sup Unit)
Sgt E. J. Woodthorpe	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Moyle	Communications Project Agency (Royal Signals)
Sgt R. S. B. Whillier	248 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn
Sgt R. E. Pratten	632 Sig Troop (Hebrides)
Sgt T. J. Curran	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Burgess	632 Sig Troop (Hebrides)
Sgt B. E. A. Medway	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt S. J. Mason	Recruit Selection Centre (Sutton Coldfield)
Sgt M. J. Buckler	524 Rear Link Detachment
Sgt D. A. Thomson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. I. Hill	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. T. Rann	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop) (attached to 242 Sig Sqn)
Sgt J. A. Speers	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. W. Seales	BR Forces Sig Sqn (Hong Kong)
Sgt J. T. Green	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Savage	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt I. Rapley	11 Sig Regt (Ouston)
Sgt B. W. Bradbury	16 Sig Regt (HQ BAOR)
A/Sgt W. Cook	14 Sig Regt
A/Sgt I. F. Wilmot	30 Sig Regt
A/Sgt W. J. S. Stevenson	HQ AFNORTH

AUGUST 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 B. Green	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 C. W. Lockwood	11 Sig Regt
WO1 L. Wilkinson	6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (F of S) J. Goldsworthy	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO1 (F of S) D. Thom	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
WO2 (F of S) G. S. Spearpoint	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

WO2 (F of S) R. J. Wherry	..	259 Sig Sqn (West)
WO2 (F of S) J. Wills	..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
WO2 B. T. Dearman	..	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 K. R. Clark	..	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
WO2 R. F. D. French	..	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 T. Jarrett	..	11 Sig Regt
WO2 M. R. Smith	..	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (Y of S) A. Locke	..	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) B. A. Rice	..	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Ssgt (Y of S) W. S. Balding	..	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt (Y of S) B. A. Foulger	..	36 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt (Y of S) J. Isherwood	..	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Ssgt (Y of S) J. R. Lingard	..	248 Gurkha Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) J. Barrowman	..	30 Sig Regt
Ssgt (F of S) J. E. Mellors	..	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Ssgt K. E. R. Foskett	..	30 Sig Regt
Ssgt T. B. Dobson	..	30 Sig Regt
Ssgt T. R. Commons	..	School of Signals
Ssgt J. W. Edmunds	..	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Ssgt A. M. Evans	..	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Ssgt R. Jeffery	..	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt R. A. Hamilton	..	Tayforth Universities OTC
Ssgt J. J. Keane	..	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Ssgt G. T. Nelson	..	10 Sig Regt
Ssgt B. Wray	..	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Ssgt G. S. Davies	..	HQ Northern Ireland
Sgt F. Waters	..	14 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Porter	..	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt J. McKenzie	..	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Thomas	..	HQ UKLF
Sgt P. L. Littler	..	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt B. Johnson	..	NORTHAG Air Support Rad Sqn (BAE)
Sgt F. G. Oliver	..	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Brown	..	School of Signals
Sgt C. I. Denton	..	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt M. Collins	..	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. W. South	..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt K. M. Durrant	..	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt S. Gibson	..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt P. E. Childs	..	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Dudding	..	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt R. G. Butlin	..	608 Signal Troop (Equipment)
Sgt J. W. Cowperthwaite	..	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. M. Hegan	..	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt N. B. Staden	..	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. L. Lambert	..	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt R. J. Lewis	..	SHAPE Sp (International) BAE)
Sgt J. G. Jones	..	LSP OMAN
Sgt K. Blackburn	..	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt H. J. Elder	..	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. M. Beavan	..	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt M. J. Harkin	..	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt A. V. Smith	..	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt P. White	..	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt F. A. Williams	..	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Brister	..	2 Regt Royal Military Police
Sgt G. I. Hartley	..	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt J. V. Longstaff	..	14 Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Tucker	..	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Quinn	..	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sgt D. Milner	..	UK SP Unit SHAPE
Sgt F. R. Evans	..	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt W. M. Ritchie	..	30 Sig Regt
Sgt T. C. Winsor	..	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Sgt J. R. Bagguley	..	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. G. Taylor	..	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt K. B. Smith	..	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt R. D. Marlborough	..	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt M. J. Moffatt	..	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
A/Sgt A. R. Bright	..	10 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. S. Wishart	..	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)

Welfare

MAY 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**30**
Number of clothing parcels	**79**
Amount spent	**£1,272·17**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**12**
Amount spent	**£312·60**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN (National Service) 1956–58. Married with two children. This man had a good job and all went well until he was struck down with a progressive and incurable disease. He is now unable to climb stairs, and it was necessary to install a downstairs bathroom, etc. His own savings and the Local Authority's contribution fell short of the required total, and Royal Signals Association and the Army Benevolent Fund made a joint grant of £400 to enable the work to be carried out. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

I WOULD like to thank the Royal Signals Association and the Army Benevolent Fund for your wonderful help in getting a downstairs toilet and shower built. The construction is to start at once and should be completed in about six weeks' time. Thank you all once again for helping me to live like a human being.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of May, gifts of clothing, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Col P. R. Hoskins, Cpl and Mrs P. Hirst, Mrs K. N. Smartt, Mrs V. E. Haslett, Maj D. S. A. Hutley, Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer, Mrs J. R. West, Col and Mrs D. R. W. Thomas, Mr and Mrs C. C. Whitehead, The Thrift Shop, Krefeld Garrison, Lt Col D. A. Dickson.

JUNE 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**48**
Number of clothing parcels	**44**
Amount spent	**£2,358·40**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**11**
Amount spent	**£421·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, served 1937–46. Although in poor health, he managed to work until his wife went blind two years ago and he gave up his job in order to look after her. Recently, after an operation, she regained sight in one eye, to their great joy. The Association helps them with clothing parcels, and a grant of £15 was made from the War Memorial Fund to give them a day out in the country. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WHAT a wonderful surprise this morning! We get so few letters, and, when the postman called, we couldn't imagine what joy was in store for us. It is hard to describe how one feels in a position like ours, to know that we are not forgotten, and, most important of all, by people we do not know and yet who are united by a common bond of friendship that only Servicemen and comrades can give. We shall always be grateful to you all. You may rest assured that we will enjoy ourselves and think of you all whilst doing so.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:

Mrs Woods, Mrs M. Duke, Mrs I. G. Swan, Maj E. J. Buirski, Mrs G. Finch, Mrs J. R. West, A. Firth, Esq, Brig D. P. K. Rennick, Mr and Mrs J. Maher.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1977.

	£
Huddersfield Branch—RSA	5·00
Maj Gen H. E. Roper, CB	13·00
C. W. Catt, Esq	1·68
Miscellaneous Donations	1·70
	£21·38

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1977

	£
36 Hy Ad Regt RA	200·00
Maj F. C. Forbes	1·00
Col R. G. L. Giblin, OBE	1·00
G. A. J. Feakes, Esq	1·00
	£203·00

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births Marriages, Deaths, or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

ENGAGEMENT

Neale—Warrillow—The Engagement is announced between Capt Peter Neale (259 Sig Sqn) and Fg Off Liz Warrillow, PMRAFNS (The Princess Mary's RAF Hospital, Akrotiri).

MARRIAGE

Chappell—Stenhouse—On Saturday, June 18, at Bristol, Maj H. D. V. Chappell to Anne Stenhouse.

Williams—Forman—On Saturday, May 28, 1977, at Our Lady of the Redeemer Church, Belize City. Sig Nevil Williams to Gale Forman.

DEATHS

Crowder—It is with deep regret that we report the death, after a long illness, of Ssgt (F of S) Norman Crowder on July 24, 1977, aged 39. Norman Crowder joined the Corps as an apprentice in 1953 and qualified as a Foreman of Signals in 1966. When serving with 259 Sig Sqn in 1972, he was invalided home with Hodgkin's Disease. After some six months' treatment he was posted to the School of Signals, where he was responsible for the SWS installations in Blandford Garrison. He remained in this post until being taken ill with leukaemia in April this year. He suffered much over the past five years but throughout maintained a brave and cheerful face. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family in their loss.

Parkes—Lt Col Maurice Falcon Marshall Parkes, MC, was commissioned into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and seconded to the RE Signal Service during the first world war, when he was awarded the MC. He was attached to the Egyptian Army in 1920 where he served with the Sudan Defence Force until 1925, when he transferred to the Corps. He then served in 'A' Corps Signals, the Depot Battalion, and Hong Kong Signals Section. At the outbreak of the second world war he was commanding the Depot Battalion and retired in 1940. He died early in July at the age of 82.

Rayner—Brig Sir Ralph Rayner, MBE, DL, enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's Regt in 1914 and was commissioned the same year. He served on the Western Front during the war and transferred to the Indian Signals in 1918 and to the Corps in 1926. He retired in 1933 to enter politics, and became MP for Totnes from 1935–55. During the second world war he served with the BEF in France, in Northern Ireland, and in North-West Europe, where he was a DD Signals in France and on the Control Commission of 21 Army Group. After the war he became Honorary Colonel of 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals, Deputy Lieutenant of Devon, High Sheriff of Devon, Chairman of the Western Area of the Conservative Association, and Chairman of the Royal Society of St George. He died at his home in his 82nd year, on July 17.

Rolls—Mrs May Rolls died on July 18, after a considerable period of ill-health. She was a very active and well loved member of the Cardiff Branch of the Association. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr Charles Rolls and his family.

Watkins—Brig Bernard Sringett Watkins, CBE, was commissioned in the 2/54 Sikhs in 1919, and served on the Afghan Front during the first world war. He continued service in India until 1936, and transferred to the Corps in 1929. During the second world war he served in the Middle East, South-East Asia, and India. After the war he was in BAOR, and his final appointment before retiring in 1950 was AAG (AG14) at the War Office. After retirement he became Ecclesiastical Secretary to the Lord Chancellor. He died on June 11, at the age of 77.

PERSONAL

A letter has been received from Mrs Rene Price—wife of ex-Sgt Leonard Price, who served with the Corps from 1947 to 1969—informing us that after only eight years in civilian life, he is a very sick man. At the early age of 52 he had to retire from work after suffering two heart attacks. She requests that readers who knew 'Taffy' or 'Bang Bang Price' during his 22½ years service might like to drop him a line or phone him to cheer him up. He lives at 5 Hirdman Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland and his telephone number is Hartlepool 69416.

SITUATION VACANT

Central Middlesex Hospital
A Head Porter is needed to manage the portering services of this busy District General Hospital. Experience of supervising and organising work would be preferable for the running of this department of 50 porters, but in-service training will be given if necessary.
Hours: 8.00 am–5 pm. Five-day week working alternate weekends.
Basic wage £61·34+ enhancements for weekends.
For further details contact Hospital Administrator, tel: 965 5733 Ext 302.
Application forms and job description from Personnel Department, ext 667.

SITUATION VACANT

R. Simon & Co (International Grain and Feedingstuff Merchants) have an immediate vacancy for a Telex Operator at their new offices overlooking the Thames. Applicants should be able to read and correct tape and be fully conversant in International Traffic. Applicants should be extremely accurate and able to maintain a cool head under pressure. The salary offered and the working conditions are both excellent. Please telephone Dr S. McCarthy ASAP on 01-248 0491.

OFFICERS REUNION — ALDERSHOT CLUB OCTOBER 15 1977

Arrangements are in hand to hold a similar reunion to previous years. The purpose is to bring together serving and retired officers and their wives living within a reasonable distance of Aldershot for an informal gathering from 6.30pm onwards. A letter giving full details has been sent out on a similar distribution to last year. Anyone who has not heard from the General Secretary of the Association who would like to attend should get in touch with him as soon as possible.

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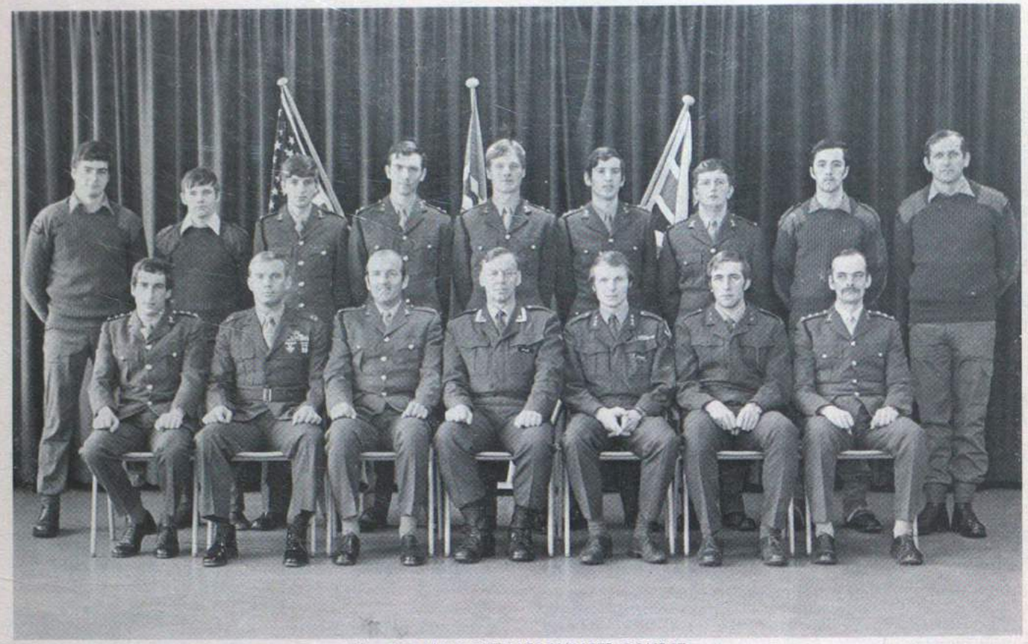
Faraway Places . . . Unusual Jobs



No. 27 ALLIED OFFICERS WINTER COURSE
(Standing *left to right*). 2Lts J. V. G. Mason, RM, R. J. Good, G. R. Leach, Lts N. K. P. Hope, A. Leather, N. J. R. Ferriman, 2Lt S. J. Heath, Lt S. Ewing, Capt S. G. Jullian, RM
(Sitting *left to right*). Capt R. D. Symonds, Capt R. C. Rounds USMC, Majs R. L. Windmill, M. Spilde, Capt S. B. Nilsen, Lt J. H. Johannessen, Capt J. R. S. Amberton

No. 27 ALLIED OFFICERS WINTER COURSE

FEBRUARY 15—MARCH 18, 1977

By Maj R. L. Windmill

A MIXED BAG

SHOWN in the group photograph are the students of this year's course at the Norwegian Signal School in Jørstadmoen. Microscopic examination of them will reveal two Royal Marine Commandos (known as boot and bootlet), one US Marine Corps officer (with the medals) and next to him, nearer the centre with the GSM ribbon, the author. Who would have expected that group to come away with nine of the 30-km Military Ski Medals, five broken skis, a twisted knee, a bad arm, minus 65 kilos of body weight and a very soft spot for the Norwegians? Not the Commandant, **Col B. Veie-Rosvoll** (now the Inspector of Signals, i.e. SO in C) or his 2IC, **Lt Col T. A. Aas; Maj M. Spilde** did, but then he knew the outstanding calibre of **Capt S. B. Nilsen. Lt J. H. Johannessen** and the sheer stupidity, some may say guts, of the students. The other principle instructors, not shown and therefore wishing to remain anonymous were **Capts Boe, Anderson** and **Lt Litzheim,** who took care to provide all the other very necessary information.

Early days

At the beginning it seemed to most that they could expect a five-week stay in the Befalsmessen (the Mess) enjoying three meals a day, TV, bubble baths, trips into Lillihammer and the occasional slide in or on the snow, whilst someone back in the unit claimed to be covering the work. For some, the issue of over two kit bags of heavy equipment, including tent sheet, sleeping bag and ground sheet was insufficient proof that they were to spend 10 days and 8 nights out, mostly above the timber line in temperatures ranging between –6 and –22°C. **Capt Symonds** knew what to expect as he arrived direct from Exercise Hardfall and arrived at the station with all the duty-free and a mountain of arctic rations and to hell with **Cpt Nilsen's** car springs.

Once the training cycle was underway, **Capt Nilsen** moved quickly to apply his 'brass monkey' theory, an obvious one to anyone capable of the simplest thought processes, but he was absolutely right—once bitten twice shy. We all know and will never forget that the following are required at –14°C: 'longjohns' under light denim if leg movement is required, mittens, and caps with ear covers if one cannot stand one's ears being nibbled. The practice of holding live rounds in the mouth is definitely not recommended as one student will confirm after having to pull some skin off his tongue to remove the round from his mouth.

We were introduced to a very effective combat ration, which was very light, high in calorific value and ensured that those living on it completed any operation in quick time to get back to some fresh food. Prior to using the ration it is strongly recommended that a visit is made to **Maj** and **Mrs M. Spildes'** home to feast upon enormous gateau and drink large mugs of coffee.

Perfect pacing

As we moved further around the training cycle it became very clear that the permanent staff were pacing the course to perfection. In every area the rate of progress was ideal and providing everyone had made the effort to achieve a good standard of fitness before arriving in Norway, every activity was great fun and one could just retain sufficient energy for the social activities. The main social events were the course welcoming and farewell parties, about which much can be said and was said at the time, particularly concerning our gifts to the School and Instructors. The three Captains who stayed awake all night to ensure everyone handed their kit back into the store on time next morning are to be thanked! A special thank you must go to **Capt** and **Mrs Nilsen** for the number of supper parties they gave for members of the course in their home.

Once **2 Lt Mason** had overcome the urge to cross his skis and then snap one rather than uncross them again and **Lt Leather** and **2 Lt Good** had developed their technique of free flight the course entered various cross-country races. The technique of free flight required one to stop a down-hill glide by ramming the tips of the skis into a small bump; this stops the lower part of the body. The head mass, which varied considerably with individuals, continues forward dragging the rest of the body behind it. Once the hysterical laughter of the onlookers stops and everything has gone black one has stopped and is left with a close-up of what life is like two feet under the snow. Our progress in the various cross-country races was rapid and most were collecting a number of awards and displaying a very gentlemanly competitive spirit towards each other. If **Lt Hope** stops again on a down-hill blind bend in a race and costs us one thousandth of a second over 5km he will in future get used as a bump required for free flight!

Mountains with low visibility

The day arrived to start the five-day mountain march. Everyone set off with pulks in tow up the gentle slope. One hour later we were sitting on the pulks on the same slope a stone's throw from the start point. The crafty instructors had not given us a loaded pulk to pull before and the snow had become soft. Anyway we made the finish line, sometimes with the pulks in tow, sometimes with us in tow and one morning a Snow Cat appeared and took everything in tow. For one day the weather became most unpleasant, visibility dropped to 15m or less, the wind blew and icicles soon formed on everyone. Once everything had become the same colour it was extremely easy to become disorientated and as we were always on the winning side the effects were quite amusing and the experience very valuable to our understanding of military operations in such areas.

CONTACT
Left to right. 2 Lt Heath has a scratch. Maj Windmill watches Capt Nilson operate the set. Capt Symond takes a snow cube. Other buttoning up or admiring the view

Sympathy and a cheer

During the course, Sunday, February 27, 1977, to be precise, the opportunity was taken to cheer on the British Biathlon team as they competed in the 1977 World Biathlon Championships at Vingrom. We felt for the team because by this time we were all able to appreciate that ski-ing or shooting on their own could at times be difficult but together shooting was always difficult.

All great

It is hoped that by having delayed this article, awaiting photographs, that some have had to buy two extra months' copies and thereby helped swell the kitty. All in all, a great course run by some great people for which we are extremely grateful.

LOMBARD-ESSO INTERNATIONAL SCOTTISH RALLY 1977

Report by Ssgt D. J. Callear, 8 Sig Regt

NO CLOTHING

IF you ever visited the clothing store in Gaza Barracks during the months of April, May and June, you would have noticed the SQMS's desk covered with rally pamphlets and letters, with the SQMS talking on the phone about Land-Rovers and the Welsh and Scottish International Rallies. If you dared to ask to exchange an item of clothing you were likely to receive a fog lamp or spare wheel in return! After a successful season in BAOR rallies during 1976, I was posted to 8 Sig Regt in October 1976, so losing the chance of selection for the BAOR British Army Motoring Association (BAMA) team. Luckily, on arrival in the UK, I was given the opportunity to drive in both the Welsh and Scottish International Rallies for the UK BAMA team. Last May, I was teamed up with **Capt John Deen** (RCT), of 60 Sqn RCT by BAMA NE District to enter the Welsh and Scottish International events which had been one of my ambitions since starting motor rallying.

Typical weather

On June 1, I set out for Aviemore for the Scottish Rally, complete with **Capt Deen** as navigator and with full service crews. We were taking on the rest of the world's best drivers, for three days over the forest tracks of Scotland in a standard ¼-ton GS Land-Rover. The weather was typical rally weather—rain from the time we arrived in Scotland until we returned. With the Land-Rover class running at the rear of the field of 159 entries, the rally started at Aviemore Holiday Centre at 0800hrs on June 5. We had some 1,200 miles ahead of us, including 263 miles of special stages which are held 'off public roads'.

The first part lasted until 1800hrs on Monday, June 6, leaving 400 miles for the next day. We completed the course without any mechanical faults, but with the special stages being very rough, the rear springs and shock absorbers had to be changed late on Tuesday afternoon. There was the usual job of pulling cars back onto the tracks within the stages and we credited ourselves with three of these, as well as towing a Mini through a seven-mile special stage—it had broken its drive shafts! Despite this we still recorded a time of 14min 25sec, which is very creditable.

Day 1

We had little trouble at all, and put up some very competitive

Ssgt Callear driving, with Capt Deen (RCT) navigating during one stage of the Lombard-Esso International Scottish Rally 1977

times on the stages, but could not keep up with **Maj Dem-McKay** and **Taylor** (RA), who both insisted that their Land-Rovers had not been 'lent on'. We were playing cat and mouse with **Ssgt George Gay** (Royal Signals) and **Cpl Peter Shields** (LI); **Ssgt Gay** being the only other member of the Corps crewed in a Land-Rover, and succeeded in leading them home.

And it still rained.

Day 2

Not to be outdone, **Ssgt George Gay** returned the compliment, got himself in front and stayed there until the end of the rally. With the very wet weather the stages were cutting up badly and we found them very rough to drive on. Our rear springs were taking a pounding and were giving the Land-Rover a low, lean, look around the rear end! We had no spare springs with us so

continued through the day only to find our times getting worse on each progressive stage. Replacement springs were vital and in the good old Army manner, our service manager, **ASM Roy Avery,** from 60 Sqn RCT, found another Rover (which had finished rallying due to a very large boot on the wrong pedal at the wrong time) and managed to recover a good pair of springs. The service crews did a superb job in replacing them in 20 minutes and had us back on the road with 'maximum lateness' and so allowed us to continue into the next leg of the rally.

And it still rained.

Day 3

After an overnight halt back at Aviemore, we all met on the last section of the rally and gradually started to make up time on the stages. Unfortunately, we could not improve our placing and finished fourth in our class. An added bonus was to find we had come third in the AA Components Challenge Quaich, an award for first-time entrants.

Out of the 159 starters, 59 finished of which 9 were Army Land-Rovers, 2 of these being crewed by Royal Signals personnel. All in all a very interesting three days, if only it hadn't rained!

Clothing again

Ah well, back to getting what you ask for in the clothing store. What was it? No way! SQMS is now involved in getting a NE District team of three Land-Rovers to Germany in October for the British Army Driving Championship Rally 'Magnum Spirit'! —I might get my shirt exchanged by Christmas.

[What **Ssgt Callear** hasn't said is that he has now been awarded his Army Colours for Motor Rallying—congratulations.]

EXERCISE LONG HAUL

Report by WO1 (F of S) G. F. Brindle

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS

THE name is something of a misnomer, since the weather was rarely suitable for even a short haul! This article is a summary of the saga of those steely eyed aces of the sky, the team selected to represent the Army in the inter-Service Regional Competition held at RAF Halton from May 4–15. Only two pilots were selected from the Corps for this competition, **Maj S. G. Falla,** OC TSS at the School, flying a KA6CR in the sport class, and **WO1 (F of S) G. F. Brindle,** CPA, flying a Standard Cirrus in the open class. Ground crew support from **Maj Falla** was ably provided by **Maj Maurice (Pack) Davison** and **Sig Steve Taylor.** For **WO1 Brindle** the support crew were **Ssgt Dennis Mackin** and **Sgt John (Muscles) Riley,** both of CPA.

For the uninitiated, the aim in competitive gliding is to fly a set task as rapidly as possible. The type of task set is governed primarily by the forecast weather conditions and will usually be a closed triangle or an out and return race. The distances may be as short as 70km, or on really good (rare) days as far as 500km. Proof of rounding a turning point is photographic, taken in a designated zone. The older type of free distance task is rarely set these days. On a forecast poor day even a very slight improvement in conditions can, with the vast increase in glider performance, result in remarkable distance achievements. Several flights have been made across the Channel and up to the German border; retrievals may be fun for the crew but take days!

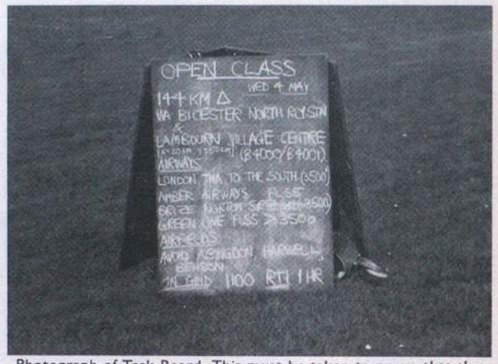
Triangles only

However, for we mere mortals in this year's regional competition, only triangles were set. As before mentioned the weather was very poor, the daily briefing being followed by mumbles of 'Good' ere 'innit', as the rain ran down coats and mud oozed over boot tops. Despite the weather, a task was set on the first day, and the open class were given a 144km triangle via turning points at Bicester (railway station) and Lambourn village.

70-knot speeds

Fortunately, I decided to play this one slow, taking every scrap of lift I could, hearing the faster pilots calling over the radio that they were landing. Only one pilot made it back, and your scribe ground to earth only 20km short of the finish. See the photographs of the task, turning points and reception at the school on whose playing field I landed. **John** and **Dennis** were able to find me in a very short time and a quick derig had us back in time for the evening meal, where we discovered I had made second place that day. There were two more task days, but nothing spectacular, weather or performance wise, but towards the end of the contest conditions started to improve, and Saturday the 14th looked good. A 302-km triangle was set for the open class, with turning points at Caxton Gibbet near Cambridge and the M5/M50 junction near Worcester. This was forecast to be THE day we had been waiting for. However, later in the day worsening conditions were expected in the Worcester area. After crossing the start line, the thermal strengths were such that speeds of 70 knots could be maintained, often without having to circle in lift. Good cross-country speeds were maintained round the first turning point and well down the second leg.

Unfortunately, at the second turning point the bad weather was, as forecast, waiting for the slower pilots, leaving us creeping around the motorway junction in the gloom of snow showers. The tremendous sink encountered just after this deterioration of conditions left me with insufficient height to clear the hills to the south-east of Evesham. Another outlanding was the order of the day, after only 220km covered. A phone call back to base started



Photograph of Task Board. This must be taken to prove that the subsequent photographs on this film apply to this task

Crew filling up wing tanks with water ballast. Six gallons in each wing

Almost ready for take off. Remainder of class launched

A glider landing in a school sports field draws a great deal of attraction (not too bad for recruiting purposes either)

First turning point photograph
Bicester Railway Station looking south. Not only must we be able to fly and navigate but should also show expertise with a camera

John and **Dennis** off on yet another retrieve. Despite the fact that eight finished the task I dropped only to sixth overall.

The task set on the following day looked as if I would have a chance of recovering my position and indeed it started well. Unfortunately, the weather changed dramatically only 10 miles on track and there was yet another outlanding. Returning to the site, I discovered that no one had reached scoring distance and it was another no contest day.

Dampest ever

So we had reached the end of another gliding competition, quite the dampest I had ever flown in. Provisionally placed sixth out of 25, the results were not too disappointing considering I had missed the two previous years. But only four scoring contest days out of 12 possible must surely rate this as one of the worst ever. Thanks must go to my gallant crew who as non-gliding types, adapted to the strange environment very well, and proved to be excellent map-readers and morale boosters. Thank you both.

WELSH 3,000s

Report by 1 Squadron, 30 Sig Regt

SKYLINE SOLDIERS

EXTRACT from official description:

'The Welsh 3,000s is one of the toughest mountaineering competitions in the British Army. The 24-mile course has earned the competitors the well-deserved nickname of "Skyline Soldiers' for their tremendous feats of endurance amid the mountain crags of Snowdonia. The aim of the Welsh 3,000s is for teams to do the course fully clothed and equipped. Each competitor wears a combat suit and beret, carries small pack, pullover, water bottle, groundsheet, mess tins, compass, protector, map, whistle, torch, and first aid dressing.'

'Suffering is good for you'

Several weeks before the event we went up to Snowdonia to have a look. Five reasonably healthy soldiers, led by **Cpl 'Bernie the legs' Temmen** (1 Sqn), set off to have a go at one-third of the course starting with an ascent of Snowdon. Later that day, a few mountains away, four bodies callapsed beside a Land-Rover, eyes glazed, looking only for euthanasia and a quick burial. But the team manager, **WO2 'Jerry' Jarrett,** explained 'Suffering is *good* for you'. **Cpl Temmen** agreed: 'They're just not suffering *enough*'. As the next few weeks passed these words came to be familiar to the condemned men.

EARLY DAYS

Half way through the training the OC, **Maj Roger (Smile Please) Thompson** and 2IC, **Capt Martyn (Oh that hill!) Reid** came up to view our progress and insisted on going up on the course. Brave men both. Afterwards they claimed to have enjoyed it 'really', but soon left for Blandford and the calm of office life!

A substitute

Training (and suffering) continued, we lost **Lcpl 'Bev' Beverly** (HQ Sqn) who had been determined to wear down Snowdonia, but wore his feet down first. Valiant effort, **Bev.** His place as reserve was taken by **Cpl Jim Leggate** (1 Sqn), who was thrown in at the deep end but worked very hard and enthusiastically to catch up.

Welsh 1,000—'Good training that'

Cpl Temmen quietly entered himself for the 'Welsh 1,000' one weekend; 20 or so miles, starting from the North Wales coast and finishing at the peak of Snowdon. The entry was about 200, roughly half 'Fell runners' in shorts, singlets and

Welsh 3,000 1977
Cpls Gunson, Webb, Sig Kurthausen and Cpl Temmen at final scrutineering. Placed third

plimsolls, and half 'mountaineers' in full kit, boots, gear, etc. Naturally, he went as a 'mountaineer' and, needless to say, he was the first individual 'mountaineer' in . . . passing many a 'Fell runner' on the way. Afterwards he said, 'good training that', and went to bed.

Drawing near

In the last week the OC returned with the CO, **Lt Col Arthur Byng,** and the Adjutant, **Capt Derek Hadden;** and the weather, which had been changeable—sunny or snowy—became settled—solid rain and cool with it. **Cpl 'Richy' Gunson** (1 Sqn) and **Sig 'Posh' Kurthausen** (1 Sqn) had kept themselves warm and cheerful by improving relations with local folk, until both nearly got engaged. **Richy** is still pining. **Cpl 'Spider' Webb** (1 Sqn) played darts.

The great day dawns

At 0300 on the morning of Sunday, June 12, we woke up, ate (in silence) and made our way to Snowdon (in silence), arriving at 0500 (in silence).

The weather was not good—windy and low cloud. The team, **Temmen, Gunson, Webb** and **Kurthausen,** started at 0722. During the event our team performed bravely, appearing at checkpoints neck and neck with the leaders. But when the first team came in sight of the finish they were wearing red berets—wrong colour. This was the team of 6 Fd Force and HQ Sig Sqn (lately 216 Sig Sqn), who finished in a fantastic time of 7hr and 39min. But then our lads arrived, doing it in a creditable time of 8hr and 3min. Unfortunately, the next team to arrive did it in 8hr flat! So, after all the effort our team had to be content with third place. The team cheered up a lot on hearing that a lot of their 'enemy' teams had dropped out. Of an annual entry of 25 teams only 9 finished the course this year. Much later, back home in Blandford, some of the team have been heard to say (hesitantly and after a few beers) that they 'might have another go sometime'!

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

OC 'COURT MARTIALLED'

THE OC, **Maj Tony Hunt,** boarded the boat for the Mainland on Thursday, May 26, bound ultimately for Hong Kong with a three-month stay in the USA en-route. As one might expect, he was not allowed to leave the Squadron without some form of traditional 'farewell', and our photographs indicate how **Maj Hunt** spent *his* Cup Final Day.

Considering the severity of charges that had been made by some against **Maj Hunt,** including 'heavy and consistent pollution of the atmosphere with cigarette smoke', it was decided that a 'Courts Martial' was appropriate! After a determined case for the prosecution, ably presented by **Sgts Salter** and **Harrison,** and a somewhat less effective (some would have us believe by design) defence from **Cpls Dransfield** and **Thorp,** the President and Members found little difficulty in returning a finding of 'guilty' to all charges. The sentence was 'Dismissal from the Services' and disposal was Temporary enlistment in the American Armed Forces!'

The entire proceedings were conducted in the Squadron Club, The Huntsman, with a steady flow of refreshment kindly provided by the 'accused'. Truly a memorable day concluded with the presentation by the Squadron of a sterling silver cigarette box, and a photograph of the Squadron as at November last year.

We sincerely thank **Maj Hunt** for his tireless efforts and unfailing loyalty throughout his tour and wish him every good wish and success for the future.

'NOT GUILTY, M'LUD'
Maj Hunt's 'Courts Martial'
Left to right: Member: 'Lt' (Pte) Redfern, *President:* WO1 (RSM) Webster, *Member: 'Capt'* (Sig) Waldron, *Escort:* WO2 (RQMS) Collins, *Accused:* Maj Hunt

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER
Maj A. W. de V. Hunt (Royal Signals) relinquishes command of the Squadron to Maj J. J. Ventham (Royal Signals)

WELCOME

We welcome as our new Squadron Commander, **Maj Jeremy Ventham,** and **Mrs Ventham,** newly arrived from Canada. We wish them a happy and successful tour.

TEN DAYS IN MAY—THE ULSTER 'STRIKE'

Whilst to many it will have appeared that the so-called Ulster Unionist Action Council strike did not call for much action by the Army, in fact the preparations needed to be able to cope with the perceived consequence of a successful strike kept us all very busy indeed. Whilst most of the population appeared to be against any strike action our own local town of Portadown was at one stage more affected than most—a Land-Rover written off by a descending railway sleeper was one of the Squadron casualties during a day of 'unrest' in the town. Our photograph shows the Brigade Commander's Rover Group 'at the ready' prior to spending the Saturday attempting to persuade some petrol stations to open for business.

THE MOURNE WALL WALK

The Squadron was well represented this year at the annual Mourne Wall Walk, a trek over the Mourne Mountains of some 22 miles climbing peaks totalling 10,000ft. No mean feat to be sure, and the OC, **Maj Jeremy Ventham,** and the 2IC, **Capt David Collyer,** at least, found the going 'memorable'. There was an extra official certificate handed to another who completed the course—the 2IC's dog, 'Winston', who must must have completed 35 miles if he completed 1!

THE NORTHERN IRELAND MINOR UNITS SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE CUP WINNERS 1977

The Squadron team had a string of successes this season, highlighted by their Spring League Cup victory.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

D & E Platoon Report

The Platoon goes from strength to strength in our role of guarding soft targets, we are now also taking part in patrols and bomb watches with the resident Battery, which provided excellent training for the Platoon. During the recent strike and elections the Platoon was fully deployed in various tasks including patrolling and guarding polling stations in Fermanagh.

There have been many changes in the Platoon as many of the old and bold are replaced on competition of their tours. We welcome **Cpls Butler** and **Reay** and their families, **Lcpls Thompson** and **Nagh, Ptes Kerr, Corren, Patel, Bodenham,** and **Glease.**

In the sporting world within the Squadron we have held our end up reaching the semi-finals of the indoor soccer, although volleyball does not seem to be going down so well. The OC, **Capt McMahon** and **Cpl Davies** represented the Squadron in the NI Hockey Sixes team which did extremely well to reach the finals only to be knocked out by sheer misfortune against a lesser side. Our Air Rifle team won the first round of the Squadron shoot—well done!

On the careers side we congratulate **Lcpls Hurdman** and **Harris** on passing the PQI Course, **Lcpls Palmer** and **Gahaghan** on passing the PQII. **Ptes Atkinson** and **Pitt** are at present on the PQIII, we wish them all the best.

Alpha Troop (on behalf of all)

A Legend from the Mists of Hibernia

And so it came to pass that the Great Disciple (the one with crown on shoulder) did say to the under-Disciple (the one with crown on sleeve), 'Come, Satan, for we go forth to speak to the multitudes of the benevolence of the Pay Review Board' (who imagine they have crowns on heads).

And so it happened that they assembled the unfortunates, and the Great Disciple (the one with crown on shoulder) did say unto them, Lo and behold, wretches, the benevolence of the Lord (the one with bushy eyebrows) is upon you. He in his great (and well hidden) wisdom has decreed that henceforth your shekels shall be increased by 5 per cent. (Shouts of joy from D and E, whose mathematical ability is legendary.) Unfortunately he has also decided that your living accommodation (the quality of which is also legendary) is worth an extra 9 per cent (more shouts of joy from D and E, now mingled with triumphant cries from TM who always knew there was a catch).

And so it came to pass that the unfortunates found that after rent, tax, and national insurance, the Lord (the one with bushy eyebrows) had indeed pulled off yet another miracle, and converted 5 per cent gain into a loss. And a great gloom descended upon the land.

And a voice issued forth from a sangar, 'Good here in' it?'!

And the wailing and lamentation of the unfortunates was heard across the water as the sound of a fruit of autumn. And lo, a miracle occurred, and the speaker for the men of battle did harken unto the echo of the sound in the tablets of the heralds of the people.

And it came to pass that the speaker for the men of battle did arise and go forth to the place of assembly (where crowns are decoration) and he did decree that henceforth living in the lands of Hibernia was as living in fields. And in his great bounty he did waive his rent on the tents and rude huts of the unfortunates.

And there was a grunt of relief from the unfortunates.

And a voice issued forth from a sanger, 'Better here in' it?'!

Bravo Troop Round up

We welcome aboard **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** from 22 Sig Regt . . . and say farewell to **Cpl 'Frankie' Vaughan,** who is off to the sunny shores of Cyprus . . . and congratulations to **Lcpl Kev Enfield** on his recent promotion.

On the sporting scene 'B' Troop proved once again that they can do more than push T100s and drive vehicles. The inter-Troop swimming competition provided an exciting evening's entertainment. The team of **WO2 Brian Hudson, Cpl George Burton, Lcpl Paul Bowerbank, Sigs John Horlocks, Pete Lacy, Bob Huskisson** and **Dvr Colin Holden** (RCT) put in a excellent performance to finish a very creditable second.

Whilst the sadists departed on the Mourne Mountain Walk (a Lance-corporal's Sunday jaunt to be sure!) **Lt Bob Turnbull, Sgt Ken Robson, Lcpl Steve Goater** and a few other intrepid anglers departed to do battle in the first round of the Northern Ireland Angling League. However, a disppointing day was had by all. **Sgt Ken Robson** was heard to mutter, 'a half-pound of gelignite would sort out these ---- fish'.

SHQ

We say farewell to **Ssgt (ORSQMS) 'Ted' Dudding** who departs on promotion to 14 Sig Regt and welcome his relief, **Ssgt 'Gerry' Moloney,** who arrives on promotion from 22 Sig Regt.

The Brigade Commander's crew on standby
Left to right: Lcpl Steve Lodge, Lcpl Trevor Smith, Sig 'Geordie' Scott, Sig Paul Williams, Sig 'Jock' Waldron and Cpl 'Blue' Baker

A final thrash with the boys!
Maj Hunt, Dvr Packman and Cpl MacDonald in good spirit

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JULY

EXERCISE MARRAKESH EXPRESS

WITH the Ulster Workers strike now behind us, the Squadron is busily trying to locate all the many items of equipment that were scattered between Londonderry and Larne during the operation. It is rumoured that the bottom has now fallen out of the candle market and that MT have recovered the generators destined to keep the MTO's freezer going through the power cuts!

PRESSURE

After much deliberation OC Comms Troop, **Lt Mike Fisher,** was allowed to take a party of soldiers to Scotland on our annual training Exercise, Marrakesh Express, held on the Mull of Kintyre. The exercise departure was delayed a week because of the strike. The decision resulted in a mad rush to gather the necessary radios and ancillaries from our much depleted G1098 store. With a lot of help from our local battalions the necessary equipment was found, and the party left on its 14-hour journey that would finish at RAF Machrihanish, some 20 miles only from the coast of Ireland as the crow flies! The length of journey was nothing to do with British Rail, but rather the extremely tortuous route to Argyleshire. On arrival, rear link comms were quickly established using UHF pocketphones. This net allowed exercise personnel roaming the hills of the Mull to talk to vehicles roaming the streets of Londonderry, some 140 miles away! Before anyone rushes away to do a PPA between Londonderry and Campbeltown it should be mentioned that it was done by the magic of talk-throughs and interface units.

NOT ALL WORK

During the 10 days in Scotland, the party carried out a number of varied exercises covering radio skills, military training, orienteering and escape and evasion. The Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE,** visited the exercise for a day. He was accompanied by the Squadron Commander, **Maj K. P. Burke,** and the Brigade Major, **Maj John Rigby** (RRF). The spare places on the Wessex helicopter were taken up by seven members of the Commander's Rover Group. The Commander took great interest in the communications and the training being carried out and thoroughly enjoyed his day with us. Despite the full training programme, there was time to relax, and great initiative was shown by **Cpl Mick Palliser** and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** as between them they managed to invite over 50 local girls to the end of exercise party! Each exercise was run on a competitive basis and after much juggling of the marks, OC Comms Troop declared **Sig 'Jock' Lambe** top student. He was closely followed by members of the 'D and E' Platoon manned by men of the RPC!

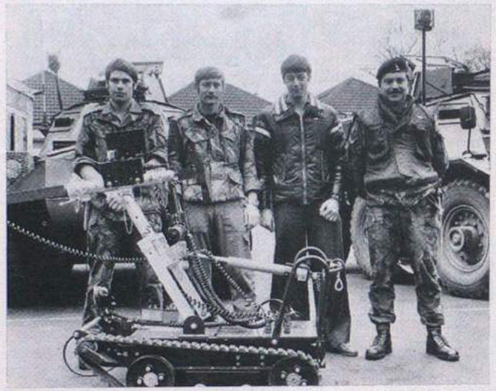
NORWAY BOUND

The party arrived back in Londonderry just in time for OC Comms Troop to catch a LSL with a new band of hopefuls on the first leg of a 3½-day journey by sea, land and air to the BOBC Norway. We hope to hear news of their exploits next month if they ever return to Londonderry.

A CONSOLATION PRIZE

Those members of the Squadron not involved in trips to Scotland or Norway were given a consolation prize in the form of the annual BE tests. Because of the security restrictions, the whole course was laid out in the barracks and, on an uncharacteristically hot day, the Squadron began its nine laps of the camp. The RSM, **WO1 Ian Buckley,** arrived with the Squadron nominal roll to ensure that no one was lying about their age to gain those extra vital seconds. Halfway around the course it was clear that the old and the bold were just managing to keep up with the young. The OC, shedding his years and extra pounds arrived at the finish pale but triumphant with five seconds to spare. After an immediate kit check he was seen to disappear for the rest of the morning to recover.

Only 2¾ miles to go in the BE Tests
Left to right: Cpl Dingle, Sig Alexander, Sgt Mustard, OC, Sgt Baggaley, Sig Mayers, Pte Ashton and Cpl Thomas



Royal Signals serving with the Bomb Disposal Team (EOD) in Londonderry
Left to right: Sig Hugh Bennet, Lcpl Bob Maskell, Sig John Cambridge and Lcpl 'Geordie' Hall

ROYAL SIGNALS WITH ATO

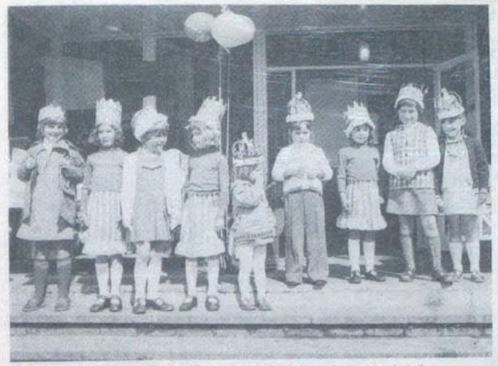
Every now and then we like to mention these members of the Corps who, although not serving with the Squadron, are based in Londonderry. This month we include a picture of four young lads serving with the bomb disposal team (EOD) in Ebrington. The Royal Signals cap badge (now in its embroidered glory) can also be seen locally in the 8 Bde RMP Coy and, from time to time, with the Brigade Army Dog Unit.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

For the second year running the Squadron swimming team won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Swimming Championship held this year at Palace Barracks. The event was extremely well supported with eight minor units competing with the result in dispute until the very last relay race. Those competing for the Squadron were:

50m Freestyle	—	**Sig Duncan**
		Sgt 'Scouse' Davies
50m Breaststroke	—	**Sgt Mick Graham** (REME)
50m Backstroke	—	**Sgt Dennis Mustard**
100m Freestyle	—	**Sig Willy Wilson**
4×50m Medley	—	**Sgt Dennis Mustard**
		Sgt Mick Graham
		Sig Les Duncan
		Sig Willy Wilson
4×50m Freestyle	—	**Sig Paul Alexander**
		Sig Bob Spring
		Capt Nick Williams
		Cpl Ian Warren (Int Corps)

We wish the team all success in the next round at Catterick.



Young members of the Squadron line up for the Jubilee crown competition during the fun afternoon

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Squadron decided to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee by organising a small children's fun and games afternoon. This included sideshows, races and plenty of hot dogs and lemonade. MT spent many hours converting a Land-Rover and two trailers into a Noddy train and are now pleading to keep the conversion as a permanent fixture for SDS runs. Each child was presented with a Jubilee Crown at the end of the afternoon. Despite the showery weather a good time was had by all.

MOURNE WALL WALK

The Mourne Wall Walk is an annual event organised by the YHA (NI) and, as the name suggests, takes place in the Mountains of Mourne, County Down. The walk covers approximately 22 miles with a total ascent of 10,000ft over nine peaks. Some 2,500 walkers started but many hundreds dropped out during the event, and the Mountain Rescue helicopter was in much demand. Fortunately, none of our team required the services of the helicopter. The team members were:

Ssgt Chambers
Cpl Davies (REME)
Cpl Duncan
Cpl Reid Prescott
Lcpl Barnard
Sig Stevens
Sig Alexander
Sig Jones
Dvr Troake (RCT)

AUGUST

Brigade Commander 8 Inf Bde, Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE, presenting our most recent Silver Comstar award to Sig Fred Mayers, the youngest of our Commcen Staff. Sgt Baggaley, NCO IC Commcen, looking on

COMSTAR AWARD

WE are pleased to announce the award of another Silver Comstar to the Brigade Commcen in Londonderry. This is the second silver award in the last year and congratulations go to the Commcen staff for maintaining their high standards for this period, which included the extremely large volume of traffic produced during the Ulster Workers' strike. The Comstar was presented by the Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE.** As an added prize the Commcen/Cipher lads were given the task of producing a few gems for THE WIRE.

ARMY COMMCEN LONDONDERRY

For those not lucky enough to have served in Londonderry a brief description of our Commcen might be of interest. The Commcen is responsible for seven local 'pony' circuits to battalion and company locations spread through the Brigade area. Few of these stations are manned by Royal Signals operators and therefore all traffic received has to be reprocessed before continuing transmission 'up' the DCN circuit. This process includes inserting such items as routing indicators and re-typing the message in the correct format. We are therefore very proud to receive our Comstar Award.

Despite the shift-work, members of the Commcen make their contribution to the Squadron's sporting life. **Sigs Paul Alexander** and **Les Duncan** are staunch members of the swimming team and can be seen most mornings training at the swimming pool. **Cpl Bert Lockhart,** is a resident member (when he remembers his hands) of the Waterats rugby team and also represents the Squadron in athletics. **Lcpl 'Titch' Barnard** and **Sig 'Scratch' Skinner** play in the football team, as does **Sgt Bob Baggaley** when he is not representing the Corps. **Sgt Baggaley** also finds time to kick the slower members of the Squadron around the (annual!) BE course every Saturday, a task which has endeared him to so many.

The boys of the Cipher Office, not to be outdone by the Commcen, claim their own successes over the last few months. After installing new teleprinter equipment around the Brigade area they were heavily involved in the Ulster Workers' strike. Contrary to popular belief, they didn't actually take part, but spent many hours rushing around the Brigade area with SDRs. During one of the quieter periods the team were heavily committed to Operation Mousetrap. The Sitrep of which reads:

Technical Author

Hunting Hivolt are expanding their Technical Writing Group and need competent people to produce our handbooks and associated documentation. The major requirement involves communications installations in military vehicles and would suit ex. S.N.C.O.s Royal Corps of Signals and R.E.M.E.

We also have a vacancy for a:

Communications Engineer

To provide systems experience for a group engaged on installation of communications equipment in military vehicles. Working with a small team you will be responsible for the technical performance of installations from initial specification to final test report with involvement at all stages in between.

It is not likely that anyone under the age of thirty would have the breadth of experience for this wide ranging position.

Assistance with re-location expenses will be given where appropriate.

In the first instance, please write or phone to the personnel department, Hunting Hivolt Ltd. Riverbank Works, Shoreham-on-Sea, Telephone: Shoreham 4511 Extension: 91.

The Hunting Group Founded 1874

8 INF BDE HQ and SIG SQN COMMUNICATION CENTRE STAFF

Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Steve Webb, Sig 'Taff' Williams, Sig Paul Alexander, Sig Joe Whiteley, Sig 'Scratch' Skinner, Sig Gaz Finnimore, Sig Steve Illingworth, Lcpl Frank Cameron, Lcpl Paul Keenan

Front row: Cpl Bert Lockhart, Cpl Pete Rose, Sgt Bob Baggaley, Maj K. P. Burke, OC 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Sig Fred Mayer, Sig Les Duncan, Cpl Andy Dingle

Absent on duty: Cpl Kevin Condor, Lcpl Bill Stack, Sig Bob Kevin

171400hrs Mouse sighted scuttling across top of TV by **Cpl Jimmy Ritchie.**

180900hrs Mousetrap laid and baited.

201000hrs **Cpl Tom Thomas** sends in defect report on mousetrap.

201200hrs First assault launched and one mouse is lifted out rather flattened.

201300hrs Mouse search party finds second pocket of resistance. In ensuing battle the enemy receive severe head injuries from a broom bass wielded by **Cpl Mick (Killer) Reid.**

Since the last notice from this department, there have been many changes in personalities. We welcome **Cpls Jimmy Ritchie, Tom Thomas** (ex-Commcen), and we say farewell to **Cpls Ron Guy** and **Mick Hedges.** Soon to leave us for the land of LOA and braties is **Sgt Bob Baggaley.** Meanwhile, on the Commcen side we welcome **Cpls Rose** and **Dingle, Lcpl Cameron** and **Sigs Williams** and **Page,** and wish **Cpl Brady, Lcpl Barnard** and **Sig Betts** all the best in their new jobs.

BOBC NORWAY TRIP

The party from BOBC Norway returned recently with tales of treks across wide unpopulated expanses of Northern Norway. The absence of locals was probably due to prior warning of the party's arrival in the area. The expedition involved canoeing, trekking and other outdoor pursuits.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

JUBILEE MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

The Brigade Commander recently presented the OC, **Maj Peter Burke,** the QM, **Capt Harry Bell,** and the RSM, **WO1 Ian Buckley,** with the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Not to be outdone, the OC then presented the Brigade Commander with his own Jubilee Medal! (See photograph.)

SWIMMING

The unit swimming team has recently travelled to Catterick to take part in the next round of the Army Swimming Championship. We are pleased to announce that the team were successful and now go forward to the finals at Sandhurst.

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

JULY

BACK TO 'NORMAL'

THE weekend of May 21–22 saw the Brigade back to normal after the Ulster Workers' Strike. It's now just a question of mopping up the various problems that we have been too busy to deal with, and getting ready for the next round.

ODDS AND ENDS

A 'normally reliable' source has informed us that the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Stephen Siddall,** has recently been on Strangford Lough pursuing a speedboat at some considerable velocity in a most curious posture—we hope to include a photograph in our next 'notes'.

THUMBNAIL PROFILE No 2—The Nerve Centre

Deep in the hallowed sanctum of Brigade Headquarters lies the throbbing hub of the Belfast radio network. Manned 24 hours a day by a team comprising **Sgt Tony Talbott, Lcpls Wally Westrop** and **'Geordie' Hume,** and **Sigs Gus Emerson** and **John Meikle.**

The Radio Room (or Nine Nine November—the call sign that strikes fear into many a Battalion Watchkeeper) is a veritable maze of radio systems and wiring, as you can see from the accompanying photograph. As well as the installation in Lisburn, the Radio Room administers our detachment at Divis Mountain, at the moment **Cpl Brian Eadie, Lcpl Dave Bradshaw** and **Sig Mick Bush,** who all live up in the clouds for long periods, living on *Cordon Bleu* food and periodically entertaining such refugees from low-altitude cooking as **Capt Robin Burrows** (OC Comms Troop).

Lcpl Wally Westrop 'at the helm' in the nerve centre of the Squadron

VALE

We bade farewell recently to **Capt Ralph Forbes-Ritte** (RCT), who has been our Admin Officer since November 15, 1975. He was charming, amusing and immensely concerned for the welfare of all the soldiers in the Squadron and their families. An extremely efficient administrator, he constantly shamed the rest of us with his detailed knowledge (and memory) of welfare and administrative matters. Our very best wishes go with him and his family on his retirement from the Army. **Ralph's** replacement, **Capt Joe Menzel** (RCT) and his wife, **Mariane,** have arrived. **Joe** is quickly digging in to the depths of the classified documents and getting to grips with the PRI account. We extend a hearty welcome to them both and trust that they will enjoy their time with the Squadron.

Sgt Bill Hutton also left us in April for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where, we trust he will be making his mark on both the Officer Cadets signalling skills and the standard of squash and badminton. We wish both him and his wife the best of luck.

THE RELUCTANT ATHLETE—A Cautionary Tale

(with apologies to Hilaire Belloc)

The day for the Battle Efficiency Test dawned bright and clear; people were already lounging about in the sun. All in all it was far too hot for major physical exertion. On the running track **Joe** (our hero, **Lcpl Joe Cotterill**) was some way into the gruelling six miles when he noticed a large electricity transformer at the side of the track behind which, he reasoned, he would be concealed from the prying eyes of authority. A fast break enabled him to settle down comfortably for a short rest. Unfortunately, and unknown to feckless **Joe,** a certain Major, who shall be nameless (but who commands a very fine Signal Squadron in the 39 Infantry Bde of the British Army) was passing the track and spotted him at his rest. Summoning the RSM, the Major conducted a swift pincer movement and cornered the unfortunate **Joe** behind the transformer. 'Are you injured, my man?' inquired the RSM. **Joe** replied that, to the best of his knowledge, he was not. 'Why are you lying on the ground?' was the next question. Thinking quickly, and applying a well-known military principle known to initiates as the three B's, **Joe** replied 'Resting, Sir'. The ensuing projection on to the track would have done justice to Concorde, but unfortunately **Joe's** attempt at a four-minute mile was not so successful.

There is, of course, a moral to this tale, which draws parallels between lights and the athletic abilities of clerks, bushels and electricity transformers, but, dear reader, the moral is truly in your mind.

INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS

The Squadron athletics meeting was held on Thursday, May 26. A very high standard was achieved, the final result being that the

Capt Robin Burrows leading the field in the 800m. Following him in order: Dvr 'Chud' Adams (RCT), Cpl John Goodman, Sig Ian Rose. Sgt Ian Higgerson and Lcpl Mick Halford

The 'old soldiers' race was somewhat top heavy in rank
From left to right: Maj Treneer-Michell (RGJ) (BM), Brig MacMillan (Comd), Capt (TOT) David Potter, Col Eccles (Deputy Comd). An advantage of 2 yards was given for each extra year of service—The Deputy Commander received a few yards' start!

Headquarters team won the competition by a fairly comfortable margin. Outstanding performances were put in by **Cpl 'Geordie' Dobson,** who scored a 'possible' 18 points in the preliminary standards competition, won the 100m and came third in the javelin, and by **WO2 Bob Chapman** (REME), who won both the 800m and the 1,500m. We go forward with a strong team to the Northern Ireland Inter-Unit meeting in early June.

AUGUST

PEACEFUL

AT the time of writing, the operational situation in Belfast is very quiet, so we have been able to enjoy what little summery weather has come our way and prepare ourselves for the problems of the future.

NOVICES BITTEN

HMSTY *Kukri*, a 55ft Nicholson Cutter from the Joint Services Sailing Centre at Gosport, came to sail in the Northern Irish waters during May and June, with three crews from units in the Province. **Lt Alan Poppleton** was on the second leg, a round trip from Belfast to the west coast of Scotland; and **Capt Robin Burrows** was 'cruise skipper' for the final leg from Belfast to Gosport via the fleshpots of Falmouth, Cherbourg (where they said that they only bought duty-free cheese!) and Weymouth. The crew for this leg included **Lcpls Bob Innes** and **Don Boscoe, Sigs Stephen Hunt, Donny Donegan** and **Bob Stark.** Apart from a fairly hair-raising run down the Irish Sea in a force 8, all those involved had a most enjoyable time and the novices have been thoroughly 'bitten' by the offshore sailing bug.

Kukri, with Capt Robin Burrows at the wheel, making her way out of Belfast Lough on the final leg of Exercise Hop Scotch

QUITE A SWING

Comms Troop recently held a most successful barbecue which, despite the efforts of the weather to dampen the spirits, went with quite a swing.

Our Y of S and F of S have been very busy as always. Note WO2 (Y of S) Phil Castle in the tug-of-war; typically he is the only one showing style looking backwards! Our WO2 (F of S) Graham Rothwell shows even more style in the Northern Ireland swimming championships

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During June **Cpl Ivan Tiplady** left us for 702 TACP, and two of our Combat Clerks (their own title), **Lcpl 'Chippy' Wood** and **Sig Bob Heath,** were posted to 14 Sig Regt and 11 Sig Regt, respectively. Our best wishes go with them all. We welcome to the Squadron **Ssgt Greg Robertson, Cpl Geoff Forde** and **Sig Brian Smurthwaite.**

NAIL-BITING FINISH

In a close-fought match for the Northern Ireland Minor Units title on the hottest day for years, the Squadron XI were narrowly defeated by 233 Sig Sqn. We batted first and managed to score 147, all out; however, 233 Sqn, after a rather slow start and a nail-biting collapse, scored two runs off a very difficult dropped catch to take them to 148 for 8. **Maj John Houchin** and **Lcpl 'Skip' Jarvis** batted particularly well, and all who watched the match agreed that it was cricket at its most exciting.

The Squadron team which won the Invitation Medley Relay at the annual Royal Ulster Constabulary sports day on Wednesday, June 15, 1977
Left to right: Cpl 'Geordie' Dobson, Sgt Mike Hopkins, WO2 'Dolly' Gray and Pte Dave Hogg

FARAWAY PLACES!
— UNUSUAL JOBS!
SEND US THAT STORY

COMBAT SECTION READY FOR ACTION
Left to right. Top: Lcpl Roy Holcombe, Lcpl Dave Bradshaw, Lcpl Mick Halford, Cpl 'Geordie' Dobson, Sig 'Scouse' Smith, Lcpl Don Boscoe, Cpl Alan Culton, Sig Graham Booth
Middle: Cpl Geoff Forde, Lcpl 'Hamish' Burgess, Cpl Dave Greenwood, Sgt Alec Gavillet, Sig 'Donny' Donegan, Cpl Roger Berman, Lcpl 'Taff' Williams, Sgt John Hughes, Cpl Trev Cartledge
Front: Sig Brian Whitworth, Lcpl 'Geordie' Hume, Pte 'Caesar' Hobson, Lcpl Paul Mellish, Sig Stephen Hunt

A LONG MORNING

Combat Section, as is suggested by their title, is the home of at least some of the 'warries' in the Squadron. Formed into three teams of six, each commanded by a corporal, it is tasked with all the mobile communications jobs in the Brigade area, provides a twice-daily SDS and maintains a quantity of contingency equipment.

The life of a member of the section is necessarily a little unpredictable, as **Cpl Trev Cartledge** discovered when, shortly after his arrival in the Squadron he left home at 10 am on a Sunday saying to his wife that he would be home for lunch at 12 o'clock, only to, in fact, return at 8 pm on the following Friday having spent the week on detachment to 1 RWF. His lunch was, he tells us, cold by this time.

UNSOLICITED GIFTS

Combat section collect a fair number of bricks and bottles as unsolicited gifts from members of the public. The most spectacular one of late landed smartly in the centre of **Lcpl 'Scouse' Lambird's** windscreen during the Ulster Workers' strike; in his rush to pull up the windscreen guard he tore the antenna co-ax in half. **Lcpl Mick Halford** claims the most exotic attack yet, having recently been viciously set upon in the Lower Falls by two little girls armed with squeezee bottles full of water.

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

JULY

RE-OCCUPATION OF THE STABLES

TTHE run-down to the administrative takeover date of our new TT building on July 1 has suddenly gained momentum. The TOT, **Maj Ken West,** whose work then starts in earnest, spends most of his time tripping over errant carpenters and poring over cabling diagrams. However, we have no doubts that it will all be right on the day—he has a magic elixir (which goes by the trade name of 'Seepeeay') which he is going to pour in and which he hopes will make all the wires, plugs and machinery match up and work.

This is all with no break in Comms. Outage for moving house is not acceptable!

RQMS John Hepworth has just crossed everything. At RAF Quedgeley a large container or two has/have just been packed full with accommodation stores. His problems will begin when they arrive in Lisburn. As container-time is very expensive we cannot hold the stores in the containers. Anyone who knows Thiepval Barracks today knows that there is nowhere to store anything, let alone containersful! So the building *has* to be finished!

The Admin Officer, **Capt Alf Stapleton,** spent some hours wandering around with his steel tape measure and plans. The

original demand for notice boards and map boards was made by people who were not familiar with architect's squiggles—we covered most of the windows with soft board!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We recently said goodbye to two important personalities. **Lt Penny Longlands** left us for a spot of leave, a course at Blandford and a posting to JARIC. **Penny** worked hard during her 15 months and was very well liked by all. She is replaced by **Lt Caroline Lee,** who has already 'got amongst' it and had a go on the 9-mm pistol range.

Secondly, to give us a chance to wear our Mess kit, we dined-out the Sergeant-Major. **SSM Martin Hanlon** left us for the idyllic life of a Troop Commander in Catterick. He will be missed by most of us in one way or another; he had a difficult job which he did with aplomb. He relief, **SSM Norman Mortimer,** joins us from Cyprus and will no doubt realise he has just had a lesson in contrasts. Thank you also **Mrs Agnes Hanlon** for all you have done for the Squadron.

TOOK IT LIKE A BRICK

Sgt Ray Stokes, only just getting the hang of the daily juggling act with the motor cars, decided that it was time he saw for himself how long the SDS run was. Trouble was, he picked the start of the UWC strike—and now has a half house-brick on his desk which was presented to him by the PIRA, UVF, UDA or UFF. He didn't stop to ask which, just gritted his teeth, brushed the scattered windscreen from his face and said 'drive on', or similar words. He hasn't been outside the gates since!

JUBILEE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

With typical perverseness the weather turned very cold and wet and almost succeeded in cancelling our many outdoor festivities. The indoor ones didn't suffer, however, and most people found time to celebrate a little/lot (delete as applicable!).

VOLUNTEERS

There are still vacancies occurring for people who can accept a little shorter notice than usual. Please let Records know if you would like a posting here and although they may not be able to fit you in right away you will be earmarked. We now have passed the 100 mark for accompanied soldiers and the new relief (rebate of rent of an amount equal to the single soldier's accommodation charge plus 50p a day food subsidy) means living is a little easier for our gallant band of wives.

STOP PRESS

On July 7, the Squadron beat 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the final of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cricket Cup and now await the visit of the King's Div Depot in the Northern Area Finals.

AUGUST

NEW ROLE FOR TECH TROOP

ONCE again Tech Troop's wide range of tasks (from man-handling 70-ft radio mast to bugging the SSM's office) is enlarged by the task of writing THE WIRE notes. The Squadron has worked hard in an effort to ensure PRE would confirm our own belief in the Squadron's proficiency; the PRE report shows it was well founded.

A forlorn hope of catching our breath after PRE was dashed when the date of the Squadron's move into the new building was brought forward. Tech Troop have been swarming around the building in the wake of the contractors and the GPO in an attempt to install wiring before the ducts and false ceilings are closed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moving away from the work of the Troop to some of the characters who make it what it is. **WO1 (F of S) Nick Lynn,** recently promoted to WO1, was presented with his LS and GC Medal during a large parade and presentation ceremony.

The Troop won the inter-Troop athletic match in a hotly disputed contest, the stirling efforts of **Cpls Mick Parsons** and **Marshall** won the day though.

Sig Elliston, although hard worked by the Troop, still found energy to enjoy a volunteer five days on patrol with the Royal Anglians in Belfast. They were willing to have him back to command a section any time.

The Troop are hot on security and carpentry, **Cpl Neil Macleod** locked one of the rooms in the Troop's living accommodation after lunch and went on the town. The remaining inhabitants were in the showers, etc, and not a key between them; the room being three floors up they decided the door needed modifying. Modifications cost **Cpls Millington, Cook** and **'Tanky' Sherman** £50!

Cpl Whitehead is the Troop mechanic and maintains **Sgt 'Taff' Breeze's** ('W' Troop) racing motor bike, it took several races before the bike managed to leave the starting grid!

Marriage appears to be catching at the moment; **Cpl Dave Brown** celebrated his promotion by getting married; **Cpl Ray Cory** and his cheque book were involved as best man which makes a change for **Ray** who specialises in female impersonation. **Sgt Cid Denton** has marriage plans for August; and when **Sgt Al Guy** is asked why he spends so much time in Stranraer he claims it's liaison visits!

Sgt Pete Tiernan says he's never been featured in THE WIRE before, he's unlucky again.

'Bugging' the SSM! It was done to illustrate the dying art of vituperation as practised by **SSM Martin Hanlon** (now WO1 at 11 Sig Regt) upon recalcitrant soldiers, during his farewell party.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **WO2 Mortimer; Sgt Thomson; Cpls Cooper, Deering, Francombe, Holloway, Rodgers, Weatheritt; Lcpls Barrington, Latham; Sigs Ogden** and **Wood.**

DEPARTURES

WO2 Hanlon; Sgts Ball, Everett, Hagen, Hartley, Savage, Shorter; Cpls Jones, Lawrence, McMillan, Rhodes, Wykes; Lcpls Nickson, Rumford, Willson; Sigs Bell, Gardiner, and **Humphries.**

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Sgt and **Mrs Phillips** on the birth of a son, May 6, 1977.
Sgt and **Mrs Hollands** on the birth of a daughter, May 9, 1977.
Sgt and **Mrs Wyllie** on the birth of a son, May 31, 1977.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to: **Sig Burland** on his marriage to **Ann Kincaid.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CYPRUS COMMUTERS

PATSALIDES TRAVEL
YOUR LINK BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE U.K.

PATSALIDES TRAVEL, the leading Cypriot travel agency, have opened a branch in London at 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

Now members of H.M. Armed Forces can arrange their personal and family travel requirements conveniently knowing that they are dealing with the specialists.

Flights are daily from Heathrow on scheduled British Airways and Cyprus Airways. Patsalides offer these special fares to H.M. Forces.

RETURN
Adult: £123.50; Children (2-12): £80.50
Infant: £13.00
ONE-WAY LONDON-LARNACA
Adult: £68.00; Children (2-12): £44.50
Infant: 10%

For further information, write, phone or call Mrs Cost at 01-263 4203. 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7, and Cyprus Offices at Limassol—119 Makarios Avenue, PO Box 1311, Tel: 051 53222. Larnaca—Kition Buildings, PO Box 395, Tel: 041 55301/2.

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS—Blandford Camp style

JULY 4, 1977, provided the United States Army Exchange Officers currently serving at the School of Signals with the opportunity to hold an Independence Day Parade in the more than appropriate setting of the Roosevelt Memorial Gardens. For the few uninitiated who have not yet 'passed through' the portals of Blandford Camp, the gardens were dedicated in 1945 as a memorial to that well-remembered American President of the United States by members of the 22nd US Army General Hospital which was established in Blandford Camp during World War II. **Maj Domenic Basile** together with **Capt Patricia Mack** of the US Army Signals Corps with seemingly little effort organised a simple but impressive ceremony which included a salute to the flags of both Nations as an appropriate gesture in this the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year. Ably assisted, I might add, by the Royal Marines, US Army Marine Corps, Royal Artillery, Royal Signals and Royal Air Force (including ITV coverage).

Maj Ken Wright, OC Admin problems, remembers vaguely a simple conversation with the School RSM (**WO1 McMillan**) about 'which flag should take precedence and on which flagpost the Union Flag and the Stars and Strips should be flown depending on which way you were looking at them'; and thinking that this was all there was to it, but then to be faced on the day with a Royal Marines and United States Marine Colour Guard, the Royal Artillery and guns for an 18-Gun Salute, the Royal Signals Band and an Honour Guard (provided by 30 Sig Regt) and, finally, the RAF who provided a very brief, noisy but extremely impressive fly-past of two Jaguar aircraft which just happened to be passing on a training flight at the time (the timing could not have been better if it had been planned)?! All this, of course, taking place in probably the best weather conditions to be experienced in 1977. It was undoubtedly an impressive and memorable occasion. How they arranged it all we shall never know.

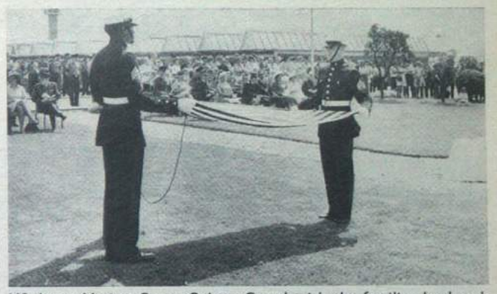
The celebrations were rounded off in the evening with a barbecue held in the Officers Mess, and here again everyone had a most enjoyable time. The size of the steaks had to be seen to be believed.

Capt Patricia Mack (US Army Signals Corps) talking to the school-children from the Blandford Camp Primary School. They seem suitably impressed

Photo courtesy: S. Jardine, Blandford Forum

Salute to the Flags of both Nations

Photo courtesy: S. Jardine, Blandford Forum



US Army Marine Corps Colour Guard with the familiar landmark of Blandford Camp in the background

Photo courtesy: S. Jardine, Blandford Forum

The two Jaguars of the Royal Air Force which happened to be passing at the time?! (in perfect formation and timing)

Photo courtesy: S. Jardine, Blandford Forum

A view of the Roosevelt Gardens with the Honour Guard (provided by 30 Sig Regt), Corps Band, Royal Marines and US Army Marines *in situ* before the parade/celebrations commenced

Photo courtesy: Photographic Section, HQ School of Signals

A FOND FAREWELL

On Friday, July 1, **Mr Jim Wilds,** a well-known and active member of the Blandford scene, by premature retirement on medical grounds, severed a close association with the Corps stretching over 39 years. **Jim** enlisted into Royal Signals in December 1937 and trained as a DR. On completion of training he was posted to the Middle East; based at Alexandria he served with the Royal Navy on line duties (Naval installations) at all Eastern Mediterranian Naval Stations. In June 1944 he was posted to London to the Cabinet Signal Section of War Office Signals and served during the Churchill/Atlee periods.

He was discharged to the Reserve in 1947 in the rank of sergeant and performed Class A/AER service until 1965. He continued to serve as a life long member of the Association. In 1970 he was engaged as a storeman at the School of Signals, working in the QM (Tech) Stores and served in turn with **Lt Col (QM) Monty Truscott** (Retd), **Maj (QM) Norman Lane,** and **Maj (QM) Mike Ham.** He has continued, and will still do so, as an active member of the Association Central Committee, he is also Assistant Secretary and Standard Bearer of the Blandford Branch.

Jim was 'struck off strength' on Friday, July 1, and the occasion was marked by a small ceremony amongst his many friends and acquaintances, and he was presented with a Jubilee Tankard by the Commandant, **Brig J. H. Hild, MBE.** Older members of the Corps may well detect familiar faces of longstanding on the photograph taken of the presentation (in particular the 'Pride of

Presentation by Brig Henry Hild to Mr Jim Wild

Quartermasters' if that's the right expression, standing on the right flank). We all wish **Jim** a long and happy retirement and know that we shall be seeing him frequently at the Association meetings.

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

RETIREMENT OF MR ERIC SLADDIN

IT is with regret that we say farewell, during this Summer Term, to one of our oldest and certainly boldest members of the Telegraphist Wing—**Mr Eric Sladdin** (he prefers **Sladdin-Smythe** by his close associates).

He is retiring from the College after 46 years of working in and for the Corps. Just under half that time as a serving member, the remainder as a Civilian Instructional Officer.

Forsaking his love of textiles for the love of the open air, he was advised to join the Corps (then a mere puppy of some 10 years old), stationed at Maresfield Camp. He, on joining, however, was banished to the wilds of Catterick Camp on a bleak winter's night in January 1931. He trained as an Operator Signals and, after classifying, was posted to 2 Div Signals at Aldershot.

Aching for a spot of action, he volunteered for service overseas in any part of the British Empire (yes, we had one then). His wish was granted and he found himself on the north-west frontier of India. The next few years were spent chasing the Pathans around the frontier, using pack mules for transport. The radio set 'C' was his set, the transmitter being driven by a Stuart Turner engine. There was line equipments and a fair distribution of 'Helio'. At the end of 1938, the War Office, knowing that war was imminent, re-called all key figures to the UK. **Sladdin-Smythe** was included and once again he joined up with 2 Div Signals.

After a short time spent bringing the unit up to strength and completely re-equipping, the Division said farewell to Portsmouth and surrounding area and set sail for France, landing at Cherbourg, then proceeding towards the Belgian-German frontier. The story of Dunkirk has been told many times, suffice it to say that **Sladdin-Smythe** insists he was the last to leave the beaches! The reasons for this he prefers not to disclose.

The years 1940–42 were spent in England when, on his birthday (April 14), 2 Div sailed for an unknown destination, which proved to be Bombay. Prior to proceeding to Kohima Assam, the Division was engaged in quelling riots, combined ops training and jungle training. The story of Kohima and subsequent battles have all been recorded. 2 Div celebrate annually their magnificent achievements during this epic campaign, which finally halted the Japanese in their tracks.

From there to the outskirts of Mandalay, then detoured to Chittagong, followed by an air trip to Calcutta for a complete re-equipping (only possible now that the European War was at an end). This was for the proposed assault on Rangoon, which did not come off in the end, and 2 Div Signals received a well-earned rest whilst awaiting return to England.

Following a short stay in the UK **Eric** went back to India for a brief spell, from there to Japan, promoted to WO2, back to India, home to England, out to the Far East, this time Singapore, where, with 19 Air Formation stationed at Changi he terminated

his distinguished (his words) career, after a period of 22 years and 317 days, arriving in England in the winter of 1953 for release. His civilian job preference was to have been with the then War Office Civilian Wireless Service, but was persuaded by the then OC Operator Wing **(Maj Coslett)** to give the College (then a school) a trial run (he obviously enjoyed it). **Eric** joined the College on March 1, 1954, and has given loyal service ever since.

At the end of the Spring Term a presentation was made to him by the Commandant, **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** on behalf of all his friends and colleagues at the College. He had many kind words to say and **Eric,** in his own inevitable style, 'many' in reply.

Amongst other things **Eric** has been responsible for the typing success of many 'thousands' of operators in the Corps. His deligent attention to detail and unstinting patience have often gone un-sung, but I feel sure it has always been greatly appreciated. His own brand of humour and wit will be sadly missed in the Common Room and certainly within the Telegraphist Wing.

On his retirement he intends to do all those things he had intended to do during his working life. Become a real live 'Percy Thrower', get down to some serious reading and to appease his wife, bring the decorating up to scratch, apart from the winter months in which he states he prefers hibernation to activity. We all wish him a happy and successful retirement and hope that like **Dave Tyrie** he will give us the occasional visit.

GRADUATION DAY

THE traditional Graduation ceremonies were held on the cold and blustery April 14. The Parade was admirably commanded by **AT/RSM Steve Johns,** whose performance earned the congratulations of both **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** the Commandant, and **Maj Gen Henry Woods, MBE, MC· MA,** GOC North-East District and Reviewing Officer for the day.

One of the highlights of the parade was the presentation to **Sgt Bill Venus** of the British Empire Medal, awarded to him in the New Year's Honours List. Among the distinguished guests welcomed by the Commandant was **Brig Norman Butler,** Training Group Commander, and himself a former Commandant of the College. **Col Ramsbottom** had, at the other end of the scale, the sad task of saying goodbye and thank you to **Mr Eric Sladdin,** retiring after 23 years' service to the College. To the Senior Term, who, he said, were passing out with distinction, **Col Ramsbottom** gave the sound advice to 'keep up the habit of studying'.

These sentiments were echoed by the Reviewing Officer: 'You have started', he said, 'on the road of military professionalism. How far you travel along it is up to you'. **Gen Woods** further urged the 'graduates' to keep up their standards of training, loyalty and fitness. In presenting the Borough of Harrogate Prizes, the Mayor, **Cllr W. R. Beaumont,** congratulated **AT P. J. Neves** on producing the best essay ever written in the history of the competition.

Main prizes were presented as follows:

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD (for the best all-round Apprentice of the Term)—won by **AT/Sgt C. D. Bowers.**

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD (for the best all-round Tradesman of the Term)—won by **AT/Lcpl P. Marsden.**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE (for Conduct, Discipline and Example)—won by **AT/RSM S. C. Johns.**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE (for outstanding academic progress whilst at the College)—won by **AT/Sgt C. D. Bowers.**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE to the best Apprentice of the Term in each Trade:
Technicians—Terminal Equipment—won by **AT/Sgt S. A. Wilks.**
Radio Relay—won by **AT/Lcpl P. Marsden.**
Telegraphist—Data—won by **AT/SSM T. J. Keats.**
Radio—won by **AT/Cpl M. A. Fielding.**

EDUCATION PRIZES (for the best academic progress during their time at the College):
Technician—won by **AT J. G. Lamplugh.**
Telegraphist—won by **AT C. G. Allnatt.**

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZES (for the best essay on local government):
Technician—won by **AT/Cpl H. B. Barclay.**
Telegraphist—won by **AT P. J. Neves.**

THE CHAMPION SQUADRON CUP—won by **Penney Sqn.**

ARMY MINOR SOCCER CUP WINNERS 1976–77
Left to right. Back row: WO1 Mays, Capt Rolf (RAEC), Sgt McManus, Sgt Lambert, Cpl Bettson, Cpl Smith, Cpl Wood, Sgt Campbell, Col Ramsbottom
Front row: Sgt Mills, Sgt Pontin, Sgt Burgess (captain), Cpl McKenzie, LBdr Morrison
Absent on duty: Sgt Ruffer, Cpl Keegan

A NEAR THING

The final of the Army (UK) Minor Units Soccer Cup was played at Burton Court, Chelsea, on Friday, April 15, 1977, between Army Apprentices College, Harrogate and HQ PCCU RE, Mill Hill.

The game started at a very fast pace, both teams settling down well. For the first 20 minutes the College had most of the play but despite the pressures around the Postal goal they could not score and, in fact, it was Postal who scored the first goal of the match after 25 minutes. 10 minutes later the scores were level after **Geoff Ruffer** had beaten a couple of defenders to hit a left-foot shot low into the net.

The score remained 1—1 till half time. In the second half it was again the Postal Unit who went ahead. 10 minutes into the second half they made it 2—1 and after a further five minutes it was 3—1 to Postal. Things were now beginning to look black for the College but the players refused to give up. With only 10 minutes remaining of normal time **Terry Smith** played some nice football on the left wing and finished it off by scoring a goal, to bring the College back into the game. With only 4 minutes to go it was **Geoff Ruffer** again who saved the College. After beating no fewer than three players he worked his way into the penalty area where he was brought down. The referee had no hestitation in awarding a penalty.

With relative ease **Garnet Keegan** collected the ball, placed it on the spot, and whilst everyone was looking away casually stroked it well clear of the goalkeeper. 3—3, and all to play for. With only a minute of extra time played, it was again **Ruffer** who put the College into the lead for the first time and that proved to be the end of the scoring. Great credit must go to both teams for the excellent spirit in which the game was played.

The cup and medals were presented by **Maj Gen W. T. MacFarlane,** Chief of Staff, HQ UKLF.

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Royal Signals Manning and Records, Reading

VALE

THINGS will never be quite the same at Reading now that **Maj Norman Coslett** has retired after nearly 45 years' service in the Corps. To the current generation of servicemen 'enlisted 1932' conjures up an image of an entirely different era, as indeed it was. Soldiering was tougher but less complex and a recruit out of training could still be posted to a far distant corner of the Empire for a minimum of four years and often stayed for seven.

Having joined as an Operator Signals in October of that year, **Norman** spent just one more year in England with 5 Div Sig Regt at Scarborough before being drafted to Egypt. He spent the next eight years continuously in the Middle East serving in Cyprus (where, in 1936, he received personally the signal announcing the death of King George V), Port Said, Moascar and Abbassia. While in Egypt he represented Egypt Signals at hockey and water polo and has maintained an interest in both these sports ever since. He joined the newly-formed 14 Brigade at Abbassia in November 1940 and, as the Brigade Signal Section Sergeant, went to Crete in December of that year. The Brigade saw action when the German airborne invasion started and was engaged in fierce fighting during which it was completely surrounded. **Norman** and others escaped through the net and were evacuated by sea from Heraklion. After a brief spell in Syria he was back in the thick of it at the first siege of Tobruk where, this time, he went in by sea but came out by land. He must have done well as he was sent home in March 1942 to join the Special Operating Training Battalion at Trowbridge. Here he found that he was the only single sergeant to be shared by 500 girl trainees! It could not last.

After 150 OCTU and Commissioning he went to India in February 1946 and became Adjutant of STC (B) Mhow under **Lt Col (later Brig) E. J. C. Harrison.** On the partition of India he took a company of Pakistan Boy soldiers from Mhow to the Murree Hills. The journey, fraught with danger during those troubled days, took 25 days. He then spent nearly two years in Murree Hills as OC Boys' Regt Pakistan Signals before coming home in 1951 to spend two years as Adjutant of 1 Trg Regt.

He then moved to the Apprentices College at Harrogate as OC Signals Wing. In those days the Commandant was an Infanteer and the Chief Instructor a Sapper. **Norman** was the chief signaller and responsible for all signals training. He is to this day Honorary President of the local branch of the Royal Signals Association.

In June 1956 he got his regular QM Commission but it was not until he joined 11 Air Formation Sig Regt in BAOR in March 1958 that he actively got down to counting the socks. When he left the Regiment four years later it had become 22 Sig Regt. There followed three relaxing years running 232 Sig Sqn (Park) in Singapore, a sinecure **Norman** admits, but it gave him time to organise and run FARELF hockey which he did with conspicuous success.

His last appointment was here at Records where he set up the organisation required to carry out the personnel vetting procedures introduced in the Army, following the Radcliffe Report. He carried on with this task after retiring from the active list in September 1967 and then took on the co-ordination of the phased changeover to ADP manning aids in addition to looking after the careers of the Clerks and Clerks (Tech) and the Band.

Everything **Norman** does, he does well and his personality is characterised by kindliness, integrity and great personal charm. We shall miss his companionship and his expertise but admire his decision to retire a year or so earlier than the rules require. He and his wife, **Edna,** are going to live in St. Austell where, for **Norman,** it all began. We wish them both great happiness.

News from Regiments

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

JULY

NEAR AND FAR

AS always this has been a busy period in the Regiment with a lot happening both at work and play. No sooner had we returned from Exercise Fighting Eagle than the Regimental diving club embarked for an expedition to Belize (more of that in the future), detachments left for a 7 Bde FTX, others for the NDC visit and 'A4' Troop departed for Denmark to provide communications for the Royal Signals Baltic regatta. These are just a few of the events in addition to those highlighted below, so the message is quite clear—if you want to get about and lead a full and interesting life, come to 1 Div, cos it's good 'ere!

GUESTS OF BUNDESWEHR

With a wrench which was something like tearing a sticking-plaster off a hairy leg, 2 Sqn went to Rendsburg from May 15–20 as guests of the German Bundeswehr. They stayed in a German Airforce barracks and had unlimited use of the local gallery ranges and training area. For some 90 all ranks it was a very busy week. Everyone spent at least two days on the range, one day learning and practising infantry section tactics, one day on a trip to the nearby north German coast, as well as completing a night shoot and a night exercise. The night exercise was one of the highlights. The renowned MacTeuchter tribe was led by a thinly disguised **Ssgt Mick Hamilton.** His efforts to attack patrols with the dreaded, fata Ballantrae fungus were firmy repulsed! As 2 Sqn quickly discovered, the German diet is somewhat different and although the food was very good the absence of chips for a whole week produced withdrawal symptoms in some cases! One event which caused a flutter on the 300-metre firing point was when a German free-fall parachutist landed on the 200-metre firing point. Range safety instructions don't cover that sort of eventuality.

JUBILEE BALL

RSM Kevin Cheetham must have set something of a record when he organised the Sergeants Mess Jubilee Ball on June 3 in a local hotel. No less than 270 sat down to a formal Mess dinner with dancing and a cabaret afterwards. The cabaret, called 'Linda Leyton Unlimited', included a well-endowed young lady who enlisted **SSM John Kirkman** to accompany her in the song, 'Oh Doctor I'm in Trouble'. It went very well and one could say that he certainly made a bosom friend there! Not to be outdone, the Corporals Club enjoyed a Jubilee dinner dance on May 27 with the CO as the principal guest. This was the first Corporals Club formal dinner in the memory of the present members. Coming up shortly are the Squadron barbecues and an Officers Mess summer ball.

BANDITS NEAR MISS

As always sport is an important part of our programme. First the Regimental Golf 'B' team [author—'B' must stand for Bandits] comprising **WO1 Brian Daley** (APTC), **WO2 'Rip' Kirby** (1 BW), **Ssgt John McIlree** and **Sgt Bob Bradford** came runners-up in the Divisional team championships held at Hannover. At the same meeting **Ssgt George Coles** won the 18-hole Stableford which may have been a mistake as his handicap was promptly reduced by 7 strokes. The Regimental spring golf meeting was held on an international course at Bremen where the Flag competition was won by **WO1 Arthur Brill** (RAOC) and the Stableford by **Sgt Bob Bradford.** The Regimental cricket team are safely through the first round of the Army Cup beating 21 Engineer Regt by 9 runs. Top scorer was **SSM Bill Miles** with 32 runs. The inter-Squadron swimming gala was held in the excellent, local outdoor pool on June 3, and 3 Sqn dominated virtually every event. There were many fine performances but probably the most noteworthy was a 100-metres breast-stroke by **Lt Andy Foster** in 1min 28sec. The water polo produced an exciting final but there was no stopping 3 Sqn, who beat 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn 4—1. As some consolation, 'A2' Troop managed to win the chain of command race but it was undoubtedly 3 Sqn's day. Finally, tennis. In the Divisional championships **Maj John MacLean** and **SSM Bill Miles** carried off the open doubles title after an exciting match which was won by a tie break in the third set.

CO's wife, Mrs Julia Davies, presents the inter-Squadron Swimming Cup to Ssgt Bob Mawson of 3 Sqn

AUGUST

BEATING A (HASTY) RETREAT

A week later the Regiment found itself in Sheil Barracks once more for the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Beating of the Retreat. After a beautiful day, everyone was looking forward to perfect weather for the parade. But just as the GOC arrived, the heavens opened and the water poured down. Within two minutes the officers were inside their Mess and everyone else inside the LAD. It was left to the only officer remaining on the Parade Square, **Lt Scott Ewing,** to suggest to a much bedraggled Bandmaster that his Band might as well go home. He suffered a slight heart-failure later in the evening when the rain stopped and the GOC was overheard suggesting to German guests in the Officers Mess that 'we might as well go out and get on with the parade now'.

HELLO SAILOR!

On June 13, two British frigates docked at Bremen, HMS *Diomede* and HMS *Amazon.* The Regiment provided several diversions for them during their five days in harbour including a visit to the East German border at Helmstedt. The trip went very well for the sailors but **2 Lt David Hargreaves** was not so lucky. He was supposed to be meeting them at Helmstedt but only arrived in time to say goodbye.

The following day football and hockey teams came down to Verden to play against the Regiment. The landlubbers excelled themselves; the football team (captained by **Sgt Ralph Porter**) won 7—4 and the hockey team (captained by **Sgt Mick Goatley**) won 3—1. That same afternoon a distress call was received from a party of sailors who were boating up the Weser. They had run out of fuel; could we resupply them with 25 gallons of outboard motor fuel and DM100 of beer and Schnapps!

RUNAWAY WINNERS

The first series of six CO's runs came to an end this month with 1 Sqn being beaten for the first time. But they were runaway winners of the series and will be presented with the trophy in July. To help encourage the other three Squadrons, 1 Sqn will start the next six runs with a three minute time penalty!

DAVY CROCKETT

The Regiment said a very sad farewell to Canadian exchange officer, **Capt Bill Richard.** His original Mess farewell party had to be cancelled at short notice because of the dreaded call out Exercise which was sprung on us. The officers eventually bade farewell at a Saturday night party with the subalterns giving a

special rendition of Davy Crockett. But it was his Troop that he rightly thought of and looked after most conscientiously. He has kidnapped 10 of them, sent them to Canada and the last we heard, through our D11 link, is that they are now exercising somewhere within the Arctic Circle! *Au revoir*, **Bill** and **Shirlene,** from us all. We welcome **Capt Hugh** and **Mrs Sharon Coyle** to keep the Maple Leaf flying over Commcen Charlie.

CONGRATULATIONS

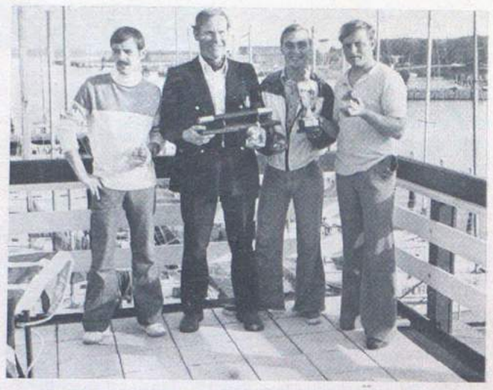
. . . . to our Offshore Yachtsmen. The yacht skippered by **Capt David Lowe** was the winner of the Royal Signals Offshore Regatta.

. . . . to the winners of the Regimental Skill-at-Arms, **Sgt Ralph Porter**—SMG, **Capt Malcolm Emslie**—Pistol, **Lcpls Terry Forster** and **'Scouse' Higginson** on LMG. **Lcpl Higginson** gets double congratulations as he has just found himself with the first addition to the family.

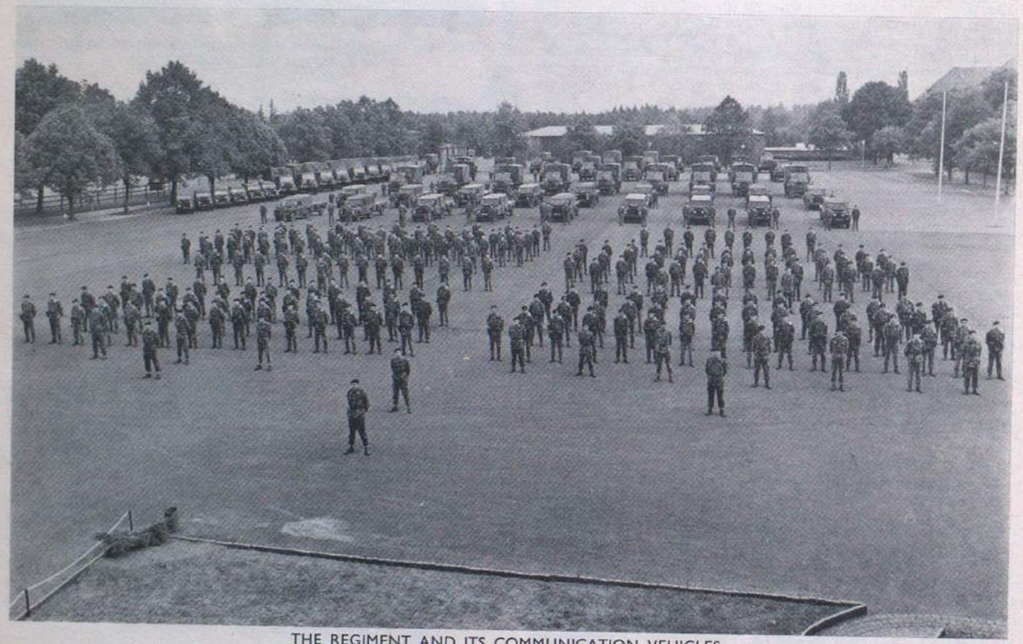
. . . . to the team that shot in the International Shoot at Rendsburg in gaining a very creditable fourth place.

. . . . to the cricket team who are at present unassailable in their quest for the Army Cup. The team is no doubt inspired by the arrival of demon cricketer *par excellence*, **Capt James Shaw.** It is understood that he raised an eyebrow from its customary 6ft 7in level above ground when being asked when he first arrived to sign for two heliographs. It was only later he discovered they were for the Museum that he has been asked to take charge of.

. . . . Condulences, to the officers' cricket team who were soundly beaten by the sergeants, but will not, therefore, have to polish up the wooden spoon for handover. It can retain the cobwebs from where it hangs in the Mess, for yet another year.



Royal Signals Offshore Regatta. Winners and First boat to Copenhagen!
Lcpl Jones, Capt Lowe, Tpr Hislop, Dvr Watts



THE REGIMENT AND ITS COMMUNICATION VEHICLES

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ 1 Div

SNAP, BANG, WALLOP!

WHAT a picture! June started with a bang with the Regiment posing for a Jubilee photograph on Sheil Barracks Square. The parade was not designed to rival a slightly larger one that was due in Sennelager and whereas the planning there took over nine months ours took less than nine hours from planning and execution. The result is that most of the Regiment is now recorded on celluloid in sports groups, Squadrons and in the full Regimental line-up.

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

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

JULY

Photo courtesy: Barney Paradin

Sgt 'Chippy' Chambers and wife, Jan, get to grips with the situation. Actually, they are quite good friends off stage

'WANTED—ONE BODY' IN STADT THEATRE

THE Birdwood Players is the Station Drama Group in Birdwood Barracks, but due to the Op Banner commitments of 2 Armd Div Tpt Regt and 652 Sqn AAC only members from 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were able to take part in the latest production: 'Wanted—One Body', a farcical thriller by Raymond Dyer. This was staged in the local Stadt theatre, a vast improvement on a temporary stage in the gymnasium, and ran for two nights. It was also entered for the 1977 BFG Drama Festival.

The cast was very much a collection of husband-and-wife teams. One of the leading males was **Sgt Chris Maynard** of 3 Sqn. He is a well-known man about camp and the local watering places and has become the resident comic. However, the strain seems to be proving too much for him because he has applied for a saner posting back to the UK in June. **Chris's** wife, **Irene,** was at last driven out of the wings, where she has been prompt for the last three productions, to actually tread the boards. This was also a first appearance for **Sgt 'Chippy' Chambers** of 2 Sqn, whose wife, **Jan,** played both leading ladies, being bumped off not once, but twice. The second leading man was played by **Sgt Ian Holmes** of 2 Sqn, who even bought a new suit for the occasion, as he played a solicitor going to a funeral. **Cpl Bob Hope** (who stoutly denies knowing anyone named Bing) appeared in the Players' first production last year, but since then had confined his efforts to being a backstage 'gopher'. He had the advantage on the casting couch this time though, as his wife, **Helen,** was the producer. Prompting was by **Cpl Dave Ford** of 2 Sqn (could this be a 2 Sqn takeover?), and his wife, **Gill,** Germaine Greer's right-hand person, was a welcome newcomer to the stage. **Sgt Terry Sutherland** managed the workers backstage and **Capt Richard Ives** looked after the money (he is now trying to think of ways to dissolve the deficit).

As for the adjudication, all we can say is that it was 'fair'. We are certainly encouraged to keep trying.

THE BEARDED WONDER

Sig Dave Fisher of 3 Sqn has distinguished himself twice recently. Firstly, he achieved a notable and well-deserved success in gaining an 'A' pass on his Combat Powerman upgrading course at Catterick earlier this year. Secondly, he was the cause of some amusement amongst members of Bravo Troop. **Sig Fisher** had been suffering from a skin ailment and had been given permission to grow a beard. The time came, however, when, fortunately, the rash cleared up. Therefore, before the assembled Troop, his growth was ceremoniously removed. First to have a go was the Troop Sergeant, **John 'Charlie' Drake,** who tackled the right-hand side. Then came the turn of Troop OC, **Capt Nigel Cory,** who started on the left-hand side. Other budding barbers then finished off the job in turn, and finally applied large quantities of after-shave lotion (to wash off the blood?). Now that he is having to shave again, **Sig Fisher** is certainly going to put his trade to good use, making sure that there is enough power around on exercise to run his electric razor!

Left to right: Lt Col John Halford, Sig Topo Toplewski, Sig 'Taffy Wilding, Cpl 'Gas' Quick, Lcpl Fred Tedby, Ssgt Chas Drake, Sig 'Meatball' Fricker, Sig Dave Fisher, Lcpl Pete Fowler, Sig Dave Cowan and Cpl Dick Grant

INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING GALA

THE winners of this year's Inter-Squadron swimming gala were 3 Sqn. The fact that the organiser, **Capt Nigel Cory,** and timekeeper, **Capt Richard Ives,** both belong to 3 Sqn had nothing to do with their victory! However, 2 Sqn who were narrowly beaten, will offer to provide the timekeeper next year. Congratulations to **Sig Paul Cowan** on his excellent freestyle swimming and to all the veteran participants, the winners being 2 Sqn—is that win of any significance?

UNPROVOKED ATTACK

The highlights of Exercise Queen's Crown II for **Sig 'Reggy' Adkins,** the 2IC's driver, was a savage and provoked attack by the most enormous hedgehog ever seen. **Sig Adkins,** sleeping peacefully, was disturbed when he felt strong nudges in his side. All ready to blame his unsuspecting sleeping neighbour, he spotted the attacker. It was enormous, huge, savage. Unfortunately, it got away . . . ! Could such attacks be a sign of organised militancy by the fauna of Nord-Rhein Westphalia—could we be overun by marauding quilled quadrupeds? Watch the Wide Horizon columns for further details.

FORMIDABLE BASKETBALL RECORD

Our Regimental basketball team has had an exceptional two seasons. Playing a total of 80 matches and losing only 2—both being the Army Finals. In 1975–76 they were Divisional, BAOR Champions and Army Finalists. This was repeated in 1976–77, being narrowly beaten in the finals by SEE Borden, their old rivals. Congratulations on a tremendous effort and an excellent two seasons. Congratulations also to the RSM, **WO1 Mick Jennings,** on his new slimline figure. (Photo overpage).

Left to right. Front row: Sgt Batty, Capt Jones (ACC), WO1 (RSM) Jennings, Lt Col J. B. J. Halford, Capt Robson (APTC), Sig Dallison
Back row: Lcpl Tedby, Ssgt Jasiok, Lcpl Orange, Cpl Eckett and Ssgt (Y of S) Stubbings

AUGUST

AN IMPORTANT COMMITMENT

FOR the past month the Regiment has been fully committed to the Jubilee Review which took place on Thursday, July 7. Later we shall have a special bulletin reporting on everything that has happened.

FAREWELL ON COMMISSIONING

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . . This month we said farewell to **WO1 (F of S) Richard Limb** on commissioning. The Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of the Regiment held an extremely successful dinner night to say farewell to **Richard.** In the RSM's farewell speech (take five, PMC) tribute was paid to **Richard** for his loyalty and devotion to duty, both to the Regiment and to the Sergeants Mess. As a measure of the esteem in which he was held the RSM, on behalf of the Sergeants Mess, presented him with a suitably inscribed gold fob watch. In his reply **Richard** remarked that he would miss the comradeship and friends he had made whilst serving in the Mess. He subsequently presented a silver inscribed candlestick which he felt sure would light the way for us all.

Part of the after-dinner entertainment had a national flavour. Our Irish contingent (they're all over the place) organised a tug-o'-war competition between the Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh. The photograph shows the Scots winning the competition hands down. They were going to keep the broom/rope to take back to Scotland but the cleaner required it for the next morning.

The excuses: The Welsh had to go for a leek.
The Irish pushed instead of pulled.
The English couldn't make up their minds who to pick.

Photo courtesy: Barney Paradine, Bunde

WO1 (RSM) Mike Jennings proposes a toast for WO1 (F of S) Richard Limb (*left*)

The Scots, the CSM at the rear, promised to show everyone what he didn't wear under his kilt if they lost.

Also in the photograph on the extreme left is our PMC, **WO2 (F of S) Pete Wagstaff,** announcing the winner whilst **WO1 (F of S) Dick Limb** takes a back seat on top right. Recognisable in the winning Scots team are **Ssgts (SQMS) Alex Lackie, (F of S) Jan Jasiok, (Y of S) George Stubbings** and **WO2 (CSM) Pete Robertson.**

ANOTHER COMMISSIONING

A newsworthy note from HQ Sqn Lubbecke was the launching of *Noddy's Ark* at the Dummer See on May 25, 1977.

The *Ark* is a Mirror Class dinghy which had been purchased by the PRI and built by November Troop during the winter months.

LD (launching day) was declared to be a family day for the Troop which proved to be a good opportunity for the new Troop OC, **Capt 'Not so barnacle' Derek Allen,** and for the departing OC, **Capt 'Barnacle' Bill Coxon,** to say hello/goodbye to everyone.

It was not considered wise to 'crack' the bottle of champagne, donated by **Bill** and **Olga,** on the bows of the so far untried dinghy so a hefty shake of the bottle followed by the inevitable spray (shower) was decided upon. This was done and so Noddy Troop were well and truly launched (soaked).

Several members of the Troop tried their hand during the afternoon and luckily no one got more than a little damp. A fitting end to the 'Coxon' reign, was the concensus of opinion, thank you, **Bill** and **Olga** for all you have done.

Farewell also to **Capt Tony Cudlip** and wife, **Sheila,** who both gave so much during their tour here. **Tony** will be especially remembered by members of the Anglo-German Club who presented him with a suitably inscribed dish on his farewell, in appreciation of all the hard work by **Tony** to encourage friendly Anglo/German relationships. In his place we welcome **Lt Brian Gould** and wife, **Carolyn,** whose first job was to organise a car rally for the Anglo/German Club, a report of which follows. We wish them both a pleasant tour here.

ANGLO-GERMAN CLUB CAR RALLY—LUBBECKE

The June meeting of the Anglo-German Club took the form of a car really organised in the main by the OC HQ Sqn, **Maj David Hodges,** suitably assisted by his new 2IC, **Lt Brian Gould.** Sunday afternoon, June 19, was chosen as the day when the local populace between Lubbecke and the Dummer See would have been well advised to remain indoors away from the perils of 30 German and British drivers making vain attempts to emulate their respective Grand Prix heroes whilst trying to find out what time the last bus to Preussich Oldendorf leaves and when the mail box in 'Rabber' is emptied.

Most impressive was **Capt Richard Mardo** with his co-pilot, assistant adjutant **Lt Phillippa Roberts** acting as navigator, and if points were awarded for looking the part they would have come out on top. Unfortunately for them, they were required to complete other tasks, one of which was not to take wrong turnings or was that deliberate on the part of the navigator?

The rally terminated at the Dummer See Yacht Club where a barbecue had been arranged under the supervision of **Pte 'Taff' Lewis,** but being do-it-yourselfers, the club members took over the cooking and this resulted in more burnt fingers than properly cooked 'Bratties'. Whilst the meriment was taking place the answer papers were being marked by that able assistant for all dirty jobs, **Lt Brian Gould** and, with absolutely no fiddling on his part the result order was German, British, German, forever the international diplomat. After the presentation of prizes the club members agreed the next meeting should take place as soon as possible in July.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ 2 Armd Div

Capt Tony Cudlip (*left*) being presented with a silver dish from the Anglo-German Club

3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Bulford

JULY

(This month's notes are compiled by 3 Sqn)

TEN TORS

TEN TORS is an annual hill and moor walking event for young people from all over the UK run on inter-Service lines by HQ South-West District. This year was the last time that the Regiment would provide extensive communication and administrative support based on Okehampton Camp. 2 Sqn took the major responsibilities in the strange world of communications and there are rumours that everything worked. However, 3 Sqn were active in many fields: Guard picquet, officers, sergeants and soldiers Messes, washer-uppers and cleaners, and the complete responsibility for camp beds and mattresses. The lucky few were allowed four glorious days seated on one of the many tors, and

in the case of **Cpl Dave Denyer** and **Sig Mel Hood** enjoying dinner and breakfast cooked by their 'Tor Officers'—two Group-Captains (yes—they equate to full colonels)! Great pleasure was experienced by those helping in the special event for handicapped children, who showed that, even with severe handicaps, guts and determination can overcome most obstacles.

EXERCISE DEPART CARTER BARRACKS

As many readers will know, the Regiment is heading for a 'more financially viable climate' in BAOR and as a result the last few weeks have been hectic with kit dispersal. Vehicles and equipment are disappearing rapidly towards the open arms and up-to-date paperwork of the QM (Tech), **Capt Ron Knight.** Our most generous present to date has been one complete 'ready-to-operate' Comhead to 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. We hope the new owners will enjoy the comforts of these meticulously maintained communications facilities.

SQUADRON CELEBRITY

At the moment **Lt Vaughan Smedley** is trying very hard to make his reputation in international sailing with *Supernova,* his Flying Dutchman class boat. So far he has made two main outings: first to the South of France and Italy and, secondly, to the Weymouth Regatta. Unfortunately, heavy seas and high winds created havoc at Weymouth and **Vaughan** only brought home to Bulford a battered boat and a well-tested lifejacket and wet-suit!

Although there have been no great successes so far, **Vaughan** has a great passion for the sport, although a newcomer. Perhaps we may in due course see another Corps representative at Olympic level?

SQUADRON MISCELLANEA

Congratulations to **Ssgt (Y of S) 'Chippy' Wood** and **Lcpl Chris Harden** who represented the Corps swimming team at Harrogate, and to **Lt David Proctor** on receiving his Army Hockey Colours.

CIT CLOSES DOWN

A few weeks ago, having completed a show for the Army Cadet Force, the Regimental Careers and Information Team dismantled its display for the very last time. Under the administrative wing of 3 Sqn, this enthusiastic and immensely popular team has operated for a number of years throughout the South-

Sig 'Paddy' Boyd indulging in a bit of the Blarney . . .

West District area. It has also appeared in a variety of other locations at special 'one-off' shows which have included the Royal Tournament, the Aldershot Army Display, ARMEX at Harrogate, and ELECTREX at the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham. The display comprised a variety of working radio and line installations housed in a number of vehicles and tents, supported by an information caravan and a colourful selection of display material, which went together to produce the largest Regimental Careers Team in the country—a fact of which we were justly proud.

STOP PRESS

Our Regimental sailing team of **Cpl Denyer, Cpl Lewis** and **Lcpl Ward** have just brought back the Royal Signals Yacht Club Inter-Unit Team Trophy Cup from Whale Island.

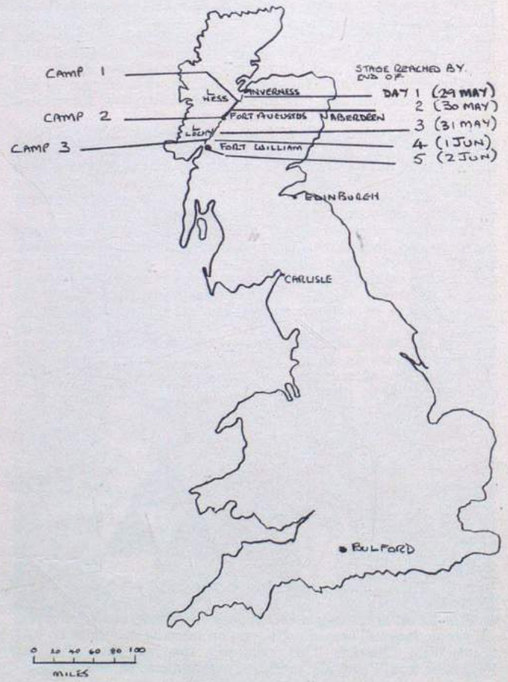
AUGUST

RELOCATION

JULY is the last month that 4 officers and some 30 soldiers will spend with the Regiment before moving to Blandford to form the basis of 3 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt. Many of them have been in 1 Sqn which has fielded Commcen Whisky. We thank them all for their efforts for us, work and otherwise, and wish them well in their new surroundings.

EXERCISE LONG HOP

Exercise Long Hop was an adventurous training exercise carried out in Scotland. The aim was to canoe from the east coast to the west coast along the entire length of the Caledonian Canal. It was conceived by **WO1 (Y of S) Bob Baker** and **Sgt Dave Robertson;** 35 took part including **Cpl Gerry Holroyd** from the LAD, **J/Sigs Avery** and **Begley** from Iron Troop, Junior Signalmen Wing, 11 Sig Regt (our sponsored Troop), and a radio communications detachment formed by **Sigs Garry Towlson, Mel Hood** and **Doug Harrison** of 'D' Troop. This detachment worked C15 links from our base to each canoeing camp and a rear link to Bulford. The canoeing expertise was provided by **WO2 (SSM) Joe Albon** assisted by **Sig Jim Marshall.**



THE CANAL

The Caledonian Canal is 62 miles long and runs from Inverness SW to Fort William. It provides a route for small craft from the North Sea to the Atlantic. Throughout most of its length the waterway is made up of Lochs, principally Loch Ness. Loch Ness itself was to pose the most formidable obstacle on the exericse. It is 30 miles long, one mile wide at its broadest point and over 1,000ft deep in the centre. It is situated in a steep valley with cliffs rising sheer on either side, providing conditions which build up strong gusting winds. In fact, on our arrival at the Loch the local populace lost no time in telling us just how quickly these conditions blow up. They emphasised that it is so bad at times that the large passenger ferries which ply up and down the canal will not negotiate the Loch.

THE EXPEDITION—DAY 1

We set off on Sunday, May 29, from the seaward locks at Clachnahang, where we ceremoniously touched the locks and then paddled the first six miles of the journey. This short distance was selective to provide the team with experience of the subtleties of manoeuvring a canoe. A number of 'in-offs' from either bank were scored but not one capsized. The canoeing ended for the day at Loch End, the beginning of Loch Ness.

DAYS 2 and 3

Loch Ness was canoed in two days. The canoeing proved to be every bit as hard as we had expected. The distance began to tell, and those winds blew up. The sun was shining brilliantly but the wind whipped up a 2-ft swell. The 'double' canoes were not too troubled but the going became very exciting for the 'single' canoes. To a canoeist, especially a beginner, with his cockpit only inches from the surface of the water things were quite frightening! But that's why we volunteered! **Sig Steve Robbins** was observed to be paddling in ever decreasing circles; **Cpl Dave D'Silva** tried to help but had the same trouble; even **Cpl Tony Moses** despite his name and reputation was unable to quell the waters. The nearest we came to seeing 'Nessie' was when a water rat leapt out of the undergrowth near **Lcpl John Lane** and dived under his canoe nearly causing him to capsize in surprise. The third day ended with a pleasant evening being spent in the British Legion Club at Fort Angustus, where we took on *and we believe beat* the local folk singers (who cares if we didn't know the words!).

DAY 4

On Wednesday, we were again on open water, this time on Loch Lochy, the water was calm and the only activity, save our own, was of American tourists hoping to photograph 'That Damned Monster'. We did not have the heart to tell them it was the wrong Loch.

DAY 5

Only 12 miles left to go—a freshness appeared in all the crews, even the most weary. By lunch time we reached the final loch gates. When asked why they were there, our stalwart VM **(Cpl Gerry Holroyd)** replied 'Well, if they weren't there there would be a B----y great waterfall all the way to Ireland.'

DAY 6

On Friday we packed up and turned for home. We were all a bit more experienced and certainly understood each other a lot more. A final mention, our thanks to **Sgt Dave Robertson** and **Cpl Dave D'Silva,** who organised the base camp, and to **Lcpl 'Smudge' Smith** (ACC) and his able assistant, **Sig Mark Mottershead** (Combat Radiomen get everywhere!), for their excellent catering.

'Sarge, I've got it stuck'!
Lcpl Les Brooks and Sgt Dave Robertson at the canal start

The Start
Left to right: Cpl Dave Higgins, Sgt Dave Robertson, Cpl Tony Moses, WO1 (Y of S) Bob Baker, Lcpl John Lane, Sig Les Wilson, Sig John Avery, Sig Geoff Chadwick, Cpl Gerry Holroyd, Sig Mel Hood, Sig Kev Scoins, Sig Jim Marshall, WO2 (SSM) Joe Albon

'It's madness I tell you, Yeoman, another day on that Loch and the Monster's bound to get us'!

Left to right: Cpl Dave D'Silva, Cpl Gerry Holroyd, Dvr 'Paddy' Prendergast, Sig 'Jock' Robertson, Cpl Tony Moses, WO1 (Y of S) Bob Baker

'It's Over'!
Sig Ken Scoins, Sig 'Jock' Robertson, Cpl Tony Moses, Cpl Dave Higgins

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

THE NEW LOOK CELEBRATED

THE first of 7 Sig Regt's modernised accommodation blocks was occupied on May 26, 1977. The handing over of keys to the newly-built single rooms called for a block-warming celebration attended by the CO, 2IC, RSM, Squadron OCs, Squadron representatives, some employees involved in the modernisation and none less than the lucky members of HQ Sqn who took over the block.

5 SQUADRON (Fifth in the series 'Meet the Squadrons')

OC	—	**Maj John Potier**
OC 'Papa' Troop	—	**Capt Bill Lidster, BEM**
OC 'Kilo' Troop	—	**Capt Bob Axton**
OC Corps Lighting Troop, RE	—	**Capt Carel Bouwens** (RE)
SSM	—	**WO2 Arthur Smith**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Ron Russell**
F of S	—	**Ssgt Alex Taylor**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt Pete Baron**
		Ssgt Rod Wood
MT Sgt	—	**Sgt Adam Horsburgh**

THE ROLE

5 Sqn is made up of three Troops, each Troop having a different role to play within the 1 BR Corps Main Headquarters.

'Papa' Troop—commanded by **Capt Bill Lidster, BEM,** provide Commhead Papa the other commhead for 1 BR Corps Main HQ. The Troop consists of linemen, technicians, operators and drivers each doing their jobs to make sure that the Commhead runs smoothly.

'Kilo' Troop are the Corps radio relay Troop and play a big part in providing comms between the Commcens and Commheads. In addition they supply both Commhead Terminals and 225 Sig Sqn Terminals. The Troop is run by **Capt Bob Axton** and his Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Trev (Bites Yer Legs) Johnson.**

Corps Lighting Troop—which is manned by the Royal Engineers, supply Corps Main, Rear and Step-up with power. **Capt Carel Bouwens** and his 2IC (and shadow), **Ssgt Dave Peace,** have the task of running the Troop.

All these Troops are commanded by **Maj John Potier,** who keeps a watchful, if not beady, eye on all activities.

Cpl Bill Hannigan (RAPC) receives the key to his new room from SQMS Alec Hay

EXERCISE QUADRANT (Ski-ing Andermatt in Switzerland)

On March 24, **Capt Bob Axton** and **Capt Robin Hill,** Adjt, took a party of men, mostly 5 Sqn, on a ski-ing exercise in Switzerland. This was a follow-up from last year when **Capt Robin Hill** took a similar party. **Sgt Dave Roberts** and **Cpl Jamie James,** 4 Sqn, went as the ski-ing instructors. Everyone had a memorable two weeks' ski-ing and there is talk about going next year.

SUCCESS WITH PENALTIES

The Squadron were successful in winning the Page Trophy Football, beating 3 Sqn in the final on penalties 7—5. The score after extra time was 2 each, **Ssgt Ron Russell** scoring both goals for the Squadron. 'Papa' Troop, who have a football team called 'Papa Primroses' managed by **Lcpl Eddie Helliwell,** were runners-up in the Garrison Sunday League, being pipped at the post by Brake Estate (bad luck lads, there is always next season).

FRENCH CONNECTION

'Kilo' Troop have an award each month called 'Muff of the Month', a mug which is awarded to the person who drops the biggest clanger in the Troop. **Cpl Eddie Payne** is the proud(?) owner of the mug at present. The story goes that OC Troop and **Ssgt (Y of S) Wood** were visiting his detachment on exercise and found that their watches had stopped, **Cpl Eddie Payne** gave them the time from a French radio station which was two hours out! (Well done, **Eddie.**)

Kilo Army—the Corps Relay Troop

DIAMOND NINE (Snacks on Tracks)

Ably organised by **Ssgts Tony Manley** (ACC) and **Ron Russell** (SQMS) and their merry band, **Sig Duggie Stevenson** and **Mac McDermott.** Diamond Nine caters for anything up to 150 men, and with the introduction of a new admin organisation this figure will almost double. **Tony Manley** and his staff, despite sometimes abominable conditions, always turn out meals that would not disgrace a first-class restaurant (this includes egg-banjoes at 3 o'clock in the morning after a night move). From OC and all the Squadron, many thanks for the excellent food.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

To our new additions to the Squadron: **Ssgts (Y of S) Pete Baron, Ron Wood, Sgt John Fuller, Cpls Malcolm** and **Reid, Lcpl Waugh, Sigs Brooks, Falconer, Hemmings.**

Farewell to **Sgts Vince Thomas, Pete Tarrant, Cpl 'Loopy' Lewis, Scpls 'Jock' Tonner, Ray Briggs, 'Geordie' Iley** (attached NI), **Bob Elkins** (Canada) (App Lumberjack?), **Sig Badger Acton** (Pot Yankee), **Alan Jarvis** (Civvy Street), and **Robsy Richards.** Not to forget, of course, **Lcpl 'Ginge' Kershaw.** All the best lads, maybe we will see you again.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Squadron at present are preparing for an exercise (how unusual!). In July we go on our Summer Camp down in the south of Germany—**Capt Billidster** and **SSM Arthur Smith** are just finalising the arrangements.

THE BAOR TOT/F of S CONVENTION

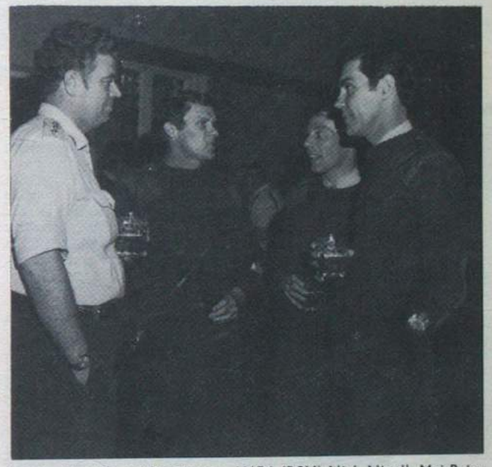
Maresfield Barracks, May 18-20, 1977

The 1977 TOT/F of S Convention got off to a lively start with **F of S Alan Harper** of 22 Regt giving a first-class presentation on ESSEX (Electronic Solid-State Exchange). The officers of 7 Sig Regt then entertained the delegates to pre-lunch drinks—just to get things going in the right spirit.

The afternoon discourse started with **Capt Dai Brown** of 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt talking on Wavell (no, it doesn't stand for anything—the system was just named after him). This was followed by **Col Findlater,** OIC Manning and Records, who spoke on the career prospects of technicians. He summed up his talk with the pungent statement, 'If you've not been promoted it's for one of three reasons: you're either too young, too old, or not good enough'. The first day was rounded off with a formal dinner held in the Sergeants Mess by kind permission of the RSM, **WO1 J. R. Nicoll.**

'And they taught you to hold it like that on your knife-and-fork course did they?'
Capt Dickie Dyer in earnest conversation with WO2 (F of S) Gus Ward

Intense discussion over Carlsbergs
Left to right: Ssgts (F of S) Alan Mockford, Tony Jacklin, Bill Davies and Lt Col M. R. Topple



Left to right: Capt Mike Truran, WO1 (RSM) Nick Nicoll, Maj Brian Robinson and the Convention organiser, WO1 (F of S) Tony Porritt

Day two had a quiet start with one or two of the delegates looking a little the worse for wear. However, with some good presentations by 7 and 22 Regts and one from **F of S George Hall,** the day ended on a high note.

Friday, the final day of the Convention was devoted to a photograph and a discussion, with the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** clearing up many of the contentious points points that had arisen.

The Convention was organised and chaired by **WO1 (F of S) A. Porritt** to whom our thanks go. As 7 Sig Regt have hosted both the TOT/F of S Conventions held, so far, the question arose as to the venue for the 1978 meeting. **Capt (TOT) Knox** would like it recorded that as **F of S A. Porritt** has done such an excellent job and as he was now undoubtedly the most experienced convention organiser, it would be a shame to see this talent wasted. The TOT/F of S Convention 1977 was a great success and a benefit to all those who attended. May they go on *ad infinitum.*

The CSO BAOR, Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin, and CCR Signals I (BR) Corps, Brig G. W. Gittins, with COs and delegates of the 1977 TOT/F of S Convention

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

JULY

WE SEE THE WORLD!

FOUR Radio Telegraphists, straight out of training from 8 Sig Regt, have exchanged the gales of Catterick for life in the Caribbean. **Sigs Grassie, Fitz-Horswell, Tait** and **Harries** are at present on a six-month attachment to the 3rd Bn The Queen's Regt in Belize. There, besides practising their new skills in the 'heart of the jungle', they are seizing the opportunities offered for sub-aqua, sailing, swimming, and other tropical delights! The photograph shows **Sig Reynolds,** now with 6 Armd Bde, who only managed two months before his new unit claimed him! Never mind, it's eight more than the rest of us!

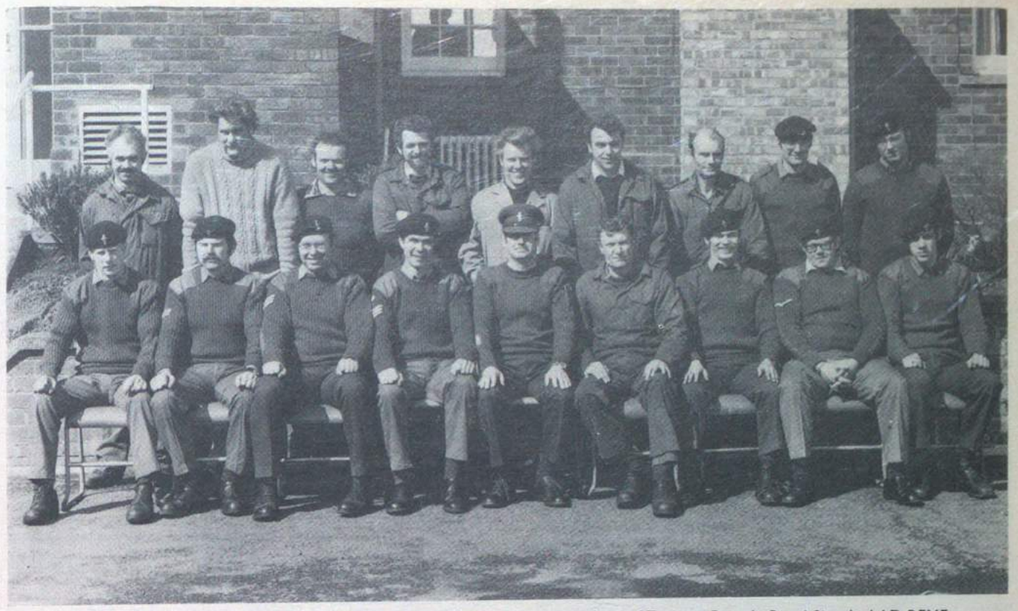
Sig Reynolds, Belize attachment

THE PROFESSIONAL ORDERLY OFFICER

Not many people aspire to the great heights of the professional, principally because there is too much work involved. This is a myth that should be destroyed—all you need is an understanding Adjutant, a warped sense of humour, and enough prisoners in the Guard Room to keep both the Adjutant's and your Sam Browne belts highly polished. One does not have to do much to enlist the Adjutant's support in this venture to become a professional, perhaps starting with a parade missed here or the absence of a haircut there. From this modest beginning we can build up to the more ambitious ways of acquiring 'extras'. The borrowing of AFV 432s to set up speed records is, I gather, good for a few, as is using a zoo road as the entry point for a Brigade headquarters traffic circuit, with the resultant chaos of a bison vaulting 5-ft safety fences and an eagle trying to attack a 432! Revenge can play a large part in the distribution of extras, in particular people of field rank, who, after a Land-Rover chase, refuse to surrender and get CS gassed for their pains. On a more mundane level, but equally as effective, the loss of the armoury keys for two days or indeed deciding the menu for a dinner night is not to your liking, and subsequently forgetting to turn up, can guarantee you a minimum of seven. The purchase and subsequent sale of the humble motor car can be yet another bone of contention. I well remember selling a car for the princely sum of £50 (cash) to a scrap dealer, only to hear from an irate School of Signals Adjutant that the offending car (with rust tastefully applied) was still sitting on his beloved car park. Having received seven extras and sold the car again, this time for £25, a priority signal arrived some days later with the inevitable result that multiples of seven started to fly about, and the terse hint that four days' leave had better be long enough to sort it out. I am happy to say a third scrap dealer bought it for £5.

Having acquired a suitable number, we must make use of them to the best advantage and keep the social calendar's upheaval to a minimum. My first advice is to make sure you do a few before FFR and when your own Troop are on guard—inspect them, jail them, and release them after the Regimental Police have done a kit check on them. If you can get your social activities organised for every second day, all well and good, otherwise you will need to have a line detachment to lay a parallel off the duty phone to the party. It should never be forgotten that duties are exceeingly useful for avoiding sports and early morning parades. Few articles are complete without some statistics so, for the technical—approximately 16 extra orderly officers are equal to a year's worth of normal duties.

I leave you with this horrifying thought about the whole subject—that is the way the people who think they know better hand out extras for irresponsibility, and what happens? The person ends up as the executive officer of the Regiment for 16 hours to the Colonel's eight! Mind you, it's gratifying to see that the Army still has its fair share of eccentrics left!



WOI (ASM) P. Dolphin (REME), flanked by the civilian and military members of Training Brigade Royal Signals, LAD REME

AU REVOIR AND THANK YOU

Monday, April 18, 1977, saw the departure from Ypres Lines of the Training Brigade Royal Signals Light Aid Detachment REME to take up their new accommodation in Peronne Lines within the confines of 31 Command Workshops REME. This is in preparation for their eventual re-designation as Central Servicing Inspection and Repair Section (CSIRS). This move brings to a close the particularly close ties which existed between the Royal Signals Unit responsible for Driver Training and the representatives of REME serving in that LAD. Despite the lengthy official title the Detachment has for a number of years been known locally as '8 Sigs LAD'.

The present LAD was formed by amalgamating the LADs of 8 and 24 Sig Regts in 1965. There is not a great deal of information available but names still remembered are those of the **ASMs Seaman,** and **Whitlock** and the present incumbent ASM, **WO1 (ASM) P. Dolphin.** The LAD will be remembered for their sterling service in keeping the many vehicles of the Regiment in first-class order and, additionally, for their contribution to the unit in the sporting and social field. As befits such a small closely-knit unit the members were fiercely partisan and produced teams to take part in most sports competitions organised in the Regiment.

On occasions, they were able to take on, and acquit themselves well against teams representing much larger units. (We will not, however, dwell too long on the season when their soccer team was banned from all competitions for 'over enthusiasm'.)

The civilian element of the unit contains some long-serving characters including **John Coates** who joined in June of 1962. The gladiatorial element of the LAD are not lost to the Regiment as they have been affiliated to us for sports competitions.

THE 'TOPS'

Two members of the same course at the Trade Training School have qualified with 'A' gradings: **Pte Jacqueline Benn,** a farmer's daughter from Cumbria, joined the Regiment in April to train as a switchboard operator. A keen sportswoman, she has represented her county in cross-country running. **Pte Allison Hillyard,** on the same switchboard course, also received an 'A' grading. A Reading girl, her hobbies include dancing and reading. They are both going to 16 Sig Regt.

'A' Grading Plaque presentation to Pte Hillyard from Lt Col Young

'A' Grading Plaque presentation to Pte Benn, from Lt Col Young

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to **'Staff' Hancock,** lately of the White Helmets and now serving with 21 Sig Regt on the award of the BEM in the Birthday Honours.

Jubilee Medals were awarded to: The CO, **Col David Cattermull, Maj Rodney Dransfield,** currently in Greenland, **Capt Bob Coe, Capt Tony Cudlip, WO1 (RQMS) Gordon Blood, Ssgt (F if S) Roger Foster, WO1 Jackie Foulds** (WRAC), **Sgt Carol Mooney** (WRAC), **WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin** (REME), and to **Mr Norman Callender,** Supervisor Line Group, and as such known to most Tele Mechs and Linemen in the Corps.

AUGUST

MR J. WRIGHT—Civilian Supervising Instructional Officer

MR JIM WRIGHT retired on June 30, 1977, after 43 years' service with the Corps, first as a serving soldier and later as a civilian instructor.

Jim joined the Corps in 1931 and, after training as an Operator Signals, served in the UK for a short time before being posted to India. He has many stories to tell of his spell in India and pride of place in his office has, for a long time, belonged to an old photograph showing **Jim** with a patrol which included 'mule-mounted radios'. He returned to the UK in 1939 for demob but had not completed his terminal leave before being recalled for the war. He served throughout the war with 5 Div, seeing active service in France, Madagascar, India, Persia, Syria, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Egypt, Belgium, and Germany before returning to civilian life in 1946.

After a break of less than four years, **Jim** was back 'pounding the key', this time as a civilian instructor with 3 Trg Regt in Catterick. Following the reorganisation of operator training, he moved to Newark in 1957 and returned to Catterick in 1960, before being promoted to Supervising Instructor in 1964. In recent years, **Jim** has specialised in the training of Combat Radiomen, but he will be known to most telegraphists in the Corps.

The photograph shows **Jim** at work interviewing a Combat Radioman Basic Student.

TWENTY-FOURTH IN THE WORLD

Success breeds success and readers will know of **Sig Barry Roberts'** previous triumphs in the world of motor racing. In this year's Formula 1 World Championships held on the Isle of Man in June, which he entered for the first time, he came 24th out of an entry of 83. Not only did he finish the course in the race but he later rode 37¾ miles of the TT circuit backwards! This was the result of a previous arrangement in which he had agreed to ride a Triumph Bonneville backwards along the Grandstand, and his time was only three minutes outside the race qualifying time—riding forwards! Obviously nothing can stop this man—or can it? If only I had more money and better machinery . . .', he said, plaintively. It's a hard life in the Army!

Photo courtesy: Geoff Evans Photo Service, Douglas

Sig Roberts at Quarter Bridge during the Formula 1 race

THE LATEST NEWS FROM GREENLAND

The latest newsletter from the Joint Services Expedition to Liverpool Land, was dated June 15, 1977. 'Our man in Greenland', **Maj Rod Dransfield,** as Equipment Officer, had jacked up all the necessary stores with his usual efficiency and they had been parachute-dropped at Carlsberg Fjord Camp.

The Expedition arrived safely at Mestersvig, North-east Greenland, on May 31, and sledged down to their base camp at the foot of Carlsberg Fjord, hoping to reach it on June 20. On that date the RAF were to carry out an airdrop of stores and mail. Another delivery of mail to the Expedition took place on July 8, and the next newsletter was due out on July 15. Read THE WIRE for the latest bulletin on the Expedition!

SPORT IN SHORT

Cricket

We are still in the Army Cup! We beat 22 Lt AD Regt RA in the semi-final of the District Competition and now play 1 RHA in the final.

Tennis

We were successful in the semi-final of the NE District Inter-Unit Knockout Competition, beating the Scots DG and now play 1 RHA in the final.

Swimming

In the Group Championships, the team won the NE District Cup but were unfortunately beaten in the Army Water Polo Cup by 1 RTR from Northern Ireland.

Athletics

The Zone Championships saw our athletes competing valiantly but coming third, losing to 1 Royal Anglians and AAC Harrogate, who both go forward to Aldershot.

MEDALS

Brig Norman Butler, the Commander of HQ Training Group, Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, is seen here in the centre of the photograph, with (*from left to right*) Lcpl Arthur Smalldon, Ssgt Les Walker, Sgt Dougie Friend and Ssgt Bob Foster, who all received their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals in June

A BUSY MONTH
RICHMONDSHIRE JUBILEE FETE

JUNE 7 saw many members of the Regiment helping Scotton Parish organise their Jubilee Fete, which was a great success.

TORVER VILLAGE FETE

Again, on Jubilee Day, our team from Military Training who run our Adventure Training Camp at Coniston in the Lake District, were very much involved in the celebrations. They played a great part in the Torver Village Fete and helped to construct the Coniston bonfire which was part of the long chain of Jubilee Beacons.

CATTERICK GARRISON FETE

This was held on the Regiment's sports field on June 15, using the tents and marquees erected under the direction of **Capt Mike Crane,** ostensibly for the Old Comrades' Weekend. On the day itself many were involved in manning the stalls and the White Helmets provided yet another marvellous display.

ALDERSHOT ARMY SHOW

A team from the Regiment under the leadership of **Maj Eddie Hampson** went down to the Aldershot Show at the end of June. Those involved, which included two WRAC corporals, said they found it 'exhausting but fun'. The White Helmets were also there!

FREEDOM OF RICHMOND

As if there wasn't enough happening during the weekend of June 24–26, with Old Comrades pouring into Catterick for their reunion, we had the Freedom of Richmond march and the Beating of Retreat on the Friday. Our contingent in the march, under the command of **Maj Eddie Hampson,** put on a very good show and the Corps Band once again did us proud in playing the Retreat.

ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Not only was June a busy month but July is, too, with the White Helmets performing in the Royal Tournament and a team from the Regiment being part of the Corps Static Display.

OLD COMRADES' WEEKEND

The Old Comrades' Weekend is fully reported elsewhere. As usual we were totally involved; the ladies of 8 and 11 Sig Regts teamed up once again and ran a joint cake stall, white elephant stall, and bumper raffle. The contributions to the stalls and for raffle prizes were exceedingly generous and the organisers enthusiastic, and good natured! The result of all this was that they took just over £640, which exceeded their wildest dreams; £600 was sent to the Royal Signals Association to be used expressly for distressed Royal Signals families, the balance was made up to £50 and sent to the local Catterick Branch. [*Editor's note.*—A truly magnificent effort.]

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

JULY

ATHLETICS COMPETITION

THROUGHOUT April an athletics standards competition had been run, the results of which were to count towards the athletic competition which was held on May 4. At the start of the day 2 Sqn were in the lead—a lead that they never relinquished. While no records were broken, a high standard of performance was achieved. For the men the outstanding performers were **Ssgt Bryan Foulger,** 110m hurdles and triple-jump winner; **Sgt Graham Campbell,** 800 and 1,500m winner; **Lcpl Peter Ridlington,** 200 and 400m winner. In the women's events **Cpl Shiela Facer** once again proved unbeatable at 100, 400m, and the long jump.

NESAM 77

Good performances were put up by all the Squadron teams that took part. In the final analysis it was only the HQ Sqn team of **Capt Roger Binks, Ssgt Bob Hanson, Cpl Chris Bunn,** and **Pte 'Brum' Whitson** that won recognition. They finished second in both the Pistol team and Pistol tiles matches. Congratulations to **Ssgt Bob Hanson** who was runner-up in the individual Pistol championship.

ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP

For most of the Regiment the main highlight of the month was the adventure training camp held at Evdhimou. The camp was organised with an aim of self-sufficiency and adventure training. Groups of 10 lived, slept and ate together. During the day various activities were pursued:

Sailing and boating

Maj Mike Miller and **Cpl Ross Parrotte** assisted occasionally by **Cpls 'Dinger' Bell** and **'Geordie' Richardson** ran *Brigand of Changi* and the new Regimental fishing boat—unappropriately named *Catchalot*.

Canoeing

SIs Graham Sharp and **Pete Pagnelli** introduced people to the art of sea canoeing and 'spangles'.

Climbing

SIs Pete Pagnelli and **Ian Wallace** as well as **CPO Rusty Rushton** led the climbing in Happy Valley.

Swimming and snorkling

QMSI Pete Perrott, Lcpl Nev Maw and **Cpl Mal Newman** kept a careful eye on the inshore activities.

Archery

Cpls John Mayfield and **'Smudge' Smith** introduced newcomers to the art of toxopholly.

Orienteering

Ssgt Charlie Brown and **Sgt Des McGonigle** organised the orienteerers—even negotiating cut-price meals and refreshments in the village tavern at the end of the route.

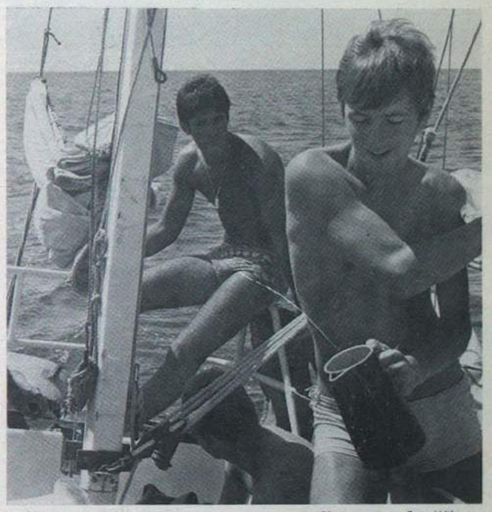


Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Becalmed *Brigand of Changi*—Sig Butler and Cpl Fawthrop

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Regimental fishing vessel—*Catchalot*

Potted sports

QMSI Pete Perrott took responsibility for the rest-day activities of football, volleyball, and softball.

To relieve the diet of compo and allow the body to recover, a day's sight-seeing in Paphos was organised for each section.

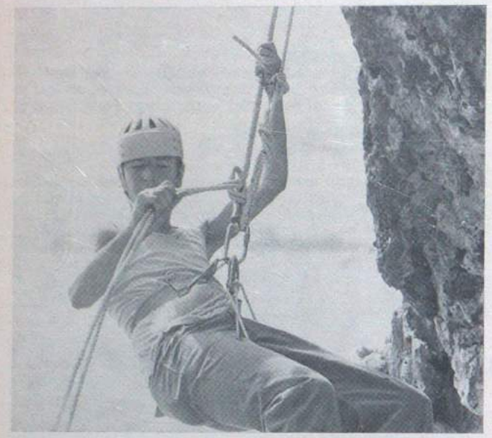


Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Cpl Simon Fawthrop

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Ssgt Charlie Brown issuing compasses to orienteerers
Left to right: Lcpl McLeary, Ssgt Brown, Sig Griffiths, Sgt Jory and Cpl Irving

AUGUST

IN STYLE

THE month of June saw the Regiment celebrate the Jubilee in fine style. Not only by the dancing and drinking type of celebration but also by a fine win in the Cyprus Services Athletics League Competition (CSAL). Jubilee Balls were held at both the WOs and Sergeants Mess and the Harewood Club. Judging by the bleary eyes and pale faces the day after, both events proved very successful.

JUBILEE SWIMMING GALA

This year the Regimental events were interspersed with schools' events thus producing a very entertaining afternoon. 1 Sqn started off as favourite, and proved this optimism by a quite convincing win. The best performances of the afternoon came from **Cpl John Chapman** of 1 Sqn, who won both the 100 and 200m freestyle and **Lcpl Sheila Facer** who won the 50m backstroke and breaststroke in the WRAC events. An interesting moment occurred in the final event, the 6×50m freestyle relay when an invitation team of boys and girls from King Richard's School managed to beat all the Squadron teams.

JUBILEE ATHLETICS SUCCESS

The lack of major units on the island makes major unit athletic competitions rather difficult. To enable athletes to compete at a reasonable level the CSAL was instigated some years ago. This consists of four teams: Episkopi, Akrotiri, Dhekelia, and Ayios Nikolaos. For two of the teams, Episkopi and Ayios Nikolaos read The Royal Anglian Regt and 9 Sig Regt and an idea of the competitive element becomes apparent. The final meeting of the league was held at Ayios Nikolaos where the unit team put in a fine performance to win the meeting by a large margin and emerge as overall league champions. While there were many good individual performances the margin of victory was due to the great strength in depth possessed by the team. It was, in effect, the effort of those that kept coming in second and third that ensured the team's success just as much as those who came in first. Among those who have represented the Regiment in the CSAL with such success are **Maj Moncur, WO2 Poole, Sgts Stickland, Campbell, Emmott, Cpls Slade** and **Dullaghan, Lcpls Johnson, Ridlington** and **Lloyd, Sigs Souster, Dowd, Drake** and **Donovan.**

Cyprus Services Athletic League
WO2 David Poole receives the cup on behalf of Ayios Nikolaos from Col M. U. Ryan

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Jubilee Medals
Left to right: Cpl Ian Smethurst, WO2 Andy Boyle, J/T Tony Binks, Lt Col R. K. Ward, WO2 Clive Mason, Cpl Dave Gay

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

JUBILEE MEDALS

Congratulations to those members of the Regiment who received the award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. They were: **Lt Col R. K. Ward, Capt F. P. Searle, WO2 A. M. Boyle, WO2 C. Mason, Cpl P. K. Manger, Cpl I. P. Smethurst, J/T T. F. Banks,** and **Cpl D. J. Gay.**

CONGRATULATIONS

The award of a military decoration is a notable achievement. 9 Sig Regt is proud to congratulate **WO2 David Poole** on the award of the MBE for service in Northern Ireland.

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

JULY

NEW INFANT

SINCE the re-birth of HQ Sqn in April, the infant has mastered its first faltering steps and is now striding about strongly. **Maj Eileen Tye** (WRAC) is keeping a watchful eye on its progress as OC, and **WO2 Wally Marsden** has been able to show that he knows how to be an SSM as well as MTO in his daily muster parades.

Capt Norman Ladds continues as OC HQ Troop, albeit with less men, and has added two more hats to the collection he has juggled since his arrival in March. The military half of that dynamic duo, **Sgt Bernie Burnett** and **Mr Peter Scotting** has departed for the flesh pots of Holland with the problem of what to do with the second bedroom of his bachelor flat. We welcome in his place **Sgt David Knell** and hope he and his wife, **Yvonne,** enjoy their stay.

CRICKET REPORT

After a belated start to the season, due to adverse weather and fixture problems, the Regimental team after one friendly game took on London District Provost Coy RMP in the first round of the London District Stage of the Army Minor Units Competition last week. On a perfect afternoon **Sgt Robin Gipson** won the toss and decided to bat. The CSO London District, **Lt Col Tripp** and **Sgt Pete Knight** opened but it was **Cpl Keith Bolton** at number 5 who did the majority of the scoring with 61. **Sgt Gipson** got a creditable 27 on a recently-fractured ankle and the Regiment were all out for 152.

The Policemen's wickets soon began to fall with seven players scoring less than 6 runs each and they were finally out for 105. **Cpl Bolton** again got his name in the score book taking 3 for 20, together with **WO2 Graham Griffiths** of the Demonstration Team who took 4 for 21. We now look forward to the next round with confidence.

ATHLETICS ROUND UP

Wednesday, May 25, saw 10 Sig Regt competing in the London District Minor Units Athletics Championships at Pirbright. With a team of nine men we suffered mixed fortunes but gained notable victories in the 800m with **Cpl Pete Hirst,** 1,500m with **Sgt Sean Dillon-White** and the 400m with **Cpl Steve Hall. Cpl Hall's** 400m in 50·7 secs was a meeting record in spite of the fact that he was slowing down to save himself for a 200m time trial for Southern Counties later in the evening. We also broke the 4× 100m relay record, but sadly the fact will not be recorded as we were beaten into second place by a faster RE team.

Creditable second places went to **Sig Steve Colman** in the discuss, and **Cpl Robbo Robinson** in the javelin.

Cpl John Thomson set the stadium buzzing by asking for the high jump bar to be set at 4ft for his first jump! Eventually he reached a compromise with the officials and settled for 4ft 6in and ended up with third place out of three competitors. Our other third places went to **Lcpl Dave Cox**—long jump, **Lcpl Steve Smith**—200m, and **Lcpl Steve Jackson**—shot putt.

The final outcome was a victory to HPCCD RE with 29 points. 10 Sig Regt 21 points and Queen Elizabeth Hospital 15 points. If points had been awarded for *Esprit de Corps* then surely 10 Sig Regt would have run away with the title. The result was good enough to give us a place in the Zone 'A' finals on July 6 at Aldershot. In the meantime, **Capt (TOT) Tony Murray** (OIC Athletics) and **Ssgt Geoff Marshall** (Team Manager) are scouring the Regiment for hidden talent in an effort to reverse the result when we get to Aldershot, so all of you people hidden away in the depths and corners of 10 Sig Regt—You have been warned!

1 SQUADRON WILTON REPORT

May has been a busy month for 1 Sqn at Wilton—not only on the operating front but with extramural activities. In reply to a frantic signal from ASPT Aldershot, **Lt Sue Baker** and **Ptes Naylor** and **Sorella** were dispatched to a swimming course. The object of the course was to improve their swimming techniques and to provide 'live pupils' for a coaching course. After a week of arduous training including workouts on the Multi-Gym and two-mile runs, 'SuperWRACS' emerged, ready for any strenuous work. Watch out for these names in future Army swimming competitions.

Tuesday, May 10, 1977, saw a gathering of Officers, SNCOs and civilians from Salisbury Commcen together with their wives, at the Swan Inn, Stoford. The main purpose of the evening was to say goodbye to **Ssgt (Y of S) Harry Beresford** and his wife, **Ann,** on posting to BAOR. The skittle alley was in constant use throughout the evening and ended with a challenge match of day workers versus shift workers. This resulted in a convincing win of one point for the day workers' team, thanks to some fine bowling by **Capt Brian Adcock** (CDSO).

Our Jubilee contributions continue, this time with a sponsored walk, organised by the WRAC Centre, Guildford, along the Pilgrim's Way—Guildford to Canterbury, during May 21–24. The volunteers were **Ptes Jan Pepperrell** and **Gerry Tapley** co-ordinated by **WO1 Sylvia Pratt.** Some arduous training was carried out prior to the walk, and the girls were given some excellent morale and physical support by both male and female members of the Squadron. On Wednesday, May 18, the girls completed the Ridge Walk. This is a difficult but scenic walk through the New Forest from Woodfalls to Sway. Supporters on this walk were **Sgt Denys Green** and **Cpls Rab Anderson, Terry Bain** and **Gerry Barr,** who completed certain stages with the girls. Admin support (tea and sticky buns) being supplied by **Ssgt (Y of S) Mick Taylor. Pte Gerry Tapley** (who has an aversion to horses) managed to complete a rather fast stage when she was chased by a New Forest pony. Further report on the Pilgrim's Walk next month.

GARRISON SERGEANTS MESS—HOUNSLOW

Although the Regiment doesn't have its own Mess, the Corps is always well represented at the Garrison Mess. The photograph shows **WO1 (RSM) Jim McElvogue** presenting a silver bell to the President of the Mess, **WO1 Mark Ritchie** (RAOC), on the occasion of the Dining Out of **Jim McElvogue** and the introduction to the Mess of **WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton,** also in the picture is **WO2 Michael Bishop** (RAPC) the PMC.

DERBY DAY

As usual the Mess had its annual outing at the Derby ably organised by **WO2 Graham Griffiths** (Demo Team), **WO1 Tony Johnson** (RADC) and a host of others. Three coaches with over 100 Mess members and their families enjoyed a beautiful summer day, a splendid buffet and litres of various German wines. The coaches were strategically parked behind the Guards tent where the bar was doing an excellent trade. It is strongly rumoured that certain members of the Mess, who have now attended three Derby Days, have yet to see a race or a racehorse, although on Derby Day 1975 they did see a Police horse sheltering from a heavy shower of rain. On the whole, a splendid day was had by all.

AUGUST

DRIVING SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

THE Regiment held its Annual Safe and Skilled Driving Competition for the 'Heath Trophy' on Saturday, July 2, 1977. The Competition was arranged by our MTO, **WO2 (SSM) Wally Marsden,** ably assisted by his two stalwart Hounslow-based **Cpls Brian Biddiscombe** and **Gordon Robinson.** The day dawned and all was bright and beautiful with a temperature up in the eighties. Our MTO has a knack for producing hot weather on request. Some say he is in league with the devil others tell the truth.

We saw some driving *par excellence* and also some of the other kind. Radio Troop came to the fore and won the Heath Trophy for the second year running. The team consisted of **Lcpls Pete Lawlor, Alan Cain** and **Sig 'Scouse' Partington.** Runners-up were the 2 Sqn MT consisting of **Lcpl Dave Cox** who won the best individual drivers award and **Sigs Thomas** and **Jefferson.** Our friends from 419 Troop RCT produced the most hazardous driver in **Pte Gibbs** (WRAC) who was awarded a Jubilee Steering Wheel! After the events the CO, **Lt Col Peter Goldney,** presented the prizes in the Bruno Club and thanked the staff of the club for the excellent buffet and drinks.

WILTON REPORT

June has been a month of goodbyes for 1 Sqn, bidding farewell, to **Y of S Harry Beresford** who has departed for 7 Sig Regt and to **Ptes Jill Legge** and **Linda Yearsley** who are now gaining a sun tan in Hong Kong.

Arrivals this month are numerous and we extend a welcome to **Ptes Sandra Crowther, Lorraine Jackson, Lynne Green, Val Sharp, Margaret Dixon, Liza Barker** and **Lesley Stratford.**

COMMENDABLE WALKS

Various activities have been carried out during the month, **Ptes Jerry Tapley** and **Janice Pepperell** took part in a sponsored walk raising £45 for the WRAC Association. The walk was from Canterbury to Guildford along the Pilgrim's Way (quite enjoyable apart from the blisters)!

Another walking event is being prepared for; mixed teams from the Squadron who have been entered for the RMP Centenary March around Chichester planned for July. WRAC members of the Squadron combined with the WRAC of HQ UKLF and arranged a party for the deprived children of Salisbury. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

MISCELLANEA

Lcpls Pam Moss and **Denise Smith** are also in training for the Army Canoe Championships which take place in Wales, we wish them luck.

Lt Sue Baker, Ptes Hazel Casburn, Judy Naylor and **Geovanna Sorella** represented UKLF in the West Area Swimming Championships. **Hazel** in the 100m freestyle fought her way through and was placed second after a photo finish.

Even with all these individual activities going on we are still keeping well up with our regimental training. One activity which still keeps us on our feet is map-reading. **WO1 Sylvia Pratt** is the chief organiser of this training. We are also involved with the preparation for a future exercise which will triple our work load in the Commcen, but plenty of typing practice is being gained.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to **Cpl 'Geordie'** and **Tina Robson** on the occasion of the birth of a beautiful baby daughter, **Tracy.**

WRAC SUMMER CAMP—A WARM WELCOME

May 7–21, 1977, saw yet another 3 Sqn exodus to the weird and wonderful world of Chickerell Camp, Weymouth. A four-tonner, driven by **'Road King' Cpl John Archer** transported both suitcases and bodies (at times it was hard to make out which was which), from Weymouth Station to the Camp.

Surprise, surprise, 150 Engineers there to meet us, together with the Sergeant-Major.

'At the double you horrors and into huts . . . then collect Battle Dress and Parkas. Parade 1630 on the square, GOT IT?' UGH!

Summer Camp had begun to roll albeit in first gear. Early morning PT 0700–0715 was the starter for each day. Quite appetising once it was finished, followed by other favourites such as sailing, first aid, search training, NBC, radio procedure, all topped with liberal helpings of 'volley ball'.

NAVAL SLANT

The visit to the Naval Base at HMS *Osprey* undoubtedly provided the highlight of Summer Camp (when weather permitted), dinghy sailing, close-ups of helicopters and potential pin-ups of near-naked bathing in the swimming baths by some of our members who for some reasons best known to themselves prefered to remain anonymous. NBC training, a dubious placing on the popularity scale provided much amusement, short, tall, thin, fat what was the difference in an *a la mode* NBC suit modelled most adequately by the girls of 10 Sig Regt.

The party arranged by 135 Field Survey Sqn RE (V) was a fitting tribute to mark the end of 'another' Summer Camp. Quite who pinched the pillows from the other ranks' accommodation, threw grass into the Sergeants Mess, broke a window, kidnapped the orderly officer and collapsed the beds, remains a mystery?! Could all those involved please stand up!

P.S.—The OC, **Maj Dick Ellis,** was seen lurking around in the early morning with a couple of cameras (he missed the bathing bit). There may be an odd pnotograph for a later issue, but he says that there was a distinct 'St Trinian's' atmosphere and he felt it wise not to hang about for too long.

COMSTAR AWARD

On April 5, 1977, **Brig H. R. Dray, FCIT, TN,** Garrison Commander Longmoor/Bordon Garrison, and Commandant Army School of Transport, presented **Mrs Doreen Cook** of Army Commcen Longmoor with her recently awarded Gold Comstar. **Mrs Cook** is pictured with her husband, **Mr F. Cook,** and **Brig Dray.**

This award is particularly fitting because Army Commcen Longmoor will shortly be relocated and renamed Army Commcen Bordon, and Longmoor becomes the eighth 3 Sqn Gold Comstar Commcen just before it closes. We are confident that Bordon will become the ninth!

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

LOOKING BACK INTO JANUARY

JANUARY 24 saw the Adventurous Training Troop of 1 Sqn off again, this time for their annual ski-ing exercise in the Cairngorms area of Scotland. The team consisted of **Lt Tony Marvin, Cpls Sam Dool, Allan Maclean** and **Geoff Mumford.** Our new Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Mick Bailes,** came up and joined us at the beginning of February, we wish him a happy time in 1 Sqn.

COOL

The base camp was the Tower Derraid Cottage near Grantown-on-Spey. During the first week the average temperature at night was −12°C and there was plenty of snow even in the valley bottoms and on Cairngorm itself the snow was dry and cold. **Lt Tony Marvin** wondered how all the complaints about Scottish ski-ing had originated, as it seemed almost like Alpine conditions, but at the end of the exercise his comment was 'Anyone who pays to come here on holiday must be mad'. We had more than our share of high winds, rain and ski-ing on slush and worse, but it was apparently the best year in Scotland for snow for several years!

VARIETY

A total of 75 trainees passed through for two weeks at a time. During the 10 full days' training there were five days ski-ing on the well-known 'Stirling Planks' which were all the fashion in the 1920s. There was an addition, a day's abseiling and two-day long trek. Other activities included swimming, ice-skating, a visit to the Glenfarclas distillery and a talk on snaring, gutting and skinning small game from a local gamekeeper. Injuries were restricted to one twisted knee and one twisted ankle, which is quite a good record. We saw others carried from the slopes daily; there must be a unit somewhere with 90 per cent of the men on crutches!

On our return to the Regiment at the beginning of April the Troop moved from Scarborough to Helles Barracks, where it has linked up to form a new continuation training organisation which now consists of the Adventurous Training section and a post-basic Military Training section. The Troop Cadre now includes **Sgt Bob Bellwood** and those two well-known ugly sisters 'Airborne and Chairborne' being **Cpls Pete Pritchard** and **Dave Clark.**

A DIFFERENCE

Monday, May 2, 1977, saw a visit to the Regiment, with a difference. Fourteen members of a course from the Thompson

Sgt Murphy, 33 Sig Regt (V), taking a break from his RSSSC instructions to 11 Sig Regt's *'Best Recruits'*

Press Training School came for a glimpse of the Army at Training. The 'difference' for this visit may be seen from the photograph. The five young ladies saw and took part in drill instruction, fired on the range, visited the gas chamber, and took part in command tasks under close supervision of OC Leadership Troop. Oh! there were nine 'fellows' on the visit as well!

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

JULY

FOCUS

THIS month our main articles are from our Berlin-based Squadron (3 Sqn), our shooters, our campers and, since it's nearly a year since we heard from a sufferer of the Detachment Commanders course, **Cpl McAnulty** and **Lcpl Degernier** give us a few thoughts on course 4/77.

Squadron under canvas

To most Regiments being under field conditions is by no means unusual. However, we are a little different since all of our work—operationally and administratively, is carried out from the comfort of our barracks. Thus it was not without a few moans and mutterings that 1 Sqn went to the Squadron camp which had been conceived by the OC, **Maj Alan Browne.** However, the camp staff supervised by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Muxworthy, Ssgt (SQMS) Brian Williams** and **Ssgt 'Spike' Lewin** soon produced enough work to keep all far too busy to continue with any dissent. Generally, all enjoyed themselves. The aim of putting everyone through BE tests, PFAs and other military tests was achieved at the cost of only one cracked ankle, one dislocated shoulder, and a few broken ribs!

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Sharp shooting

'Have gun will travel', an old cliche now coming true in this Regiment. The shooting team has recently competed in the Rhine Area shooting competition. Without producing a boring list of successful results, suffice to say we qualified to shoot at Bisley for the first time, which is a very good overall result. Meanwhile, **Ssgt Tony Cheese,** winking over the top of the SLR in the accompanying picture, was the champion shot of the meeting. The other picture shows **Ssgt (F of S) Mike Provart** (holding the LMG) and **Cpl Mike Pearsall** who, with 49 out of a possible 53 points, carried off the LMG pairs prize.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

We were 4/77

The course formed on the evening of April 17, 1977, at 1800hrs. We all met in the foyer of Block 9 and were welcomed by **Sgt 'Paddy' Crabtree.** The following morning we started the course, by sitting our intake tests and training standards ending with a BE test. Several 'disappeared'—we started the course 27 strong!

The three weeks that followed were a mixture of laughs, hard work and 'pain' for the less fortunate! **Sgt 'Paddy' Crabtree** drove us round the parade square, **WO2 (SSM) Tony Morpeth** drove us round the bed in the classrooms, not forgetting to mention **Sgt Mick Kenning** for driving us wild with his 'corny' jokes.

The training wing OC, **Capt Barry Styles,** made appearances throughout the course to commend or condemn us and to encourage us to keep going on, a course which requires you to have a strong sense of humour and a lot of guts. The first week consisted of drill, drill and more drill. **Cpl Dyer** was instructed to teach the course the 'about turn' which proved to be quite a laugh as it turned out to be like John Curry's winning programme at the Olympic Games. PT figured very highly on our programme of enjoyable events with **Ssgt Parkinson** getting us acquainted with the art of throwing logs (!) at each other whilst wearing our respirators.

In the second week of the course, we lost **Lcpl Steen** for medical reasons, but otherwise the rest of the course were coping well with the pressure being applied. Written tests took up a lot of our time and evenings were spent with duster and polish in one hand and course notes for the next exam in the other. It wasn't unusual to walk into a room and find that everyone was asking each other questions. For light entertainment in the evenings, **'Mad Mick'** produced endless supplies of sandbags which all needed filling and transporting to various parts of the Regiment. After the first week we were well into the swing of things, with the pace stepping up all the time. Some were unfortunate individuals, with show-parades almost daily, but they shall remain nameless.

Throughout the third week, the instruction went on, whilst we geared ourselves up ready for the field exercise. We still had the parades and inspections, which generally resulted in people throwing a large dice; extra drill, sandbags and lines (?) would you believe, being the end product. **Lcpl Warden** can well advise. **Lcpl Mazey** had been christened 'Pork Chop' by **Sgt Crabtree** after their friendship had blossomed. At the third week everyone knew where they stood in regard to grades; only the Grobbendonk field exercise was left. The course set off for Grobbendonk (re-named 'Gibberingdonk' by the course) on Monday morning of the fourth week at about 10 o'clock, with everyone in high spirits and very keen to do well. We were split into two groups (A and B), which were further split down into '1 and 2' sections. **Lcpl Cardwell** was now in his element as he is an ex-member of 216 Para Sig Sqn. There were about five or six possible candidates for top student but **Lcpl Cardwell** won through with an 'A' pass to boot!

We had lots of fun at Grobbendonk (especially those with blister-covered feet), nature rambles, swimming, canoeing, tug-of-war, playing with 'fireworks', shooting galleries, orienteering, and simulation of Steve Austin (bionic man) being some of the activities. On the Wednesday night one student was nearly mauled as he was overheard saying to a friend that he had had half-an-hour's kip since Monday morning, but it turned out he was only boasting, so he managed to retain his life!

The course returned to 13 Sig Regt at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The kit was cleaned, stowed or hidden and the end of course celebration commenced. During the event we took time out to present a gift to **Sgt Jim Harris** as we were his final course, he being posted to 8 Sig Regt. The following day (Black Friday, the 13th) final interviews took place. Happily no one had failed, and we congratulate once again **Lcpl Cardwell** for coming first, **Cpl McAnulty** who came second, and **Cpl Tucker** and **Lcpl Mann** who came joint third. The course was a hard but enjoyable one, and we all had many laughs. The one thing that stands out is that you need to be a team, and that we were on course 4/77 Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course (BAOR) 13 Sig Regt.

3 SQUADRON NOTES

Report by Sgt Dave Sutton assisted by Ssgt Dave Salt and Sgt Keith Hall

BADMINTON SUCCESS REPEATED

Since our last appearance, we have seen out the winter months of the year and with it the various sporting events which take place at this time. Our biggest success by far has been the winning of the Berlin Field Force Minor Units Badminton League.

For two years 3 Sqn have had their name engraved on the Minor Units Badminton winner's trophy and this year was no exception. The season started with some hard games being fought and it was evident that the coveted shield would once again come to us. 229 Sig Sqn, however, had different ideas and on our first meeting were able to take the extra point to win the match. So it was with eagerness that the return match, the winners of which would win the shield, was fought with feverish concentration of a tight-rope walker. The team consisted of **Sgts 'Rock' Mead** (Int Corps), **Ken Riach** (RAPC), **Cpls Tom Morrall,** (now Sgt) **Keith Hall, David Milford** (Int Corps), and **Ssgt Dave Salt** (Coach). **Salt** and **Mead** gave us our first win followed by **Riach/Morrall. Milford/Hall** went down but the first two pairs did the same again in their second game and to make amends **Milford/Hall** beat their opponents in their second game and that was all that was needed, the game and the shield was ours. So, for the third year, the Minor Units Badminton Trophy adorns the Unit Trophy cupboard.

BASKETBALL REPORT

This year for the first time ever a Squadron team reached the finals of the Berlin Field Force Knockout Competition.

After a fairly successful league programme which saw us finish about halfway, the Minor Unit Knockout Cup Competition began. We have never managed to get further than the first round before. Firstly we beat 38 Field Sqn RE 52—14 which took us through to the semi-finals against 'B' Sqn Royal Scots DG where we won by 24 to 12. We now had to wait for the result of the other matches to find out who we would be meeting in the final. This turned out to be the favourities, 229 Sig Sqn (Berlin). We went into the final as the underdogs and the end result of 52—29 in 229 Sig Sqn's favour was an inevitable, though, from our point of view, fairly respectable result.

Team members: **Sgts Colin Gibson, Keith Hall, Ray Shaw, Cpl Derek (Kirk) Lewis, Sgts Adrian (Rock) Mead** (Int Corps), **Keith Hall, Cpl Bob Crockart, WO2 (SSM) Doug Edmond, Sgt Dave Sutton, Sig Ted Poole, Sgt Pete Westwell, Cpls Derek Ashton** and **Pete Bruce,** and Int Corps members **Sgt Dave (Oggie) Hutton, Cpl** (now Sgt) **Dave Milford,** and **Lcpl Bob Cummins.**

SOCCER UPS AND DOWNS

Unfortunately, due to our lack of manpower, even with our amalgamation with 3 Int and Sy Coy, we managed to end up once more the 'strongest' team in Berlin, i.e. we propped up the rest of the league. Due to the team having to be changed almost repeatedly from week to week obviously the results just did not come. We managed nine points which more than anything reflects our improvement this season. (We have up until now only managed two points in two seasons). Our greatest asset, and has been for some six seasons now, is **Sgt Colin Gibson,** who has managed, played and outshone everyone over this period including selection to the Berlin Combined Services team on several occasions. It is with regret that we announce **Colin's** posting next season to 14 Sig Regt. **Sgt Ray Shaw** arrived from Birgelen during the season and immediately commanded a place in the back four and proved to be a great asset. On his return from course (UK), **Cpl John Connell** got back into his stride and undoubtedly kept the team going with some excellent performances and goals, and has taken over as team manager for next season.

MISCELLANEA

Elsewhere this year, we have managed to raise a team for practically any event. Our few rugby players got the chance to play for the visiting Regimental XV and **Sgt Dave (Oggie) Hutton, Ssgt Bill Cooper,** and **Cpls Derek Ashton** and **Bob Crockart** certainly enjoyed their rare run out and gave a good account of themselves. Although we lost a few squash players last season **Sgt John Sands** kept this team's regulars, **Sgts Keith Essam** and **Dave Barrow** ticking over and managed to finish well up the league table. **Ssgt Phil Thompson** rallied the unit ·22 shooters in the Berlin Field Force and BAOR ·22 competitions and with **Sgt Pete (Borneo) Westwell** scoring 190 out of 200 the team came an excellent second to 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT.

ROUND UP

The Squadron magazine 'The Round-Up' was created back in November 1975 and is still going strong, though under new management and cover. It is read at the Regiment and its outpost with great interest and many ex-Berliners in the UK are on our mailing lists. The magazine contains all the sport in three, ladies articles, comings and goings, general articles of interest, and the Squadron small-talk sport where people get the chance to air their own views. The Editor, **Ssgt Phil Thompson,** and his co-ed/typist **Sgt Dave Sutton** produce the magazine in the first week of each month. Anyone interested in receiving a copy should contact the Editor and articles from 'ex-3 Sqn Personnel' will be most welcome.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have in recent months said farewell to the following Corps members: **Sgt Mick Green** (to 'H' Troop, Dannenberg), **Cpl Paul** and **Mrs Jenny Cook** (to 225 Sig Sqn), and Hello to **Cpl Eric** and **Mrs Jenny McCartin,** and **Cpl Gary** and **Mrs (W/Cpl) Irene Euington** (from Birgelen).

AUGUST

FINGERS CROSSED

I write these notes in June—the month of sun, swimming, and the outdoor life. We, however, have sore fingers due to crossing them and praying that it does not rain. Last year we had drought and the camp on fire, this year it's rain and swamps. However, I digress, the reason for our extra prayers has been the Regimental Weekend (June 4–5) and the Beating of Retreat and Cocktail Party on June 23.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND

The programme for the weekend was on Saturday in the afternoon a fete, and in the evening various Mess entertainments. On Sunday we had a church service followed by the six-a-side hockey competition final and in the afternoon a cricket match, officers and WOs against all other ranks. Saturday luckily proved dry. For those who know the barracks, we had stalls between the JRM and the square; whilst on the square was a demonstration of German, American and British military equipments. The crowds flocked in and money flowed, one of the most successful stalls being **Ssgt Garner's** ducking stall whilst the children's maypole dancing was much appreciated.

Another victim. Lcpl Nicki Wellings falls prey to the ducking stall while Ssgt Bill Garner, the originator of the Heath Robinson contraption, looks on

The Sunday was wetter. However, undaunted, the six-a-side between 'O' Troop and HQ Sqn started at 1200. Teams ranged from the old and bold at the back, **WO2 Tony Morpeth** and **RQMS Jack Hall** (HQ Sqn), and **Maj Alan Browne** ('O' Troop), through the experienced **Sgts Steve Stevenson** and **'Dutch' Holland** (HQ Sqn) and **WO1 Harry Cooke** and **Cpl Jim MacClean;** to the young and agile **W/Lcpl Nicki Wellings** (HQ Sqn) and **Lcpl 'Geordy' Scott, Sigs Daz Cann** and **Kev Block.**

Capt George Carmichael who can claim to come under none of these categories starred for HQ Sqn as their goal-seeking striker. Suffice it to say, the very hard-fought match was decided in extra time by a goal scored by **Harry Cooke.**

The cricket match, also played in the rain, was less exciting though very enjoyable despite the wet. The four main features of the match were the inter-over refreshments of Pimms and whisky; **Lt Col Martin Pickard's** match-winning innings of 47 not out; **Ssgt Frank Dempster's** incredible catch at mid-wicket; and the arrival during the match of 10 of the ladies of the Regiment at the end of their 8-km sponsored walk. Who says cricket can't be interesting!

NOTABLE EVENT

On June 23, Mother Fortune again smiled on us and blessed us with a fine evening. At 1845hrs the guests arrived, all 200 of them, and were ushered to their seats at the side of the square. They, and members of the Regiment, watched a most enjoyable Beating of Retreat by the Band of the Kings Own Royal Border Regt.

The guests then walked to the Officers Mess where the Band played during the cocktail party. We were especially pleased to have the CSO (BAOR), **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** and his wife with us since **Gen Baldwin** commanded the Regiment from 1969–71. I will refrain from enumerating all the other distinguished guests since the list would be too long and anyway I'd be bound to offend someone by omission! Suffice it to say, we believe everyone enjoyed it and if so we achieved our aim.

Beating the Retreat by the Band of the Kings Own Royal Border Regt

CRICKET CUP SUCCESS

This year's Royal Signals BAOR inter-unit cricket competition was played at RAF Wildenrath and was organised by **Capt John Thewlis** from 21 Sig Regt. Six teams took part from all over Germany, and were split into two leagues, the winners of each league played off in the final.

13 Regt got off to a good start when our Australian skipper, **WO1 Fred Mitchener,** sent 7 Regt into bat where they quickly lost their first six wickets for a mere 16 runs. Only a last wicket stand and a good knock from **Beard** took the score to 46 all out, **Ssgt Dave Luckett** returned figures of 4 for 6 in his seven overs. Despite the attentions of BAOR opening bowler, **Lcpl Rob Frape,** 13 Regt, scored the runs required for the loss of only two wickets.

16 Regt, our next opponents, had a potential match winner in their Adjutant, **Capt Madren,** who scored a brisk 19 before falling to an excellent running catch on the fine leg boundary by OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Alan Browne.** From there on, 16 fared no better than 7 before them, and were all out for 52; **Cpl John Hudson** doing the damage with four for nine. After a minor panic which saw both Regimental openers, **Ssgt Frank Dempster** and **Cpl Chris Greenhill,** back in the pavilion for only 7 runs. **Cpl Ian Anderson** and skipper **Fred Mitchener** came to the rescue with an unbeaten stand of 30 to win the match.

Our opponents in the final were 28 Sig Regt who, under the expert guidance of BAOR bowler **Sgt Dave Taylor,** had seen off the challenge of both 21 and 22 Regts. 13 Regt batted first, scoring 101 for 9 in the alloted 30 overs, **Cpl Chris Greenhill** (21) and **Maj Browne** (16) being the top scorers. 28 Regt were thus chasing the highest total in the competition to win and soon felt the power of our bowling strength; not one batsman managed to reach double figures. 28 Regt were all out for 46, with **Ssgt Frank Dempster** returning match figures of 4 for 12 supported by **Cpl John Hudson** and **WO2 John Berry** with three wickets each.

Winning Regimental side

Left to right. Back row: WO2 Tony Morpeth, Maj Alan Browne, Lcpl Steve O'Dare, Sgt Bobby Hales, Ssgt Dave Luckett, WO2 John Berry, Cpl Steve Marshall, Sgt Geoff Helme, WO2 Tony Tyrer *Front row:* Cpl John Hudson, Ssgt Frank Dempster, Lt Col Martin Pickard, Maj John Healey (*cricket officer*), WO1 Fred Mitchener (*skipper*), Cpl Chris Greenhill, Cpl Ian Anderson

A major factor in winning the whole competition was our fielding, where no less than 17 catches were held ranging from the brilliant (help, it's coming to me) **Maj Browne** to the painful **WO2 John (Oh my poor hands) Berry** to the speculative **Ssgt Dave (Where did that one come from) Luckett. Cpl Steve Marshall's** athletic performance in the covers was especially noteworthy and saved countless runs.

NO LANGUAGE PROBLEM—SGTS MESS

As part of the Regimental Weekend celebrations the Mess hosted an International Games Night on the Saturday evening. The guests were the Officers Mess and a selection of German and American officers and senior ranks.

WO2 John Berry, already hoarse from a busy afternoon's interpreting, was again on hand to smooth over any linguistic difficulties. Most people got by with a mixture of German, English, and American. Our PEC, **Ssgt Brian Ward,** never a man to do things by halves, spent several minutes explaining, in German, the intricacies of carpet bowls to **Oberstleutnant Sommer.** On being asked if he understood the rules the Oberstleutnant replied, 'OK mac, I'll play it by ear'.

The evening was a great success and we hope we repaid, at least in part, the generosity and hard work of the German and American guests.

CRICKET—A SECOND OPINION

Frequent wiskies helped the Sunday afternoon cricket match between the officers and 'the rest'. The highlight of the game was a fine innings by **RSM Tony Jones,** who would have undoubtedly made a high score had he not been run out without scoring. There were mutterings of 'two short legs', but these were wisely subdued.

QUOTE

'Because **John Berry** is in charge of the Mess gardens should his title be Q Gardens?'

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

SPELLING TEASER

SUMMER has suddenly come and we are as busy as ever we were. The tug-of-war team's relentless training paid off in the Rhine Area Championships and our 560-kilo team is through to the BAOR Championships. We were blessed with a fairly warm day for our annual swimming gala, so many bronzed bodies are to be seen in camp, as well as many red ones.

We have a constant stream of visitors to the Regiment. Sometimes we wonder why they never visit anybody else. Last month we had the CGS as our VIV (very important visitor) and this month it was the C in C, **Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE.** His whistle-stop tour included a call at the Orderly Room where he dumbfounded **Cpl George Thorne** by asking him on the spur of the moment to spell 'incomprehensible'!

Anne Armstrong, who writes the family pages of *Soldier* magazine came for a day while researching for an article. She was very interested in the problems of families living in Germany and in those of married Servicewomen and we look forward to seeing her article.

We are also hoping that some of our WRAC will be among the stars on a BBC documentary now being made about the WRAC in this its 50th year. The researcher, **Gillian Barnes,** has done her recce and filming will take place later in June.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT ST JAMES'

Though not strictly a Royal Signals matter, we must mention the wedding of the year here in Krefeld. **Sgt Pete Death** (RAPC) and **Sue Priddy** (WRAC), both of our Regimental Pay Office, were married in St James' Church on June 4 in fine style having overcome a long succession of setbacks and problems. The Regiment and the many other people who know them join together in wishing them great happiness in the future.

St James' Church has been very well used recently. Earlier in the month the flags of this Regiment, 28 Sig Regt, and the other Regiments and Corps represented in the Garrison were presented and dedicated, and now hang at the rear of the church.

JOTTINGS FROM 3 SQUADRON

OC	—	**Maj I. C. Double** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt R. S. Bresloff** (Royal Signals)
SSM	—	**WO2 G. C. Northey**
F of S	—	**Ssgt P. F. Johnson**
Y of S	—	**WO2 D. C. Lister**
Y of S (Training)	—	**Ssgt J. Chapman**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt W. Powell**

3 Sqn are at the moment going through a time of good fortune and change. On the sporting scene we have taken nearly all the trophies for which we have so far competed in the last couple of months. We started with the tug-of-war which, with the experience of such stars as **Cpls Bill Parker, Mick Brummell, 'Paddy' Rush,** and **Sig Bruce Barnes** who represented the Regiment in last year's team, we won all our bouts by two straight pulls. A fine achievement when you consider that 2 Sqn are also packed with Regimental stars. We then lifted the Garton-Stork Trophy for six-a-side football, from the holders 'TM' Troop. The successfull team consisted of **Ssgt (Y of S) John Chapman, Sgt Dave Shaw, Cpl Steve Case, Sigs 'Kojak' Kowalzuk, Dave Tuck, Terry Rawlinson, Joey Marshall.** The inter-Squadron rugby (15-a-side) also came our way with the youth (eternal) anp experience of such stars as **Sgt Seci Drika** and **Ssgt Bill Powell.** Unfortunately, in the 7's we had to let HQ Sqn win, but were

Left to right. Back row: Sig Smith, Lcpl Robinson, Sig Osman, Cpl Hammett and Lcpl Wilkinson
Front row: Cpl Rush, Sgt Greenwood, Cpl Parker, Lcpl Blake and Lcpl Banham

content with the Plate. The athletics title was our latest triumph, in a very close contest we came from behind to snatch victory on the line from 2 Sqn and HQ. We look forward to the 11-a-side football in mid-June, in which we have a bye to the final (that was the luck I mentioned earlier).

The change comes about through the closure of TRC Krefeld. We now have some females in the Squadron, though they are very well camouflaged in their combat kit and brown boots. I now quote from our Regimental magazine, the 'Krefeld Mercury', comments by **Lt Sue Rollo,** OC 'J' Troop (our operator Troop):

'Well, May 1977 must go down in the listing of "J" Troop as the month when we put all theories to the test and sent our girls into the field for the first time. Our critics were dumbfounded as they were treated to the sight of **Pte Angie Sandford** wielding a sledge hammer with deadly accuracy and, after a few initial struggles, bivouacs were being put up and taken down with great efficiency (and monotonous regularity!).

'However, despite the novelty, everything went very well. It would be unfair to give the impression that the girls were the only people at Commcen "J" as, of course, the remainder of the Troop gave their usual sparkling performance with **Sig Steve Newell** keeping everyone's morale high by being the wettest, muddiest and happiest Signalman in the complex.'

FAREWELL

Unfortunately, this month we have to say farewell to two of our Squadron characters. **F of S John Mellows** who with wife, **Sue,** and family go to 13 Sig Regt, and **Lt 'Sir Adam' Leather** who joins **SSM John Turner** in the Junior Squadron 11 Sig Regt. We wish them both all the very best in their new postings.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ 4 Div

SENNELAGER GOLD COMSTAR AWARD

Maj Gen Bagnall, MC, presents a third consecutive Gold Comstar Award to Cpl D. M. Wells. Others (*left to right*) are: Sig C. J. Ballantyne, Sig K. A. Belcher and Lcpl C. Newby
Cpl P. J. Hall was on leave

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

JULY

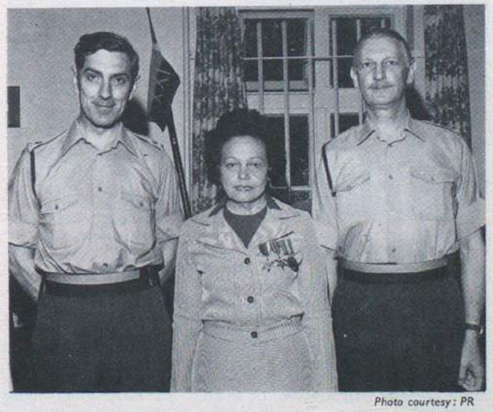


Photo courtesy: PR

Lt Col Bernard Allen, Mrs Phyllis Lafferty and Maj Pat Lafferty

WAR MEDALS PRESENTED

ON May 24, a small presentation ceremony was held in the Regimental Conference Room. The CO, **Lt Col Bernard Allen,** presented the War Medals to **Mrs Phyllis Lafferty,** wife of our QM, **Maj Pat Lafferty.** The moving ceremony was attended by officers and their wives from the Regiment and to be presented with medals after 32 years is something of a record. We think the citation speaks for itself.

Medal presentation to Mrs P. J. Lafferty, May 24, 1977

In 1942 the Japanese Army invaded Burma; the last boat sailed from Rangoon and all airports were closed. The only means of escape was by road, northwards towards Assam. Thus began, for **Phyllis Lafferty** and her family, the 800-mile trek to Guahati along routes also being used by the retreating British Army. They suffered many hardships along the way such as food shortage and lack of drinking water; often the only water available was that remaining in the radiators of abandoned vehicles or stagnant road-side ditches. Medical supplies were few and inadequate with the constant fear of such wild animals as tigers and a multitude of insects and poisonous snakes. Many lost their lives on this long journey from strafing by Japanese aircraft; **Phyllis** herself remembers running to take cover from machine-gun bullets without a sure knowledge of their direction of fire.

It was some six to eight weeks later that **Phyllis** and her family arrived in Guahiti, Assam, where they were housed and clothed in the American Transit Camp prior to being accommodated in Lucknow, India.

Phyllis Lafferty enlisted into the Womens Army Corps in Lucknow and, after training as a clerk, was posted to the Royal Air Force in Calcutta as an aircraft plotter. Whilst in Calcutta she volunteered for service in Silchar, Assam, a small garrison town which later housed 19 Air Formation Sig Regt prior to the fierce battle of Imphal. She served in both 'R' and 'S' L of C Sig Regts as a switchboard operator and in late 1943 she was selected for training as a Cipher operator in Mhow, India. After training she returned to Assam to serve in Shillong and Guahiti with 'S' and 'Z' L of C Sig Regts. **Phyllis** was amongst the first of the Womens Army Corps to return to Rangoon in early 1945 to serve with GHQ Burma.

She left the Army in 1946 in the rank of Staff-sergeant and in the same year married **Sgt Lafferty** who she had met whilst serving in Silchar.

It was not until 1966 that investigation into the records of the Indian and Burmese Embassies substantiated **Phyllis Lafferty's** entitlement to three medals: 1939–45 Star, Burma Star, and War Medal 1939–45.

SILVER JUBILEE AWARDS

We have just heard with much pleasure that **Sgt Ray Hancock** has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Silver Jubilee and Birthday Honours List. The award is for long and sterling service in the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. Most people who read this will have seen **Sgt Hancock** doing his daredevil thing throughout the world and will join us in congratulating him.

Silver Jubilee Medals have been awarded to eight members of the Regiment.: **WO2 (AQMS) Joe Conway,** LAD; **WO2 John Climo** (RAPC), RHQ; **Ssgt Alistair McEwan,** 1 Sqn; **Sgt 'Taff' Ricketts,** 'J' Troop; **Cpl 'Paddy' Malseed,** 2 Sqn; **Cpl Joe Hughes,** 3 Sqn; **Cpl John Cairns,** 2 Sqn; and **Cpl Bob Brownlie,** HQ Sqn.

VISITORS

We were very popular in May. Visitors were arriving thick and fast. The most notable was the arrival on May 20 of Commander-in-Chief BAOR, **Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE,** who came to see what the Regiment does for a living. **Sir Frank** arrived at 0930 and, after a short briefing in RHQ, was shown a selection from each Squadron at work. 'K' Troop were on the 30-metre range and the assault course. On the range the C in C met **Sig McClymont** and when asked from what part of Scotland he came he replied, gun in hand, 'Watch it, Sir, I'm a Scouse!' **Gen King** spoke to a number of SNCOs in the RAF Wildenrath Station Sergeants Mess and kindly presented LS and GC Medals to **WO2 (F of S) Danny Rotheram** from 4 Signal Group and **Sgt Don Sutherland.** After lunch in the Station Officers Mess where the C in C met many of the officers, he departed at 1400hrs.

Our other visitors in May were **Brig W. A. Sykes,** Comd 12 Signal Group and his deputy Comd, **Col R. M. Stewart** were both here to see the activities of the two detachments of 81 Sig Sqn (V) who help us on the RAF Airfields in Germany. We are very pleased to see the TAVR each year and they bring invaluable expertise with them. Keep coming chaps!

Photo courtesy: RAF

C in C BAOR, Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE, presents LS and GC to WO2 (F of S) Rotheram

Photo courtesy: RAF

C in C BAOR, Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE, presents LS and GC to Sgt Sutherland

ATHLETICS TROPHY FOR EIGHTH SUCCESSIVE TIME

We are likely to be in our last year as a major unit in Rhine Area and took home the trophy for the eighth time in succession on June 8. Our pictures show Comd Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** presenting the trophy to **WO2 (SSM) Dougie Baikie** our Regimental team captain and three members of the team, **Cpls Les Wood, Doug Briscoe** and **Gerry Heggarty,** breasting the tape in the 1,500m final.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Comd Rhine Area, Brig J. C. Moore, MBE, presenting the Athletics Trophy to WO2 (SSM) Dougie Baikie

INTERNATIONAL DEBUT FOR REGIMENTAL CYCLIST

After only 18 months of competitive riding, **Sig Keith Randle** has won a place in the Army team for the Welsh International Motor Cycle trials on June 23–24 next. **Keith** will ride a 350cc BSA similar to the machine which took him to the Rhine Area championship in Exercise Master Rider earlier this year. Says

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Sig Keith Randle leaps into action as he practises for the Welsh International Two-Day Motor Cycle Trial, on June 23–24. Keith will ride a 350cc BSA for the Army

Keith, currently serving with 2 Sqn at Wildenrath, 'I've just spent three weeks' leave preparing my bike'. But comment on his devotion to the sport and his first selection for international stardom came from his wife, **Christine.** 'He's spent morning, noon and night on his bike. I've bits and pieces all over the drawing-room carpet—and the kitchen has made a very good workshop.'

EXERCISE MASTER RIDER

In Exercise Master Rider, the Rhine Area Championships, we collected the following awards:

Best Team Rhine Area	—	21 Sig Regt
Individual Rhine Area Winner		**Sig Randle**
Best Novice Rhine Area	—	**Cpl Thompson**
Runner-up Open Individual	—	**Sig Randle**
Third Novice in the Open	—	**Cpl Thompson**
Fifth Novice Rhine Area	—	**Sgt Hancock**

AUGUST

COMMITMENTS GALORE

NUMBER 2 Sqn, ably supported by a large chunk of 1 Sqn, have returned from the Harrier Exercise Hunt Free just in time to enjoy RAF Wildenrath's 'Minival', Wild Horse. However, thanks to a further (self inflicted) Exercise, Hay Fever, they leave the delights of 'Noddy Suits on/Noddy Suits off' and the like behind, and once more deploy into the field. Other elements of the Regiment are currently exercising with the gentlemen from Sandhurst on 'Eiffel Tower', while our military training trio, **Ssgts John Bell, Tony Higham,** and **Sgt Alan Brown,** fully utilise Grobbendonk Training Area for the benefit of successive continuation courses. The Chief Clerk, **WO2 Mick Weston** (even) has had the clerks deployed in Arnhem for a very 'warry' four days, and ; 'K' Troop have completed their R and R at Summer Camp.

It must, therefore, have been superb regimental staff work (the Adjutant is away *again*) that coped with all of this, and still provided 50 men as simulated casualties for the RAMC on Exercise Mini Mash. At the same time the Regiment supported HM the Queen's Jubilee Review at Sennelager by providing **Sgt Mick Denniss** and tele mechs from 'L' and 'N' Troops, for the Signals Display; while **Sgts Dave Turner** and **Dave Nixon** with 20 men, catered for the 600-odd senior ranks and their families who attended from Rhine Area. **Sgt** and **Mrs Andy Starling** were honoured by their selection for presentation to Her Majesty during the Royal Walkabout.

SPORTS ROUND UP

Motor cycling. Sig Keith Randle followed-up his Rhine Area successes by attaining the Bronze Medallion at the Welsh Two-Day Trials in June.

Swimming. Once again we finished as runners-up to 16 Sig Regt in both the Rhine Area Swimming and Water Polo, and we congratulate 16 Sig Regt on their fine victory in the BAOR Water Polo.

Cricket. Again we hosted the Corps cricket competition and again we were losing semi-finalists, maybe next year; but congratulations to the 'bunting boys' of 13 Sig Regt.

Marching. WO2 (AQMS) Joe Conway and his enthusiastic marching team have already shown their mettle in the FFG Baden Baden event when they won the most military team award. They now depart for the Nijmegen Marches on July 17.

Athletics. Can we break all existing records (and probably make an all time record) by carrying off a major Army title for the eighth successive year? The Army Athletics Championships take place on July 20, 1977. We are quietly confident.

Our BAOR success was achieved only by extreme dedication from all our athletes, and support from those who coped short handed on exercise. Thanks for your help, too, 16 and 28 Sig Regts.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **WO2 (SSM) Ian Rothwell** on promotion to WO1 (RSM) and posting to 71 Sig Regt (V); and to **Ssgt (SQMS) Fred Winton** on promotion to WO2 (SSM).

AND FAREWELL

By the time these notes are in print **WO2 (SSM) Mick** and **Pat Thomas** will have completed their regimental farewells and have left the unit, having completed 22 years in the Corps. Their friends throughout the Corps will no doubt join all in the Regiment in wishing them a happy 'retirement'.

STOP PRESS

21 Sig Regt won the Morrison Cup on July 15, for the eigth consecutive time. Runners up—7 Sig Regt.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

SUCCESS IN THREE FINALS

THE last month has seen four regimental teams through to the finals of the 4 Divisional competitions. Three of these, football, water polo and swimming were decided within three days of each other and much to the delight of all, we were victorious. The fourth, badminton, was very close with our team being beaten by 5 games to 4 by 35 Engineer Regt.

FOOTBALL

Our team, led by **Capt Jim Thornton,** successfully defeated 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt by 2—1 in a hard-fought match. The goals were scored by **Sig Jimmy Miller** and **Cpl John Boyd.**

WATER POLO AND SWIMMING

In the 4 Division water polo and swimming championships the team led by **Capt John Culbert** swam their way to convincing victories. They now go on to Berlin for the BAOR championships. We wish them all good luck.

22 SIG REGT WATER POLO AND SWIMMING TEAMS

From top left: Cpl Vasavour, Sig McCann, Cpl Brown, Lcpl Nall, Lcpl Frost, Cpl Thursfield, Cpl Elkan, Capt Culbert
Sig Hanley, Lcpl Langford, Lcpl Tibble, Lt Blease, Sig Bevan (221), Sig Bevan (985) and Lcpl Mitchell

22 SIG REGT BADMINTON TEAM—RUNNERS UP 4 DIV LEAGUE

Left to right. Standing: Cpl Dick Underwood, Maj Bill Price, 'Miss Lippstadt',—wife of Cpl Brown, 'Mike' Troop,—Sgt Bob Evans, Sgt Barry Edwards
Kneeling: Sgt Ken Clarke, WO2 Peter McLoughlin, Cpl Harry Elkan

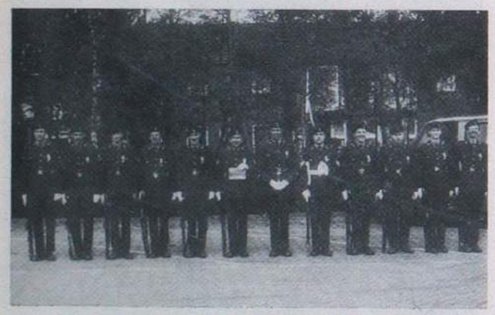
Lippstadt Village Fete
Sgt Keen, Sig Lever and Dvr Grice

VILLAGE FETE

On a very overcast Jubilee Day, Churchill Barracks opened its gates for a Village Fete complete with jousting, pole pillow bashing, and cream pie throwing. **Sig Leve** was very apprehensive as he awaited his turn with **Sgt Keen** and **Dvr Grice** looking on. **Mrs Nelson** obviously enjoyed her chance to smoother her husband, **Sgt Nelson,** to the amusement of **Cpl Stock.**

BLACK WATCH MARCHES

A team from 1 Sqn led by **WO2 (SSM) Clarke** participated in the Black Watch Marches at Hoogeveen in Holland where they were placed second out of 40 in the 30-km march. If only they had remembered the orange arm bands and 'lollipop' stick for traffic control they might not have lost the quarter-point. They're going to try and win the yext year instead.



1 SQN, 22 SIG REGT AT BLACK WATCH MARCHES
Left to right: Lcpl 'Mac' McLeod, Sig Charlie Brown, Lcpl Jim Drummond, Sig Mick Plumb, Sig 'Daisy' Appleyard, Sgt Dick Heppenstall, WO2 (SSM) Pete Clarke, Ssgt (Y of S) 'Geordie' Bestford, Sig 'Jock' Gray, Lcpl Terry Butters, Lcpl 'Dousie' McDonald and Sig Mick Byrne

OBITUARIES

It is with much regret that we have to report the deaths of **Sig Andrew Johnson** and **Lcpl William Williamson** (RCT) in separate accidents. They will both be sadly missed by all in HQ Sqn. We extend our sympathies to their respective families.

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

NOT ALL SOCCER

CONTRARY to popular belief, the Regiment does exercise regularly and not just on the sports field. Exercise Canary Caper from May 2–6 was notably the CO's, **Lt Col T. R. Eamey,** first whilst in command of the Regiment. Consequently, it is rumoured that the camouflage is now so good that 1 Sqn Switch and OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Pat Thomas,** cannot be spotted from 10 metres. From which direction is not stated.

The Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Cliff Webb,** has actually been seen running around camp, signing movement orders en route and has successfully dispelled the rumour that he didn't know where the LAD or 2 Sqn were—apart from on the end of a telephone of course! Exercise Cactus End at the end of the month was notable by the fact that Tropo Troop did not leave barracks. It was stated that the Tropo vehicles were driving themselves out of camp and had to be apprehended.

SHOOTING EXCELLENCE

Following the Regiment's sweeping successes at the NORTHAG Skill-at-Arms Meeting last month, in which **Lcpl Schofield** won the William's Plate as Champion Shot of the meeting, the Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place this month. The week's shoot was marred by particularly torrential rain, but this did not deter the shooting team. The competition was extremely close and the final placings all depended on the LMG match which the Regiment duly won. The Regimental achievements were as follows:

Champion Major Unit — **28 Sig Regt**
Champion-at-Arms Competition—*Best Class 'B',* **Cpl Connelly**

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR
Lcpl Patrick Connelly—Rhine Area best class 'B' shot

SLR MATCHES
Major Unit Team Match—*3rd,* **28 Sig Regt**
Individual—*Best Class 'B',* **Cpl Connelly**
SMG MATCHES
Major Unit Team Match—*Winners,* **28 Sig Regt**
SMG Challenge Cup (team of 3)—*Winners,* **28 Sig Regt**
Individual Championship—
Winner, **Maj Goulding**
3rd, **Sgt Colley**
4th and Best Class 'B', **Cpl Colley**
PISTOL MATCHES
Major Unit Team Match—*3rd,* **28 Sig Regt**
Individual Championship—*4th,* **Sgt MacKinnon**
LMG MATCHES
Major Units Team Match—*Winners,* **28 Sig Regt**
Individual—*Best Class 'B' Pair,* **Cpls Connelly** and **Knight**
4th, **WO1 Gallacher** and **Sgt MacKinnon**

The shooting team is now training for the Corps Shoot at Bulford in mid-June and because of the excellent results in the Rhine Area Competition they have qualified for the Bisley Shoot in early July. We wish them all the best and they are bound to be fit. At present the torture (fitness) training is supervised by **WO1 Dennis (If I do it so will you) Gallacher**—the rugby team send their best wishes and sympathy.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL IN RETROSPECT

What a season, although at the outset it did not look as though it was going to be anything special. **Capt Bob Peake** departed at the end of last season and the management and coaching of the team was left in the hands of **WO1 (Y of S) Mick Golledge.** He was ably assisted by **Sgt 'Mac' McLean** and they set out to mould a team based on only seven members of the previous season's 1st XI.

After some juggling of positions over the first five games, a settled team was finally found, **Lcpl Phil Rosslee** in goal, **Sig Andy Edwards** right back, **Sgt Brian Parkhill** right centre back, **Sgt Morris Nelson** left centre back, **Sgt Derrick Garrow** left back, **Sgt Mick Baddeley** (RAPC) right mid-field, **Sig Mick Edwards** centre mid-field, **Sig 'Taffy' Moulds** left mid-field, **Sig Tony Horan, Sgt Peter Campbell** and **Lcpl 'Scouse' Murray** as changing strikers. The remainder of the squad included **Cpl Peter Dignam, Ssgt (Y of S) Steve Watson, Ssgt Bob Lockwood** and **Pte Danny Cole** (RPC).

Throughout the season, the squad could be seen training at lunch times with **WO1 Mick Golledge** urging them to run faster round the 5-km circuit or putting them through arduous skills and tactics training. This hard work paid off in the end with just rewards: Rhine Area Cup—Winners, ninth year in succession;

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR
Winners—Rhine Area Skill-at-Arms Competition
Left to right: WO1 Gallagher, Sgt Beddow, Lcpl Schofield (RPC), Sig Stanton, Sgt McKinnon, Maj Goulding, Cpl Rankin, Cpl Knights, Cpl Connelly, Capt Davis, Lcpl Payne, Sig Bartlett, Sgt Colley (REME), Sig Jenkins, and Lcpl Parry

North Rhine Inter-Services League Champions having lost only five points all season; Semi-finalists of the League Cup; BAOR Cup Winners; and last, the big one, Army Cup Winners at Aldershot.

It should be noted that by winning the Army Cup the squad achieved what has not been done for 10 years—its return to BAOR and let us hope that it remains for many years to come. The soccer squad will be under new management next year as **WO1 Mick Gollege** leaves the Regiment shortly to spend his last six months in the UK. We wish him all the very best for the future and sincere thanks for footballing achievements within the Regiment and BAOR. We also wish the new manager, **Capt Bob Hope,** all the very best for the coming season.

30 Sig Regt
BLANDFORD CAMP

JULY

ALDERNEY

THE Regiment's Annual Summer Camp took place in June, with the emphasis on leisure and 'environmental studies'. We were based at Fort Tourgie which began to bear a close resemblance to Butlins, with its superb food, vast airy accommodation, early-morning calls, and long sight-seeing runs organised by our cheery (where's his red coat?) RSM, **WO1 Brian Green.** The Commanding Officer had to leave the island before the main party (and he wasn't even staying at Tourgie) wearing a healthy glow, which was obviously a well-earned sun tan!

SOCCER PITCH PUT IN ORDER

The Regiment's main task was putting the town's football pitch in good order, after which our team churned up the surface in a frantic match against the local team. Our team included **Sig Bob Kirk** in goal (some really acrobatic saves), **Lcpl Mick Babbs** (our answer to Keegan), **Lcpl John Lathbury, Sigs John Leach, 'Tiny' Reynolds** and **'Scouse' Rogers.** Despite the fact that **Cpl Lou Sharman** was ref, we lost, but not without letting the opposition score a goal for us, and not without putting up a good fight.

CORPS BAND ACCLAIMED

The Corps Band had several musical engagements between 'playing' at all the local hostelries. The States of Alderney and the Regiment gave a joint reception in the Island Hall, during which **Cpl (Which angle do you want?) Taylor** made his debut as a conductor. There was standing room only at the Jubilee Church Service in St Anne's, at which the Band played, with the larges congregation it has ever known. They played at the local schoo and we believe that Bandmaster, **WO1 Jimmy Greer,** had to fight off the 'groupies'. When the Band played in the street in front of the Old People's Home, **Mr Billy Shade,** the senior member of the States, managed to persuade the wife of the President, **Mrs Kay-Mouat,** to dance along the pavement. Quite a crowd gathered as the Bandmaster handed over the baton to the Deputy Matron.

HELL'S ANGELS

The Sergeants Mess entertained the Officers and invited guests to an excellent dinner in the Georgian Inn. At one point, the Vicar, **The Rev Peter Shaw,** went 'over the top' (the table)—was it a calling or a question of light relief?

Our forms of transport caused amusement and terror to the locals. We had our own version of 'Hell's Angels' with **Maj Owen Lewis, Capt Martyn Reid** and **Lt John MacLeod** roaring around on souped-up mopeds, terrifying old ladies. **Cpl Mick Muse,** on one he borrowed, proved himself the fastest clerk on the island.

NEW ROLE FOR BAND

The Band discovered pushbikes, and worked out their own version of the White Helmets' Double Jimmy, complete with sound effects!

The duty tractor and cart—transport now available to all professional mobile armies—and the Wreck of the Hesperus, the detachment's hired car, obeyed none of the rules of well-maintained vehicles; but then there didn't seem to be any bulled,

Photo courtesy: Graham Lawson

Alderney—Included in this regimental group is the entire island police force

beautiful cars on the island. We would all like to be able to tell the RSM that sea air rots polish.

INADEQUATE HANDICAP

The RSM, and PTI, **Lcpl 'Mac' McKenzie,** had plenty of sporting activities lined up. The Infantry Junior Leaders' Regt, camping at Saye Bay, provided opposition in the volleyball competition. We won't dwell on the fact that their 'A' team beat us, but we'll mention a few high spots. The Band team excelled (at least they can play something well!) but the best game was between two very well-matched teams. First, Alcoholics Inc, with our PTI, **Ssgt Jim Hehir, Lcpl (3 meals and 8 puddings) Babb, Lcpl Lathbury,** and **Sgt Brian (I lend sweaters) Ramsden.** They played the 'Oldies, Ancients and Beautiful Things' team, comprising **Maj Lewis, Capts Martyn Reid** and **Jan Reid** (WRAC), **2 Lt Christine (Are we winning?) Nicholls** (WRAC), the RSM, and **Cpl Lou Sharman.** That match was played with the Alkies holding beer cans: they still managed to win!

ITEMS IN BRIEF

RQMS, **WO2 Ken Griffiths,** enjoyed his early-morning runs around the island (7½ miles) but he ducked volleyball because of a gammy knee. The seniors, ever sympathetic, sent him a get-well card for kneemonia.

In the tug-of-war contest against the island, we 'sort of lost our grip. . .' As for the darts match against the Campania, well, it would have been friendlier to let them win . . . , but we won 7—1, with **Mus Phil Myers** scoring a fantastic 9-arrow finish on 301.

Some fishing highlights: **Ssgt Hehir** aided by **Sgt Brian Ramsden,** managed to land a grand total of 20 crabs, which provided many crab butties for everyone.

Our cooks, **Cpl Jeff Meachin** and **Lcpl Brian Guy** (ACC), landed some fair-sized pollack, including a 10½-pounder. We believe that compo sausages provided the bait, but the anglers won't comment!

Sig 'Jungle' Green tried out his brand new fishing line, cast it, but forgot to hold on. . . . Let's call it 'the one that got away. . . .'

We were very pleased that CSO HQ UKLF, **Brig Derek Baynham,** managed to join us in his yacht, with navigator **Maj Warren Armstrong, Mrs Baynham,** and **2 Lt Vikki Evans** (WRAC). He berthed where the oil tanker was expected an hour later, but he did manage to move it in time.

The Band wanted to play for one of the Brigadier's cocktail parties, but rumour has it that the Bandmaster had little faith in the tide-table reading of the yacht's navigator, and had visions of the Band knee-deep in rising tide. We believe the Brigadier resorted to his tranny instead.

2 Lt Chris Nicholls had thoughts of joy-rides round the islands, and called her idea 'Rent-a-Brig(g)'. His reply is unrecorded.

Washing facilities were limited on board, but the Vicar's wife, **Mrs Monica Shaw,** offered to give the Brigadier a bath!

THANKS TO SENIOR SERVICE

We all thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Alderney. **2 Lt Nicholls** was pursued by a suave local, a roving type, capable of pulling down buildings with his bare hands. It is rumoured he was attracted by her Swan T-shirt (available by kind permission of **Maj (Retd) Gordon Andrews** of PRI, price £1·75). **Lt John MacLeod** spent a lot of time studying the flora, some studied the tides, and others, old girl friends.

Finally, our thanks to the Senior Service (845 Naval Air Sqn) for transporting us to and from the island.

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS COMPETITION

Training Wing was tasked with organising the Annual Skill-at-Arms meeting on Bulford Ranges during May 16–17. Having submitted prayers and indents for good weather, we set forth in the rain and high winds which were bound to favour one (1?) particular Squadron which had recently returned from Senneybridge.

The raising of the tented area was controlled by **Ssgt 'Sandy' Shaw,** who gianed his Free Ascent Wings hanging on to a marquee guy (that'll teach him to look like an Airman). Recalled to land by **Lcpl (Any Requests) James** on the magnificent Public Address System, he suggested 'Come Fly with Me', which we all declined.

The Unit Master Coach, **WO2 'Pete' Hardwick,** assigned by **Sgt 'Nigger' Schindler,** conned **Capt Alex Leitch** and **WO1 (RSM) Brian Green** into monitoring the Gun Match and Falling Plate eliminating rundowns. Much to everyone's surprise the 'Old Soldiers' survived better than the UMC's voice, which died to a croack on the second day. We didn't notice that it was huskily sexy, as he claimed, but never mind. The statistics were compiled by **2 Lt Chris Nicholls** (WRAC) (her statistics weren't bad either) who, in pursuit of scores, managed to catch the UMC on the third rundown with the following quote: 'I have heard of running scores but this is ridiculous'.

Winners of the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Cup—1 Sqn
1 Sqn team with trophies and victorious grins—despite the weather

Cpl Wally Halstead (I remember the *real* Glen Miller), aided by **Cpl 'Taffy' Crowley,** dispensed the ammunition in time to 'American Patrol' and other Glen Miller records played over the PA system.

Sgt 'Geordie' Middleton and his unsung heroes, the Butt Party, worked with vigour and efficiency richly deserving the Colonel's words of praise.

An excellent buffet lunch was laid on the final day by **WO2 Alex Porter** (ACC) and his chefs, many competitors were seen sneaking back for thirds. It was a real oversight on the part of one person, who brought his own supply of vitamins (filled raw carrots), but the rest of us weren't concerned with slimming.

The weapon skills and professional expertise of the Regiment were reflected in the high scores of all concerned, except, perhaps, the unsung hero who had his gas plug in the wrong way way round.

HQ Sqn won the Gun Match and **Maj Bill Turney,** trained on the slopes of Mafeking, the best SLR individual. 2 Sqn took full advantage of the following wind and won the Falling Plates and the SMG Tiles.

1 Sqn (Train Hard—Fight Easy) won the SLR Team Match, SMG Team Match, Pistol Team Match and the Pistol Tiles. **Sgt Dave Poole** won the individual Pistol and four team medals, and **Cpl Hughie Allison** won the SMG. In a resounding lager-gurgling victory 1 Sqn carried off the Team Trophy, which was received on behalf of the Fighting First by **Sgt Ted Bentley.**

Mrs Marion Byng, wife of the Commanding Officer, presented the prizes, which were guarded and retrieved many times in high winds by **Sig 'Dog' Norris.** To cap it all, our husky Master Coach presented **Mrs Byng** with a large bouquet, dropping to a graceful courtsey before he realised that it was only his voice that had changed.

EXCHANGE AU PAIR

During the period May 4–18 the Regiment was privileged to host a French Signal Officer, **Maj Maurice Benet,** from 22e Division Militaire Territoriale Amiens. **Maj Benet** had a full programme during his visit, including visits to the Signals Wing, School of Infantry the Tank Museum Bovington the School of Signals and a personal tour around the Tower of London.

During his stay, **Maj Benet's** English improved considerably (so did our French) and he gained a good all-round knowledge of the Royal Signals. Here in his improved English is his job description.

'I work in Amiens (France) in a HQ Staff 22 Reserve Division. I teach Signal, radio set and procedure. I work the week and three weekends a month. I teach Signal at Infantry, Artillery, Engineers and Signal Men.

'My hobbies is fishing and breeding canaries. In the evenings three times a week I play at bridge. I play also at tennis.'

He thought the Regiment 'étonnant' and 'formidable' and its two female officers 'magnifique!' Is there a better equivalent in English?

CYGNET DINNER

On Friday, May 27, the Annual Cygnet Dinner took place at Headquarters Mess. The Regiment was honoured to have as guests three distinguished members of the Honourable Company of Dyers, and their ladies. We were entertaining the Prime Warden, **The Rt Hon Lord Blake of Braydeston, JP, MA, FBA,** and **Lady Blake,** the Renter Warden, **Mr H. W. Shillito,** and his daughter, **Miss Christine Shillito,** and the Clerk to the Dyers' Company, **Cmdr (Retd) A. J. Boyall, OBE, DSE** (RN), and **Mrs Boyall.**

The CSO HQ UKLF, **Brig D. H. Baynham,** and his wife were enjoying an evening on dry land before sailing their yacht to Alderney to visit our Summer Camp there. Previous Commanding Officers we were delighted to see were: **Brig** and **Mrs I. M. Rose, Col** and **Mrs A. T. Burrows,** and **Col A. R. Marshall.**

Last, but how could we forget them, dined out on posting, were **Capts Geldard** and **Stokes,** and their ladies. We wish them well in their new posts. The Corps Band was splendid, as usual, and it was good to see such a variety of guests from so many Corps, Regiments and other services.

EXERCISE DAWN PATROL

Dawn Patrol—a report by Anon Starter.

The world-famous travel agents, 'A' Troop, sent their first package tour this year to Costa del Sardinia, late in April, in the guise of a D13/R234 radio detachment to provide the rear link for 3 Commando Bde in Exercise Dawn Patrol 77. A comprehensive political and economic briefing ensured that the road party did their bit for the EEC, by making substantial in-roads into the European Wine Lake, as soon as the first unstead foot touched the soil of La Belle France. Our popularity with the Marines on the convoy was assured at the first over-night stop when our six generators burst into life, and electric kettles appeared from all quarters, as an efficient substitute for issued hexamine burners.

A DETOUR

A lack of Gendarmerie escort ensured that the popular song 'Lost in France' was sung frequently. At one stage, the Land-Rover driven by **Sgt 'Wee Jock' Johnson** and the Det OC, **Lt John Fletcher,** left the recognised route, by some miles, in search of that exclusive vintage 'Chateau Plonk 77', taking half the convoy with it by mistake.

By day 5 the hazards of the Cote d'Azur had been successfully negotiated, and after a day out in Sarona, Italy, we left for Genoa to join up with the air party.

In a day all was set up, we were in communication with the UK, and we could all set about the important task of enjoying ourselves. Several helipads in the area provided entertainment for the off-shift sunbathers and a book was kept by **Sgts Tom Sawyer** and **Paul Ponsford** over which would be first to carry away our 80-ft mast. In fact, the nearest miss went to an RAF Buccaneer and the 80ft mast was carried away by the now traditional end-of-exercise storm. Shifts settled down to a routine. **F of S Ken Suckling** was relieved during the sunny hours of day by the OC to go sunbathing. He returned the compliment by taking the night shift, allowing 30's answer to Egon Ronay to continue his single-handed attack on that wine lake.

DARK LIGHTS

Sig 'Bee' Bryan did much for both Anglo-Italian and American relations with his daily ice cream run. **Cpl 'Bones' Jones** was asked directions by a lost American soldier one night. Somewhat tired after a long shift, he pointed in the wrong direction and said: 'Over there where the lights are'.

'What lights?'

'Those dark ones.'

If anyone meets a lost, confused American *somewhere* in Italy, please give him our apologies.

The exercise finished on a high note with the detachment being heli-lifted on to HMS *Hermes* by Sea Kings. And now a personal note for **2 Lt Chris Nicholls** (WRAC). We don't fly the R234 out in a D13, but don't worry about it!

THE COMMANDER'S CUP

The new winners of the Commander's Cup was the Training Wing. **Col Benbow,** Commander 1 Signal Group, presented the cup on May 5 to **Capt Alex Leitch,** the Training Officer. The real victors were **WO2 (UMC) Hardwick, Ssgts Marshall, Hodgkiss, Sgt Million, Cpls Schindler, Halstead, Crowley, Lcpls Muse, Baker, Walker,** and **Sig Kelley,** as they made the Training Officer fill the bowl!

AUGUST

TROOP DEPARTURE

THE month of June saw the departure of 'EW' Troop to join the new 14 Sig Regt, the Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting at Bulford, the Welsh 3000s, the Aldershot Army Display and a Weinfest. For the blow-by-blow accounts, read on. . . .

1 Squadron report

Whilst our gladiators were easing their way across the Welsh hills (see Welsh 3000) the remainder of the Squadron were busy on several other tasks. A D13 detachment under **Ssgt (F of S) Graham Pritchard** set up next door to the White Helmets at the Aldershot Army Display. In the early stages, competing for attention, especially that of the fairer sex, was difficult until the formation of the Blue Skull Caps, namely **Cpl Martin Webb, Sigs Mick Bethune** and **Brian Higgins,** who spent many happy hours convincing the local ladies of their ability to jump London buses, in Land-Rovers towing D13 Cabins. Under **WO1 (F of S) Brian Livesey** 'E' Troop were on Exercise Turnout 11, a practice for our forthcoming visit to Singapore.

The rest of us were on Bulford ranges for two weeks administering the Corps Shoot. The range staff had innocently assumed that the idea of a shooting competition was to use a rifle to knock down targets. However, we soon found that we were the targets and the weapon was the PAM20. This is not Britain's answer to the Kalashnikov, rather the bible of competition shooting—Pamphlet 20. If a team does badly it quotes the PAM20 for periods of up to an hour until out of boredom the range staff give them a re-shoot and the opportunity to get another bad score. However, the weather on the last two days was excellent and we all came back to Blandford with smiles and suntans.

Ssgt Roy Jennings has been taking 'internal recruiting' seriously because his son, **Andrew** (16), recently enlisted into the Army at Blandford, where his father is serving as 1 Sqn SQMS. **Andrew** is following his father with the Corps, and is now an apprentice tradesman at Harrogate.

Andrew Jennings enlisting as an Apprentice, witnessed by Lt Col Byng and Ssgt Jennings

Lastly, we would like to say goodbye and the best of luck in the future to **Cpl John Simpson,** and welcome to **Sgt Mick Hill, Sigs Peter Smith** and **Jim Martin.**

2 Squadron round up

Exercise Regal Grandeur was held in BAOR between June 6 and 15 and consisted of elements of the Squadron running 3 HF links between Cochem on the Wine (wrong—Mosel!) and Blandford on the Hill. Old and new families of radio were pitted against each other in the form of Larkspur (C11 SSB, C11 DSB), in the left corner and Clansman (PRC 320) in the right. After 10 rounds, occasionally interrupted by violent electrical storms and torrential rain, it was the general concensus of opinion that Clansman won by a knockout, the DSB a respectable second, and the less said about the SSB the better.

On the Mosel side of the link, off-duty personnel were conspicuous by their absence from the radio site and their unfailing attendance at the 'Weinfest'. Quite a coincidence picking Cochem for our exercise site during Weinfest Week! Although there was only one direct route from our site to Cochem, credit must be given to several members of 'HF' Troop for the incredible variety of routes back. The following should shortly gain membership to the nature ramblers society: **Sigs 'Jess' Ward, 'Jock' Mooney, 'Gunner' Sugden, 'Legs' Stratton, 'Bedroom slipper' Tucker** and **'The Magpie' Whichello.** On top of this, membership of the Mosel wine drinkers federation must follow; **Maj Owen Lewis** went one better and bought shares! (Guaranteed to increase their value as long as the corks remain in place!) **Cpl 'Playboy' Carter** decided there was more to life than the Weinfest and subsequently gained life membership to the 'Astoria' (film) Bar.

It only remains to say that the exercise was not without its physical side—this taking the form of a three-mile run each morning ably led by the Squadron Commander and the Yeoman; the trail of wine fumes stupifying all local cattle and attracting stray dogs like aniseed!

ARMY DISPLAY COMPONENT

The last weekend in June saw Line Section hard at work showing off their skills to capacity crowds at the Aldershot Army Display at Rushmoor Arena. **Sgt Ray Galway** had cast his expert eye over the whole set-up and things smoothed along just fine. The kids loved the 10-line magneto exchange and we could easily have recruited hundreds of budding operators. The lads were running their favourite trick of passing out certificates for doing Hellerman joints on D10 cable—they ran out early after more than 1,000 joints. The Show lasted four days in all, and the team couldn't deny that they enjoyed every minute. We only wish we had a photograph to show you the smiles on the faces of **Sigs Ron Reilly, Grant Pocock, Dick Barrett** and **Harry Hunter.**

Exercise Shiny Briny was an HF exercise from June 21 to July 7 with 'HF' Troop providing a link between Blandford and Sennelager on the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Jubilee Review of the British Army of the Rhine. The link was voice on PRC 320 and VRC 321 and we were all chuffed to achieve nearly 100 per cent voice comms with excellent quality. The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Army actually used the link on the big day (July 7) and was suitably impressed (it says here).

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn B.F.P.O. 18

JULY

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. E. S. Drew**	(Royal Signals)
2IC	**Cdt M. P. H. Beeckaert**	(BE Army)
OC Ops Tp	**Kapt C. Heynen**	(NL Army)
OC Admin Tp	**HFW N. Grass**	(GE Army)
SSM	**AOO1 V. Lambaart**	(NL Army)
Security Offr	**WO2 (Y of S) A. Young**	(Royal Signals)
OIC Tech Wksp	**SM M. Engelen**	(BE Army)
Ops Tp Ssgt	**Ssgt K. E. Russell**	(Royal Signals)
MT Offr	**Sgt W. McAllister**	(Royal Signals)
Chief Clerk	**Sgt P. Campbell**	(Royal Signals)
BR Remote Cmdr	**Ssgt D. Day**	(Royal Signals)

'NO, you are not imagining it, Staff, it really does say you are volunteered to write our first WIRE notes in a long time.' Now I have recovered from the initial shock I will attempt to put pen to paper and explain the complexities of our *very different* Squadron.

MAKE UP

It is reported that it is often heard in the NATO corridors of power that we, the NASRS are a rather unique lot, and I suppose that all things considered, we are. The Squadron is a multi-national organisation represented in equal parts by members of the Dutch, German, Belgian, and British Signal Corps, all under direct command of **Maj Dicky Drew.** As you can see by the above list of our heads of departments we have a very international flavour, what other Squadron can boast being commanded by a British Major, having a Belgian Commandant as 2IC, a Dutch SSM and a German SQMS, I think that alone must take some beating!

THE TASK

Our job very briefly is supplying for our bosses, NORTHAG Signal Support Group, the comms system between the national In-Flight/Air Request detachments, who are attached to the Squadron, on to the Air Support Staff at the JOC (Joint Operations Centre), Maastricht. To keep the system completely in the Squadron we also man the Air Support Commcen at the JOC.

WHEREABOUTS AND TRADE OFFER

We are based in a delightful part of Limburg, namely Tongeren, which is approximately 15km west of Maastricht. We share the barracks, named Ambiorix, with a multitude of other international organisations, so as you can imagine there is never a dull moment. In fact we are rather handily placed on the road to Ostend and Zeebrugge for any Corps members on their way home to the UK on leave, etc. So visitors will be made more than welcome, we will trade coffee for information on the Corps affairs in BAOR.

UK PERSONALITIES

Although we are a multi-national Squadron this is our Corps magazine so I will attempt to give a quick run down of our UK personalities!

I have already mentioned our illustrious OC, **Maj Dicky Drew,** who lays claim that the odd 'pancho tash' makes some of us look more like our NATO counterparts. **WO2 (Y of S) Tony Young** claims to be the Unit table football champion but he has never been known to play a German singlehanded. **Ssgt Keith Russell** has always claimed that he once played soccer for the Corps team, it was confirmed last month when a visiting *(long serving)* TOT remembered *the game*. **Ssgt Dave Day** who is our UK remote commander has a security problem due to his fanatical praise of the Japanese nation (he owns a Toyota). This is **Sgt Clive Rogers'** (REME) first tour with the Corps, he is still forming his opinion but he has been known to make some unflattering remarks whilst he leaves skin from his knuckles on some ailing Land-Rover's sump bolt. **Sgt 'Doc' Hyde,** after three (3) freefall 'smack ups' has now reserved his jumps to the social variety. **Sgt Pete Campbell** was about to remould the Squadron football team into giant-killers until the Dutch and German members of the team refused to train at lunchtime. **Sgt Chris Wise** claims to be the highest rank living in Liege, yes, there are officers living in the city but **Chris** lives on the 18th floor. **Cpl 'Stu' McDonald** is a new arrival from the UK (ex-244 Sqn) and can still be heard muttering 'How much is that in pounds, then?'. **Cpl 'Mac' McKendrick** has never been the same since he was informed on his arrival that the Squadron did not possess any canoes and has no funds to buy any. **Lcpl George Ralph** claims that a few Signalmen would be beneficial to the Squadron. **Cpls Dave Hollis** and **'Cookie' Burns** are the only operators who can claim to have worked both ends of the link. Dave has been involved in other work as his wife, **Carol,** produced a baby girl on May 6 this year. Congratulations **Dave** and **Carol. Cpl Phil Tettersell,** our Squadron powerman, has finally admitted that our 'made in Belgium' generators have him baffled. Finally, **Sgt 'Bill' (Bionic Ear) McAllister** reckons he would have cracked the Dutch lingo if he had not been made redundant.

TRANSFER SCOOP

Although the make-up of the Squadron prevents us from entering any of the more well-known Service sports leagues we do manage to keep ourselves active by taking on the other departments within NSSG and JOC. We have a flourishing soccer club at the moment thanks mainly to the efforts of **Sgt Mike Stuart** who sadly left us on redundancy in March this year; thanks for the start, **Mike.** We have to scrounge around for fixtures so if any Squadron or Troop team fancies a weekend at Tongeren and a game of football contact us please, no problem with accommodation. We must warn you though that we actually pulled off the transfer scoop of the season on attaining **Sgt Pete Campbell** of 28 Sig Regt (Army Champions 1977) Corps and Army football fame. (Thank you, Records), with him leading us next season nothing can stop us.

RECENT DEPARTURES

Within the last two months we have bade farewell to **Sgt Gerry** and **Rose Horan** to 4 Div; **Sgt Mike** and **Alex Stuart** to civvie street; **Sgt 'Lofty'** and **Joan Evans** to recruiting at Morecambe; and lastly, and more recently, **Cpl Terry** and **Chris Lofthouse** to SCHOSIGS. Goodbye and good luck to you all.

(*Note for the Editor:* We have been too long absent from the pages of our magazine so for the future we intend to be regular contributors. [*Editor's note:* Welcome back!])

AUGUST

ATHLETES TO THE FORE

SINCE our last WIRE notes the Squadron has been fairly active on the sporting scene. Firstly came the NSSG Sports Meeting at Rheindahlen, which we class as our main athletics meeting of the year. Although we don't seem to achieve any great results, the athletes within the Squadron welcome the chance to compete. A special mention must be given to **Sld Den Heart** our 'Belgian Superstar' who gained second and third place in the 100m and 200m events, also the good sportsmanship of **Cpl Alan Hill** and **Sld Alf Govers** (NL Army) who although lapped twice in the 500m still finished the event.

After a strenuous day came the prizegiving ceremony presented by **Gen Von der Osten** (Chief of Staff NORTHAG), and **Kapt Heynen** (NL Army). Our Sports Officer nobly accepted our 'booby prize' for finishing in joint last position. Although no great results were achieved again this year an enjoyable day was had by all the Squadron.

SOCCER DUELS

Friday, June 24, saw the Squadron inter-Nation Five-a-Side Football Competition. Last year's winners were the Dutch contingent and were favourites to win again this year, but the British were determined to change this.

The first match was played at a hard fast pace but the Belgian side took longer to gain the measure of the stonefloor pitch and finally lost 2—1 to a skilful but temperamental Dutch side.

Then came the British/German game and the 'Brits' were beaten a solid 5—2, but then the 'Brits' without a rest, beat the Belgians 8—3. The results of the next two games were: Netherlands 3 *v* Germans 2; Germans 4 *v* Belgians 3; and then came the British/Dutch game to see who would go through to the final. After a hard-fought game and a few comments from the Dutch side about the 'Brit ref', the British won 5—3!

The final was the British against the Germans. The Germans by this time were tiring fast due to having no substitutes, and the score of 7—2 to the British tells the story.

The Winner's Trophy was presented by the Squadron 2IC, **Cdt Beeckaert** (BE Army) to the British team captain, **Cpl 'Cookie' Burns,** finishing off a good day's football.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOINGS

The Squadron congratulates **Ssgt Keith Russell** on being awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. We also say farewell to **Sgt Bill McAllister** and his wife **Gwynne,** on their way to 'civvy street'. Good look to you both.

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

PERSONALITIES

HAVING given a list of officers and certain Senior NCOs in our last notes, we thought some readers might like to know where some more of their friends are. We propose, therefore, to include other personalities throughout the year, until we get back round to the hierarchy.

Ssgt Paul Lewer	—	SQMS Tech
A/Ssgt John Fitzpatrick	—	SQMS Accn
A/Ssgt Tom Fulton	—	Trg Wing
Ssgt Pete Shotts	—	Commcen Tp Sgt
Sgt Ken Counsell	—	'A' Tp Comd
Sgt Dee Peart	—	'B' Tp Comd
Sgt Stewart Harmsworth	—	IC Radio Wksp
Sgt Kevin Lightfoot	—	IC Telecomms Wksp
Sgt Benny McSherry	—	MT Sgt

SOLDATENTAG 1977

Each year 1 Arty Bde join the German Army in Hildesheim on their Open Day. This is a display over an area larger than the Aldershot display, but not intended to be as intense or grand. We share Hildesheim with a Panzer Grenadier Brigade and are affiliated to them. The Squadron display was made up of a number of Land-Rover detachments, AFVs, C50 and terminal equipment detachments, in the form of a hollow square and set up as in the field. In the centre 7 Sig Regt very kindly set up a CcTV display and TARIF. In addition, there was a display of man-pack equipments.

The day began with a march through the town led by the Bands of the 16/5 Lancers and a German Army Band. The Squadron and the Germans supplied a platoon each. The aim was to wake the town, and this they did at 0800hrs on a Sunday! **Lt Crane** volunteered to lead. This gallant band is shown in the photograph.

VISIT OF C in C

The C in C BAOR, **Gen Sir Frank King, GCB, MBE,** ADC Gen, visited the Squadron on June 2. On arrival, he presented the Squadron with a Gold Comstar award. The award was presented to **Cpl Crook,** for the Data Telegraphists who were also in attendance. The C in C was also introduced to **Lcpl Sharples,** one of the Squadron Cooks, who has just won the Army Cookery Competition, Class 7, eggs. **Lcpl Sharples** will never live it down. Talking of cooks, we have one on his technicians course at Catterick!

The C in C also walked around the Squadron and met a 'random selection of specially selected soldiers'. Where the paint came from the day before the visit no-one really knows. Apparently there is none in BAOR!

C in C talking to Lcpl Sharples. Brig J. Stephenson, OBE, looking on

The C in C talking to Lcpls Hoensch and Thomas alongside one of the units's AFV 432s

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 36

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj Bill Robins**
2IC	—	**Capt John Griffin**
Comms Officer	—	**Capt David Palmer**
Adjt	—	**Capt John Gray** (RA)
MTO	—	**Capt Roy Owens, BEM** (RCT)
QM	—	**Capt Tony James** (R Anglian)
OC 'A' Tp	—	**Lt David Lynam**
OC 'B' Tp	—	**2 Lt Alisdair Harrison**
RSM	—	**WO1 Jim Akehurst**
ASM	—	**WO1 Bob Washington** (REME)
RQMS	—	**WO2 'Taff' Evans**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Brian Rice, BEM**
F of S	—	**WO2 Alan King**

SQUADRON HQ REPORT

IT is now eight months since this Squadron produced any WIRE notes. However, the past eight months have been crammed with exercises, to test us in our new non-mechanised role, and office work in reducing the inevitable paper mountain generated not only by re-roling but also just by changing our name.

However, there can be no excuse now. The Second-in-Command has delegated to each Troop the responsibility for producing a month's worth of WIRE notes. This month's lucky winner is **Sig 'Geordie' Slater,** a clerk, who leads off for Squadron HQ Troop.

SELF ANALYSIS

As all intelligent non-clerical soldiers will tell you, Clerks Royal Signals drink coffee from 0800 to 1700hrs daily, never work hard, never do duties, never experience the thrill of staggering around remarkably similar camps, and some would go as far as to say we should blush rather profusely when we receive our Band 1 pay at the end of each month.

Occasionally we do get the chance to get away from all these mundane tasks when we are ordered to dig out our combats and have a good time on exercise as all good soldiers should. In our Orderly Room such an occasion arose recently, and the choice of who should receive this esteemed honour lay between a corporal and two signalmen. The exercise? Exercise Lion Heart 3 (a quiet little three-day jaunt). The choice of who should escort the Troops on their holiday had deep repercussions in the Orderly Room and after much discussion, throwing of dice and drawing of straws the outcome was still in doubt.

DECISION

To quell this growing uncertainty the Adjutant, **Capt John Gray** (RA), and the Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Dave Falconer,** met to solve the problem. Still one nagging question remained. Why does the Squadron need a Clerk on exercise? To produce Part I Orders? To produce Part II/III Orders? Maybe even sending personnel on leave from the holiday, oops, sorry, exercise area. The Orderly Room Corporal, **Cpl Gordon Younie,** was dragged into the melee and he even went so far as to suggest that the whole office should close down and that the clerks could act as the enemy for three days. However, the thought of running through many unpronouncably named German woods screaming blood-curdling curses at the men did not carry the day. The final solution came from a most unexpected source, the MTO, who appeared on the scene asking 'Who is this Clerk-come-driver who is going on exercise?' 'Driver?' they echoed. This narrowed it down considerably since **Sig Glen Miller** was in sunny Port Glasgow leaving the only qualified clerical driver, **Sig 'Geordie' Slater,** a saviour if ever there was one.

FIRST DOUBTS

Now I didn't mind going out (yes, the lucky signalman was me), in fact I was rather looking forward to a change (from coffee to tea), but when we left camp at 2330hrs and drove till dawn I was having my first doubts and anyway why had I become a driver/ex-clerk? So the three days and nights were spent in moving from one location to another and it was almost fun until the final move started at dawn and included an M2 bridge crossing, which left me really baffled as 200 yards down the road there was a perfectly beautiful concrete and steel shaped thing which up until that moment I had thought was a bridge. Still I made it across and arrived back safely. Finally, there has been some talk of a Clerk going again in the autumn!

SILVER COMSTAR WINNERS

Lcpls Short, Bell, McIver, and Sig Winn after being presented with the Silver Comstar in the Gryphon Club

NEWSROUND

Congratulations to **Sgt Paul Trouve, Lcpls 'Geordie' Short, 'Dinger' Bell, 'Mac' McIver** and **Sig Dave (The feet) Winn** on being awarded a Silver Comstar.

Congratulations to **Sig George Bantin** on winning the Squadron Athletics Best Individual Athlete with firsts in 100m, 400m, and Javelin.

Congratulations to:

Capt Dave and **Mrs Palmer** on the birth of a daughter;
Sgt Rick and **Mrs Hough** on the birth of a daughter;
Cpl Jeff and **Mrs Smyth** on the birth of a son;
Cpl 'Mac' and **Mrs McDermott** on the birth of a daughter;
Cpl Tony and **Mrs Craddock** on the birth of a son;
Lcpl 'Geordie' and **Mrs Short** on the birth of a son;
Sig Stan and **Mrs Bruce** on the birth of a daughter.

227 Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 18

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj Q. Vigurs** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt G. Penman** (Royal Signals)
Comms Offr	—	**Capt J. T. Noon** (Royal Signals)
RSM	—	**WO1 J. C. Banks**
RQMS	—	**WO2 D. Wells**
SSM	—	**WO2 M. P. Hothersall**
Y of S	—	**WO1 W. R. F. Hall**
		Ssgt P. L. Gethin
		Ssgt A. J. McArthur
F of S	—	**WO1 A. G. A. Brittenden**
		Ssgt G. A. Bannister

NEW OC AND HAT

ON January 19, **Maj R. A. H. Hoghton** handed over command to **Maj Q. Vigurs.** The OC has now become a dab hand at switching hats from OC Squadron in a national environment to that of Chief Mobile Communications Centre International. He can be seen regularly dashing across from one office to the other, complete with map, compass, whistle, torch and emergency ration pack!

VISITS

Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge paid us a final visit as CSO BAOR on February 23. He presented **Ssgt Mick Hollins, Sgt Walley Gourlay** and **Cpl John Plumb** with their LS and GCs.

On May 13, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE,** OC Manning and Records, visited the unit. He educated the Squadron on postings and promotions, only to have his ear bent for almost two hours in the Sergeants Mess later, where he presented **WO1 (F of S) 'Brit' Brittenden** with his LS and GC.

Left to right. Back row: Cpl Graham Penman (*trainer*), Cpl Dave Hatton, Sgt Frank Byrne, Sgt Alan Ward, Sgt Gerry Taylor, Sgt Mick Corsar, Cpl 'Chippy' Wood, Capt Ted Noon (*manager*)
Front row: Cpl Peter Cosson, Cpl Pete Kidd, Cpl Colin Hough, Sgt Eugene (Paddy) Dullaghan, Sig Mel Hough, Sgt 'Chick' Greig, Cpl Graham Butler (*not in photo*)

FOOTBALL IN RETROSPECT

Capt Ted Noon managed to work miracles with our football team in both the BAOR Minor Units and the Rhine Area Cup. In the BAOR Final we played against 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on Thursday, February 24, at Sennelager. This turned out to be a real nail-biter and, despite some really fine play by both sides, the result was 0—0 at full time and again 0—0 after extra time. All 120 minutes were end-to-end play with some beautiful attempts at goal, but that ball just would not go in. The game then went to penalties which we lost 4 goals to 5.

It was better news in the Rhine Area Cup though, this was played at Rheindahlen on April 1, definitely no joke for 40 ASR RE our opponents. With just five minutes to go in the first half **Sig Mel Hough** picked up a well-placed pass from **Cpl Peter Cosson. Mel** cut through 40 ASR's defence like a knife through butter and drove the ball almost 30 yards into the back of the net. In the second half our super-sub **Cpl Graham Butler** loped on in place of the injured **Sgt 'Magic' Alan Ward.** Within minutes he was fouled in the penalty area and **Cpl Colin Hough** (not to be outdone by his brother) converted, making it 2—0 win for us.

HOCKEY

The OC is currently forming a sizeable hockey squad (known as the 'No Smokers Squad') by poaching from the football team, which he reckons is for puffs only! In fact they had their first win 2—0 against HQ BAOR at Rheindahlen on Wednesday, May 25.

OUTWARD BOUND NORWAY EXPEDITION

The OC is determined to have a Squadron of Gladiators and not to be outdone by **Lt Col John Blashford-Snell,** is preparing for an expedition to Norway later in the year. Wearing his newly acquired pith helmet, he briefed 30 of his 'volunteers' last week. Watch this space for a detailed report on the expedition.

229 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 45

PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj M. J. Cartwright**
2IC	—	**Capt R. C. A. Thwaites**
OC Radio Troop	—	**Capt (Tfc) D. V. Boddington**
OC MQ and Line Troop		**Capt (TOT) E. Holland**
OC Commcen Troop	—	**WO2 (Y of S) E. Jones**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) R. While**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Tunney**
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) J. Wells**
Chief Clerk	—	**Sgt I. Murray**

THE SCENE

FOLLOWING a busy period of inspections, visits and change-overs during the months of January and February, the Squadron has been taking some relaxation over the last few weeks. This has meant that a number of personnel have seized the opportunity to attend upgrading courses as well as taking part in various other activities. On March 29, the Squadron participated in the Berlin Field Force Rifle Meeting along with 3 Int and Sy Coy, and came a third overall in the Minor Units Championship.

Photo courtesy: PR Berlin
The OC, Maj M. J. Cartwright, bids farewell to Frau Heck on her retirement

During April we said farewell to the SHQ resident typist, **Frau Heck,** who has seen no fewer than 10 Officers Commanding come and go as well as many Corps members, completed a total of 19 years with this Squadron. We also said *bon voyage* to our 2IC, **Capt Speakes,** on his retirement from the Army and wished him well for his new career in the Middle East. A short (or so our SHQ Clerical Staff insisted) farewell gathering was held in the Squadron Club. On April 26–27, Exercise Rondo was held. This takes place twice yearly and is a Signal Exercise involving US, French and British radio operators.

This time it was the turn of our American allies to act as sponsors and the exercise started with a briefing in Andrews Barracks, in the US Sector, which was followed by the selection of teams.

The detachments were directed to move to specific locations in West Berlin during daylight hours and the accuracy of their map-reading was tested by their answer to a feature, distance compass bearing or inter-visibility problem at each position. Overnight, the detachments moved to a hide area and were each inspected for camouflage defence and administrative arrangements, in addition to being tested in radio skills when acting as net control for a specific period. The winning crew was once again commanded by the French, with **Sig Adams** as the British crew member. As always, the exercise proved valuable experience for our allies who soon became accustomed to one another's equipment and methods.

SPORTS REPORT

The sporting scene continues to glow and show signs of success and failure. Congratulations, however, go to **Cpl 'Taff' Evans** (ably assisted by **Capt E. Holland,** who somehow managed to fit it in before his golf lessons), on winning the Berlin Inter-Unit Badminton Doubles Competition. Also to the basketball team, on winning the Berlin Field Force Minor Units Knockout Basketball Cup. The soccer team narrowly missed the prize-giving in the soccer league, having to surrender to Ord REME in the play-off for second place. Evidently they knew the Y of S was away in the UK when selecting the date for the match.

The cross-country fanatics, on their build-up to the season ahead, have been around the German running clubs, showing the flag, and even surprised a few by competing in the Spandau Marathon (42km) on May 8. A special mention to the junior member of the team, **Sig Wright,** aged 18 years, who was competing in his first marathon. The Youth activities cross-country event during the school holidays was a great success and was undertaken by some 70 participants. Our thanks also to those members of the Squadron who helped towards this function, and to **'Uncle Bill' Burgess** who made the trip from the workshops to act as our MC.

On May 9, the Inter-Troop Athletics Competition was held to discover the hidden talent for the forthcoming season. After an initial struggle by Commcen Troop and a last dash by **Sgt Hand,** the trophy was finally handed over to the Shift Workers by the OC. Rumour has it, however, that the Commcen were pre-training for the event in between morning training and days off!

Photo courtesy: PR Berlin
229 Sig Sqn winners of the Berlin Minor Units Basketball Knockout Competition
Missing: Lcpl Morgan and Cpl Genner

Finally, our congratulations to **WO2** and **Mrs Tunney,** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Walker** on their recent new additions to their families.

The Squadron now looks forward to the Queen's Birthday Parade and the visit of the CSO BAOR. There's never a dull moment in 229 Sig Sqn.

STOP PRESS

Swimming

229 Sig Sqn (Berlin) in their defence of the Army Minor Units Swimming Championship won the Berlin Field Force Championships on June 3, 1977, and claimed first place in every 2 Div event on June 6, 1977.

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

JULY

OFFICERS MESS FOCUS

THE Annual Officers Mess Cocktail Party was held on May 24. **Lady Ashmore,** wife of the Chief of Defence Staff, was visiting Malta privately at the time and was invited to attend. She expressed considerable surprise to **Mrs Valerie Pickup,** the OC's wife, that the Mess consisted of only 12 Army Officers. This was probably because the guests totalled some 200 persons, including the British High Commissioner, Commander British Forces Malta, and the Air Commander Malta. **Mrs Kathleen Kay,** wife of the Quartermaster, and **Mrs Karin Clark,** 2IC's wife, had worked very hard to produce a most impressive flower display. **Cpl Mifsud, Sigs Drinkall, Wood** and **Zammit** provided the very smart party of Lancemen. The weather was ideal, being

warm and sunny, and the guests enjoyed one of the sights of Malta; sunset over the silent City of Mdina. The hosts relaxed afterwards at a private dinner party at the 'Birdcage' in Rabat. Altogether, it was a most impressive and enjoyable evening, and several guests were overheard saying that it was the best party they had ever attended.

'TM' TROOP REPORT

Maj (TOT) 'Rusty' Davis, Foremen Crowe, Taylor, Roscoe, Sgt Vincent and **Mr Bish** arrived on May 18 to carry out the technical assessment of the Malta Radio Relay System. **Maj (TOT) Norman Webb** arrived a week later to give the telephone exchanges a going over with **'Rusty' Davis.** Naturally **Capt (TOT) Peter Steeples, F of S Chris Shone, F of S John Shepherd** and their able band of technicians have been rather preoccupied of late. It was noted that the TOT even missed a few lunch-time sessions on the tennis court. It is understood that the Squadron have earned a very favourable report and 'TM' Troop celebrated by entertaining CPA to a barbecue at Gnejna Bay. The day turned out to be hot and sunny and a fine time was had by all, but the sun left its mark on a few of the more sensitive skins. 'TM' Troop bid farewell recently to the following stalwarts, **Sgt Dave Alburey** to ACE High Mossy Hill, **Cpls Brian Moore** and **Douglas Laing** to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Vic Smith** to 22 Sig Regt and **Cpl Vic Belcher** to civilian life in Malta. We wish them every success in the future, and say welcome to our only arrival, **Lcpl Neil Hardy,** on his first tour in man's service.

WIVES CLUB

On Saturday, May 7, there was a good turn out of Mtarfa residents and friends, when the Army Wives Club challenged the 234 Sig Sqn and Army Elements Team to a friendly hockey match. The wives, who were playing together for the first time, were not deterred by the men who had such well-known personalities as: **Ssgt Brian Peel, Lcpls Allan Palmer, John Dent, Sigs Ian Drinkall, 'Chippy' Wood** and **Colin Keil** to name but a few. Many a bruise was obtained in the battle of sticks, as the wives struggled to gain superiority. The wives, led by **Marion Reed,** soon had the men fighting for control. **Val Hicks, Pat Palmer, Pauline Benson, Sue Tarrant, Karin Clark** and **Margaret Fry** really put in a determined effort. The match was supervised by the umpires **Capt Clark** and **Ssgt Dick,** and in the interests of future relations, the result was a win for the Army Wives Club 5—4!

IT'S A KNOCKOUT—

WOs and Sergeants victors two years running

The second 'It's-a-Knockout' competition organised by the RN Hospital, Mtarfa Senior Rates Mess took place on the football pitch at St David's Barracks, Mtarfa, on Saturday, May 14.

Our WOs and Sgts Mess, defending champions, gladly accepted the challenge to their title and, organised by **Sgt Bill Stadius** and his wife, **Sherry,** the team prepared to do battle.

There were six teams of six members competing in seven events. The first event was a sack race with a difference, two in a sack. **Cpl Chris Tucker** and **Lcpl Steve Groom** haven't stopped smiling since they joined the RNH Nurses to make up the Oasis Club team for this event. This was followed by a blindfold race through a course marked out by balloons. There was much pushing and shoving and suffice to say **Linda Moody** (daughter of **RQMS Jim Moody)** nearly ended up in the monsoon drain.

Game three was 'ducking for corks' one at a time, and judging by the winning score of 323 corks in five minutes our WOs and Sergeants must be a lot of big mouths. Then came the obstacle race with each team tied together by a short length of rope. **Sgt Charlie Peach** proved to be the joker in the Sergeants Mess pack, and with his luck and **Sgt Don Murray's** strong pulling the team romped home to an easy victory. Game five made 'Cool Hand Luke' 'luke' (Ugh!) like a cartoon. The hard-boiled egg eating competition should have been won by the team of **WOs 2 Brian Davies** and **Jim Moody, Ssgts Alan Benson** and **Mick Kneebone,** and **Sgt Pat Lennon,** but despite proving again the size of their mouths, they were disqualified on a technicality and the event was won by the next biggest mouths belong to the Army Wives Club. Well done, girls.

Number six was a game for 'scrooges' or Scotsmen (no offence meant) and involved finding coins in a pool of coloured liquid. Ably led by an expert in this field, **Sgt Pat Lennon,** who just happens to be a 'jock', the Mess team were easy winners.

Start of the obstacle race
Sgts Don Murray, Trev White (REME), Brian Neil, Pat Lennon, Ron Foote and Pete Halstead

Finally came a marathon pass-the-parcel which involved throwing parcels over a 7-ft wall as fast as possible, while the opposition threw them back. The team with the least number of parcels on their side of the wall were the winners.

Possibly due to team leader **Jim Moody's** bad back the team only managed second place. At the end of it all **Sgt Charlie Peach,** our team captain, collected the well-earned trophy from **Mrs Houghton,** the wife of **Capt Houghton** (RN), MOIC RNH, Mtarfa. Thank you to the Senior Rates for their organisation and an afternoon of great fun.

SPORTING SCENE

Now that summer has finally arrived in Malta, the tennis court at Mtarfa is taking its fair share of pounding feet, and the winter tennis enthusiasts are finding it difficult to get a game in every day. A singles tennis ladder is already in operation and a doubles ladder is due to start soon. **RQMS Jim Moody** loves to organise this sort of competition. It is understood that **Col R. Benbow,** Commander 1 Signal Group, and **Maj Carroll** have expressed a wish to play a couple of games, when they visit Malta in June for the FFR Inspection. The Squadron officers are busily sorting out the doubles pairs so that they can provide different opposition each day. It is hoped that all this practice will produce a first-rate team for the inter-Service matches later in the season.

AUGUST

DUAL EMPHASIS

TWO main events dominated the life of the Squadron in June. The Silver Jubliee celebrations, taking place in Malta from June 6–10, were closely followed by the Squadron FFR from June 15–17.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Australian and British High Commissioners together with CBFM and the Air Commander Malta hosted two receptions on June 6 and 8 in the historic setting of the Grunenberg Battery at Fort St Angelo. A thousand people drawn from the High Commissions, the Services, local dignitaries and British residents attended the two functions. To round off both functions the Band of the Royal Marines Beat Retreat on the quarterdeck of HMS *St Angelo*. The Squadron was involved in the planning and organising of this event and our lancemen were on hand to line the route to the Grunenberg Battery.

On June 8 at RAF Luqa a parade and fly-past took place to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. Afterwards a large static display was opened. The Squadron's stand at the display illustrated the line and radio relay system in Malta and, by kind permission of Signals 32, a large display of photographs showing the Corps in operation worldwide. **Capt Alistair Clark** and **Sgt Charlie Peach** put in much hard work to make it one of the most interesting stands at the display.

FITNESS FOR ROLE INSPECTION

Hard on the heels of the Silver Jubilee celebrations came the FFR. On June 15, **Col R. Benbow,** Commander 1 Signal Group, accompanied by **Maj Dick Carroll,** his DQ, arrived at RAF Luqa. There followed an extremely busy three days during which **Col Benbow** inspected all aspects of the Squadron's activities in Malta. We also managed to ensure that the evening's activities were not neglected, particularly on June 16, when the Officers Mess held a Ladies Dinner Night. In addition to the visiting officers, guests on this occasion were **Capt** and **Mrs Tofts** (HMS *St Angelo*) and **Col** and **Mrs Seabrook** (Chief of Staff to CBFM). The three days' activities are probably best illustrated by a series of photographs rather than a recital of places visited.

Mr Falzon whispers his total years of service to Col Benbow, to the amusement of OC TM Troop—Capt Steeples, SSM—WO2 Davies and Squadron Commander—Maj Pickup

Sgt Peach's refresher course on U/G cable jointing is viewed by Col Benbow

Col Benbow meets Cpl Morris (ACC) in the Central Restaurant

LS and GC presentation—Lcpl Galea

LS and GC presentation—Lcpl Calleja

LS and GC presentation—Cpl Brown

WO2 (F of S) Shone briefs Col Benbow on the complex line route diagram

242 Sig Sqn Edinburgh

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj M. H. Priestley**
2IC	—	**Maj (Tfc) A. J. D. Davies**
TOT	—	**Capt (TOT) N. Walker**
OC WRAC	—	**Lt C. Buchanan** (WRAC)
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) T. Mumford**
WO IC Commcen	—	**J. B. Hagon** (WRAC)
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) D. MacPhail**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt J. Dunn**

ACE HIGH Detachments

Mossy Hill	—	**Capt (TOT) A. J. Cook**
Maybury	—	**WO1 (RSM) T. M. C. Stacey**
Mormond Hill	—	**WO1 (F of S) T. Kay**
Collafirth Hill	—	**WO2 (F of S) G. H. Nickson**
Buchan	—	**Ssgt F. Cowley**
SAXA Vord	—	**Sgt M. P. Munn**

RANNOCH CHASE 77 May 15-29

ONCE a year the varied elements of 242 Sig Sqn get a chance to meet at Summer Camp with the object of having a week's strenuous exercise to recharge the batteries after a year of (for most people) shiftwork. This year Mormond Hill, the Shetlands, and Edinburgh were represented for both weeks of the camp, with guests from 632 Sig Tp in Benbecula.

Dall Mill, on the shores of Loch Rannoch was our venue for the second time, but this year we had almost perfect weather for the whole fortnight. The mill has been converted by the Royal Navy into a ½-star hotel, and with a convenient chalet nearby for the WRAC element, makes an ideal spot for a summer camp. We invited **Capt Vic Preece** from 8 Sig Regt to bring his crag rats and rock bunnies (mountain walkers and rock climbers to the uninitiated) from Catterick, borrowed bicycles from 11 Sig Regt and two assault boats from the Engineers. Administration was in the capable hands of **Capt Norman Walker, SQMS Jim Dunn** and **Sgt Jack Pow.** Highlights of the first week were the cycling marathons organised by **F of S Duncan MacPhail,** during which **Lcpls Chris Wilkes** and **Jill Smith** achieved 'one-ton bum' status, and the rock-climbing efforts of **F of S Trevor Kay, Pte Carlene Clark** and others on the formidable crags outside Kinloch Rannoch. Here, under the expert guidance of **Cpl Tim Haynes** and **Lcpl 'Taff' Davis** from Catterick, what seemed impossible was achieved, and application is to be made for one of the climbs to be officially registered as '242'. Schiehallion

Left to right. Front row: Lcpl Rose White, Pte Maggie Hamilton, Cpl Pat Sanders
Back row: Pte Michele Simpson, Pte Wendy Hawkins, Lcpl Chris Wilkes, Pte Jan Ring, Lcpl Jill Smith and Pte Carlene Clark

Pte Carlene Clark, Sgt Jack Pow and Pte Michele Simpson

(1,083m) was conquered by several. Each evening weary parties returned to the Mill and, miraculously revived by supper, played volleyball until the evening's entertainment began.

Unforgettable Performances

The entertainment committee led by the **SQMS** and **Cpl Terry Hague,** excelled themselves. An evening of 'Mr and Mrs' compered by **Jim (Bruce Forsyth) Dunn** included unforgettable performances by **Sgt Jack (The Fonz) Pow** with **Pte Maggie Hamilton, F of S Duncan MacPhail** with **Pte Carlene Clark** and **Lcpls Donnelly** with **Dige Geldard.** So good were they that serious doubts were felt whether the Saturday evening cabaret could 'follow that'. We need not have worried! **Sgt Mick (Wurzel) Varvel** was terrific in his West Country act, the **F of S** injected some 'culture' with a poetry recital directed at an unwilling **Pte Michele Simpson,** and the final take-off of the Starship Enterprise TV programme with **Cpl Terry Hague** as the Captain, **Sig Joe Minto** as Mr Crutch, **Cpl Patricia (Promises) Sanders** as Lt Uhuru and **Capt Walker** as Mr Groans, brought the house down. The OC enjoyed it so much he came back on the second week to see it again!

Ssgt Jimmy Dunn, Pte Maggie Hamilton and Sgt Mick Varvel during the entertainment

To round off a most enjoyable first week and to compensate for missing the Cup Final (combat conditions—no TV), the **SSM, Cpl Hague** and **Pte Wendy (Dishy) Hawkins** organised a fiendish potted sports, which included a four-legged stretcher race and a water-soaked finale paddling the assault boats.

Water keynote

With even better weather, water was the keynote of the second-week party with swimming expeditions from the assault boats.

Cpl Hague led the cyclists, and rumours that the loch contained no fish were finally disproved by the **SSM, Lcpls Don Capron** and **Bob Boyd** who, after 54 fishing hours, found the big ones were lurking. **Lt Buchanan** and **Pte Valerie Hart** scaled Schiehallion.

Golf and rock climbing

The Pitlochry golf course, which must be one of the most picturesque in the country, was visited by the Mormond Hill Mob **(Sgts Eric Paul, Clive Wadley** and **Terry Sadd),** but even there they could not avoid the water, all finishing together in the stream by the 18th hole.

Cpl Pat Sanders climbing at Dunkeld

DADWRAC, **Maj Weaver,** visited the rock climbers escorted by **Capt Walker** where she watched **Pte Shirley Murray** doing as well as the men. The final night's cabaret was just as good as the first week's (says the OC), with extreme danger to anyone in the audience who volunteered to give a hand, as the F of S found out during the 'trained elephant' act.

Special thank you's

Our thanks to the cooks, **Ptes George McGregor** from Craigiehall and **Bob Wight** from Shetland for doing a grand job, and to **Capt Walker,** the **SSM,** and other members of the permanent staff who kept everyone so well organised and entertained. Here's to next year!

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

Personalities

OC	—	**Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
TOT	—	**Maj K. A. Rutter**
2IC	—	**Capt D. J. Case**
Admin Officer	—	**Capt T. Keany**
OC 'A' Troop	—	**Capt J. Boyle**
OC 'E' Troop	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) A. G. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Brackston**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) G. Lile**
Y of S Designate	—	**WO2 (Y of S) J. Lovell**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) M. P. Coley**

THE SCORE

THE OC phoned the other day and said, 'Foreman, I know that you aren't busy between 2359 and 0300—I want THE WIRE Notes on my desk on June 1.' I then started to think about it and realised that time just seems to fly past. We (Mike Troop) have been here at Brize Norton now since the end of January. We moved later than the remainder of the Squadron as the new workshop only had a concrete floor. A two-month delay, a few quotes from the new Health and Safety Act and we got our tough, insulated Vinyl floor covering. (We close the workshop down when it rains—the roof leaks).

SUCCESSFUL REUNION

We held our second reunion last month, an event which went down very well (the beer I mean). Ex-members came from far and wide, noteably **Mr Ron Block,** ex-SSM from the Tangmere days. **Maj Dean,** an ex-Admin Officer, came from 8 Sig Regt; **Capt Richardson,** ex-OC 'A' Troop, came from 21 Sig Regt together with **F of S Brian Pettifer** from 13 Sig Regt, and **Sgt Dick Sims** also from 21 Sig Regt; **Capt Wilkinson,** ex-OC 'D' Troop also visited the reunion, and so did **RSM Wally Lockward** who was an ex-Squadron staff-sergeant and SSM. He came from 19 Bde. From UKLF came **Maj Spooner,** an ex-OC. He insists that the present OC is just keeping the seat warm for him to return to. As usual an excellent buffet was provided by **Sgt Sutton** (ACC) and his staff.

NEAR AND FAR

The Squadron have been on a number of small exercises since we last went to press. A number of 'E' Troop personnel went to Sardinia to take part in Exercise Allegro Express. The journey out, which took three days, was by LSL which sailed direct from Plymouth to Sardinia. The NCO IC Detachment was **Sgt Steve (Have you heard the latest) Holmes.** The crew consisted of **Cpls 'Woody' Wood** and **Al Childs,** the rep from Mike Troop was **Cpl Paul Wilson.** As exercises go it was nothing out of the ordinary. The return journey took four days and was via Genoa and then by road to Calais. It was uneventful with the exception of a small story which has filtered back. Apparently a Packet of the Convoy in Avignon and the Packet Commander, a 'Blue Job', was seen to ask a blind person the direction in broken French. The answer, so it seems, was quite hilarious.

The Detachment, which was in Kenya for four months, has now returned. They were complimented on their rear link communications into the DCN network (90·7 per cent to Cypurs and Malta). **Sgt Mike Partridge,** the Mike Troop rep, had therefore little to do after the initial set of communications. Our detachment were providing comms for an RE unit who were involved in bridge construction on the edge of the Massi-Mara Game Reserve. **Sgt Partridge** spent part of the time as a dumper truck driver and then volunteered for a week R and R in Mombasa. Postcards are now starting to arrive in the Squadron from Mombasa!

Last month the Squadron took part in their first TACEVAL on the Station. The Squadron were complimented on their 'professionalism'. It was quite a common sight to see an RAF type with an incorrect 1250 (ID Card) in the Squadron area, with his hands flat against the wall and his feet extended behind him. I heard that the Station Commander was also 'apprehended' in this manner, well done **Sgt Norman Whaley.** It appeared on Station Routine Orders a few days later that all persons were to ensure that their passes were valid.

FOR THE RECORD

Sgt Des Welham has been with us for six months now and is still trying to lose weight by eating less and playing squash. **Sgt Pete Havlin** has recently got married. It was a closely-guarded secret until he went out to meet his fiancés parents for the first time wearing a suit, complete with collar and tie. His wife, **Ann,** plays hockey for the WRAF and we thought **Sgt Havlin** would be away twice as long as before. We came to the conclusion, however, that there wouldn't be enough days in the week!

Sgt Graham Wrigley has been promoted to sergeant, compensation for working on the C11 (SSB)s for six months on the trot? **Sgt Arthur (When I was in Hong Kong) Blackwell** has been detailed by **RSM Tony Morgan** to be the Squadron's 'Clark Kent', the Squadron's correspondent to the RAF's *Gateway Magazine.*

DEPARTURES

Maj Ken Rutter, our TOT, leaves us shortly after an eight months' stay to 13 Sig Regt. **WO2 (Y of S) George Lile** leaves on promotion and goes to the new 14 Sig Regt. Congratulations, **George. Sgts Pete Hewitt** and **'Paddy' Law** are both leaving for civvy street. **Pete** is going to settle in Bracknell. **Cpl 'Paddy' Young** has left us after a three-year tour and has gone to 7 Sig Regt. He worked for the RQ for the majority of the time in the FAMTO store. We have heard that the new action man for **Cpl Young** is in the process of manufacture, complete with armchair and footstool. **Sgt John Harper** leaves for the School on posting after a successful staff-sergeant's course at Catterick. **Sgt Vince Skinner,** our A43 expert, is also leaving for 22 Sig Regt.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ British Forces, Cyprus

Left to right. Back row: Cpl James Quinn, Sgt Neil Brown, Sig Murray Cobban, Sgt Mel Gowling—All of the 'B' Team
Front row: Ssgt Charlie Manning, Sgt Marty Roberts, Maj Colin Grundy (OC 259 Sig Sqn), Sgt Dave Chivers and Capt Derek McLean

SHOOTING

ON Saturday and Sunday, April 23–24, the Royal Signals (Cyprus) Skill-at-Arms Meeting took place on Akrotiri ETR and Dhekelia Gallery ranges. 259 Sig Sqn (West) entered three teams in the nine-sided competition. The teams were as follows:

'A' Team: **Capt Derek McLean**
Ssgt Charlie Manning
Sgt Marty Roberts (team captain)
Sgt Dave Chivers

'B' Team: **Sgt Mel Gowling** (team captain)
Sgt Neil Brown
Sgt Pete Shepherd
Cpl Jim Quinn

'C' Team: **WO2 (RQMS) Eddy Kellett** (team captain)
Sgt Doug Curry
Sig 'Mint' Cobban
Sig Cliff Swailes

Thirteenth man: **Sig 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick**

The meeting was designed as a rehearsal, and final practice, for the NESAM at which we aim to qualify for a place at the RASAM. In this respect the meeting was, for us, a success. We won the following team and individual prizes:

The 'A' Team: The Royal Signals Team Championship
The Royal Signals Rifle Team Trophy
The Royal Signals SMG Team Trophy
The Royal Signals Pistol Team Trophy
The LMG Pairs match
The Pistol Tiles

In the Team Championships our 'B' and 'C' teams were placed fourth and fifth, respectively.

Six members of the Squadron were placed amongst the top 12 competitors in the Rifle Championship:

Sgt Marty Roberts	1st
Ssgt Charlie Manning	2nd
Capt Derek McLean	4th
Sgt Doug Currey	6th
Sgt Dave Chivers	8th
Cpl Jim Quinn	11th

Capt D. J. McLean retained the individual pistol trophy.

NESAM SHOOTING RESULTS

After our Royal Signals Cyprus success we did go on to win at NESAM.

The results were:

CHAMPION UNIT:	259 'A' First
	259 'B' Second
RIFLE TEAM:	259 'A' First
LMG TEAM	259 'A' First
SMG TEAM:	259 'A' Second
PISTOL TEAM:	259 'A' First

Individual results were:

Champion Shot	—	**Capt D. J. McLean**
Rifle Winner	—	**Capt D. J. McLean**
SMG Winner	—	**Sgt D. Chivers**
Pistol Winner	—	**Capt D. J. McLean**
LMG Team	—	**Ssgt C. Manning**
Pair Winner	—	**Capt D. J. McLean**

SO in C SEES THE FORM

In the afternoon of April 26, the SO in C visited 259 Sig Sqn (West) where he was met by the OC, **Maj C. E. Grundy,** and the SSM, **WO2 Selkirk, BEM,** and undertook a walking visit of the Episkopi-based elements of the Squadron. His tour was organised so that he could meet and talk to as many members of the Squadron as possible.

At the 30-m range **Gen Tighe** declined an offer to fire the 9mm Browning pistol saying that he did not wish to risk putting the Squadron Bisley team to shame! His daylight visit ended in the Squadron's all ranks club—The Road Runners Retreat (or 3 × Rs) where he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 (F of S) Yule, BEM,** and to **Cpl Rhodes,** and a Higher National Certificate to **Ssgt (F of S) Matthews.**

In the evening, the officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned Troop Commanders of the Squadron, and their wives, had the privilege of entertaining the General amid the splendour of the Pompadours historic trophies in 'B' Officers Mess. This was a unique honour for the Squadron and one which **Gen Tighe** much appreciated and enjoyed.

There is no doubt in the minds of all members of the Squadron that **Sgt Bernie Thomas,** of the detached Mountain Troop, is 'up in the clouds'. Could there be some connection with the fact that when the SO in C visited the Troodos Mountains on Friday, April 29, he not only presented **Sgt Thomas** with his well-earned Army cross-country Colours, but also announced his forthcoming promotion?

AIRFIELD TROOP

On Friday, April 29, the SO in C (Army), **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, MBE,** visited Airfield Troop, 259 Sig Sqn (West). He arrived on the helipad at about 1030hrs and was met by the Troop OC, **Capt Mike Jefferis.** He was then taken on by car to meet the Troop.

The Troop were lined up for a group photograph and the picture shows the members of the Troop. After the photograph the SO in C presented **Sig 'DC' Declancy** with his Army Cyprus basketball Colours as the photograph shows. He then departed for the Officers Mess to change for the flight back to the UK.

GENERAL VISITS THE 'HIGH END'

On April 29, at 0900hrs, the SO in C, **Maj Gen Tighe, MBE,** paid a flying visit to the Royal Signals Mountain men at Troodos and Olympus. He arrived by helicopter, accompanied by **Col Ryan** (Comd 3 Sig Gp) and **Lt Gordon Hughes** (LO and OC Mountain Troop). The visiting party was met by **Maj Grundy,** OC 259 Sig Sqn.

SNOW

Gen Tighe was driven at high speed to Olympus by **Lcpl Sid Marshall** to find the Olympus complex encompassed by cloud and covered by the remains of an earlier snow fall. These climatic conditions are normal for this time of year!

After indulging in a snow fight with **Ssgt (F of S) Pat Baldwin,** the SO in C visited the Olympus Detachments and met **Sgts Eddie Higgins, Roy White, Jack Smart, Cpl Joe Emmerson, Lcpl Derek Carman** and **Sig Ernie Taylor.** Ten minutes later, after a record-breaking journey back to Troodos, the General met **Sgt 'TC' Craddock** and **Cpl Arnie Fleisher** in the Troodos Radio Relay Detachment. During coffee and mid-morning snacks in the Royal Signals Club, the SO in C presented **Sgt Bernie Thomas** with his Cyprus Army cross-country Colours. Having spoken to almost every Royal Signals soldier on the Mountain and after several photographic sessions (organised by **Cpl Paul Wilson**), the SO in C departed the Hill at 1003hrs.

Photo courtesy: RAF Akrotiri

Left to right. Back row: Sigs Fitzpatrick, Cobban, Wilton, Pirie, Lcpl Maycock, Sigs Duffy, Challice, Cpl Churchman
Centre row: Cpl Dudley, Lcpls Taylor, Mullen, Sigs Ford, McNish, Poland, Cpl Rhodes, Sig McGrandles, Cpl Allen, Sig Gordon
Front row: Cpl Thompson, Sig Declancy, Cpl Quinn, Sig Reeves, Sgt Anderson, Sig Sahota, Lcpl Tressider, Sig Brunsdon
Seated: Sgt Kingswell, Ssgt Evans, Col Ryan, Capt Jefferis, SO in C, WO2 (F of S) Yule, Maj Grundy, Ssgt Claffey, Sgt Fitzsimons
Troop members absent from the photograph: Cpl Cawtheray, Kennedy, Lcplss Campbell, Greig, Sigs Ashman, Bagnall, Hickey and McMaster

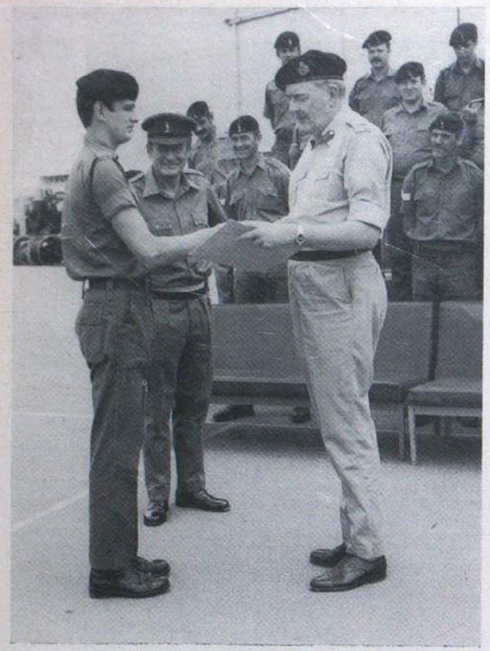


Photo courtesy: RAF Akrotiri

THE PLATRES COMMUNITY CENTRE

The 1974 coup in Cyprus brought about the relinquishment of hirings in outlying areas. Now, service families are once again living in hirings and Mountain Troop, 259 Sig Sqn, boast some 7 out of 50 families in Platres. Apart from hirings there was an additional need for a community centre for both men and families. A report on how it was provided follows:

An 80-year-old building, which had something of the air of an English country village hall, was located. After agreeing rental terms with the owner, a team—headed by **Lt Hughes** (OC Mountain Troop)—and rather affectionately known as an 'Improvements Committee' was established, and having been armed with power saws, hammers, brushes, pick-axes and a variety of builders' stores commenced the transformation from a 1935 vintage slum to that which is now a building fit for *Homes and Gardens* coverage, complete with a strikingly warm decor accentuated by whiter-than-white gloss paint.

The complex now offers an entrance hall which leads into the main functions room, a quiet library—already completed with some 3,000 books, a games room which will double for playgroup use in the morning, a kitchen, a storeroom and last, but by no means least, a snug bar complete with wooden beams.

The Community Centre was officially opened by **Air Vice Marshall Austen Smith** on March 30, when **Lt Hughes** was also installed as Chairman of the enthusiastic committee, upon which Royal Signals are well represented. Both an interesting and comprehensive programme of events and functions has been planned for the future.

Amenities and facilities are provided for all married, single, and unaccompanied personnel living in the mountains with an emphasis on cultural and educational pursuits. In particular, an urgently needed playgroup is being established to cater for the lonely and isolated wives, and Greek lessons commenced to enable the community to communicate with the friendly local population.

The list of further activities is impressive and includes sewing classes, cookery classes, chess classes, and so on.

Further work is still continuing to ensure that the building can be further exploited as an inter-denominational church, theatre, lecture hall, and demonstration room.

SPORTS REPORT

Rugby

The Squadron rugby team have had a very good season this year. After losing our first two games way back in October we haven't looked back, winning every other game we played. Some by the narrow margin of three points and a few by the massive total of 70 points. No matter what the score all the games were enjoyed, and the Cyprus sun enabled us to play good open rugby.

Unfortunately, we lost our Rugby Officer, **Lt Gordon Hughes,** after only a few games. He retired to the Mountain with his leg in plaster for convalescence. The only other major injury we had was to **F of S (I need a scrum cap) Matthews** whose ear is now joined to his head by seven little stiches.

We ended the season with a match against our old rivals, 262 Sig Sqn, with the final score being 40—10 in our favour. Both spectators and players met in the Squadron Club for a games evening. Full marks to 262 Sig Sqn for being good sports in all the games they played in during the day. Finally, we had two players, **Sgt Mick Uttley** and **Lcpl Gary Reeve,** in the Army side which played the RAF in the Annual Inter-Services match.

Soccer cup final success

On Tuesday, April 5, 1977, the Episkopi Garrison Minor Units Football Knock-out Cup Final was played at Happy Valley Stadium, between 259 Sig Sqn 'A' and 'A' Coy, 3 Royal Anglian. Both teams were presented to **Brig J. H. B. Acland,** Commander Land Forces Cyprus, and **Col T. N. McMicking,** Episkopi Garrison Commander, before the kick-off.

At 1500hrs prompt, **GSM Chilvers,** the referee for this match, got the game under way. For the first 10 minutes both teams were a little nervous, but the first attack from 'A' Coy was well blocked out by 259 defence. 259's first attack at 'A' Coy resulted in **Milczarek,** in A Coy's goal, bringing off two good saves to thwart the 259 attackers. **Gabb shot** from 40 yards which once again **Milczarek** pushed round the post to make a good save. 'A' Coy's forwards were falling into 259's offside trap, whose defence were moving out very quickly, and didn't pose much of a threat to 259's goal. The first half came to an end with neither team finding the net, but 259 slightly on top in midfield.

The second half started, and what the game needed was an early goal to open the game up, which came after 46 minutes. **Dunn** put **Morris** away down the left flank. **Morris** crossed, **Edwards** chested it down, beat a defender and rifled the ball into 'A' Coy's net to put 259 1—0 up. This goal prompted both teams to go forward again and again, but 259 were fighting for everything and it was no surprise when in the 66th minute a long ball through the middle caught 'A' Coy's defence rather hesitant and a mix-up between **Ives** and **Milczarek** saw **Edwards** pounce on the mistake and slip the ball into an empty net to put 259 2—0 up. 'A' Coy now had it all to do and brought **Smith, B.** into the attack and **Stocks** into defence. **Manning** came off injured to be replaced by **Leggatt** for 'A' Coy.

In the 78th minute **Stocks** came off injured to be replaced by **Smith, S.** and four minutes after this move 'A' Coy scored a suspiciously looking offside goal by **Bond** to make it 2—1. This goal put more fight into 'A' Coy and 259 were a little nervous, but the final whistle went and 259 had won the Knock-out Cup for 1977 by 2 goals to 1. This was a good game, especially in the second half, which saw both teams producing good football, and the game played in good spirit by both teams. For 259 Sig Sqn, **Kerr** in their defence played very well and for 'A' Coy **Ives** played his part except for one mistake which resulted in 259's second goal. **Brig Acland** then presented the trophy and medals to the finalists.

Hockey

On paper, our hockey team this year, could not compare with the strength in depth of last year's league winning side. Once again led by **Sgt Marty Roberts,** it soon became apparent that team spirit and a lot of fight can often overcome teams of greater skill and talent. In the 13 games the team didn't drop a single point and ended with 49 goals for, and 9 against. This once again gave us the league title. In fact we only lost one match to a league side all season, and that was in the semifinal of the knock-out cup. **Sgt Marty Roberts** also went on to captain the Army Cyprus side in their 1—0 win over the RAF in Cyprus.

Our photograph depicts some of the successful sporting achievements of 262 Sig Sqn (East), one of the smaller Suadrons of the Corps, in 1976–77

Standing: Sig Dowling, Cpl Bowes,WO2 (SSM) Greatorex, Ssgt Charlesworth, Ssgt Lamont, Sig Horton
Kneeling/sitting: Sig Eades, Ssgt Glover, Ssgt (Y of S) Gilhooly,WO2 (F of S) Spence, Cpl Lawson, Sgt Kilvington, Sig Henderson

Achievements cover: Shooting, Running, Squash, Golf, Soccer, Hockey, Motor Rallying and Cricket including individual champions in Squash, Golf, Target Pistol Shooting and Nesam Young Soldiers Shooting
No mean achievement by any standard!

News from Troops

St Kilda detachment of 632 Sig Troop

Report by Sgts Ron Belcher and 'Griff' Griffiths

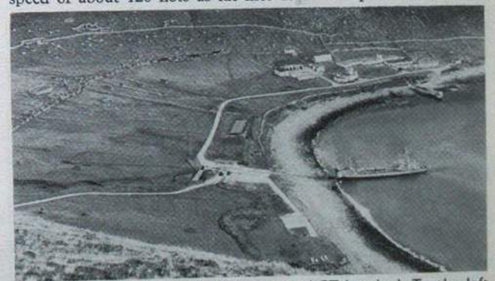
THE SCENE

SOME 120 miles west of Scotland lies a group of storm-racked islands, collectively known as St Kilda and owned by the Scottish National Trust. Hirta is the largest, a mere 1,575 acres. Four miles to the north-east lies Boreray, and a quarter of a mile to the north-west is Soay. Smallest is Dun, just a stone's throw away in the south-west.

The St Kildans left in 1930. Twenty-seven years later a missile-tracking station was built on Hirta, and the Army maintains a small detachment in the village meadows; of that small detachment four belong to the Royal Corps of Signals.

The Islands are renowned for their bird colonies, an ancient breed of sheep, a unique sub-species of mouse and the most westerly bar in the British Isles, known as the 'Puff Inn'. The role of the detachment of intrepid signallers is to provide communications within Hirta, and with the aid of a multi-channel radio-relay path, communication to Benbecula, and hence, to civilisation.

Owing to our remoteness we have a unique method of mail delivery. The 'post man' takes the shape of, usually, a twin-engined Piper Aztec, from which the mailbags are dropped at a forward speed of about 120 nots as kit flies as low as possible over the



Village Bay with the fortnightly summer LCT beached. To the left the old St Kilda village. To the right the modern Army buildings

Island. This fortnightly visit is very dependent on the weather; and on at least one occasion the mail has missed the island completely and gone to a watery grave.

The birds return

As spring turns to summer, excitement mounts amongst the island's winter population of about 30, consisting of members of Royal Signals, RA, REME, RE, RAMC, RCT, ACC, and RPC. This is due to the fact that the migrant birds (of both feathered and non-feathered variety) will soon be returning. Of the feathered variety in May, 117 different species were sighted, and of the non-feathered variety seven of one species (members of the National Trust).

Fancy dress

The 'Puff Inn', once voted 'Pub of the month' by the *Sunday Mail*, is the centre around which most of our spare-time activity revolves. To the occasional visiting fishing boats it can seem to be quite confusing when the entire island dress up for a 'Pirate Nite' complete with swords, sash, eyepatches and swashbuckling manner induced by a plentiful supply of ale and grog.

In spite of the fact that it is often known as the Devil's Island of the United Kingdom, it is very popular amongst the 'convicts' who serve there. If anyone should wish to volunteer for a sentence here you should address your letters to: THE ISLAND ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.

Village Bay from Island of Dun with *on the left* Connachair at 1,396ft, the highest point in the St Kilda Group

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

Report by WO2 Y of S D. M. Thomas

REBRO RIPPLE

THE quiet tranquielity of our Caribbean paradise was rippled this month by the dark clouds of despair when the threatened move of the Re-bro became reality. **Cpls Bill Medland, 'Paddy' Lindsey** and **'Taff' Walters** spent five days settling into their new 'all mod cons' foresters' hut, only to be told, take it out, it's back to the south and into tents again. Not to worry, they took it all very philosophically (or that's what it sounded like over the radio).

PALM THATCH ALIGHT

A cross between an American State Fair and an English County Show, the National Agricultural Show at Belmopan contained a sprinkling of everything. **Sgt Dave Tidy,** with the Signals detachment, uncovered the wonders of modern communications to Belize. **Cpls Doug Dummett** and **Chris Evis** installed and demonstrated two T100s back to back, and even **Clive Artus,** our domesticated Combat Powerman switched on the 'patter' when asked of a C11, 'What am dat den?'.

The Rodeo and horse racing drew large crowds, but were not as amusing as the impromptu fire-fighting put on when a palm-thatched stall caught alight. Local council workers operating a water bowser to keep down road dust, connected a garden hose to the bowser and drenched everyone, including themselves.

EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES

The inauguration of the Troop's new enterprise, 'Rent-an-Op' hit off with a resounding success when **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **'Dangerous' Groves** took on **Lcpls Mick Boxall** and **Billy Hutchinson** at operating the Battalion radio net during their off-duty hours. Not to be outdone, the painting and decorating department, at a loose end since they finished the Commcen, have submitted a tender for the living accommodation. Their charge-hand, **Ssgt Adolf Hardman,** nearly missed his bonus through wearing out brushes, but **Sgt Philippi** and his inside man at 30 managed to come up with a 'priority one' demand, and piece work continues at maximum output'.

The Troop's by now legendary hospitality is becoming more widespread now that we are taking in paying guests. Having said goodbye to the EST team we have the pleasure of entertaining four members of CPA, **Fred** the F of S, **John Spencer** and **Andy Andrews** to put up the Collins mast, and **'Dippers' Russell** for his final fling before going into civvy street. All should have known better since they have been here before.

SHARK FISHING—Sig Graham Verrall

It's not exactly Jaws but it is a start. After being stranded on the quay one Saturday morning because our boat failed to turn

Left to right: Sig Ginge Smith, Cpl Kev Crossey, Sig Graham Verrall, Sig Willie Maggs

up, **Willie Maggs, Kev Crossley, 'Ginge' Smith** and myself sat on the sea wall feeding chunks of chicken to catfish. This aroused my dormant fishing instincts, and within seconds we were hauling out catfish for bait and dreaming the great white shark. Arming ourselves with tackle and an ice-box full of beer we commandeered a wagon to the Rio Haul Motel, situated on the northern highway between Belize city and Airport camp. There we spent the afternoon lazing in the Caribbean sunshine, munching piping hot hamburgers, and tiddler bashing. While **Kev** and **'Ginge'** caught the bait, **Willie** and I got on with the heavy stuff. Then at 2.30, the shark struck. The bite came suddenly and line went screaming from my reel, I struck and reeled in under the tremendous power of the fish, **Willie** held me, and **Kev** held **Willie,** between us we landed the shark, almost decapitating **Willie** in the process. The success of our venture was celebrated in true 633 fashion, with photos for the folks back home and drinks for us in the motel.

TRAVELOGUE—ACAPULCO

True to our tradition we spare no expense to bring you a first-hand account of an all inclusive week in Acapulco. The Foreman, **'Chalkie' White,** and Yeoman, **David Thomas,** got their R and R in before the OC changed his mind. Staying at the De Gante Hotel right on the seafront with a view that stretched round the whole of the beautiful landlocked bay, the holiday promised to be, and was, all that the travel posters claim. Sunday

was bullfight night, not the fantastic sport it is cracked up to be, but the evening was enlivened by an American student who, having had too much to drink, jumped into the ring and tried to emulate the matador. He came to a sticky end.

Trips round the bay take on a different complexion when the price of tickets includes as much rum and coke as you can drink. Unfortunately, Elvis Presley couldn't make it, but the high divers were in fine form, leaping off 150-ft cliffs. Para-sending from the beach out over the sea was spectacular, but **'Chalkie'** declined to start his 264 training in quite that way.

SAN SALVADOR

The OC, **Capt Brian Chubb,** staging through San Salvador on his way to Mexico, found that Global Travel had forgotten to book hotel rooms for himself, **'Paddy'** and **Nick,** neither had their return fare been paid. Not content with these mishaps they all got caught up in the police sweeps which followed the brutal kidnapping and assasination of the San Salvador foreign minister. While understanding that these things are sent to try us, this calamitous venture was doubly unfortunate since the OC is such a staunch advocate of everyone getting away for R and R if at all possible.

WILDLIFE

Systems Safari Park received a boost when **Doc** conned **'Chalkie'** into buying a terrapin as a pet. **Sgt Allen Hill** threatened legal action for any damage to tomatoes or water melons. Two days later **Dick Terrapin,** objecting to wearing a coat of 'Dayglow' obeyed its homing instincts, and departed. **Sgt Keith Kennard,** heartbroken at this blatant abuse of trust consoled himself by buying a parrot and teaching it to QSY the E21.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

JULY

WRAC RECRUIT COURSE

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) was tasked to run a WRAC recruit course from April 23 to May 6, 1977. The course was held at Knook Camp near Warminster and 65 recruits attended.

The recruits arrived on Saturday, April 23, a little bewildered as to what was in store for them, but soon made friends and settled in to two weeks' hard work. The recruits included **Pte Isobelle Channing** who had been married only that morning and brought along her husband, **Lcpl Channing,** from 83 Sqn to assist in the running of the course.

Early start

The Course OC was **Maj Tim Hallchurch** assisted by **Capt Eileen Carter** as OC WRAC and **Ssgt Y of S Brian Alway** as Chief Instructor. The recruits were formed into four Troops. 'A' Troop was commanded by **Capt Jenny Lewis,** 'B' Troop by **O/Cadet Ann Ryan** from London University OTC, 'C' Troop by **Lt Lorna Latham** and 'D' Troop by **Lt Susan Fenney.** A typical day started with Reveille at 0600, followed by PT at 0645. After breakfast there was drill at 0810–0900. The remainder of the day was taken up with classroom instruction and practical work including the gas chamber and further drill. The day was completed with a 'shining parade' from 1800–1900.

Late finish

The course included a map-reading exercise organised by **WO2 QMSI Bill Coombes.** The exercise required the girls to walk about 12 miles between various check points. It rained for nearly all the exercise and it is to the credit of the recruits that when they arrived back at Knook Camp in the dark at around 2300hrs very wet, they were all cheerful and said that they had enjoyed it.

The drill was organised by **RSM Keith Childs** assisted by 60-year-old **'Taff' Lewis** from 36 Sig Regt, who is a veteran of about a dozen such courses and has been a father figure to many past recruits.

Rain for Pass Off

The highlight of the two weeks was the Pass Off Parade. The salute, in pouring rain, was taken by **Brig I. M. Rose,** Commander 11 Signal Group (Volunteers), who then spoke to all the recruits following the parade in the NAAFI.

Finally, the Brigadier presented prizes to the winners of the various competitions. The prizewinners were:

Best Recruit	—	**Pte Page,** 33 Sig Regt
Best Recruit 'A' Troop	—	**Pte Lawson,** 32 Sig Regt
Best Recruit 'B' Troop	—	**Pte Seward,** 31 Sig Regt
Best Recruit 'C' Troop	—	**Pte Poulter,** 38 Sig Regt
Best Recruit 'D' Troop	—	**Pte Etherington,** 34 Sig Regt
Champion Sportswoman	—	**Pte Whitehead,** 38 Sig Regt
Winners of Map-Reading Team competition	—	**Ptes Whitehead, Feest, Horwood** and **Carter**

Sgt Lewis with Bravo Troop on the very wet Pass Off Parade

WRAC Recruit Course—Knook Camp
Early morning PT at 0645

Sgt Peach from 35 Sig Regt tells Delta Troop that the gas chamber was not so bad after all

THE OFFICERS/SNCOS MESS—KNOOK CAMP
Left to right: Maj Latham, Ssgt Bowman, Sgt Murphy, Sgt Resoun, O/Cdt Ryan, RSM Childs, Lt Latham, WO2 Husband, Sgt Lewis, Maj Crabtree, Sgt Pridmore, WO2 Coombes, Maj Hallchurch, WO2 Mallet, Sgt Peach, Capt Carter, WO2 (RQMS) Howes, Mr Blackburn, Sgt Barr, Sgt Sheppard, Sgt Cottom, 2 Lt Fenney, Sgt Peerman, Sgt Ackroyd, Sgt Evans, Capt Lewis, Sgt Elstob, Sgt Lee, Ssgt Alway

AUGUST

BREAK WITH TRADITION

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) broke with tradition this year by holding its UK camp at Okehampton. The first week tested individual and Troop stamina. Pitting their morale against the Dartmoor elements both men and women practised survival and defeated the bleak conditions. The relative comfort of tents, and shifts in vehicles, made the communications exercise of the second week seem luxurious.

During the exercise we were pleased to welcome our visitors in the field, including the Chief of Staff, London District, **Brig J. N. Ghika,** the CSO UKLF, **Brig D. H. Baynham, GM,** Commander 11 Signal Group, **Brig I. M. Rose,** and our new Honorary Colonel, **Col W. N. Lang, ERD, ADC.** Other visitors included the Mayor of Harrow and the Chairman and Secretary of the Greater London TAVR Association.

Time for lighter moments occurred at the end of camp with a visit by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants to the Officers Mess as one of the highlights. **Maj (QM) Bill Sinclair,** who retires in October, after 37 years' service with the Corps, was presented with a silver tray and a precious length of D10 suitably mounted.

The Camp must be rated amongst the most successful held by the Regiment despite the deplorable conditions.

CBE FOR FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT

The Regiment would like to congratulate **Col D. A. B. Crawford, CBE, ERD, TD,** on receiving his insignia of the CBE. **Col Donald Crawford** is a founder member of 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V).

Photo courtesy: Maj T. T. Hallchurch
Visit by Commander 11 Signal Group (V)
OC HQ Sqn, Maj Chris Reynolds Jones, shows Brig Rose round 'A' Echelon Area

Photo courtesy: Harrison & Laking Ltd, Hampstead
Col D. A. B. Crawford, CBE, ERD, TD, outside Buckingham Palace following the presentation of his CBE

Photo courtesy: Maj T. T. Hallchurch
Maj (QM) Bill Sinclair following the presentation of the Silver Tray on his retirement from the Army

'Wombles of Dartmoor!'
Members of 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Sig Sqn on Hanging-stone Hill following a dawn attack
Left to right: Lcpl Blazey, Pte Knowles, Sig Cooke, Pte Stredwick, Lt Bubb

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

ANNUAL CAMP—SCARBOROUGH 1977

Overheard at the Camp Planning Conference

Training Major: Bit of a bore really, these signals exercises. All that setting up of wirelesses and things only to go and move them next day. In spite of it all, the volunteers usually seem to get them to work eventually. No, we really must think up something a bit more exciting this time.
Adjutant: (youthful, enthusiastic): How about a parade? I've always wanted to do a parade.
Training Major: OK in its way but chaps look a bit silly falling over guy ropes and so forth, but we could fit it in before the exercise.
CO: I've got a good idea, let's invite the new GOC down to do an FFR inspection—right in the middle of the exercise. He's new to the District, a light infantryman and bound to give them a good going over.
All: Good idea, Sir. Wish I'd thought of that.
Training Major: Let's go one better and give them a really gruelling Adventure Training exercise before they start the signals exercise.
Adjutant: Yes, super, and follow it up with a parade when they are all half crippled.
CO: (quite carried away): Then straight out on exercise and before they have time to settle down, a quick FFR, a Group Commander's visit, half a dozen crash moves and then let's see if they can come up smiling.

— and so to camp —

The adventure training

A pleasant stroll in friendly, informal company along the Cleveland and Hambleton Hills, with the boredom (should there be any) relieved by six 'fun' activities especially chosen by the Commanding Officer. That, at least, is what the brochure said.

One or two of the 'older soldiers' were just a little sceptical about all this. They were right to be. It was a 25-mile 'stroll' chosen, it would seem, to cross as many of those brown lines as possible and to cross them at right-angles, of course.

The 'fun' activities

Sgt 'Pancho' Rylance and his Andean chasm to be crossed with the aid of a home-made rope bridge and a colloquial interpreter **Sgt Colin Elstob.** Every man and girl tackled this with reckless abandon. Most got across. Not many were injured. Fastest time: **Lt George Townley's** informal group.

Those that had not gained real life first aid experience crossing the chasm were then tested by **Sgts Tankard** and **Trippier.** Anyone who could produce a blood-soaked shell dressing was exempt.

Not a victim of rock climbing, but Sgt Mick Tankard at the First Aid stand

Flowers for dinner

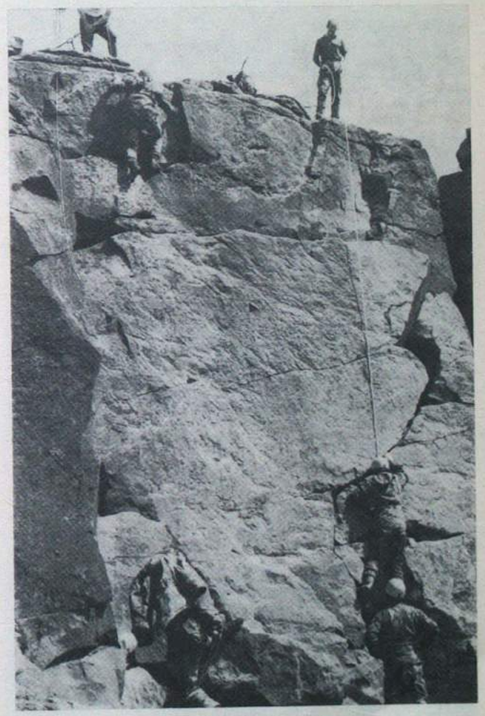
Further on, parties were given a most fascinating survival lecture by **WO2 Eddie McGee** of the APTC. Here they were induced to eat all sorts of things, some of which were even nice. It was, in fact, thoroughly enjoyed by all which may account for the unusual sight of male members of the Regiment presenting their female counterparts with bunches of flowers, not as a prelude to taking them out to dinner but as a substitute for that dinner.

Then a night's rest about which little is recalled, perhaps because of exhaustion or may be the Newcastle Brown Ale? Two scenes from that evening might be worthy of recall. A five foot six **Capt Jonathan Keane,** worn down to some five foot two, saying I am damned if we'll take a lift in your Land-Rover, it's filthy! The struggle of awakening with stiff and sore muscles was relieved by a remark made by one stalwart as he struggled into his trousers at six o'clock in the morning, 'Crikey, Joe, it's nearly ten past six and Mr xxxxx hasn't got us lost yet!'

On the following day there was to have been a map-reading stand laid on by **F of S Mick Johnson** but no one could find it.

A cliff card

This was followed by the really 'fun' bit—the climbing, where **Ssgt 'Sherpa' Tarrant** and **Cpl 'Pipe' Hardstaff** (on loan from 11 Sig Regt) hauled a Regiment's worth of soldiers, WRAC included, up a 60-ft cliff helped only by a stout rope and the substantial figures of **Sgts Davis** and **Rivett** from below. A nice touch was the birthday card wedged half way up the cliff for **Pte Diane Jacques,** and the cake, complete with candle, at the top. At least some of them must have enjoyed it all because they have asked **Ssgt Tarrant** to take them again.



Not quite Everest!

Greatly enjoyed

The exercise planners reserved the biggest PSI sergeants for the final stand as everyone was getting a bit tired by then and it was felt that **Ssgt Tom Padden** was just the man to quell a mutiny. But, believe it or not, he was not needed. At the end of it all everyone from Squadron Commanders down seemed to have enjoyed it—which is rather more than could be said half way through.

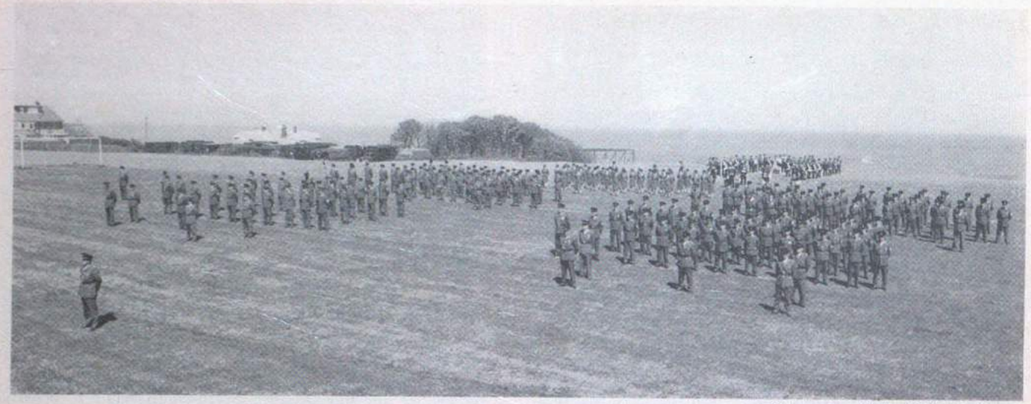


Photo courtesy: Walkers Studios, Scarborough

33 Sig Regt (V) on parade awaiting the arrival of the Inspecting Officer, Brig Norman Butler, CBE

Complete contrast

Then followed a ceremonial Regimental Parade in glorious sunshine on the sportsfield at Burniston Barracks on the Friday afternoon, in complete contrast to the activities that had taken place earlier that week.

Brig N. A. Butler, CBE, Commander Training Brigade, Royal Signals, reviewed the parade and presented the Territorial Decoration to **Capt Johnathan Keane** (HQ), and the TAVR Efficiency Medal to **Ssgt Les Goble** (HQ), **Cpl Larry Naylor** (59), and **Lcpl 'Paddy' Jackson** (HQ), prior to taking the salute during the march past.

The parade was a memorable and colourful occasion, and its success was in no small part due to the music provided by the Band of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, who were resplendent in their Full Dress Uniform headed by their Shetland pony mascot, 'Colonel Johnny'.

GOC sees deployed unit

The Exercise, named 'Yorkshire Relish' (where do they get these names?), went as planned, except that incredibly enough the volunteers bounced back after their previous exertions to produce an alert and active Regiment for the FFR visit of the new GOC North-West District, **Maj Gen P F. A. Sibbald, OBE.**

In a full day's visit he was able to get round the whole of the Regiment which, to save travelling, was variously disposed around Strensall Training Area. From there elements moved or were moved to various locations in and around the Vale of York and managed to communicate between them with very little difficulty. Worthy of note was our new OC LAD, **Capt Neville Hukin,** who disappeared towards a 'bogged-in' Radio Relay vehicle with a cry of 'have it out in half an hour'. So confident was he that no one enquired after him for six hours and, when he was finally seen again at RHQ some 12 hours later, no one like to ask him what he had been doing.

The GOC meets WO2 (RQMS) Nick Robinson during Exercise Yorkshire Relish

The Group Commander meets the US Army in the form of Top Sgt Bailey and SP5 Varga

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ North-East District

'After that NBC attack it's a relief to see you, General!'

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

FREEDOM OF DARLINGTON

THE Regiment has been honoured by being granted the Freedom of the Borough of Darlington as recognition of the long association with the town of 50 (Northumbrian) Sig Regt (TA) and its successor, 50 (Northumbrian) Sqn of 34 (N) Sig Regt (V). At a ceremony in the Town Hall on Saturday, June 11, the Mayor handed to the Honorary Colonel, **Col L. J. D. Davies, TD,** the scroll, and an exchange of gifts took place between the Regiment and the town. Immediately afterwards, the cermony was re-enacted at a parade outside the Town Hall. Following the parade, commanded by the 2IC, **Maj Graham Mitchell,** the Regiment exercised its right to march through the streets of Darlington with drums beating and bayonets fixed. The salute was taken by the Mayor and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Colin Beadle.** Later the Regiment entertained the Mayor, civic dignitaries, military guests, former members of the Regiment, and the wives and families of those on parade at a reception and buffet lunch at the Bradford Armoury, 50 Sqn's centre in Darlington.

The Regiment is particularly proud of this honour, which, by happy coincidence, was conferred on the day when the appointment of our new Colonel-in-Chief was announced. It completes a 'hat-trick' of Freedoms, adding to those of Leeds and Middlesbrough.

Maj TOM SWALES (QM)

After 38 years of Regular Army service, our Quartermaster, **Maj Tom Swales,** has retired, but happily is still with us, having signed on again as PSO of 81 Sig Sqn (V) who are now attached to us for administration purposes. His successor is **Maj Dai Rees,** who has joined us from 8 Sig Regt.

WO2 GALLAGHER (WRAC)

After many years of service with the Regiment our WRAC PSWO, **WO2 Ollie Gallagher** (WRAC), has left us. She joined 50 (N) Sig Regt (TA) in 1962 and served in that Regiment, later 34 Regt, reaching the rank of staff-sergeant before taking up the appointment of PSWO. However, Cupid in the form of **WO2 (F of S) John Gallagher,** claimed her, and she has now gone to join her husband in BAOR.

ANOTHER REGIMENTAL MARRIAGE

Ssgt (Y of S) Eddie Jones arrived in the Regiment some three months ago as a bachelor, but on June 4 married the Regiment's newest Officer Cadet, **Moira Haikings.** We wish them both much future happiness.

MATTERS MILITARY

The usual intensive programme of military activities continues, leading up to Camp at Cultybraggan in August. We have held several exercises, successfully linking up all our five centres throughout the North-East. This year, too, we achieved our first appearance among the prizes at the North-East District Shoot when the 50 Sqn pair took second place in the Moving Target Practice.

The Mayor inspecting 50 (Northumbrian) Sig Sqn (V), stops to talk to Ssgt W. D. Hedley

Mayor of Darlington presents the gift from the people of Darlington to the Commanding Officer

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Royal Signals TA & VR Band marches past led by the Bandmaster, WO1 M. Pope

The Mayor inspects WRAC Sqn and stops to talk to Sgt M. Turner of 'B' Troop (Hull), 49 (West Riding) Sig Sqn (V)

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

858/859 CORPS REINFORCEMENT SIG TROOP (VOLUNTEERS)

CONGRATULATIONS

SO far this year we have chalked up two 'firsts'. We have successfully drawn the PUE for annual camp and we have been honoured by the award of the British Empire Medal to **Ssgt Tom Avery.**

SLOW VC10

In this Jubilee year the CCR Signals Exercise Fighting Eagle was scheduled for the first week in May. This meant an early camp for the Corps Troops. Five days before, an intrepid advance party led by **Capt Tom Hatfield** crossed the Channel with two Land-Rovers and the aid of a Thorensen Ferry. Also in the party were the PSI, **Sgt Bob Birrell, Sgt Chris Deadman,** and **Cpl Ed Thomas.** Too early in the morning of April 30 the main party left the TA Centre in a coach going in the wrong direction for RAF Brize Norton. A short sharp trip by VC10 to Brussels, then by coach to BFA at Emblem. Total time for air party to make the trip, nine hours; while the road party took eight hours; the wonders of modern transport! Another early start on Monday saw us all, complete with freshly-drawn shiny vehicles, rushing into Germany to join 22 Sig Regt on exercise. On arrival, we slotted into **Maj Mike McCann's** 3 Sqn, to renew old friendships and to forge many new ones. **Cpl Roy Hollands** and **Cpl (now Sgt) Morry Holmes** (Dud and Pete) attached from 36 Sig Regt (V) soon found their feet and gave us the benefit of their technical expertise. After King Edwards, what cigar could ever taste the same?

SUCCESS AND THANK YOU

At the end of the exercise we returned to BFA to hand back the PUE. The planned rear party proved unnecessary and all troops were back in Eastbourne by Saturday evening. The success of our camp this year was in no small measure due to the efficient manner in which the equipment is cared for in the BFA. Thanks are due to 608 Sig Troop and in particular **Ssgt Barry Suffin** and **Sgt Ken (Bad Penny) Gibson** the former Corp Troops' PSI at Eastbourne.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since returning from camp we have welcomed our new PSI, **Sgt Peter Marvin,** from Northern Ireland and on a temporary basis **Sgt Brian Oram** from BAOR. We are shortly to say 'Adieu' to **Sgt Bob Birrell** when he is posted on promotion as Staff Sergeant to BAOR.

38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield

A CHALLENGE TAKEN UP

AS part of its annual publicity and recruiting campaign, 38 Sig Regt (Volunteers) challenged the youth of Sheffield to join the Regiment in tackling the famous Lyke Wake Walk, a 43-mile trek from Osmotherley to Ravenscar in North Yorkshire. The challenge was made through the local newspapers, by posters and, no doubt, by the odd gauntlet being thrown down. The response was such that 61 civilians joined the 30 marchers from the Regiment who assembled at the start line as dawn broke on May 7.

Many blisters later, 68 of the starters finished the course and received their certificates from **Lt Col Frank Pedley,** Commanding Officer 38 Sig Regt (V). The challenge had been well and truly met.

Photo courtesy: Sheffield Morning Telegraph

Lt Col Frank Pedley, Commanding Officer of 38 Sig Regt (V), who took part and completed the walk, moving off after breakfast . . .

Photo courtesy: Sheffield Morning Telegraph

OH MY ACHING FEET . . .

WO1 Derrick Sivell inspects his feet at the Wheeldale Moor checkpoint. In spite of his agony (!) WO1 Sivell went on to complete the course . . .

Photo courtesy: Sheffield Morning Telegraph

Cpl Roger Huckerby, the cook in charge of feeding the walkers, sets about cooking the breakfast, as hugry participants tuck into bacon-and-egg sandwiches at the first check point . . .

Photo courtesy: Sheffield Morning Telegraph

Lcpl Jill Darwin (*left*) and Pte Janet Orton enjoy their lunch at the Wheeldale Moor checkpoint—after 31 miles, only 12 to go . . .

Photo courtesy: Sheffield Morning Telegraph

Cpl Bill Panther and his team happy to have finished the walk, which ended at Ravenscar, near Scarborough . . .

71 Sig Regt (V) Bromley

INTO PRINT

ASK any Adjutant and he will tell you that when the RSM starts lurking outside his door and muttering darkly in his footsteps it must mean that the time is long overdue for WIRE notes. It just so happens that in our particular case the lurking and muttering was nothing to do with the WIRE but a bad case of spring fever, but more of than anon. Need I say that the last three months have been busy—someone told me yesterday that it was June; where did April and May go to? Enough of this—to business, after all, its July!

NEW HONORARY COLONEL

My first duty in this edition of the everyday happenings of the Yeomen must be to officially welcome our new Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers, CB, MBE,** who is, of course, well known to the Corps and indeed to all three services in his capacity as Director of the SKC. In his first couple of months **Gen Sawers** has been on a series of exhausting trips around the various Squadron Headquarters and to several Regimental functions, and I confidently bid him and **Mrs Sawers** a fond welcome on behalf of the Regiment and look forward to a long and happy association.

A NEW DRILL HALL

In this time of financial restraint and cut-backs all round it is very pleasant to report at least one area of expansion. On April 14, 1977, we were pleased to officially open a new Drill Hall which is located in Chertsey. The opening of new premises is, of course, a fairly rare occasion and we were pleased to have the opening ceremony carried out by **Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, MC,** the County Lord Lieutenant. The new drill hall is to be part of 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) who are already hard at work recruiting. The opening was a tremendous success and it was a joy to see a nicely re-furbished drill hall, full of people representing local government and commercial organisations who launched the hall in suitable style. A particular vote of thanks goes to **Lt Col I. N. Ryle, OBE, MC,** DL, and the Officers of the South-East TAVR Association who put so much into the preparation of the Hall. I am sure it will be a great success.

A UNIQUE TASK

At the very thought of yet another mention of the Jubilee I am sure many of you would consider passing on to the next article—but pause a moment. I am happy to report that on June 7, 1977 this Regiment provided the only active Royal Signals representation on Her Majesty's procession to St Paul's through the streets of London. The Regiment provided a contingent of four officers and 60 soldiers to line the route of the procession in the Strand, just up from Charing Cross Station. As I am sure you are all aware this was the event of the week and as one of only six Regiments and Corps selected to undertake the task we were justly proud and put a lot of work into the parade. The preparations in the days leading up to the parade were duly rewarded on seeing the turnout and bearing of the Regimental Contingent led by **Maj David Lamb, TD,** with **Capt Tony Verey, Lt Richard Duxbury** and **2 Lt Stephen Foakes** as 'half' Company commanders.

SPRING FEVER

I mentioned earlier a bad case of spring fever in the Regiment—who should it strike but the RSM! We all noticed that the RSM, **WO1 Bill Naismith,** was gradually going down hill, and then it was confirmed—he was to be married on May 28! We all tried hard, but the fateful day arrived and he actually did it. We even had our MTO, **WO1 Phil Winton,** as best man in the hope that this would bring him to his senses, but all to no avail. Duly at 11.52 am we lost our RSM to **Miss Ann Willingham.** I am sure that I can truly offer the warmest congratulations from all the members of the Regiment and those in the Corps who know **Bill Naismith** and wish him and **Ann** all the best in the future.

THE RSM's WEDDING
The RSM, WO1 Bill Naismith, with his bride, Miss Ann Willingham, flanked by the best man, WO1 Phil Winton and the bridesmaid

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Just recently we said farewell to **Lcpl Vic Millward** who has left his job as CO's Driver to seek his fortune in civilian life—we wish him all the best. A rather sadly imminent departure is that of our RSM, **WO1 Bill Naismith,** who has, as they say, received an offer he just can't refuse for a recruiting job in Scotland and so will be leaving here in July—perhaps I could even slip in an advance welcome to his replacement, **WO1 (RSM) Ian Rothwell,** who will be joining us on promotion from 21 Sig Regt.

THE HONORARY COLONEL VISITS 265 (KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)
The Honorary Colonel, Maj Gen J. M. Sawers, CB, MBE, having a drink at Bexleyheath with the Squadron Commander, Maj Colin Smith (*in uniform*) and Maj Bill Richards who handed over command of the Squadron last October

Association News

BLANDFORD AND CATTERICK REUNIONS 1977

WE are glad to include photographs in this issue of the Assocation Reunions at Blandford (June 12) and Catterick (June 25–26). Looking back, we see that 1976 brought dull and grey conditions at Blandford, followed a few days later by two hot, sunny days at Catterick. This year, it was most unfortunate that the programme for the Blandford Reunion was severely curtailed by heavy and continuous rain which started after lunch. The Catterick weather was kinder, and every item on the programme was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were privileged to attend.

All Members of the Association were very conscious of the considerable effort required to stage these occasions. A very sincere thank you to the Commandant, School of Signals **(Brig J. H. Hild, MBE)** and Commander Training Group, Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison **(Brig N. A. Butler, CBE)** and their respective staffs at Blandford and Catterick—Our superb Corps Band—The Blue Helmets—and many unseen soldiers and wives—whose contributions ensure memorable events.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association and the Accounts of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund, approved by the AGM, are included with this issue.

THE BLANDFORD SCENE

A group in the Museum including ex-RSM W. J. (Tiger) Hart, Col Nat Gould (president, York Branch, and Secretary Indian Signals Association) and Mr J. Wilds (Dorset Branch)

A group of London members
Left to right: J. Dawe, M. W. Macken, B. J. Jordan and F. I. Bibby

Dorset Branch Members
Left to right. Standing: A. Deare, E. Tobutt, S. Sowles, P. Howley
Seated: J. Wild and D. Ward

Four East London members: R. Dickens, R. Dennis, L. Kingsbury and H. Doze (Secretary) at tea

A wonderful lunch

Left to right: Mr J. Purdy (*Reading*), Mr A. H. Green (*Aldershot*), Maj D. P. Gardiner (*Chairman, Aldershot*), Ssgt G. Pickard (*Dorset, and Honorary Secretary Ex-Boys' Association*), Maj N. Lane (*Honorary Secretary Dorset*), and Col T. W. Boileau (*Brighton*) and their families at tea-time

...and Catterick

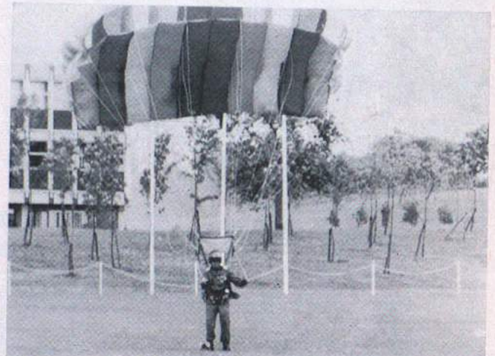
Pensioners L. F. J. Frost and A. T. Nash enjoying the Saturday evening with their hosts of 8 Sig Regt. *Left to right:* Sgts Cross and Dunlin

Three ex-10 Regt (1968) meet again in Helles Mess at the 1977 Reunion. *Left to right:* Dave Greenbrook (Assn HQ); WO1 Jimmy Greer (Band); Mrs Wendy Leggott; Derek 'Legs' Leggott (ex-WO1 (RSM) not yet with a Branch) and Ssgt Reg McKechnie (Aldershot Branch Standard Bearer). Ernie Gibson and John Widdicombe should have been in this group but were 'absent from parade'

'Was it that long ago since we last met?'
Meeting of three 'old sweats' outside the 8 Regt Sergeants Mess

The Corps Band marches past the Master of Signals
Alongside the saluting base are Pensioners A. S. Brown and J. Marriott. 'Joe Marriott' will be remembered by members of the Association as 'Joe the bike' from his days when he used to cycle to the Annual Reunion from Chesterfield. He boasts of being 81 years young

A display of Aerial erection over obstacles and a minefield carried out by two teams of Junior Signalmen of 11 Sig Regt



A perfect two-point landing. A member of the Blue Helmets drops in just in time for tea

AN APPRECIATION

(One of Many)

AT Blandford the Gods were not kind with the weather, since all out-door activities were rained off. This is a great shame when one considers the tremendous effort which the Corps puts into it for our benefit. We know that those who attended Blandford enjoyed their day in spite of the disappointments.

Then came Catterick. We have never yet found words which adequately describe this quite unique event, nor could we come near to full expression of our gratitude to all those who work to make it what it is. They must number hundreds. Two large Signals Regiments are involved, the 8th which deals with Trade training and the 11th which trains recruits and, there can be few members of either who are not involved in the effort to provide maximum comfort and the best of entertainment for those of us who served in days of yore. In addition, there is the Corps Band, a veritable army of ACC cooks, every one of whom could surely put the Ritz to shame both with the quality and the presentation of his dishes, countless civilians, waitresses, gardeners, etc, the choir and the staff of St Martins, not forgetting the good lady whose splendid floral decorations lend much to the occasion. Add to all these the members of our own HQ staff and you will begin to get a little idea of the truly tremendous effort which is put in for the sole benefit of those of us who served in the Corps, to which we are so proud to have belonged and to which, in our hearts, we still belong. Throughout it all, the warmth of welcome from the most senior officer to the newest recruit had to be felt to be believed. Long live our Corps, long live the reunion.

THE ADDRESS

A HIGH component of those privileged to be present at the Catterick Reunion of the Association attended a morning service at St Martin's Garrison Church on Sunday, June 26. We are glad to publish the substance of the address by The Rev C. Nettleship, OBE, TD, DL, who many of our readers will remember as a serving officer of the Corps. He retired as a Brigadier in 1961.

The letter to the Ephesians from which our lesson was taken was possibly written not just to the Young Church at Ephesus but as a circular letter to all the struggling new churches at the time. We know that it was written while Paul was under close aerrst in Rome—but to grasp better the imagery of Paul's great clarion call to Christians—it is known as 'The Queen of the Epistles'—we should consider a little more background.

It was written late in Paul's life—did he know that Nero was to kill him? It certainly seems to be a farewell message in which Paul calls his people's attention to the magnitude of the struggle which lies before them. And, of course, it is written against the background of his own times when pre-Christian life was a far more terrifying thing than life is for us today—but I don't say they were wrong. They believed implicitly in demons and devils and evil spirits—all working and fighting against the best interests of mankind. To Paul the whole universe was a battleground. The Christian had to fight—not only against the attacks of men—but against all the spiritual forces which were battling against God. Who would deny today, that whatever we may call them, the forces of evil are just as militant and alive now as they were then?

. . . If we treated these forces as realistically as did the ancient world, we might better be able to oppose and subdue them—though, in our general retreat from the Christian faith, we have surrendered the only weapons with which they can be fought. So Paul, in his call to arms, reminds us of these weapons—and our only effective armour in this battle.

Nor need we wonder from where he got his inspiration. He was physically chained, at all times, by the wrist, during these last days of his imprisonment to a member of the Practorian Guard, a tough soldier of the Household Brigade in Rome. He probably saw far too much of his escort, but at least he could draw a great idea from the man's armour, and translate the picture into Christian terms.

The Belt of Truth—the belt which girt his short tunic and from which the sword scabbard hung. It left him free to move quickly and certainly. To the clever, the cynical, the precious, there are many questions—the Christian moves rapidly and surely—and freely—because—in any situation, he *knows* the truth.

The breastplate of righteousness—what splendid armour. When a man is clothed in righteousness—and he can be despite all the 'uncertainties' of the mental sophisticate, he is impregnable, or to use the language of a less articulate age, bombproof. Words are no defence against accusations—but a good life is—it is what a man does, not what he says. No matter how false the accusation, how dirty the trick, how pusillanimous the authority, righteousness always and inevitably comes up smiling—and with no rancour.

And the sandals—the sign of readiness to move with speed to carry forward the good news of Christ. Convinced Christians can be nuisances—but it would be far less than Christian to keep such good news to themselves or to deny to anyone the chance of sharing the strength, the peace, the joy of the quiet mind of the believer.

There was the shield—and the Greek word Paul uses is not for the small round light infantry shield. It was the great oblong shield that could be interlocked. One of the most dangerous weapons faced in those old times, was the fiery dart, tipped with tow and soaked in pitch, it was ignited and thrown. But the great shield was made of two pieces of wood glued together. The dart stuck in the wood and was extinguished. The complete and perfect trust in Christ can deal with the darts of temptation and corruption, more, when Christians combine, interlock, the household of Faith is a complete and effective shield against the enemy—The shield of Faith.

And the helmet of Salvation—well, salvation not only looks back—it looks forward; it not only means forgiveness of past sin, but strength to deal with future attacks; such a helmet will protect us, in the certainty of Christ's forgiveness, and help us conquer in the days to come.

The Sword—the sword is the Word of God, at once a weapon of attack, the defence against sin, and a weapon of attack against the sins of the world and the devil. Cromwell's Ironsides fought with the sword in one hand and the Bible in the other. Without what the Bible tells us we cannot defeat God's enemies or win His battles.

Thus, closely and intimately, did the picture of his escorts' worn and shining armour inspire the imagery of Paul's letter to the young churches.

But did he not also learn something from such models? The spirit of discipline and service? It is a pet theory of mine, no more, that Christianity was carried to the South of England well before St Augustine's official mission came ashore near Canterbury. It was most probably brought by Roman soldiers, converted by that amazing strong man Paul, whilst acting as close escort to him, and then posted to England—(I nearly said the UK, but it was rather before that)—in the ordinary way of service life.

We know Paul admired the discipline of the Roman Army, and that, in protective custody, he had reason to be grateful for the shelter of its guardrooms in more than one place in the Middle East. From all this we might suppose that this craggy, strong and individualistic character learned the supreme idea of the sublimation of self to SERVICE. I trust that today he could learn the same lesson from our fighting *services*—possibly the last bastion, certainly the supreme example of selfless service in our aggro-ridden country today. How delightful it is, to come up here and see something really well done—for its own sake.

It is no accident that 25 years of selfless service to her country by Her Majesty The Queen has resulted in such a spontaneous and enthusiastic expression of loving appreciation as it has. What a refreshing change from the dreary self-seeking of the last 25 years over which most of her governments and subjects have compelled her to preside—just about the most dismal in our history. What a change from the greed of the entrepreneur, the expense-account fiddler, the tax dodger and the envious striker who drops his tools at the drop of a hat, utterly contemptuous of the misery and inconvenience he causes millions of his fellow countrymen. When we are no longer governed by the people we elect, and when the wisdom of age has lost confidence and surrendered the field to the brash 'cleverness' of youth.

Over all this the Queen has presided—and never put a foot wrong. Indeed, in recent wisdom of experience, she has spoken forthrightly and with true authority, against any suggested break-up of her united monarchy.

Why—above all this mish mash of current times, has her reign risen so far above the level of her subjects' dishonest and convoluted mismanagement? It is quite simply that she was very highly trained in, and has accepted completely, the very stern discipline of SERVICE. And she, alone, has remained aloof from the contamination of our age.

I would commend to you the book 'Majesty' by Robert Lacey. It is neither laudatory nor sycophantic, but it is redolent of the Queen's father's determination that his successor would be as highly trained as he was not. (Unexpectedly he took over from a brother who had failed.) He surmounted natural diffidence and physical disability in a way which can only be described as heroic. And—because he held the idea of SERVICE paramount, he became a beloved monarch of his peoples. SERVICE—that most honourable of titles, and one in which he imbued his daughter.

It is one of which we, too, can be proud—'The Services'. Service—the very opposite of self. No 'stint' (what a mean word), no perks, no fringe benefits, just a commitment to an unlimited devotion to duty even to the ultimate sacrifice of many we remember today. Of young men in Northern Ireland who, like their Lord and ours, display 'greater love hath no man than this'.

A great responsibility rests upon you young men and women who are, as I have suggested, the last residual core of discipline and true service in our country today, and also upon us older 'servants' who know the form. Only by an increase in the importance of the things of the spirit in unselfish *service* will the fatty corruption of the self-seeking materialism of these last decades be dispersed, and our country regain the pride and the spirit of which we have seen a glimpse during these Jubilee times.

Yes, Paul had an accurate model for his clarion imagery, and for his own *service* unto death. But we ignore his warning at our peril, if we are too sophisticated to take it at its face value, as true today as it was then . . .

'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood—(yet)—but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'

The balance of payments, cash flow, inflation, our own indexed-linked pensions—all material things, all things which have about as much call to the real *us* as a wet fish. Those of us who know anything about the defence business know quite well how shockingly unprepared we are. Materially we have had it. I am one of those who believe that the things of the spirit will always, repeat always, beat the big battalions. Who is going to accept the challenge? You young soldiers have already done so, you old sweats know that there is no discharge in the war—and the real war is still on.

I can only repeat with Paul: 'My brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of *His* might, and put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil.'

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY
12th OF THE MONTH FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE
FOLLOWING MONTH

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Garrison on Sunday, June 26th, 1977

Present:

Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, CBE, DSO, Master of Signals and President; Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE, Chairman; Col L. W. Wright, TD, Vice-Chairman; Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB, OBE, President, The Indian Signals Association; Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE, General Secretary; and some 135 members of the Association.

The Chairman welcomed the Master of Signals, Commander Training Group and Catterick Garrison—Brig N. A. Butler, CBE, and Members attending the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman went on to thank Brig Butler and his staff, the Reunion Committee, the Corps Band, the Blue Helmets and so many behind the scenes who helped to make the weekend so memorable.

The Master of Signals reminded the Meeting that Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne is now our Colonel-in-Chief. He advised members that he had passed a message to Her Royal Highness expressing the pleasure of her Corps on her appointment which at the same time, conveyed loyal and sincere greetings from all ranks, serving and retired. A reply from Her Royal Highness expressed her delight on assuming the appointment. Gen Bradley also advised members that he hoped to see the Colonel-in-Chief very shortly when he would extend greetings from the Association and its members.

MINUTES OF THE 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

Branches. Since we last met, just a year ago, new Branches of our Association have been established at Brighton, Lincoln, and Peterborough. You will all join me in congratulating these hard-working members who brought this about and I specially welcome the representatives of these new Branches who are with us today. On the debit side, I am sorry to report the closure of the Portsmouth Branch, due to lack of support. Today we have 55 Branches, including five Unit OCA's; the SHAPE Branch and the Indian Signals Association.

Membership. The number who joined the Association during 1976 was 643. However, we are not always aware of the death of members (76 recorded in 1976). Although our Association Records Section contains data on some 25,000 members, only some 2,000 are known to Branches. During the past year Association HQ passed details of a number of elderly members to Branches with a view to establishing whether they were still alive. Many have moved without trace. From this, you will gather that our Records must be viewed with some reserve.

Welfare. As always, our Welfare Section has been very active. In 1976, £19,592 was spent supporting 667 cases, compared with £18,439 on 647 cases in 1975. Included was £1,060 on Christmas grants to 204 deserving cases and £1,639 to provide holidays for those needing them.

During 1976 we sent out 475 clothing parcels. Our efforts in this field are exceptional and very greatly appreciated by the recipients. Our thanks are again due to the many Serving and Retired Members of the Corps who most generously provide—and often deliver—the clothing to our Welfare Section.

As is customary, we supported the restricted Christmas amenities for our Soldiers serving in Northern Ireland. We sent £500, and many of you will have noted, through THE WIRE, how much this was appreciated.

We made a donation of £23,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. During the year 30 Soldiers nearing retirement had received a total of £23,350 from the Fund in interest-free loans to support either house purchase or the buying of furniture and £2,565 in the form of grants.

The Serving Soldier, under the One Day's Pay Scheme, continues to provide our major source of income (£58,500 in 1976). I cannot adequately express our appreciation or over-emphasise the value of this income. It is our life blood.

We expect the calls on our Welfare Section to be maintained during this year, and are in the happy position where funds are available to support any case of real need which is established.

I cannot leave Welfare without reminding you that our senior Welfare Officer, Miss Molly Hyde-Parker (who joined our Association in November 1949), retired in April. I am sure you will wish to express our most sincere appreciation for all she did over 27½ years and to congratulate her on the MBE she received in the Birthday Honours. Miss Margaret Cook has moved into Molly's chair and we are still seeking an assistant for her.

Finance. Our 1976 accounts have been audited. Accumulated Funds stand at £250,820, against £213,628 a year ago. The market value of our investments at December 31, 1976, was £234,402 against a book value of £215,617. At the end of 1975 the market value was £241,541 against a book value of £205,064.

The Benevolent Fund showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £22,368. The General Fund also had a surplus of income over expenditure of £14,824. The overall surplus of income over expenditure was £37,192 and this is a very healthy situation in very difficult times.

'The Wire'. WIRE costs in 1976 were £21,158, whilst income from subscriptions and advertising was £15,392. The loss was some £5,766 against £4,975 in 1975. The views of the Serving Corps were sought and the consensus favoured a bi-monthly publication. With some regret, therefore, we go to six issues a year in 1978—clearly there must be a limit to THE WIRE subsidy, and in these days of mounting inflation I am confident the decision was right. Subscriptions rates have also been reviewed and increased from next January.

Reunions. Last year's reunion here and that at Blandford earlier this month were successful events and, as usual, well organised; though the weather at Blandford caused the cancellation of the out-door events. We are tremendously grateful to the Commandant of the School of Signals and Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, and the many officers and soldiers who make these occasions so memorable.

Staff. We have a new member of staff, Mr R. G. Andrews, who took over the Accounts Section in March so the Association Headquarters staff supporing our General Secretary is:

Miss M. Cook with assistant still to be found	Welfare
Mr D. Greenbrook	Assistant to the General Secretary and Records
Mr R. G. Andrews Mr K. Nazarin Mr F. Shelbourn *(Part-time)*	Accounts
Mrs G. M. Crawford *(Part-time)*	WIRE
Mr A. Walsh	WIRE distribution and mail

Conclusion. The Association is in good shape, strongly based on its 55 Branches and Affiliated Branches. In this Jubilee Year, I believe we can look forward to the future with confidence, knowing well that our Objects can be realised in close partnership with the rest of the Corps of which we form part.

The Chairman's Report and the audited accounts for 1976 (included with this issue) were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

ROYAL SIGNALS EX-BOYS ASSOCIATION

The Chairman advised the Annual General Meeting that the Central Committee of the Association had approved, with great pleasure, an affiliation with the newly formed Royal Signals Ex-Boys Association which would lead to all members of that Association becoming either Life or Annual Members of the Royal Signals Association.

RULES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the Rules of the Royal Signals Association may only be amended or rescinded by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

The Chairman explained the various amendments proposed to the Meeting. On the subject of Annual Membership the General Secretary explained that some 456 Annual Members had been paying their yearly subscription to Association HQ for more than 10 years. The Association had thus received from these members a sum in excess of the subscription for Life Membership. The situation in 1977 was that the majority of these members paid their 25p subscription by postal order and that poundage and postal charges now stand at 14p.

In discussion, it was noted that the overwhelming majority of these members did not live close to a Branch and that a proportion might regard the Annual subscription as a means of keeping in touch with the Association. The chairman suggested that for the future, Annual Membership should be available only to Members subscribing through Branches. Col L. W. Wright proposed that the Chairman's suggestion be adopted and that the 456 Annual Members to whom the General Secretary had referred be deemed to be Life Members. The proposal was seconded by Mr T. Dexter and carried by 117 votes to 6.

On a show of hands, other changes to the Rules of the Association were approved unanimously (see below).

ELECTION OR RE-ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Meeting elected or re-elected the following to the Central Committee unanimously, by a show of hands.

Chairman and Treasurer:	Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE (re-election)
Vice-Chairmen:	Brig T. I. G. Gray (re-election) Col L. W. Wright, TD (re-election)
Branch Representative for Zone 'A'	Maj R. O. Edwards (Leeds Branch), vice: Lt Col G. R. Gould (York Branch) retiring.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Col L. W. Wright, TD, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman on his conduct of the Meeting and the admirable management of Association affairs throughout the year. He also proposed a vote of thanks to the General Secretary and the staff of Association Headquarters for their efficient running of the day-to-day affairs of the Association.

RULES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

The following amendments to the Rules of the Royal Signals Association November 1972, were approved.

Page 1: Telephone number to be corrected.

Page 5: Full postal code to be given with address.

Page 6: Full postal code to be given with address of The Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited.

Page 10: Under '7—Subscriptions'
After 'Annual Membership'
add 'Through Branches only after 26 June 1977'.

Page 13: Penultimate sentence of Note (iv) to read:
'This ballot will be organised annually, as required, and the successful candidate(s) will go forward to the subsequent Annual General Meeting for election.'

Page 15: Rule 11—THE GENERAL SECRETARY to read:
'11—THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

The General Secretary, who shall be appointed or removed by the Ministry of Defence, will attend all meetings of the Central Committee and will keep the Minutes. He has no vote on that Committee.

He will keep a petty cash account and will bring it forward for audit with the accounts of the Association Funds.

He is limited to the expenditure of £100 in any one transaction without previous authorisation from the Treasurer.

He will keep records of assistance given by the Welfare Section.

He will keep a register of Members seeking employment.

The Central Committee may from time to time as they see fit, appoint Staff to work under the direction of the General Secretary. The Central Committee will decide on the salary and conditions of service.'

Page 23: Insert postal code of Solicitors:
'LONDON WC1R 5JL'.
Insert revised address of Auditors:
'Messrs Price Waterhouse & Co,
Southwark Towers,
25 London Bridge Street,
LONDON SE1 9SY.'

THE INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

IT was another night of memories when the Indian Signals Association, with its President, **Maj Gen R. J. Moberly, CB, OBE,** at the helm, and its President Elect, **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield, OBE,** in support, held its Thirtieth Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner at the Victory Services Club on Saturday, April 23.

It marked our new affiliation to the Royal Signals Association and had a record attendance of 165 including 30 wives. The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley, CB, OBE, DSO,** who is one of our members, came all the way from Northumberland to be with us. Our guests for the evening included the Chairman and the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen M. D. Price, CB, OBE,** and **Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE,** and their wives. We were also delighted to welcome once again the Pakistan Military Attache, **Brig F. M. Khan,** and his wife. Adding special colour to the occasion was Chelsea Pensioner **Leonard Frost,** resplendant in his scarlet.

The President, in his speech, told us of his recent visit to Pakistan, as reported fully in the last issue of THE WIRE, and said that he and his wife will never forget the warmth of the welcome they received and that he knew it would have been the same in India. It was heartening for us all to hear from the Master, in his fine speech, when Toasting India and Pakistan, that he believes, as we all do, that India and Pakistan taught us a very great deal and that they believe we contributed something to them is evident from the close friendship which has survived since 1947. The Chairman of the Royal Signals Association gave us some most interesting details of that Association and the Pakistan Military Attache made a very touching reply to the Toast to Pakistan.

Despite the passing years the Association maintains considerable numerical strength, and events during 1976–77 belie any suggestion that the organisation is on the wane. Since our last Reunion we have acquired our own Standard which was duly unveiled during the course of the evening. The Standard is unique. It is based on our old lapel badge and will be dedicated at the Catterick Reunion in June when it is hoped to support the event by the appearance of our own separate contingent on the traditional March Past.

The main object of the dinner, of course, is to bring together those who shared the experiences of service with Indian Signal Units in those far-off days before the sun finally set on the old Continent of India, as we knew it, and the British Empire. As Comrades they were unbeatable. Splendid chaps who faced prickly heat, angry mosquitoes, flying dhobies, high temperatures, low wages and Salig Ram's catering with equal fortitude. Men who could march for days on end through blistering heat with no more to drink than a little tepid water and lots of Murree Beer. It was where men often found themselves posted to some remote patch of scorched earth which would become their home for months or even years and where the only congenial company they would enjoy would be that of a handful of similarly placed comrades. It was where many solid friendships were forged based on mutual trust and esteem, friendships which have endured to this day or are just being renewed after 30, 40, or even 50 years of lost contact. To witness the surprise, pleasure and sometimes utter disbelief on the faces of the participants in such a reunion does the heart good. Names, places, and events pour from their lips, such as—'We were in Jub at the time . . .' 'Do you remember when . . ?' or 'What happened to so and so?'. For our part we were always bemused by some of those unbelievable signatures to be seen in the Char Wallah's Kitab in Upper Topa such as: Tom Mix, Olive Oil, Fred Astaire, and Popham Panel.

If anyone who qualifies and/or knows of others who qualify for membership of this Association and are interested in joining us, our worthy Secretary, **Nat Gould,** will be only too pleased to supply the 'gen'. Membership is open to all ranks who have served with Indian Signal Units, from General to Signalman, and we have a fair smattering of each, so act today, you will never regret it.

Nat's address is: Lt Col G. R. Gould, The Sycamoore, Church Lane, Dunnington, York YO1 5QA.

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JERSEY BRANCH

THE Jersey Branch of the Association held a stag dinner at the Hotel Savoy, St. Helier, on Saturday evening, May 14, when 35 members and guests attended, a new record for the Branch. The chairman, **Bryan Roy,** speaking during the evening, welcomed the guests and made a special welcome to the senior member, **Gen R. T. O. Cary,** who had made the journey from Sark to be present. All members were delighted to see the General who is held in very high regard by the Branch.

Gen Cary, in reply, thanked the Branch for their kindness to him over the past years, saying how much he enjoyed being present and how pleased he was to meet old friends. Among the guests was **Maj Dennis Carnell** from the UK on a visit to Jersey with the Herne Bay British Legion. An absent member, **John Rudkin,** sent a telegram from Guernsey wishing us well.

Instead of the usual after-dinner speaker, those present were treated to a fascinating show of 'Slides with Sound', showing the old Jersey Railway and the 1976 Battle of Flowers, recalling the wonderful summer weather of last year. The Branch has again increased its membership with **Harry Jack** and **Les Perrier** joining our ranks.

The Branch meets at the United Services Club, St. Helier, on the first Tuesday in the month, and any visiting, serving or ex-serving signallers will be most welcome.

QUEENS GURKHA SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

TWO events make this notice particularly appropriate. As readers of the May issue will recall, Her Majesty bestowed her Royal Title on Gurkha Signals on April 20, 1977; the title of the Gurkha Signals Association now becomes the 'Queen's Gurkha Signals Association'.

The second event, not quite as momentous, is that the newly titled Queen's Gurkha Signals Association has widened its membership to include all officers and warrant officers who have served or who are serving with Queen's Gurkha Signals and all senior non-commissioned officers who have completed two tours or are serving with the unit on their second tour.

The aim of the Association is to foster goodwill and close relationship between all former members of the Regiment and those now serving. Officers and warrant offcers posted to Queen's Gurkha Signals and senior non-commissioned officers posted to the unit on their second tour are invited to become life members of the Association. Membership fees are £5·00 for officers and £2·50 for warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers.

Application forms to join the Association will be forwarded on request to those eligible by HQ Queens Gurkha Signals. Completed forms, together with fees, should be forwarded to the Queen's Gurkha Signals United Kingdom Liaison Officer, Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. A copy of the Charter and further details will be North Yorkshire. A copy of the Charter and further details will then be forwarded to the new member.

Sport

THE ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1977

THE annual Royal Signals Tennis Championships took place at Blandford from May 24–28, in very mixed weather conditions, ranging from high winds and rain to hot sunshine. **Capt Michael Anderson,** the Corps Tennis Secretary, organised the meeting which went extremely smoothly. Entries for the championships, with the exception of those for the Mixed Doubles, were disappointingly low. Nevertheless, the standard of tinnis was high and some exceedingly good matches were fought.

The results of the Championships were:

SINGLES CHAMPION — **Maj Siderfin**
RUNNER-UP — **Cpl Hall**
INTER-UNIT DOUBLES:
Winners — **School of Signals Regt**
Capt Anderson
Cpl Hall
Runners-up — **30 (UKLF) Sig Regt**
WO1 (Y of S) Ross
WO2 (ORQMS) Hargreaves
MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES:
Winners — **Maj Siderfin** and
Sgt Braganza
Runners-up — **Capt Anderson** and
Cpl Hall
MIXED DOUBLES:
Winners — **Maj Siderfin** and
Mrs Westlake
Runners-up — **Lt Col MacLean** and
Mrs Wyatt
SINGLES PLATE: *Winner* **Capt Couchman**

The prizes were presented by **Mrs Hazel MacLean** who in turn received a bouquet of flowers from **Master Hugh Anderson.** This year we say goodbye to our President of Corps Tennis, **Lt Col Ian MacLean,** who is retiring from the Army. To mark his many years' association with Corps Tennis he was presented with a silver sweet dish.

This year has seen the emergence of a fairly strong Corps team. We have already defeated last year's Joint Army Championship winners and are looking for more victories. However, we really do need new blood in the Corps team if we are to maintain a strong team with depth to it in the years to come. All tennis officers are requested to encourage all those who enjoy the game and show some promise, to put their names forward for next year's Corps Championships.

Bob Siderfin—captain of Corps Tennis—receiving the Corps Singles Championship Cup from Mrs Hazel MacLean, wife of the President of Corps Tennis—Capt Michael Anderson, in background

CORPS TENNIS CHAMPISIONSHIPS—MAY
The line-up of winners. *Left to right:* Maj Bob Siderfin, Mrs Georgina Westlake, Cpl Hall, WO2 Hargreaves, Mrs Hazel MacLean, Lt Col Ian MacLean, Mrs Pat Wyatt, Capt Dick Couchman, Capt Michael Anderson

STOP PRESS

On July 7, 233 Sqn beat 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the final of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cricket Cup and now await the visit of the King's Div Depot in the Northern Area Finals.

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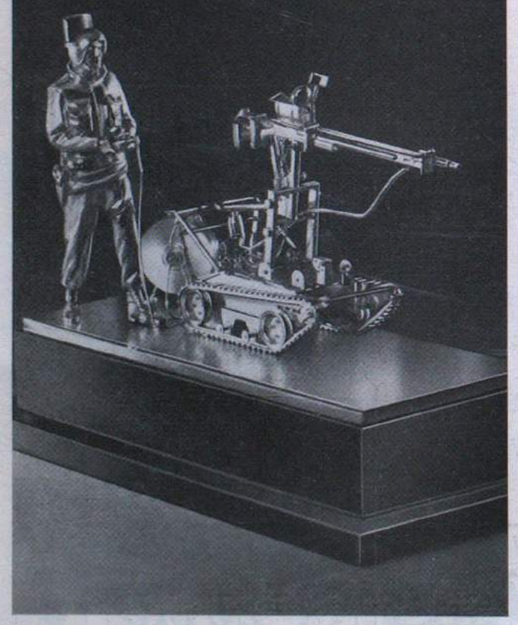

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September 1977

THE wire

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, OBE

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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 No: Chelsea Mil. Ext* 371 *STD* 01-930 4466. *Ask operator for above extension.*

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SEPTEMBER — 1977

Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 8**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

An historic occasion for The White Helmets in Jubilee Year. His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh taking the salute on the occasion of the team's display at the Royal Tournament on July 19, which was witnessed by Her Majesty The Queen.

(Full report on page 357)

(Photo courtesy Fleet Photographic Unit, HMS Excellent)

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND AND ASSOCIATION IN ACTION

Some of our readers will have noted from the accounts of the Association—distributed with the July/August issue of 'The Wire'—that a donation of £23,000 was made to the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) in 1976. Even in these days of diminishing values, this is a significant sum and it seems appropriate in this issue to highlight some of the activities of the ABF. The detail has been extracted from their recent report, covering the past year.

COMPASSIONATE GRANTS

More than 20,000 individuals have been helped during the year by the ABF and Corps and Regimental Associations. Total grants amounted to some £478,000.

... AND LOANS

Some 630 serving soldiers nearing retirement received over £500,000 in interest-free loans from the ABF, mainly to support the buying of furniture. In this total were 30 soldiers of the Corps who received loans totalling £23,350—further grants totalling £2,565 were approved. The criteria covering these interest-free loans is contained in a small pamphlet issued by the ABF—and held by all units—titled 'Loans to Serving Soldiers and their Dependants'. Those contemplating an application for a loan—who must be nearing retirement—should read this document. A loan is authorised normally during the last year of service and is secured against terminal benefits.

THE DISABLED

Help to the disabled ex-soldier is a continuing commitment, and grants are channelled to those National charities which care and train disabled ex-servicemen, such as Gifford House in Worthing, The Star and Garter Home, Erskine in Scotland, St David's Home in Ealing, and the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney. In all some £66,000 was spent during the year for the benefit of the disabled.

THE CHILDREN

There are two main ways in which children are helped. The first is a holiday scheme for deprived children or for young widows with families who would never otherwise have a holiday. The ABF scheme is operated through Sir Frederick Pontin's organisation which provides 100 free holidays and a concession for the remainder. A total of 411 children went on holiday last year and 163 mothers or guardians. The other way in which children are helped is the Bursary Scheme. A Bursary Committee considers all cases and priority for Boarding School education is given to orphans or children with only one parent or who are the victims of broken homes. The ABF maintained a total of 144 bursaries last year. The Fund's aid to children amounted to £46,000 last year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Early in July, the records showed that a total of 272 soldiers have been killed and 1,585 wounded since the troubles started eight years ago. The ABF paid out £19,460 last year in grants from the Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund. Assistance to young widows, often with young children, has been mainly to help them to set up and furnish a home.

EMPLOYMENT

The Fund supported the Regular Forces Employment Association with a grant of £37,000; 5,399 discharged soldiers were helped to find jobs by this organisation, during the past year.

THANK YOU

This brief summary by no means exhausts the statement of the aid extended by the ABF. It serves only to remind us of some of the important areas in which the ABF operates—frequently on behalf of all Corps and Regiments of the Army. The ABF and the Royal Signals Association are deeply grateful to all serving members of the Corps for their magnificent support under the 'day's pay scheme'. Without this very little of all this could happen.

—From our "In" Tray—

BIRTHDAY OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The following message was sent to Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne on the occasion of her birthday (August 15):

'All ranks of your Corps send you loyal and affectionate birthday greetings'—*Master of Signals.*

The following reply was received from Her Royal Highness:

'Please convey my sincere thanks to all ranks for their kind birthday greeting'—*Anne, Colonel-in-Chief.*

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Belated and sincere congratulations to **Col John McCann,** Honoary Colonel 40 Sig Regt (V), on the award of the CBE, in recognition of his services to the Northern Ireland T&AVR.

NORTHERN IRELAND LIST—SEPTEMBER

Many congratulations to the following:

MBE
WO2 A. T. Jackson

Mention in Despatches
Maj A. W. de V Hunt

From: **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin**

Dear Sir,

I have today sent to the Corps Museum a copy of the Allied Expeditionary Force Signal Instruction for Operation Eclipse dated March 25, 1945. The document is the successor to the Overlord Signal Instruction and details the communications plan for operations in Europe in the event of German surrender.

My purpose in writing is to draw attention to this mammoth document which is incredibly comprehensive and encapsulates most of our Corps' procedures and responsibilities and therein our history. Those who played any part in the preparation or execution of this Instruction will be interested to look at it next time they are in Blandford. Younger aspirants to the Staff College should be impressed by the superb minor SD! Those who have suffered the paucity of frequencies in BAOR today will be interested in Section VI/1 page 3 para 5a (ii) which states:

'(ii) Maximum use will be made of VHF radio to economise in the use of the scarce HF band.'

Yours faithfully,
P. A. C. Baldwin,
Chief Signal Officer,

HQ BAOR,
BFPO 40.

ARMY CRICKET SUCCESS

THE Army Cricket Cup was won by 8 Sig Regt in September 1976—and, according to our records, for the first time ever. We are delighted to report that the Regiment retained the trophy by defeating RSME at Aldershot on September 6, 1977.

8 Sig Regt — 162 for 8 wickets in 40 overs
RSME — 84.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals Glider pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Games Fund for the period December 1976–November 1977 **not** later than November 18, 1977 to:

Maj S. G. FALLA (Royal Signals),
OC 1 Sqn (TS)
School of Signals,
Blandford Camp,
Dorset DT11 8RH.

The following details are required:

(a) Flying fees paid in the period (NO other expenses) less any sum received from other sources in this respect.
(b) Number of launches in 1977 and total launches.
(c) Cross-country kilometres 1977—and total kilometres.
(d) Results of competition or badge attempts.
(e) Qualifications held.
(f) Full address of claimant, including Regimental No.
(g) Details of UK bank and account where cheque is to be paid.
(h) Confirmation that you subscribe to Corps funds under the 'day's pay scheme'.

From: **Mr W. C. Savage**

Dear Sir,

Reading the other day about happenings in Palestine, set me thinking and wondering if there are any readers of THE WIRE who can remember a place between Rafa and Beersheba called Kelab. Before you start looking for it on the map, let me tell you it just didn't exist, but was the place where Allenby had his GHQ 1st Echelon after having taken Gaza and pushed on to Jerusalem, etc. It was there at the age of 19 that I attained the speed and standard whereby I could hold my own on any telegraph circuit, be it Simplex or Duplex. At some time in December 1917, four of us Sappers were detailed to go to Beersheba and take over from 20 Corps, better known later on as Desert Corps. We arrived at Beersheba and traced the lines to the Civil Post Office, but there was no sign of any Army personnel, let alone a Signal Office. However, after finding the line back to GHQ, we attached our Baseboard Simplex and received instructions to find the D5 Cable going in the direction of Hebron, to which we attached a Vibrator. This was a very stout and powerful type of buzzer, not unlike a double current key at first sight. Then we had to take over all traffic from GHQ (by sounder on a good overhead route) and re-transmit to Desert Corps by the Vibrator (on a very badly insulated cable laid mostly on the ground). By then we had discovered that our detachment consisted of two OTs (operators telegraph) and two TSBOs (switchboard operators). I don't remember what the switchboard was, but I do recollect there was only one unit in the area, which was a kind of combined RASC and RAOC dump. So the SBOs came in handy as counter clerks-cum-cooks. The two telegraph circuits were manned by one operator only, the two OTs relieving each other at normal intervals coinciding with meal times. The traffic was terrific. Whilst working one circuit till it was clear, we had to give the other 'MQ' (wait), and we were on the go for the biggest part of the day without a stop, as what we had taken from one circuit, we had of necessity to dispose of on the other. This state of affairs lasted well over Christmas and New Year, when 20 Corps moved off and we were recalled to Kelab and in a very short time GHQ moved on to Sarafend, except for the various directorates which went to Ramleh and occupied a German Hospice. There an office was set up by P.L. of C Sigs which became a very busy Signal Centre. I was one of the operators there and I remember very well always plonking for the Duplex circuit to Kantara which was always busy.

I would be interested to know if any of our Beersheba detachment are WIRE readers?

Yours sincerely,
W. C. Savage

16A High Street,
Old Portsmouth,
Hants PO1 2LP.

QUEEN ELIZABETH MILITARY HOSPITAL

This new hospital opened at Woolwich on June 25, 1977. It replaces five hospitals: The Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank; The Royal Herbert Hospital and Military Maternity Hospital, Woolwich; The Military Hospital, Colchester (to close in 1978), and The Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley (to close in 1978).

The Army Medical Services have always been happy to give a service to retired Servicemen and, where possible, their dependants. This service will be continued as long as there is room in the hospital for serving personnel.

The only requirement for an ex-Serviceman to be seen is a referral letter from the patient's doctor—this is essential.

This service also exists at the Army's other two hospitals: Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, and Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick.

HUDDERSFIELD LINE UP WITH THE ARMY

Huddersfield Football Club have just completed a short pre-season tour in Germany with the Army. The team spent five days at Verden with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt.

They played three matches, two against Army teams, the 1 and 4 Divs, and one against the German Football Club Osterholz. The results were: Win against the 1 Div 5—1; draw with 4 Div 2—2; and lost to FC Osterholz 1—0.

Our photograph covers the Huddersfield team line-up for breakfast in the dining hall at Caithness Barracks, Verden.

(Report and photo by courtesy of PR, HQ 1 Div.)

Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Div

Huddersfield Line-up

Fans meet the team. *Left to right:* Ssgt Glenn Bartliff from Middlesbrough, Lcpl 'Jock' Hatfield from Rotherham, Terry Gray, Huddersfield team captain, striker Mick Butler, Lcpl Mick Pickersgill from Sheffield, and mid-field player, Kevin Johnson

From: **Maj N. A. Walter** (Royal Signals)

Dear Editor,

Why are our static message centres called Commcens, when they are patently Commheads?

Yours sincerely,
Neil Walter

1 Div HQ and Sig Regt,
BFPO 32.

Ministry of Defence, Defence Signal Staff (Army) has commented as follows:

'We agree it is rather confusing, but perhaps Maj Walter has become blinded by BRUIN. A Communications Centre is defined in ACP167 as "an agency charged with the responsibility for receipt, transmission and delivery of messages. It normally includes message centre, transmitting, and receiving facilities". In Part 3 of the Royal Signals Reference Manual, dealing with Signals Staff Duties, this definition is amplified by a note that "In British Army usage, the term . . . may refer to a centre of communications which excludes message centre functions and which is not co-located with headquarters". This refers of course to a Communications Centre in a context such as BRUIN. From a joint service point of view the term Communications Centre invariably refers to the ACP167 definition.

'A Communications Head, a term found only in an Army context, is defined in the Royal Signals Reference Manual as "At a headquarters, the group whose function is to provide termination of, or access to, trunk communication facilities. It will normally include the radio relay terminal, message centre, and telephone exchange".'

VICE-PRESIDENT'S DINNER—OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

THE Annual Vice-President's Dinner will take place at Welbeck College on Saturday, November, 5 1977.

The dress is Mess kit. Accommodation will be provided at the College. The cost will not exceed £4 a head.

Any former student of Welbeck College who wishes to attend (whether a member of the Association or not) is asked to contact:

Capt D. J. G. Davies-Pellow (RAOC),
Welbeck College, Worksop,
Notts S80 3LN.
Tel: Worksop 6579 (home) or 6326 (College).

A GURKHA OFFICER'S VISIT TO THE UK AND BAOR

Report by Maj (QGO) Tanghum Limbu (Gurkha Major Queen's Gurkha Signals)

A DREAM COME TRUE

IT had long been my dream to revisit the UK and to have the opportunity to meet our old 'sahebs'. The dream came true at the end of April 1977, with a visit to BAOR as well. The main problem during the preparations was to keep within the weight limit but to take enough to cater for the different weather conditions of the UK and Germany. Today, distance means little in terms of time. I enplaned on an RAF VC10 on 28 April. and stepped into the refreshingly cold climate of UK at 0100 hours on April 29. I had no sooner stepped out of the aircraft when I saw the welcoming smile of **WO2 (Y of S) Lovell** who gave me a warm welcome and saw me through customs and on to Gateway House—my thanks to **Yeoman Lovell** for his warm reception.

Old and new friends

I was delighted to meet **Col** and **Mrs Benbow** at their home in Salisbury, whilst there I met **Lt Col** and **Mrs Swindale, Maj** and **Mrs Fletcher,** and **Capt** and **Mrs Simpson.** During my stay, **Col Benbow** arranged a remarkable series of parties, picnics and visits to places of interest—one was to an ancient Cathedral. Building of it started in AD 1215 and it was completed in AD 1365—what a tedious work it was! Another interesting place was Stonehenge, built by the ancient Britons. During a picnic by the sea I was very pleased to meet a retired Royal Engineers Major who had served in Malaya and Singapore during World War 2. This picnic was followed by a party at the Benbow's house during which there was much talk about 'good old days'.

I was lucky enough to visit the Signals Wing at the School of Infantry. Unfortunately, I did not meet **Lt Col Wise,** as he was away on a visit. However, his Chief Instructor, **Maj Valentine** showed me round the Wing and he entertained me to lunch in the Officers Mess.

German Highlights

On May 2, I travelled by air to BAOR to visit units in their barracks and on exercise. I was delighted to meet **Lt Col Eamey** (CO, 28 Sig Regt), **Lt Col Allwright** (CO, 16 Sig Regt), **Capts Raku** and **Cherry** (22 Sig Regt), I also met **Maj P. D. Jones** (2IC, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt). Major Burke, Captain Truluck, Captain Smith and Sergeant Hooley (all in 7 Sig Regt). During my tour of the exercise area I met the SO in C, the CSO BAOR and CCR Signals. I was pleased to meet the SO in C again. It

was planned that I should visit 21 Sig Regt during the exercise but, unfortunately, they had already moved to a new location.

I was surprised to find a German Signal Regiment, a Belgium and Dutch Signals Squadron working with 28 Sig Regt. I was also surprised to learn that the Commander of these co-operative units was a German Colonel and his 2IC was a Lieutenant Colonel. Whilst being shown around 28 Sig Regt's camp I met an old German soldier who had fought at Leningrad during the last war. He told me of the rough time he had had as a Russian PoW. He said that he had been shot in the leg, thigh and mouth. Consequently, he had lost his teeth and had been unable to walk.

I was pleased to congratulate **Capt Cherry** on his promotion. He was a Staff-sergeant (F of S) when he served with Gurkha Signals in 1959. Another amazing thing I noticed was the PR cover in 22 Sig Regt. A PR man always seemed to be just behind me; nevertheless, my photos were not all bad (or good!).

During my stay with **Lt Col** and **Mrs Eamey** I took an opportunity to visit **Maj** and **Mrs Turner** at Rheindahlen. He was not expecting me and it took them several seconds to overcome his surprise of having me at his front door having not met me for 11 years! We had a long chat about the past and the present before returning to **Lt Col Eamey's** house. On May 9 I bade farewell to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Eamey** and returned to the UK. I thank them for their warm hospitality and for the excellent programme which gave me the opportunity to visit the exercise and meet so many old friends.

Back to the UK and Corps dinner

On my return, I was met by **Lt Col** and **Mrs Verdon** who took me, talking all the way, to their house in Camberley. The next day I was pleased to meet **Maj** and **Lt Barrett** at Blandford. **Maj Barrett** showed me the various Clansman radios and the Museum, which I found very impressive. May 11 saw me visiting 531 Sig Troop at Church Crookham, followed by a visit to the Gurkha Museum where I met **Lt Col Dewing,** the Curator, and our **Cpl Lovkumar Chhetri.** On the completion of the visit I, accompanied by **Capt (QGO) Shyam:al,** attended a party thrown by **Sgt Damarbahadur Gurung** (531 Troop Sergeant). In the evening I attended a remarkably big party—a Royal Signals Dinner night in London, which 140 attended. I was delighted to meet so many officers who ranged from senior Generals to Lieutenants. It ended at 11 pm and was an evening of continual laughter and gossip.

Next day I visited the School of Army Education at Beaconsfield. After looking around, we had lunch in the Officers Mess. As a small token on behalf of the Regiment, I presented a Regimental plaque to **Lt Col Nye (RAEC),** the PMC. In the evening I went to a party at the home of **Lt Col** and **Mrs Kirkby,** at Oakhurst. The party was enhanced by the presence of **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sturge** and a 'memsaheb' of an Admiral. The General is now older but they look very fit and healthy! **Lt Col** and **Mrs Kirby** are also well (saheb still takes exercise every day!). The party, which I enjoyed very much, ended late in the evening. The next day (May 13), having walked around the village of Crondall, I returned to the Verdon's house. At the RMA I had lunch with **Brig Whitehead** and **Maj Walker,** and we talked of Hong Kong. I was also pleased to meet our **WO1 (Y of S) Yates** who accompanied us around the Indian Army Museum, the Signals Wing, and the Demo Co 6 GR.

That evening **Brig** and **Mrs Dacre** threw a superb party for me and invited **Maj Rawat (QARANC)** (daughter of **Laxmi,** who was one of our midwives in the early '60s), and **Maj** and **Mrs Neave.** I learnt that **Maj Rawat** is to be posted to Hong Kong this coming September.

Gurkha Brigade Association Reunion

On May 14, there was a big party at Sandhurst, The Gurkha Brigade Association Reunion. A church service was followed by drinks in the Indian Army room and then dinner. The following attended:

Maj Gen and **Mrs Horsford** (late MGBG, now Col GTR) from 1 GRRA.
Maj Gen F. J. Loflus Tottenham, Brig and **Mrs S. P. M. Kent** from 2 GRRA.
Maj Gen A. W. N. Holworthy, Brig and **Mrs Pulley** from 3 GRRA.
Col Davidson from 4 GRRA.
Brig and **Mrs Mrs E. P. Townsand** from 5 GRRA.
Viscountess Slim, Maj Gen and **Mrs Robertson** (late MGBG), **Brig** and **Mrs Hickey** from 6 GRRA.
Gen Sir Walter and **Lady Walter, Brig** and **Mrs Smith** (Col 7 GR) from 7 GRRA.
Brig E. W. Langland, father of **Lt Col Langland,** from 8 8 GRRA.
Col and **Mrs Bolton** from 9 GRRA.
Gen Sir Peter Hunt, Maj Gen and **Mrs McAlister** (late MGBG) from 10 GRRA.
Brig and **Mrs Dacre, Brig** and **Mrs Robertson, Lt Col** and **Mrs Verdon** from Queen's Gurkha Signals.
As guests, His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador and Rani Kiram, **Lt Col D. S. Rana** (MA to Royal Embassy of Nepal) and **Col M. E. Carleton Smith, MBE** (designated Commander) HQGFF.

To the north

My next visit was to the North. I attended a party at the home of **Brig** and **Mrs Robertson** where I met their third son, **Jeremy,** who was a small child when they were in Hong Kong. The following evening I also met, at **Brig Robertson's** house, **Lt Col Parkinson,** who had formed the Gurkha Signals Training Holding Wing in 1949. I thoroughly enjoyed the parties and the conversation we had.

On May 16, I met **Brig Butler, Lt Col Cuerden, Majs Carter, Haxell, Scofield, Lt Batho,** and **RQMS Harvey** at Catterick. After visiting the Training Group Royal Signals, an exciting display was laid on by the White Helmets. In the evening **Maj Carter** and **RQMS Harvey** arranged a party for me at which I met several ex-Gurkha Signals officers and NCOs. During my visit, I was able to satisfy my curiosity about how much Catterick has changed. I last visited Catterick in 1953. In those days the School of Signals was located in Vimy Lines, and there was a railway from Darlington to Richmond. I also had an opportunity to visit the Apprentices College in Harrogate. I was most impressed with the College and its facilities.

Northumberland and Scotland

On May 18, I was very pleased to meet **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Bradley** and their youngest son who, unfortunately, had to return to Oxford University that day, where he is studying Chinese. The General took me to see the tourist centre, Roman Wall and the Roman Museum. In the evening, **Mrs Bradley** held an excellent party at which I met an ex-officer of 10 GR, the brother and sister-in-law of the Ambassador to Pakistan, and a Hexham town councillor. Next day, I was very pleased to meet the wife of **Maj Gen Headby** (ex-MGBG) at Haydon Bridge. I then visited **Maj Livingston** and **Maj Paterson.** They showed me several places of interest—the Glasgow Park, Biggar Museum, The Forth Bridge, an old Scottish Palace and the Scottish Fishery Museum.

My last visit in Scotland was to 32 Sig Regt (V), our affiliated Regiment. **Maj Livingston** showed me around. Whilst there I presented the Regiment with a kukri from all ranks Queen's Gurkha Signals. That was followed by an adventurous climb to the top of a 1,647-m high mountain!

Never to be forgotten

All too soon it was time for me to fly back to Hong Kong. May 23 saw me back on the VC10, having spent a pleasant evening the night before with **Capt Lee.**

I was deeply touched by everyone's generosity, friendliness and the warm reception given to me. Words are not sufficient to express my thanks to all those who made my trip possible, but thank you all most sincerely for a most memorable visit which I shall never forget.

[Editor's note: **Maj (QGO) Tanghum Limbu** goes on pension next year, after serving with the British Army since 1948 and with Gurkha Signals (now, of course, Queen's Gurkha Signals) since 1949. On retirement he has been granted the rank of Honorary Lieutenant.]

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

WHITE HELMETS' GOLDEN JUBILEE

A SPECIAL YEAR

THIS year has not only been the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, it has also been the Golden Jubilee year of The White Helmets. It was therefore especially fitting that the team performed before Her Majesty at her Jubilee Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

This year we have had all new Triumph 750cc Tigers for the rides and the tricks and CCM 500cc machines for the car long jumps. These super powerful bikes have allowed us to put on faster and slicker shows than ever before.

Among the many VIPs who watched our display was our Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Anne, for whom we formed a special 'carpet guard' when she came to take the salute for the evening's performance on July 21. The following week the team invited sponsors and old friends to dinner at the Royal Tournament followed by the show. Many of you will know that the trick motor cycle sequences performed apparently by Eric and Ernie during their Christmas Show 1976 were, in fact, done by 'stand ins' from the White Helmets.

The Six-Bike Fan as it entered the arena for the Royal Tournament

OFF WITH A BANG

The first night of the Royal Tournament started this year with a crash. During the final ride of the Team's display three team members tried to pass through the same spot at the same time which caused a certain amount of mangled hardware and software! The hardware was three written-off motorbikes which spent the night undergoing treatment at the hands of the Team's mechanics and involved **Capt Mike Prymaka** in a through-the-night dash to Triumph works at Meriden to collect the spare parts needed. The bikes were working again in time for the show the following afternoon. The software in the forms of **Lcpl Chris Little** and **Sig Larry Lloyd** went to hospital. **Chris Little** was released the next day and went on to do the car jump in front of the Queen the following Tuesday. (**Lcpl Colin Pitman** did the car jump for Princess Anne.) **Larry Lloyd** spent the next three weeks in the new military hospital at Woolwich, 'The Queen Elizabeths'. Rumour has it that they were short of patients! Even though he missed the rest of the Royal Tournament, **Larry** at least has the satisfaction of being known by name by all the members of the Royal Family who came to take the salute on various nights, everyone of whom asked after him.

The Long Jump, done by Lcpl Colin Pitman, riding one of our two rather special CCM 500MX machines which we use especially for jumping. These superb moto-cross machines cost £1,600!

THE ROAD SHOP

When Eric and Ernie came to dinner, Eric's young son was immediately converted to the White Helmets' cause by being taken for a ride on a mini-bike by one of our 'clowns', **Lcpl 'Clagger' Clarkson.** Our main sponsor, **Mr Charles Davidson,** of Lucas was also at the dinner with **Mrs Davidson,** and afterwards was presented with the Team's book 'The White Helmets' written by the Military Historian, **James Ladd** (which you can buy through the Team for £5·95, or you can buy it at most major bookshops in the United Kingdom). While I mention buying things, have you bought the kids their White Helmets tee-shirts yet? They come in four sizes, 5–7 year old, 8–12 year old, small and medium, and make ideal presents for Christmas and birthdays. In fact, why not write to us for information on what we sell. You would be surprised how much cheaper you can buy all sorts of things through the 'White Helmets Road Shop' which travels around the country with the team. You may find that we can provide you with just what you need for that next Corporals club function or the Sergeants Mess Draw.

The Team captain, Capt Mike Prymaka, The Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Team adjutant, Lt Geoff Powell, listening to an Ernie Wise story

TOUR OF NW EUROPE

Did you know that we are doing a tour of BAOR and Berlin during October and early November? We start with a private show commissioned by the Belgian town of Mons on October 2, then as follows:

October 3	—	Show for 13 Sig Regt
October 4	—	Show for 21 Sig Regt
October 5	—	Show for HQ BAOR
October 8	—	Show for 16 and 28 Sig Regts
October 15	—	Show for 22 Sig Regt and Lippstadt town
October 18 – November 1		Berlin Tattoo
November 3	—	Show for 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
November 4	—	Show for 4 Div and 7 Sig Regt
November 5	—	Show for 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt

Do come along to watch us if you can, we have got a pretty good show going this year, and we are looking for volunteers to come and join us for next season.

Our Colonel in Chief, The Princess Anne, leaving the Royal Box surrounded by a 'Carpet Guard' of White Helmets, on July 21

SELECTION COURSES

This year we will be holding two selection courses—one in November and another in January—for those who are unable to make the first one. If you are interested in becoming a member of the White Helmets why not drop us a line or cut out the coupon below and send it to us so that we can register you for call forward for one of our selection courses?

ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH?

What is being a team member like? It is not an easy life. First you have to get yourself selected. About one in four of those who try are accepted for training. Then we teach you to ride a bike, even if you thought you could before. Then we start to make a man of you, giving you real responsibility! On tour you can be living in a barn one night and being inspected by Royalty the next. The life is hard work and requires dedication and self-discipline. At the same time, if you make it you will find it the most rewarding three years of your Army career.

I am interested in becoming a member of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Team. Please add my name to your register of volunteers.

No..... Rank.....

Name..... Unit.....

Married or Single..... Address.....

..... Age.....

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Movements

Officers

SEPTEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt J. D. Ambrose	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. F. A. Axton	School of Signals
Capt S. F. Bloom	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. W. Blum	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt P. R. Day	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Capt D. J. Elson	16 Sig Regt
Lt D. S. Ewing	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt A. D. Forster	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Maj W. A. C. Griffiths	8 Sig Regt
Capt R. G. Heaney	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj (TOT) L. C. Hooper	School of Signals (HS)
Maj A. J. Jackman	STANOC Centre
Lt S. W. Jones	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Capt E. H. Le Quesne	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Lt J. R. M. McGrath	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt R. H. Mardo	School of Signals
Maj D. G. Mitchell	School of Signals
Capt P. A. Noble	31 Sig Regt (V)
Col G. R. Oehlers	HQ I (BR) Corps
Lt G. Park	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt K. Pritchard	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt Col T. Rigby	RAC Centre
Lt A. P. R. Roberts	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Maj R. J. G. M. Rumford	BDS (A) Washington (HS)
Capt R. F. Rutherford	32 Sig Regt (V) (HS)
Capt (TOT) J. P. Steeples	642 Sig Troop
Capt B. J. Styles	233 Sig Sqn
Lt Col C. R. A. Sumner	School of Signals (HS)
Lt R. M. Thurston	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt S. J. Turpin	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt P. G. Walker	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Ward	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt R. T. Weston	13/18H
Maj P. J. F. White	DEQA CA MOD (PE)
Lt C. J. Whittaker	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Lt K. G. Wilson	RMCS Shrivenham (Course)
Maj M. J. Wilton-Steer	HQ NORTHAG

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

SEPTEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 T. A. Perkin	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 M. C. K. Smart	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 A. Morpeth	11 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) W. Lawson	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
WO2 A. J. Millington	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
WO2 (Y of S) A. T. Jackson	16 Sig Regt (HQ BAOR)
WO2 (Y of S) A. E. Richardson	Project Wavell Implementation Team
WO2 (Supvr R) A. J. Newman	School of Signals
A/WO2 (F of S) P. Bruce	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt (Y of S) D. M. Pentland	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt (Y of S) J. D. Waterston	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. D. McKittrick	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt (F of S) J. D. Godwin	Project Wavell
Sgt (F of S) A. D. Harper	8 Sig Regt
Sgt F. J. Connor	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Lawless	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
Sgt G. McNeil	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Skinner	259 Sig Sqn (West)
Sgt B. Smith	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt (Supvr R) B. P. J. Claffey	School of Signals
Sgt (Supvr R) P. Sharp	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
A/Sgt G. Cook	30 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Whelan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. T. Atherton	583 Rear Link Det
Sgt J. V. K. Battisby	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. P. Gerrard	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear HQ)
Sgt E. H. Tai	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. J. Crighton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Green	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Haydock	10 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Budd	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. W. Gray	632 Sig Troop (Hebrides)
Sgt P. J. Welch	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt M. George	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt R. Chambers	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt G. G. Irving	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt J. Taylor	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt J. J. Reid-Robertson	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. F. Escott	277 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
Sgt H. R. Pegg	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. A. Milne	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. G. Pugh	224 Sig Sqn (Radio Training)
Sgt A. Halloway	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. Punter	School of Signals
Sgt P. A. Downie	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt F. R. Blake	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. B. Miller	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt F. W. Dawson	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt D. M. Robertson	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Pollitt	4 Sqn 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Denton	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Sgt B. R. Mumford	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Garrigan	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt E. F. Churchward	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Sgt L. L. Carr	11 Sig Regt (Junior Sig Wing)
Sgt F. Smith	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. T. Jones	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Kingswell	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Sgt M. W. Moir	School of Signals
Sgt G. Russell	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Welfare

JULY 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**40**
Number of grants	**£2,385·28**
Number of clothing parcels	**27**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**12**
Amount spent	**£336·88**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

LANCE-CORPORAL who has just been discharged on medical grounds after eight years' service. His disability will make the finding of a suitable job more difficult, and the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals Association made a grant of £500 to help him to furnish a home for his wife and child and establish the family in civilian life. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

I WOULD like to thank you all very much for the grant. It will be a great help in setting up home. My wife was overjoyed at the help given, and it will give us a good start in our new life. I will always look back on my Army service with gratitude and affection.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of July, gifts of clothing, magazines, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt; WO2 Woods; Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole; Lt Col P. E. Riding; Mrs V. E. Haslett; Capt and Mrs W. W. Fawley; 56 Div OCA; Mr and Mrs. J. Smith; WO1 T. A. Perkin.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were received during July 1977

	£
The Wives of 8 and 11 Sig Regts	600·00
2 Div HQ and Sig Regt	247·12
HQ Trg Gp, Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison	82·02
11 Sig Regt	72·80
CSO BAOR	46·82
241 Sig Sqn	30·00
Proceeds from Catterick Stalls	29·63
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq	10·00
Col A. T. Scott, OBE	5·00
Lt Col G. M. Welsford	3·00
Capt S. W. Creaton	2·00
Miscellaneous Donations	4·16
	£1,132·55

248 Gurkha Sig Sqn ..... HK$100·00

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

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U.K. inc. VAT - ,, £3·08p

(Postage Extra)

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Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Birthds, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to The Wire), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

DEATHS

Atkinson—Lt Col R. W. Atkinson, OBE, enlisted in the Corps in 1926 and trained as a draughtsman, by the time he was commissioned in 1940 he had also qualified as an operator, lineman, and clerk. He received rapid promotion, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1943 when he took over command of 23 Indian Divisional Signals with whom he saw service in Burma and the Arakan until 1946, during which time he was three times Mentioned in Dispatches and appointed an OBE. After a short spell in the UK he returned to India and Pakistan where he was involved with all the difficulties associated with Partition. When he returned to the UK in 1950 he was given command of 1 Training Regiment at the time the Regiment achieved such outstanding success in Army rugby. Before retiring in 1957, he commanded 43 (Wessex) Infantry Div Sig Regt. He was then employed as an RO2 with 7 Training Regt, now 11 Sig Regt, until 1972, during which time he became Civil Defence Controller of the Richmond Sub-area; a Richmond Borough Councillor, and Treasurer of the local Branch of the Association. He was elected Mayor of Richmond in 1961 and again in 1970, the year of the Corps Golden Jubilee; and made an Alderman in 1971. In his early days he played cricket and rugby for the Corps. Reg died in the Military Hospital at Catterick on August 17, at the age of 69.

Duffy—Ex-Ssgt Bill Duffy died peacefully in hospital in Worcester on Friday, July 22, 1977, after suffering a heart attack on Thursday, July 21, 1977, at the early age of 43. Bill retired on January 14, 1977, on completion of 22 years' service with the Corps but retained his connections with the Army by working for barrack services in the Malvern area. During a full and varied career he served in BAOR, FARELF, Malta, and the UK. The last six years of his service was with 14 Sig Regt in Worcester. During this period both Bill and his wife, Ina, devoted a considerable amount of their spare time to assisting in organising and running a very successful families club in the Malvern area. Bill leaves his widow and six children, who will continue to live in Malvern. To them all we extend our deepest sympathy.

Goodman—H. R. (Herbert) Goodman (ex-Sgt 1936–45) died on August 11, in Lincoln County Hospital. Herbert was a life member of the Association since leaving the Corps in 1945. He leaves a widow and a son, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

Harris—Maj P. S. Harris enlisted as a boy in 1922 and completed 50 years' service with the Corps. He served in many areas overseas including Baghdad, Egypt, India, West Africa, Cyprus and Singapore. He was commissioned from the rank of Foreman of Signals as a TMO in 1941. After retiring in 1959 he continued as a civilian with Signals Works Services from which he finally retired in 1972. He died on August 19 at the age of 70.

Nichols—Ex-WO1 (RSM) N. A. Nichols, MSM (MM France), joined 'A' Sig Co, RETB in 1908 and served in France during the First World War and subsequently at Maresfield and in Egypt. He retired in 1929 and joined the Post Office. He died on June 21.

Proudfoot—Ex-Lcpl Alan Proudfoot enlisted in the Corps in February 1950 and was discharged in September 1975. He suffered long periods of illness with dignity and courage. Alan died in Bielefeld, West Germany, on July 27, and his total estate went to the British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research.

Rayner—Lt Col J. W. Rayner enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers in 1940 and was commissioned in 1941. He spent a large proportion of his service in staff appointments, and was an instructor at the Staff College at Quetta. He retired in 1970 and died in hospital on August 20, at the age of 56.

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DEATHS

Flint—Mr Francis Russell Flint, son of the famous artist and one of Britain's leading Marine Artists was accidentally electrocuted whilst on holiday in Spain. Those involved in Her Majesty The Queen's visit to Catterick in 1975 will remember him as the tall, slender grey-haired man who could be seen at every rehearsal sitting at his easel. His wonderful portrayal of the visit, which hangs in the ante room in the Officers Mess, is a lasting memory of a well respected, accomplished, artist.

Humphrey—Sig Michael Humphrey, whilst at his home in Bishop Auckland, about to start an attachment to the ACIO there as a 'Satisfied Soldier', was knocked down and killed by a car. He had just completed his Combat Radioman's course and at the age of 17 was looking forward to a full career in the Army (8 Sig Regt).

FOR SALE

Service Dress with two pairs of trousers and complete Mess Dress to fit: Height 5ft 10in, chest 40in, waist 37in, and inside leg 31in. George Boots, size 8, with spurs. SD (khaki) and No 1 Dress hats, size 6⅞. All items in excellent condition. Please contact: Capt F. R. Gardner, 10 Willow Close, Fernhill Heath, Worcester WR3 8GR, Telephone: Worcester 54189.

Attention ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6.25 overseas.

SITUATION VACANT

VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, TAVR

A vancy occurs at Clonaver Park TAVR Centre, Belfast, for a PSAO on consolidated rates of pay. Applicants should have held a commission in the Regular Army or TAVR, and be under 57 years of age. Clonaver Park is the base for 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers) and is situated in pleasant residential surroundings off the Holywood Road. Other centres are at Lurgan and Ballymoney. This is a thriving Regiment with an active WRAC contingent. It also includes elements of REME, ACC, RAMC, and RAPC.

Basic salary on appointment is £3,092, plus supplements, the basic rate rising with annual increments to £3,584. The appointment is pensionable, and other conditions of service are given in TAVR Regulations, Schedule XVI. Further details and application form can be obtained by telephoning or writing to:

40 (U) Sig Regt (V), Clonaver Park, Belfast BT4 2EY. Tel: BELFAST 653264.

OFFICERS REUNION—ALDERSHOT CLUB OCTOBER 14 1977

[Editor's note: *We apologise for announcing this event as scheduled for October 15 in the July/August issue.*]

Arrangements are in hand to hold a similar reunion to previous years. The purpose is to bring together serving and retired officers and their wives living within a reasonable distance of Aldershot for an informal gathering from 6.30pm onwards. A letter giving full details has been sent out on a similar distribution to last year. Anyone who has not heard from the General Secretary of the Association who would like to attend should get in touch with him as soon as possible.

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GEC Telecommunications is Britain's leading exporter of advanced telecommunications transmission systems.

We are looking for a lecturer to join a small team at our modern and very well-equipped transmission training school in Coventry, where a wide range of product familiarisation courses are conducted for our own personnel and customers' technical staffs.

The person we seek will be an able communicator with sound experience in some or all of the following areas: broad band radio relay systems, cable transmission, f.d.m. and digital multiplex systems. Ideally, he or she will be a graduate aged 25+, but candidates who have completed related technical training to HNC or otherwise possess a strong aptitude for the work will be given every consideration. Training in teaching techniques will be provided where necessary.

A competitive salary is offered, together with relocation expenses where appropriate, and a range of attractive fringe benefits in line with best large company practice. Some overseas travel may be a possibility.

Please write for an application form, with brief educational and career details to: The Controller of Training, GEC Telecommunications Limited, Spon Street, Coventry CV1 3AZ.

RCA LTD

This company requires a Station Manager, a Maintenance Supervisor and an Operations Supervisor for a Satellite Tracking Station involving 60 personnel. F of S or suitably experienced Technician SNCOs might be suitable. Personal details and/or enquiries to:

Mr P. C. Cooper,
Personnel Office,
RCA Ltd,
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Telephone: 09327 85511

SULTANATE OF OMAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified WOs or SNCOs due to leave the Service in the next three months for the following posts:

HF Radio Servicing Technician (Ref 51/B)
Teleprinter Telephone Switchboard Servicing Technician (Ref 51/C)
Lineman/Cable Jointer (Ref 51/D)
Y of S (Ref 51)
R Tg Class 1 (Ref 51/G).

These appointments are unaccompanied although short family visits are possible. £6,800 approx, gratuity, Free Mess facilities, 60 days' leave—passages paid. Details to/from:

Senior Personnel Office (SR3),
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Christchurch,
Dorset BH23 6EB.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

WE always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free but limited accommodation. We are able to put candidates in touch with Divisions in major cities throughout the UK. Whatever type of employment you want we will do our best to suit you.

Residential, Husband and wife. Golf Club. Rochester, Kent. £40·00 pw + free 3-bedroom flat + perks.
Residential, Husband and wife. Piccadilly, London. £40 pw + free flat + perks.
Post Room. Essex Street, WC2. £3,500 pa.
Security. Hammersmith, W6. £50 neg.
Security at school. Knightsbridge, SW1. £55 app.
Security. Vauxhall Walk, SE11. £3,500.
Security. Deptford, SE8. £3,000+.
Reception/Security. Tunmarsh Lane, E13. £50+ pw.
Commissionaire. Fetter Lane, EC4. £55+.
Clerical/Post. Holborn, EC1. £3,000 pa.
Security. Finchley, N3. £60 pw + Acc.

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs

EXERCISE ROCKY QUEST

AN 8 FIELD FORCE HQ and SIG SQN ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE IN CANADA
Report by WO2 (Y of S) Bob Burrows

EXERCISE MEMBERS

Lt Tony Manders	—	Returning for the third time to this part of the world
WO2 (Y of S) Bob Burrows		An avid mountaineer and a member of several similar expeditions
Sgt 'JJ' Johnstone	—	His second expedition and nominated Quartermaster
Sgt Ian Vine	—	First attempt at mountaineering and holder of the purse strings
Cpl Roger Calton	—	Found the open air somewhat different to the confines of a workshop
Cpl Paul Elkington	—	Trying to find his ancestry in the mountains
Cpl Johnny Walker (RPC)		A travelled NCO, adding to his list of countries visited
Lcpl Lenny Newton	—	One of the unit's PT Instructors and a keen rock-climber
Sig Martin Aubrey	—	Now Lance-corporal. The Exercise's amateur photographer
Sig 'Kiwi' Marshall	—	Not satisfied with New Zealand and England, wished to try Canada
Sig Martin Glover	—	A young, much-travelled adventurer
Pte Paul Ashton (RAOC)		A young soldier on his first attempt at adventure training

The idea

IN October 1976 **Lt Tony Manders** approached the Squadron Commander, **Maj Dick Smith,** with a proposal for an adventure training exercise in the Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. Ten years previously **Tony** had spent six weeks as a Cadet in the Army Cadet camp at Banff and, more recently, only two years ago completed an expedition with three others in the same area.

Maj Dick Smith gave his agreement and, thus, the exercise was launched. The unit's avid mountaineer, **WO2 (Y of S) Bob Burrows,** was consulted and readily agreed to assist in these early stages. Initially, it seemed that the whole Squadron wanted to partake but for one reason or another numbers dwindled and eventually due to availability of flights only 12 were permitted to go. After months of preparation, worry and nail-biting experiences, waiting for confirmation of stores, equipment, flights and diplomatic clearance, the grand departure day arrived.

At 0400hrs on Wednesday, June 22, 1977, the 12 members of Exercise Rocky Quest were huddled outside Alfa Troop office, awaiting the arrival of the 4-ton vehicle, which was to carry them on their first stage of the journey to RAF Lyneham. All were hoping that Canadian weather would be warmer than British. Even at this late stage the exercise was scheduled for more nail-biting experiences.

A series of firsts

On boarding the Hercules aircraft at RAF Lyneham, the exercise members were informed that the destination of the aircraft on this trip was Germany. This was confirmed an hour-and-a-half later, when the Hercules touched down at Gutersloh Airport. However, hopes were raised again when it was found out that after loading stores the aircraft was, in fact, bound for Calgary, Canada.

The short trip was welcomed by **Cpl Roger Calton** as it was his first trip in an aircraft. The stay in Gutersloh was also welcomed by the smokers in the party as it enabled them to purchase their duty-free cigarettes. Finally, the trip broadened the experiences of **Sig 'Kiwi' Marshall** and **Pte Paul Ashton** as it was their first time on German soil.

Back in square one

An hour or so later the exercise members were once again loaded on to the aircraft and, after finding suitable spaces in the mass of stores and boxes, settled down for the flight. Then came surprise number two! One-and-a-half hours later the Hercules touched down at RAF Lyneham. Thoughts of never leaving England were paramount in everyone's mind; however, it was just a scheduled halt to refuel and change crews. Five hours later the exercise members were once again airborne bound for Gander, Newfoundland, which was the next scheduled stop. Still all was not well! Just under half way across the Atlantic the aircraft developed a fault which resulted in a complete turn around and the aircraft limped its way back to Lyneham with only three working engines.

Cpl Johnny Walker and **Pte Paul Ashton** having missed the announcement of the engine failure assumed, upon landing, that they were in Gander. It was only by checking the telephone number in the aiport lounge that these two 'doubting Thomases' were finally convinced that they were back in England.

'Surely nothing further can go wrong', was the cry as the party boarded the same aircraft late afternoon on Thursday, June 23. This, however, was not to be so!

Across on three and Calgary

The aircraft was just over halfway between Lyneham and Gander when the same engine fault occurred again. This time the Captain decided to continue and once again the Hercules limped across the skies on three working engines to land safely in Gander but slightly later than scheduled. This enforced stop, which was over 24 hours' duration, gave the exercise members time to re-adjust to the time difference and inform their friends in England of their somewhat slow progress to date.

Just after lunch on Saturday, June 25, the aircraft was once again airborne, bound at last for the destination airport in Calgary.

This seven hours of the flight was, luckily, uneventful, and upon arrival in Calgary the exercise members were met by **Ssgt Jim Fyffe** (APTC), who is serving with BATU Suffield as an adventure training instructor for the battle groups.

The Exercise Rocky Quest members were conveyed to the Battle Group camp some 150 miles north of Banff at Lake Abraham. Once again it still seemed as if the exercise members would never reach their intended base in Banff. However, this extra journey gave **Bob Burrows** ample opportunity to gain first-hand information of the terrain and types of rock from **Jim Fyffe.**

Early Sunday morning, June 26, after loading up with rations kindly supplied by the Battle Group, the exercise headed south along the Jasper-Banff highway to arrive safely at their destination by lunchtime. After finding a suitable base camp at Tunnel Mountain 2½ miles outside Banff the exercise members proceeded to pitch tents and recover from 'jet lag'.

The warm-up

In order not to waste any of the already decreased time in Canada, Monday, June 27, leaving **Sigs 'Kiwi' Marshall** and **Martin Glover** to look after the stores, the remainder set out for a low-level walk along Sundance Creek and the Spray River Valley. **Cpl Paul Elkington** safely led the party from the camp-site through Banff to a picnic area at the start of Sundance Creek. This route was mainly along roads which although not difficult to navigate proved very hard on the feet. The halt at the picnic shelter for a drink and a snack was most welcome. Shortly after setting off again, it became apparent that this trek would be more of a warm-up than was initially intended. This was because as the party climbed along the creek, upon reaching just over 5,000ft, resemblance to a track vanished.

The new leader, **Lcpl Lenny Newton,** forced his way through the thick undergrowth and marshy terrain with the party steadily following in his wake. However, after a hard trek **Lenny** success-

Cpl Roger Calton and Sig Martin Aubrey on the trail from Sundance Pass

fully navigated the group to the highest point along the valley 5,700ft above sea level.

It was then **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Johnny Walker's** turn to lead the party on the downhill stretch to the intended low-level campsite at 5,000ft. **Johnny** seemed to delight in forcing the remainder of the party to cross as many mountain streams as possible. This, of course, had the inevitable effect. The unfortunate member was **Pte Paul Ashton** who fell off a log whilst crossing such a stream and received a thorough drenching. At last, after seven hours' hard strenuous walking, a very wet, bedraggled and tired group arrived at the scheduled campsite.

Cpl Paul Elkington leading WO2 Bob Burrows and the remainder of the group along Sundance Pass

After a hearty meal, spirits were slightly raised apart from a few who had feet problems and had to submit to **'Doc' Bob Burrows'** ministrations. It was here that **Cpl Roger Calton's** feet became a topic of discussion. Although not blistered, the soles of his feet were puffed up and looked similar to a map of the Rockies with mounds and craters. The cause of this phenomenon was unknown but was probably caused by the constant trek over wet marshy ground. Tuesday morning the packs were once again eased into the grooves of the shoulders, and the group set off along the Spray River Valley to base camp. Luckily, this route was considerably easier and the exercise members had an easy trek back to Tunnel Mountain campsite. It was then the intention to renew the level of the body fluid with a small sample of Canadian Ale. Unfortunately, after bathing and having a hot meal only the very hardy in the form of **Sgts 'JJ' Johnstone** and **Ian Vine** could face the five-mile return trip to the nearest bar.

The climb

Wednesday morning the group was divided into two, and in sympathy with the blister sufferers, the expedition hired a car to transport half to the Rock Garden at Mount Rundle whilst **Lt Tony Manders** took the remainder on a sight-seeing tour.

This was reversed when **Sgt Ian Vine** took over the driving seat. The groups were introduced to rock-climbing on a 30-ft boulder which became affectionately known as the 'Yeomans Pebble'. Here they attempted a moderate grade climb and were introduced to the art of abseiling. Complaints regarding the lack of steps on the ascent were soon forgotten as **Bob Burrows**

Cpl Roger Calton and WO2 Bob Burrows resting on a ledge on the slope of Mount Rundle with Cpl Paul Elkington looking on from the bottom

enticed each individual to lean backwards over the edge of the rock and remain suspended on their abseil rope some 30ft in the air. The second part of the climb was completed on the lower slabs of Mount Rundle. **Bob** put up three routes of varying difficulty, most of the party successfully climbed these routes and even managed to enjoy the abseil down. However, **Paul Ashton** decided to test the breaking strain of his rope, when just feet from the summit he let go of the rock. He was held safely on the top rope by **Lenny Newton** and, after a short breather, **Paul** succeeded in finding sufficient holds to enable him to scramble to the top.

The tourists

With the exception of **Bob Burrows,** who remained glued to his rock-climbing, the members of the exercise enjoyed taking in the tourist sights in and around Banff. The sightseeing tour included a tour around the Buffalo and Bison Park. Unfortunately, only one group came into contact with these magnificent animals but even they complained because the Bison were blocking the road, and the size of these animals made the party feel very insecure, even though they were safely locked in the car.

The Luxton Museum was a very interesting spectacle. This Museum gives very good details of the history and the life of the Indians who once resided in the locality. This visit showed details of a now lost way of life but one which is Canada's heritage.

The highlight of the sightseeing tour was certainly the trip to Mount Norquay. The ascent was made by chair-lift offering many scenic views of the surrounding countryside, plus the stomach-churning excitement as the chairs swayed in the wind before coming to a final halt at the top, 7,500ft above sea level. At the top the group became friendly with the Gopher, who, it seems, have a preference for compo biscuits.

Dominion Day

The next day being July 1, it was decided that all exercise members would have a day away from organised activities to allow each individual to celebrate in his own way. Unfortunately, it seemed that only the exercise members wished to celebrate Dominion Day. **Lcpl Lenny Newton** and **Sig 'Kiwi' Marshall** made a hit with the local populace and attended a private party. The remainder took this opportunity for a trip to the local hostelry, ending the day with a sing-song around the camp fire back in Tunnel Mountain campsite.

No track

Celebrations over, Saturday, July 2, was the start of the climb to the highest local peak, Mount Cascade, 9,836ft above sea level. Cascade Mountain dominates the town of Banff and its snow-covered peak was a very awe-inspiring sight. Loaded with three days' rations and equipment, the exercise members set out in high spirits. Initially, the route was through a thick wooded area, and **Ian Vine** did a marvellous job keeping the bears away with his home-made (from a compo tin) bear scarer.

Once clear of this area and across the main highway the route was well defined along a track to the east of Stoney Squaw Mountain. This track ended abruptly at a dam. To overcome the hazard of crossing the dam meant a tedious negotiation of small hand-and-toe holds on the rock face for a distance of 10ft. The task was even more difficult with a sheer drop into the water.

Once this hazard was crossed, spirits were once again high only to be dashed as the next obstacle raised its head. So far it had been a simple task to walk alongside the river, but now the

terrain changed dramatically and the expedition members were faced with a steep-sided narrow gorge which offered no route along the river bank.

Slow going

Up to this time **Sig 'Kiwi' Marshall** had successfully navigated along the route but had to admit defeat temporarily. The only choice of continuing was by climbing much higher. **Bob Burrows** led off in an attempt to find a safe route up the rock face. After many attempts at different points, the members made a steady progress and they gained height to approximately 6,500ft. Here the ground levelled off sufficiently to allow the group to contour around the base of Cascade Mountain. Progress was still very slow, apart from the discomfort of always walking at an angle, the slopes were covered in forest and thick undergrowth.

The next major obstacle was a deep re-entrant that had at one time housed a stream but was now luckily dry. Unfortunately, the only route was to descend to the dried-up stream bed. The slope was very steep and the descent was made more hazardous by the presence of loose shale. The climb out, up the other side, was a hard scramble made more difficult by the weight of the packs.

By the late afternoon the group had reached a well-trodden path which meandered its way up the remaining 1,500ft into the Cascade Amphitheatre which was a very welcoming sight for the weary members of the exercise. The amphitheatre was a hanging valley 7,500ft above sea level. It had only one entrance, with the other three sides being steep, glaciated rock with the lower slopes loose shale and the peaks snow covered. Here the group halted and pitched their tents for an overnight stay. Although quite bright and sunny on arrival, the weather gradually worsened and the onslaught of night brought with it rain and hail storms.

Last leg

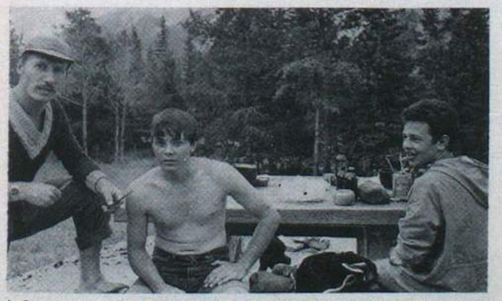
Next morning, Sunday, with clear skies and sunshine the exercise members set off on the last leg to the summit of Mount Cascade. The tents were left at the amphitheatre so the packs were considerably lighter.

At first the path was well defined but within half-an-hour of setting off the group was above the tree line and the ground changed from earth and grass to large boulders. After crossing the boulder field the group attained the ridge that led to the summit. From this vantage point 8,000ft above sea level the members were treated to scenic views. On one side was the overnight campsite in the amphitheatre, whilst on the other was the panoramic view of Banff town nestling in the valley surrounded by the lofty peaks of the other mountains. The progress along the ridge was quite good but was seriously hampered in two places which involved difficult negotiation of rock outcrops. One of these hazards was particularly difficult and made more hazardous by a pocket of snow over which the party had to cross.

By this time the clear blue sky had given way to heavy rain clouds and the summit was completely obscured. The cloud was completely engulfing the members of the exercise, thus making the ascent more difficult. With the cloud came the rain which, as the group climbed higher, changed to sleet and snow.

The summit and low visibility

At last, 3½ hours after setting out from the overnight campsite, the summit was attained. Unfortunately, by now the cloud base was so low and with the driving snow, visibility was down to 10m;



Left to right: Lcpl Lenny Newton, Sig 'Kiwi' Marshall and Sig Martin Glover at Tunnel Mountain campsite

consequently, the view from the summit, which should have been picturesque, was denied the exercise members. After a brief halt, allowing sufficient time to record details of the success of the mission in the visitors' book, placed at the summit by the Canadian Alpine Club, the return trek to the campsite began.

Good timing on descent

Once again on leaving the summit and descending rather more rapidly than the ascent the weather cleared. The group made good time on the descent but were still grateful to arrive at the campsite. After an undisturbed night, Monday morning the camp was struck and the long hike back to Tunnel Mountain began. The return route was along a clearly defined path to the valley followed by a long trek along the sides of Forty Mile Creek. Progress along this route was very rapid and the group had reached the main highway by mid-afternoon. After a trek along the road, Tunnel Mountain campsite was reached by late afternoon.

Cascade, a different route

Tuesday morning, **Lt Tony Manders** and **Sgt Ian Vine** collected the hire car and took the exercise members to the base of Cascade Mountain. The aim of this exercise was to attempt technical rock-climbing on the SE slopes of Cascade. Once again, with **Bob Burrows** setting up the routes, each member of the exercise successfully tackled the climb. The climb was split into three pitches, the longest one being approximately 120ft long. Total height climbed was about 275ft. The descent on all pitches was by abseiling, thus by the end of the day the exercise members were confident in their climbing ability and enjoyed the rapid descent of abseiling.

Goat Rock

Wednesday was a continuation of rock-climbing. This time the piece of rock chosen to climb was situated at the junction of route 1 and 1A. After the success of the previous day's climbing this outcrop of rock approximately 200ft high looked simple enough. The climb was attempted in two pitches, the first one was an 80-ft pitch which followed the line of a crack. The second pitch was much longer, approximately 120ft. This was predominantly friction climbing with a difficult traverse round an overhang near the summit.

Whilst resting on the top, the exercise members were introduced to a family of goats who were very inquisitive of the strangers who had invaded their terrain.

The mistake

It was decided around the campfire that **Bob** and **Tony** would carry out the task of rear party for this last three-day trek, **Sgts Ian Vine** and **'JJ' Johnstone** volunteered their services to take charge of the party. Thursday morning, bright eyed, that is all except **Ian,** the party prepared their packs and climbed into the transport that was to convey them to their start point at Johnston Canyon.

Sig Martin Glover was elected to lead the party to the first campsite which, on studying the map, appeared to be very easy. On reaching the Upper Falls of Johnston Canyon the path on the 1959 maps disappeared from the 1977 terrain. On mutual agreement, except perhaps for **Roger Calton,** the party decided to follow the river. After approximately half a mile the group came to a halt when their choice of route was blocked by the river.

Decision and a brew

Roger Calton, being a man of decisions, decided to have a brew of tea, whilst the remainder discussed the best possible way of crossing the river. After some deliberation it was decided that someone would have to wade across to try and secure the rope on the other bank. **Sgt 'JJ' Johnstone** was the obvious choice for this chore. This he accomplished, rather cold and wet, but quite safely.

Lenny Newton, the fit physical training instructor, decided that he would show his prowess and successfully negotiated the obstacle by leaping from boulder to boulder. **'Kiwi' Marshall,** not to be outdone, followed in **Lenny's** footsteps; however, he was not quite so agile and consequently ended up on the other side rather damp.

The remainder of the party, taking advantage of **'JJ' Johnstone's** heroic crossing, used the facility of the rope and all crossed safely, including **Cpl Johnny Walker** who, being extra careful, dressed for any eventuality in gym shoes, underpants and web belt prior to his crossing.

Cpl Roger Calton crossing a slippery log with Lt (now Capt) Tony Manders offering advice

Sgt 'JJ' Johnstone crossing a stream whilst Cpl Roger Calton prepares for his 'tightrope' act

Good progress

With this obstacle behind them they proceeded along the river bank. Once again it proved too difficult to follow the river bank, and to maintain progress the party had to gain height. With **Lenny Newton** leading and **Roger Calton** bringing up the rear, the party made good progress and attained the top of a ridge where the going was easier. It was apparent by now that the party would be unable to reach their intended overnight campsite and elected to stay at an alternative one.

A circular tour

The second day's pathfinding duties were handed over to **Roger Calton** who, map and compass in hand, led the party off on Friday morning. The trek proved uneventful until the party reached what they considered was the campsite they had intended to reach the previous night. However, **Martin Aubrey** was convinced that this was not so and attempted to prove the others wrong. This he managed to do and it transpired that the party had, in fact, travelled in a circle and were only three miles from their start point. There was no alternative left to the party, and in order to reach the scheduled pick-up point they were faced with a 15-mile hike along the road. The younger members of the party set off at a cracking pace leaving **Paul Elkington, Johnny Walker** and **'JJ' Johnstone** to struggle along at the rear. Later that day the party arrived at a picnic site where they set up camp and spent the night.

Early on the final day the group continued on the route in order to reach the scheduled pick-up point at the base of Mount Norquay.

Lake Louise area

Whilst the main party attempted the last three-day hike, **Bob Burrows** decided to have his own sightseeing tour. **Bob** and **Paul Ashton** hired a car between them and drove the 40 miles to Lake Louise.

Setting off from Lake Louise at 5,680ft above sea level, **Bob** and **Paul** climbed a well-defined track to 6,700ft. Here they came across a picturesque lake nestling in a col. This lake reflected the surrounding peaks in its clear blue water from whence it obtained the name of Mirror Lake. Climbing another 700ft **Bob** and **Paul** reached Lake Agnes. This lake was fed by the glacial streams from the surrounding mountains of St Piran and Devil's Thumb. Still on a fairly good track they continued climbing along the route to Big Beehive at 7,400ft. This honeycombed rock formation was so named because of its remarkable resemblance to a gigantic beehive. Continuing on their circular route the return journey to Lake Louise was made along a high-line trail via the Plain of Six Glaciers and on to Lake Louise.

Back to the car again and the two set off seven miles to Lake Moraine. **Bob** and **Paul** decided to take the walk to Larch Valley, 7,500ft. The trail started from Lake Moraine, climbing slowly but steadily to a magnificent view of the Ten Peaks. The trail then branched left on the edge of Larch Valley to travel above the tree line to Eiffel Lake in high meadows at the upper end of the valley of Ten Peaks. Larch Valley is a rolling plateau studded with Alpine Larch, Alpine flowers and small lakes. After returning along the same route to Lake Moraine, **Bob** and **Paul** drove back to Tunnel Mountain campsite.

Mount Rundle

Opposite Mount Cascade on the other side of the Bow River was Mount Rundle, 9,838ft above sea level.

On Saturday morning **Bob** decided to attempt to reach the summit of this mountain. Unfortunately, **Paul Ashton's** blistered feet exempted him from this climb and **Tony Manders** was required to pick up the main party later the same day from Mount Norquay. Finding a climbing partner from the Tunnel Mountain campsite, **Bob** set off crossing the Bow River Valley to the base of Mount Rundle.

The trail up the side of Rundle was fairly well defined and they made good progress. Upon reaching the top of the timber line, 7,500ft, the weather changed drastically but being of stout heart, **Bob** and his partner pushed on hoping that the storm would blow over. Progress now was far more difficult as the path was non-existent and they were continually scrambling over fallen boulders. The last part of the climb to the summit involved a vertical climb of about 60ft. It was at this point that the storm released its fury causing the unfortunate two to seek shelter. The storm lasted for about half an hour and was very severe. The two decided that owing to the weather conditions any attempt to reach the summit would be too dangerous and so had to return to the base camp at Tunnel Mountain.

The sports day

Lenny Newton arranged to have a sports competition with the local rugby team. After seeing the opposition, all six-footers, it was decided to amend the game from rugby to softball. Unfortunately, all Saturday night and Sunday morning the weather was bad, and on arrival at the sports ground the exercise members were informed that the match had to be cancelled. However, the weather cleared in the afternoon and the exercise members lent their support to the Banff rugby team who were playing in a local derby with a team from Calgary.

The bears

The first encounter with any bears was on the return from the warm-up hike when **'JJ' Johnstone** and **Roger Calton,** who were ahead of the main party, saw a black bear crossing their path 20m in front of them. This story was not really believed by the rest of the group as the sighting occurred very close to the town of Banff, and it was thought that the bears would not come so close to civilisation.

This theory was soon shelved as the next encounter with a bear was seen by nearly all the members of the exercise in the populated area of Tunnel Mountain campsite. The third encounter was again at base camp when **Lenny Newton** poked his head outside of his tent to see another black bear foraging for food just feet away from him. Luckily, shouts once again caused the bear to run away.

The final sighting was once again at Tunnel Mountain, when **'Kiwi' Marshall,** running back to the campsite, ran within five yards of a bear that was rumaging in the dustbins. Several people saw this bear, but **'Kiwi'** maintains that he was running so fast that his vision was blurred, Perhaps if he had seen it he would have run even faster!

The return flight

Thursday morning 0530hrs, after spending the remainder of the night in the airport's lounge and cafe, **Tony Manders** reported to the movements personnel and was informed that the flight was delayed and the new scheduled time of arrival was 1pm. Thoughts of a repeat performance of the outward journey were paramount in everyone's mind; however, this was not the case.

The party

Monday, it was decided to spend buying gifts for the return journey and the evening was spent in the King Edwards Tavern in Banff, saying farewell to the friends that the exercise members had made during their stay in Canada. Owing to the disappointment of Sunday, **Lenny** was still keen to try his hand at baseball. Monday afternoon his chance came when he and **'JJ'** were asked to play for the local Banff team in a friendly training match.

Calgary Stampede

Tuesday morning, a late start due to slightly overindulgence the previous night, all the equipment was checked over and packed in the boxes ready for the return to England. Transport arrived at Tunnel Mountain 9.30 on Wednesday morning and with sad farewells, the exercise members left on the first part of their journey to England.

On arrival at Calgary airport the movement personnel informed **Tony** that the reporting time for the flight was 0530hrs Thursday morning. This left the afternoon and evening free to visit the world-famous Calgary Stampede. All members of the exercise spent the afternoon enjoying the sights at the stampede ground. This included a gigantic fairground and various shows including bare-back riding, steer wrestling and riding, calf lassooing and bronco busting.

In the evening, the group watched the highlight of the stampede, the Chuck wagon races. This was followed by an open-air cabaret show. A most spectacular firework display rounded off the day's entertainment.

Smooth flight home

The aircraft, an RAF VC10, arrived at the new scheduled time. In order to meet the turn around time of one-and-a-half hours, the members of the exercise volunteered to unload and reload the baggage on the aircraft. Considering the lack of knowledge on performing such as task it was very pleasing to note that on completion of the loading the exercise members had acheived the time frame that had been set and the aircraft was able to leave on schedule.

The return flight in the luxury of the VC10 was far more comfortable than the outward journey. With a brief halt for fuel and crew change at Gander, the members of Exercise Rocky Quest returned safely to Tidworth by lunchtime on Friday, July 15, 1977.

Acknowledgements

The success or failure of any adventure training exercise such as Exercise Rocky Quest depends a lot on those people who offer their services but who do not necessarily have the opportunity to partake in the exercise themselves. Such was the case with this exercise, and all participants of Exercise Rocky Quest would like to thank all those people who helped to make the exercise possible.

Special mention must be made to **Lcpl Alan Monaghan** of 8 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn who was a great help in arranging the flight details.

Also to: **Capt Patrick** (WRAC)—MOD PAT2
Sqn Ldr McConnell—MOD Mov6
Maj Wilson—Movements BAOR
47 Sqn RAF and the reception staff at **RAF Lyneham**
Movements staff at Gander airport
all of whom helped in getting the exercise members to Canada.

Further mention must be made to the **Quartermaster** and his **staff** of 8 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn plus the **Adventure Training pool staff of COD Thatcham** for the loan of the equipment. Also to **Ssgt Mick Owsley,** 7 Sqn RCT, for the loan of his personal climbing equipment.

Sincere thanks go to the staff at **BATU Suffield,** and **Ssgt Jim Fyffe** for supplying the rations and transport in Canada. Also the **instructors** of the **Army Cadet Camp** for their help and advice on the suitability of various climbs and treks in the area.

Finally, a special expression of thanks goes to **Maj Dick Smith,** Officer Commanding 8 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn, for allowing 12 members of his unit the opportunity of taking part in such a splendid exercise.

JOINT SERVICES EXPEDITION TO MOMBASA

Report by Capt John Griffiths (21 Sig Regt)

ONE OF TWELVE TO NAIROBI

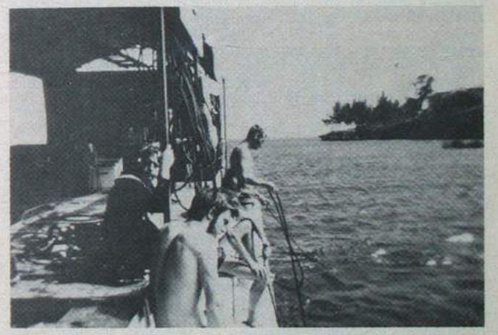
FOR three months of this year, during the cold of January, February and March, I was lucky enough to be one of the 12 Servicemen (4 Navy, 4 Army, and 4 RAF) that formed the Joint Service Expedition 1977 and assisted the National Museums of Kenya and the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology excavate a 17th century Portuguese wreck in Mombasa Harbour, Kenya. We flew by RAF Hercules to Nairobi on January 8, and then travelled by road to Mombasa. Our stores had already arrived and we quickly made camp in the unused Agricultural Showground of Kenya which overlooks the harbour. After equipment testing period, we commenced diving in the harbour outside the walls of Fort Jesus.

Over the last 12 years local skin-divers had located evidence of a wreck in the harbour and the porcelain, pottery and other artifacts found by them were proved to be contemporary with items held in Fort Jesus Museum and confirmed as late 17th century of Portuguese origin.

In 1975–76, **Dr George Bass,** an outstanding figure in nautical archaeology had, at the invitation of the Kenyan Government, sent two archaeologists to evaluate the wreck site to see if it was of sufficient historical interest to be worthy of further research. They considered that it was, and that it could be the wreck of the *Santo Antonio de Tanna,* a 42-gun Portuguese frigate, thought to have sunk in 1697. The British, Portuguese, and Kenyan Governments agreed to assist and **Lt Commd A. F. Tilley** led the British Joint Service team.

1,100 hours of diving

We used as a dive platform a moored barge which was directly over the wreck site. Our first task was to lay a series of 2-m grid squares over the wreck. This assisted with the correct charting of the timbers and the marking on the master plan of finds that we divers made. The wreck lay diagonally on a 30-deg slope ranging in depth from 9 to 20m, and we were able to average two dives per person a day. Work was also carried out in the conservation laboratory, drawing office, and darkroom, and each team member spent his time, when not diving, at one of these tasks. Some 1,100 hours of diving were recorded during the 59 days actually on site.



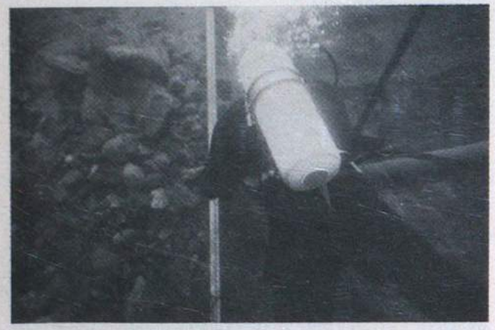
Vacuum cleaner approach

We all learnt the art of air lifting, which is the use of a 4 or 6-inch pipe with air intake, as a vacuum cleaner gently lifting the layers of silt, sand, and stones away from the main wreck on to the base of the slope. The first 16 m trench that was excavated involved us in moving by air-lift (but also by hand) some 50 cu m of debris. This included a mass of ballast stones from the wreck. We excavated down for 3m to the ship's timbers, exposing the keelson and mast step. We uncovered about one-half of the wreck in this the first season, from amidships to the stern. The visibility was poor and sometimes down to six inches and it was never, at any time, possible to see the whole wreck site. For us, from Europe, the water was warm but only on Sundays, when we went pleasure diving in the Indian Ocean on the reefs, did we ever see the corals, fish and colours which one associates with the tropics.

Rarely empty handed

The ship itself was the object in view and it is hoped that

eventually it will be raised and displayed in the Museum at Fort Jesus. Nevertheless, in the absence of the proverbial treasure, a number of interesting finds were made. The most interesting of these were two fine glazed Chinese jars and a bas relief carved figure of an angel. Cannon balls, bits of china, wooden artifacts were plentiful and, after the bulk of the debris had been removed, we rarely left the water empty handed.



International flavour

There was little off-duty time; work started at 0700 and lasted until about 1830hrs with 45 minutes for lunch. Sundays were free and were spent (of course) diving. A further two seasons are envisaged and four divers from BAOR leave on a modified expedition in January 1978.

During the exercise we were joined by Portuguese and Kenyan Navy divers, giving the project an international flavour enhanced by **Jeremy Green** from Western Australia, and **Ken Potts** from Michigan University, both archaeologists of note.

Background from 16th and 17th centuries

The Portuguese commenced building the fort in 1593 to protect their trade routes to Goa. Constructed of coral rock, it fell only once, in 1631, through trickery. It was not seriously threatened again until 1696 when Omani Arabs surrounded and besieged it for 33 months. It finally fell to the Arabs but it is generally accepted that this was due to plague rather than the attackers' military genius! In 1697, the *Santo Antonio de Tanna*, a Portuguese 42-gun frigate, sank in the harbour in front of Fort Jesus, whilst attempting to relieve the besieged garrison.

Built in India

The vessel was approximately 40m long and 13m wide and was built at Bacaim, an Indian shipyard north of Bombay, and was launched in 1681. The *Tanna* made a few coastal trips but at the beginning of 1693 she sailed for Lisbon with a cargo of salt, arriving at the end of 1694. Remaining in Lisbon about 18 months, probably for extensive repairs, she and another ship sailed for Mozambique in April 1696. On arrival, four months later, the senior officer received orders to proceed to Mombasa to give help to the garrison who were under attack from the Arabs. However, it was decided to carry on to India as the ships were short of men, gunpowder, and there were no pilots with knowledge of Mombasa Harbour approaches.

Squadron under way

At Goa, a squadron of seven ships was quickly formed comprising 700 men of whom 400 were soldiers, and on November 25, two months after they had arrived with the *Santo* as flagship, the squadron set sail. Command was given to **Gen Luis de Melo de Sampaio,** who had more mercantile intentions than military inclination. He was not liked and two conflicting orders, received as he departed, did not help the mission. Firstly, he was told to replenish supplies and reinforce the garrison and, if they were not too strong, attack the enemy. More alluring though was the other order which appointed him Governor of Mozambique and placed him in charge of the gold and silver trade of the area.

Mistaken identity

The squadron arrived on Christmas night 1696. The fort was besieged and gunfire could be heard as they approached. From the fort a **Joseph Barrosa** managed, by night, to get to the *Tanna* in a boat and reported that there were only 20 Portuguese in the fort and all were ill from fever and mulnutrition. The defence was in the hands of loyal Swahilis.

Joseph Barrosa and 50 men were sent in one of the boats next morning to try to get up to the fort. Because of their failure to understand signals, they went aground about 400m on the seaward side of the fort and the men, after scrambling ashore, ran towards the fort where the Swahili soldiers came out to meet and assist them, but the sailors and soldiers mistook them for the enemy, leapt into the sea, and tried to swim the channel. All were drowned, except **Joseph Barrosa** and two others. On successive nights though, provisions and ammunition were landed and taken into the fort.

Battle raged

In January 1697, the monsoon changed and the anchorages were no longer safe, and some days later the *Tanna* sailed for Mozambique, leaving the only other frigate as blockade ship. After the *Tanna* had gone, however, this frigate sailed to Zanzibar. Immediately, five Arab ships entered Mombasa with reinforcements. In August, the General received a letter from Mombasa asking for immediate help. The General sailed at once for Mombasa in the *Tanna* (with 250 men) and another ship, and arrived in Zanzibar two weeks later, where he collected another three vessels and arrived finally in Mombasa on the morning of September 15, 1697. On entering the harbour the *Tanna* anchored in front of the fort with a bow and stern anchor out.

A battle raged all day and one Arab shore battery caused a lot of damage to the *Tanna* and killed a number of the crew. Additionally, a spark from one of the cannons fell into a barrel of gunpowder and the explosion killed a number of men and the ensuing fire burnt others, but the fire was finally put out. At midnight, the General received a message that all the Portuguese in the fort were dead and the defenders were all loyal Swahilis and some African women. The fight continued all next day, and on the third day the issued ration of wine taken on empty stomachs (as no time had been available for food or sleep) made the crew so drunk that it was impossible to land any more men.

Final resting place

The following day a few men, including the General, were landed under cover of darkness, but by the end of the day another 14 men had been killed and 22 wounded. The General was now seriously ill with fever and handed over command to his executive, **de Brito.** On October 20, for reasons unknown, the anchor cable parted and the *Tanna* with 150 men on board drifted across the channel and went aground on the reef where she lost her rudder. When the tide rose she drifted back across the channel and went aground again near an enemy battery about 800m from the fort on the inland side. **De Brito** left the fort with a party of 28 men and attacked the enemy battery and drove off the enemy. The men from the frigate got ashore, gave assistance, and secured the position.

The *Tanna* was refloated and towed back in front of the fort where moorings were made with three anchors. Later, the cable parted again and the *Tanna* went aground and subsequently sank. She did not go to the bottom immediately and therefore most items of value together with the cannons were probably taken ashore. The exact date of sinking is not known, but with the tidal flow she finally slipped down the slope where she now lies.

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B.F.P.O. 809

MORE LATER

NOT a quiet period for the Squadron since our last publication, with the July marches and the Queen's Jubilee Visit testing both our infantry and communicating skills respectively—more about that in the next issue. For the moment the one single event which has occupied the remaining time and attention of the Squadron for the last few weeks has been the Silver Jubilee Fete, an account of which is as follows:

'STEWPOT' VISITS 3 BRIGADE

Some weeks ago it was decided that there should be some form of Silver Jubilee celebration for the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron soldiers and their families such that in common with thousands of other children in the United Kingdom our youngsters, too, would have their Silver Jubilee celebration. Having solicited the assistance of the local RMP and UDR companies the selected committee set about organising something which would meet the bill, and the Silver Jubilee Fete of Sunday, July 17, was the result. The Fete was used as an opportunity to entertain some of those local children less fortunate than most and some 40 children from Portadown were invited to attend as our guests for the afternoon.

Planning went well, until one week from the day, when the local celebrity invited to open the Fete rang to say he could not make it. Knowing how much notice celebrities usually require for appointments such as this the committee were depressingly pessimistic about securing a 'star' for the opening ceremony. However, not to be daunted, phone calls were made and with more hope than confidence, **Ed 'Stewpot' Stewart** of BBC radio and television was asked if he would come to Northern Ireland—'Yes, love to', he said. (Apparently he had cancelled an appointment for the same day only hours before.) Bingo! The word was passed, 500 posters altered, and we were back in business. The slight problem of getting him from the airport to the barracks in 15 minutes was overcome by courtesy of 662 Sqn, Army Air Corps, who provided a Scout helicopter piloted by **Capt Alan Jones** (Royal Signals), who is returning to the Corps early next year, which flew him here the moment he stepped out of the BEA aircraft.

Capt Alan Jones (Royal Signals) and 'Stewpot' in the Scout helicopter just prior to leaving Aldergrove Airport for the opening of the Fete

In good humour after his trip from the airport, 'Stewpot' walks towards the hundreds of children awiting his arrival
Left to right: OC, Maj Jeremy Ventham, Ed 'Stewpot' Stewart, 2IC, Capt David Collyer

INTERFACE PROBLEM SURMOUNTED

'Stewpot' opened the Fete with a few seconds' silence caused by a slight interface problem between a borrowed BBC microphone and a Royal Signals PA system, but from then on it really was all the fun of the fair. Highlights of the afternoon included low-level passes by a Piper Cherokee aeroplane from a local flying club, a very amusing fire-fighting display by the Portadown Fire Service, and a grounded Gazelle helicopter for the children to enjoy. Nearby, a 'Cherry-picker' from 8 Field Sqn RE gave rides to excited children (and adults), and away from the main arena, Saracens, and the Fire engine, with bells, hooters, and flashing lights all ago gave the children ride after ride. (The ponies were, of course, represented but in a quieter environment!)

No fete is complete without its sideshows: there were more than a dozen painstakingly prepared, decorated and operated by the soldiers. 'TM' Troop's contribution, led by **F of S John Francis,** was the ducking stool which was pure Heath Robinson. A 'volunteer', poised on a trolley, was dumped in a water tank—if you could upset the balance of pulleys and counterweights by puncturing a water-filled balloon with a dart. It worked—quite often!

The races were not forgotten. Children in sacks raced each other, crawled under nets, bobbed for apples and were rewarded with truly super prizes presented by **Mrs Woodford,** wife of the Brigade Commander. The Scout flew **'Stewpot'** from the arena to ctach his plane home, then returned to shower sweets for the children. Finally, the Band of the Gordon Highlanders played Sunset and the Anthem and the crowds melted away.

AIM FULFILLED

The primary aim of the day was to provide Jubilee entertainment for the families, in particular the chidren. Even so, £250 was still raised from sideshows (which only charged 2p a go), and a cheque has been sent to support the Jubilee Appeal Fund. From the many happy faces seen that afternoon there is no doubt that our children have had their Jubilee day to remember, too.

Wouldn't *you* look like this if *you* had been hit by a wet sponge? An RMP stall—great fun at 2p a go

Audience participation they call it! The 'chief' fire officer, Portadown Fire Brigade, makes his contribution to the day's weather

All credit to the photographer for staying put long enough to capture this group of charging enthusiasts competing in the obstacle race

Mrs Woodford presents a Jubilee prize to one very happy little girl

Master Kenneth Robson, son of Sgt Ken Robson, offers his 5p for an autographed photograph of 'Stewpot', who signed over 200 that afternoon. The 5ps went towards the fund

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We say farewell to **WO2 (Y of S) Tony Jackson** who has left us for service in BAOR. We thank him for his devoted service and wish him every success in the future. To those others too numerous to mention who have recently left we also say 'thank you' and wish them and their families every success.

Amongst the many new faces which have joined us, we welcome **WO2 (Y of S) Bill Balding** and his wife, **Helen.** We wish them a happy and successful tour.

In Civilian Life

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8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

OC		**Maj K. P. Burke** (Royal Signals)
2IC/Comms Offr		**Capt N. O. Williams** (Royal Signals)
QM	—	**Capt (QM) H. Bell** (Royal Signals)
AO	—	**Capt (QM) R. Coleman, MBE** (Royal Hamps)
OC Comms Tp		**Lt M. S. Fisher** (Royal Signals)
MTO	—	**Lt A. Evans** (Royal Signals)
RSM	—	**WO1 R. I. Buckley**
RQMS	—	**WO2 M. S. W. Olive**
Y of S	—	**WO2 J. T. Nichols**
F of S	—	**WO2 N. C. Cowell**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt R. J. Duffy**

THE MARCHING SEASON

THE Squadron has now entered the marching season in Northern Ireland which extends between July 12 and August 12. This is always a busy period in the Province but particularly this year with the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Northern Ireland, during August. The new University of Ulster now sports an outstanding array of antennas which were erected on the 10-storey high building by Comms Troop. The generators were too large to fit into the lift and were brought in by helicopter.

Photo courtesy: Photographic Department, The New University of Ulster

Helicopter lands equipment on the Coleraine University roof

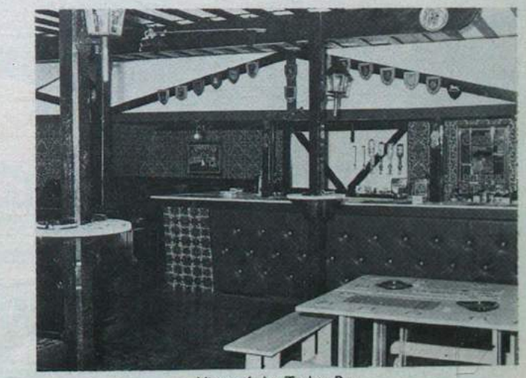
IMPORTANT VISITS

The Squadron played host to the CLF, **Maj Gen R. V. Trant,** recently when he arrived for a brief visit. During his tour he visited the Commcen, Rover Groups, and 'TM' Troop. The CLF also took the opportunity to present LS and GC Medals to **WO2 Tony Moreman,** Superintending Clerk, Bde HQ, and **Ssgt Stewart Harvey,** 'TM' Troop.

The CLF presents Ssgt S. Harvey and WO2 (SQMS) A. Moreman with their LS and GC Medals

The Brigade Commander pulls the first pint in the new Tudor Bar

The Brigade Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle, MBE,** also spent a morning with the Squadron visiting all departments during his tour. The Commander was kind enough to open the new-look Squadron Club, now called the Tudor Bar. The Club was refurbished on a self-help basis, and our thanks go to the local D of E section who were so helpful with the supplies of material! Although many have helped in the work of redecoration particular mention should be given to **Lcpl 'Scouse' Davies** and **Cpl 'Paddy' Paige** (RPC) whose efforts were rewarded by the presentation of tankards.



View of the Tudor Bar

RAIN NO PROBLEM

On a rather wet and windy day at Magilligan, the Squadron held its first Summer BBQ for the Pioneer Platoon. The weather was so bad that it was decided that the next BBQ should include some form of shelter. Luckily, a nearby Martello Tower was available and this was transformed into a bar and discotheque. Much to the amazement of the local population the Martello Tower, bedecked with bunting, became the centre point of the Squadron party. This time, when the rain came the party carried on.

The Squadron barbecue gets underway

WATERSPORTS

Lt Ken Hadfield took a party of keen canoeists for a trip on the Leeds–Liverpool Canal and before the pollution began to dissolve the canoes some 80 miles were covered in five days. The expedition covered the Pennine crossing which includes some 25 locks.

After winning the Northern Ireland and NE/NW District heats of the Army Swimming Championships the Squadron team found themselves a little outclassed in the finals at RMA Sandhurst. They were unable to repeat last year's performance, and had to settle for fifth place. Nevertheless, our congratulations go to the team for reaching the finals two years running.

Remaining on the water for a while, the Squadron is now the proud owner of its own fishing boat, a converted lifeboat. This was purchased out of funds provided by the Nuffield Trust. **Cpl Cy Howard** (RCT) has spent many hours preparing the boat for the water. Our intrepid fishermen are looking forward to many happy hours of fishing on the River Bann and at sea.

The Squadron takes to the water
Left to right: Cpl Reid-Prescott, Cpl Fishpool, Lcpl Oliver, Cpl Walker, Sig Tiernan, Dvr Troake, Pte Holden, Sig Lambe

Cpl Walker and Lcpl Fishpool on the Leeds–Liverpool canal

FAREWELLS

The next few weeks see many of the old guard disappearing from Londonderry. Our best wishes go to **RQMS Harry Hemstock, Sgts Bob Baggaley, Brian Bradbury, Cpl Lockhart, Sig Whiteley, Ptes Kelly** and **Collins, Lcpl Duncan,** and **Dvr May** (RCT).

A special farewell to **Lt Ken Hadfield,** our departing MTO, who leaves us to command the White Helmets, and our thanks to his wife, **Cathy,** for all her work in the Squadron Kindergarten. **Lt Ken Hadfield** was given a number of farewell parties, and finally left the Province with a big smile and a hangover!

The officers give a farewell dinner for Lt Ken Hadfield

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

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

THUMBNAIL PROFILE No 4—SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

THIS profile retains its place in the series despite the protest of the Orderly Room staff that it should be published as a toenail profile. Heading the SHQ organisation is, of course, the OC, **Maj Conrad Garton,** who tries hard to lend an air of calm assuredness to what occasionally appears an imperfect state.

Capt Stephen Siddall, the 2IC, has now perfected the method of keeping visiting soldiers away from his dog, who on her first morning in the Squadron went for every member of the hierarchy at least once. The next step is to work out how to keep other dogs away—she has rapidly gained a reputation in the district as a very naughty lady, and the Siddall household is permanently under siege from about twenty of the local canine casanovas.

The Squadron's administrative effort is controlled by **Capt Joe Menzel,** the Admin Officer, who labours endlessly on the PRI account, and we are sure he has had more than his fair share of sleepless nights worrying about his classified documents. Most importantly, he takes a tremendous weight of administrative detail away from the Troops, for which they are eternally grateful.

The Chief Clerk is **Ssgt Paul Leniston,** aided and abetted by the villainous Orderly Room staff whom he just manages to control, perhaps helped by his recent lion-taming course at Melton Mowbray (this information from a doubtful source).

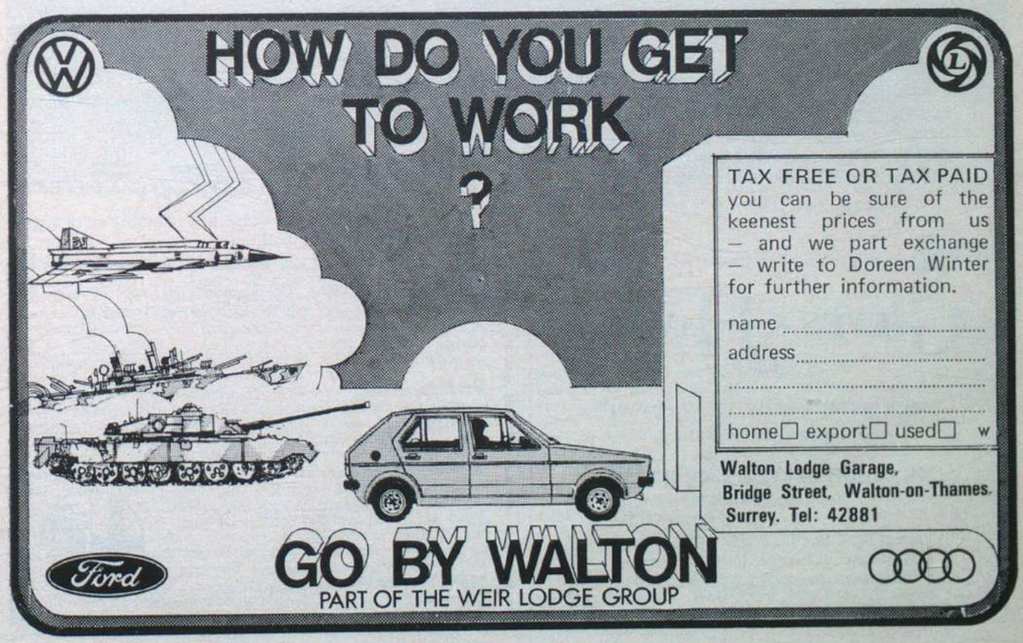
The motley crew consists of:

Cpl 'Boggie' Marsh—the PT king
Lcpl Joe Cotterill—the coffee-maker and agony columnist
Lcpl Tony Crawshaw—the side-stepping outside half
Sig John Brown—the horse-racing tipster.

Last, but most certainly not least, we must mention our cleaning lady, **Mrs Eileen Dodds,** who goes through our lives like the well-known 'white tornado', and keeps all the offices absolutely sparkling.

The Chief Clerk supporting Lcpl Joe Cotterill (as usual). Cpl Marsh looks amused and Lcpl Tony Crawshaw is the nonchalant one

As a postscript it should perhaps be pointed out that none of the aforementioned characters holds the position of 'the most powerful single entity in the Squadron'. That honour goes to—the Xerox copying machine. It is able, with its frequent dramatic (and smelly) tantrums, to turn the whole administrative effort into disarray.



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

WRAC LINE-UP

THIS month it is the turn of the WRAC Signal Troop of 233 Sig Sqn to face the limelight. The Troop has 50 members and, therefore, as is normal with a WRAC Troop, a large turnover of personnel.

Over the last few months we have said goodbye to: **Lt Penny Longlands**—who we congratulate on her winning the 1977/78 WRAC Signals Prize; **Lcpls Mary Wells, Maggie Day;** and **Ptes Kate Pellow, Chris Taylor, Jane Simpson, Mary Scott, Lynne Webb, Pauline Mahabier, Karen Robbins, Heather Scott, Bev Humphrey,** and **Wendy Stephens.** We hope that they will enjoy their new locations.

Joining our happy band, we have welcomed: **Cpl 'Looby' Fairnington, Lcpls Jane Ash, Lorraine Pritchard, Kathy Fogwell; Ptes Maggie MacTaggart, Alison Webster, Paula Beresford, Jennie Young, 'Charlie' Hewett, Lynne Yates, 'Scottie' Whyte, 'Babs' Gore, Jo Lynas, Katrina Tanser, Paula Brown, 'Ellie' Doyle, Ann Cottier,** and **Joyce Dick.**

—News from Headquarters—

Project Wavell Implementation Team–Fort Halstead

Left to right. Standing: Cpls Cope, Yarranton, Lambley, Pellen, Sig Bennett, Cpls Evans, Tracey, Harvey, King, Hall
Sitting: Sgt Brown, Ssgt Forrest, WO2 (Y of S) Mack, Lt Col Sammes, Maj Siderfin, WO2 (F of S) Davis, Sgt Smith

Report by Cpl 'Right Wing' Cope

RECENTLY-FORMED TEAM

HELLO from the Project Wavell Implementation Team (PWIT). As this is the first set of WIRE notes since the team has formed, I feel an introduction is necessary. The team has been formed recently from a selected number of Technicians and Operators from various units. The team, shown in the photograph in an unusually formal pose with our Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Tony Sammes,** consists of:

Maj Bob (El Cid) Siderfin, WO2 Terry (Astronaut) Mack, Sgt Derek (My wife is on the Pill at last) Brown, Sgt George (Courses) Smith, Cpl John (Right Wing I) Cope, Cpl Graham (Right Wing II) King, Cpl Eric (Right Wing III) Yarranton, Cpl Dave (Whose mate) Pellen, Cpl John (Ops mate) Hall, Cpl Bob (These pads) Evans, Cpl Stan (The fisherman) Harvey, Cpl Jeff (Claims) Tracey, Cpl Chris (Attache case) Lambley, Sig Les (Custard pie) Bennett.

The team have adopted the Peewit as our mascot and our battle cry is 'Mana-Mana', but according to **Cpl 'These pads' Evans** this revered utterance should only be used when in pursuit of beer or women! **'Custard pie' Bennett** received his title when purchasing his NAAFI break from the sticky-bun lady. When she informed him that she had no change for a £1 note he bought 11 custard pies. It is a point to note that he did not eat any lunch or evening meal. As with all units we have our colourful characters but 'El Cid' and the 'Astronaut' find plenty to occupy our time.

MOVE TO BLANDFORD

In September PWIT will be going to Blandford to begin trials there where we will be joined by 15 other personnel to complete the Wavell team. Before we go to Blandford we are attending courses to familiarise ourselves with computers, computer languages and various peripherals. At this point a mention of **Stan (The fisherman) Harvey** and **Jeff (Claims) Tracey's** visit to Plesseys at Stoke Park. The manager of the Golf Club, to which Plessey are attached, suspected our fine upstanding duo of being potential car thieves. Obviously a very perceptive chap.

On completion of the trials at Blandford which, incidentally, we of the PWIT confidently agree will be successful, men and equipment will be joining BAOR at 2 Armd Div for further trials on exercises with the Bruin system. It is expected that after a full exercise season with 2 Armd Div and successful completion of the trials Project Wavell personnel will go to individual units in BAOR when the Wavell system becomes operational.

Footnote: The photograph also shows the infiltration of two interlopers, namely, **WO2 Pete (Pea Picker) Davis** and **Ssgt Alan (Smoothie) Forrest** from the Project Military Team whom we tolerate gracefully.

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

CARIBBEAN REPORT

LOOKING through the mask at the reef below and seeing the magnified fish majestically patrolling their sea made **Cpl Steve Stevenson** realise that all his efforts to pack the mountains of diving gear and general stores for the move from BAOR to Belize in the Caribbean was worth while. Equally impressed but being more experienced, the expedition leader first noticed not the huge coral formations nor the multi-coloured fish but the odd hammerhead shark and a barracuda lazily swimming below us. The novice and qualified diver quickly realised that the months of training to bring 'one divers club' of 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt to a tropical island called Cay Caulker, 25km off Belize City and 10,000km from Verden, was, with its crystal clear waters and as yet unknown dangers, foing to be an adventure.

Cpls Peter Wykes and **Drew Balchin** organised the base camp which consisted only of two tents and an equipment area while the remainder unpacked, and tested the two compressors and diving gear. For the next 10 days the divers had to acclimatise, practise their safety drills and bring themselves to peak fitness before moving to Half Moon Cay, 80km away on the outer reef, where we were going to locate wrecks, dive the Blue Hole and practise recovery techniques.

Famous Blue Hole with Jaws

Jacques Cousteau has made the Blue Hole famous with his films and books, so directly the 13 soldiers, who consisted of Signalmen, Craftsmen, and RMP, had found themselves shelter under the palm trees on this uninhabited island, a decision where to dive first did not arise. The hole, a cave many millions of years ago now covered by the sea is 200m in diameter and 150m deep with the lip water only 10in in depth.

Sig John Kenworthy had just entered the water on the first dive when a cry from the boat announced the arrival of two sharks! Back on board he watched them pass. Only to find when he entered again a hammerhead just below the surface but this time being no novice to sharks, he stayed below with the group.

Besides more sharks and barracudas, good eating especially so when cooked over a coconut fire, the fish life on the outer reef was, at first sight, unbelievable, rays 6ft across the wings, groupers weighing 50–60lb, jew fish of hundreds of pounds, and millions of multi-coloured coral fish. In one fight, a moray eel whilst killing a crab was itself attacked by an octopus, only the crab lost. The corals, tipped in green blue, yellow, and red along with the sponges, sea fans, and anemones, made picturesque homes for the many inhabitants. Wreck locating took time and the rewards were small as most had disintegrated or had been overgrown with coral. Two coasters put on the reef by Hurricane Hatti in 1961 coral souvenirs to the divers and enabled us to see what damage gave up did with 20-ft rents in their hulls. It was an unsettling experience being in these eerie monsters but they made a welcome change on our rest days.

Photo courtesy PR HQ 1 Div

Expedition members with a large crayfish they caught on the reef—it ended up on the meal table

A crab invasion

The monsoon period was just beginning, and during one tropical strom our tents were invaded by land crabs, some up to 7in across the shell, seeking shelter. **Sgt Kelly** woke to find one clinging to the inside of his mosquito net inches from his face and another in the sleeping bag with him; he spent the remainder of the night in the boat.

The expedition had its fair share of problems and humour, with **Sig John Bagshaw** stopping the MK just outside of Verden to ask the driver to stop in London! While the compressors were the only ones not to enjoy the heat but the expert maintenance given by **Lcpl Owen,** with the help of Araldite, kept them charging only to fail on the day before we left Belize. Resupply of petrol, water and soft drinks with the time/distance involved was a constant problem; during one storm we drank coconut juice rather than the reserve water, while we waited for the overdue boat which negotiated the reef at night, a dangerous operation even in the day.

The aim achieved

Nevertheless, we achieved the aim, lived in shark territory, fended for ourselves, and began to know our limitations in both operating beneath the sea and living on an uninhabited island for four weeks. When's the next VC10 to Belize?

3 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP REPORT

The Squadron moved in two halves to Boppard am Rhein for its annual Summer Camp, taking with it all the necessary equipment for a whole host of activities; BE tests! Sailing, canoeing, water ski-ing, orienteering and initiative tests. The photographs show **Cpl Wallace** water ski-ing, and **Sigs Walter, Armstrong, Hallett, Dvr Ellis** and **Cpl Jones** preparing for a day's water activities.

WINE TASTING

High spots of each week were the wine tasting (which most attended twice—and we have so many experts now it's unbelievable), and the river trip to Koblenz on which everyone sang all the way there and all the way back. **Sig Keith Boxall** was so impressed by his first Summer Camp to put pen to paper. The result (?)—a literary masterpiece.

'On Summer Camp we had one very interesting evening of wine tasting. We went into a cellar which wasn't big enough for us but we still managed to taste the wine, or gulp it down as most people did. After we drunk all the wine most of us got a bottle to take away but mine was gone in a few minutes as we decided to watch a certain Lieutenant make passes at a young lady who had come to clear the empty glasses up. As he caught sight of her he leaped from his seat and grabbed her for a dance which was very slow. Then he decided it was time he kissed her. She was very surprised at this, after that we never saw them again. I wonder where they went to?'!

3 SQUADRON JUBILEE DAY

This month saw the turn of 3 Sqn to hold their Jubilee Celebrations. Saturday, July 23, dawned wet and stayed wet. Thus the gymnasium was the venue for all our activities. The children's fancy dress party was supported by some 130 children, including no fewer than 15 pirates. The more than ample tea was provided by the Squadron wives and was followed by a session of well organised chaos with **Ssgt 'Uncle Bob' Mawson** in the thick of it. The children worn out and in bed, those grown-ups with energy left had their own party, with **Mrs Jill Rutherford,** wife of the Squadron 2IC, winning the star raffle prize of nine toilet rolls! The day was such a success that the OC was heard to say he would be willing to organise another one next Jubilee.

1 DIVISION SAILING

Having won the Signals Baltic Regatta, the Regiment's team set out to win the Divisional Baltic Regatta. The 'A' team, although managing two first places, one third, one fourth, and a sixth, was unable to beat 24 Mov Regt RCT, who won by one point, with the Regiment as runners-up. The team was skippered by **Capt Lowe** and consisted of **Ssgt Downie, Cpl McLean** and **Dvr Ellis.** (Rumour has it they would have won if the Divisional Sailing Officer, our own **Maj John Maclean,** had not insisted on running an extra race in which the 'A' team came sixth!)

CRICKET

The Regimental cricket side has had a very busy cricket season, averaging two games per week throughout June and most of July. The side has been very successful, with several notable wins, particularly against 21 Engr Regt in the first round of the BAOR Cup. Since then 32 Engr Regt, The Cheshire Regt, 1 (BR) Corps PCCU, 1 Div RAOC, and 21 Engr Regt (again) have all been defeated in friendly matches. Sadly, the team were beaten in the second round of the Army Cup by 49 Field Regt in a game which we could easily have won. The stars of the side have been **Sgt Chris Bond,** who has bowled well all season and has been selected to play for the Corps in the cricket festival at Rheindahlen, **SSM Billy Miles, Sgt Bob Bradford** and **Lcpl 'Hoppy' Hopkinson** from the Int Section. A mention must be made of **Maj Ian Baillie** of The Queens Regt, whose great enthusiasm and peristent fighting for the cricket side have meant that the team has had good support. Not only has he served us well in the administrative field, but he has also made runs and bowled an interesting variety of leg breaks. A certain **Capt James Shaw** has also made a few runs (currently averaging 93), and has managed to struggle into the Corps and BAOR sides. Finally, a trip to Denmark in early September to play some cricket and do a lot of other things besides should round off a good cricket season.

THE MORRISON CUP ATHLETICS

The Regiment was most fortunate in having its offer to act as hosts for the Morrison Cup Athletics accepted. We all enjoyed two days of first-class athletics in the very pleasant surroundings of the Verden Stadt Stadium. The fact that we hosted nine Regimental teams and 10 Squadron teams did not even cause our Quartermaster Admin, **Maj Vic Worster's** moustache to droop. He was more concerned with the finals of Tug-of-War. **WO2 (SSM) (It's 3 Sqn again) Bob Bates** was in charge of the Stadium layout. It took two working days to get the Stadium ready, and two hours on a Friday evening to clear! Our Athletics Officer, **Maj Gordon Howard,** who organised the meeting, was actually seen to smile at the end of prizegiving, after going around for two days with his personal dark cloud overhead and stopwatch in hand. The Regiment came a creditable fourth, behind 21, 7 and 22 Sig Regts.

Our photographs show the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** making a closing speech after his wife had completed the prizegiving. (**Capt John Spiers** [RAPC], our ex-Signals compere, in the centre; the other photograph shows **Sig Little** forcing himself on to come a highly creditable 4th in the 5,000m [won by **Sgt George Holden,** of course].) Our photographs of the Corps Free-Fall Parachutists, which concluded the excellent day, failed to come out!

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HUDDERSFIELD TOWN AS GUESTS

One of this year's highlights has been the visit to Verden of Huddersfield Town Football Club. The entire thing was arranged by **WO2 Jim Miller** (ACC), our full-time football manager and part-time Master Chef, and the Regiment hosted the team for the period of the visit.

The team arrived in Verden on July 21 and departed on July 27 and, during this period, played three matches. Results were:

v 4 Division	Drew	2—2
v Bremen FC Osterholz	Lost	1—0
v 1 Division	Won	5—1

It should be pointed out that, according to **Jimmy Miller,** the only time they turned out the full team was against 1 Division. We believe him; because we don't want to starve!

The team, managed by **John Haseldean** and captained by **Terry Gray,** played good open football in each match and, particularly against Bremen Osterholz, helped Anglo-German relations by their sportsmanship and friendly approach. Altogether it was a very worth-while visit for all concerned and, as the photographs show, the footballers learned a little of Army life and met quite a few Yorkshiremen, whilst we, in turn, will see the benefit of their visit in the forthcoming football season.

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

VISIT OF C in C

ON Friday, June 24, we were pleased to have a visit from the Commander in Chief BAOR, **Gen Sir Frank King.** Although he was only with us for 40 short minutes after lunch, he managed a whistlestop tour of RHQ, the LAD, and the Tech Wksps. Our lasting impression is that he produced a non-stop stream of difficult questions!

VISIT TO 4 TTR, COLOGNE

For some 22 years, the Regiment has had a close affiliation with a Belgian Signal Battalion in Cologne, namely the 4th Bataillon de Troupes de Transmission. Once again no difficulty was found in obtaining volunteers for a Troop to attend and take part in the Battalion's birthday celebrations on June 23. As usual our Troop acquitted themselves very well on the parade, and then adjourned to what can only be described as lavish Belgian hospitality. Dormant French magically appeared, especially in the presence of the chic mesdemoiselles. We were very happy to be able to return a little of the hospitality at the Jubilee Parade. Roll on next year *mes cheres amis.*

Cologne Parade — June 23, 1977
2 Lt Ian Foxley and his Troop

ATHLETICS REPORT

This year the Regiment fielded a weaker athletics team than in recent years. A number of the well-known names were still available for the team, but there were also a number of new faces, some on the track for their first season. **Sig 'Precious' Wiltshire** joined **Sgt Iain Haldane, Cpl 'Sammy' Samm** and **Cpl Johnny Gumbs** to produce the season's best of 44·5sec in the 4×100m relay at the Army Inter-Unit Championships at Aldershot.

In the 3,000m steeplechase, **Sig Archie Bain** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Wandless** have proved an impressive pair. At the 4 Div meeting they took 2nd and 1st string positions, respectively, 1st and 2nd in the BAOR Championships, and 5th and 6th in the Army Team Championships. **Sigs Steve Needs** and **Stan Green,** both still juniors, have given fine performances this season. At Sennelager, **Needs** clocked 16min 17sec for his second position in the BAOR Championships 5 000m. In the Army Championships, **Stan Green** did two creditable personal bests of 2min 4sec in the 800m and 4min 10sec in the 1,500m.

Our javelin throwers and shot putters continued to show their quality throughout the season. In the Army Single Event Championships, **Sgts Norman (Harry) Worth** and **Tom Taylor** took 2nd place in the javelin and in the shot **Cpl Johnny Gumbs,** and **Sgt Worth** took 2nd place with a combined putt of 24·78m.

Sigs 'Hammie' Hamilton and **Steve Bate** have shown good form all season in the pole vault event. They took 1st and 2nd places in the BAOR Individual Championships, won both their strings in the BAOR Team Championships, and took 1st and 2nd positions in their strings at Aldershot. **Steve Bate** now leaves us for 11 Sig Regt, and we wish him good fortune in his athletics there.

Final team placings for the season were: Winners of the 4 Div Championships, 3rd in BAOR Championships, 2nd in the Morrison Cup, and 6th in the Army Championships.

Morrison Cup 1977
Sig Etock chases 22 Sig Regt

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

ALL CHANGE IN TWO

A BUSY time for 2 Sqn. The OC, **Maj John Radford,** handed over to **Maj Tom Moncur,** who was soon embroiled in the hurly-burly of Squadron activity. **WO1 Tom Cooper** then handed over to **WO1 Graham Widdowson** on termination of service, and departed to seek a new career in civilian life. **Capt Fred Searle** relinquished his post in favour of **Capt Stan Brice,** thereby virtually completing the 'facelift' of the upper strata of the Squadron, or so one would have thought. One must not forget the departure of **WO2 Jim Claffey,** recently promoted, and the arrival of **WO2 Clive Honor** to fill the vacancy as OC 'A' Troop, as well as the arrival of **WO Harry Woodcock,** who added the responsibility of commanding 'D' Troop to his position of 'eminence grise' among the RAF Element.

CONGRATULATIONS

The well-deserved award of the MBE to **WO2 Dave Poole** brought about the significant occasion whereby three out of four Troop Commanders have awards of some kind. Our picture shows the proud three, namely: **WO2 Dave Poole, WO Harry Woodcock, BEM,** and **WO2 John Groves, BEM,** in the company of the Commanding Officer at a recent guest night. Although not in the picture, the fourth Troop Commander did not feel in the least out of things—after all, his name is **Honor!**

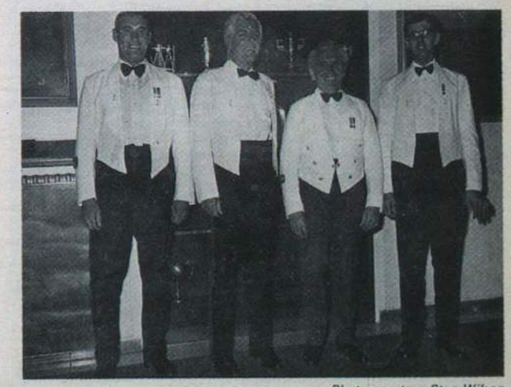

Photo courtesy Stan Wilson

Three awards, a Ward, but no Honor
Left to right: WO2 Poole, MBE, Lt Col R. K. Ward, WO1 Woodcock, BEM, WO2 Groves, BEM

Photo courtesy Stan Wilson

Col M. U. Ryan presented LS and GC to WO2 Brian Ballard, WO1 (F of S) Pete Jones and WO1 Joe Seddon. These, as the photograph shows, were properly christened

SPORTS ROUND-UP

The sporting scene was the setting for yet another award, this time the RAF Football Association Referee of the Year Award, which was presented to **WO Harry Woodcock** for his outstanding services to the game as a referee during 1977. **Harry** regrets that he couldn't find a picture of the trophy, but states that he had so many requests from other publications that he couldn't keep up. The trophy now resides proudly in the Sergeants Mess display cabinet.

The sporting arena has been dominated by the traditional summer sports of cricket, water polo and athletics. The Squadron cricket team under the driving leadership of **Sgt Mo Emmott** are carrying all before them in the Minor Units Cricket League, and are looking forward to the deciding fixture against 262 Sig Sqn, due to take place soon. **WO2 John Groves, Chief Tech Bill Quinnan** and **WO2 Clive Honor** have all been producing the sort of inspired play which proves that, like good wine, they improve with age. Water polo and swimming attracted no lack of numbers, and although **Sgt Mo Emmott** and **WO2 Dave Poole** manoeuvred the team list skilfully they were unable to cope with the tactics and strength of 1 Sqn, who went on to win the contests.

ATHLETICS SUCCESS

In athletics, the Squadron again provided the backbone of the Station team, and won three matches in succession to clinch the inter-Station Athletics League. Prominent among the athletes were **SAC Kerry Gray** in the 5,000m and 3,000m steeplechase (and the pole vault), **Lcpl Pete Ridlington** in the long jump and 400m, **Sig 'Charlie' Drake** in the pole vault, **Sgt Mo Emmott** in the javelin, and, in the supporting roles, **WO2 Dave Poole** who did a prodigious amount of work as team captain, as well as competing in the shot (and anywhere else where it was needed), and **Maj Tom Moncur** who is still running 400m hurdles—much to his own surprise and that of the several faithful athletics spectators with long memories. The successful season was capped by several members of the Squadron being chosen to represent the Army Cyprus team in the Inter-Services Championships. These were: **Maj Tom Moncur, Sig Mick Dowd, Lcpl Pete Ridlington, Lcpl Tom Lloyd, Sig 'Charlie' Drake,** and **Sgt Mo Emmott.** The Army team won after an exciting competition, and thus provided a fitting climax to an action-packed, if altogether short, athletics season.

THANK YOU, THE OFFICIALS

It would be wrong to dismiss athletics completely without mentioning that unsung, unappreciated but vital body of men (and ladies), the officials. Led by **F of S Gordon Gibb** and **F of S John Styles,** they faithfully followed the team round every meeting, often working long hours in sweltering sunshine, always cheerfully guiding the competitors and ensuring the smooth running of the contests. **Sgt Dave Foley, Sgt Eric Sadler, Cpl Jim Leivers, Ssgt Paul Friend,** and **Sgt Mike Ford** all provided staunch support and gave freely of their off-duty time so that all the meetings might be that bit more enjoyable.

All this has been a lengthy bulletin from 2 Sqn, but then again, we are probably the biggest anywhere, and we do rather a lot!

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10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

ARMY CHAMPIONS!

CANOEING in 10 Sig Regt has always been popular as a pastime on a sunny afternoon but never anything worth writing home about. However, this year the results of the Regimental entry in the Army Canoe Championships will go down in canoeing history. Our team, led by **Maj Richard Harrison** and **Lcpl Steve Jackson,** consisted of 10 WRAC girls and 9 men. Three short weeks' training had most people paddling in a straight line and keeping upright, at least most of the time! So having borrowed canoes, equipment and even transport, we were joined by the remainder of the party (two wives, three drivers, four radio operators) and left for Monmouth in high spirits.

Weather conditions were ideal on both days and there were plenty of red shoulders to prove it. Considering everybody's limited canoeing experience and the extremely old and battered equipment, it says much for the paddlers' determination and guts when we look at the four lovely big silver cups that came home with us. So readers, take a feather out of our cap and get canoeing under way in your Regiment (not forgetting your girls), and we look forward to a challenge from you next July.

The team

Maj R. P. Harrison (Royal Signals)
Lt M. L. Heath (WRAC)
2 Lt H. Prior (WRAC)
Cpl J. Thomson
Cpl P. Hirst (and **Wendy**)
Lcpl M. Wallace (and **Sue**)
Lcpl P. J. Lawlor
Lcpl S. A. Wills (WRAC)
Pte J. Armstrong (WRAC)
Pte E. J. Biddell (WRAC)
Lcpl P. Jackson
Lcpl D. Smith (WRAC)
Lcpl P. Moss (WRAC)
Sig C. Geelan
Sig V. A. Thomson
Sig M. P. Thomas
Pte L. A. Morton (WRAC)
Pte J. A. Jones (WRAC)
Pte G. Cordingly (WRAC)

The results

Army Unit Sprint Trophy	— 1st, 10 Sig Regt
Army Unit Long Distance Trophy	— 1st, 10 Sig Regt
Army Senior K2 Sprint	— **Lcpl P. Jackson,** 10 Sig Regt **Lcpl R. Storey,** 11 Sig Regt
Army Senior K2 LD	— **Lcpl P. Jackson,** 10 Sig Regt **Cpl B. Kidston** (RCT)

2 SQUADRON HOUNSLOW

July has been a month of changes for 2 Sqn. The OC, **Maj George Fulton,** has left us on retirement and has handed over to **Maj Richard Harrison,** ex-2IC of the Squadron. His place is now filled by **Capt Clive Moody** who has arrived within us with the compliments of 3 Div. Just to confuse matters further **Lt Linda Heath** (WRAC) has moved appointments from OC Radio Troop—much to their regret—to Admin Officer.

On July 13, decorum was thrown to the winds and the Sqaudron. gave **Maj George Fulton** a send-off he will not easily forget. **Lt Linda Heath** also had a royal send-off from Radio Troop which coincided with the visit of the Mobile Blood Donor Unit. This was a very unfortunate coincidence for **Linda** as when she came to giving blood she passed out cold! Draw your own conclusion.

Top: Lt Linda Heath
Below: Sig Stevie Sellors, Lcpl Sam Burke, Lcpl Wallie Wallace, Sig 'Paddy' Johnstone, Sig Clive Hunt, Sig 'Scouse' Partington, Lcpl 'Geordie' Lee

RMP CENTENARY MARCH

10 Sig Regt in Hounslow entered two teams for the RMP Centenary March at Chichester. The Adjutant, **Capt Andy Whiddett,** captained our team whilst **Capt Noelle Vickers** led a team from London District Troop—in fact she only led in spirit as for the most part she was far behind the rest of the team, finally surrendering her feet or is it fate to the St John Ambulance after 20 miles of agony. Both teams made a valiant effort and **Capt Andy Whiddett's** team of six completed the full 25 miles in excellent time. Congratulations to him, **Cpl Phil Toye, Sigs Rabbie Nichol, Phil Jefferson, 'Lofty' Vance** (all of 4ft 0in in his stockinged feet) and **Cpl Viv Fortune** (WRAC) who deserves a special mention for upholding the name of the WRAC so valiantly.

London District Troop's team was not so successful with only four of the original seven completing the 25 miles. Well done **Sgt Colin (Henpecked) Richardson, Lcpl June Bowen** (WRAC), **Pte Sara (Mind you p's and q's) Parker-Quaife** (WRAC), and **Sig Ian Barker** who came in soon after the Adjutant's team. **Pte Dee Makewell** retired hurt after the first few miles and **Lcpl Don Hunter** lost all co-operation from his feet after 13 miles. As you can see from the cartoon, they took it all in their stride!

3 SQUADRON ALDERSHOT

Imperial Service Medal presentation

On Tuesday, June 28, 1977, **Brig P. I. Attack, MBE,** Commander Guildford Station, presented the ISM to **Mr E. C. G. (George) Richardson,** former civilian Supervisor of the Guildford Military Telephone Exchange. This was obviously a proud and happy occasion for both **George** and his wife, **Lily.** Also in attendance were **Maj R. A. Ellis,** OC 3 Sqn, and former colleagues of the exchange. In retirement, following many years of loyal civilian service in the work of the Regiment, **George** is now enjoying well-earned relaxation by tending his beautiful and very much locally admired garden and 'tee-ing off' occasionally on the local golf course.

Imperial Service Medal Presentation, Tuesday, June 28, 1977
By Brig P. I. Attack, MBE, Commander Guildford Station, to Mr E. C. G. Richardson, formerly Supervisor Guildford Military Telephone Exchange, 3 Sqn Det, 10 Sig Regt

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

HER Majesty The Queen visited Tyne and Weir in mid-July and the Junior Signalman Wing, 11 Sig Regt had the great privilege to provide the Royal Guard of Honour when Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh disembarked from the Royal Yacht, 'Britannia'. Our photoreport seeks to capture this event and a subsequent visit to Cramlington.

1. Inspection of Right Division—Lt Col H. A. Cuerden, Capt F. Common, Lt R. J. Mathieson, BEM, Sgt B. C. Irwin
2. Her Majesty inspects the Guard of Honour on July 15, accompanied by Capt F. Common and Lt Col H. A. Cuerden
3. The Guard of Honour present arms, as Her Majesty leaves the quayside
4. Her Majesty speaking to members of Rapier Troop at Cramlington on July 15. *Left to right:* J/Sig Steven Clifford, Dennis Morris, David Bull, William Blundell, James McLaughlin, Steven Bell, Gary Line, Andrew Dawson, Gary Collins, Alan Farr, and John Charlesworth

Photo courtesy: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal Ltd
Photo courtesy: PR, HQ North-East District

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

WOs AND SERGEANTS MESS REPORT

INEVITABLY, Jubilee celebrations have taken pride of place in the Mess over the past two months or so. **WO2 Pete Muxworthy** and his colleagues, **Brian 'Darkie' Williams, John Bandey, 'Paddy' Roberts, Bill Kelly** and **Bill Irving,** are now fully qualified scaffolding riggers. Perhaps next time the scaffolding will even be used. However, all those weeks of labouring resulted in a most impressive backcloth for what was an immensely successful Jubilee Ball.

A LONG ASSOCIATION

After almost 20 years of assoeiation with the Regiment, **WO2 Peter Jones** finally left us this month for the UK and subsequently civilian life. At one of the numerous farewell functions his famous shopping bag was ceremoniously handed over to the new 'carry-outs' king, **WO1 Ray Matson. Peter** handed over his other baby, the Globe Kinema, to **WO2 (SSM) Tony Orrell.** Another of our long-serving personalities, **WO1 Peter Goonan,** also left us for teacher's training, prior to transfer to the RAEC. Good luck to both Peters.

Mess members watch WO2 Peter Jones being driven from the camp by Sgt Jim Paterson. Peter has spent 20 years associated with the Regiment. Amongst those watching are WO1 (RSM) Tony Jones, WO1 Alf Cooper, WO1 Ray Matson, WO2 Dave Smith, Sgt Trev Ryan, and WO2 Rod Willars

COMINGS

Recent newcomers have included **WO2 (SSM) Ron Watson,** who replaced **WO2 (SSM) Tony Parker,** now with 14 Sig Regt. **WO2 Barry Anderson** and **Ssgt John Neal** rejoined the Mess after a short absence, and **Sgt Dave Cooper** (RPC) replaces **Doug Crawford,** who is also off home to the UK. **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Greatorex** has taken over as RQ Tech from **John Bayne,** who in turn filled the gap as RQ General left by **Jack Hall,** now in Liverpool.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **WO2 Dot McGurk** on her engagement to the aforesaid **Jack Hall,** and to the following Mess members who received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal—**WO2 John Berry, Ssgt Lance Whiteley, W/Ssgt Sheila Williams, W/Sgt Linda Davis, Sgt Max Scott** and last but not least, **Sgt Arthur Crabtree.**

JUBILEE REVUE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Jubilee? Yes, Jubilee! That is what we called the Revue . . . well, it seemed appropriate. The Birgelen Strolling Players (we haven't got a theatre, see) took advantage of a stage, albeit temporary, after the Jubilee Ball (see Sergeants Mess news) to present a Revue based on a rumour that Her Majesty was to visit the Regiment. After three hours of fun and games including the finals of 'Miss Birgelen 1977', which was a bit of a drag won by **?Laura? Storey** with **?Antonia? Jones** a close 23rd, it was discovered that RHQ had blundered in the visits programme. Including writers and the stalwarts behind the scenes, over 30 people were involved and many thanks are due to every one who put in so much hard work to make the show a success. The Regimental Jubilee Ball had finished sometime on Friday morning then came the clearing and the building of the set, then the dress rehearsal which finished at 7pm, then the make-up and we opened a few minutes late just after 8pm. A hectic time as you can imagine, but next time we'll . . . !

ATHLETICS REVIEW

The athletes of 13 Sig Regt have faced the problem of very second-rate training facilities this year as the Unit sportsfield has been re-seeded and was taboo. However, despite the temporary athletics track, further downgraded by the activities of a legion of rabbits, the season has not been without its successes. The Regimental Standards Competition was completed in the first two weeks of May and highlighted a considerable amount of talent. This enabled us to choose a good team for the Rhine Area Championships at JHQ Rheindahlen on June 8, where the Regiment took second place for the first time in many years and qualified to go on to the BAOR finals at Sennelager on June 25. Despite our considerable strength in field events and the presence of a number of good distance runners, the team was placed last after a hard-fought meeting in torrential rain. It was, nevertheless, an achievement to be there at all.

The Regimental Athletics Meeting took place on the 'ersatz' athletics track on June 29 and resulted in 1 Sqn keeping the Inter-Squadron Trophy for yet another year. The Regiment had great difficulty in fielding a full team for the Morrison Cup Meeting at Verden this year and we were, accordingly, placed last, but team morale remained high as our small 'forlorn hope' had plenty of events to keep them busy.

NEW RECORDS

Two regimental records have been broken this season. The stalwart **WO2 Dave Cheyne** has broken his own record in the hammer event with a throw of 42·64m at the Rhine Area Meeting and **Cpl Alec Middleton,** on returning to the Unit, also broke his own shot record at the Inter-Squadron Meeting with a throw of 12·46m. **Sgt Keith Hall** again beat all-comers in the pole vault at Rheindahlen. Special thanks are due to our team captain, **Sgt John Skipper,** who led the team for the greater part of the season and also to **Cpl Nick Marshall** who stood in as captain at short notice for the Morrison Cup Meeting.

ENTHUSIASM FOR ORIENTEERING

This year the Regiment has managed to produce a new and enthusiastic orienteering team. Enthusiasm is a great necessity, as most of the events are weekend civilian ones, often some distance away from the Regiment and entry fees, overnight accommodation, etc, can prove quite costly. However, this has not stopped the Regiment's orienteers from attending all possible fixtures, in all some 12 civilian (five colour maps—the real thing) and the almost traditional Rhine Area (black and white—**Mick Stocks** has said it all) League events. The Regiment is currently lying first in the League with two meetings to go.

Unfortunately, the BAOR Championships came at the beginning of our season and it was the first time on a coloured map for many of our runners. Since then the team has increased in both strength and experience (we are presently creating a 12,500 training map of the local area), and, with the return of **WO2s Bob Etherton** and **Martin Hagger** from Northern Ireland and our new Adjutant, **Capt John Henderson,** we have a much greater depth in the team. With the help of our regular runners, **WO1 Andy Roberts, Sgts Brian Libby, John Skipper** and **Jim Dodds, Cpls Alan Houghton, Mick Jarvis** and **Lcpls Ted Parkinson** and **Campbell Lapsley,** we hope to give a creditable performance in the forthcoming Corps Championships.

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 102

A REGIMENT REBORN

AN event which may have escaped the notice of many people this year, in the lee of Jubilee celebrations, was the addition to the Royal Corps of Signals of another Regiment. Throughout the Army, awareness of electronic warfare as a weapon system is increasing, and as a result, 14 Sig Regt has been reborn. Re-formed and re-roled, the new 14 Sig Regt has taken its place amongst the front line units of 1st British Corps. The Regiment has been discussed and planned for several years, and it must have been quite a surprise to some in these days of disbandments, rundowns and establishment reductions, to find the Army actually forming a new unit.

EARLY DAYS

The build-up started on May 2, 1977, when **Maj A. R. Bushell** (2IC) met up with **Capt C. C. P. Barnes** (Adjutant) in Radio Group at HQ 1st British Corps to start work on the necessary staff and administration matters that would see the Regiment 'in working order' by July 1, 1977. Within a few days they were joined by **Maj T. J. Cantle** (QM) and **Capt D. Prime** (TOT), although these latter continued to wear two hats!

STAFF APPRECIATION

It is appropriate here to mention the hard work the staff had done in preparing the way for the Regiment. We are grateful to them all and they may wish to know that the majority of their efforts have actually gone according to plan! After a thorough read-in on the background, the paper war began in earnest. It is comparatively easy to disband a unit and disperse all its stores—it is surprisingly difficult to form one and obtain the equipment and other stores you need! Manpower, vehicles and technical equipment were not too bad, but the time spent in acquiring accommodation, stationery, safes and general office equipment was incredible! With the dispersion of the Regiment in three locations all approximately an hour apart, command and control necessarily entails some quite complicated and time-consuming procedures. Towards the end of May the daily parade was increased by two, **Maj P. Hartigan** our paymaster arrived (alas, with no money or 1771s with him!) together with **Capt N. P. Mansfield** fresh from 260 Sig Sqn and a Northern Ireland tour.

INTO PLACE SLOWLY

Then the task of getting into barracks began in earnest. As with many 'feathered' home owners, to suddenly receive a cuckoo's egg into the nest that will one day burst open, expand and put pressure on other occupants, was a definite shock to 5 Hy Regt, Royal Artillery. Liaison visits were many in an effort to overcome the problems and resulting delays to this takeover date. Eventually an accommodation block was made available on June 9, 1977. The small advance party immediately moved in, by now reinforced by **WO2 (RQMS) O'Brien. Lcpl Geoff Backhouse, Sigs Dave Nadin** and **'Wally' Walters.**

The prospect at this stage looked extremely daunting, to say the least, no tables, no chairs, no paper and pens, no beds or bedding, no telephones and only three weeks to go. Thank goodness we could all see the humour of the situation!

PACE QUICKENS

However, thanks mainly to the efforts and local contacts of our QM, things improved daily. Stores and vehicles began to pour in, so much so that officers had to make up the labour force necessary to unload the trucks and assemble the furniture! More men arrived towards the end of the month including: **Mr Gordon Sanford, WO1 Robinson** (the RSM), and **Sgt Roger Smith,** as Orderly Room Sergeant. On June 30, 'EW' Troop from 30 Sig Regt at Blandford arrived, headed by **Capt D. Stokes,** after a three-day drive across Europe which more or less completed our manpower target. Carpets and curtains began to add the final touches to offices and, at long last, all was in a reasonable state to receive the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE.** With the arrival of the Commanding Officer on June 29, 1977, a great load was lifted from both the 2IC and Adjutant who now felt they could at least sit down, draw breath and mop the sweat from their brows. Somehow or other this has not actually been possible and work continues apace!

AN IMPORTANT DAY

Formation Day, Friday, July 1, dawned sunny and remained perfect all day, ideal for the flag lowering/raising parades held by both Squadrons. For both of them it was a sad occasion, losing not only their independence but also several of their members to RHQ for permanent employment. The standard of the parades was very high and all those taking part were congratulated by the Commanding Officer, particularly on their turn-out and bearing. It was especially pleasing to see elements of the RAF on parade.

After the parade at Langenleben, the Commanding Officer and his wife, **Ann,** took the opportunity to mingle with many of the soldiers and their families, at an open-air buffet lunch. At 2 Sqn the Commanding Officer presented **WO2 (F of S) J. Wills** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and afterwards met members of the Squadron and their families in the Squadron Kellar Bar.

The day finished with the officers of the Regiment getting together for a Ladies Guest Night in Celle, to which were also invited **Lt Col D. Sumner,** his staff and their ladies, from HQ 1st (British) Corps. Messages of congratulations and best wishes were received from the following on July 1:

The SO in C, CSO BAOR, CCR Signals, Ministry of Defence (DIS), C in C BAOR, Commander 1st British Corps, GOC 1st Division, and lastly but by no means least, from **Lt Col Mike Hales,** the Commanding Officer of the old 14 Sig Regt on its disbandment. We thank them all for their good wishes.

The Commanding Officer flanked by Maj Mike Clowser and escorted by WO1 (RSM) Robinson approach the I Sqn parade

The Officers of the Regiment

Left to right. Standing: Capt C. P. P. Barnes, Capt I. R. Grant, Mr G. C. C. Sanford, Capt D. J. Thorp, Capt C. N. Lightfoot, Maj A. R. Bushell, Capt S. M. Hicks, Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE, Maj M.W. J. Clowser, Maj C. H. Glydon, Capt D. Prime, Maj G. A. Maude, Capt B. C. Higson, Maj P. Hartigan (RAPC)

Kneeling: Maj T. J. Cantle, Mr C. McCarthy, Flt Lt G. McKay, Flt Lt P. Brindle, Maj C. E. Byrom, Capt R. G. Stokes, Capt P. W. Welch and Capt N. Mansfield

The Commanding Officer inspects 2 Squadron

NEW ACCENT

The Regiment has now been formed a month, the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Dudding,** has arrived (**Sgt Smith** is gradually losing his worried expression!), and at long last RHQ is able to assume full control. The complement of officers is now complete with the arrival on July 21, 1977, of **Maj M. T. Milnamow,** on exchange from the United States Army. We hope he will understand our teething problems, our accents and sense of humour!

One major disappointment to us all is the lack of our own barracks and Messes. This has meant we are unable to fully utilise the property bequeathed to us by the old 14 Sig Regt. We hope this situation will be resolved in the near future.

FIRST SPORTS REPORT

The Regiment entered two teams in the Morrison Cup and although neither achieved honours, both competed in all events and did very well in some: particularly the sprint relay. Next year will see them enter as one team in the major unit competition. What is worthy of note is the excellent performance of the 2 Sqn tug-of-war team—our reporter takes up the tale.

2 Squadron success in Morrison Cup

During May of this year **Maj T. J. Cantle** (coach extraordinaire) persuaded 11 members of the Squadron to take up the noble sport of tug-of-war, objective—The Royal Corps of Signals Minor Units Morrison Cup. For each match a team of eight weighing around 100 stone would be selected from the following squad, which incidentally contained three badges—REME, Royal Signals, and RAF: **Sgts John Stockdale, Mick Taylor, Bill Cotton, Lcpls Stew Degernier, Berni Meehan, 'Rolly' Rowlands, Ken Enticott,** and **Sig Steve Osman.**

At this stage 'team' would perhaps be putting it a bit strong, more like 22 big boots containing 11 individuals all eager to have a pull, although not knowing how or when. A few words to the uninitiated. Do not settle for the mistaken impression that all that is required is a loud voice, a thick skin and a big pair of boots. The study and practice of techniques is required as well as determination to train, think, and pull as a team. An intensive training programme was introduced almost immediately, during which the coach moved among the squad enlightening, elevating, instructing, inspiring, stimulating, encouraging, and other things.

Rigorous workouts included using passing members of the Squadron for live practice pulls. The Squadron were invited to take part in a competition, their first, organised by 94 Locating Regt during an 'open day'. Although the Squadron lost in the semi-finals, it was to the BAOR and UK champions, 39 Regt (RA). It was a credit to their combined efforts, they displayed a high standard of physical fitness as well as being mentally alert. They had proved they were a team.

The next stop was the Morrison Cup at Verden on July 15. A win in two straight pulls against 11 Armd Bde put them into the semi-finals. They gained a place in the final, after taking the match against 6 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by default and lined up against 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The same result as that against 11 Armd Bde was achieved in exactly the same way with two straight pulls. A powerful performance by an excellent team, well tutored and coached gave 14 Sig Regt its well-deserved win.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

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WO2 (Y of S) Mick Altham being told of his award of the BEM by the 2IC, Maj Tony Marley

CONGRATULATIONS

WE congratulate **WO2 (Y of S) Mick Altham** on being awarded the BEM in the Jubilee Honours List. This was in recognition of work he did in 31 Sig Regt (V) towards the setting up of a TAVR Trade Training School.

SHOOTING SUCCESSES

As usual, the Regiment entered all of the regular shooting events in the 1977 competition calendar and with a fair measure of success. In the Rhine Area event they were beaten into second place by 28 Sig Regt by a couple of match points, those being decided on the very last match of the competition. **Sgt Tony Hunt** gave a very creditable performance by winning both the Pistol and Rifle events.

Next came the Corps shoot at Bulford at which the team made a runaway start by winning the first three matches leaving the rest of the field 'picking up empties' but once again success was not to be ours as 28 Sig Regt sneaked up from behind and, after many re-shoots, won the day. Here **Lcpl Mick Donohoe** shot himself into fame by winning Best B-Class Shot along with the normal top-flight performance by **Sgt Tony Hunt** who won Best A-Class Shot and Corps Champion.

OURS AGAIN

So it was with all this behind us that we entered the RASAM Meeting at Bisley to defend the Royal Signals Cup which we had won the previous year as best placed Royal Signals team. Could the '28 bug' be beaten? Would they make it three in a row? No they wouldn't! We just shot in our usual cool way to make the prize ours once again!

The team returned to Krefeld from their UK tour sporting 9 cups, 12 medals and bars and 4 shields, followed the next week by a further 12 medals and bars won by the two team members who shot in the Corps team at the National Rifle Meeting, **Sgt Tony Hunt** and **Cpl Colin Harris**

Team members were:

Sgt Pete Cole, non-shooting captain
Sgt Dennis Glanville
Sgt Craig Gordon (REME)
Lcpl Mick Donohoe
Sig 'Geordie' Gray
Ssgt Chris Laughlin
Sgt Tony Hunt
Cpl Colin Harris
Lcpl Andy Whiting
Sig Bob Linnett

SUCCESS AGAIN

The swimming and water polo season has been a great success this year. The team swam in the Rhine Area Championships and won both competitions yet again. It is the sixth year running we have won the swimming and the fifth consecutive win in the water polo. With only a limited amount of training, the team set off for the BAOR Championships in Berlin, expecting to return to Krefeld a week later and hang up their trunks for the rest of the season. The first surprise came when we had an unbeaten run in our league of the water polo. We went on to beat 21 Engr Regt (last year's champions) 10—9 in the final. In the swimming we were once again beaten for second place on the results of the last race, so came third.

When we returned to Krefeld, intensive training started and it was a much fitter team that went forward to the Army Finals in the UK. Despite taking the lead over 36 Engr Regt a number of times in the final, we were eventually beaten 13—9.

We are the first Regiment of the Corps to win the present BAOR Water Polo Championship Trophy, and that dates back to 1955!

THE SWIMMING AND WATERPOLO TEAM WITH THE RHINE AREA TROPHIES
Left to right. Back row: Cpl Roberts, Sig MacMillan, Lt Jackson, Lt Blum Sgt Butler, Cpl Cassidy, Sgt Sizeland, Cpl Mitchell
Front row: Lcpl Wheaton, Sig James, Lcpl Wright, WO2 (QMSI) Nicholas (*trainer*), Cpl Roberts, Sig Stonier, Cpl Cox

OLD AMMUNITION DUMP BASE

Lt Richard Thurston, aided and abetted by **Sgt Graham Crossland,** both of 2 Sqn, ran an Adventure Training Camp based at an old Ammunition Dump near the Mohnesee this month. There were three 10-day courses, each spending five days hiking through the Arnsberg Forest and another five learning to canoe. After many spills on both the Mohnesee and the River Lippe (**Pte Brent Patterson** achieved the grand total of 17 capsizes!) 28 of our Servicemen and women passed proficiency standard in canoeing. We now hope to take part in all BAOR events, so watch out for us in the White Water Race!

WELL DONE THE GIRLS

While all this was going on, the athletes of the Regiment were fighting it out in the Rhine Area Championships. How the men did we won't mention, but the girls repeated last year's success by beating 29 Coy WRAC, and winning their place in the UK Inter-Unit Championships. They also did well there, coming third overall. Well done, girls!

BRADBURY FAIR

July has now become synonymous with Bradbury Fair and this year it was held on Saturday, July 2. It is a Regimental Fete designed to give both families and local Germans an afternoon's entertainment and also to raise funds for charities supported by the Regiment. **Maj Tony Marley** was the overall co-ordinator of the Fair and he had a vast organisation operating under him to ensure that all was ready for the day. Special mention should be made of **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Connor,** who has become known locally as the 'Scrounger'—when he is seen by local shop-keepers they put up closed signs on their shops and hide behind the counter. This is because he spent a great deal of time persuading them to part with their goods for the bottle stall.

All Squadrons and departments produced stalls of different varieties and showed great ingenuity. There was something for everyone. A consignment of 'Bears, Teddy, Soft' was despatched to the Regiment having been ordered by **Fr Tom Kelly,** our RC Padre. A certain cynic was heard to murmur 'more comforts for the WRAC!' The afternoon itself was fine and the crowds slowly built up. The ducking stool proved a popular attraction, with various Regimental personalities parading in differing forms of dress and undress for the dubious pleasure of being ducked. Fortunately, the weather managed to warm up enough for those being ducked not to be frozen as well. 2 Sqn's stocks also provided an opportunity for old scores to be settled in traditional fashion!

The afternoon was a great success, largely due to the hard work of all the stallholders, and it would be inviduous to single out individuals in what was largely a team effort. When all the takings had been totted up and the bills settled, the Regiment had made a sum of DM10,000, which will be distributed to many good causes.

ARE YOU OVERWEIGHT?

With the introduction of the new BFT and the determined efforts of one of our young doctors we are becoming all too aware of the dangers of being overweight. Just for interest DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . That a man died at the age of 22 weighing 50 stones! He had only eaten 218 calories more than he needed every day of his life.

. . . That a 45-year-old man who is 12kg overweight reduces his life expectancy by 25 per cent. That means that he can expect to die at about 60 rather than at about 80!

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VISIT OF CSO BAOR

ON August 3 and the morning of August 5, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin** visited the Regiment. One-and-a-half days is about par for the course if all the outstations are included. The Chief Signal Officer saw many facets of regimental life including that shown in our photograph of **Lcpl Paul Pua** and **Sig Dave Higson** down the hole cable-jointing at RAF Laarbruch. On August 3, having visited the Wildenrath-based elements of the Regiment in the morning the CSO met the SNCOs for a quick half in their Mess, and joined the officers for lunch. The afternoon was spent visiting 'L' Troop at Laarbruch. A quick trip by helicopter on August 5 saw the CSO at Gutersloh, where he was able to meet the stalwarts of 'J' and 'N' Troops.

EIGHT IN A ROW

Our next notes will include a full report of the Army Athletics Championships at Aldershot on July 20. For the eighth successive year, the Regiment emerged as victors. A remarkable achievement which is never likely to be bettered!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Left to right: Flt Lt Price, Ssgt Rodger, Lt Col Allen, Maj Gen Baldwin. *In Hole:* Lcpl Pua, Sig Higson

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1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

DEPARTURES (commiserations)

Lt Duncan McKenzie — **Sig 'H' Campbell**
Lcpl Jimmy Hillan — **Sig George Brotherston**

ARRIVALS (welcome)

Maj Sam Saunders — **Sgt 'Taff' Wroe**
Capt Chris Durham — **Sig Paul Rowden**
Capt (TFC) Gus Gurr — **Sig Paul Fowkes**
Lt Ian Fielder — **Sig Mike Gillon**
Ssgt Bill Metcalfe
Miss Amanda Dawn, daughter of **Cpl** and **Mrs Mick Quennell**
Master Lee Darren, son of **Lcpl** and **Mrs Dougie McDonald**
Master Alan John, son of **Sig** and **Mrs Ron Fuller**

CONGRATULATIONS

Cpl Sturney 'A' pass on Det Comds Course
Lcpl Perkins 'A' pass on Det Comds Course
Lcpl Tyreman 'A' pass on Crypto Course
Sgt Heppenstal 'B' pass on RSSSC
Sig Vinnicombe, Top of the class—German Colloquial

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Lcpl George Deeming on his marriage to **Irene Wendy Payne** (WRAC), of 13 Sig Regt. Welcome to the Squadron, **Mrs Deeming.**

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE— AND CHANGE OF COMMAND

Bernkastel-Kues on the Mosel had the pleasure of the company of the Squadron for our Summer Camp. Activities included swimming, canoeing, walking, boating and mini golf. An afternoon was spent wine tasting, and many were initiated into the ancient art, which has continued since Roman times. **Lt Jim McGrath** and **Cpl Bob Carter** organised an afternoon loosely called 'It's a Knockout'. Teams were formed from the Germans, Dutch and Belgians on the adjoining camp site, and from the Hairies, Fairies and Chiefies from the Squadron. The games consisted of Delivering the beer, Stepping stones, Filling the bottle, and Fireman's lift.

A total of DM300 was raised for charity and a good time was had by all. The civvies arrived in the evening and were entertained by the Squadron Disco, dancing and Barbecue. During Summer Camp and with considerable effort, **Maj Geoff Maude** handed over and **Maj Sam Saunders** took over the Squadron. The camp was splendidly organised and administered, with great stamping feet, by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Clarke.**

FAREWELL TO MAJ GEOFF AND JACKIE MAUDE

The farewell took the form of a Barbecue and dance in Lippstadt. The evening was warm, which got everyone in the mood for an enjoyable evening. Early in the evening the speeches were made, presents given and the Squadron said goodbye to **Geoff** and **Jackie,** and thank you for the last couple of years. We hope you have a good tour with 14 Sig Regt.

During the evening **WO1 (RSM) Haughie** was elected as an honorary member of the Squadron Fire Fighters Club and duly initiated by the president, **Lt Jim McGrath,** who hosed him down with a fire-extinguisher. Welcome to the Club, RSM.

EXERCISE RANGER PATROL

Patrols set off at intervals in full kit with support weapons and marched 14km to the contact area. 'Digging in' started on arrival and defence positions were constructed.

The enemy attacked at last light and the battle raged back and forth for an hour before they were beaten off. This was a serious exercise made enjoyable and many experienced what it is like to be PBI!

HOW TO COMMUNICATE

Our roving cameraman caught ex-OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Geoff Maude,** instructing his wife in the art of communicating: 'You point the wires in this direction darling!' Regrettably, his own efforts weren't as good as **Jackie** said 'Oh but you've got your wires crossed'. (Just what you need when you're water divining!)

2 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP
Report from Cpl Dave Aldous

The Squadron departed on Exercise Summer Breeze on Saturday, June 4, 1977, by road and rail, their destination being Gunzesreid Sage in the Allegau Valley, Bavaria.

The camp began on the Sunday morning when **Cpl 'Horse-meat' Harrison** decided that a snowball fight was in order, the snow in question being 1,820m up the side of a hill! The party consisted of **Cpl Tony Forrest, Cpl Dave Aldous, Lcpl 'Yorky' Bull, Lcpl Tim Langford, Sig Kev Crossland** and **Sig 'Chog' Ennis.** After a tough and sometimes hair-raising climb the summit was reached but the party were too tired to have the snowball fight! On Monday, the Squadron split up to their various activities under expert instruction of **Capt 'Sherpa' Bowles**—rock-climbing; **Cpl 'Blue' Bostock** and **Lcpl 'Yorky' Bull**—canoeing; **Cpl 'Chay' Nixon** and **Cpl Eddie Higgins**—sailing; and **WO2 (SSM) McGerty**—trekking. The entertainment in the evening was self-made in the RMP Ski chalet, except for one evening when we were entertained by two local Bavarian yodeller/comedian/spoon players who, to overyone's delight, were a tremendous success—to the extent of showing **Sig 'Greg' Gregory** (a native of Antigua) how to sing 'The Banana Boat Song'. A visit was arranged to King Ludwig II castle at Neu Schwanstein near Fussen, which was in very heavily wooded and scenic countryside.

After the first couple of days the weather was very good which made the canoeing and sailing popular except when capsize drills were done unintentionally. **Cpl Bob Mason** becoming quite an expert (unintentionally), On a trekking expedition up another 'hill' (1,850m in height), **Cpl 'Tam' Reilly** was heard to ask if anyone had seen the 'gates'.

Towards the end of the week a ridge walk/mountain climb (we are still discussing which is the most apt title) expedition was organised. It began with a cable car ride from Hochgrat to the summit of the mountains and a trek of a very arduous nature for approximately 12km over the most beautiful surroundings most of us had ever seen. **Lt Bob Weston** was expedition leader and did very well to get everyone back in one piece. All in all, it was a very taxing activity.

VISIT TO RAPIER TROOP

On July 15 **Capt Tony Gibb** visited Rapier Troop, Junior Signalman Wing at Ouston, to see them provide the Royal Guard for Her Majesty The Queen on the Quayside in Newcastle upon Tyne when she visited the City. He also watched them give a display in front of several thousand young children at Cramlington in Northumberland that afternoon. It all served to strengthen the bond between the Regiment and Rapier Troop, and we look forward to seeing some of the Troop in Lippstadt.

TRAINING IN THE MOSEL

At the beginning of July the team travelled down to Bernkastel on the Mosel for some concentrated training. The weather was very hot particularly at midday and so it was decided to start marching at 0300hrs each morning! It certainly was an unusual way of seeing the Mosel at that time of the morning. **Sgt 'Scouse' Thompson** led a team which entered a local German event and came back with medals and a cup. This really did a lot for the morale of the team and set us up for our next event, The One-day International Event at Rhinedahlen, this was to be our last event prior to going to Nijmegen.

The team successfully completed the event and spirits were high when we returned to Lippstadt. There were now only four days to go to the big event, and this time was spent on final preparation. The team travelled down by coach to Nijmegen and had two days to prepare for the event. The event consists of marching for four days (40km each day) carrying 10kg of kit. It was hard work but the team completed the course.

To look to the future the team are taking part in a two-day event in September organised by the Belgian Army.

The team for Nijmegen was:

Sgt Dennis Duncan — **Sig John Standen**
Sgt 'Scouse' Thompson — **Sig Billy Layden**
Cpl John Middleton — **Sig 'Hovis' Brown**
Cpl 'The bike' Marston — **Sig Alfie Birch**
Lcpl Bob Downie — **Sig (I'm getting married soon) Kirby**
Lcpl (tech) Warhurst — **Sig Dougie Piper**
Lcpl 'Postie' Barkworth
Sig Steve Sadler

Our photograph shows the team marching through one of the villages on the third day of the Nijmegen Marches.

Photo courtesy PR HR BAOR

3am START FOR 4 SQUADRON MARCHERS

This year Juliet Troop decided to enter the Nijmegen Marches, or should I say that earlier in the year **Cpl John Middleton** and **Lcpl Bob Downie** approached **Lt Martin Strong,** OC Troop, about entering a team for the Marches?

Volunteers were called for and the numbers eventually reached 25. The Troop were fortunate in having **Sgt Bob Cutler** as the team adviser as he had completed the four-day event a few years previously although he stated at the outset that he was not going to take part. Training started straight away, a couple of miles to start with then gradually building up to the full distance (40km).

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FLAMING JUNE

FLAMING (this year, raining) June! What a busy month. Summer Camp, Summer Fete, It's-a-Knockout, the Corps Weekend, Athletics, the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Cricket Competition, and the Regimental Beating the Retreat and Cocktail Party, all in the CO's second month of office. Don't believe it if anyone ever tells you that 28 Sig Regt is a nice quiet little posting. Things happen here.

BLACK FOREST SUMMER CAMP

This year we were going to go to Vogelsang but fortunately we discovered in time that we were earmarked for lowest priority on training facilities and higest priority on camp chores. Our Ops Officer, **Maj Dennis Bees,** telephoned his friends in the Black Forest and booked the Regiment into a camp site near the Schluchsee for the first two weeks in June. The camp was organised and set up by **Maj Ken Goulding** (Camp Commandant), **Maj Dennis Bees** (Co-Commandant, interpreter, travel guide, scrounger) and **Capt Bob Hope** (the worker). They were assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Bill Lees, WO2 (CQMS) 'Jock' Kyne** (ACC) and **Ssgt (SQMS) Pete Tams,** who actually ran the show. **Ssgt (Y of S) Ross Graham** and **Sgt Tony Hindle** organised the sailing and canoeing. Most went for 10 days and took part in various activities including trekking, sailing, canoeing and visiting various places of interest, including a trip into Switzerland. Reports indicate a good time was had by all. Some even thought it was worth a 12-hour journey in the back of a Daf.

IT'S-A-KNOCKOUT

The RSM, **WO1 Frank Atkins,** having planned a summer fete earlier on in the year and was shouted down, proved a point when we held a smaller-scale fete, coupled with an It's-a-Knockout competition, which proved a great success and was well attended by everyone. The sun managed to shine and the stalls did well, particularly the sweet stall run by the Wives Club, to the delight of **Mrs Monica Lovatt,** the treasurer. The ducking stool proved to be another favourite as the targets were various Regimental personalities. The CO, **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** declined to sit on the stool stating he was better qualified to give rather than receive brickbats and offered to pay double for a throw.

The It's-a-Knockout competition was a terrific success with many a laugh for spectators and competitors. It was won by 'M' Troop which seemed to consist of the majority of the rugby team. The mini-marathon involved drinking beer through 4-ft long plastic tubes, so characters such as **Cpls Keith Leighton, Dave Smith, Keith Armstrong, Steve Spink** probably had an advantage.

SPORTS REPORT

Cricket

Cricket is 'on the up' with the appointment of the RSM as Cricket Officer and the arrival of **Sgt Dave Taylor** who provides the expertise. We are through to the final of the Rhine Area Cup having seen off HQ BAOR by one run in a thrilling game. **Cpl Jim Scoular** with figures of 4—16 came good at the right time as did **Sig Andy Edwards** with a very quick knock of 22. Our

good friends from Birgelen are at the moment ahead of us in the league but we should push them close.

Highlights to date are: **Sgt Dave Taylor** captained the Corps and Rhine Area sides and represented BAOR; **Sgt Jim Smith** has represented the RAOC; and **Sgt Barry Vargas** was selected to umpire in the recent inter-Corps competition. Who says we only play football?!

Finally, our thanks to **Cpl Ken Feakin** who leaves us for Soest after seven years with the Regiment during which time he has been the backbone of the cricket team.

Shooting

Shooting has always been one of our strong points and this year our team has been as good as ever. This year the team has won a number of competitions including: The NORTHAG Skill-at-Arms Competition, The Rhine Area Shooting Competition and the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition. At Bisley, the team aquitted itself well by coming 32nd out of 67 major units. We were also the highest placed Royal Signals unit in the Target Rifle Competition. Of the individuals, **Maj Ken Goulding** and **Sgt Mick Colley** (REME) were placed in the Army 45 in the SMG competitions. Among the medal winners were: **Maj Ken Goulding** (4), **WO1 Denis Gallacher** (1), **Sig 'Jenks' Jenkins** (2), and **Cpl Pat Connelly** who received a bronze bar in the Association Match. We are extremely proud of our shooting team and wish them well for the winter season.

Athletics

In keeping with previous years, there are four events in the Regimental Athletic calendar. Following the success at last year's NSSG meeting, HQ Sqn started this season well by winning the Inter-Squadron Meeting which was held in May. Unfortunately, HQ Sqn were pipped from winning the NSSG Athletics again this year. By no stretch of the imagination does Regimental Athletics revolve around HQ Sqn. The greater proportion of the Regimental team comes from 2 Sqn. The Rhine Area meeting was the first real outing for the 1977 team and we are pleased to say that this year we came third, beating 16 Sig Regt and just failing to match 13 Sig Regt on final points. 21 Sig Regt really were far too good for the rest of the field.

The Morrison Cup was the last meeting for us this year. Having some very fine athletes in **Cpl Clark, Lcpl Nicholls, Sig Eyre, Cfn Murray, Cpl Johnson,** and many others, we managed to improve on last year by beating 16 and 13 Sig Regts.

Parachuting

The following poem (?) probably says it all. One of our more recently attempted sports, we now have a club of some 50-odd members run by our very own action man, **Lt Peter Day** (also known as Para Pete or PoW—'Pressure of Work').

FRAN DANGLE ONE

Fran Dangle was a wangle by our famous Mr Day
To set his club a-jumping in a most spectacular way.
They're jumping out of aircraft and paying for it too,
Enjoying every minute, falling from the blue.
These men of endless courage stand trembling in their boots
Giving the impression that they just don't give two hoots,
But the skill of leaving aircraft and flying on your own
Is a skill so rare and special it isn't widely known.

The art of staying stable and not tumbling all the way
Is an art developed by free-fallers, excepting Mr Day.
He says he likes these back flips which give him such a thrill
And simple things like cut-aways, he performs at will,
But when it comes to link-ups he goes down on his back,
Underneath his pin man—must have lost the knack,
Or is it just that back flips, quoted Asze Hayes,
Are just unstable tumblings of our own Peter Day?

Well now Fran Dangle has ended
We hope the CO's condescended
To sponsor our poor para pub, I mean club,
You see, Sir, free-fall isn't quite so free,
In fact to make a club like ours extensive
The sport can be, well, damned expensive,
So, if you could send some funds our way
We could have more jumps each day.
And to our poor twisted minds 'twould seem,
More subs, more jumps, means a first-class Regimental team.

Sig 'Trill' Potterton—A hop and pop on a 15-second delay?

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

COMMITMENTS FAR AND WIDE

THE last month has been extremely busy as a result of changing all our plans about twice a day and ending up actually doing less than we would have liked. In exchange for sending many more people off to Belize and Northern Ireland, we had to cancel an exercise to Singapore! You can imagine how popular that was with all the people who had been arranging their duty-free in advance as well as their trips to Hong Kong and the East Indies when the exercise had finished. Another result of this was that when we wanted to turn out the Regiment on parade, there weren't many people to turn out. The departing RSM, **WO1 Brian Green,** missed the shortest parade in our history. He left us to go to 34(V) Sig Regt in Middlesbrough as their MTO (and we hope that he and **Mrs Green** will be very happy there). In his place we welcomed **WO1 Malcolm Robinson** and his wife, **Charmian,** who came from 33 (V) Sig Regt, Liverpool. It was **RSM Robinson's** first task to arrange a ceremony to welcome our new Squadron from Bulford. Almost exactly a year after the process of restructuring began, it was completed with the arrival of the Bruin Squadron from 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt. What was left of the Regiment was paraded and the new Squadron marched on with the Band. They were welcomed by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Arthur Byng,** ably supported by his crutches, who immediately fell out the newly complete 30 Sig Regt, and invited **Maj Mike Adams,** the new Squadron Commander, his officers and men to celebrate their arrival in traditional manner at the Regimental bar which was tactically sited adjacent to the parade square.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

It might be noted before we go on to the notes from the operational squadrons, that the Regiment has as well as a new RSM, three new SSMs. It's enough to make the boldest signalman shiver in his shoes!

1 SQUADRON REPORT

July has been a chaotic month for us with exercises and commitments changing every day. However, the Fighting First has somehow come through unscathed! Almost all of our operators left at short notice for Belize, led by **Ssgt Pete Bentley** (yes, folks, he really does have a trade) to join our OC, **Maj Roger Thompson.** As a result our long anticipated exercise to Singapore was postponed. Instead we went down to the now familiar RAF St Mawgan for Exercise Fallback 13 where, as well as communicating, we managed some surfing, canoeing and fishing, and **Cpls**

Martin Webb and **Bernie Temmen** dragged a dozen or so 'volunteers' up some 'interesting' climbs and then dropped them down again under the guise of abseiling.. **Cpl Richie Gunson** led our soccer team in a match against the RAF when we came second. Despite our coach, **Foreman Brian Livesey,** we also came second in a game of basketball against the US Marines.

The RAF treated us magnificently, and generously provided a few of the lucky ones with flights on Nimrods. So after all, even if the delights of Newquay do not compare to Singapore, we still all managed to have a good time.

We also lost **SSM Jerry Jarrett,** who left us on promotion to WO1. His remarkably successful efforts to get the most out of any training situation will be missed. We welcome his successor, **SSM Thomas,** to Blandford.

2 SQUADRON IN FIVE COUNTRIES

The Light Radio Squadron continues to dazzle with their go-getting distance-crunching expertise. 'Have set—will travel' is obviously the note against their telephone number! July has found them engaged in operations and exercises on two continents in five countries with nine commitments! Regrettably, deployments to Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia scheduled for July have had to be postponed until the autumn.

With the OC, **Maj Owen Lewis,** in Cyprus; the Squadron Captain, **Dougie Pawlow,** on Mont Blanc in Italy; OC 'HF' Troop Captain, **John MacLeod,** as a Royal Signals representative officer at the Royal Tournament; and OC 'VHF' Troop, **Lt Nick Corbin,** leading his Troop on three consecutive exercises, Squadron Clerk, **Cpl Jim Whitmore,** has had fun running the Squadron and keeping tabs on everyone.

POPULAR FACILITY

Almost as an aside, 2 Sqn provided the UK terminal of an HF voice link to the Jubilee Review at Sennelager—**Cpl Nick Carter** going to the BAOR end to help out. The facility proved most popular with young children and, for Test match scores, more elderly gentlemen who were able to appreciate the excellent quality of this link!

WO2 (SSM) George Foggo is leaving the Squadron and goes for a six-month detachment to Cyprus. He has been pining for the sun since he was in Antigua last year. The Squadron wish him all the best and extend a warm welcome to **A/WO2 (SSM) Terry Dodson** who comes to 2 Sqn in his place.

WELL DONE

Our **Lcpl John Lathbury,** who has played hockey for the Army and Combined Service Under-21 teams for the last two seasons, tries out this year for the full Army side. He is selected to play in the Army *v* England Under-21 match. Good luck, **John!** (He's good with a radio set, too, and may have been seen in Alderney operating from a derelict Volkswagen!)

News from Squadrons

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.

B.F.P.O. 36

QM DEPARTMENT REPORT

THIS month in the true spirit of delegation of responsibility our Quartermaster's Department have the pleasure of producing our WIRE notes. **Lcpl Mick Simmonett** is to blame.

PERSONALITIES

To talk of restructuring from a Mech Squadron to a Field Force Squadron without mentioning the Quartermaster's Department would be considered bad form by some, perhaps even blasphemous. We of the QM's Dept do not intend to allow the situation to arise. The restructuring entailed much work, the least of which was changing letter headings. The long hours put in by the RQMS, **WO2 'Taff' Evans,** ably assisted by **Cpl Roy Fonseka,** who is soon to leave us, deserve a mention.

At the same time we must also mention the restructuring that has taken place within the Department. New to 5 Field Force as well as to the Department are **Lcpl Graham Garratt, Lcpl George Gibson, Lcpl Brian Hibbert** and **Sig Bill Hilson.** Also new is, dare I say it, your reporter this month, **Lcpl Mick Simmonett.** I feel that we must all thank the QM, **Capt James** (R Anglian), the RQMS and the rest of the staff, for making us so welcome, or could it be that they feel they now have less work on their hands? Also new in the Department, taking over the Clothing Store from **Ssgt John Newman** is **Ssgt Bert Connon** who, it must be said, is a dab-hand with an AFP1954.

All in all, it has certainly been an eventful time since the birth of 5 Field Force, but now things are calming down and the QM's Dept is getting back to the ebb and flow of keeping the Squadron kitted out and fit for our role in BAOR.

SOME FIELD MOUSE

During the period May 24–June 10, the Squadron carried out its annual adventure training exercise, which this year was held in Bavaria. The Squadron was based at Immenstadt, a picturesque town on the shores of the Alpsee.

The Exercise was named Field Mouse, although some members of the Squadron preferred the name 'Mickey Mouse', and covered four main activities, mountain-walking, sailing, canoeing, and rock-climbing. Immenstadt is a well-known Bavarian leisure centre and provided an ideal spot for off-duty activities (non-specified).

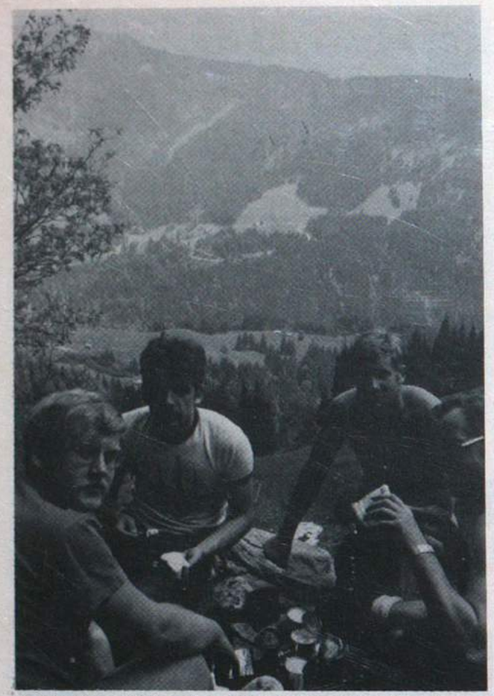
Two groups of 40 each spent 10 days on the exercise. Everyone had one day at each activity, after which they could choose to spend the rest of the time on the activity that most took their interest. In the later phase of operations it was noted that the majority of participants preferred a nice walk along the Alps in

Our Exercise Field Mouse accommodation near Immenstadt. In the foreground, preparing for a day in the mountains are Sig Dick Naylor, Sig 'The Feet' Winn, and Lcpl Barry Silk (RCT)

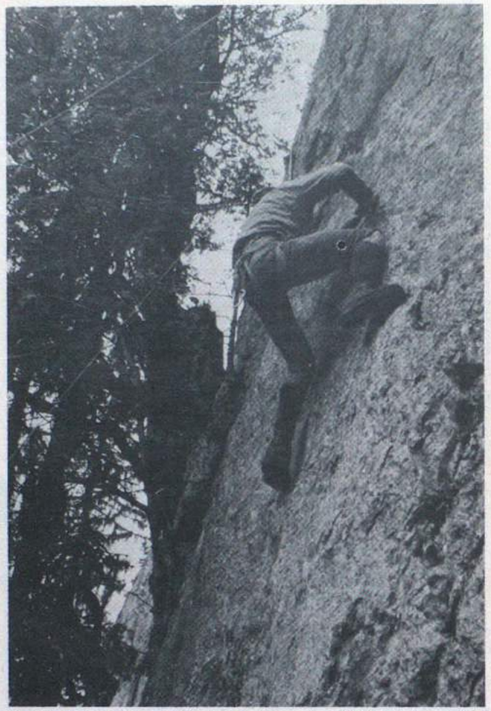
the company of **Lt Lynam** OC 'A' Troop, and **2 Lt Harrison** OC 'B' Troop (both now promoted), than the evils of capsize drills in the freezing waters of the Alpsee under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Akehurst,** who conducted operations from his dry, comfortable rubber dinghy.

NOTABLE CASUALTY

The only mishap so far reported, on the whole exercise was to the OC, **Maj W. J. P. Robins,** who attempted a fine free-fall drop from the rock face, needless to say, without a parachute. As an ex-member of 216 Para Sig Sqn it was, I am sure, the OC's previous training that enabled him to escape his 80–100ft fall with no broken bones. Seriously though, it was necessary to call out the Bavarian Mountain Rescue Helicopter to casevac him to the local hospital at Sonthofen, where he stayed for six days before being transferred to BMH Munster. **Mrs Robins** broke the Osnabruck to Sonthofen road race record to inspect the damage. We are happy to say that he is now fit and well, and manages to lead the Squadron on its usual Thursday afternoon runs, at ground level! Thanks must go to the QM, **Capt James,** who staged the whole month which was a great success.



A picturesque setting for a cold compo lunch for the rock apes. Sig Dick Naylor, Cfn 'Jock' Robbie (REME), Pte Gordon (Para), Lcpl Barry (RCT)



A typical view of one of the lads going up. Lcpl Silk (our instructor) with loaded shotgun out of picture

MORRISON CUP SUCCESS

Congratulations must go to the Squadron athletics team who did so well to give us a joint first place in the Morrison Cup Athletic Meeting. Special congratulations go to **Sgt Terry Beckett,** first in the discus, **Cpl Mick Godfrey,** first in the Shot, and **Sig George Bantin,** 5 Field Force regular all-rounder, first in the 200m. Fine efforts were put in by the rest of the team: **Ssgt John Newman** (2nd Javelin), **Lcpl 'Mac' McIver** (4th,„ long jump), **Lcpl John Fagg** (7th, 800m), **Sig Charlie Forbes** (2nd, 400m), **Sig Pete Bullen** (3rd, 1500m), and **Sig Robbie Sitch,** the fourth member of the relay team which came 4th. Not forgetting the team manager, of course, **Capt Owens.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Lcpl and **Mrs Garratt** on the birth of their daughter, **Amanda Jane.**

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

FAREWELL 3 DIVISION

THIS month the Squadron has been involved in such a myriad of activities that I hardly know where to begin. Certainly the scope of the material is staggering. Our new status deserves a mention; as 3 Division leaves for BAOR and Eastern District assumes command of us, we move one stage nearer to becoming a field force. However, these high-level manoeuvres have had little impact on the life of the average soldier.

THE LONG WALK

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal inspired one group, under **Cpl Tony Sygrove,** to make the best of our English summer by doing an approved walk. The small challenge they undertook was the 250 miles of the Pennine Way. I am reliably informed that the 250 miles is as the crow flies and the odd hill along the way makes the distance on foot 273 miles! The Pennine Panther reports:

The walk was scheduled to coincide with summer camp, so there was no shortage of volunteers. However, under the strict training of **Cpl Tony Sygrove** the large group melted to a small corps of enthusiasts, if I can use that word! So the final selection was made a lot easier and we were left with nine good men and true. **Sgt Benjamin Britten** and his small party of three acted as our admin party.

TOO AMBITIOUS

After all the usual pre-campaign crisis we found ourselves one Saturday morning on our way to Edale in Derbyshire, the starting point of our march. We left a larger number of doubting Thomases behind in barracks. Moreover, the 'experts' of Edale told us our programme was far too ambitious. Undaunted, we boldly set off towards the first of many climbs. On Kinder Scout we got to know our constant companion for most of the journey—'Peat Bog'. Kinder Scout is a wide expanse of peat criss-crossed by dug channels called groughs, which proved a constant obstacle. Our first stage was Higher Stove Shelf, where the wreckage of an American bomber is still scattered 30 years after the accident. On our second day we passed Stoodly Pike, an impressive 120-ft high memorial to commemorate the peace after the Battle of Waterloo. The Pike was visible, overlooking the Calder Valley, for the rest of the day's walk past several reservoirs and along metalled roads. Here we collected our share of blisters and our only case of cramp on the whole journey.

The end of the Pennine Way
Left to right: Cpl Bill Pounder, Sig Pete Bell, Cpl Tony Sygrove, Lcpl Steve Chopping, Cpls Will Morris and Terry Anderson Dvr Ken Coles, Cpl Chris Rushton and WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphreys

ROMAN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

On the third and fourth days of our trip we found ourselves in the scenic area of Malham Cove and surrounds, where one can still see the layout of a former Roman agricultural system. We also climbed Pen-y-Ghent (2,273ft). The ascent was easier than anticipated, but when we arrived at the summit the cloud was so low that we were unable to take any holiday snaps! On day five we saw nothing but moorland. However, on the sixth day we were in for a treat, a pint at the highest pub in England. We timed our arrival, with tongues hanging out, for 1030hrs exactly. But alas, opening time was 1100hrs, so we had to content ourselves with tepid water. And on the seventh day we rested! The next couple of days we travelled through fantastic scenery and although rain was our constant companion, we all madly clicked away from High Cup Nick.

The Pennine Way took us over Cross Fell (2,970ft) where we stood ankle deep on the boggy summit in the pouring rain. Next we joined the 'tourists' scurrying along the wall like ants from nest to nest. The twelfth day saw us on the road at 0500hrs eager to put the Cheviot Hills behind us. The Cheviots seemed to stay in the distance for ever. Nevertheless, we finally found ourselves at the Border Hotel, and the end of the journey.

REFLECTIONS

It was time to reflect on the Pennine Way and various incidents, such as **Cpl Mick Philliskirk's** (of REME) experiment at digging a Landrover out of the bog with our hot meal aboard! Or how **Lcpl Steve Chopping** introduced the country folk to the war-like Zulus! Of course, the prize must go to **Sig Steve Bell** who declared to the RQ, 'Of course, this must be harder for you as you are older and have to make all the decisions for us'!

Our walkers, led by **Cpl Tony Sygrove,** had achieved their aim and raised £200 for the Jubilee Appeal. Also taking part were **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphreys** (who wrote this account), **Cpls Wilf Morris, Terry Anderson, Chris Rushton, Lcpl Steve Chopping, Sig Pete Bell** and **Dvr Ken Coles.**

THE RED CROSS VISIT AGAIN

One of the Squadron's more recent traditions has been to play host to 30 handicapped children on one day of their annual summer camp. The children were treated to an equipment display. We provided radios and teleprinter, 47 Fd Regt produced a radar and a 105-mm new light gun while The Kings Regt put on a first-class weapons display. However, the real show stealer was the RAOC robot, 'Wheelbarrow'. In fact, the soldiers were more interested in 'Wheelbarrow' than the children, while **Ssgt Ron Crabtree** attempted to become an instant B3 robot operator.

The children enjoy a weapons display

The children then went to the cookhouse where **Sgt Davis-Morris** (ACC) and his staff had prepared a marvellous lunch with mountains of jelly and gallons of squash. After lunch the children saw some cartoons before they were taken to see the grand finale—a death-defying assault course competition between the 'Red Necks' and 'The Angles', with our special guest star and commentator, **RSM Wally Lockwood.** Once again the soldiers put on a spectacular show and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the children. The OC, **Maj Iain Kerr,** then closed the proceedings and presented all the children with certificates as Honorary Soldiers.

SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION

It appears that the MT Troop have been hiding their light under four-tonners. However, under their team leader, **Ssgt Williams,** they won the 19 Bde Safe Driving Competition Team Event. Rumour has it that all **Ssgt Williams** was required to do was to change a wheel and a rotor arm. Nevertheless, **Lcpl Michael Boniface** managed to become the best Landrover driver and won the Landrover and trailer reversing. But the fun didn't end there. The MTO, **Capt John Knight** (RCT), was also made to perform and he surprised everybody, including himself, by winning the MTO's competition. Well done, MT, especially in beating Brigade RCT Squadron's team.

SHOOTING REPORT

This year the team has had a varied fortune. Unfortunately, we did not find form in time for the Eastern District SAM and just failed to get a place at RASAM. However, we did win the SMG Match which brought home one trophy for the OC's silver collection, while **ASM Jones** won a tankard for best SNCO/WO.

We were more prepared for the Royal Signals SAM at Bulford. We returned the SMG trophy which we had won last year, intending to sign another 1033 before taking it away again. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case, but we did not return empty handed. We took away two handsome cups, one for the Henry Whitehead Rifle Match and the other for the Section Match. **ASM Burnett** won a tankard for best non-Royal Signals SMG and a second place overall. We gained a close second place in Royal Signals Minor Units SAM. However, next year . . .!

The Shooting Team
Left to right. Standing: Cpl Keith Alderson, Sgt Henry Banks, Dvr Robertson (*team driver*), ASM Murdo Burnett
Kneeling: WO1 ASM Mick Jones and Cpl 'Taff' Power

FAREWELL WALLY!

The departure of most people from any unit normally happens with little noise and no fuss. NOT, however, in the case of one **WO1 (RSM) Wally Lockwood.** True to form, he upstaged everybody at his farewell dinner in the Goojerat Barrack's WOs and Sergeants Mess, threatening to get even with our Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Dave Bell,** for his farewell tribute speech.

It was then the turn of the whole Squadron to bid a fond farewell. Those wishing him well in the future were paraded for **Wally,** all 12 of them! During the moving spectacle of comradeship **Wally's** long dreamt of new SILVER CAR arrived to spirit him away from the camp. Unfortunately, a high-powered RMP Patrol just happened by, and the little bag was produced for **Wally** to use, the result was the very swift trial, sentencing and depositing the deflated **Wally** in his own personal cell in our Guardroom. **Wally,** never fear, was soon allowed to appeal successfully and was escorted to a Squadron Happy Hour in his honour; where he managed to re-tell for the *n*th time the story of a certain camel and its defloration by that un-named officer. **Maj Kerr** responded with a brief tale of **Wally's** failure to catch the bus from Hamburg!

Fond farewells were said and the stick passed across to **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphreys,** our caretaker RSM until the arrival of **WO1 (RSM) Springer** in January 1978, then **Wally** passed on through a haze of smoke and beer. **WO1 (ex-RSM) Wally Lockwood,** the photographer's friend, 19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn salute you, and wish both yourself and your wonderful wife, **Dorothy,** every success and happiness in your future post in 11 Sig Regt.

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

THE HEAT

AFTER the excitement and bustle of June's Jubilee Celebrations and FFR, the Squadron has settled down to the more relaxed pace suitable for the sort of climate found in Malta at this time of year. It is pleasing to be able to report that in contrast to last year the weather is settled and hot with sea temperature currently about 78°F. Water ski-ing and sailing are well under way and the cricketers disappear regularly, if less successfully than last summer, to the Marsa ground. The lunchtime tennis sessions seem to have fallen by the wayside and have been replaced by a slow-moving tennis ladder and a decided air of lethargy. 'Mad dogs and Englishmen . . . '.

PRESENTATION OF ARMY (MALTA) COLOURS

At a short ceremony held in the WOs and Sergeants Mess on July 13, 1977, **Col P. W. G. Seabrook, OBE,** Chief of Staff to CBFM, presented Army Colours for the 1976–77 season to members of the Squadron and the Army Elements Malta. Our photograph shows most of the recipients but some awards also went to 8 (Alma) Light Battery RA, who have now left the island and whose assistance will be sadly missed in the coming season.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

This month we welcome to the Squadron **Cpls Mick Hamilton** and **Steve Jones,** and hope that their stay in Malta will be an enjoyable one. Goodbyes go to **Ssgts Dick May** and **Mick Kneebone,** and **Sig 'Chippy' Wood,** with our best wishes for the future and thanks for all they have done for the Squadron.

Left to right. Back row: Capt Steeples (*tennis*), WO2 Moody (*waterpolo/tennis*), Sgt White (*waterpolo*), Ssgt Kneebone (*rugby/waterpolo*), Cpl Tucker (*basketball*), Maj E. Pickup, OC Squadron, Sgt Murray (*football/squash*), Cpl Tarrant (*hockey*), Sgt Neil (*rugby*), Sgt Underhill (*sailing*)

Front row: Ssgt Shepherd (*basketball*), Ssgt Dick (*cricket*), Ssgt Owens (*rugby/cricket*), Capt Clark (*hockey*), WO2 Davies, SSM, Col P. W. G.-Seabrook, OBE, Cpl Morris (*badminton*), Lcpl Briffal (*waterpolo*), Cpl Zammit (*waterpolo*), Cpl Grixti (*waterpolo*), Cpl Xuereb (*waterpolo*)

Mrs Karin Clark presenting Col P. W. G. Seabrook with a cheque for £530 to go to the Army Benevolent Fund

NOTABLE PRESENTATION FOR ABF

After the ceremony, the OC, **Maj Eddie Pickup,** called on **Karin Clark,** wife of **Capt Alistair Clark,** to be presented with a cheque for £530 on behalf of the Army Wives Club, Mtarfa, to the Chief of Staff. This was the sum raised by the sponsored walk held in April in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. **Col Seabrook,** in accepting the cheque, praised the efforts of all those who organised and took part in the walk.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT!

244 Sig Sqn (AS) R.A.F., Brize Norton

DO IT YOURSELF

SQUADRON Headquarters. While the majority of the Squadron were tanning themselves and sampling the local vino in sunny Italy, the backroom boys were busy. The members of the Squadron HQ namely: **Sgt Mick Ferguson** (RAPC) (auditor/bookkeeper), **Cpl Garry Parry** (organiser/union member), **Lcpl Dave Gwynne** (Clerk of Works/designer) took this opportunity to enlarge the Squadron Office (by knocking down a wall) and moving the Chief Clerk, **Sgt Donnelly,** and the Admin Officer to different sites. The 2IC, **Capt David Case,** then in Italy (but now enjoying an energetic and invigorating tour with 6 Field Force), came back to no office. There was talk of moving the RSM to new pastures but we thought he would have enough to contend with in Italy (enthusiastic enemy soldiers) without coming back and finding his domain uprooted and moved. We also decided to leave the OC, **Maj Leslie Steane,** in his humble abode, thinking of cricket!

HERE AND THERE

July has been a quiet month for the Squadron apart from the odd detachments deployed to BAOR, Gibraltar and not-so-quiet Belize. The remainder of the unit has busied itself with the internal re-organisation of Troops prior to the change in our establishment. With the approaching change in Command and control from 3 Div to 1 Sig Group, the Squadron was visited by the Commander 1 Sig Group, **Col R. Benbow.** His visit coincided with an 'open day' by Tactical Communications Wing (TCW) (the RAF equivalent of 244 Sig Sqn) and was an ideal opportunity to display our respective equipments in their operational role.

DEBATABLE RESULTS

In the second half of the month **Capt Jack Boyle** (OC 'A' Troopl) and **Capt Geoff Strivens** (OC 'E' Troop) organised a Squadron Cricket Day which started with the Officers and SNCOs versus Soldiers cricket match in the morning. After a curry lunch provided by **Sgt Terry Sutton** (ACC) and his messy band of cooks and refreshed with an adequate supply of cool beer thanks to **Sgt Dick Orfanelli** (RAPC) the afternoon rolled into action with a six-a-side Troop knock-out competition. The results are still being debated.

SUCCESS AGAINST STRONG OPPOSITION

Congratulations to our victorious Tug-of-War team, consisting of **Cpl 'Jason' Wood, Lcpls 'Geordie' Stanton, Harry Coverley, Andy Winter, Sigs 'Taff' Oatley, 'Kami Kaze' Falconer, 'Gus' Healey,** and **'Bebbs' Bebbington,** all coached by **Lcpl 'Joe' Olds.** Winners of the RAF Brize Norton Competition, against stiff opposition.

259 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 53

BISLEY SUCCESS FOR NEARELF CHAMPIONS

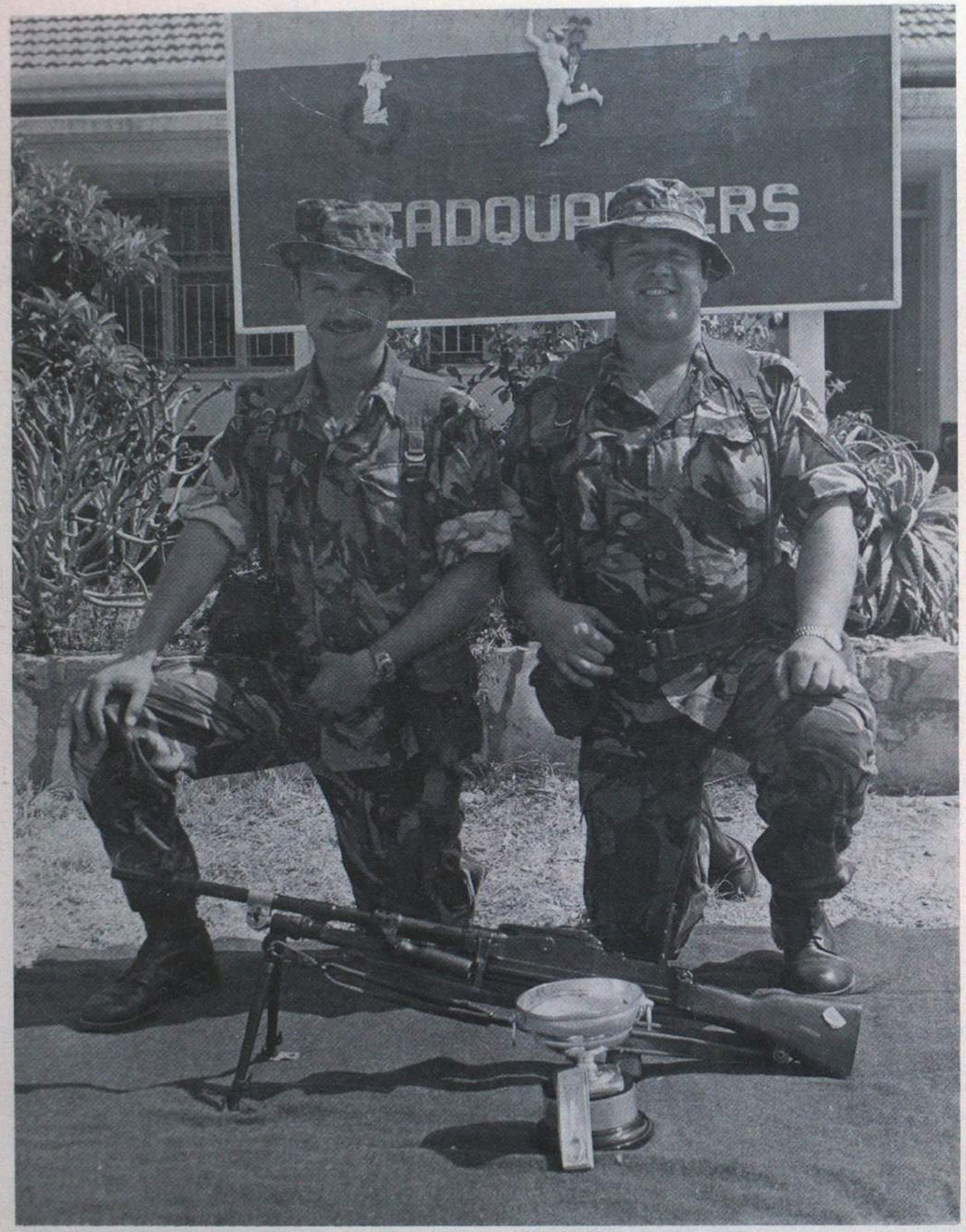
AFTER 40 days in the wilderness our shooting team has returned with even more 'pots' and a good collection of colds and flu. Here, in picture and words, is their story.

Home sweet home

The RAF Friday flights seem to be timed to get you to Swindon so as to just miss the last convenient train to anywhere. But the School of Signals had transport for us and the journey to Lynham (to collect our freight) and then to Blandford was uneventful—it rained most of the way, and we shivered all the way. Blandford is a good place to spend a weekend. It stands in the clouds on a windswept, rain-washed hill in Dorset. The local military population are too poor to afford to run their central heating, and drink home-brewed beer instead of going out. The locals shivered—we froze!

Methuen training at Mere

On Monday, June 13, we started a week's training with The Corps Methuen Squad on Mere range. It only rained twice on Monday, the first time for eight hours and the second for 15¾ hours. The wind gusted to 50–60mph, and at the end of the day our poor scores were the least of our worries. Death from drowning or pneumonia seemed likely to relieve us of any further worries. Fortunately, the poor people of Blandford gave us the electric fires which they could not afford to plug in to their own electricity supply. So we kept our rooms hot from then on. However, the military system quickly gets its own back. For most of the week thereafter the Mess had no hot water. Somehow we survived, and by the end of the week we were all shooting in the Corps potential Methuen team. The newspapers announced it was the worst June weather since records were first kept! Our webbed feet confirmed this, but we were ready for the Royal Signals Corps Meeting, which was to be our final rehearsal before Bisley.



THE ROYAL SIGNALS TROPHY
For the best LMG pair in the Regular Army Bisley 1977—'A first for the Corps'
Capt Derek McLean and Ssgt Charlie Manning pictured with their pride and joy—The Gun!
The Royal Signals Cup is in the foreground

High standards for Corps Meeting

Our accommodation for the week June 20–24 was Rollistone Camp near Stonehenge. The camp is reputed to be younger than the monument! The standard of shooting at the Corps Meeting was high and we enjoyed ourselves. One of our most memorable moments was our failure in the Section Match. This is a section Fire With Movement (FWM) attack sequence in which a Gun Group must produce effective fire at 600 and 400m with a rifle group producing effective fire (hitting a figure 11) at 500 and 300m. Both groups score points during a counter-attack phase at 300m. During this phase the Gun Group has 65sec in which to: Run from 400 to 300m. Adopt a fire position, make ready and fire 20 rounds at a double figure 11. Re-load, change firers, fire 20 more rounds, re-load and fire up to 19 more rounds. This last number of rounds varies according to how well the pair shot during the attack sequence. As anyone who needs more than 20sec to run 100m in full kit carrying a machine gun will know this last phase does not give any time for error. Sadly, we had one. It was a DPM jungle hat! It fell over the eyes of **Ssgt Manning** while he was firing. He stopped firing. His Number 1, that helpful and quick-witted Squadron 2IC, **Capt McLean,** was, as usual, clock watching. The stop watch ticked on, the gun was silent! 'Get on Staff'—a good military cry. JDSC reputations are won on this sort of thing [but not machine gun matches—*Ed.*] 'I can't see!' shouted the Staff-sergeant. 'Never mind that, pull your finger out and get on', cried the Captain. 'But . . .', screamed the Staff-sergeant. '5 seconds left—automatic FIRE', cried the Captain. Still clock watching! Audy Murphy would have been proud of the ensuing hail of lead. It blew holes in the daisy field 10yds to the front and then exploded its way forward towards the stop Butt arriving 300yds away only seconds after the target was taken down! The ensuing conversation cannot be recorded in a medium designed for family entertainment!

The remainder of the week passed in our favour. The sun came out one morning but went back again before we got up. Our shivering had settled down to a constant chatter, and this we considered a big improvement over the violent outbursts of the previous week. At the start of the week the Officers Mess had no hot water—but by then, of course, above his vibrating chin a chap had developed a stiff (frozen) upper lip.

In all it was a good week and we were grateful for being allowed to join an event which is of such good training value.

Bisley report

There were 34 teams in the Minor Units Competition at Bisley and they had all qualified to attend at District/Divisional meetings similar to NESAM. In a year in which record scores were almost as liberally sprinkled as the rain we were proud to come second. The Rifle Depot 1 RGJ beat us because they were a better team (two of their four firers are Queen's Medal Winners) but amongst the 32 teams beaten by us the standards of shooting were high. This indicates to us that given a little bit of willpower there is no reason why shooting standards should not be high throughout the Corps.

The competitions

On June 30, we fired match 4 practices 1 and 2 and the SMG practices 1–6. On July 1, we finished practices 3 and 4 of match 4 and fired match 3. On the Saturday we finished the Moving Target (match 6) by lunch and match 2 by 1720. It was hard work but the results were encouraging.

Scoreboard

Description	*Match*	*Posn*	*Our score*	*Our training average*	*A good score (by 1976 standards)*	*The winning score 1977*	*HPS*
ROUPELL CUP	2	3rd	508	416	512	532	640
HENRY WHITEHEAD	3	4th	536	448	528	580	640
ASSOCIATION CUP	4	3rd	542	520	584	571	800
MOVING TARGET	6	5th	119	Nil	Not known	132	200
SMG TEAM	27	14th	602	602	650	700	900

As the list above shows, our scores were all equal to or better than our averages (this is unusual in competition) but the difference between the good score (ie, a potential winner) and the real winner was in some instances quite incredible. However, the opposition had shown its colours—despite some really difficult shooting conditions (strong blustery wind, showers, and variable light) the standards were set to be high. We gave chase.

It is worth noting that the good score in match 4 is derived from the worst score possible if 40 out of 40 shots hit the targets. This gives a team average of 146/200 per man. In the United Services Cup the Army Eight averaged 173/200 per man and the lowest score (163/200) was equal to the highest Army Eight score in 1976. This helps illustrate the rise in standard for 1977. Our poor result in the SMG Team Match (No 27) is a direct reflection of the local hurricane which hit us on the afternoon of June 30. At 100m the 9mm bullet was drifting 20in and standing still was an impossibility.

Our first great moment came in the Gun Match (Match 29); 232 pairs of machine gunners competing for 30 places in the second stage of the machine gun match.

Section Snapshooting
Left to right: Ssgt Manning, Cpl Quinn, Capt McLean, Sgt Curry, Sgt Roberts

Although at Bisley the LMG has been eclipsed by the GPMG we had to do well because the first stage score counts towards the Minor Unit Championships. The Match is in two fire phases. Phase 1 is an attack sequence involving fire with movement from 600 to 300m. In phase 1 it is possible to score between 0 and –60 (yes, minus!). In phase II scoring is exactly as in the Section Match (a double figure 11 at 300m). The score can therefore vary from –60 to +59. When our gun pair started scoring they had 51 bullets remaining and no minus points. We were, therefore, unbelievably pleased with our final score of +51! Our average at that time was about 38, but climbing. In the second run (now competing as individuals) the pair arrived at 300m with 58 bullets remaining but could only score 49 hits. Total score 100.

This was 8 points too few to join the coveted top 15 but was 1 point clear of the nearest LMG score. So the pair could rest in the knowledge that on the day they were the best LMG pair in the Army. This was a 'first' for the Corps and indicates that given sufficient training the LMG might be the equal of the GPMG.

For the remainder of the week our scoreboard was as follows:

Description	*Match*	*Posn*	*Our score*	*Our training average*	*A good score (by 1976 standards)*	*The winning score*	*HPS*
MACHINE GUN	29	4th	51	38	53	59	59
SECTION MATCH	32	5th	65	50	60	71	85
PARA CUP SMG	28	1st	323	314	305	323	450
TEAM SNAP-SHOOTING	34	7th	56·5	52	57	62·5	90·5

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

Three months' work

Left to right. Rear row: Cpl Quinn, Sgt Curry, Sgt Roberts
Front row: Ssgt Manning, Maj C. E. Grundy, Capt D. J. McLean

Pistol shooting did not count towards the Minor Unit Championships and we did not, therefore, spend any appreciable time in practice. On the day we were delighted to come second (out of 80 teams) in the Regular Army Team event with a score of 552 (a team average of 184). We are grateful to our non-firing team captain, **Sgt Curry,** who joined us with only two days' practice and achieved a handsome 165. The winning team (the RMAS) scored 567. In 1976, 535 won the event.

In the Army 100, **Sgt Roberts** was placed 52nd and **Capt McLean** 79th. In the Silver Jubilee 100, **Roberts** and **McLean** were 14th and 16th, respectively. In the Pistol XXX, **Capt McLean** was 5th with a score of 401, and **Ssgt Manning** 15th on a score of 380. Averages of 100 and 95, respectively.

A lot of shooting

Eight days represents a lot of shooting and, regrettably, we made a few mistakes, which lost us points, and we had one disaster which cost us the Section Match (Match 32). Our errors mostly involved firing on the wrong target. Our disaster involved a stop watch which would not START. It cost us the loss of 7 bullets in a Section Match which—with the noticeable exception of the clock—had gone like CLOCKWORK and we might have won. However, none of these mishaps affected the final outcome of the Championship. The only circumstances which might have helped us was the weather. It was so bad that it probably put us at a small disadvantage when compared with UK-based teams. It's great to be back in the sunshine!

260 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 20

General Tower inspecting the Royal Signals Guard. All are wearing the GSM awarded for service in Northern Ireland.

SYRENA DAY PARADE—END OF AN ERA

SHORTLY after the return from our successful tour of infantry duty in Northern Ireland, it was time to get out the spit and polish again and start perfecting our drill. During May our parent unit (36 Hy Air Defence Regt RA) held its Disbandment Parade. Although the Regiment does not cease its operational role until September 1, May was the last occasion when all of the Batteries and other sub-units would be together in Napier Barracks, Dortmund. Not only did the parade mark the end of service for the Thunderbird II SAGW System but it also maked the end of the last Heavy Air Defence Regiment in the British Army. The day was aptly named 'Syrena Day', since the Syrena is the Regimental Emblem, cherished after it was awarded to the Batteries of the Regiment for their gallant support by the Commander of the Polish Forces fighting in Italy during World War II.

The Guest of Honour at the Syrena Day Parade was **Gen P. T. Tower, CB, DSO, MBE.** He inspected five guards, one each drawn from each sub-unit of the Regiment. Number 3 guard was provided by the Squadron and commanded by **Capt Jack Fiskel.** The Squadron put on an excellent display of drill and turn-out, and, during his address, **Gen Tower** said that he had seen many parades in his long career and the Syrena Parade ranked amongst the best. This was no mean comment from a man who spent

his last tour of duty as Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The Squadron welcomed as its guest for the day **Brig G. W. Gittins**, CC Royal Signals 1 (BR) Corps. The Syrena Day was brought to a close with an Officers/Sergeants Mess Ball in the evening.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY

August 9 saw the final meeting with 8th (US) Sig Bn at Bad Kreuznach. This liaison with the Americans has been going for three years and has meant frequent visits by some members of the Squadron to enjoy American hospitality. The recent Op Banner tour and a host of American exercises have prevented much liaison this year. The recent visit proved once again how hospitable our allies can be.

THE END IN SIGHT

With the suspended animation of 36 Hy Air Defence Regt, goes the disbandment of 260 Sig Sqn (SAM). The Squadron, which was formed in 1968 at Shoeburyness from the amalgamation of 654 and 655 Sig Troops, has spent the last six years in Napier Barracks, Dortmund. It had a peak strength of 170 all ranks but now, as its days are numbered, is just over 100 strong.

For many, the 50-odd B70 Radio Relay equipments and the CST 1+4 No 2 (yes, the No 2) will bring back memories of the early 1960s when these equipments were in regular service elsewhere in Royal Signals. Now as **Ssgt (SQMS) Dave Wilcox** packs them lovingly into their boxes we are probably the last unit to have them in use. The Squadron's 70 vehicles, once including one of the largest fleets of Landrovers in a minor unit, are being dispersed. **Sgt 'Twerm' Walmsley,** the MT Sergeant, and **Cpl 'Jaws' Howden** taking great care to ensure all are in perfect order complete with tools.

The remaining communicating Troop has started to pack its G1098, check and rewind its 'n' miles of cable and clean out all the cubby holes previously hidden from the Squadron Commander. The Tels Workshop ceases to operate on September 15 as, by then, there will be no work left.

AU REVOIR

The Foreman of Signals, **WO1 Sawyer,** leaves for Catterick and retirement, **Ssgt Escott** leaves for Maastrict, and a multitude of technicians disperse to other units. Two, **Cpls Dipple** and **Graham,** are off to 8 Sig Regt on their T1 courses, and we wish them every success.

In SHQ, the OC, **Maj Rollo Rumford,** leaves for the USA as an exchange officer at Fort Lewis near Seattle. **Capt Steve Bloom** leaves to become PRI of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at Soest and with him go half-a-dozen soldiers. Left behind to hold the fort until the bitter end, **Capt Jack Fiskel,** currently OC 'X' Troop, and **Sgt Crump,** Chief Clerk. The SSM, **WO2 Don Payne** goes to 2 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt and joins a dozen others posted there.

Departures from the Squadron started immediately after Exercise Whirly Gig, an annual air defence exercise which this year must have been the wettest on record. For once everything worked and the radio relay technicians were under employed. One of the few failures was a loose board in a VRC321 borrowed by the OC—'Should not kick these new sets—**Sig Kirk**'!

Farewells would be an impossible task as over 100 depart within eight weeks, so we all wish ourselves the best in our next units wherever they may be.

For those interested, the Historical Record will be located at RHQ Royal Signals, and the mementoes of partnership with 8th (US) Sig Bn are already at the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford.

262 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 58

RASAM 1977

IN what is believed to be the Squadron's first ever entry in the Minor Unit Championship at Bisley, the Corps was well represented by some first-class shots from Cyprus. **WO2 (F of S) Trevor Spence** won a silver medal for being third in the Moving Target while **Ssgt David Lamont** gained a bronze medal in the Roupell and a bar to the medal in the Roberts. Only **WO2 Spence** had been to Bisley as a competitor in Regular Army matches before; the Squadron very much regretted that **Sgt Alan Brooks** could not fire due to an eye injury, but he performed a sterling service as non-firing team captain.

BISLEY BOUND—Capt D. J. Elson reports

We qualified for Bisley on the hot and dusty ranges at RAF Akrotiri and Dhekelia during the NESAM 77 meeting held in May. The team of four who represented the Squadron, comprising **Capt David Elson, WO2 (F of S) Trevor Spence, Ssgt David Lamont** and **Sgt Ken Vince** will, never forget those ranges or the 140-mile round trip between the 2 SBAs spent getting to them. The heat, dust, sun and wind can only be appreciated by anyone who knows Cyprus and the ETR at Akrotiri and Gallery ranges at Dhekelia seem to have more than their fair share.

In all, there were 40 teams competing in NESAM, and apart from the Cyprus-based units we had to contend with entrants from Gibraltar and Malta. The standard of Army shooting has increased considerably over recent years, and this shoot proved to be no exception. Our arch rivals, 259 Sig Sqn (West), had the best team on the island and we were not surprised when they beat us into second place. Just for the record, as far as Royal Signals is concerned, between us, 259 and 262, we completely obliterated all opposition much to the embarrassment of the two resident infantry battalions who shall remain nameless!

With NESAM over and our place at Bisley assured, training began in earnest—not just range work but dry training and a great deal of 'pokey' drill and cross-country runs. It is amazing just how fit one must be for competition shooting. Our main problem at first was the lack of range allocation but we managed to overcome this by co-operation with 259 Sig Sqn and 1 Royal Irish, who had qualified as the Major Unit team. In the last month we were shooting four times a week and becoming a bit fed up with the dust and heat, so it was quite a relief to get on that Hercules bound for 'sunny' UK. The flight, to say the least, was not a particularly pleasant one, Hercules are not the most comfortable of aircraft and, after a 7½-hour flight, they are quite

The Squadron Shooting 'Squad' at NESAM 77
Left to right. Standing: Lcpl Clarke, Lcpl Wright, Capt Elson, WO2 (SSM) Allen, Sgt Kilvington and Sgt Vince
Kneeling: Ssgt Lamont, Sig Horton and WO2 (F of S) Spence

unbearable. We also had a bit of engine trouble, which delayed our take-off by 5 hours. Consequently, all our well-planned arrangements at the far end were put out of gear, and we owe many thanks to **Capt Tom Keany** of 244 Sig Sqn, who saved us a lot of heartache by kindly hiring their PRI Minibus to us for our entire stay.

BASIC WITH ATMOSPHERE

Bisley Camp is not a very gracious place at the best of times and considering it is supposed to be the mecca of world-wide shooting the facilities are basic—everything is under canvas. But the atmosphere—that is something else. The excitement and tension that exists cannot be described and I will never forget just that feeling lying on the damp firing point waiting for the targets to appear to start the first shoot of the competition. The sight of seeing 50 gun pairs running down en masse on Century Range during the LMG Match is a sight (and sound) that can never be forgotten.

Perhaps it is this atmosphere and competitive spirit that exists that caused us all to shoot above ourselves, our scores in most cases were far better than we had ever done during training in Cyprus. We had never thought ourselves good enough to win the Minor Unit Championship and to finish 14th out of 34 teams was considered to be a fair achievement by anyone's standards and well worth the effort that we had all put into the training and preparation. Once again we were beaten only by one other Royal Signals team—our old rivals 259 Sig Sqn.

Bisley is a strange place—full of charm and nostalgia and I can quite understand after having been there why so many 'old perennials' return year after year to compete for the coveted Queen's Medal. I think we all hope that we will get the opportunity to go again and do just that much better next time.

The Volunteers

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

A SPLENDID EVENING

TO celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Silver Jubilee and the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, a Reception and the playing of Retreat by the Corps Band was held at Knowsley Hall, by kind permission of **Col The Rt Hon The Earl of Derby, MC, DL**, on Friday, June 17, 1977. The Regiment was honoured by the presence of **Lord Derby** and many other distinguished guests, including **Brig Sir Douglas Crawford, CB, DSO, TD,** Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Sir Harold** and **Lady Wilson, Maj Gen P. F. A. Sibbald, OBE,** GOC North-West District, and **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge,** ACDS (Signals).

WO2 Fred Nuttall, as Major-Domo, announced the guests' arrival who were received by the CO, **Lt Col John Bromley,** The Honorary Colonel, **Col J. G. Bryson, OBE, TD, JP, DL, LLM,** and the PMC, **Maj Pat Jolliffe, TD,** and their wives.

Well-iced champagne cocktails were enjoyed in the splendid surroundings of the State Rooms, prior to proceeding to the Ceremony of Retreat performed by the Staff Band under the direction of **Maj Keith Boulding** on the magnificent lawns behind the Hall. Despite the evening being chilly, everyone thoroughly enjoyed a stirring programme of music accompanied by an invigorating display of formation and counter-marching. At one point members of the Band were disappearing in so many directions that the audience were unsure whether they would ever see them again, particularly as the complicated manoeuvres were impeded by the presence of a large decorative fountain in the centre of the display area.

At the end of the ceremony, the officers and their guests returned to the Hall to partake of a magnificent carved buffet supper anxiously presided over by **Maj David French** supported by **WO2 Bill Lovett** of the Army Catering Corps. Whilst enjoying the supper, the Adjutant, **Capt Alan Davies,** and his wife, **Jean,** could be seen in earnest conversation with **Sir Harold** and **Lady Wilson,** and it is now understood that they are hard at work on books of memoirs and poetry, respectively!

The Playing of Retreat by the Corps Band on the lawn outside Knowsley Hall

At the end of the evening, **Maj Arthur Nolan** in the role of auctioneer, sold off the beautiful arrangements of cut flowers in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Despite considerable heckling from the floor and vociferous advice from **Maj Jonathan Baldwin,** he succeeded in raising a considerable sum of money for a very worthy cause. This even satisfied the Paymaster, **Maj Peter Edwards,** who had cheered on the bidders with cries of 'You can't afford it'!

After supper, the officers and their guests proceeded on to a Regimental Ball at the Huyton Suite where the 'Mercury Group' entertained the assembled company with great gusto. A truly wonderful and memorable evening in the life of the 'Thirty Third'.

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

ACCENT ON ORIENTEERING

THE principle of only writing when there is something really worthwhile to write about has kept the Regiment, with its well-known modesty, out of print for some time. However, it is felt that the orienteering successes of the past six months are well worth recording! The notes do become, to a certain extent, 'Squadron' rather than 'Regimental' notes as those who read on will find. 89 Sqn from Rugby have had their most successful orienteering season ever this year. The Regimental competition was held in February and the Squadron took the first and third places with the LAD squeezing into second position. A 'visitors' team from 224 Sqn managed to better the 89 'A' team by under a minute thanks to a fine run by **Capt Dave Etherton,** who was the fastest individual of the day.

In March there was a cliff-hanging finish to the West Midland District Championships when 89 Sqn retained the team title by just three seconds in a total of 3hrs 33 min. Spectators and team members were kept on tenter-hooks by the results processing system after **Capt 'Sandy' Livingstone** had stormed across the finish line a couple of paces ahead of **2 Lt Mike Gaunt** of Birmingham University OTC.

Fast going

If they dead-heated for time, then 89 lost by just one second, but it took nearly half-an-hour for the three-second margin to emerge in 89 Sqn's favour. The team captain, **Maj Bob Titterington,** raced round the 7-km (1,175-ft climb) course at Brown Clee Hill in 57min 37sec, which gave 89 an early advantage. This time eventually proved to be the fastest time of the day, Regular or TAVR, and the only one to break the one-hour barrier.

At the Army Senior Championships in May which were run in the Achray Forest near Stirling, **Maj Bob Titterington** just failed to retain his TAVR individual title by 4 seconds, losing to **Cpl Scott** of 4 KOB. Excluding runners from UOTCs the Regiment had six runners in the first twenty from TAVR units. In the relay event the following day 89 Sqn got off to a great start when **Lt Terry Phillips** came pounding in on the heels of the fastest man on the first leg. **Maj Bob Titterington** took over and got round without disaster in a very reasonable time to give the team a commanding lead. **Capt 'Sandy' Livingstone** then raced off into the detailed area of crags, streams, boulders, ditches, knolls and depressions. All went well until control 8. Hunting frantically for the elusive banner he was only too well aware of the clock ticking on. At last he found the control and raced for the finish to put a Royal Signals Sub-Unit onto the TAVR Unit Relay Trophy for the first time.

Sport

NEW CORPS YACHT

A NAMING ceremony for the new Corps yacht, *Skywave,* was held at the Joint Services Sailing Centre, Gosport, on Tuesday, June 21. The former yacht of the same name, which was launched in 1968 had given much pleasure to many of our members, but it was now time for a new yacht which could accommodate a larger number on board and so provide even greater opportunities for adventure training and cruises for our soldiers and their families. So, the old *Skywave* was sold and the proceeds helped to pay for the new one—a Marcon Rival 32—which was delivered in kit form just before last Christmas.

Throughout the winter and spring months, **Cpl Pete Mills** and **Lcpl Frank Jones,** our two stalwart bosuns, ably overseen by **Maj Mark Barker,** the yachtmaster, worked finger to bone demonstrating their DIY skills, to achieve a highly professional end-product.

NAMING CEREMONY

Despite an overcast sky on the day of the naming ceremony, *Skywave* dressed overall was an impressive sight, moored along the quayside. Members of the Royal Signals Yacht Club committee, our two bosuns and a number of guests from the Joint Services Sailing Centre, the Army Sailing Association, and local units, who had in various ways offered their assistance in the assembling of the craft, gathered there on the quayside at mid-day.

The Commodore of the Royal Signals Yacht Club, **Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE,** opened the ceremony by thanking those involved in this venture for their unstinted and dedicated work. The naming was then performed by the Commodore's wife, **Mrs Anthea Webb,** who confessed that she was fulfilling a life-long ambition, having always wanted to christen a ship. This she proceeded to do with aplomb and expertise, though, regrettably, none of our amateur photographers managed to snap the exact moment when the champagne bottle broke! The ceremony was followed by a celebration buffet lunch where book presentations were made to **Maj Barker, Cpl Mills** and **Lcpl Jones** in recognition of their admirable effort. Altogether a memorable event in Jubilee year.

FIRST OUTING

Appropriately enough, the first major outing for *Skywave* was the occasion of HM The Queen's Review of the Fleet at Spithead on June 28. Together with our other UK Corps yacht, *Quicksilver,* and hundreds of other craft, *Skywave* took her place in the line-up to watch the magnificent spectacle. This, it is to be hoped, was the forerunner to many enjoyable cruises and we echo the wishes spoken at the naming ceremony: 'May God Bless her and all who sail in her'.

The new Corps yacht, *Skywave,* dressed overall for the naming ceremony on June 22, 1977

Mrs Anthea Webb, wife of the Commodore, about to 'name this yacht *Skywave* . . .'

ROYAL SIGNALS SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING HELD AT BULFORD RANGES JUNE 20-24, 1977

Report by Maj G. A. S. Exell, captain of Corps Shooting

ONE HUNDRED-AND-EIGHT competitors from seven major units and eight minor units shot in this meeting in which the range administration was once again shared with the Royal Artillery.

28 Sig Regt, led by **Maj Ken Goulding,** just managed to clinch the Major Unit Championship after a close tussle with 16 Sig Regt that was only decided by the very last team match. 16 Sig Regt discovered the hard way that it takes more than just good SLR scores to win the championship.

259 Sig Sqn, led by **Capt Derek McLean,** made their long journey from Cyprus more than worthwhile by winning the Minor Unit Championship, including all team matches apart from the Section Match, in which 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn were permitted a consolation gleam of silver.

Capt McLean had a nose in front for most of the individual championship but was overtaken in the final practice of the Army 100 by **Sgt Tony Hunt** who eased ahead to win by the narrow margin of 1 point. **Lcpl Kerry Donohoe** was the best of a very promising group of Class B shots. Several very high individual scores were obtained but pride of place must go to **Ssgt (Y of S) Jim Hindle** who clocked in a 182 in the Association Match and a 474 in the SMG Match.

The President of Corps Shooting, **Brig W. A. Sykes,** ADC, presented the prizes which included the new Furby Cup (from **ex-Cpl Furby)** for the Roberts Match, and won appropriately enough by **Sgt Roberts. Maj Geoff Hudson** also gave a cup for the best pistol shot which was won by **Capt McLean** to make up for his disappointment with the SLR. The President thanked the host unit from HQ Sqn of 30 Sig Regt and, in particular, **Maj Bill Turney** who had borne the brunt of the administration, and who takes over as secretary. **Maj Hudson** handed over to **Bill Turney** during the meeting and received a unanimous vote of thanks for his sterling work over the past four years on behalf of Corps Shooting. The fact that successive skill-at-arms meetings have gone virtually without a hitch is due very largely to his efforts.

The winners of the main individual matches were as follows:

Match	2	— Roupell	— **Sgt Watts**	— 13 Sig Regt
	3	— Whitehead	— **Sgt Hunt**	— 16 Sig Regt
	4	— Association	— **Ssgt Hindle**	— School of Signals
	7	— Roberts	— **Sgt Roberts**	— 259 Sig Sqn
	8	— Army 100	— **Sgt Hunt**	— 16 Sig Regt
	9	— SMG	— **Ssgt Hindle**	— School of Signals
	11	— Pistol	— **Capt McLean**	— 259 Sig Sqn
	101	— Bisley Cup	— **Ssgt Cheese**	— 13 Sig Regt

REGULAR ARMY MEETING (RASAM 77) AT BISLEY

Fifty-one Royal Signals competitors from six major units and four minor units attended RASAM having survived the procedures by which the final 720 firers were selected from the original 3,000 bids. We knew from the start that competition would be fierce indeed, with 44 infantry battalion teams out of the 66 units entered for the Major Unit Championship.

16 Sig Regt, led by **Sgt Peter Coles,** obtained a very creditable 28th place in the championship and but for a repeat of their poor scores with SMG and LMG at the Corps Meeting they could have come much higher. Their best match places were 4th in the Team Snap Shooting (a tremendous effort), and 19th in the Section Match.

The Minor Unit Championship was a triumph for 259 Sig Sqn who carried on where they left off at the Corps Meeting. They finished as runners-up to the Green Jacket Depot (whose first two shots were Queen's Medallists!) by a mere 9 match points. This was achieved out of an entry of 34 teams and second place is the highest position ever achieved by a Royal Signals unit in either the Major or Minor Unit Championships. This really was a silver performance worthy of Jubilee year. In the course of their shoots they won the Minor Units Para Regt Cup for SMG and the Royal Signals Cup for the best LMG score in the machine gun match. The latter achievement is particularly welcome as it was the first time we have won our own cup since it was presented three years ago—well done **Capt McLean** and **Ssgt Manning!**

Success by individuals is gauged by the number who reach the Army 100 and the bars and medals won in the individual matches. Six Royal Signals shots fired in the Army 100 and their final placings in the championship were as follows:

52nd	—	**Sgt Roberts**	—	259 Sig Sqn
54th	—	**Ssgt Hall**	—	School of Signals
56th	—	**Capt Reed**	—	35 Sig Regt (V)
79th	—	**Capt McLean**	—	259 Sig Sqn
85th	—	**Ssgt Lamont**	—	262 Sig Sqn
97th	—	**Lcpl Copley**	—	21 Sig Regt

WO1 (F of S) Hassall and **Sgt Hunt** were also within 1 hit of qualifying. Spare a thought for **Sgt Hunt,** who was placed 11th overall going into the Roberts Match, but fired his first 20 rounds on the wrong target—how unlucky can you get?

Bar winners in the SLR matches were:

ROUPELL MATCH	—	**Capt McLean** (14th) **Sgt Hunt** (23rd)
WHITEHEAD MATCH	—	**Lcpl Copley** (21st) **Capt Reed** (36th)
ASSOCIATION MATCH	—	**Sgt Hunt** (3rd) **Ssgt Hall** (23rd) **Cpl Connelly** (9th in Class B)
ROBERTS MATCH	—	**Ssgt Lamont** (15th) **Capt McLean** (22nd)
MOVING TARGET MATCH	—	**Ssgt Spence** (3rd) **Ssgt Laughlin** (12th)

The Methuen Match saw us win back the Woolwich Bowl from the Royal Engineers. The team topped the 900 mark for the first time for three years (ie, an average of over 150) which gave us 10th place. It is pleasant to record that no-one 'crashed' this year but we still need to get individual scores of 160-plus to have a chance of winning the Methuen once again.

Maj Ken Goulding and **WO1 (F of S) Barry Hassall** were our two qualifiers for the SMG 45 badge and they finished 26th and 41st, respectively.

We had four qualifiers in the Pistol 30 with final placings as follows:

Capt McLean	5th
Capt Reed	6th
Ssgt Manning	15th
Sgt Hunt	16th

Standards at Bisley are rising every year as shown by the following two examples. Our highest placed shot in the championship, **Sgt Roberts,** scored 767 and was placed 52nd; in 1976 this score would have been 16th. Our Methuen Team score of 905 which got us 10th place would have been 3rd in 1976. There are many other instances, such as the four 'possibles' in the Whitehead Match, which show that our teams and individuals really have to concentrate and work hard just to maintain the positions we held this year.

NRA MEETING—SERVICE WEAPON EVENTS

Eight Royal Signals shots were retained at Bisley for this meeting although only six shot in the SLR events. **Ssgt Jim Hindle** qualified for the final of the Queen Mary Match and was placed 46th in the Individual Championship. This was good shooting among such distinguished company, and his score would have been in the top 20 the previous year—another sign of rising standards. He also scored 121 in the SMG Match to maintain the run of his good SMG shoots he had at the Corps Meeting. **Ssgt Hindle** won 5 'bars' (for scores of merit) but **Sgt Chas Hall** had 7 bars to go with the 6 he won in 1976 to show his consistency. **Sgt Tony Hunt** (6 bars) had his best shoot in the Wantage Match (snap) with 48 and 50 (an HPS) in the re-shoot; he was still placed only 7th to prove the point about rising standards! **Cpl Colin Harris** (5 bars) had a very good 46 in the BSA Match (500yd deliberate) which got him 7th place. **Maj Geoff Exell** (4 bars) had a 46 in the Secretary of State (500–100yd run down) which gained him 9th place and proved you don't have to be a young man to shoot an SLR—although it helps! **Ssgt Charlie Manning** (2 bars) burst a flash eliminator which ruined his championship chances but vows he'll show everybody how to do it next year—don't we all?

Our team results were well up to average but regretfully we just couldn't pull out a little extra to get among the silver.

Capts Derek McLean and **John Reed** concentrated on pistol practice during the week to such good effect that they were both selected to represent the Army VIII in the Inter-Service Pistol Match. This is the first time we have had Royal Signals shots in Army service weapons teams since 1973, so let us hope it augurs well for 1978.

POSTSCRIPT FOR THE OVER SIXTIES

SAGA HOLIDAYS, the Folkestone-based organisation which specialises in arranging holidays for the over-sixties, is planning to take more than 160,000 on holiday during 1977—the company's silver jubilee year. Saga was founded in 1952 by Sidney De Haan, then a Folkestone hotelier, who saw in retired people a market to fill his hotel during the spring and autumn months when business was traditionally slack. The scheme was an immediate success and was soon extended to other hotels in Folkestone and, in time, to other resorts.

Today, Saga organises fully inclusive holidays to 36 resorts throughout the British Isles at prices which begin at £28 for a week. As well as spring and autumn holidays in hotels, Saga arranges summertime holidays in the UK at university halls of residence in top touring centres with four excursions included in the price.

Saga organises many thousands of overseas holidays from the late summer through to the spring, including 28-day winter holidays in the sun, which are constantly growing in popularity with over-sixties who want to escape from the worst of the British winter. A month's holiday at Lloret de Mar in Spain will cost from £99 next winter, inclusive of just about everything from the time the holidaymaker arrives at his local British Rail station at the commencement of the holiday until he returns home again.

Rail travel in the UK, daytime jet flights, full board accommodation, extensive programmes of entertainment, and even insurance are all included in the cost of Saga's overseas holidays. And in some cases, a programme of up to 11 sightseeing tours is also included.

Saga operates overseas holidays to Spain, Yugoslavia, Italy, Portugal, Malta, and the Canary Islands.

The company also has an extensive programme of shipboard holidays, with prices ranging from less than £200. And this autumn several hundred Saga holidaymakers will be setting out on a magnificent 74-day round-the-world cruise which will be visiting 21 ports in 18 countries. The cost of the world cruise is from £989.

Saga arranges a great many special interest and activity holidays designed to introduce pensioners to new interests and hobbies or to pursue existing interests while on holiday in the company of fellow over-sixties. There are holidays for bridge and whist players, bowlers, amateur artists, golfers, ramblers, flower-arrangers, for men and women on their own—the Only Ones holidays—and even special weeks for couples celebrating their Golden Wedding.

Apart from arranging holidays for the over-sixties, Saga also has a nationwide club for pensioners with a membership of more than half a million men and women who receive 'Saga News', the club's own quarterly magazine, and can obtain the information sheets and other services for the over-sixties which are available.

[Further details from Saga, 119 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BN.]

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October 1977

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

OPERATORS

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, OBE

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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 No : Chelsea Mil. Ext* 371 *STD* 01-930 4466. *Ask operator for above extension.*

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

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1977
Individual : Monthly **25p**
Bulk (five or more copies) **20p**

1978 *(Bi-monthly)*
Individual : Yearly **£2·10**; *monthly* **35p.**
Bulk (five or more copies) : Yearly **£1·80**; *monthly :* **30p.**

Remittances should be made payable to : Royal Signals Association

OCTOBER — 1977

Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 9**

OUR COVER PICTURE

Congratulations to 8 Sig Regt on winning the Army Major Units Cricket Cup for the second year running on September 6, at Aldershot. The team was: *Left to right. Back row:* WO2 B. L. Sylvester, Sgt G. R. Anderson, Lt G. W. Wilton, Lcpl D. R. Williams, Sig M. W. Andrews, Sgt J. Gleisinger, Sig A. R. Howard, Cpl J. Moulson, Mr Lockie
Front row: Sig G. R. Bailey, Cpl J. E. Swaine, Sgt I. Gilbert, Ssgt M. M. Raybould, Col D. G. Cattermull, Ssgt T. R. Commons, Sgt G. R. Williamson and Sig D. R. Bascombe

Editorial

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS

About once a year, we like to address all or part of the Editorial to our contributors whose write-up of the events in their unit or formation constitutes the life blood of our Corps magazine. From the correspondence received by the Editor, it needs to be placed on record that the efforts of our contributors—all volunteers—are much appreciated by our readers.

This Editorial will be read by most people early in November and it is time to take stock of the new situation on 'The Wire' in 1978. There will be six issues, published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. May we specially ask contributors to gear themselves accordingly. For 1978, notes for publication should reach the Editor by the 12th of the following months: December 1977, February, April, June, August, and October 1978.

AND FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

In recent months, we greatly regret that the production schedule for 'The Wire' has not been maintained. We must place on record that the printing and distribution of our Corps magazine has been influenced mainly by Editorial decisions. As we explained in our last issue, 'a hold' was imposed on the June 'Wire' to give adequate and timely reporting of the appointment of our Colonel-in-Chief. The photographic content was, also, exceptionally high.

We then compounded our problems by producing a combined issue for the months of July and August to ensure the earliest possible reporting of the Review of the Army by Her Majesty The Queen at Sennelager on July 7. In the event, this issue proved to be exceptionally large.

As we go to press in October, we are conscious of a sporadic track record and feel that some explanation is due to our subscribers.

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Save money when you travel home across the Channel with Townsend Thoresen.

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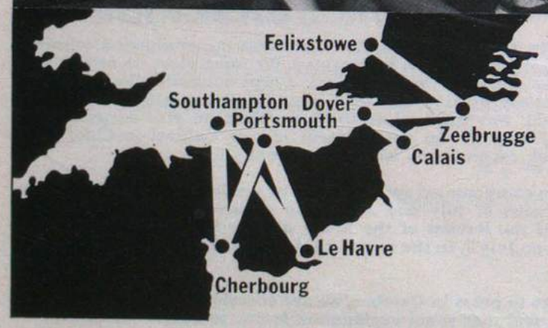

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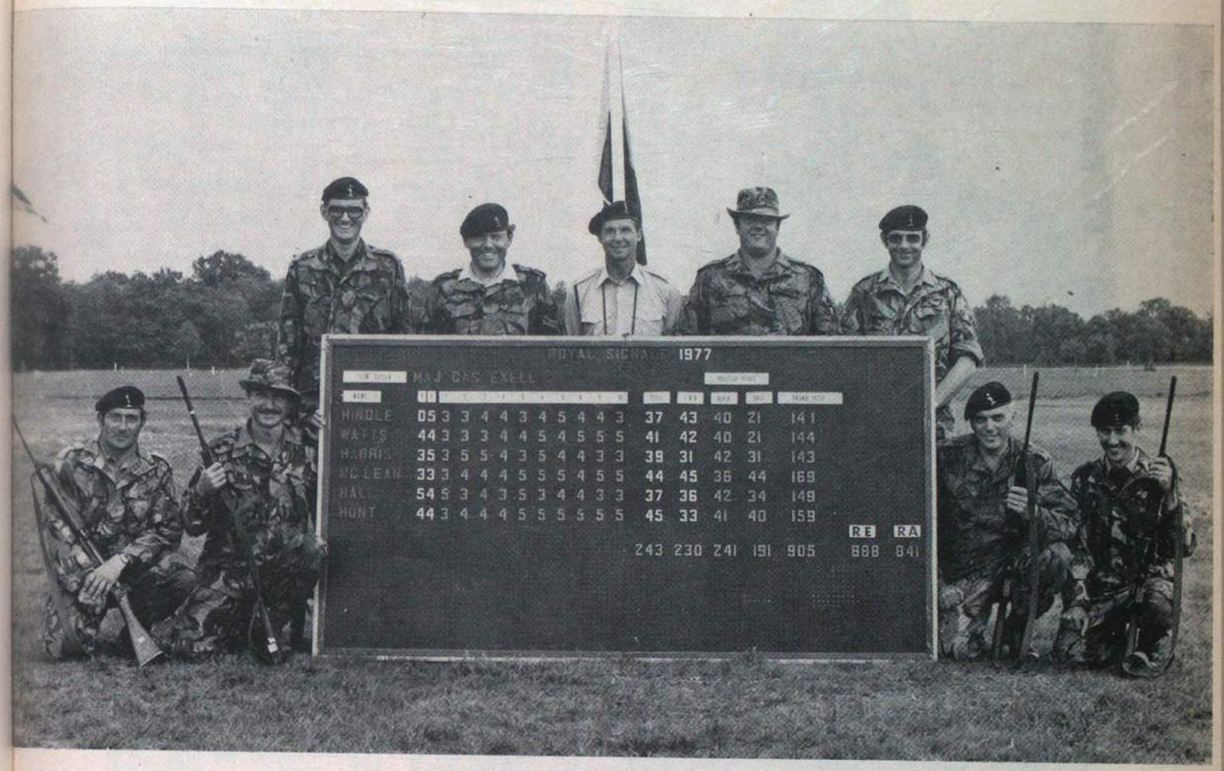

ROYAL SIGNALS METHUEN TEAM 1977

The team won back the Woolwich Trophy from the Royal Engineers and broke through the '900' barrier for the first time for three years. A notable achievement

Left to right. Standing: Sgt A. G. Hunt, Capt V. J. Reed (*reserve*), Maj G. A. S. Exell (*team captain*), Ssgt C. Manning (*reserve*), Ssgt (Y of S) J. Hindle

Kneeling: Cpl C. G. Harris, Capt D. J. McLean, Ssgt C. T. Hall, Sgt R. J. Watts

From: **Maj M. H. Richards**

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to see the photograph of the North Midland Corps Signals in the July/August WIRE. I joined this unit as a Signalman in Nottingham in 1938 and remember quite a few of those in the picture.

On the outbreak of war several of us were posted to the newly-formed 1st Air Formation Signals (mainly Supplementary Reserve) and went to France early in September 1939. I recall Sgts Andrews and Ratcliffe, and Cpl Shaw being among those.

Incidentally, the RSM of 1st Air Formation Signals (and one of the few Regulars) was Charles Child, well known for his boxing in the Corps and also, no doubt, to many post-war trainees as a civilian instructor at Catterick.

Yours sincerely,
Maurice Richards,

The Old Plough House,
Ridlington,
North Walsham,
Norfolk.

CORPS SOCCER TRIALS AND TOUR

LAST year the Royal Signals won for the first time the Inter-Corps Quadrangular Competition. It is hoped that we will be able to retain the trophy this year. New blood is urgently required and all Unit Football Officers are urged to make every effort to release players to attend the trials.

The trials will take the form of a coaching week so that even players not selected for the tours should gain in experience and skill. The trials will take place in Catterick from November 7–11, 1977.

Anyone who considers himself a Corps standard player, and who would like to attend the trials and coaching sessions should contact:

Maj E. Hampson (Royal Signals),
Hon Secretary,
Royal Signals Association Football,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison.
Tel: Catterick Camp 2521 Ext 618.

as soon as possible.

The dates for this season's soccer fixtures are:

November 7–11, 1977 — Corps Trials in Catterick
November 16, 1977 — RAPC in Catterick
November 18, 1977 — RCT in Catterick
November 21–23, 1977 — Quadrangular Tournament—Woolwich
January 11, 1978 — Sheffield University—Catterick

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET, SIR EDWARD ASHMORE, GCB, DSC

WHEN he was promoted Admiral of the Fleet and appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, the Master of Signals wrote, on behalf of the Corps, to **Sir Edward Ashmore** to express our congratulations and great pleasure at such distinction falling upon a communications officer and one who had worked closely with the Corps on several occasions during his service.

We are delighted that, before he retired as Chief of the Defence Staff, **Sir Edward** accepted Honorary Membership of the Royal Signals Institution and of the Association, and so joins his distinguished predecessor, also a former communications officer, **Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, KG, PC, GCB, OM, GCIE, GCVO, DSO.**

Movements

Officers

OCTOBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. E. Bradbury	HQ South West District
Capt S. A. Coltman	RMCS
Capt M. J. Crane	234 Sig Sqn
Lt Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj A. P. de Bretton-Gordon	DSS (Army)
Lt R. J. R. Ellis	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj F. R. Fletcher	9 Sig Regt
2 Lt N. J. Handy	22 Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Haydon	16 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Kirkup	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. McLean	HQ BAOR
Capt D. S. McLuckie	RMCS
Maj R. T. Martin	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt T. S. Maynes	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. C. Meyer	22 Sig Regt
Maj L. J. Pertwee	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. V. Prees	234 Sig Sqn
Maj R. P. Shiner	HS BDLS (A) Ottawa
Lt P. Smith	26 AYT
2 Lt K. M. Soar	11 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) B. Turner	259 Sig Sqn
Maj P. Webb	JWE
Capt N. O. Williams	School of Signals

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

OCTOBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 A. Russell	UK Support Unit SHAPE
WO1 E. D. Duncan	NATO Communications School (LATINA)
WO1 S. Hargreaves	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO1 (F of S) W. Sawyer	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
WO2 M. George	10 Sig Regt
WO2 C. S. Mason	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
WO2 E. Butterworth	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) G. S. Spearpoint	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (F of S) K. R. McRae	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 P. Hardwick	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 D. W. Payne	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) O. J. Burrows	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) A. Simpson	School of Signals
Ssgt R. G. Sargent	9 Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) N. J. H. Naylor	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) K. P. Straw	33 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt (Y of S) W. M. Watson	16 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. G. McCrindle	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt A. D. Sykes	13 Sig Regt
Ssgt A. E. Buttery	9 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. R. Atkinson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt J. A. Batley	227 Sig Sqn
Ssgt P. J. Franks	School of Signals
Ssgt M. D. Fogg	30 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. H. Hardman	16 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. J. P. Kenny	SHAPE Support International (BAE)
Ssgt M. J. Bienvenu	34 Sig Regt (V)
Ssgt C. D. Brownhill	8 Sig Regt
Ssgt (F of S) P. Smith	22 Sig Regt
Ssgt (F of S) A. R. Threfall-Spers	242 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) S. D. Farrow	632 Sig Troop
Ssgt M. A. Stevenson	5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Ssgt D. Parr	School of Signals
Ssgt D. C. Thurston	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
A/Ssgt M. D. Davison	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst
A/Ssgt T. Noonan	20 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. V. Sutton	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop) att to 34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. C. Marsh	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Hague	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Meredith	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt G. W. Downie	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. E. Ford	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. W. Rule	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Athay	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Smith	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Maybank	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Davies	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Probert	13 Sig Regt
Sgt I. E. Willmott	22 Sig Regt
Sgt V. Unwin	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Dutton	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Pinder	School of Signals
Sgt A. N. Fleck	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. G. Hughes	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt B. J. Watson	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Farquahar	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. R. Kennard	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Stanford	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. P. Warren	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. W. J. Keep	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Boyd	11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Brierley	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. F. Prior	21 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Valentine	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt W. N. White	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. A. Wisely	Communications Projects Agency Royal Signals
Sgt F. G. Graham	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. L. Jolliff	BATUS
Sgt A. Forbes, BEM	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. R. Hobbs	3 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Smith	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. Ricketts	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Thompson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Marsden	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Bruton	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. P. Gunter	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Smiley	Int and Sy Group (NI)
Sgt A. Cheetham	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. Ball	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. G. Berry	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. Whaley	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. M Swan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Randall	SHAPE International BAE
Sgt W. E. Scott	Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Sgt R. J. Gipson	British Forces Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Sgt P. A. Evans	14 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Stevenson	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Artley	28 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Buckley	Military Team Project Wavell
Sgt F. S. Jory	Military Team Project Wavell
Sgt M. P. Gray	11 Sig Regt (Depot Troop)
Sgt R. A. Lawrence	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Chivers	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. Hartland	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. S. White	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Henderson	16 Sig Regt

Welfare

AUGUST 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**39**
Number of clothing parcels	**50**
Amount spent	**£2,238·32**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**8**
Amount spent	**£251·76**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN who enlisted in 1963 and was discharged on medical grounds in 1966. His business failed, but he managed to find suitable employment with accommodation for himself and his wife and child, and the Association made a grant of £55 to meet the cost of the removal and enable him to take this opportunity. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

HAVING now settled into my new job and home, my wife and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your generous grant which enabled us to move and make a fresh start. When I joined the Corps, we all subscribed to the Association, but I never dreamt at the time that I would ever have reason to seek help. It is very reassuring to know that even now, as a civilian in the rat race, the comradeship and concern that I once enjoyed in the Corps is still demonstrated. Thanks once again.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of August, gifts of clothing, magazines, toys, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:

Lt Col and Mrs J. J. H. Swallow, Mr and Mrs A. F. Morgan, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, Mr J. F. Stokes, Lt Col and Mrs P. R. Davies and Miss C. Davies, The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Lt Col J. Bayfield, Mr A. A. Copestake (Yeoman Warder), Tower of London, Brig and Mrs J. D. T. Brett and Mrs K. N. Smartt, Mr H. W. Doze, Col P. R. Hoskins, OBE, TD.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1977.

	£
Bulford Garrison Church Fund	20·00
Army Welfare Thrift Shop, Taunton	10·00
Legacy from the Estate of the late Mrs M Morley	70·00
Rev and Mrs G. Eade	25·00
Mrs A. Davies	5·00
B. Chant, Esq	5·00
Maj R. C. Roberts	3·75
L. Burrell, Esq	2·00
WO2 G. J. Sharp	1·25
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To find out more about your future with Marconi, please contact Ray Morgan, Marconi Space and Defence Systems Limited, Hillend Industrial Estate, Near Dunfermline, Fife.
Telephone Dalgety Bay 822131.

Equal consideration will be given to applicants of either sex.

Marconi Space & Defence Systems (Hillend Fife)

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Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

DEATHS

Blackburn—Vic Blackburn died on Monday, October 3, aged 73. Vic was still serving as HQ Sqn's storeman as well as running the Sergeants Mess Bar of 31 Sig Regt (V). Vic Blackburn first enlisted into the Royal Engineers in 1919 at the age of 15 and went to Bedford RE Signals School. Having trained as an Electrician Fitter at Maresfield, he transferred to the Corps in 1920.

He served in both Egypt and Palestine before the war. In 1940 Sgt Blackburn was with GHQ Signals (BEF). Following Dunkirk and a spell of service in England, WO2 Blackburn went to Algiers in 1942 until the capture of Tunis when he was posted to 46 Division Signals in Italy as RQMS. He remained in Italy until the end of the war.

After the war Vic joined the Army Phantom Sig Regt as RQMS until 1956 when he 'retired' to become the civilian storeman, a job he kept despite changes in the Regiment, until his death.

Vic Blackburn will be sorely missed by present and past members of 31 Sig Regt (V).

Bosher—Maj L. J. Bosher enlisted in the Corps in 1930 and was commissioned in 1944. He retired as a Quartermaster in 1964. A large part of his service was spent overseas mainly in the Middle East and Germany; between 1944 and 1964 he only spent eight years in the UK. He died on July 26 at the age of 65.

Galwey—Brig William Charles Vernon Galwey, OBE, MC, was commissioned in the Royal Irish Regt in 1914 with whom he went to France and was wounded, twice Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MC and bar. He transferred to the Corps in 1924 and between wars served in Silesia, India, Egypt, and Palestine. During the last war he filled the positions of CSO Palestine and Transjordan, when he was appointed OBE, British Troops in Egypt, Western Command, and Central Command India. His last appointment before retiring in 1950 was as Commandant of the Signal Training Centre. He died on October 16, at the age of 80.

Harrison—Lt Col John L. Harrison, OBE, TD, died peacefully in Macclesfield on September 14. John was commissioned in 42nd Divisional Signals TA and transferred to 2nd (North Midland) Corps Signals TA when it was raised at Glossop by the late Col 'Gerry' Underwood, CBE, TD, DL, in May 1939. He commanded with great distinction 11th Armoured Divisional Signals in North-West Europe following 'D'-Day 1944. A strict disciplinarian with a very warm heart, he was liked and respected by all who served under him. For many years after the war he was chairman of the Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades Association. John, a bachelor, had been in failing health for the past two years. To his sisters, Margery and Joan, and his brother, Philip, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Murray—Lt Col George Patrick Murray enlisted in the Royal Engineers and served with the RE Signal Service during the First World War. He later transferred to the Indian Signal Corps and subsequently to the Royal Corps of Signals in which he was commissioned in 1945. He retired in 1955 and died at the age of 76 on October 13.

PERSONAL

Maj Sandy Brill (Royal Australian Signals) and family will be in the UK from December 1977 to December 1978 to attend RMC of S. Friends can contact them at 5 Axis Road, Watchfield, Swindon, Wilts SN6 8SQ.

THE 1978 CORPS DIARY

This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible dark blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. Cost: Home—45p. Overseas—40p.

VACANCIES

Haileybury College, Hertford
There is a vacancy for a Physics Technician with a knowledge of electronics in the School's laboratories. Suitable applicants will also be considered for the post of Senior Technician. There is a possibility of a College house being available.

Further details from: The Bursar, Haileybury, Hertford SG13 7NU.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

WE always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free (limited) accommodation. We are also able to put applicants in touch with Divisions of the Corps throughout the United Kingdom for local employment. Examples of the sort of jobs we always have on our books are as follows:

Residential post, Rugby. £2,000 approx. Plus free flat.
Three men wanted. Security. Mark Lane, EC3. £45 pw.
Messenger/Reception, Gt Winchester Street, EC2. £55+.
Cleaning silver. Foster Lane, EC2. £65 pw.
Security, Drummond Street, N1. £3,500.
Security, Camden Street, NW1. £50 pw.
Security, Merton Abbey, SW19. £55+ pw.
Night Security, Sloane Street, SW1. £60 pw.
Security/Reception, London Bridge, SE1. £3,000.
Reception/Security, Hill Street, W1. £55 pw.
Chauffeur (Mercedes), Gloucester Square, W2. £65 pw.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3 pm.

Men are advised to bring the Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

Attention ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Exercise Northern James

Report by Lt Scott Ewing (Royal Signals), 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt

CANADA BOUND

Lt D. S. Ewing	**Lcpl Graham Guy**
Sgt Don Butchers	**Lcpl Frank Jolley**
Cpl Bob Scrivener	**Sig Bill Gilhespy**
Lcpl Paul Eyre	**Sig 'Taff' Johnson**
Lcpl Terry Foster	**Sig Dave Paskell**

THE months of June and July saw a party of 10 from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt in the New World. The group, led by **Lt D. S. Ewing,** were there to participate in Exercise Northern James at the invitation of **Lt Col D. Banks,** CO of the 1st Canadian Signal Regiment. As the Exercise was to take place inside the Arctic Circle in the North-West Territories, lots of friendly advice was given to us before departure from Germany on how to build snow holes, winter survival and the dangers of polar bears! Unfortunately, as it turned out, these were the least of our problems whilst we were there.

The concert

The idea of sending a party of soldiers to Canada was that of **Capt Bill Richard,** the Canadian Exchange Officer with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. After a visit by the CO of 1 CSR to Verden an invitation was given for **Lt Col P. R. Davies,** CO of 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, to visit 1 CSR in Canada, and for a party of soldiers to also visit and to participate in Exercise Northern James. As it happened, the visit to Canada by our CO was cancelled but our trip got the 'go ahead' and after much planning and preparation a party of 10 set out.

Variation

June 20 was the date we hit Canada or rather it hit us. The temperature was in the high 90s and, having just left Brize Norton where I am sure the average temperature is just above freezing, this came as a great though pleasant shock. At the airport we were met by **Lt Brian Drummond** and **Sgt Joe Holland** who, upon seeing our discomfort in the heat, set about an immediate cure by whisking us off to our respective Messes for some Canadian hospitality. This hospitality continued well into the night as it did so on many successive occasions whilst we were there.

Hectic preparations

Exercise Northern James is conducted annually by elements of 1 CSR in the Arctic of Canada. The aim of the exercise is to practise Canadian soldiers in living and moving in the Arctic during the summer months. To achieve this aim 1 Sqn of 1 CSR, with our party, were going to Coppermine in the North-West Territories from June 24 to July 5. For the exercise the group was split up with one soldier going to each Platoon. **Sgt Butchers** was a section sergeant in 1 Platoon and **Lt Ewing** was OC 2 Platoon.

The four days prior to the exercise where hectic. During this period we met the Canadians who would be on the exercise with us and we were also issued the equipment that would be required. Within minutes of this issue promises had been made or extorted for the exchange of uniforms and attractive items at the end of the exercise.

Part of the training prior to the exercise was route marching and the use of Canadian equipment. This proved to be no great problem, though the major difficulty was in terminology. Imagine the situation, you are standing in the middle of a wood in Canada and are completely exhausted after a route march. A Canadian walks up to you and says 'Go build a hoochie'. What do you do? As it turned out a 'hoochie' was what we would call a lean-to or bivouac.

Five phases

The exercise was to be in five phases: phases 1 and 5 were the flights out and back from Coppermine. Phase 2 would last for three days and was for acclimatisation and the erection of a Base Camp. Phase 3 was the main part of the exercise and would involve four days of trekking to a set objective. Phase 4 would be a continuation of phase 3 though in a different area and would be only for two days. Between phase 3 and 4 we would spend one day in Coppermine participating in the local Canada Day Celebrations.

Lt Scott Ewing, Cpl Bob Scrivener and Lcpl Graham Guy in the town of Coppermine, North-West Territories

Left to right: Pte Devtin (1 Canadian Sig Regt), Pte Roy (1 CSR), Lcpl Guy, Lcpl Jolley testing comms prior to departure from base camp

Near Endex

Getting to the exercise area from Kingston involved flying by Boeing 707 to Yellowknife and from there to Coppermine by Hercules, another 500 miles away. The journey itself was uneventful until the attempts to land at the bush airstrip in Coppermine. Whilst in flight the Hercules developed problems with its radar which, unfortunately, was nearly its and our downfall. When making its approach to the landing strip it had to climb sharply to avoid a hill which mysteriously appeared in front. To onlookers on the ground it appeared that the aircraft had, in fact, hit the ground which led to a short period of panic. Which, as some nameless wit was quoted as saying, 'would have been one of the quickest Endex to any exercise'.

The night shift and mosquitoes galore

The first three days of the exercise were spent in the preparation of our Base Camp and on familiarisation marches in the surrounding area. These short marches proved to be a very sound lesson in the problem of movement across the Arctic Tundra. As every schoolboy knows, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Unfortunately, as it turns out, this is not the case in the Arctic. Time after time it was found that trying to take the straight route proved to be impossible. The terrain is such that there is almost as much land below water in tundra ponds as there is above, some of the ponds are 2 to 3ft deep and the depths of the lakes are not known. Furthermore, the land above the water level is damp and boggy (similar to a ploughed field). This often

meant that to travel five miles we were having to walk 9 to 10 miles which inevitably felt like 20 miles. The weather was not too bad, rather similar to a wet autumn in the UK, though we did have some sunny periods. These strangely enough,, were between 2200 and 0300hrs, which meant we quite often worked at 'night' and slept during the day. For the two weeks we were there it was light 24 hours a day. But the real enemy whilst we were there was not the terrain or the wet but mosquitoes. It came as quite a surprise to learn that mosquitoes are found all over the Arctic and it seemed to us that they were all congregated in Coppermine and the surrounding area. The mosquitoes found us and attacked in their millions. Though very small they still managed to inflict a very painful bite, and if the insect was brushed off whilst it was feeding it led to the bite bleeding. It was not unusual to see people walking around, especially if they had forgotten to put on insect repellent, with blood dripping from bite on face and hands.

The heavy phase 3

This was the main part of the exercise and consisted of a march to a set of waterfalls on the Coppermine River. These falls were known as Bloody Falls and were about 15 miles upstream.

The route for this place was to follow the river upstream to the falls. Then from there to a lake about five miles inland, after which we would then head across country for Base Camp. Because there was no means of resupply once we had left base we had to carry everything in our rucksacks. The amount was phenomenal: five days' rations, fuel, stores, mess tins and many other items. The one blessing was that the pack got lighter as the march progressed.

We arrived at the falls midway through the second day. Progress had been slow, due to the difficulties in crossing ravines that were all across the route we had taken, and it was decided to remain by the falls. The falls were famous locally for their excellent fishing and, whilst we were there, this fishing was put to good use. Which **Lcpls Paul Eyre** and **Graham Guy** will not forget. **Lcpl Guy,** after 20 minutes of unsuccessful fishing with water up to his knees and in the pouring rain, gave the rod to **Lt Ewing** With his first cast he pulled in a fish. At this moment **Lcpl Eyre** walked past with the fish he had caught by throwing a line in the water with a hook and silver paper on it (no proper bait or rod), **Lcpl Guy,** not to be outdone, returned a couple of minutes later to our envy with a 15lb Whitefish. We later learned that he caught it with a 2-dollar note and some smooth talk with an Eskimo who was fishing near by.

The useless compass

After the 24-hour stop at the falls we continued on the march, moving inland towards the lake. Though the packs were by now much lighter, walking was still difficult due to the stop/start movement of the company as each new obstacle was encountered. For the individual this was tiring and frustrating as it gave no opportunity to get in stride. We arrived at our second objective in the late evening and immediately built our 'hoochies', in the pouring rain. This rain continued all through the night and was still with us the following morning. Visability was very poor which was a greater cause for concern. In this region ordinary magnetic compasses are of no use and all navigation is by map work and astral plotting. After waiting a few hours for visibility to improve we continued on the march back to base, arriving there in the late afternoon, cold and wet but in high spirits.

Canada Day

It is on July 1 of each year that Canada celebrates its foundation as a Dominion and, all over Canada, it is a public holiday. To mark the occasion we were to take part in several activities with the local Eskimos. Various activities had been arranged, one of which was a game of football or as the Canadians call it, soccer. It was decided that since there was a British contingent present that we would field the team with the help of a few honorary 'Brits' from among the Canadians to play the Eskimos. From this began one of the most unusual games of football ever witnessed. It was unusual for several reasons, it was on an airfield inside the Arctic, the teams consisted of British, Canadians and Eskimos and, furthermore, the strange rules of play that the Eskimos operated. The most unusual being substitution at any time any where. Fortunately for us with the expertise of **Lcpl Terry Foster** and **Sig Bill Gilhespy** on the field the game ended in a very satisfactory draw.

The final march and Arctic streak

Following the Canada Day celebrations, we once again set off on our travels across the tundra for the final march of the exercise. This trek took place on the other side of the Coppermine River, which meant we spent a rather unpleasant 20 minutes crossing the river by boat.

The objective for this phase was a lake approximately 15km inland. After the experience of phase 3, packs had been lightened, as much excess kit was jettisoned in Base Camp. Previously, the march had been carried out as a company move with the Platoons following on behind the other. For this march Platoons were allowed to pick their own routes. This proved to be much more satisfactory for movement as there was none of the caterpillar-type of movement that had plagued the last march. On this side of the river wildlife was more abundant and we were very fortunate to see some sights that very few ever see. **Sgt Don Butchers** found the wildlife so interesting that he decided that he would check on the fish in a lake we were camped beside. Therefore, he stripped off and went for a swim. Can we claim the first Army Arctic streak? **Sgt Butchers** came out of the water after his swim none the worse for the experience though there are still some doubts about his sanity. After spending the night by the lake, we returned to Base Camp for the packing up of all the equipment for our return to Kingston.

Communications

As part of the exercise in Canada a PRC320 had been brought from the UK, and it was hoped that we would be able to communicate between Canada and Germany. To work the link it was planned that communications would be established using a Canadian 106 set (similar to a D11) after which communication would continue using the smaller PRC320. Unfortunately, the link between Canada and Germany was not a success using the PRC320. The main reasons for this was that the frequencies available for the short while that the skywave window was open were both too busy and too noisy. A link was established though using the 106 set to a D11 in Verden during the course of which several messages were passed including one about not eating any yellow snow, as if we would!

R and R

After two arduous weeks in the Arctic the pleasurable side of our trip to Canada was at last upon us. Due to the difficulty in obtaining flights (for which we are very grateful) our period of R and R was extended to two weeks. During this time our Canadian hosts had organised trips to Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and many other places. These tours were very enjoyable and they enabled us to see the variety of life that there is in Canada. We also managed to fit in a quick visit to the United States in the free weekend we had. But, like all good things, it must come to an end sometimes and so, after a very enjoyable and unforgettable month, we left Canada.

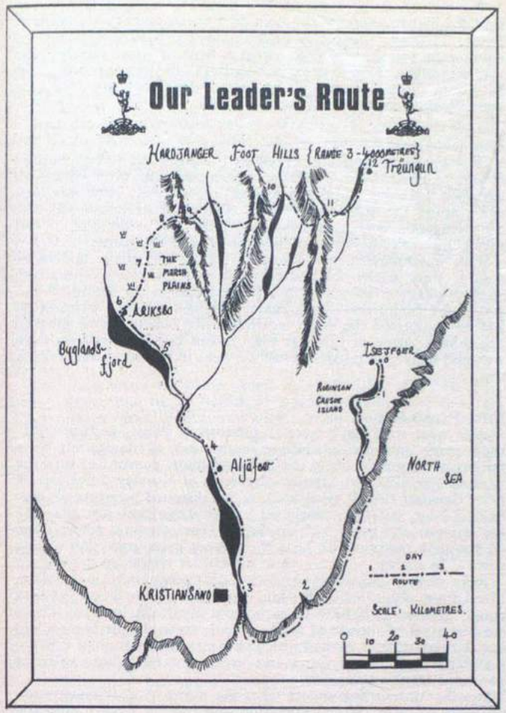
Three weeks in Norway

Report by Lt M. S. Fisher (Royal Signals), **8 Inf Bde, and Sig Sqn**

NEW TERRITORY

IT was over for another year. The Paisley Spring Bonanza that is.

I struggled to keep my eyelids open after a heavy night in the Strand Road Police Station Joint Operations Centre, knowing that in 48 hours time I would be on my way to Campbeltown, Scotland, to participate in the annual Squadron communications training exercise. Due to the Protestant activities in the Ballymena area, Exercise Marakesh Express had almost been cancelled and Exercise Grandsplash, a three-week canoeing and trekking expedition in Norway at the British Outward Bound Centre, very nearly overlooked. But—refreshed with a cup of Communications Troop coffee, the exercise was planned in record time. All that was required now was a team of 16 stalwart men to accompany me across Europe and, what appeared to be most of Norway itself and back again. The plea went out, the names came in and, on a pleasant May evening we set out from Londonderry full of expectations about the forthcoming three weeks.



THE TEAM

The party consisted of: **Lt Michael Fisher** (Royal Signals), **Ssgt Ray Duffy, Sgt Tim Howley, Cpl Ray Cook** (REME), **Cpl Chris (Sooty) Milnes, Lcpls Paul Green, Paul Keenan, Steve Rowe** (REME), **Sigs Steve (Miniscouse) Brisk, Nigel Harris, 'Buster' Keeton, Pete Latham, Fred Mayers, Dvr Jim Hepworth** (RCT), **Ptes Mick Gordon** (RPC), **Marty Hicks** (RPC).

We were on our way to the British Outward Bound Centre at Kristiansand, Norway, which, throughout the year, runs special expeditions. These are classified as an arduous 10 days of continuous canoeing and trekking in an area completely unpopulated apart from 'trolls and hobbits'. It was certainly an adventure to be taken in a light-hearted vein. By LSL, train, aeroplane, coach and finally ferry, with five long days behind us, we arrived by the Army's most 'direct' route in Kristiansand, Southern Norway. The journey was an exacting one and one which I am sure the party would not wish to repeat. However, we managed to survive a night in London and a night in Hannover without losing even **Ssgt Duffy** on the way. His publication, 'My Experiences in European Sex Shops' is shortly to be produced.

A cool challenge

The first requirement for anyone participating in a BOBC course which includes canoeing is a swimming test. Not very strenuous, one would think, but 50m of newly-melted fjord ice is not a pleasant experience even for the most experienced of swimmers. 'Have to swim extremely fast to miss the jelly babies', **Cpl Ray Cook** was heard to scream as he went down for the second time.

It was at this point of our expedition that we picked up a further two members to the party, **Ptes Alan Lawson** (1 Queens) and **Pete McCallum** (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), who had been sent on a canoeing course by their respective battalions. It soon became obvious that they were not strong enough swimmers to tackle the formidable-looking fjords, and so were added to our party.

Early lessons

Following the issue of the necessary equipment for canoeing—paddles, splash decks, life jackets, tents, rations and, of course canoes—we set out for a small island in Isefjoerfjord where we were to spend our first night. The island was amptly named 'Robinson Crusoe', and I could not help thinking, retrospectively, that the staff of BOBC Norway, were trying to tell us something at a very early stage. During the first night adrift from the mainland we were soon to discover who had had previous camping experience and who were amongst the novices; following a feast of a meal—cold baked beans for some—we practiced our capsize drills in the now inky-black waters of the Isefjoerfjord. The capsize drill is compulsory for the course, and one which I am happy to say was not to be put into practice.

A scene that says it all
Members of the expedition find land on the canoeing phase

By road, too

Dawn comes early in Norway in June—for it was June by now—so our leader decided to make an early start the following morning. We rose at 5.30 am and away by 6.30 am. It was all to be too much and very confusing for **Lcpl Paul Green** who was convinced that 5.30 only occurred once per day, and that was around 'tea-time'. This day was to set the pattern for the next four days, steady canoeing over slow-moving water.

For those interested in the geography of Southern Norway, our canoeing course took us from Isefjoer around Kristiansand via Stokkon Island and up to Alefjoer which is at the Northern end of the Kristiansand delta. We were then portaged by Landrover to Kile, from where we canoed that day to Hornes, and again by road to Nesset where we began the final phase of canoeing towards Ariksbo. The reason for the sections of road travel was to avoid stretches of 'white water', graded from 4 to 8, and, to the interested (having read so far), these stretches are difficult to 'come down' and impossible to 'go up'. At one point we encountered 'stoppers' which could easily have engulfed a London double-decker bus.

A welcome island

On our third day of canoeing, with some 80km behind us, strong head winds produced 4-ft standing waves which, when one's canoe is only 6in above the water-line, can appear quite frightening. Our two youngest and smallest members of the party, **Fred Mayers** and **'Miniscouse' Brisk** suffered the most, and at times **Mayers** imitated a destroyer in heavy seas with the waves actually breaking over him. For an hour and a half circumstances became so unpleasant we were paddling furiously just to stay in the same place. However, with a little prompting from **Ssgt Ray Duffy,** our leader decided to pull in for the night. In the midst of a Force 8 gale, an island in the middle of Hardjyanger fjord was a welcome sight, even though the only signs of habitation were a derelict hut and 5 billion ants. An 'O' Group was organised for members of the party to discuss the best course of action to take since 34 miles still lay ahead to reach our destination, Ariskbo, by 2 o'clock the following day. I must admit that as leader of the party I was only too happy to see that the size of the waves had increased making progress that night impossible. My rain-sodden sleeping bag was most welcome. Happily, during the night, the elements became more favourable and the next day we set out at 4 am and despite the constant rain and winds we completed our first phase of the expedition by midday.

Yet again we take the most direct route—and find water on the trekking phase!

The canoeing stage was to become excellent training for the second stage of the expedition—trekking—since we were now well acclimatised to the heavy rain and winds which prevailed for the next few days.

Valuable fishing

The canoeing stage had also taught us that there are two distinct types of fisherman. The first, 'the rod and line, I've been fishing for years' group, led by **Lcpl Keenan** (who, incidentally, produced his own rod and tackle but insisted on other members of the party carrying his 'essential' kit), and the second, 'the old and bold bent pin and a piece of string with a nibble of compo-cheese' group led by **Ssgt Ray Duffy.** Against all odds it was **Ray's** group that had all the success—five fish and a crab, the largest fish landed by **Sig 'Miniscouse' Brisk. Cpl Ray Cook** did catch a fish but rumour has it the fish was stunned by the piece of cheese used as bait by the other party. Alas, **Lcpl Keenan,** despite his skill and efforts, even managed to lose his tackle on the return journey to Londonderry.

A tricky phase

On our arrival at Ariksbo, we were met by staff of the BOBC who had brought our bergens and rations for the second stage of the expedition.

For the next few days heavy rain fell causing difficulty in walking with the now marshy ground underfoot, and, as expedition leader of the party, it soon became apparent that the most direct route by map was not always as direct on foot. Our route was difficult and often dangerous.

For myself, I soon 'grasped' the fundamentals of rock-climbing when having slipped neatly on to a 12-in wide rock ledge with 100ft sheer drop below, the echoes of 'I'm not following him down there!' did little for my confidence. I'm told my story gets longer with the telling!

The party eventually reached the BOBC hut at Treungen, depleted by two members who, unfortunate, had to be transported back to BOBC Headquarters unable to proceed.

The three-week expedition was now over. A tiring, challenging, but worthwhile experience enjoyed by all.

Unit Expedition Leaders' Course — Gaudesta, Norway

Report by Cpl Sandy Sandever, of 1 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt

THE MOVE NORTH

AFTER 32 hours I finally arrived at Guadestadt in Norway for the start of my unit expedition leaders' course. The journey there consisted of a train from Wassenberg to Hannover via Monchengladbach; from Hannover by coach to Flensberg in Northern Germany and across the border into Denmark. The first three hours was in darkness but at 0300hrs the sun started to rise into a glorious dawn revealing beautiful agricultural scenery reminiscent of the rolling downs of Warwickshire.

We arrived at Hirstrals in Northern Denmark at 0620hrs to find we had to wait for the boat to Kristiansand in a couple of hours. This was spent in a well-earned 'kip' where and how we could. On arrival at Kristiansand a fleet of grey vehicles was waiting to take us up to the climbing hut. This journey took about 1½ hours through some of the most rugged country I've ever seen. Rocks, crags and lakes everywhere.

Our welcome

Arriving at Guadestadt we all had a meal and were allocated to different patrols and sleeping accommodation, after which we expected to be left alone to catch up on some rest. How mistaken can you be; the order was PT kit. A game of volleyball was first on the agenda, a good game to break the ice, as none of us had met before. Needless to say, my patrol won the game.

This was followed by a run down to the lake at the bottom of a 60-ft slope where we had to do a swimming test, using any stroke, which consisted of a 200-yd swim to an island, a run round the island and back again. One lad couldn't swim at all but he completed the swim wearing a life jacket. There were *no* exceptions. After all this was tea. As can be imagined, we were well and truly 'shattered'. At last we went to bed for a well-earned rest.

Initial training

The next four days were a mixture of films, lectures, PT, rope work and demonstrations consisting of navigation to a fairly high standard using the Silva compass. A word of warning to would-be UEL candidates—the maps of Norway differ greatly from those of BAOR or Britain as the distance between contour lines is 30m, ie, 100ft, produced by the Americans just after the the last war and not as yet up-dated. What seems a gentle slope on the map turns out to be a thundering great rock slab almost vertical in reality, so there were difficulties whilst on a trek!

Rope work at the school consists of four main knots, ie, bowline, blood knot, figure of eight, and prussik. All the knots, after a couple of lessons, have to be completed blindfold, literally. There are two types of rope used at the school; these are the hawser laid and the kern mantel, both of which have a breaking strain of 4,500lb. Karabiners of various types and breaking strains are explained and used on the crags.

Another interesting aspect takes the form of a demonstration on what to carry on an expedition and how to pack it into the carrysack. The amount of equipment needed and used seems OK initially but, believe me, after a few hours trekking one really appreciates the 10-minute rest periods that occur every hour.

Orienteering

One thing I forgot to mention is the big interest in orienteering exercises, the emphasis being not on time but on first-class navigation, ie, the instructors were more interested in the students visiting every check point than in making a race of it. The course consisted of 20 check-points over some of the most treacherous terrain imaginable, rocks and boulders from football- to house-size giants, climbs of 1 in 2 severity for 50–60ft, through swamps and lakes, to the last check-point on an island 60yd from the mainland. A cup of tea was waiting for us. Also, there was supposed to be a boat to take us back to the school but the engine had stripped its spark plug threads in one of the cylinder heads, so we had to swim back to the mainland with a 5km run/trek back to the school. We started at nine in the morning and I finished at 1730 in the evening. (One lad didn't finish until the next morning, but managed to collect all 20 checks to his credit ex-SAS determination.)

Consolidation

The first weekend was given over entirely to rock-climbing, equipment and techniques. This started at a site about an hour's drive from the school on the Maggots, a small range of crags about 50ft high. These were used purely for the techniques such as bottom roping, top roping and every climber's joy, abseiling. From the Maggots we graduated to the Slugs, a range of crags about 150ft high on the edge of a lake where the climbing was in earnest. During these climbs, falls were quite frequent as the instructors insisted we had to fall at least three times to gain confidence in the equipment we were using. This sounds OK until one looks down a sheer rock slab from a height of 60ft and one is told to jump off the rock face, but one perseveres and overcomes one's feelings. Believe me, it is as safe as houses providing your rope work has been set up correctly and safely. This to me, was the most enjoyable part of the course; it's surprising what can be climbed with the correct equipment.

The great trek

The last four days of the course were spent (in the words of the instructors) on The Great Trek, an expedition of 40km on the map but 54km on the ground. The first stage was a trip in the back of a 4-tonner to 60km above Hovden, which is 55km north of the base camp. This took three hours.

On arrival at the start position the first thing was lunch; soup and hard-tack (great when you're starving), then the trek started and lasted four days and three nights. The terrain we crossed was out of this world, an equal division of rock slabs, crags and wild, wild moorland and swamps. Snow in the crevasses was up to 15ft deep in places and this was in July, so one can imagine the depths of snow in winter. Almost every lake has a family of beavers resident, only seen at twilight—it never gets dark in Norway and it's possible to read a book right through the night. Beavers in Norway are everywhere, proof being in the huge beaver lodges on the shores of almost every lake.

Reindeer on the high crags can be seen in small herds and can be heard barking at twilight. Incredible animals, especially when crossing snow. Their walk is very similar to that of a camel in the desert. There are also quite a few elk in Norway but, unfortunately, we failed to see one. Again, at twilight, they can be heard.

The only birds we came across were families of Ptarmigan, being very similar to the British pheasant but about twice its size. They only revealed themselves when almost trodden on!

The tents we used were Vango Force Tens, extremely robust mountain tents that can be erected by two men in about four minutes flat, even in gale-force winds. I know, I had to do it. These tents are very comfortable inside with proofed orange cotton which can be seen for miles, a good safety measure.

Rations consisted of 24-hour man packs, and what can be done with these is incredible when that is all you have. The only point against them is their weight but, of course, this gets lighter the further one travels.

One particular part of the trek springs immediately to mind. The only way to cross one ridge meant that we had to go up and over it as there just wasn't a way round it without walking 10km one way or 13km the other. It took us 2½ hours to complete this but the view from the top was incredible. The snow in the crevasses was up to 30ft deep but very treacherous to walk on, for melting snow had undermined the apparently solid top snow with raging water; a fall through this would almost certainly have been fatal.

The evening before the final night's camp I slipped and fell, the result being a very painful right ankle and leg. But I was not, at this stage of the course, going to give up. I completed the trek, with the aid of a tent pole, amidst cheering from my team-mates the next morning. I was, I can tell you, very relieved to see that 4-tonner waiting to take us back to base camp.

Hindsight

The big problem with BOBC Norway is that one never hears of these courses if one doesn't read GROs. On my course 27 applied, and 19 turned up. I wonder why?

Royal Signals Baltic Regatta 1977

Report by Maj Keith Ryding

COMMITTEE:

Chairman of the Protest Committee:	**Lt Col Lockwood**
Chairman of RSYC (BAOR)	**Lt Col Davies**
Secretary of RSYC (BAOR)	**Maj Ryding**
Committee Member	**Capt Watkin (RN) (Retd)**

TRADITIONAL FORM AND GOOD GOING

THE Royal Signals Baltic Regatta is now established as the most ambitious and challenging in the British Kiel Yacht Clubprogramme. This year the regatta followed what has now become its traditional form.

We assembled at Kiel at midday on June 4, and started the first race the same evening. Conditions were very good and the force 7 winds which had been forecast did not, in the event, materialise. We had a soldier's wind all the way to Copenhagen and the first boat crossed the finishing line only 24 hours after the start. **Capt Lowe** and his crew from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, won the Mermaid Cup but were hard pressed by the 7 Sig Regt boat skippered by **2 Lt Perkins,** and 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt skippered by **Maj Roper.**

The first seven boats all arrived within the hour as the wind freshened to force 6 gusting 7, and the late arrival of the last two boats caused the Committee some anxiety. The last boat, which shall remain nameless, was towed in by the Picket Boat of the Royal Danish Naval Base at about midnight. They complained of compass error but we rather suspect they had been for an evening out in Malmö in Sweden, which is just across the Sound!

Friendly Danes

We moored in the Naval Base where the facilities were excellent and the Danish sailors very friendly and helpful. Some of the local ladies were also friendly and helpful—so we heard. The Committee gave a small drinks party on board *Petasus* for the Commander of the Naval Base, **Capt Jorgensen,** his Flag Lieutenant and the British Naval Attaché, **Commander Brown.** A couple of competitors detected the smell of gin in the air and found their way on board to help entertain the guests.

Spirits up

The second race from Copenhagen to Hundestedt at the mouth of the Ise Fjord on the northern coast of Zealand began at 0900hrs on June 7. The Committee Boat, having rounded Hellsingor in her customary position at the head of the fleet, had the interesting experience of seeing a large buoy submerged by the very strong current running SE into the Sound. This sighting was not influenced by the fact that the sun was over the yard arm and 'spirits up' had been called. Several competitors also saw it and wisely decided to stay close to the shore.

After a few leisurely hours it became apparent that unless the Committee on board *Petasus* began to take their sailing a little more seriously, they were in danger of losing the lead. The close covering tactics which followed evoked a protest from **Maj Roper,** but as he was the first competitor to cross the line he withdrew his protest in spite of the fact that *Petasus* was well ahead. We were relieved at the withdrawal since none of us knew quite how to handle a protest against the Committee Boat.

The three Danish submarines anchored at the mouth of the Fjord were an interesting sight but dispite this navigational hazard the crews finished the race in good order and tied up in the pleasant little fishing harbour of Hundestedt without incident.

Light winds for third race

The third race to the Danish Naval Base at Korsor proved to be the longest because the winds were light and southerly. Before the race actually started, the 28 Sig Regt boat broke a tiller whilst being towed out of the tricky little harbour. In spite of this, **WO1 Walters** and **Ssgt (Y of S) Graham** lashed up the broken tiller and finished second. The carpenter at Korsor made a perfect replacement and we were able to start the last race back to Kiel with all the boats in good order.

Tense conclusion

The situation was now quite tense because only 1¾ points separated the two leading boats. The weather, too, proved exciting. As the fleet rounded the southern end of Langeland and night fell, the clouds thickened and burst in a torrential downpour to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning, which illuminated the shore adding a Wagnerian scene to mark the climax of the regatta. The fleet was well spread out by the time dawn arrived and although the first boat, 28 Sig Regt, crossed the finishing line in Kiel Fjord at 0700hrs the last one did not arrive at BKYC until after the prizegiving at 1800hrs.

The prizes were presented by **Capt Rowland Watkin (RN) (Retd)** who had acted as a Committee Member and crewman on board *Petasus* throughout the regatta. He enjoyed himself and so did we.

The final results were:
1st—1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
2nd—2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
3rd—28 Sig Regt
4th—7 Sig Regt.

The winners, 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lcpl Jones, Tpr Hislop, Capt Lowe, Dvr Watt

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

EX BONNIE LAD II

Bonnie Lad, now in its second year, is designed to give members of the Squadron a healthy break from duties in the Province. The campsite, at Drummore, Wigtownshire, Scotland, is ideally situated for pursuing a variety of outdoor activities. Fifty-five soldiers, in three consecutive parties, managed to get across the water and each spent three very full days sailing, fishing, rock-climbing, abseiling and hillwalking. As the camp was situated only two miles south of Scotland's most southern 'hostelry' navigation over the Mull of Galloway was of the highest order!

The organisation of the camp was in the (capable) hands of **Lt Bob Turnbull. Sgt Ken Robson** looked after the hill-walkers and **Lcpl 'Bosun' Smith** attempted to mesmerise us all with his dinghy sailing. Rock-climbing and abseiling were left in the experienced hands of the two RUC Mountain Rescue instructors who had very kindly left their work for several days to help us. Finally, **Lcpl (2130hrs . . . zzz) Quinney** (ACC) brought some sanity to the proceedings with his culinary delights.

'Look, Mum, both hands (and feet, and knees, and rope, and . . .)' Lcpl 'Jock' King looking surprisingly casual despite the 120-ft drop beneath him

Compensation

At 0700hrs each morning those who survived the early morning run and dip were greeted with a hearty breakfast before setting out on the day's various activities. The hill-walkers under **Sgt Ken Robson** spent each day in the Glentrool area where they attempted to climb the Merrick (the highest hill in southern Scotland). The average time to the top was 4 hours for the 4-mile climb, and 1 hour back down! The magnificent view from the summit almost compensated for the climb—whilst the hostelry at the bottom of the hill ensured a speedy return. The rock-climbers and abseilers were somewhat subdued after their exertions on the rock, either they were too tired or the thought of the 150-ft drop had quelled their high spirits.

Fishing and sailing

The dedicated anglers, with visions of great catches, were in for a disappointment. Even our 'expert', **Sgt Ken Robson,** had to admit defeat when **Capt David Collyer** landed the only catch of the day—a 6-in sand eel (and then only when hooked by chance through its tail fin). However, our 'Mr Fix-it', **Cpl Dennis Corser,** proved that all was not lost when he landed 37 mackerel in half an hour.

The dinghy sailing presented a few hair-raising moments for those not accustomed to the ways of the deep. The sea around the Mull of Galloway is very dangerous and the local coastguard was very quick to point out that, at high tide, no less than 15 different currents meet, forming large whirlpools and high waves. Discretion being the better part of valour, the 'Bosun', **Lcpl Trev Smith,** kept a safe distance from the point but still managed to give the novices some excellent sailing.

Lcpl 'Bosun' Smith and three novices enjoying the sea air

A great time

Our evenings' entertainment revolved around the local hostelry where the troops, locals and holiday-makers were regularly amused by the musical talents of the permanent staff. A great time was had by all, and our grateful thanks go to OC 89 AYT, and 32 Sig Regt (V) for their kind help, without which there would not have been a Bonnie Lad II.

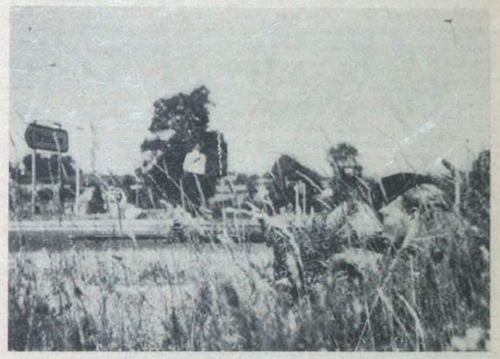
Bob Turnbull was last seen scribbling notes which were thought to be headed 'Bonnie Lad III'!

'Mmm, yes, I think we will go straight on for a change'
Left to right: Maj Ventham, Sgt Ken Robson (not looking terribly impressed with the OC's decision), Sig 'Geordie' Fettis, Lcpl Paul Kinsley Smith and Dvr John Ingham (equally bemused by the choice of route)

ROYAL JUBILEE VISIT

The visit of Her Majesty involved the largest security operation in the Province for some years and with it, of course, a communication requirement to match. Preparations began sometime beforehand when Hillsborough Castle rooftop became an antennae field overnight. **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** and his crew successfully converted one of the Castle reception rooms into a TAC HQ, the staffing of which, come the day, read like a Northern Ireland Who's Who, with the Secretary of State, GOC and Chief Constable downwards all taking a keen interest (we understand the Brigade Major was in there somewhere, too).

The considerable efforts and imagination that went into the whole operation were rewarded with the signaller's ultimate accolade —silence. There were no complaints. The only mutterings of note came from the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Collyer, Sgt Salter,** and the unit Pay Sergeant, **Sgt Tippetts,** who with wives and guests, attended the Garden Party within the Castle grounds. Apparently they did not manage to speak to the Queen—shame!



THE JULY MARCHES

The traditional Northern Ireland July Marches this year went almost without incident. The Squadron infantry involvement amounted to our reserve rifle platoon deployed as an attachment to Ulster Defence Regt whose task was to provide 'incon-spicuous' support to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Our photo-graph shows **Sig Keith Williamson** inconspicuously protecting an RUC traffic policeman stationed along the route taken by the Banbridge marchers, some 25,000 strong. Such a formidable presence clearly deterred the terrorists, who kept well away.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We say farewell to **WO1 (RSM) E. T. A. Webster** and his wife, **Denise,** who leave us for 87 Sig Sqn (V) in Nottingham. We thank them sincerely for their hard work and loyal support, and wish them every success for the future.

We welcome **WO1 (RSM) M. C. K. Smart** and his wife, **Ann,** who join us from Birmingham University OTC. We wish them a happy and successful tour.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

ROYAL VISIT

THE last month saw the successful visit to Northern Ireland of Her Majesty The Queen. The part of the visit that concerned us greatly was that to the New University of Ulster, Coleraine. The communications for the visit took a good few weeks to plan and install; however, as is usual on these occasions, we dismantled the myriad of antennae bedecking the University roof in record time. This was fortunate as much of the equipment installed in the University was required the next day in Londonderry for the Apprentice Boys' March. During Her Majesty's visit the Squadron operated four Brigade and Joint RUC operations rooms, equipped seven extra companies with communications and operated many rearward links. We are indebted to the assistance in manpower and equipment provided by 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and 233 Sig Sqn. Four members of the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and their wives attended the Royal Garden Party. By all accounts, and most of the remainder of the Squadron plus the GOC, CLF, and Brigade Commander were watching closely from the roof of the University, a memorable afternoon was had by all.

QUICKER BY BOAT

The Apprentice Boys' March was completed without incident with the exception of the normal aggro! The only problem faced by the Squadron was how the SDS would get through the packed streets. This was solved by the service being carried out by boat on the River Foyle, by courtesy of the Royal Marines. The Boat Despatch Service certainly avoided the traffic jams.

Spot the members of the Squadron at the Royal Garden Party

SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

The Brigade Commander recently expressed a wish to see his Tac HQ deployed in the field, and so the Squadron therefore moved to the local sports ground and set up. The Commander was heard to comment that he wished he had seen it earlier as

he would have deployed us to Ballymena for the Workers' Strike back in May! We are thankful for the timing of his visit. Rugby players will be gratified to hear that the cricket pitch sustained some damage but luckily the rugby ground was untouched.

Members of the Squadron were recently given a treat in the form of an opportunity to check the effectiveness of their respirators. The test included a picnic of crisps and adam's ale inside the chamber; a meal not enjoyed by many.

MT TROOP

This month the spotlight turns to MT Troop, now commanded by **Lt Alan Evans,** recently arrived with his family from Shrivenham. The Squadron Commander, **Maj Peter Burke,** is upset with MT Troop holding two-thirds of all the inter-Troop shields, namely those for volleyball, basketball and football, and despite all the efforts of the other Troops, especially **Lt Mike Fisher's** Comms Troop, we are still holding them. The OC had been led to believe that MT Troop did so many duties and worked such long hours that sport and other recreational pursuits had to suffer. Little does he know!

Cpl Mick Davies (REME) has just returned from a sailing course and is looking forward to joining **Ted Heath** at Cowes this year.

Sig Pete Latham is away at the moment playing badminton in the Royal Signals Championships at Blandford, and from there he moves straight on to a canoeing course at York.

Lcpl Solek, our new Combat Powerman, hadn't been in the unit 48 hours before he was despatched with some Coldstream Guardsmen to run the Brigade Summer Camp for local Irish schoolchildren. The camp took about 100 children at any one time and has been running from mid-July and ends on September 1. By all reports it was a great success, and readers of these notes will be glad to know that we (and the children) managed not to destroy two 27·5-KVA generators this year!

Sig 'Big Lou' Fekete has just returned from the horrors of Catterick and his B1 course to the sunshine and tranquillity of 'Derry, where he was welcomed by some of the locals by having his vehicle stoned on his first detail!

Accommodation here is reasonable, unless you hold the same opinion as **Sig Vant,** who woke up one morning to find half of his ceiling on the floor!

At present one-third of the Troop is preparing along with the remainder of the Squadron to take part in Exercise Ptarmigan I, a hill-walking exercise in the Cairngorms. Further details in later issues.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

The Troop has recently welcomed the following: **Lt Alan Evans, Cpl Terry Mount, Sigs 'Jock' Clements, Graham Cunliffe, Lcpls Solek, McCreadie** and **Sig Bethune.** We have also said goodbye to the old MTO, **Lt Ken Hadfield,** now somewhere in Europe with the White Helmets, and **Lcpl 'Jock' Duncan** and **Sig 'Paddy' Maye,** both now enjoying civilian life.

The Brigade Commander chats with Pte Clarke (RPC) at Tac HQ. The OC, 2IC and OC Comms wait for the punch line!

Are you all right in there? Capt Williams checks Lcpl Singleton's ability to hold his breath

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

COMMUNITY RELATIONS EXERCISE

THIS year's Summer Camp by Victor Troop, 233 Sig Sqn, was a great success thanks to the help and encouragement given by the Community Relations officers **Mr Boyd** and **Maj Clark,** and three very able Youth Leaders working for the Southern Education and Library Board. **Sgt Robertson** organised and ran the camp for 28 children who came from Theipval Barracks, from the Manor House Home in Lisburn, and from the Suffolk area of Belfast. Assisting him were his wife, **Sig** and **Mrs Pugh** and **Sig Priestley,** and giving moral support were **Maj Horler** and **Capt Chapman.** From Monday morning to Friday afternoon (August 15–19) the fun was fast and furious, with a wide range of activities, all of which were eagerly tried by the children. Each day, groups of children were able to participate in canoeing activities, hill-walking and bouldering (introduction to rock-climbing), deep-sea fishing, trampolining, badminton, table tennis, a variety of ball games, and in an evening disco. An education bus was available each day to transport various groups to Newry, Newcastle, Tollymore, and Castlewellan Forest Parks for orienteering activities, and to various local beaches. The camp was based in Kilkeel Primary School and food was provided by the canteen staff, who did an excellent job.

Brisk start, late finish

The day began at 0700hrs when when **Sgt Robertson** and the boys ran to the beach for PT and a swim before breakfast and then we all split up for our various activities. Bed was officially between 2030 and 2300hrs, but midnight parties seemed to be the order of the day! Of course, there were amusing incidents, such as the time two boys went missing while orienteering in Tollymore Park, and the leaders spent an hour running around the forest looking for them, only to find that they had been sitting behind the ice cream van all the time!

The fishing trips, though popular, proved to be the undoing of many a sturdy soul; sea-sickness took its toll. One young member was undaunted though and proudly proclaimed that although

he'd never fished before, he'd caught 125 mackerel on his first trip (he had, too)! Another 'first' for many of the children was that they had never before come into contact with soldiers who put themselves out to help and encourage them in lesiure activities, their only previous experiences had been during house searches, confrontations or routine patrols. We therefore felt that we were fulfilling a vital role in Community Relations.

Good water record

On Wednesday evening we were visited by **Maj Horler** and **Capt Chapman** while we were canoeing in the sea. The visitors were impressed by the skill shown by the canoeists, but pride goes before a fall, and the only two to capsize were the instructors! **Sig Pugh** plunged bravely in to the rescue, and swam fiercely out through the breakers; the effect was somewhat spoilt when he realised that he was not making much progress due to the clinging seaweed, and after struggling onward for several minutes he sheepishly stood up in only 4ft of water!

Spirit of friendship

One of the nicest things we found on the holiday was the spirit of friendship and fun between all the children. They mixed so well that it was impossible to tell from which area any child in the group came and they shared their sweets and goodies, helped and encouraged each other and behaved so well that we were congratulated by the school caretaker, the canteen staff, and the inspecting member of the Education Board on the way in which they had taken care of the equipment and the school property. As an illustration of the happy atmosphere in the camp, a brief visit by **Mrs Chapman** and her daughter turned into a long stay and they remained with us until we returned home on Friday. The only complaint that was voiced was that the holiday was too short, and everyone concerned is eagerly looking forward to next year when we can repeat the experience!

—News from Headquarters—

HQ AFNORTH BFPO 50

PRESENTATION OF LS AND GC MEDAL

ON July 27, **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Davis** was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Chief of Staff, Headquarters AFNORTH, **Maj Gen R. L. C. Dixon, MC, CB.**

WO2 Terry Davis has served in many exotic places and to mention a few, Malaya, Borneo, 'Catterick', South Arabia, BAOR and, of course, Northern Ireland, and the UK. Now as Warrant Officer in charge of Communications Stores for AFNORTH, he has found himself at the hub of the logistic problems associated with the integration of NATO Communications, and has injected Royal Signals expertise into plans for efficient equipment accounting.

Off duty he can be found running the indoor hockey for which he has acquired considerable welfare stores, or preparing as treasurer, the accounts of the Eikeli Roman Catholic Church.

The traditional ceremony of 'wetting the medal' was carried out in the SNCOs Club with all due aplomb and dignity that could be mustered. The 'ceremony' was somewhat livened up when a nameless SNCO enquired if he had received the 'clasp for his LS and GC—but the less said, the better!

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS REGIMENT

OUR notes this month are devoted to 1 and 2 Sqn's Summer Camps.

A sandwich

1 Sqn's Summer Camp was held this year at Fremington Camp, sandwiched between the usual multitude of exercises and demonstrations. The Squadron Commander, **Maj Sid Falla,** by devious wheeling and dealing managed to get eight days to enable the exercise Troops to get away from it all and do something different.

The difference came (although some doubt has been expressed about this) in the decision to hand over the organisation of the camp to the SNCOs of the Squadron. Three SNCOs were selected to act as OC, SSM and SQMS for the first half of the camp and a different three for the second half. **Sgt Peter Dring** who was selected as OC for the second half was also tasked with producing THE WIRE notes about the camp and has produced the following.

1 *Squadron report by Sgt Dring (acting OC)*

The buck

Summer Camp was on us once again and with his usual friendly smile **Maj Sid Falla,** the Squadron Commander, handed over all responsibility for the organisation to the Sergeants of the Squadron. I, being one of the 'lucky' ones, was made OC for the second week of camp which included the organisation of a two-night exercise. My SSM was **Sgt Gary Beattie** and my SQMS was **Sgt Gary Mayer.**

An aperitif

Monday morning was heralded with a session of PT at 0615hrs, just to sharpen the appetite. After breakfast **Sgt Ray Haydock** instructed the five sections into which the Squadron had been split in camouflage and concealment and then encouraged them to put it into practice. Monday afternoon was occupied by a visit to the RCT Amphibious Section at Instow, where we were well entertained. Tuesday morning was taken up by an inter-section competition. This consisted of five different tests to be carried out by each section. The competition was won by **Cpl Lee Searle's** section.

Local knowledge

Rumour control insisted that because of the degree of difficulty of the NBC periods which he organised, **Sgt Ray Haydock** was going to be introduced to the goldfish in the emergency water supply thank.

During the map-reading period, **Sig Keith Cole** was asked to identify a feature on the map to which he replied, 'It's a railway line'. What sort of railway line'?', he was asked to which he promptly replied 'Disused'. On being asked how he knew this, he said, 'Because I live there'. There is no answer to that!

Never walk . . .

Tuesday afternoon consisted of preparation for the exercise and at approximately 2000hrs each section was taken to its own start point. From each start point the author disappeared to shouts of 'couldn't you find any steeper hills?'.

The following morning **Maj Sid Falla** was at the first check-point to see all the sections arrive safely. From this point **Gary Beattie** despatched the sections to their next check-point. It was noted that the section led by **Cpl Gary Annetts** vanished into the distance on the back of a tractor and muck-spreader. Through-out the day the DS were out searching for the sections and their efforts were suitably rewarded as each section was caught at some period during the day.

The first two sections arrived at the second check-point blithely walking along the aforementioned disused railway line. The look on the face of the Squadron Commander was worth seeing as **Cpl Annetts** and his section de-bused, having swopped their muck-spreader for a large white Citroen car. The explanation given was so good that both **Maj Sid Falla** and yours truly were lost for words.

For the last phase of the exercise **Cpls Lee Searle** and **Bob Williamson** were given the task of organising the move in to the exercise area to carry out an attack on a position 'defended' by the DS. It was quite obvious that they took it seriously because they even indented for rain.

DS overrun

A very cold, wet miserable night was spent waiting for the dawn to arrive. With the arrival of the dawn the rain eased, spirits were raised and the section set out to attack the DS, who were to be seen huddled round a flag pole on top of a very large sand dune.

Maj Sid Falla decided to climb the sand dune to observe the attack and in doing so very neatly triggered a trip flare. If the location wasn't already known it certainly was after that. The DS were therupon overrun in no uncertain manner. All that remained was to have breakfast and return to Fremington Camp, where a foot inspection revealed some of the best blisters ever seen but, of course, it was all over, and more thoughts were turned to the dance in the evening.

Must make it tougher next year!

2 *Squadron report by WO2 (F of S) Keith Eustace*

Phase 2

In June and July, Trials Sqn attended their annual summer training camp at Cribbs Causeway near Bristol. The advance party of 12 men, ably led by **WO2 (SSM) Ray Stokes,** left on June 24 to take over the camp and ensure that such essentials as the beer bars were up and, of course, tested. Monday, June 27, saw the departure of the main party from Blandford. The widely assorted transport consisting of a bus, three Landrovers, assorted cars and motor cycles headed towards Bristol, and was led by **Cpl Elton Prince** on his 750cc motor cycle. He was not seen again until six o'clock in the evening when he had a funny smile on his face. The arrival of the main party at Cribbs Causeway was slightly delayed due to a diversion into one of the local hostelries, where pints of local brew were tasted and tested.

Dispersed

On the following morning the Squadron divided into syndicates and dispersed over the countryside to do their various activities. **Ssgt (SQMS) 'Rear Admiral' Joe Brand** with the help of **WO2 (SSM) 'Vice-Admiral' Chris Davidson** (borrowed from 1 Sqn) endeavoured to teach us all to sail. Their most notable achievement was to get **Maj (TOT) Harry Davies** and **Capt Gerry Shakeshaft** rowing the safety boat! **Sig Simon (Jock) Strapp** passed his intermediate sailing certificate and many Squadron members passed their elementary sailing certificates.

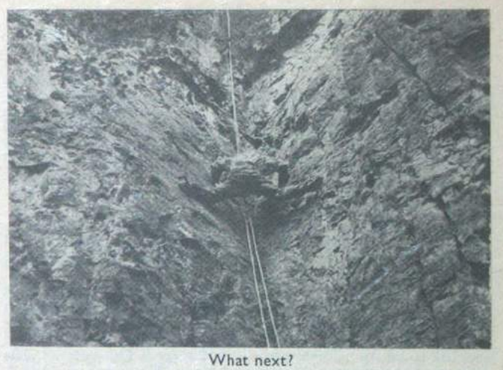
Qualification and disqualification

Maj John Gryspeerdt, OC Squadron, at last passed his elementary sailing certificate and was promptly disqualified in our Squadron regatta for cheating, something about an outboard motor on the back of his boat while the rest of us relied on the wind.

Lessons

Symonds Yat on the River Wye provided the venues for both rock-climbing and canoeing. The canoe capsize drill provided the best entertainment and **Sig Roy Hitchin,** our canoe instructor, started to really enjoy himself. **Sgt Jim Smart** muttered darkly that they were trying to drown him and promptly went into a local hostelry to wet his inside with a few pints. **Lcpl 'Dinger' Bell** tried to capture a duck (I was only feeding it, Sir) for breakfast but failed miserably by falling in the river after it. **WO2 Rod Mansfield** and **Sgt Dave Courtenay** decided to try a new way of shooting the rapids, i.e. upside down. The attempt, however, was a failure and this method is not recommended! **Sgt Bill Ives** our rock-climbing expert (he's done a course) managed to haul most of our intrepid climbers to the top of Symonds Yat rock, all of them with their eyes shut. There were some very interesting and unique methods of climbing tried out by the participants.

'Naval review'



What next?

A trek

Our other venue was at the Forest of Dean where **Sgt Fred (I never smile) Mackey** took us all trekking. Even **Maj Harry Davies** did the trek muttering, 'If I can do it anybody can'. It was rumoured, however, that he was carried most of the way by **Lcpl Chas Upfield** and **Sig 'Jock' Calder. Sgt Bill (I never walk) Martin,** our chief driver, spied a large mean-eating snake approximately 6½in long and now holds the record as the Squadron's fastest trekker.

Celebration

A Mess Dinner was held with all senior NCOs and Officers present; judging by the number of zombie-like figures walking gently around the camp on the following morning it must have been a good night. Our final 'do' was a Squadron barbecue and disco. As a result of many forays and late-night raids into Bristol great numbers of ladies were induced/shanghied to come along.

Lt Brian Meachin has at last found out what F of S stands for, for after seeing the busload of ladies present he muttered 'F of S standards for Finder of "Something"!'.

Notable casualties

Cpl Tony Hodgkiss, whilst drinking a pint, coughed, and where he should have had two now only had one, and was promptly despatched to the local hospital. The sight of all those lovely nurses did nothing to alleviate his already agonising condition. **WO2 (SSM) Ray Stokes** liked Bristol so much that he caught a special virus pneumonia just so as he could spend a few more days there. **Chris Davidson,** on his return, was promptly bedded down with phlebitis so in one fell swoop we had got rid of two sergeant-majors. Not a bad effort, lads! All too soon the camp came to an end, and we returned to Blandford once again to rejoin the tribulations and the Trials.

News from Regiments

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

SIEGFRIED LINE CLAIMS A VICTIM

WITH autumn upon us, we are busy preparing for the major CPX, Autumn Sales, which will take place in the Eiffel Area. Recces have already been carried out to confirm our worst fears that, although it's splendid countryside, there are considerable difficulties in finding anywhere flat to site the Headquarters. **Capt Hugh Coyle,** when looking for a Commcen site, fell over and ripped the side of his boot. The offending obstacle, he discovered, was a nasty concrete protrusion that had once formed part of the Siegfried line. Await next month's issue for the irresistible photograph of Commcen Charlie's washing hanging out there!

SITE GUARD

This unwelcome duty was carried out by 3 Sqn for a week which also took in the August Bank Holiday. A generally high state of training was achieved and vigilance was good. The CO, when visiting by helicopter, made the pilot take a wide detour from the site when he departed. Orders allow for sentries to take appropriate action if a helicopter is likely to overfly and, during his inspection, he was left in no doubt that this and other orders would be carried out to the letter. A courting couple who strayed were arrested although the excuse given by them that they were looking for a DZ for a planned jump by the local parachute club seemed quite plausible!

FIRST BRUIN SQUADRON

Mr Fred Baker (ex-Royal Signals) presented the CO's Monthly Run Trophy, which was a shield he had made himself, to **Maj Peter Pearson** and his Squadron who were the overall winners from the last six months' results. The picture shows **Mr Baker** and his wife with some of the Squadron, most of whom were wearing their distinctive Bruin T-shirts.

Photo courtesy: PR HQ 1 Div

1 Sqn line up for the CO's Trophy, presented by Mr Baker

OFFICERS NARROWLY DEFEATED

Our QM (Tech). **Capt Chris Speight,** who, between bouts of deep gloom as he issues stores and brighter periods when he raises bills, is our OIC Golf, started something in 1976 which may have far-reaching effects on discipline within the Regiment. This something is the Annual Officers Mess *v* Sergeants Mess Golf Match.

This year's match was played on August 19 and once again, despite dark mutterings about the adverse effect on discipline and the maintenance of morale among the officers, the Sergeants Mess insisted on winning. The match is played over 27 holes on a Stableford points system and despite stirling efforts by **Maj John Maclean** and **Lt Col Ron Hopkins** (RAEC), the Sergeants Mess, ably captained by **WO2 'Rip' Kirby** (BW), won by 254 points to 247. A total of 21 golfers competed. The trophy—a sort of highly polished seating arrangement, complete with lid—has returned to the Sergeants Mess where it hangs, so we're told, in splendid isolation in the cellar.

MOSEL FOR SUMMER CAMP

1 Sqn has just returned from Summer Camp in the Mosel Area. This is the last of the Squadron Camps this year and like 3 and 2 Sqn it was most successful, and provided many amusing and, indeed, hard-luck incidents.

With OC Squadron bowling, **F of S McIlree** in his first attempt at baseball failed to catch out a member of the opposition in the Officers/SNCOs *v* The Men Match. Since it was at the price of a badly broken nose he, like all the others, quickly realised baseball is not the simple game of rounders it first seemed. His first comment amongst the pain and blood 'Who's got a mirror?'. Concern for appearance obviously overcoming all pain!

Ssgt (Y of S) Bark, who was responsible for 'visits, castle', was seen in the Mess tent at lunch begging mercy to be relieved from his duties for an afternoon visit. This was not because of the 30-minute walk up an almost vertical slope, but the continuous hospitality of the locals with whom he was obliged to 'Prost' every time he brought up a new party, being offered a stronger vintage on each occasion.

GOC TRAVELS IN STYLE

The visit of the GOC sprung at short notice was a success. As he was taken from one activity to another by use of an assault boat in which easy chairs had been fitted, he commented, 'It's rather like being a District Commissioner isn't it? It's so quiet and peaceful'. The 10 men paddling might have disagreed.

DINGHY REGATTA SUCCESS

The Regimental team, skippered by **Lt Stephen Andrews,** has won the Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta once again and we retain the Cannon 'Certa'. The mainstay of the team was **Ssgt Jim Downie.** For his individual success, he won a trophy—the Chinese Junk—winning three times and dropping to second place once. In the team racing he showed off his art of close covering to good effect. In particular through this, team member **Dvr Del Bulloch** was able to sail clear to an easy win whilst **Dvr John Watts,** who had been left 500yds behind after having to re-start, was able to catch right up, and this clinched victory in the final race.

A NOTABLE MARATHON

Finally, in the news again and this time for winning the North German Marathon Championships, is **Sgt George Holden.** It was the first time he had ever run the 26-mile marathon and he won against athletes who had previously represented Germany. His time was a splendid 2hr 27min 1sec.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ I Div

Contrary to his expression the Supt Clerk, WO1 Dave McCluskey, is not *that* overjoyed to be leaving us!—Surely?

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ I Div

Lt Forster leading his patrol who are in training for a special expedition in Norway

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

POLARISATION

THIS last month has been taken up entirely with summer camps and sailing. As you will read below they all appear to have been extremely successful with everybody enjoying themselves.

SAILING

The 1977 sailing season is coming to a peak as these notes go to press. The Regimental dinghy team is at present competing in the Corps Regatta at the Mohne See Yacht Club. As far as dinghy sailing goes it has been a fairly quiet year. A number of courses for novices have been run on our local water, the Dummer See. These newly-qualified mariners were given a chance to show their ability at a Regimental Regatta which was held in glorious sunshine and almost no wind on the last two days of August. Nineteen helmsmen entered and a fleet of 15 boats with crews of fairly mixed ability produced some interesting racing. For the record, the winner was **Maj Bill Roper** (must have been fixed—he organised the regatta) with second **Sgt Gordon Williams,** and a close third **Cpl Hardy,** a welcome entrant from 4 Sqn in Munster.

We have had a good year's sailing in the Baltic. The last two of our seven, one-week offshore courses start from Kiel shortly. **Capt Bill Coxon** won the 2 Armd Div Regatta in May but we were only able to enter one boat for the Corps Regatta because of a clash with the Kohima week celebrations. **Maj Bill Roper's** crew came second and so retained the Cannon. We plan to have a similar programme next year, so if you are interested in Wavell and would like to do a bit of sailing as well, now is the time to get off your application for a posting.

RHQ REPORT

Midday, Thursday, September 1, 1977, saw mass exodus of clerks from RHQ. Summer Camp had arrived. Leaving our rear details personnel of CO, 2IC and duty clerk to deal with emergencies, we departed in bright sunshine to Tecklenberg, which is just south of Osnabruck. Rumour now has it that our 2IC, **Maj Peter Jones,** prefers to do his own filing!

The scenery was ideal with all the essentials of life close at hand, ie, an open-air swimming pool, camp pub/disco and even soft toilet paper for our WRAC members.

Thursday afternoon was spent erecting tents and generally settling in. **WO1 George Clark** (Super to his friends), read out the duty meal rosters, which caused **Cpl 'Taffy' Thomas** to spend the rest of the time complaining that he had to cook 'two breakfasts'. As it happened, he could not get up for either; he reckons the fresh air made him tired. It was probably just as well because his breakfast has to be seen to be believed. Thursday ended with a visit to the town of Tecklenberg. **Cpls Donnie Brough** and **John Pape** obviously discovered something of interest because they managed to stay out until the early hours of Friday. We know, because they gave the camp site an early call.

Friday was the day for the initiative tests, prepared by **Lt Philippa Roberts** and **Cpl Pete Cuckow. Cpl 'Paddy' Mullholland** (RAPC) was the only person to guess the depth of the water in the fountain correctly. Did you have to get so wet though, **'Paddy'?** Everyone enjoyed his little test. Well done **Philippa** and **Pete.**

The rest of Friday was spent swimming and playing potted sports. The pace was obviously beginning to tell on the female members of our party because they all disappeared early to bed whilst the male members held a conference in the camp site pub.

WRAC PARTICIPATION

Saturday saw the weather break. However, it did not stop us from visiting the swimming pool or from playing volleyball. **Lcpl 'Taffy' Cutter-Thomas** (WRAC) is still not convinced that one team only had five people. The escape and evasion exercise planned for Saturday afternoon got off to a grand start with **Sigs Andy Cliff** and **'Catweazal' Kilford** being appointed group commanders. Their map-reading has improved tremendously. **Andy** now knows what the black lines are on maps whilst **'Catweazal'** is still looking for that road works. With such expertise in command it was fairly obvious that **'Madam Zol,** (**Cpl Sam Thompson**) WRAC), heavily disguised, would escape—she did, but ended up having to return to look for our two lost Taffs (**Cpl Thomas** and **Lcpl Cutter-Thomas)** (WRAC). It proves the point about the Welsh. After a lot of laughts we returned footsore to the camp ready for a quick meal (where did you get those peas from, **Ken?**) and a visit to the local pub to quench our gigantic thirsts. This evening will long be remembered. **Cpls Donnie Brough** and **John Pape** set up the Brough Mobile Disco show which proved so successful they were asked to give a repeat on the Sunday. It must have been good because even **Ptes Lyn Hulse** (WRAC) and **Bernie Fildes** (WRAC) stayed after midnight, whilst **Lcpl Cathy Dick** remained, determined that her German dance partner would not fall over.

Sgt Barry Jackson declined the challenge from a German to see who could eat 20 marshmallows first so super sub (Guess who!) had to perform. Final score German 20—super sub 9.

Sunday morning showed some rather unusual sights and some sore heads. **Cpls 'Taff' Thomas, 'Flasher' Strachan, Donnie Brough,** and **Sigs Andy Cliff, 'Small Job' March, 'Flaky Pastry' Hearn** and **Mick Barbe** were pushed to make lunch. A good job we had WRAC assistance in the shape of **Pte Lyn Hulse**—well done, **Lyn.**

Monday came all too quickly and it was time to return to Bunde. Our camp will long be remembered and talked about.

QM (TECH) DEPARTMENT TO MOSEL

Staff:	**Maj (QM)**	**V. H. Stephens** (Royal Signals)
	WO2 (RQMS)	**Alex Nicoll**
	Sgt	**Pete Berger**
	Sgt	**Barry Watson**
	Cpl (now Sgt)	**John Parish**
	Cpl	**Brian Donegan**
	Lcpl	**Tom Mitchell**

This month we feature the goings on of the QM (Tech) department which because of Wide Horizon and restructuring has recently tunnelled its way to the surface to realise it was June and sunny at that. Thoughts of summer leave plans before the Mad Autumn Season were quickly forgotten when the QM one day appeared to have a brainstorm and said to **RQMS Alex Nicoll,** 'RQ, you're getting fat. It's some map-reading exercises in the Mosel and Ahr Valley that you need. We'll do our Recce tomorrow—in your car, of course'. The reply from the RQ, all 7 stone of him, was undecipherable as he quickly submitted a Demand on Ordnance for seven days' sunshine for the camp period.

So it was that at 7 am on Thursday, August 11, a convoy of four heavily laden and groaning vehicles left Birdwood Barracks—destination Winningen, on the Mosel. 'You will arrive at 1500hrs, not a minute before—not a minute after', were our instructions—indeed, this was to be the QM's theme for the rest of the camp in all activities—timings. He set up his own DS staff, known as the Mafia, to control this aspect of the training.

RIVALRY AND COMPETITION

The Camp organisation was based on two groups led by **Cpls John Parish** and **Brian Donegan** and the fierce rivalry and competition that ensued was at times hilarious, suffice to say that each group JNCO were responsible not only for all aspects of their group's movement and training but for camp discipline and administration on alternate days.

Our programme was as interesting as it was varied, from criss-crossing the beautiful wine-growing Ahr Valley on foot to vehicles map-reading in the Eifel mountains and boat trips on the Rhine and the Mosel topped up by early-morning runs to and from the local swimming pool.

EARLY LIQUIDITY FACTOR

Cpl John Parish was tasked with doing reveille at 0700 and he wasn't the most popular person around. **Pte 'Duff' Harris,** our chef for the duration, soon calmed us all down with a good breakfast. It was then time for our morning run and swim. **RQMS Alex Nicoll** pointed out that he couldn't swim, to which **Sig Brian Naylor** replied, 'It doesn't matter, RQs should be able to walk on water' (it's not true). On our return to camp we changed and prepared for a trip to Berncastle and a boat trip back to Winningen. The boat trip was spoilt by the rain, but we were cheered by the fact wine was only DM6 per bottle and we had as entertainment an accordionist who seemed to know all the forces' favourites, some 26 bottles of wine later and numerous bawdy songs, we serenaded the DS Statt as the boat passed the camp site and were later driven back to camp by our devoted drivers, **RQMS Nicoll** and **Sgt (soon staff) Barry Watson.** It was raining and some of our beds were soaking. **Cpl Brian Donegan** wouldn't go to bed because he is frightened of water, and **Sig Brian Naylor** was spotted furiously digging a trench round his tent (I think it was to keep in the water).

Day two. This was our map-reading day in the Ahr Valley (another Rhine wine area). It was a wet day as **Lcpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** will vouch for (he got the wettest). We arrived for lunch after working out the right Grid reference from the one we were given by the MAFIA (it's called confused map-reading), and it was noticed that **Cpl John Dickinson** and **Sig Jimmy Axon** were missing. The RQMS went out as a search party and found them 11·5km away. **John** put it down to human error when they built the roads. At night time we had a barbecue (and more drinks) and all had a satisfying sleep.

The beautiful Rhine

Day three. Should have been our day for a lie in but the powers that be, **Maj (QM) Stephens,** decided it was time for the big trip (Rhine). We were driven to Bingham by **Cfn Pete Butterworth** and **Lcpl Curtis,** and from there we made a ferry crossing to Rhudesheim which is a really beautiful village on the banks of the Rhine. There is one particular place of beauty and that is the Drosselgasse, a very narrow street lined by very old, brightly coloured drinking houses, and each one has its own 'oompah' band. It was expensive, but well worth the visit. We then boarded the boat for our trip to Koblenz. It was a nigh perfect day so we sat on the deck, armed with our usual liquid refreshment (plus glasses and corkscrews). It was a delightful trip and we all enjoyed it apart from **Sig 'Geordie' Stainsby** who had to say goodbye to his beloved cowboy hat (**Sig Brian Naylor** threw it in the Rhine). In the evening we had a bit of a party and made use of our dinghy and the pool next to our tents (a real one not rain). **Cpl Brian Donegan** decided it was too deep when it went above his ankles. It's strange how people complain about the rain, but don't mind throwing themselves into 6ft of water fully clothed!

R and R and home

Day four. Our last full day and a free one, we all decided to spend the day at the pool and look at the local talent. The 'Three Muskateers', QM, RQMS and **Sgt Barry Watson,** decided to look at the local town (again). The sun was shining and people did their own thing. The last evening there was a touch of sadness which was quickly lifted by **Cpl Parish** doing his award-winning impersonation of a tug boat, waist deep in the Mosel, full clothed, hauling a rubber dinghy, singing like Paul Robeson. Very good, **John,** 'keep it up' . . .

Day five. Strike camp and depart back to Bunde. It always takes longer going back—but we still had our 'You will arrive at 1500hrs, etc, routine', but now we were experts at this aspect of military life. Thanks for the memory.

FAREWELL

By the time these notes are published—**Sgt Barry Watson** will have departed to 229 Sqn in Berlin (poor chap), we wish him well and congratulate him on his promotion to Staff-sergeant. And last but not least, the **Quartermaster** and **Sgt Pete Berger** will be dusting their swords and counting their parrots and monkeys in preparation for their departure in January. We shall miss you all.

'A1' TROOP, 2 SQUADRON TO THE EDER

On August 8 the remaining members of the Troop under the direction of **Lt (Tony) McMullen** set off by various means of travel on Exercise Summer Site. The weather did not look too promising as we left. However, it did improve as we drove south in the Kassel direction. Our destination was a small village on the River Eder called Dodenau.

The exercise itself was run by **Y of S Ken Rodgers,** from 'November' Troop, Lubbecke, who had done all the admin and co-ordinating required. On arrival, it was a case of all hands to the erection of 12 12s which were to be home for the next eight days. After this was completed, plus the erection of Cook-house and Mess tent we then had a meal prepared by **Sgt George Mullock** and **Cpl 'Mack' McNee.** The rest of the day was spent settling in and generally sorting the camp site area.

The next day the programme started with various activities such as canoeing, trekking, and the German equivalent of an assault course called a 'Trim Dich' which was enjoyed by most! The canoeing, under the instruction of **Cpl Kev Justise,** went down very well in more ways than one and was rather more difficult than first impressions. These activities went on most of the week with **Sgt Gus Graham** and **Sgt Ian Wilmot** off for a 'couple of days' fishing, with not too good results, mainly roach, chubb and the occasional trout.

On the Saturday we had a visit to an old castle and museum at Biedenkopf which was very interesting. The rest of the day was spent shopping and sight-seeing.

On the Monday it was back to the programme with more canoeing and trekking while the Y of S co-ordinated a barbecue for our final night which was Wednesday. On the Wednesday it was a case of collecting wood for the fire. The night itself went down very well with all the (yokels) locals attending and consuming great abundances of the farming ale. Needless to say the next morning produced a few sore heads for the pack-up and return to Bunde/Lubbecke, but we finally made it for about 1030.

THANK YOU

To summarise, I think all the members of 'A1' Troop would like to thank the members of 'November' Troop for an excellent summer camp. A great time was had by all.

'A2' TROOP TO CUXHAVEN—
You will . . . You won't . . . We will!

After the final indecision had been made, 'Alpha 2' Troop packed its kit and headed for a charming rural spot known as the Altenwalde Training Area, near Cuxhaven.

Canvas City

On arrival at the Heinrich Wilhelm Kopf Kaserne, an enormous modern Bundeswehr Tank Training Barracks, we were ushered to a small discreetly concealed camp site behind the barracks complex. There we built 'Canvas City', a quiet residential area complete with bar. It was handy for the training area where we daily—if 0700hrs can decently be called day—enjoyed rigorous healthy outdoor pursuits in the form of a run. After the first one we felt the need of a shower, so **Capt Peter Parfitt** despatched **Cpl Bob Hope** and **Sig 'Brad' Bradley** to negotiate with our allies. The allies in question, **OFW Scholz** and **HFW Wuffried,** of the 71 Panzergrenadier Batallion were most obliging, and offered us free run of their unit lines for hot showers and baths at any time of day or night, for which we were most grateful.

Some tide

Since we were (so a vicious downband rumour said) on the coast, we felt the visit would be wasted unless a party of fishermen ably led by **Sgt 'Chippy' Chambers** and **Cpl Gordon ('HI') Motherwell** was sent to supplement our rations with fresh fish. They returned empty handed at the end of the day, covered in black sludge, complaining bitterly that the sea had gone absent. They were unable to find it, and it appears that the tide retires some 12km at low tide in that neck of the woods. So much for fishing then.

Off duty, **Capt Peter Parfitt** and **Ssgt Tom Large** established contact with some of our gallant American Air Force allies ('just call us up, we'll be there when you need us . . '), and thereafter an orgy of kit bartering ensued. Regrettably these Yanks had come across the kit-swapping Brit before, and were not to be fobbed off with a beret in exchange for a Cadillac. **Tom** literally lost his shirt, and **Lcpl Phil Clifford** sacrificed a spare cap badge to no advantage.

All aboard

Tom and **Cpl Rick Cann** happened across the Bosun of a German merchant ship, the MS *Oder,* and established such a rapport with him that he invited the whole Troop aboard on Sunday afternoon to share a beer or three. Nothing loath, the Troop duly appeared to be greeted by a suitably attired Bosun **Tom Large** (that cap became a permanent fixture) who piped us aboard to discover that most of the crew hailed from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, a British Colony in the South Pacific. No one could hope to meet a friendlier more generous crew; we were feted like lords and made many good friends. Once again berets, cap badges and such began changing hands at a rapid rate in exchange for spears, beautifully made Island necklaces and such. **Sig 'Compo' Coombs** came ashore with a scarlet and silver smock which was presented to him by **Big Joe,** a seaman who would dwarf the average Fijian rugby international. Thereafter most of our off-duty time was spent with the sailors. They were the only people we met who could stand the pace!

We devoted a considerable amount of our 'working' time to sport, although a tank training ground hardly lends itself ideally to making passable football pitches. Therefore we had to invent our own sports to fit in with the terrain, and jungle ball, a game which is about as similar to volleyball as big league baseball is to girls' school rounders, and bucket ball, a cross between basketball and murder ball were favourites. **Lcpl 'Fredski' Dworsky** sustained a broken nose (again) in his fervour. In the meantime

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a Dutch infantry unit had appeared to share the camp site with us, but mutual contact was minimal—they obviously regarded us as eccentric in the extreme, and possibly dangerous.

Tank battle

Even the Bundeswehr did their bit to keep us amused—as we sat down to our final evening meal before leaving once more for Bunde we were less than delighted to note that our evening's post-prandial cabaret was a fully fledged tank battle raging round our ears.

Nothing could possibly top that, so we were left with nothing to do but pack up cookhouse, canvas, masts, and the bar, collect all the lost soldiers and return with a mixture of regret and relief to Birdwood.

3 SQUADRON—TO THE NETHERLANDS

This year we were hosted by a Dutch Army Unit stationed at Eefde, a small town just south of Devonter in Holland. The period of the camp was three weeks with three different parties of about a dozen attending each week. The Commander of the Ordnance/Workshop was **Maj Theo Van den Boogard** who very kindly allowed us to use the facilities of his barracks.

First intake

Week one **Capt Frank Williams**
Sgt Bill McCouig
Twelve members from Line Troop

We arrived at midday on Monday, August 8, and erected our small camp of four 12 12 shelters near the playing field in Detmers Kazerne. It wasn't too long before we were inundated with visitors from all over the barracks (maybe it was the duty-free goods in our bar that attracted them) who were suggesting a programme for the week which included all sorts of sport activities and visits to places of interest including Amsterdam (no takers).

Professional opposition

The weather was not very good and our football team who lost 7 goals to 2 are convinced that it was the very wet ground that was their downfall and not the professional players drafted for 16 months' National Service.

The visit to the Airborne Museum and Cemetery in Arnhem proved to be very popular whilst most evenings were spent visiting or being visited by our Dutch friends. Needless to say, vehicles were seen crossing the German Border twice during the week to replenish our bar stock.

Phase two

Time flew by and Monday, August 15, saw the arrival of party two led by **Sgt Terry Sutherland** and **Sgt Eric Rock,** with 12 men from all Troops of the Squadron. In the evening **Sigs Bob Hyland** and **Dene Brown** were sent to recce one of the Dutch Army clubs, they returned four hours later supported by three rather large Dutch soldiers.

Day two took the form of an initiative test where the soldiers were dropped off in pairs about 60km from the camp and had to find their own way back. The majority returned in about eight hours. Sporting events again took place during the week. This group loosing 7—0 at football and winning volleyball 3—1. They also took up the offer of a trip to Amsterdam on the Saturday (no comment) followed on the Sunday by a sobering visit to the Dutch Old Soldiers' Home.

Awards

Casanova of the week: **Sig Dave Toon**
Smoothie: **Sig 'Dusty' Miller**

Monday, August 22—back to Bunde.

Changeover

The changeover saw the arrival of **Lt Steve Smith, Ssgt Charlie Drake** and 12, mainly from 'Bravo' Troop. Again our hosts were very keen to fix the times for football, basketball and volleyball. The latter 'we won'. Said **Ssgt Charlie Drake,** 'Well, they had 300 to choose from'.

A very interesting visit to the open-air War Museum on the Saturday was enjoyed by all. The end of an interesting and enjoyable three weeks, the hospitality of the Dutch soldiers and civilians alike was tremendous and many soldiers have promised to return to continue the friendships made, and we all hope we shall be able to return next year.

For **Maj Theo,** thank you once again for the excellent hospitality and all the kindness offered to us by your officers and men.

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

BACK ON COURSE

THE Regiment, now having recovered from the recent epidemic of Jubilitis, is now catching up on those files gathering dust in the 'in', 'pending', and 'not quite out' trays. Out comes the WIRE file and it's time to relate the less jubilant though nonetheless enjoyable happenings in Herford.

IMPORTANT VISITORS

In May the Regiment was visited by **Mr Peter England** the DUSS (Army). The timing of the visit was unfortunate for him, he is probably only just recovering from an ear bending on a well-known financial topic. The Corps Commander, **Lt Gen Sir Richard Worsley,** accompanied **Mr England.** Whilst looking around 3 Sqn's accommodation, the Corps Commander noticed that **Lcpl Tempest** had first-day covers pinned up. He asked **Lcpl Tempest** if he would like a first-day cover celebrating the formation of 1 BR Corps. Two days later a letter arrived for **Lcpl Tempest** from the Corps Commander, enclosed was a copy of the first-day cover. Apparently the CO, **Lt Col D. C. Whitehead,** has decided to decorate his office door with first-day covers—in anticipation.

6 ST NIJMEGEN MARCHES JULY 19 - 22, 1977
Report by Cpl Brian White (Royal Signals)

As usual, this year's Regimental team was fairly 'cosmopolitan,' with four cap badges represented. The following comprised the team:

Ssgt (Y of S) Bob (I've left mine in the car) Wright (Team leader);
Cpls Jimmy Hamilton,
'Mac' (I'll show these young 'uns) McDermaid,
Brian (Chalky) White;
Lcpls Dave (The voice) Fowler,
Pete (Steptoe) Reynolds,

Mr Peter England signs the Visitors' Book in the Sergeants Mess

Wally Walters (RCT);
Sigs 'Ginge' Baxter,
Phill (Blister) Madden,
Rick (Slagger) Shingler,
Lenny Williams;
Ptes 'Jako' (The Doc) Baker (RAMC),
Steve (CSM) Carrol (ACC), and
Dvr Brian (Schumfer) Maio.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

NIJMEGEN MARCHES—4 DIVISION PARTICIPANTS

Left to right. Front to rear: Lcpl Pete Reynolds, Sig Phill Madden, Ssgt (Y of S) 'Bub' Wright, Lcpl Dave Fowler, Dvr Brian Miao (RCT), Sig Lenny Williams, Cpl Brian White, Lcpl Wally Walters (RCT), Pte Jake Baker (RAMC), Cpl John McDermaid, Pte Steve Carroll (ACC), Cpl Jim Hamilton, Sig 'Ginge' Baxter, Sig Ricky Shingler

RESTRICTED BUILD-UP

Training for this year's marches was restricted because of the Regiment's commitments at Sennelager. In the event, we had only one week to train as a team. As part of the build-up, we included the one-day 'Rheindalen Allied March' on Thursday, July 14. This march was 40km in length over very flat land, although a lot of it was non-metalled tracks and fields, whereas the Nijmegen routes followed metalled roads for the best part, a high proportion of these being cobbled.

GENTLE RECEPTION

The team left Hammersmith Barracks shortly before 0700hrs, Sunday, July 17, and after picking up the 7 Sig Regt (LAD) contingent, moved off to Nijmegen, arriving at Humesnvoord Camp in the early afternoon. After completing admin formalities and setting up our beds in the marquees, we had the rest of the day free, most taking advantage of this to run a recce over the (female) population, and to sample the local brews.

Monday was set aside for the Flag Parade, which is a similar sort of occasion to the athletes' march prior to the Olympic Games and most of us had a fairly relaxed day, building up our strength for the march the following day. Marching began just after first light on Tuesday morning. A fairly easy pace was maintained, and at the end, the general opinion was 'Well, that wasn't too bad was it?'!

THE LONG DAY

Wednesday was the long day, the route being for the most part long, flat uninteresting roads. As we re-entered Nijmegen the heavens opened, soaking all of us. We pressed on as far as the Bowling Alley, about two miles short of camp, making our usual stop for a few beers, putting back a bit of our sweat. When we got back to camp, **Jake Baker** came into his own, treating the team's blisters with syringe and magic spray. Several comments were passed referring to 'Witch Doctors' and 'Rattling of Bones'.

UP AND DOWN

The 20th was Hill Day. It started off with a long stretch following the rivers, after which we entered the range of hills close to Nijmegen. Some of these seemed like mountains at the time. We tried to make these easier and to take our minds of our feet by racing other teams up the steeper hills and then taking it fairly easy on the descents. By this time a lot of the team were suffering from sore feet and aching muscles and **Rick Shingler** was finding it especially difficult due to cartilage trouble with both knees. At the end of the day, however, and after some of **Dr Jake's** magic treatment, the general conversation was '. . .it, after getting this far nothing's stopping me now, even if I have to crawl on hands and knees'.

FILMING

The last day (Friday) arrived to find us stiff, sore and bleary eyed. Being kept awake until nearly two the following morning by an anonymous bagpiper did not help but this was put down to it being part of the magic of Nijmegen. The day's marching was fairly enjoyable even though we kept up a fast pace for the most

part. The route was well lined with spectators for nearly the entire length which helped to take one's mind off sore feet and fatigue. On this day, the Public Relations TV Section spent quite a bit of time with us, making a film which was proposed to be shown by BBC Manchester. Our three 'local boys', **Lcpl Reynolds, Sig Madden** and **Dvr Maio,** were, of course, given star positions in the column. We were filmed doing our 'world famous' 'Hokey-Kokey' marching sequence!

SALUTE TAKEN BY CSO

We reached the final check-point in the early afternoon, where we discarded our webbing and weights and changed into fresh kit ready for the march past. This year the salute was taken by CSO, BAOR, **Maj Gen Peter Baldwin.** Our team marched past behind the Band, Pipes and Drums of the 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rangers, and we managed to collect a large number of flowers from the crowds of sightseers. It was then back to camp for the presentation of medals and a quick celebration in the canteen. Most of the team then went into Nijmegen itself to enjoy themselves at what is commonly known as the 'Blister Ball', where the whole of the town is literally thrown open.

Looking back, it may be said that everybody enjoyed their work at Nijmegen, even though during the actual marching, the words 'Never again' were regularly heard. The following medals were gained by the team:

1 × Team Medal
3 × Third Time Medals
5 × Second Time Medals
6 × First Time Medals

EXERCISE PACEMAKER (RHQ Summer Camp)

(By our resident world shortage **Sig 'Liver Bird' Mahoney**)

The date—June 9, 1977, the venue—Diemelsee, the occasion—RHQ Annual trip to Summer Camp, appropriately named Exercise Pace Maker. So along with **WO1 (It's a mug's game) Schneider** and **Cpl (Cool it) Adkins,** we set off on our two hours' 'Cabby' to our place of Torture for the next five days.

TORTURE NOT REALISED

The time spent proved to be the best that the party, which included **Lcpl Clyde Atherley** who thought 'Gelt' was a Nomadic tribe of Britons, **Sigs (Honk Kong Fooey) Bonham, Chris Sands** and **'Scouse' Mahoney,** had ever spent since arriving in BAOR. Our first afternoon was spent like many others afterwards, on the lake, canoeing, this activity was highlighted by many duckings or 'accidents' as our instructor, **Sgt Hook (Jaws),** who like his namesake, readers of 'Action' please note, succeeded in organising a 100 per cent ducking spree, and finally he got his just rewards by going off the bridge in spectacular fashion, 'Belly Flop', or was it a dying duck. In between, barbecues were held on camp and it was a standing, or swimming, joke that I would end up in the river; does going in three nights on the trot constitute a record?

ONE TO REMEMBER

The day before we were due to leave, the Permanent Staff challenged us to a game of rugby as the 'RHQ Water Babies', determined to wipe the smiles from their faces we started a vigorous training programme which included crazy golf, followed by a hike to the local hostelry. But it was all to no avail as the game was tactically switched to volleyball in which we lost narrowly by not 'buying' the referee beforehand.

And so came our last night, and we all went out in style with another barbecue to which the dignitaries of the village were invited. **WO1 'Big Bad Bert'** proceeded to put the world to rights, Big Brother move over. And so back to the now deserted tent, everyone else had gone to breakfast, and, finally, tired but very happy, we wended our weary way back to Herford. 'The boys' would like to thank **WO1 Schneider, Sgt Hook** and **Cpl Adkins** for making this Exercise one to remember.

The CSO BAOR, Maj Gen Baldwin, presents LS and GC Medal to Cpl McGraw

The CSO BAOR, Maj Gen Baldwin, presents LS and GC Medal to WO2 Thurley

ARMY ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS 1977
Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Ferguson, Maj Marett, Cpl Clapham
Front row: Capt Hoyle, Lt Col D. C. Whitehead (CO), Capt Meekings

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

The Regimental orienteering team completed a very successful season by winning the Army Major Unit Championships. The event was held in the UK, with the base camp being in Stirling.

Cpl Dick Millett and **Lcpl Stewart Ferguson** both had very good runs. It was nearly a disastrous day for the team; **Cpl Mick Clapham** decided to try freefall abseiling down a 15-ft crag. Luckily he was able to get up and run in. **Capt Alan Meekings** ran with his arm in a sling, and **Capt Dick Hoyle** ran with an enormous patch over his left eye. Perhaps the very sight of the team made our opponents over confident.

This brings the tally for the year to: 4 Div Major Unit Championships, 1 BR Corps Relay Championships, Runners-up in 4 Division League, Runners-up in BAOR Major Unit Championships, and Army Major Unit Championships.

SENIORS THE TOPS

WHAT a year! What a team! The League, the Cup and many other well-earned trophies—to illustrate the point just look at the following:

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	
League	16	14	2	0	71	5	Winners
Cup	4	4	—	—	8	3	Winners
Kusenbaum (Local German League)	Played 6				GF 11	GA 2	Winners

The line up

The Sergeants Mess team played in the Bielefeld Sergeants Mess League and swept the board of trophies. It would be unfair to single out any one player for special praise as all the team gave 100 per cent to ensure this success. So let's take it from the back—in defence we have **Tony Dardis** in goal, **Tony** makes sure little gets past him, he is steady and consistent earning the applause of opposing teams for some very courageous saves. **Bobby Patterson,** stocky in build, he is forever forging forward from his right back position but when needed is always found back in position covering the goal. A very steady player who has the confidence of all the other team members. **John Fuller** is safe and calm, built like the proverbial brick house he is always in control along with **Tommy Taylor** who can really turn it on and manages the other side of the field equally as well as **John. Tom,** by the way, is the hearthrob of many of the female spectators. **Alan Eames,** swift and untiring in a match, plays every ball to the end. **Alan** never 'gives up' and is one of the stalwarts at the back and can be wholly relied upon to divert the opposition.

Half-backs—**Jeff Nelson, Matt McBirney** and **Pete Johnson.** Well, those of you who have seen this partnership in action don't need me to tell you how they sparkle mid-field. **Jeff,** shortly to leave us, is quiet and soft spoken, belying the vigour and determination he shows on the pitch. This, coupled with his unquestionable skill on the ball, makes him an essential mainstay in the team. **Matt** is team captain and did a tremendous job keeping all on their toes, maintaining calm when someone thought they were unfairly penalised, and playing with a skill and enthusiasm of one who is born to the game. A terrier on the ball is our **Matt. Peter (Golden Boy) Johnson** plays with a skill that leaves spectators and players alike open-mouthed in admiration as he jinks in and out cleverly stepping over opposing players' out-thrust boots and with the shouts from the spectators ringing in his ears, can score from any angle with a beautiful precision shot.

Forwards—**Alex Taylor, Ron Russell** and **Ian Dolby. Alex Taylor** plays out on the wing with a fair turn of speed and a flair all his own, he chases every ball that comes his way with a purposefulness and will to succeed. Teamed with **Ian Dolby,** who can 'turn it on' when required, he had a good season. **Ian** plays a consistently good game week after week. Never failing to rise to the occasion, he has a good understanding of the other players' game and can read the play enabling him to anticipate the next move well in advance. **Ron Russell** in the centre never gives in. He runs and runs and plays to the whistle. Tall and lean, he gets up to all the high balls, and with an adroit flick of the head casually knocks them in the back of the net.

This was the team with which we finished the season but posted from us during the season we had **Kenny Wilkinson, Mal Forster, Jim Kelly** and **Brian Hudson.** All these players plus **Sgts Chris Harris** and **Ralph Smith** (reserves), who were always available if required, played to win and played for the enjoyment of the game.

Also a social aspect

The matches were followed by a great family social gathering in the Mess with good lunches being provided, and entertainment for the children in the form of a disco or film show. There was always a raffle (very ably run by **Norma Hay;** thank you, **Norma** for your work during the season), the proceeds from which helped the cost of transport and paid for the end-of-season social at which everyone was able to relax and really let their hair down. All this would not have been possible but for the support of **RSM Nicoll,** who attended every match, in all weathers, giving the team every help possible. **Ssgt Alec Hay,** team manager, worked equally as hard behind the scenes during the week trying to secure fixtures and arranging transport, booking pitches and arranging with Mess staff the catering requirements. He also doubled up on Sundays with the 'magic sponge', thankfully seldom in use. This was truly a marvellous 'team' in all senses of the word and to them and all the backstage boys, wives and spectators, we thank you for all your support and hope to repeat our success this coming season. In a year when we had all the '7s'—the 7.7.77 marking the Army Review by Her Majesty at Sennelager (and the RSM's birthday)-it had to be **7** Sig Regt to win.

PS. It may be something of a record for a team to remain unbeaten throughout a league season—certainly it is not common in league football!

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

(Sixth in the series 'Meet the Squadrons')

Personalities

OC	—	**Maj John Ingledow**
QM (T)	—	**Maj Dennis Golding**
QM (A)	—	**Maj Clem Palmer, MBE**
MTO	—	**Capt Colin Stephens**
PRI/Families	—	**Capt Dave Shakespeare**
Training Officer	—	**Capt Frank Cooper**
Paymaster	—	**Capt Basil Holmes, BEM**
Catering Officer	—	**Capt Andrew Gibson**
RQMS (T)	—	**WO2 G. Collie**
RQMS (A)	—	**WO2 J. Adam**
SSM	—	**WO2 J. H. Parkes**

IT is some time since we have appeared in these illustrious pages and it is hoped that with a few volunteer scribes and the Editor's okay (space permitting) we will appear more often in the future.

On exercise, the Squadron now deploys the maximum number of personnel possible, and it is no longer a rare sight to see **Majs Dennis** and **Clem** in combat kit going the rounds issuing the goodies that keep the Regiment mobile and in good spirits. This fact is also borne by our 'greying' **Capt Dave Shakespeare** who has the job of being in charge of rear details and has been heard to say 'What are "they" doing out there with all that manpower?'.

CONSUMER DEMAND WELL SATISFIED

Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Parade at Sennelager has been reported in depth in all the media, but it should be known that HQ Sqn had the major task of setting up, organising and running tents for Herford Garrison WOs and Sergeants and for junior ranks. In addition to normal bar facilities, meals were provided for some 500 hungry and thirsty visitors and **Capt Andrew Gibson,** his Master Chef, **WO2 Elrick,** and cooks are to be complimented on the standard and choice of eats provided.

We are still waiting to hear from the German ice cream man who was outdone by our ice cream and drinks stall some hundred yards further up the road where you could get the same produce for a quarter of the price.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartiest congratulations go to **Capt Basil Holmes** and **Cpl (now Sgt) Steve Dunderdale** on their well-deserved award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Both were serving at the time of the Queen's Coronation, and in accordance with such old soldiers' traditions, the medals were wetted in style.

The Squadron Wives Club has gone from strength to strength in the capable hands of the recently departed Squadron Commander's wife, **Sandra Noble,** and the ever hardworking secretary, **Norma Hay,** wife of **Ssgt Alec Hay.** The functions are always well attended and their success is reflected in the demand for more activities.

EASY TRANSITION

HQ Sqn deployed on Exercise Northern Lights on July 9 for a three-week Summer Camp. Venue—Otterndorf on the southern edge of the Elbe Canal. The advance party under **WO2 'Tich' Reynolds** and **Ssgt (SQMS) 'Paddy' Cardwell** moved out on July 8 and prepared for the arrival of some 150 soldiers, 50 per week, who spent a week on adventure training with such routine activities as road runs, football, volleyball, orienteering,

hiking, canoeing and fishing. All settled into this routine and also made their presence felt with the local people who made every effort to ensure that the Squadron would enjoy their stay in Otterndorf.

.22 SHOOTING COMPETITION

This coincided with the opening of the annual Schutzenfest and eight were selected to represent the Squadron. The locals duly won this competition mainly due to large amounts of Schnapps and Korn fed to the military participants! *Best Shot*—**Cpl Ian Frazer** 45/50, and **Sig 'Scouse' Lloyd** won the Plaque for getting nearest to the bull.

GOODWILL PRESENTATIONS

A party of 20 under **SSM 'Tich' Reynolds** marched to the Rathaus for an exchange presentation of a Regimental Plaque and a Silver Salver by Otterndorf Stadt. The drinks were all on the Burgermeister, and 48 bottles of best Deutsche wine were consumed. The Platoon then marched through the town to tumultuous applause from the locals although no band was on parade. Within the ranks we had **Sig 'Jock' McMillan** who played his flute with great gusto, and we must not forget **Ssgt (SQMS) Alec Hay** who managed under great strain to stay upright during the whole parade.

The camp ended with farewell drinks and some local personalities, the Burgemeister, **Herman Gerken,** and **Herr Jurgen von Stemmen** who kindly allowed the Squadron to camp on his land. During the farewell the Burgermeister remarked that he hoped that the Squadron would return next year.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

By the time you read these notes the Squadron will have said goodbye to **Maj Phil** and **Sandra Noble** who are off to live in London for a few years, with 31 Sig Regt. We are all sorry to see them move on as they have both done a great deal for the Squadron, and we can only say that our sad loss will be 31 Sig Regt's gain. At this moment we would like to welcome **Maj John Ingledow** and his wife and hope that their tour with the Squadron will be a pleasant one.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CAMOL AT CATTERICK

IINTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS LTD gave a dinner in II the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick, on August 11, which was attended by the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and the Director of Army Education. The occasion was the official opening of the CAMOL project on the ICL 2903 (Educational System) Computer. As a research project sponsored by ACIT (the Army Committee on Instructional Technology) and by the Signals Directorate, it is hoped that Computer Aided Management Of Learning will, in future, keep all records and reports straight, in order and correct, for the 3,500 soldiers who pass through the Trade Training School each year. Before dinner there was an informal party in the TTS computer room.

Photo courtesy: Geoffrey Sturdy, Bushey Heath

The Generals came and signed in
Left to right: Gen Tighe, Gen Howell and Lt Col Gordon Young, OC TTS, and Director of the CAMOL Project, Catterick

Photo courtesy: Geoffrey Sturdy, Bushey Heath

'Met by the Host'
Left to right: Commander Training Group Royal Signals, the SO in C, Mr Keith Pearson, Manager ICL Government Defence Region, DAEd

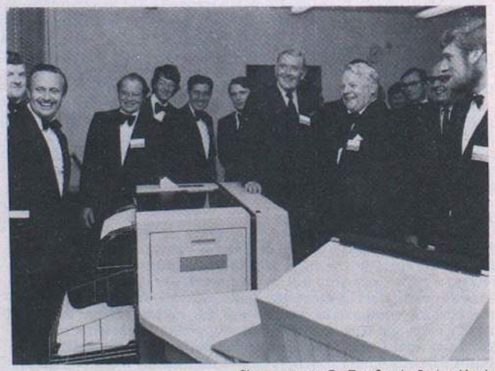

Photo courtesy: Geoffrey Sturdy, Bushey Heath

'They pressed the knob to start the ICL 2903 (E) System'

Photo courtesy: Geoffrey Sturdy, Bushey Heath

'And what did the computer print?—Jimmy?'

BASKETBALL TEAM HAVE A GOOD SEASON

The basketball team have had a very good season, winning the Northern Command, Garrison Inter-Services, and Garrison League Trophies. The team 'content' has changed over 20 times, but some of the remaining players are seen in the photograph being presented with their League Winners medals by the CO, **Col D. G. Cattermull.** From left to right: **Lt Dave Llewellyn, Lcpl John Rolls, Col David Cattermull, Lcpl Steve Peacock, Lt Col Joe Fitzgerald** (US Army), **WO2 (QMSI) Ray Whiteley, Cpl Andy Thompson.**

We say goodbye to one of our outstanding team members, **Lt Col Joe Fitzgerald** (US Army), who leaves us on return to the USA. **'Colonel Joe'** has been a leading light, a tough competitor and a good team captain. We are sad to see him go and we wish him good luck.

Some members of the successful 8 Sig Regt basketball team

LT COL JOE FITZGERALD (US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS)

'Colonel Joe' left 8 Sig Regt in July after two years in Catterick. His exchange posting here followed postings in Germany, Vietnam and the Pentagon amongst others, and he found time to get himself a Master's Degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Arizona. He led a very full life in the Regiment, working as Chief Instructor of the Engineering Wing in TTS, captaining the basketball team and supporting the rugby and football teams, as well as introducing many people to the intricacies of softball!

Externally, he took a detailed interest in Army Cadet Force affairs and even attended a TAVR Exercise. He spent a hectic last week in the UK, being dined out by the Sergeants Mess, the Durham County ACF, and at a Ladies' Guest Night in the Officers Mess.

As departing Chief Instructor, a course report was naturally prepared and presented to him on his last day in the post by **Lt Col Gordon Young,** OC TTS, and the narrative of the comment section of the report is reproduced below:

We had read of 'Old Blood and Guts' Patton,
We all knew of Marshall and Ike,
But no one had heard of Fitzgerald,
And wondered, 'the Hell, what's he like?'
We pictured him tall in the saddle,
So weathered and rangy and thin,
Not a man one could fluster,
But like Hawkeye and Custer,
With a touch of John Wayne thrown in.
So he came and we saw and he conquered,
And we thought what a hell of a fuss,
For he turned out a 'corker'
This friendly New Yorker,
And not very different from us.
As he leaves us for North Carolina,
And we bid him God Speed and goodbye,
As he goes on his way,
We can honestly say,
'Colonel Joe, you're one helluva Guy'.

CAPT J. L. BRUMFITT (ACC)

Capt John Brumfitt (ACC) began his time with the Corps in March 1973 when he joined 7 Sig Regt and now he leaves 8 Sig Regt and the Corps to go to the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital here in Catterick. **'Bunray'** is a man of varied talents. At 7 Sig Regt he chased 6 Sqn for four days on one exercise to deliver the rum ration (and attend the resultant party). He must be the only Specialist Catering Officer who organised the cookhouse and resupply to arrive at a Commcen's location 24 hours before they were due. Just to prove that it was not a flash in the proverbial, a couple of days later he managed another Commcen resupply on the forecourt of an Esso station on the Frankfurt autobahn.

Duc to his vast experience of conducting Mess dinner bands he is now considering applying for the post of Director of Music. It is calculated that during this period **'Bunray'** conducted some 10 bands of various Corps and Regiments, including our own Corps Band. **John** joined 8 Sig Regt from BAOR and was presented with the rather prodigious task of feeding the largest Regiment in the British Army. With two kitchens some two miles apart, **John** produced two very good teams of cooks who in turn have continued to produce a uniformity of excellent menus—offering food, the variety of which has been enjoyed not only by our own soldiers but by all our many overseas students. A study of the minutes of Mess meetings would probably show more 'thank you's' than complaints.

He won't be far away, so no doubt we will see him from time to time. Thank you, **John,** we shall miss you and **Heather**—good luck to you both. *How about champagne with porridge for breakfast?*

Left to right: CO, Col David Cattermull, The Lord Auckland, Maj John Doody, Maj David Schreiner (US Army)

VISIT OF THE LORD AUCKLAND

On Friday, August 5, 1977, the Regiment was visited by The Lord Auckland. He spent an interesting day visiting the various administrative departments of the Regiment as well as a detailed tour of the Trade Training School. Lord Auckland served in the Corps just after the last war and completed his National Service as an operator.

THE TOPS

Cpl 'Lester' Piggott attained an 'A' grading on his Data Telegraphist Upgrading Course. He is seen here being presented with an inscribed Royal Signals Plaque by **Maj John Doody,** CI (Op). Having finished his course he returns to 16 Sig Regt, where his ex-WRAC wife is expecting their first child.

THE LATEST FROM GREENLAND

'The Liverpool Land Expedition has now nearly completed its task', so a signal from 201 Sqn, RAF, stated on August 11. Having experienced very diverse weather, ranging from slush to high winds and snow, all the various studies were successfully carried out. They were due to leave on August 23 so we now look forward to receiving a full report on the expedition very soon.

9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 58

STEVE AND BRENDA TROPHY 1977

AUGUST saw the final of the 'Steve and Brenda' volleyball competition in the unit gymnasium at Mercury Barracks. This commemorative trophy was presented to 9 Sig Regt by **Mrs Brenda Pilkington,** wife of **Lcpl Steve Pilkington,** who was killed in a traffic accident in 1972. The trophy is competed for by sections/departments within 9 Sig Regt, in an annual knockout competition.

The finalists this year, in a competition running since April, were the Black Hand Gang (BHG—1 Sqn), last year's winners, and 'B' Troop (2 Sqn).

The game commenced at 3 o'clock under the direction of referee, **WO2 Andy Boyle,** and it was only a short time before it became apparent that both teams were very evenly matched. The first set which lasted for a full 35 minutes, with a fair amount of cautious playing ended in a win for 'B' Troop, 15 points to 12.

No change of pace was evident at the beginning of the second set but BHG began to show their colours. With the score at 12 points to 8 in favour of BHG, 'B' Troop called a 'time out', and after a brief conference we were back to the action. The second set resulted in a 15 points to 9 win for BHG.

A faster start to the third set saw 'B' Troop quickly rise to 9 points before BHG scored their first (effects of the time out?). 'B' Troop were now showing their strength and at the end of the set the score was 15 points to 3 in favour of 'B' Troop.

Continuing into the fourth set at the same fast pace, with both teams (and spectators) feeling the effects of the heat, the BHG fought well to parry the advances of a now stronger 'B' Troop side. A win for 'B' Troop of 15 points to 5 gave them the set, game and trophy for 1977. Both teams are to be congratulated on producing a well-played game and a good afternoon's entertainment.

The CO, **Lt Col R. K. Ward,** presented the trophy to **Cpl Keith Smith,** captain of the 'B' Troop team, and medals to both teams.

My thanks to **QMSI Pete Perrott** for preparing the gym and to all who assisted in making the afternoon a success.

'TM' TROOP—CHANGE OF COMMAND

Recently the scene was set for the dining out/dining in of **Maj (TOT) D. W. Capon** and **Capt (TOT) Grigsby,** respectively. The venue chosen for this auspicious occasion was the George Club, Dhekelia, and in the cool evening breeze, the guests and members of 'TM' Troop, 9 Sig Regt, sat down to partake of what turned out to be a very enjoyable meal. As **Capt Grigsby** has just left organising the successful 8 Sig Regt's rugby team, it was thought fitting to commence his tour with—yes, a rugby ball—suitably served up on a tray, as his main course.

For the outgoing TOT, he was left the task of replying to **WO2 (F of S) Howes's** soul-searching statement concerning the former's obsession with lists—the latter being adequately supported by stage managers barracking—no names please, we're British.

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Lt Col R. K. Ward (Royal Signals) presenting the volleyball trophy to Cpl Keith Smith. Ssgt Dave Wills looks on

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

The Black Hand Gang on the left rising to the occasion in the volleyball final

To finalise the list obsession a parchment containing the signatures of all those devoted characters responsible for the lists was passed on, then the presentation of an onyx cigarette case was by **Cpl (Who put me in this scout kit and pipe?) 'Shorty' Short** on behalf of the Troop.

Having expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Troop and their wives for the support he has been given during his tour, **Maj Capon,** with his wife, **Betty,** led the way to the upstairs bar and dance floor where the evening continued to the reverberating music of the Trellis Disco. It is hoped that **Don** and **Betty Capon** will enjoy themselves in the UK on posting and that they will always remember the happy times they have had whilst in Cyprus—*Bon voyage.*

SENIORS NARROWLY SEE OFF THE OFFICERS (CRICKET!)

The Sergeants Mess won the toss and elected to bat. **RSM Jim Brown** opened the innings against the CO, he scored 2 before being clean bowled in the second over to the first straight ball of the match by **Capt Tony Raper.** The dismissal of the RSM was followed rapidly by that of **Sgt Pete Forster.** The collapse of the Sergeants Mess side was only saved by the arrival of **Ssgt Mick Jackson** and a crate of beer for the officers in the field. Scores of 39 by **Ssgt Mick Jackson** and 24 by **Alan Grant** gave a respectable total of 112 by the end of the innings.

Capt Sheila Johncey opened for the Officers in fine style, being bowled first ball by **Sgt Pete Forster.** After such a fine start the officers settled down to steadily accumulate the runs. All seemed to be progressing well until the Adjutant was run out by **Ken Roberts** who was then promptly bowled. **Capt John Tydeman** arrived at the wicket and, after having been clean bowled with a 'no ball', dismissed the CO with a fine run out. A short stand by **Capt John Tydeman** and **Maj Colin Rayner** took the score to 95. With 17 runs to go **Maj Graham Halliburton** joined **Maj Colin Rayner.** The match then came to an exciting finish for with one over to go and 5 runs needed, **Lt John Morrison** arrived at the wicket; 2 balls later **Maj Colin Rayner** was run out and the WO and Sergeants Mess gained victory by 4 runs.

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Cyprus free-fall para championships
Left to right: Lcpl Mick Thurman (9 Sig Regt) with Sgt Wayne Arden and Lcpl George Burrows of 6 Field Force

CYPRUS COMBINED SERVICES PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIP

From August 8–18 the sky was speckled with colourful parachutes as the Cyprus parachute championships took place. **Cpl 'Paddy' McEwan** and **Lcpl Mick Thurman,** from 9 Sig Regt, competed.

The tests included team and individual accuracy as well as relative work. To the uninitiated, accuracy means landing as close to an inch-diameter disc as possible. Relative work involves forming set patterns with other jumpers such as 'Murphy Star', 'Doughnut Star' and 'Caterpillar'. One of the jumps involved a sea jump from 2,800ft with a small buoy as the target.

Overall, **Mick Thurman** came 23rd and **'Paddy' McEwan** 20th in the individual accuracy competition, commendable efforts from both—well done.

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Presentation of WOs and Sergeants Mess v Officers Mess cricket trophy to WO1 (RSM) Jim Brown by Mrs R. K. Ward

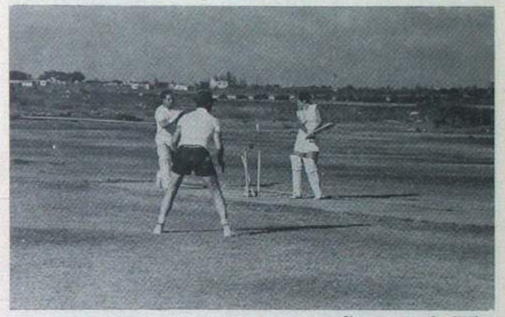

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Capt Sheila Johncey opens the innings for the Officers Mess

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Ssgt and Mrs Alan Rowe watch their son, Alan, sign on to join the Corps. Lt Col R. K. Ward officiates

ANOTHER RECRUIT FOR THE CORPS

Lt Col R. K. Ward officiated at the 'signing on' of **Alan Rowe,** the son of **Ssgt Alan Rowe,** serving with Dhekelia Garrison. **Alan** is off to the Junior Leaders Regt at Ouston. We wish him a good future in the Corps.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

STARS AT A STROKE

DURING the first fortnight of August 1977, 11 Sig Regt played host to a television film crew from Tyne Tees Television 'Lifestyle' series. We gratefully acknowledge the following report by **Duncan Gregory,** of Public Relations, on this event as he saw it.

Think back to that bewildering first day you spent in the Army and spare a second thought for recruit intakes 7715 and 7716 at 11 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, when they learnt that in addition to their transformation from 'civvies' to soldiers they were to be the actors in the Tyne Tees Television 'Lifestyle' series—a film with the provisional title of 'You're in the Army now'. For their first two weeks in the Army the recruits would have a TV film unit practically living with them both on and off duty.

All angles covered

And so it was; in the barrack room, on the square, Commanding Officer's opening address, meals in the dining hall, beer in the NAAFI, 'jabs' in the Medical Centre, haircut, conversation, argument, opinion and instruction. It was a very thorough job.

Neither researcher **Mike McHugh** nor director **Francis Fuchs** were old enough to have seen National Service. Did they have preconceived ideas of Army life? Were they expecting to meet any of that breed from film or fiction such as the neurotic CO, the sadistic NCO or a psychologically mixed-up but sensitive recruit or two.

'We come to you with open minds', they said.

'We don't want contrived situations.'

'Please be natural, don't alter your routine. Accept us, forget us, and after a while you won't notice us.'

It was not always easy to forget the team, especially if you were an instructor immediately prior to a weapon training period when a clapper board snaps in front of your face and a voice intones:

'Scene 89 take 1, rifle aiming holding and firing in the prone position.'

Alternatively, as a recruit, it could be disconcerting after a good night's sleep to open your eyes and find the camera looking straight at you.

'That's fine', the director would say, 'just carry on as usual.'

Some things were impossible!

Business as usual

After the first couple of days it had all settled down and even the most persistant self-appointed TV 'stars' had stopped their 'accidental' lazy saunter into camera view—displaying just a touch of the old 'Garry Coopers'. Forgotten also were the spirited imitations of Bogart and Cagney ('You dirty rat, you'). The novelty had worn off just as the Tyne Tees team had predicted and it was business as usual.

Discipline, contrary to gloomy forebodings, did not suffer. In fact the reverse applied because, let's face it, nobody wanted to look a slob in front of the cameras. Instructors, recruits and TV team each got on with their own jobs and a good working relationship existed. No doubt this was the sort of situation the director hoped to achieve, an ideal one for this type of film.

Change obvious after one week

The first weekend came and went. The recruits, contrary to popular thinking, had been allowed to go home if they wished to do so. Later it was interesting to learn during a recorded conversation among recruits that the first week had not been as bad as anticipated and they were confident that during the weeks ahead things would get easier as they became accustomed to the Army way of life. None of them wanted 'out'.

The change in the recruits could be seen. After only a week they had become an integrated unit, there was an easy camaraderie and, to the outside observer and presumably to the TV team as well, there were no obvious mis-fits. One up to the Army's selection system.

Filming ends

Friday of the second week saw the final day of filming which continued until 6.30 pm when it was goodbyes all round. Members

Photo courtesy: PR HQ North-East District

TV recruits
Faces that will be seen by millions of TV viewers in the Tyne Tees series 'Lifestyle' early next year
Staff and recruits pictured in their barrack room at 11 Sig Regt, Catterick, following a visit from the TV film crew
Left to right. (Standing): Sgt Ray Crook; Recruits Paul Fox of Barnsley, Willie Whyte of Aberdeen, Andy Bradley of Derby; Cpl Gerry Richardson
Sitting: Cpl Andy Cummings, Recruit Eddie Williams of Nottingham

Photo courtesy: PR HQ North-East District

TV recruits
High winds and heavy rain made problems for Tyne Tees camera and sound men when they recorded the senior intake Passing-off Parade at 11 Sig Regt, Catterick

of the TV team gave several of the lads lifts to their various weekend leave destinations which was considered a very friendly gesture. The film, being edited now, will be seen on Tyne Tees TV early next year. It all goes according to plan, viewers in the Yorkshire and Anglia TV regions will also have the opportunity to see those first two weeks of recruit training.

So what does everybody think about it?

Courtesy and professionalism

The staff involved were unanimous in their praise of the filming team, their courtesy and professionalism. A really great

Photo courtesy: PR HQ North-East District

TV recruits
A Tyne Tees TV cameraman films the senior intake Passing-off Parade, 11 Sig Regt, Catterick. Despite high winds and heavy rain the occasion was a great success

bunch and not all all what was envisaged. As for the team—what did they think of the Army?

Of course they had no pre-conceived ideas on the subject—remember? They said they enjoyed their time at Catterick and were impressed with the methods and high standard of instruction. The overall organisation and the smooth but relatively painless process of turning civilians into soldiers also made its mark.

When the film is shown the recruits will have finished their basic training and have a foot on the first rung, at least, of their Army career ladder. If nothing else, seeing themselves as they were will bring back memories.

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

ENLISTMENT BIAS

A GOOD afternoon's work was done when the sons of four members of the Regiment were enlisted into the Army together by the CO, **Lt Col K. S. H. Allwright.**

Amidst reams of enlistment forms and certificates, the four youngsters swore their allegiance and then got their just reward—their first day's pay! Two of them joined the Royal Signals, **Kevin,** son of **Sgt 'Paddy' Ryan,** now of 2 Armd Div Sig Regt, and **Graham,** son of **Maj Bill Minns,** our Regimental Paymaster, who chose the Corps in preference to his father's RAPC! **Gary,** son of **Sgt Bob Whitton,** joined his father's Corps, ACC; and **Andrew,** son of **Ssgt Don Brookes,** joined REME.

These enlistments were followed a fortnight later by two more, this time **Mark,** son of **Ssgt Mike Smith,** who also joined REME; and **Peter Bolt,** son of our tall Ops Officer, **Maj Ben Bolt,** who has now gone to RMA Sandhurst as an Officer Cadet.

ROMANCE AFOOT!

Something has happened to the Officers recently—there have been four engagements and marriages in the last two months. Of those, three are in the Regiment; **Maj Geoff Granger,** who is now retired, married teacher **Hilary Bryon** who he met here at Krefeld; **Lt Richard Thurston** married **Angela Cantle** from Celle, daughter of our previous QM (Gen), **Maj Terry Cantle;** and **Lt Ian Fraser** is about to marry our Youth Leader, **Marion Lawler.** Congratulations to them all—we are just wondering who is next?

Queen's Guide Tina and her father

QUEEN'S GUIDE AWARD

There was a proud moment for **Sgt John Nicholls,** our RP Sergeant, recently, when his daught, **Tina,** was presented with her Queen's Guide Award. **Mrs Sheila Wooldrich** made the award and afterwards invested **Tina** as a Ranger Guide.

EXERCISE JUBILEE MOTOR CYCLE TRIAL

At the end of our last trial, the Commanding Officer's wife remarked, 'when's the next one?' 'August Ma'am, and the weather will be fine I promise'. Thus spoke **Sgt (Where's my BEM, Sir?) Hendry,** and so on August 12 Exercise Jubilee got off to a grand start, it rained from dawn to dusk but it was nice to see 53 riders from BAOR and Berlin enjoying themselves.

Once the morning stages of 8 laps of 10 sections was over the afternoon started with a massed start (pity the photographer wasn't there) to complete six laps of a six-mile course, 53 riders started but only 20 very weary riders completed the course, but all agreed it was a wonderful day out and a trial for riders and machines.

Twenty-four prizes were presented by **Mrs Valerie Allwright.** The First Novice Award went to **Sig Nash** of 'T' Troop, he now becomes an Expert. Well done to all our other riders and especially to the old man of the circuit, **Sgt Hendry,** who was heard to say, 'If **Capt (Where's my bike?) Steve Bresloff** had helped, the trial would never have taken place'. We would like to say thanks to **Maj Bill Minns** (RAPC) and **Ssgt (I've got a claim) Privett** (RAPC), our recorders; to the family of **Ssgt Ibbertson, BEM,** who helped to organise the event, **Mrs Jean Gillespie** for all the typing before the event; and to all the others behind the scenes, especially **Pte Patterson** (ACC) who cooked meals under

very trying conditions, also to a young man named **'Nick Allwright'** (we have heard that name somewhere before in this Regiment) who states 'I don't want to be a colonel but would like to be a White Helmet!'.

THE RECIPE

No expense was wasted to bring this extravaganza to 4 Sqn. Our thanks go to the following for two weeks of 'Mountain Air':

Sponsor	— **Maj (I've got a caravan) D. J. D. McKail**
Producer	— **Capt (Para Disperser) R. G. Warne**
Director	— **WO2 (Conductor) J. C. Blake**
Lighting	— **Lcpl (Prick-through) M. Wright**
Discipline	— **Sgt Lenny (Scanlon) Carr**
Finance	— **Lt (In camp revenue) F. Canham**
Continually assisted by:	
Chef de Cuisine	— **Pte (Chicken supreme) Lucas**
Aided by	— **Lcpl (Smiler) Licence** **W/Lcpl (Pastry) Iddon** **W/Cpl (Muscles) Pollock**
Refreshments	— **'Shaky' Linehan** **'Sudden' Green**
General Entertainment	— **'Scouse' (MGM) Black**
Resident Hypochondriac	— **Nigel Varley**
Skating Instructors	— **Steve (Le Mans) Meachin** **(Legs) Ballantyne**
Weatherman	— **(Slats) Campbell**
Cheer Leader/ Toast Master	— **(Fried bread) Spinks**
Pharmacy	— **Elly (Letters) Rowe** **Wally (Mighty Mouse) Penn**
Pathfinder	— **'Paddy' (Freefall) Begley**
Transport	— **Keith (I'm going to bed) Bridger**

DISH OF THE HOUSE—Summer Camp Supreme

Ingredients:
4 Sqn
1 Torfhaus
1 Lake (or 2)
1 Assault boat
1 Wind, penetrating
1 Ice rink
2 Swimming pools
6 (or is it 7) hills, steeped
Pinch local natives
3 Films
Curry Sauce
6 Canoes
Cloves
Compo rations
3 Officers, pipped

Instructions:
Preparation time: One year
Cooking time: Two weeks
Serves: 120
Cost: Determination

Method

Collect all the ingredients together and place in a picturesque landscape in mid-July. Take half of 4 Sqn, peel and brown gently in three days' sun, basting frequently with oil to prevent burning. Immerse in Odersee for optional period, then toss in assault boat and allow to dry naturally in cold, penetrating wind. Stand to cool on large expanse of ice, spreading weight carefully and evenly and propelling the ingredients continually with local German inhabitants. Break one whole limb, add plaster.

Leave to set overnight under a canvas cloth. By early morning the mixture should have risen. (If it has not it may be stirred gently and, if necessary beaten thoroughly to encourage the required reaction.) Place dry ingredients under stream of cold water until cheesed off. Then subject to up to three films (this can be prolonged for a week if necessary(?) according to taste while steaming by an open fire until dried. Some prefer the mixture smoked rather than steamed. Add sufficient alcohol to produce a glazed appearance—egg yolks or milk may be used as a substitute. Curry flavour to increase quantity of alcohol, and whisk away when nerves have been finely grated. Over the next few days strain the muscles in vigourous exercise on a horizontal plane, or vertical as preferred until of a dripping consistence and oozing with sauce.

Sift out one-tenth of the mixture and place in canoes, floating them gently in freezing water. Blanch thoroughly and once shivering occurs and skins become bluish in colour, wring out and coat in warm, dry cloves, rubbing in until supple.

Having completely broken down the dry ingredients by seasoning them with assorted cancellations of activities, stuff to repletion at noon with all remaining composite rations until bloated. After allowing them to settle, arrange in transport and air in the countryside subjecting mixture to maximum scenery and minimum movement garnish with a border of Iron Curtain.

Finally, return to the boil in Bielefeld and dish up with plenty of sauce. At this stage the mixture is relaxed, reduced and ready for serving in normal duties.

[*Editor's note:* Our September issue covered the award of the BEM, in the Jubilee Honours List, to **WO2 (Y of S) Mick Altham.** This was in recognition of the work he did in 33 Sig Regt (V) and NOT 31 Sig Regt (V).]

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

ARMY CHAMPIONS FOR EIGHT SUCCESSIVE YEARS

This month we intend to blow our own trumpet a little . . .

LAST month's WIRE is not to hand but we are confident that the Stop Press will have heralded the Regiment's success in the Army Athletics Championships. Reports of Regimental triumphs have, in the past, been modestly brief and plainly factual. No apologies are offered on this occasion for a fuller version.

ALDERSHOT VENUE

Aldershot Stadium on July 20, 1977, was the scene of an historic, record-breaking, and unparalled achievement. The pressures and commitments that are part and parcel of unit life in the modern Army are such that it is impossible to imagine that any unit could, in the future, challenge a record of EIGHT successive victories in an Army championship.

USEFUL WARMER

In our last notes we expressed our gratitude to 16 and 28 Regts for their help with exercise manpower, in order that our soldiers could fit in the BAOR Athletics Championship in order to qualify for 'the Army'. The Morrison Cup, only four days before the Army Championships, was a very useful warmer and, in passing, we would mention our NINTH successive Major Units victory in this competition.

LYING THIRD WITH THE CHIPS DOWN

Both 1 Cheshire and 1 Royal Anglian produced magnificent teams for the Army Championships and even though we finally ran out winners by 32 points, **Lt Col Bernard Allen** and **RSM Don Carr** were not the happiest of men around 1600hrs on July 20, 1977, when the Regiment was lying in third position. However, Athletics is very much a team event, requiring depth, character, and between 20 and 30 stalwarts; yet again 21 Sig Regt had that something extra when the chips were down.

21 Sig Regt go down in Army history as the team that did the impossible. It started in 1970 under the guidance of **Col Butler** and **RSM Cantle,** and continued through **Cols Phippard, de Bretton Gordon** and **Allen, RSMs Murray, Matthews, Prees** and **Carr.**

A CORPS ACHIEVEMENT

It is not only a Regimental success story, it is a Corps success story! An athletics team is up to 30 strong, the whippers-in, coaches, trainers and encouragers plus those soldiers who are called upon to give a little extra in order that the athletes might be away to compete, total, over a period of eight years, perhaps 400 to 500 officers and soldiers of the Corps, all of whom can take great pride in being a part of something special.

COLONEL COMMANDANT PRESENTS PRIZES

The future, as ever, is not clear; 21 could be two Minor Units next season, or a Major Unit not destined to progress beyond the Divisional stage. However, on the occasion of 21 Sig Regt's eighth successive triumph, how appropriate that the officer presenting the prizes should be **Maj Gen H. E. Roper, CB,** and that the champion's medallions should include the figure of 'Jimmy' on one side.

The record-breaking team was:

Hierarchy: **Lts Fletcher** and **Young, SSM Baikie.**
Techs: **Sgts Dowie, Dring, Jones; Cpls Tissiman, Vula, Wood; Lcpls Mays, Bycroft, Watts, Anton, Stephenson, Sig Warburn**
Operators: **Cpl Brisco; Lcpls Foster, Cullingworth; Sig Ypey**
CBT Trades: **Cpls Turner, Proctor, Peaper; Lcpl Shaw; Sig Grimes**
Clerks: **Sig Robertson.**

CONTAMINATED FOOD

Life in 2 Sqn continues at its usual hectic pace. The latter part of June saw the Harrier element of the Squadron out on Exercise Hunt Free. The Harrier Force deployed to field sites in the Sennelager area where we found we had to compete for air space with another important event which was due on July 7, 1977! Needless to say we took second priority. Exercise Hunt Free was what the RAF call a Maxeval. This is a sort of magnified FFR inspection where people from all the other RAF Germany stations come along and evaluate your fighting effectiveness. In practice, they get their own back for all the evil things you did to them when it was their turn. The only thing worse is a Taceval, which is similar but on an international scale. 'F' Troop, led by **Capt Peter Thompson** and **Ssgt Gil France,** were the star turn this time. They moved their entire Primary Site in NBC kit and respirators. The worst part was when their RAF-style cooked meal was declared contaminated just as they were about to eat it and they were given 24-hour packs instead.

BOPPARD FOR FITNESS

On a lighter note, some 80 of us went on Summer Camp at Boppard on the Rhine for two weeks in mid-July. The aim quoted in our bid for funds to the RAF Wildenrath PSI was to improve the general standard of physical fitness in the Squadron and to provide recreation away from Wildenrath. The former was provided by a run up and down a nearby mountain at 0645 each morning and extensive orienteering and cross-country map-reading practice. **Ssgt Mick Ambler,** the camp SSM, became famous for his ability to treat blisters and his declarations that pain was purely a personal problem! On the recreation side, trips were organised to the Asbach Brandy distillery by Rhine steamer—**Sgt Dennis Southwick** still claims that a beautiful maiden rose from the waters and stole his hat—and to the Marksburg Castle where the collection of medieval torture instruments aroused particular interest. The highlight of the camp was a visit by some 50 of our wives and children. They braved five hours each way (including stops) in the Regimental bus. There were going to be some photographs; however, **Capt David Richardson,** Squadron 2IC, resident photographer and conjuror had camera out of focus when the carefully posed WIRE pictures were taken. Before leaving the subject, a word of thanks to **Sgt Tony Tai** who worked away at organising it earlier in the year when everybody else's minds were on other things.

More recently, 'J' Troop with the Wessex helicopters at RAF Gutersloh, have been out on a Combat Survival exercise in the Paderborn area. If anybody has seen them or can give a information, please telephone . . .!

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Sig Keith Randle has been selected to compete as part of a combined National/Army motor cycle team in Czechoslovakia later this year.

One of our soldiers, **Lcpl Geoff Copley,** gained a place in the Queen's Hundred at Bisley.

An excellent performance by our team in the Exercise Parashot 77 competition. **Maj Mike Forge, Lts Nigel Moore, Stan Young,** and **Sgt Andy Starling** were placed third after 3 Para and 1 Kings Own Border. We would have won had not **Lt Stan Young's** weapon jammed during the shooting phase. Ah well—that's life!

Finally, in the annual Officers versus Senior Ranks cricket match, the Seniors just beat the Officers again.

A CHALLENGE

BACK in May this year we received a letter from the Secretary, BAOR Canoe Association, stating that a group of Solihull men had issued a challenge to units of BAOR. They wanted to stage a raft race on the River Rhine from Mannheim to Bonn, a distance of about 120 miles, in an attempt to raise £5,000 for the handicapped.

'QE 21'

A team was immediately formed, consisting mainly of members of RHQ Troop, and we set about building 'QE 21' ,the world's first super raft. The problems and set-backs we encountered during construction are too numerous to mention here, suffice it to say that due to the very hard work put in by team members, the help of the QM's Department, the never failing support of the LAD and 'M' Troop, and the always available assistance of 'MT' Troop, the task was completed with 12 hours to spare, although the last bolt was fitted as the raft was being loaded!

Photo courtesy: PR HQ BAOR

Ssgt Tony Higham (APTC) and Lcpl Dennis Gosney posing whilst becalmed

The team

At 0615hrs on Monday, August 22, 1977, the following sailors and support crew assembled at RHQ for the journey to Mannheim:

The Crew of 'QE 21':
WO2 (ORQMS) (It's a goer) Weston
Ssgt (SSI) Tony (Heave) Higham (APTC)
Sgt Mick (I don't believe this) Price
LCpl Chris (TV Star) Sinnett
Cpl Ian (I'm soaked) Slater
Lcpl Denis (Buoy) Gosney
Lcpl Pete (Scurvy) Callary
Lcpl Geoff (I see no ships) Copley
Sig 'Pedlar' (Paddler) Palmer
Sig Geoff (Embezzler) Biss

The Support Crew:
Ssgt John (Where's my tent?) Bell
Sgt Terry (Gerrupyoulot) Kidd
Sig 'Corky' (Givusafag) Cork

Press and TV

On arriving at the appointed camp-site near Mannheim we had the problem of moving 'QE 21' from the 4 tonner into the River Neckar. Assistance was at hand, however, in the form of a REME crane, although the operator was a little apprehensive when he saw 'QE 21'! Half an hour later the raft was in the water and the final pre-race preparations were being made. It was at this time that the Press and TV cameras arrived for the first time.

Photo courtesy PR HQ BAOR

Sig Geoff Biss supports the raft mast

Ssgt (SSI) Tony Higham (APTC), **Lcpl Dennis Gosney** and **Sig Geoff Biss** were photographed and interviewed for their local UK newspapers. The TV cameras were buzzing around filming everything that moved and **Cpl Chris Sinnett** followed them as if drawn by a magnet shouting 'Ello Mum', and 'Mammy, how I luv ya'.

Early casualty

The first stage of the race was from Mannheim to Oppenheim, a distance of 57km, of which the first 8km was on the River Neckar. The starting gun was fired at 0930hrs on Tuesday, August 23, and after 2km it became apparent that 'QE 21' was far too heavy and about as 'manoeuvrable as a block of flats'. 'QE 21' was now last but one and, as the last raft sped past, there was a lively exchange of greetings; 200m further on 'QE 21' passed the same raft as her crew were hauling her out of the water; she had sunk without even reaching the Rhine. There was an extremely spirited exchange of greetings!

Better going on the Rhine

After 8km hard paddling on the River Neckar we joined the Rhine, this made the Neckar look like a stream, and at the appointed place we stopped for lunch, this a good hour after the leaders. We set off again while still eating our sandwiches which were provided by **Sgt Terry Kidd** and **Sig 'Corky' Cork,** our back-up team. 'QE 21' was now moving better in the stronger Rhine current and assisted by the rather large waves created by the even larger Rhine barges. One way or another 'QE 21' docked at a camp-site near Oppenheim at 2100hrs in total darkness. Distance covered, 57km.

A rebuild

On Wednesday, August 24, 1977, stage two from Oppenheim to Geisenheim began at 0800hrs, but not for 'QE 21'; our captain, **WO2 (ORQMS) Mick Weston,** had been informed that something had to be done to the raft to enable us to keep up with the rest, otherwise we would have to pull out of the race. Someone said, 'We have the technology, we can rebuild her', and we did. Five hours after everyone else, minus four oil drums and held together by thin rope, 'QE 21' set off for Geisenheim, 46·5km away.

Hairy

This was a particularly 'hairy' stage for 'QE 21' and all those who sailed in her. The drums moved independently and would knock against the deck in rough water, which was constant due to the never-ending two-way traffic (we were told before the start that the Rhine carries more shipping than the Mississippi/Missouri). Near the end of the stage we had to cross the river at Rhine Marker 518, it was now dark and halfway across 'QE 21' was in collision with a car ferry; each saw the other but were unable to avoid contact. The look on the faces of the ferry's passengers was one of utter disbelief. 'QE 21' was undamaged although the incident made the crew sit up and take notice; the ferry is fortunate not to be at the bottom of the Rhine. Thereafter **Sig Geoff Biss** insisted 'Abandon ship' whenever a Rhine barge came within 200yds. When finally we reached the opposite bank we were at Rhine Marker 520, we had drifted 2km downstream.

Refinement

Thursday, August 25, was a rest day, and a visit to the Asbach Distillery had been arranged but this was not for the crew of 'QE 21'; we had work to do, she had to be strengthened and streamlined. This work was carried out with bits and pieces which were begged, borrowed or found—we now had 'QE 21' Mk 3.

Moving up the field

Friday, August 26, and stage three from Geisenheim to Boppard. 'QE 21' was first away and the advantages of our modification were immediately apparent, she was moving well. Again there were many 'hairy' moments, the worst of which was a collision with a Marker Buoy, these are very large when you get as close as we did.

Lcpl Dennis Gosney was steering at the time and he is now known as **'Buoy' Gosney.** 'QE 21' finished stage three in fifth position at 1500hrs, in broad daylight for the first time.

Mainly rest

Saturday, August 27, was another rest day. 'QE 21' required a little more work in the morning and after lunch we challenged another crew to a game of football, we lost 19—17 (we hit the post/rubbish bin three times). In the evening we had a camp fire and **Sgt Mick Price** and **Cpl Ian Slater** tried their hand at fishing; each had a piece of line tied to the end of a paddle; feathers as floats, bent pins as hooks, and compo luncheon meat as bait—'you should have seen the ones that got away'.

The long stage

Sunday, August 28. Stage four and the longest stage, 65km, but with a Schutzenfest at the end in Rolandswerth. Again we had our 'hairy' moments but nothing serious and no collisions, we were becoming 'seamen'. Once again we arrived in daylight and were met by **Lcpl 'Jod' O'Donnell** who stood us all a round, which was sorely needed. That night we were heartily welcomed by the local people in the beer tent.

Bonn and a dismantle

Monday, August 29, and the final stage, 11km to Bonn. Following the previous four stages this was a mere sprint. We started at 1100hrs and, after nearly sinking a quite enormous barge in our haste, we finished at 1300hrs to be met by the 2IC **Maj S. W. Read,** and his family. After the 'captain of our ship had been thrown into the Rhine, 'QE 21' was dismantled without ceremony for she was a 'great heavy . . .' and could not be used again.

Sponsored by Philips

The crew of 'QE 21' deserve every praise. After the first day no-one believed she would finish the course and, indeed, the odds were against it, but not one of the team wanted to give up. She was the only raft to be taken apart and rebuilt, and this in five hours, is no mean achievement. The Rhine is a tough course for a home-made raft and a crew unused to water travel, but we all enjoyed the experience and watch for 'QE 21 II' next year.

'QE 21' was sponsored by **Philips International** for DM100 for each stage completed. 'QE 21' completed all five stages. Each team member wore a Philips T-shirt and hat and the name was carried all over the raft. It is hoped that Philips will increase their pledge once they know the extent of the publicity their name has received in both the Press and on television.

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

NOTES FROM 3 SQUADRON—COMMCEN UNIFORM

THE last six months have seen several changes in the Squadron management, a new 2IC, SQMS, F of S, Y of S. We welcome **Capt Tony Gibb, Ssgt Bernie Thomas, Ssgt (F of S) George Clark** and **Ssgt (Y of S) Norman Gelling** to the Squadron. We have said farewell to **Capt John Thewlis, Ssgt John Kenny, WO2 (F of S) Steve Farrow** and **WO2 Chas Birchall,** and would like to extend our thanks to them for all the sterling work they have done for us in the past—we will remember them if others don't!

Commcen Uniform Management

Left to right. Back: Sgt Hazzard, WO2 (F of S) Farrow, Sgt Swinfield, Sgt Watson, Cpl Holdstick (ACC), Ssgt (F of S) Clark

Front: WO2 (SSM) Crannage, Ssgt (Y of S) Gelling, Maj McCann, Capt Gibb

MOSEL SUMMER CAMP

This year the Squadron held its Summer Camp at Treis Karden in the Mosel. The site being on an island in the river. The programme for the camp was a series of individual competitive military skills events with points being awarded for performances in BE Tests, shooting, swimming, etc. As is traditional in the affairs the day began with a gentle jog round the neighbourhood to sharpen the appetite for breakfast. Then everyone was given a choice of delights including watermanship training in two assault boats under the watchful eyes of **Cpl Quinlivan** and **Spr 'Ginge' Goodall** of 37 Fd Sqn RE. This also included an attempt at water-ski-ing by **Capt Tony Gibb** on a pair of wooden clogs—the waters of the River Mosel do not taste very nice when you're 6ft under and being towed along at 20 knots.

The shooting took place on a local German Air Force range which was also shared by the USAF. This gave **WO2 (SSM) Jim Crannage** and **Ssgt (SQMS) John Kenny** the opportunity to fire the ·45 Magnum revolver, and **2 Lt Steven Leach, Ssgt (Y of S) Norman Gelling** and **Sgt 'Trapper' Haigh** were able to classify on the AR16 rifle. **WO2 (Y of S) Chas Birchall** and **Cpl Geoff Ellis** organised the swimming programme in the local pool; the scenery was so beautifully sunburnt that they didn't both to return for lunch on most days and the swimming was certainly not the ordeal that everyone expected it to be. The BE Tests were organised by **'The Juggler'** alias **Lt 'Neil Diamond' Peter Smith.**

Sig Eddie McDonald and Sig Ross Shield working on the generators

Maj Mike McCann greeting CCR Signals, Brig G. W. Gittins

FAREWELL VISIT OF CCR SIGNALS

At the beginning of September the Squadron deployed to Ebberg in support of 2 ATAF on Exercises Hack Fist and Cold Fire. We were visited by CCR Signals, **Brig G. W. Gittins,** who was welcomed by **Maj Mike McCann.** Having been given a bottle of Stormede Schweinblut to remind him of his time in Lippstadt, he inspected the Commcen before going on to Lippstadt for his farewell visit to the Regiment.

3 Sqn Shooting Team
Left to right. Back: Sig Philemon, Milne, Law, Evans
Front: Maj McCann, Sig James, Cpl Ellis, Cpl Barton

3 SQUADRON SHOOTING SUCCESS

The inter-Squadron competition at the Regimental Shoot this year was won by 3 Sqn, led by the OC, **Maj Mike McCann.** Our photograph shows the team with their trophies. **Cpl Geoff Ellis** and **Cpl Bob Barton** won the LMG pairs match.

LMG Pair
Cpl Geoff Ellis and Cpl Bob Barton

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NEW RECRUIT

ON Tuesday, August 16, **Michael Hope** was attested into the Army by our CO, **Lt Col Terry Eamey. Michael,** the son of **Capt 'Bob' Hope,** who is serving with the Regiment, also has a brother in the Corps who is serving with 216 Sig Sqn. **Michael** reported for duty at the AAC Harrogate on September 13, where he will train as a Radio Telegraphist. We wish him well and trust that he will enjoy himself in the Army and the Corps.

MARCHING SEASON

The marching season started for the Regiment on June 21 with a short 20km training session. This was followed by a team of seven appearing at the German Rheindahlen 20km march on June 26. More training followed before a five-man team travelled to Heers in Belgium for an overnight 75km march. This proved interesting as at the 37km point two of the team, **Sgt 'Jock' Mathieson** and **Pte Tom Reilly** shared the lead with two young men of 60 and 47 years old! It was only at the 67km point that the 'youngsters' gave way to the military men and at the finish **Sgt 'Jock' Mathieson** was first and **Pte Tom Reilly** second. Other team placings were 39th, 87th and 134th. The last march before Nijmegen was the Rheindahlen Allied March of 40km. A team of 13 entered and enjoyed a pleasant day in company with most of the population of Rheindahlen.

NIJMEGEN MARCH

Besides the team, the Regiment also supplied the Admin Officer of the British Element: **Maj Dennis Bees** and his able assistants, **Cpl John Hartley** and **Cpl George Davis.** For many years now **Maj Bees** has provided all the answers to all the problems of all the British Service personnel entering these famous international marches.

The team who did all the marching was **Sgt 'Jock' Mathieson, Cpls Tony Amplett, Peter Dignam, Patrick Murphy, Sig Bertie Burns, Lcpl 'Snoopy' Barron, Sigs 'Arms' Massingham, Stan Stanton, 'Flower' Rose, Pte Tom Reilly, Sigs Steve Coulson, 'Hazzer' Hayes** and Cycle Orderly **Lcpl Steve Wilson.**

Capt G. W. E. Hope with son, Michael, after his attestation

ALL WORTHWHILE

A 0330hrs reveille and a 0520hrs start saw the team off on the first day. However, the bicycle was more trouble than it was worth (mechanical failure) so **'Arms' Massingham** ended up pushing it 9km. The wretched thing was repaired overnight! Apart from several with sore feet wanting to ride it, it survived the ordeal. Wednesday and Thursday came and went, hard work and sore feet for some. On Friday, the last day, they were up at 0330hrs and started at 0400hrs, singing all the way to the first check-point 15km away. A short ferry ride over the River Maas then away to the last check-point and chaninging into barrack dress. The final march into the town was very uplifting and the thousands of girls along the route all seemed to make it worth while.

In all, the team has marched in training and organised marches, 535km! They even want to do it again next year but little **Peter Digham** has said he will shorten his step for the back marchers.

However, **'Hazzer' Hayes** and **Tony Amplett,** the sweepers of the team, intend to move up front so the pace can be long and slow. The best of luck!

INTER-SQUADRON FREE-FALL COMPETITION

Believe it or not, this Regiment now has enough free-fallers to hold an inter-Squadron free-fall competition. With the help of the Parachute Training Centre at Sennelager, **Lt Peter Day** organised the event. The event nearly did not take place because of the unpredictable weather, but our enthusiasts managed to jump during the gaps between storms. The event was won by 1 Sqn with an average distance from the target of 23m. The individual winner was **Cpl Hurley** with **Sig Benson** second, and **Sig Jordan** third.

EXERCISE PARASHOT—A CREDITABLE RESULT

Exercise Parashot, for those who don't know, is a 24-hour patrol competition exercise, which takes place at Sennelager. It involves a free-fall parachute descent into a target area followed by rigorous patrol tests. The Regiment entered two teams: 'A' team, consisting of **Lt Peter (Ever Ready) Day** and **Sigs 'Buzz' Jordan, Bernie Hurst, 'Trill' Potterton** and **Nick Norwood** with their driver, **Sig Phil Christie.**

'B' team, consisting of **2 Lt Don Steele, Lcpl Olly Oliver, Sigs 'Hazzer' Hayes, 'Jenks' Jenkins** and **Paul Finnigan** with their driver, **Sig Arnie McCullough.**

The exercise is a gruelling one with a number of tests involving patrols, helicopter ops, ambushes, first aid, demolitions and vehicle maintenance, not to mention forced marches, water crossings and artillery bombardments.

This was the first time the Regiment has entered this competition and the results did us credit. Our 'A' team came 8th and the 'B' team came 11th out of the 16 which were entered. Next year we expect to do better.

CRICKET CLIFF HANGERS

Hard on the heels of our 1-run victory over HQ BAOR in the Rhine Area semi-final, we played a very exciting game with 14 Sqn RE in the final. The outcome was in doubt until the last ball but we eventually got home by 3 runs! In this game we also produced the man of the match in **Sgt Trevor Alderton.** On August 26, we travelled to Iserlohn to play 50 Missile Regt RA in the BAOR semi-final and produced another masterpiece of brinkmanship! With two overs to go, the opposition required 19 runs to win and decided to have a go for them. A lusty six and a well-hit four rapidly reduced the odds and at close of play the scores were level. However, 50 Missile Regt went through, having lost one wicket less. We wish them every success in the final and take this opportunity of thanking them for a splendid game.

Now it's only the end-of-season barbecue to come as the rugby and soccer crowd have taken over the sports field, but we will be back next year, not bigger but definitely better.

THE CORPS LOOKS AFTER ITS OWN

On three nights spread over a week, the occupants of Hochbendweg (British quarters near the camp) were startled to find that whilst they slept their houses had been broken into and money stolen. The SIB and German police were sympathetic but overstretched so the householders took the matter into their own hands (with official blessing, of course). Four OPs were stationed around the quarter area from 2330hrs to 0430hrs nightly. This involved eight men, a loss of sleep and nothing seen the first night.

The next night another eight men were duly posted by SSM **Jimmy Jack,** and the long wait started. At 0300hrs a car was seen to drive into the area and switch off the engine and lights. Nothing happened, but three minutes later it drove out to the main road and again stopped and switched everything off. This time a man got out and was seen tampering with **Sgt Maurice Nelson's** doors and windows but these were well and truly locked. Next he climbed the fence to **Lcpl Michael Gore's** house, the OP pounced and **Cpl Jim Parry** and **Sgt Brian Pollard** had him well and truly held down. A quick call on the mini radio had the rest of the vigilantes descend and he was handed over to the German police who were delighted. Apparently he was well known by the police for burglaries and the car he was driving had been stolen that evening.

Another job well done by the corps!

Lt Peter Day with the Regimental Flag attached to his boot

Lcpl Andy Lindell, Sig 'Buzz' Jordan, Sig Benson, Sig Bernie Hurst (*kneeling*)

AU REVOIR

Three out of the four of the Regiment's detached officers have recently left us on posting. **Capt Charles Elsey** (REME), our OC LAD, was taken out of the camp in an armchair suspended from the crane of the recovery vehicle. **Capt Bob Amy** (ACC), our specialist catering adviser, has left on retirement, and **Capt Walter Melville** (RAPC) left to become Adjutant at Ashton-under-Lyne.

WO2 (RQMS) Ken Kennington and **Mrs Barbara Kennington** who also worked for the Regiment in the Orderly Room, have joined the civilians, and **WO2 (ORQMS) Cliff Webb** is now at HQ UKLF. Many thanks and good luck to all of them for the future.

WELCOME

We welcome **Capt Danny McAllister** (REME), **Capt Jim Borthwick** (RAPC), **WO2 (ORQMS) Roy Benwell,** and **WO2 (SSM) George Gay.**

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

BERLIN

229 Sig Sqn, B.F.P.O. 45

Photo courtesy: PR Berlin

229 SIGNAL SQUADRON—ARMY SWIMMING CHAMPIONS
Left to right. Back row: Sgt Wallace, Cpl Evans, Cpl Vince, Maj M. J. Cartwright, OC, Sgt Lockie, Sig Steel, Sig Nutt
Front row: Sig Wright, Cpl Brady, Sig Backhouse, Sig Newton, Cpl Glover, Sgt Brockman (*missing:* Lcpl Morgan)

OC	—	**Maj M. J. Cartwright**
2IC	—	**Capt R. C. A. Thwaites**
OC Radio Tp	—	**Capt (Tfc) D. V. Boddington**
OC MQ and L Tp		**Capt (TOT) E. Holland**
OC Commcen Tp	—	**WO2 (Y of S) E. Jones**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) R. While**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Tunney**
F of S	—	**Ssgt (F of S) J. Wells**
Chief Clerk	—	**Sgt I. Murray**

SWIMMING CHAMPIONS FOR SECOND YEAR

229 SIG SQN, last year's Army Minor Units' Champions, retained the cup for the second year running when the team swept the board at the Army Swimming Championships held at Camberley on July 27. In a splendid team effort they won every event to gain maximum points defeating the BAOR Runners-up—5 Fd Wksp REME—by a resounding 12 points.

Sig Steel established a new record in the 66⅔yd Breaststroke and the team broke the 4×66⅔yd Freestyle Relay. Three members of the team, **Sigs Steel, Nutt** and **Newton** have been selected to represent the Army in the Combined Services Championships to be held this week.

LOOKING BACK

During May the Squadron took part in the Allied Forces Day Parade, producing a detachment of three Landrovers and a number of Crewmen, together with the flag-raising party.

On June 7, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** Chief Signal Officer

Photo courtesy: PR Berlin

The CSO discussing life in the Squadron HQ with Cpl Wood

BAOR, visited Berlin. This was the CSO's first visit to the Squadron since assuming his appointment. An informal but interesting afternoon's tour of the Squadron by the **CSO** gave him the opportunity to talk at length to a large cross-section of personnel. During his visit the CSO presented the LS and GC Medal to **Sgt O. McGinness** and a certificate for 13 years of service to **Herrn Fritzsche,** our resident FATSO storeman.

Also during June, the Squadron was involved in the Queen's Birthday Parade, both on the parade and with the Linemen providing their 'behind the scenes' assistance in their usual manner.

On the sporting scene, besides the swimming team's retention of the Army Minor Units' Championships, the Athletics team competed in the Field Force and the Annual Corps Morrison Cup meetings. Although not producing overall winning positions, a creditable performance at both meetings was given.

The Squadron's annual boat trip on the Havel was held on June 24. For those who attended, an enjoyable evening was had and our thanks to **Ssgt (now WO2) Gay** for his work in organising the event once again.

A number of members of the Squadron have been spending a couple of weeks at the Field Force Summer Camp at Steibis. After seeing **Sig Wright** on his return, it is obvious where the summer weather is.

NIJMEGEN

Back in May of this year, **WO2 Y of S Jones** decided it would be a good idea if 229 Sig Sqn entered a team for the annual international Nijmegen four-day march in Holland, and accordingly asked for volunteers. Before you could say 'Blisters', 14 members of the Squadron had stepped forward plus one bicycle orderly. Towards the end the end of May, we started training and by the first week in July we had covered 350km over various roads and tracks around the British and American Sectors of Berlin.

Unfortunately, on the final phase of the training **Cpl B. Kiely** suffered from badly blistered feet and as a result was unable to take part in the marches. However, he volunteered to go along as Tent Orderly.

The Nijmegen Marching Team in action

IN A NUTSHELL

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the event, it is a series of marches over a four-day period across varying terrain for a distance of 160km carrying a minimum of 22lb and wearing military equipment. Teams must consist of at least 11 marchers including the team leader. On completion of the march individual medals are awarded and a team medal is awarded to all teams who finish with no more than a 10 per cent drop out. We had 12 marchers so we were only allowed one 'casualty' and, unfortunately, one marcher did drop out after the first day's march.

UNDER WAY

On Sunday, July 17, we left Berlin for our 700km journey to Holland. Monday saw us enjoying the sights of Nijmegen and preparing for the start of the marches scheduled for early Tuesday morning. At 0630hrs we were off on what was to be, for many of us, a painful 160km with aching bones, blisters and pulled tendons. Seven hours later we were back at our tents, 40km behind us and 120 still to do. Medical orderlies were in great demand—blisters being the main cause of suffering.

THE TOLL

The second and third day came and went with the aches and pains. With one day left we had 42 blisters, two swollen knees, two pulled tendons, and a bruised foot between us.

We had a crack-of-dawn start on the final day and at 0400hrs we were on the road for the final 40km with a team medal just around the corner. With 10km to go and cries from **Sig Spencer**—'You promised us a stop in five minutes'—the end was in sight. At 1200hrs we were the 15th British team to finish and enter the form-up area for the final march past through Nijmegen. It was all over bar the shouting, the team award was in the bag and Nijmegen 1977 was almost a thing of the past.

FINE UNREHEARSED PARADE

With thousands of people lining the route, the final march past must surely be one of the finest unrehearsed parades in the world. The atmosphere is indescribable and can only be appreciated by those taking part. The question now is whether we would do it again and I think for many of us, if not all, the answer is yes.

Finally, we say congratulations to **Sgt Wallace** on being presented with the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, to **Sgt Smith** on his recent promotion and a warm welcome to the Squadron for the new 2IC, **Capt R. C. A. Thwaites.**

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

THE TWIST

THIS month its 'TM' Troop's turn to do the spadework and after not a little persuasion from the unit editor, their scribe, **Ssgt (F of S) John Shepherd** (note that the TOT, **Capt Peter Steeples,** slid out of the job—said he was too busy packing), came up with the following contribution. 'WIRE notes from that handsome? Bronzed?? Keen??? young???? FOS'... Well, it's all a matter of opinion really.

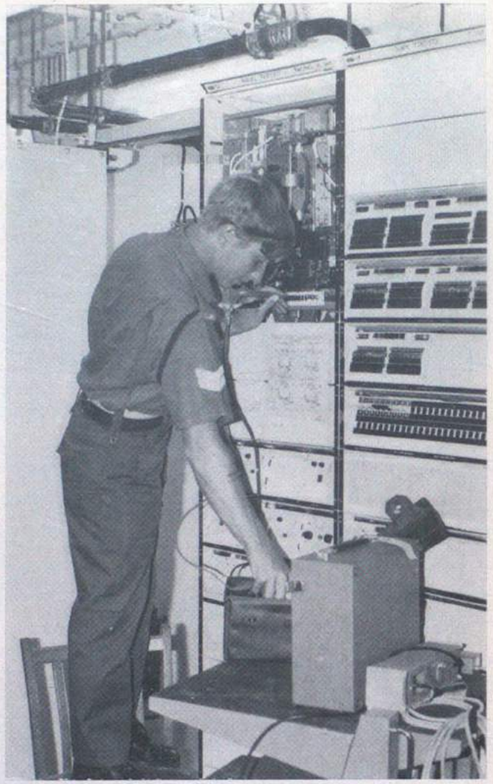
WEEPING DUCKS

Down to business: as it is 'TM' Troop's 'spot' this month, it was decided to feature some of the lads of the Radio Relay section, a motley crew if ever there was one! Not a pretty sight, but all the photographer could do with the raw material available. Our picture shows them in their 'Weeping Duck' T-shirts purchased, it is rumoured, from the sale of the Radio Relay equipment they've recently finished installing and are now beginning to remove! Unfortunately, there wasn't one large enough to fit **Mr Frans Falzon's** middle so to keep him company **Mr Joe Mifsud** declined to wear his. As for **Sgt Ron Foote's** hat, well, as a well-known Glaswegian once said, ' 'ats magic that is'.

To add a more serious note to the proceedings and to convince at least ourselves that we do do some work, we include two photographs taken at Radio Relay System Control at Siggiewi (Sijjewee, to the uninitiated). **Cpl Jerry Talbot** looks as if he knows roughly what he's doing but judging by the expressions of **Cpl Steve Jones** and **Lcpls Steve Groom** and **'Knocker' Hardy, Sgt Paul Brabbins** could be having a little difficulty making his point.

The Malta Radio Relay Section of TM Troop, 234 Sig Sqn and Army Elements Malta
Left to right. Rear row: Ssgt (F of S) John Shepherd, Sgt Don Murray, Cpl Tim Fry, Sgt Ian Underhill, Lcpls Steve Groom, 'Knocker' Hardy, Cpl Steve Jones
Front row: Mr Frans Falzon, Sgt Paul Brabbins, Cpls Paul Vella, 'Wisty' Pace, Joey Galea, Sgt Ron Foote, Cpl Gerry Talbot, Mr Joseph Mifsud

Sgt Brabbins instructs three new members of the Troop on Multiplex testing
Left to right: Sgt Paul Brabbins, Lcpls Steve Groom, 'Knocker' Hardy, Cpl Steve Jones



Cpl Gerry Talbot checks monitor strip reading

CHANGE OF COMMAND
This month, that well-known TOT (Tennis, only Tennis), **Capt Peter (Golden Ball) Steeples** (MSO) (Mediterranean Stations Only), departed for *another* tour in Gibraltar. Thanks for all you hard work, **Peter,** and best wishes to you, **Edna** and the girls in your new(?) posting. *NB.* Perhaps **Peter's** ape-like reach on the tennis court has something to do with his preference for Gibraltar! Also leaving this month is **Sgt Pat Hooker** and his family to whom we extend especially warm good wishes and the hope that all goes well in Woolwich. We welcome **Capt (TOT) Ian Morris** and family, and hope you will enjoy your stay in sunny Malta.

CRICKET
The Squadron was challenged to a cricket match by Specialist Team Royal Engineers and responded by thrashing them. It seems the QM, **Maj Danny Kay,** has as much luck at cricket as he does at tennis.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL
The two 'Charlies', **Sgt Charlie Peach** and **Cpl Charlie Mifsud,** our PTI, have organised a thriving five-a-side football league which is at present confined to Squadron departments. However, it is hoped to extend this island-wide during the winter. Competition is lively to say the least, Line Troop are current league leaders and **Sgt Charlie Peach** is hotly denying it has anything to do with him being Troop Sergeant.

Left to right: Sig 'Smudge' Smith, Sig 'Scouse' Williams, Vice-Admiral A. S. Morton, Naval Nurse Liz Hamer

Left to right: Maj Eddie Pickup, Cpl John Morris, Miss P. Gould, RRC, QHNS, Mr Emmanuel Briffa

A NAVAL FLAVOUR
This month the Squadron had two distinguished visitors in the persons of the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, **Miss P. Gould, RRC, QHNS,** an **Vice-Admiral A. J. Morton,** Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff. The Matron-in-Chief came to see if the Naval Nurses were being properly looked after in the Squadron galley, and is seen being suitably convinced by **Cpl John Morris** and **Mr Manny Briffa.**

Vice-Admiral Morton was in Malta for a CBFM burifing on the rundown plan and found time to visit the Squadron, where he presented **Lcpl Johnny Galea** with his LS and GC Medal. We've never seen **Sig 'Scouse' Williams** take so much interest in a cup of tea!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE HERE BY 12th OF THE MONTH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Left to right: Lcpl John Galea, WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies, Vice-Admiral A. S. Morton, VCDS

SPONSORED SWIM
Cpl 'Titch' Peck and **Sig Colin Keil** are to be congratulated on completing a sponsored swim from Malta to Gozo in aid of the Orphans' Holiday of a Lifetime Fund. Despite slight organisational problems and 'on-off-on' scares, **'Titch'** and **Colin** took to the water at Marfa Point heading for Mgarr harbour, Gozo. Safety boats were kindly provided by Raiding Squadron RM Commando who were in Malta training, and without who's assistance the swim could not have taken place. The main problem facing the swimmers were, in **Colin's** words, 'disoriantation and stray curr*ants*'. (I think they were jellyfish, **Colin.**) Nevertheless, both completed the distance of five miles in under three hours and so far we have raised about £M70. This is quite a bit short of the hoped-for-target, so if any reader feels he or she would like to help out, please send your contribution, no matter how small, to Holiday of a Lifetime Fund, c/o 234 Sig Sqn (Malta), BFPO 51. **'Titch'** and **Colin** would like to thank all those who assisted them to make the swim possible and promise to acknowledge personally any contributions received as a result of this article.

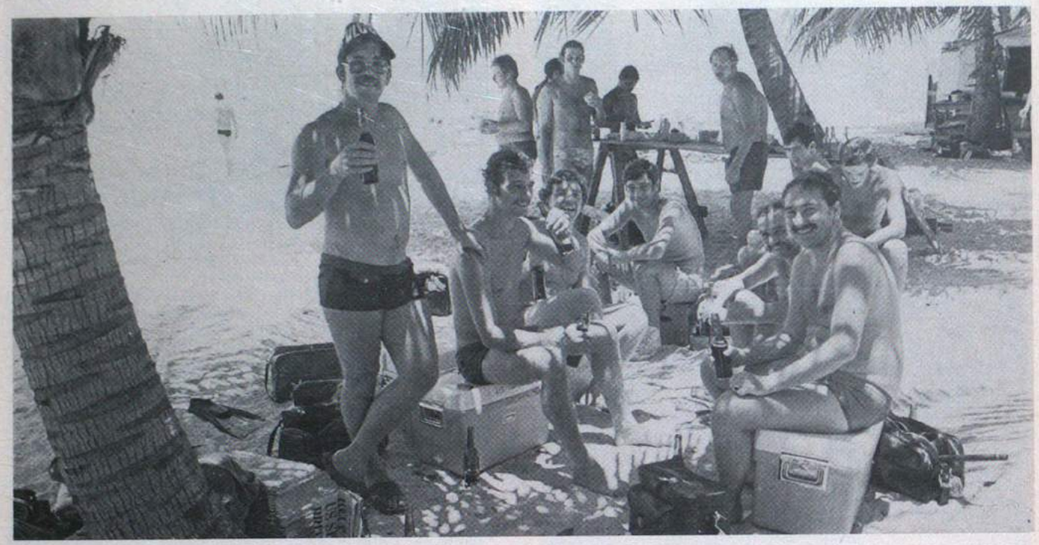
SUMMER BALL
The annual Warrant Officers and Sergeants Summer Ball took place on Saturday, August 6, in the courtyard of the old school at Mtarfa. Under a clear Mediterranean sky and hosts of coloured lights, 180 members and guests danced to the music of the Count Four Group until the early hours of the morning. The first-class cold buffet was prepared by **Sgt Danny Holmes** (ACC) and his merry men, for which many thanks. Thanks is also due to the organisers, **WO2 Ray Chalkly** (RE) and **WO2 Malcolm Tranter** (Royal Signals), supported by a small army of helpers, the STRE element of which built a bar of Maltese stone for the occasion. Guests included the Senior Army Officer Malta, **Col P. W. Seabrook, OBE,** OC STRE, **Lt Col C. Peacey,** and the Squadron OC, **Maj Eddie Pickup,** all accompanied by their wives.

WIVES CLUB
The Wives Club bid farewell to three members with a sherry morning at the house of **Mrs Valerie Pickup. Mrs Hazel le Quesne** was presented with a silver salver for all her hard work as treasurer and support of the Club both on and off the committee. **Mrs Sally Hooker** received a glass boot and **Mrs Edna Steeples** a silver spoon. All three will be sadly missed, and we wish them the best of luck in their new postings.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

News from Troops

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12



COMMUNICATORS OF BELIZE

JUST to prove that it's not all work in Belize, here are the men of 633 Sig Troop acting as hosts to reinforcements from:
244 AS Signal Sqn,
Tactical Communications Wing, RAF,
30 Sig Regt.

A barbecue under the blazing tropical sun on English Caye just 12 miles off the coast of Belize. Entertainment in the shape of scuba-diving, spear-fishing, shark and barracuda fishing, grilled steaks and the local 'Charger Beer' all laid on by the Caribbean's only Signal Troop.

The Volunteers

35 Sig Regt (V), Birmingham

FROM THE ARCHIVES

WHILST carrying out our annual spring clean (late as usual), the following notes were 'discovered' in the pigeon-hole archives. It is disturbing to note that little has changed since these ancient notes were penned by some unfortunate quill pusher:

YE OLDE SITREP LAMENTE

Yea, once upon a time, there was a kingdom known as Orderly-room which despite its name, was far from orderly. The populace of Orderlyroom were called ye Clerks, and yea verily they didst toil laboriously from dawn until dusk, only stopping for the occasional workebrayke. They didst live a most miserable life in conditions of ye total squalor and subjugation, forced upon them by their tyrannical leader the Adjt.

Ye Adjt maintained his despotic rule by using ye secret weapon of 'sarcasm', which he never hesitated to use with ye most devastating results. Occasionally, one of ye Clerks would attempt to unseat ye mighty Adjt by uttering claims of 'wastage' or 'no dictation over sick notes', but ye dreaded sarcastic remark would flash back silencing ye unfortunate wretch and striking dread fear into ye hearts of ye populace.

In case ye sarcastic remark failed to silence dissenters amongst ye Clerks, the Adjt employed a personal bodyguard known as ye PSIs, who were looked upon as a pretty uninspiring group by ye Clerks. When called upon, ye PSIs would hurl abuses at ye Clerks, using terms such as '**** ye unions' and 'flaming civies', but but this merely raised a chorus of jeers and laughter from ye Clerks, forcing ye PSIs to retire red-faced.

When ye PSIs were defeated, ye Adjt called in ye strategic reserve known as ye TAVR, and yea verily they were a most motley bunch of individuals. These minions were recruited from kingdoms outside Orderlyroom, and were vastly inferior when compared to ye inexorable Clerks. Ye TAVR were, however, experts in ye art of sabotage and caused great consternation amongst ye Clerks by wrecking any work done by them and left out in ye open. In fact ye TAVR were so accomplished in ye arts of sabotage that they required only one evening a week to ruin an entire week's work. Sometimes, when ye Adjt felt in a particularly villainous mood, he would call in the TAVR for an entire weekend thus destroying months of hard work by ye Clerks, who would then petition ye Adjt to banish ye TAVR from ye Orderlyroom.

The only way that ye Clerks could retaliate against ye TAVR, was to delay their documentation, which they achieved by introducing 'deliberate' spelling mistakes into letters and circulars. This they achieved with such little effort that the enemies of the Clerks insinuated that they had a natural ability in this field. (Az ann x Clark i kan garanty thatt thiz iz knot tru.)

Blockade

As the battle between ye Clerks and ye Adjt continued, more and more desperate measures were introduced (eg, ye halfe pinte and ye quarter pinte). But this only succeeded in forcing the Clerks to introduce ye dreaded tea blockade against certain members of ye infamous PSIs. This was carried out under the pretence of nonpayment of tea money, or, as in the case of ye Much Tea-drinking Officer, for failing to collect his tea from Orderlyroom.

Following this outrage, ye Adjt decided to make ye PSIs a more effective force by proclaiming ye weekly cross-country run to improve their fitness, but it was plain for all to see that ye PSIs were already fit, for the speed with which they did run away from ye proclamation was truly amazing. Nor did ye PSIs need instruction in ye art of camouflage, for when ye time for ye weekly run arrived, not one could be found.

——TO BE CONTINUED DURING YE NEXT WORKE BRAYKE!

PERSONALITIES

The present Orderly Room Staff are:
Adjutant — **Capt John Reed.**
Chief Clerk — **Ssgt Bill Flint.**
Clerical Officer — **David Jay** (Ex-Cpl—TAVR).
Clerical Assistant — **Sandra Harper** (Sgt—TAVR).
Typist — **Judith Slattery** (Lcpl—TAVR).
Storeman (Temporary) — **Michael Howell** (also author of 'Assorted Bedtime Stories for Clerks' and 'Quill Sharpening in 93 Easy Stages').

The more serious side of unit life will be included in a later issue!

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

COMINGS AND GOINGS

WE welcome into the Regiment **Ssgt Martin Close** as Chief Clerk, **Maj John Radford** as Training Major, **Sgt Pete Marven** as PSI Eastbourne, **Sgt Michael Wickens** as PSI Norwich, **Lcpl Trevor Howard** as CO's Driver, and **Ssgt Brian Foulger** as Yeoman of Signals. We wish good luck to **Maj Mike Alden** after two years as Training Major, **Sgt Harry Wishart** from Colchester, **Sgt Bob Birrell** from Eastbourne, **Sgt Tom Muir** from Norwich, and **Ssgt Rod Lingard** the outgoing Yeoman of Signals. We extend our congratulations to **Bob Birrell** and **Tom Muir** who leave on promotion to Staff-sergeant.

10th ANNIVERSARY

The Officers of the Regiment held a dinner at Wanstead TAVR Centre on Friday, April 15, 1977, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. Former COs and Squadron Commanders were invited. Among those who attended were the Honorary Colonel, **Brig P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen,** his predecessor, **Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt, Maj Gens H. A. J. Sturge** and **A. J. Jackson,** former Group Commanders, and the present Group Commander, **Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC.**

SILVER JUBILEE EVENTS

The Volunteers of Ilford TAVR Centre provided a quarter guard, commanded by **Sgt Peter Phillips,** at the entrance to St Andrew's Church for a service of Thanksgiving on May 8, 1977, organised by the Redbridge Branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO). Among the VIPs that attended were the Mayor and Mayoress of Redbridge, the Bishop of Barking, and the President of NALGO.

The Regiment provided Volunteers for two detachments of the TAVR Reserve Forces reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen at Wembley Stadium on June 30, 1977. **Capt David Milne** and eight Volunteers formed part of the Eastern District Detachment, and **Pte Linda Cooper** paraded with the London District Detachment. The LAD provided emergency breakdown facilities for the enormous number of coaches and other vehicles that brought Reservists, Bandsmen and military spectators to Wembley. A large number from the Regiment went to Wembley to watch the Review.

EN ROUTE TO CORNWALL

Annual Camp was held between June 4 and 18, 1977. The eventual destination was Penhale Camp in Cornwall preceded by a seven-day exercise. A small advance party, led by **Maj Bill Gahan** the Regular Quartermaster, took over Penhale Camp, whilst the Regiment left their nine TAVR Centres in Norwich, Cambridge, Bedford, Colchester, Brentwood, Ilford, Wanstead, Newbury Park and Gillingham, and proceeded on Exercise Triple Jump. The exercise was designed to practise the whole range of communications and military skills over a wide ranging area of Southern England. The first phase took place in the Aldershot and Longmoor Training Area. On Sunday afternoon a driving competition took place at Longmoor. Thirty of the best drivers in the Regiment took part in a keenly contested event, the eventual winner being **Cpl Bill Howes** of Norwich.

TYPICAL SALISBURY PLAIN WEATHER

The second move, taking place during the hours of darkness on Monday night, was to the Salisbury Plain Training Area. It was during this phase that a controlled crossing of the River Avon took place and tactical night driving in convoy over rough country was also practised. A great deal of experience was gained during this move particularly by the bridge party under the command of **Capt David Milne** of Colchester, and the harbour party under **Capt Roger Mallard,** with some assistance by the LAD under **Capt John Gale.** It was a valuable exercise carried out on a

The Group Commander, Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC, taking his Cook's B3 trade test (tin opener practical) under the watchful eye of the examiner, Pte Liz Marshall (WRAC), of Cambridge

very dark night in typical Salisbury Plain weather, i.e., heavy cloud, wind and rain! Some said it added to the realism of the exercise—some said other things!

On Tuesday afternoon, the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col John Swindells,** declared a temporary cease fire so that the Queen's Silver Jubilee could be celebrated. Everybody had been busy enough to almost forget that the majority of their fellow citizens had been on an extended Spring Bank Holiday. The Regiment celebrated in fine style but special mention must be made of the volunteers from Bedford. They prepared, served and sat down to what can only be described as a banquet in a wood high up on Salisbury Plain. They consumed prawn cocktails and enormous steaks with all the trimmings washed down with copious draughts of red and white wine. Speeches were mae by OC 54 Sqn, **Maj Derek Latchford,** and the senior Troop staff-sergeant at Bedford, **Ssgt Terry McGreish.** Among those present were the Commanding Officer, the Second in Command, **Maj Brian Motteram** and the Training Majors, **Mike Alden** and **John Radford,** whose handover took place during the exercise.

WET AND COLD FOR FINAL MOVE

The weather up to this point had been cold but mainly dry. In the afternoon it started to rain heavily as the Regiment started to prepare for the final move. This was the longest move of the exercise and it was carried out by night and in very bad weather. By dawn the Regiment had moved into locations on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. The day proved to be the wettest and coldest so far experienced. **Mr David Barham,** Vice-Chairman of the South-East TAVR Association, and **Lt Col Nigel Ryle** visited the Regiment. They were met in Bodmin by the Adjutant, **Capt John Byrne,** and taken to 44 Sqn location at a disused airfield on Davidstow Moor. They spent several hours talking to the men and women of the Squadron and watching them carrying out their exercise tasks. They seemed to be impressed by the

Officers of the Regimental Command Post in a cheerful mood during Exercise Triple Jump. (*Left to right*): Maj David Thorpe, Ops Offr, Lt Col Ken Christian, TOT, and Maj Brian Motteram, 2IC

The top three in the Regimental Driving Competition held in the Longmoor Training Area during Annual Camp. (*Left to right*): Lcpl Denis Wenman (3rd), Cpl Bill Howes (winner), and Lcpl Brian Robinson (runner-up), all of 54 Sqn

high morale of the Squadron after seven days in the field and in the face of the bad weather conditions. The visitors then moved on to visit the RCP and 748 Troop on Bodmin Moor. There they were given lunch and in the afternoon returned to Bodmin to catch the London train.

On Friday evening with the weather still continuing wet and cold the Regiment moved into base camp at Penhale. The exercise had been the longest carried out at a UK camp. In spite of the mainly adverse weather conditions the aims of the exercise were achieved and a great deal of experience was gained.

GOOD PAY OFF

During the second week at Penhale Camp, priority was given to Trade Testing and Military Training. The hard work put into centralised trade training during the year paid off when over 100 Volunteers passed trade tests. Officers and SNCOs were given 'refresher' drill periods by the RSM under the watchful eye of the 2IC. NBC training was given an important place in the training programme and, led by the CO all the officers went through the gas chamber on the last day of camp. A WRAC recruits course took place with **Capt Ann Stables** as Course Officer and **Sgt Harry Wishart** as cadre NCO.

TAMED BAGPIPES

No TAVR camp is all work and no play. The usual Mess functions, Squadron parties and Troop socials all took place. Our departing Training Major, **Mike Alden,** survived both Sergeants and Officers Messes dining out, as did **Maj Tony Grimes** and **Capt Ann Stables. Ssgt John Celino,** our Chief Clerk, was given a good send off by the clerks and pay staff on his leaving the Army after 12 years' service. Admist the wassailing was **Maj Willie Allan** who, having tamed the bagpipes, was joined by **2 Lt Ron Wilkinson** and drum to instil some semblance of order into the officers' perambulations between the various events.

METROPOLITAN POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

On Wednesday, the Training Majors and the RSM, **WO1 Frank Jepson,** started a detachment commanders' course for potential SNCOs. Among the students was **Chief Inspector Bob Peedle,** of the Metropolitan Police, who had volunteered in order to find out how the Army roughed it. In 30 hours, with only short rests, they practised section and platoon battle drills in attack and defence under the tutorage of **Lt Alan Choat, 2 Lt Mike Dent,** the Training Majors and the RSM. As a special mark of favour the RSM put the three WRAC PSIs, **WO2 Val Marshall, Sgts Jan Carter** and **Wendy Cracknell,** on the course. We wonder what they did to deserve that. During the Salisbury Plain phase all locations took the opportunity to practise basic infantry skills. Communications were left to a minimum so that patrols and night attacks could be done. NBC drills were included with **Sgt Tom Muir** and his team making gas attacks at each location. On Thursday morning the Group Commander, **Brig W. A. Sykes, ADC,** visited us. At the RCP he presented Silver Jubilee Medals to **Ssgt Terry McGreish,** of Bedford, and **Sgt Edna Sisseam,** of Ilford.

Members of Maj Mike Alden's Platoon on the Detachment Commanders Course on Salisbury Plain. In the picture are (*left*): Maj John Radford (*second from left*): Maj Mike Alden (*fourth from left*): Chief Inspector Bob Peedle of the Metropolitan Police, and (*right*): Capt John Salter, the Padre. All the rest are unrecognisable, as befits well-camouflaged soldiers

VISITORS SEE THE FORM

The Group Commander, accompanied by his Deputy, **Col R. M. Stewart, OBE, TD, ADC, DL,** returned to see the static training. Wednesday was 'visitors' day' and the Regiment was host to nine presidents, chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretaries from the TAVR Associations and County Committees. They were met by the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, **Brig P. D. Vaigncourt-Strallen,** and then conducted round the training where they met Volunteers from their respective counties or associations.

The Chief of Staff, London District, **Brig J. N. Ghika,** was our final visitor on Thursday.

MISCELLANEA

54 Sqn organised an attempt on the Lyke Wake Walk led by **Capt Mike Sexton,** assisted by **Sgt Dave Watson.** About 30 Volunteers took part and almost all completed the 45 miles, a very creditable result in view of the limited training done in preparation.

The Regiment set up and manned a major part of the TAVR stand at the Royal Tournament. On July 19, 1977, when the Queen visited the Royal Tournament, **Lcpl Martin Hull** formed part of the Royal Guard, the first time a Volunteer had been nominated. Two nights later, **Sgt 'Taffy' Lewis** and **Sgt Margaret Tillyer** (WRAC) formed part of the all Royal Signals Guard for the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.

During the weekend July 23–24, 1977, the annual Skill-at-Arms weekend was held at Purfleet Ranges in indifferent weather. The SLR team event was won by 54 Sqn led by **Lt Alan Choat.** 45 Sqn team led by **Lt Charles Herbert** won the SMG team prize and the Pistol team event was won by HQ Sqn captained by **Maj David Morfoot.** In spite of the weather a most enjoyable day was had by all, and many prizes were competed for. The prizes were presented at the end of the day by **Mrs Anne Swindells,** wife of the Commanding Officer.

Association News

OPEN DOOR: 'I WILL MAKE YOU A NAME'

THIS week's 'Open Door' programme on Saturday, November 12, is presented by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The narrator is Gabriel Woolf.

The film, made largely from archival material, is about the two world wars of this century, which, looked at in the perspective which the passage of time gives, can now be seen as parts of one struggle—a second Thirty Years' War.

It relates in broad outline the history of the operations in which the Commonwealth Forces were engaged against the background of the war cemeteries and memorials in which their 1¾ million dead are remembered.

Nearly 1 million dead are commemorated by headstones over their identified graves, mostly in the Commission's 2,500 war cemeteries, and they lie in 145 different countries.

The ¾ million with no known graves—'The Missing'—are commemorated on memorials in the campaign areas designed by the great architects of the day—for example, Lutyens on the Somme, Worthington at Alamein, Baker for the Ypres Salient, and Maufe for the Air Forces at Runnymede.

A passage in the film describes the notorious Burma/Siam railway and the title is taken from the inscription from the Book of Zephaniah at one of the 'railway' cemeteries: 'I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord'.

Since 1917 the commemoration of the 1¾ million dead has been the duty of the Commission and its cost is shared by the partner governments—the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and Pakistan—in the proportion of the numbers of their casualties. The Commission is thus equally the servant of each of these governments and not a part of the Civil Service.

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Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following lists Association items now in stock and available.
Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 376, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
Crested glass ash trays	0·72	0·78
The 1978 Corps Diary—This item is again produced in Planner Style. The outer cover is in flexible dark blue vinyl, embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert.	0·40	0.45
Association lapel badge (*members only*)	0·32	0·32
Blazer buttons—Large	0·18	0·18
Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	2·20	2·35
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Corps cravats—terylene	1·85	2·00
Corps cuff links	1·82	1·96
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·29	0·31
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·90	4·20
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	14·13	15·25
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4·35	4·67
Corps scarves—Woollen	3·30	3·55
Corps squares—terylene	2·45	2·65
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 2½"	0·20	0·25
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5⅛")	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅛")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·76	1·90
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps pendants	0·38	0·40
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. Sterling silver with spring safety stud, complete in presentation case	6.25	6.85
Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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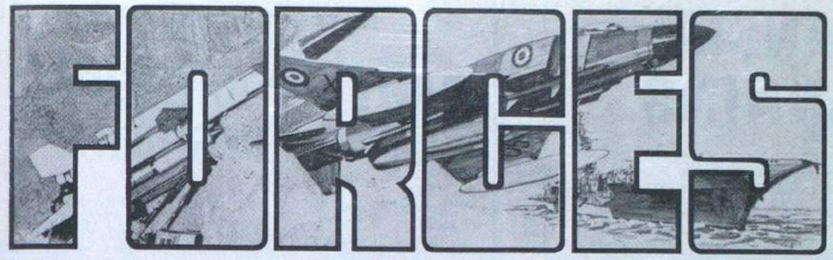

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified WOs or Senior NCOs who have recently left the British Armed Forces (or are due to leave within the next three months) to fill uniformed contract appointments of three years' duration in the Signals Regiment of the Oman Army in the rank of Sergeant in the following categories:

HF RADIO SERVICING TECHNICIAN
(Ref No. 51/B)

TELEPRINTER/TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD SERVICING TECHNICIAN
(Ref No. 51/C)

LINESMAN/CABLE JOINTER
(Ref No. 51/D)

Although these are basically supervisory posts, successful applicants must expect to take an active part in fault diagnosis, 'on site' repairs, general maintenance and modifications, and in the case of the Linesman/Cable Jointer, the task includes the installation of line systems and supervision of line cable jointing. Applicants must therefore be widely experienced in their particular specialisation, and a knowledge of airfield communication systems is most desirable.

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS
(Ref No. 51)

Applicants must have had experience as a Signals Centre Supervisor, and be fully competent in all relevant skills, including traffic handling and communications procedures, HF radio, line systems management, cypher operating and operator training. Successful completion of the Yeoman of Signals Course at Blandford is an essential qualification.

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST CLASS I
(Ref No. 51/E)

Applicants must be fully experienced in message handling and procedures in a Signals Regiment and have attended the Radio Telegraphist Class I course at Catterick. Successful completion of a Data Telegraphist Class II course would be an added advantage.

These appointments are unaccompanied (although short family visits to Oman may be possible), and the maximum age limit is 45.

Conditions of service include annual emoluments on engagement amounting to the equivalent of £6,800 at the current rate of exchange (tax free); a generous end of-contract gratuity; normal Service Mess facilities with bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days' home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid.

For further details, write giving a brief summary of your qualifications and experience and quoting the relevant reference number, to:

Senior Personnel Officer (Ref W/10)
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November 1977

THE wire

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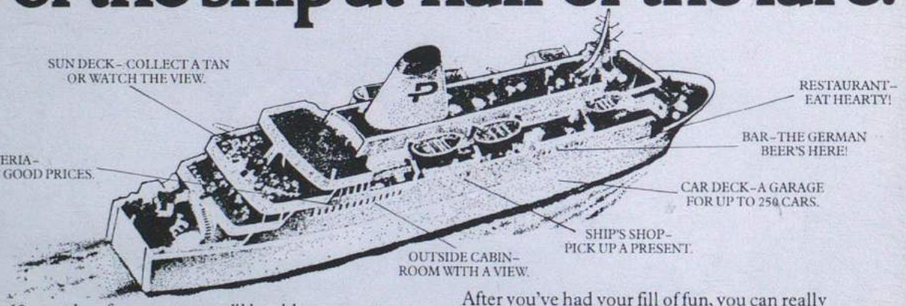

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor:
LT COL R. L. MURRAY, OBE

Assistant Editor:
MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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NOVEMBER — 1977

Vol 31 *(New Series)* **No 10**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

A new Corps hockey season got under way with a three-match tour that involved all the players in the photograph. This was taken after the final match versus the Royal Artillery; in addition to those in the photograph, the following also played in at least one game:

Maj Thomas, MOD
Maj McLuckie, MOD
Capt Izzo, School of Signals
WO2 Banham, 11 Sig Regt
Lcpl Hayes, School of Signals
Lcpl Williams, 8 Sig Regt

Are you a Corps standard hockey player hiding your stick under a bushel? If so, declare it at once to the **Secretary, Royal Signals Hockey, Capt R. W. Barry, School of Signals (Blandford Military 319 or 263)**

The Master of Signals and Mrs Bradley wish all members of the Corps, past and present, their wives and families every good fortune in 1978.

New Year Message From The Signal Officer-In-Chief (Army), Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson

It is a great pleasure to me that one of the first tasks I should undertake as the new Signal Officer-in-Chief is to draft this message to the Corps.

Despite the falling off in our numbers due to the effects of the 1974 Defence Review, our commitments have remained undiminished. We continue to be deeply involved in operations in Northern Ireland and in maintaining the effectiveness of the British Forces in Belize, Cyprus, and elsewhere. These calls on our manpower, together with the final stages of the restructuring of the Army, have kept the Corps at full stretch throughout the past year and, as I write, trade training at Catterick is virtually at a standstill because of our involvement in the steps taken to mitigate the effects of the Firemen's strike.

As always the Corps has risen to the challenge with zest, skill and good humour, and still found time to turn in one of our best records for sporting achievement for some years.

Whether you are serving with the Regular Army, the Volunteers, or are now retired, you can share with me the pride and pleasure that belonging to the Royal Corps of Signals justly brings.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming year and extend my very best wishes to you and your families.

AN APOLOGY

We are very sorry that an industrial dispute has imposed considerable delay in the printing and distribution of this issue of 'The Wire'. Our sincere apologies to our patient subscribers who, as a consequence, are reading New Year greetings weeks after the event in an issue formally scheduled for distribution on November 18.

In an attempt to get 'back on track' we are combining the December and January issues. The planned distribution date is January 25 and it remains to be seen whether our printers can start the New Year by delivering the goods.

—From our "In" Tray—

Our Colonel-in-Chief

On the occasion of the birth of a son to our Colonel-in-Chief, the Master of Signals sent a message of congratulations and good wishes to Her Royal Highness on behalf of all ranks of the Corps.

He has been asked to convey The Princess Anne's very warm thanks to all ranks.

Introducing Our New Signal Officer-in-Chief Major-General A. A. G. Anderson

Maj Gen Alistair Anderson assumed the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief vice **Maj Gen Tony Tighe** on November 25. Many will remember that his brother, **Maj Gen Sir John Anderson** (currently the Director General NICSMA), was appointed to the same post 10 years ago, a span which also equates their difference in age.

Gen Anderson was born within earshot of the bugle call in Kitchener Barracks, Chatham, on February 26, 1927. He was educated at George Watson's College in Edinburgh and attended a University Short Course for Royal Signals at Exeter in late 1944/early 1945, subsequently being commissioned into the Corps in 1946.

He has served with most types of Royal Signals Units including divisional and brigade signals and commanded 252 and 253 Sig Sqns in Hong Kong and 18 Sig Regt in Singapore.

He attended Staff College, Camberley, in 1959 and Joint Services Staff College in 1964. He has had staff tours as GSO 2 (Signals) UKLF, GSO 2 Ops and Plans HQ BAOR, GSO 1 Defence Operations Centre MOD and served twice with the SO in Cs Directorate, once as a GSO 3 and latterly as Colonel GS Signals 31 from which post he was appointed Commandant of The School of Signals in 1974. His wife, **Margaret,** is a doctor and they have a family home in Dorset. Their son, **David,** is a final year medical student, and they have two daughters, **Fiona,** who is reading History at King's College London, and **Katharine,** who is at Bryanston School.

Major-General Tighe Makes Farewell Visit

The CSO BAOR, Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin, welcoming the SO in C, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE, at HQ BAOR at the start of his farewell tour of Royal Signals units in BAOR and Berlin (October 21)

Royal Signals Yacht Club

THE two UK-based Corps yachts will be available for charter from mid-March 1978 until the end of October.

Skywave is a Rival 32 with seven berths, sloop rigged with a 25-hp diesel engine. *Quicksilver* is a Westerly Tiger with five berths, sloop rigged with a 10-hp diesel engine.

Both are well equipped for comfortable cruising. They are moored at the Hornet Sailing Club at Gosport.

Applications for charter bookings and requests for further details should be sent, if possible, by FEBRUARY 1, 1978, to the Yachtmaster:

Maj M. M. Barker (Royal Signals), Royal Signals Yacht Club, Peronne Close, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants. Tel: Portsmouth (0705) 692654.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Our sincere congratulations to the following who received awards in the New Year Honours List:

CB

Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge

CBE

Bri E. J. Hellier

MBE

Capt R. A. McKay

BEM

WO2 (SSM) P. F. Bacon Sgt M. T. Munn Sgt C. G. Wilson

From: **Mr W. Ratcliffe**

Dear Sir,

I have recently finalised my application for Life Membership of the Royal Signals Association. I wonder if any members who read THE WIRE served with me as an OKL B III from 1944–47.

My service career details are as follows:

April 4, 1944	—	74 PTW Omagh (April 6 Squad)
'D' Day	—	2 OTB, Le Cateau Lines, Catterick
Christmas 1944	—	38 Reserve Div Sigs, St Annes
'VE' Day	—	STC (I) Mhow, India
'VJ' Day	—	4 Indian Corps HQ Sigs, Pegu, Burma
Christmas 1945	—	'S' L of C Sigs, Rangoon
1946	—	'W' L of C Sigs, Meiktila
1947	—	Burma Command Sigs, Rangoon, Pegu and Mandalay Detachments
August 1947	—	SS *Georgic*—Bombay for Indian Independence Day
September 1947	—	Army Formation College, Dalkeith
October 13, 1947		Demobbed at York ex Pocklington'

As a handicapped (practically housebound) person I would be pleased to hear from any of my old comrades or acquaintances at my home or by telephone at 061-338 3366.

Yours faithfully,
Wilbye Ratcliffe

18 Buckingham Drive,
Dukinfield,
Cheshire SK16 5BZ.

From: **Brig W. R. Smijth-Windham, CBE, DSO**

Dear Sir,

OPERATION ECLIPSE

An amusing episode occurred during the preparation of the SHAEF Signal Instruction for Operation Eclipse, referred to by Gen Baldwin in his letter to you of September 1977.

The staff of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) was one of the earliest to be 'integrated', ie British and US officers interleaved at all levels, and we were none of us very good at understanding the language of our opposite numbers, let alone their procedures, etc.

By early 1944 the plan for Operation Overlord was reasonably firm; SHAEF therefore started planning Operation Eclipse which was concerned with what would follow if the invasion of Normandy was successful.

At this time our Gen Colwyn Vulliamy was CSO SHAEF, and Brig Gen 'Duke' Lanahan of the US Signal Corps was his deputy. The Plans and Ops Section of the Signal Division was headed by the US Colonel, Bill Hamlin, and I was in charge of the Plans Sub-section.

We were told to get to work on a signal instruction for Eclipse and in due course we produced a document which, whatever its merits as a signal plan, was at any rate as clear, concise and well-written as we could achieve.

I took it to Duke Lanahan and asked him whether he thought it was on the right lines. He read it through and, after making one or two minor comments, he rang the bell for Col Hamlin and when the latter appeared he said: 'Bill, this is OK. Just take it away and turn it into English'!

Yours faithfully,
W. R. Smijth-Windham

Icentown House,
Pitney,
Langport, Somerset.

Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham

AT Graduation Day on July 8 at Shrivenham this year six Royal Signals officers received their degrees from **Gen Sir Roland Gibbs,** Chief of the General Staff.

Lt Alan Evans gained an upper second class honours in engineering and won the Royal Signals prize. **Lts Niel Fisher** and **Andy Grey** also received upper second class honours degrees in engineering, and **Lts Mike Crowther** and **Tim Bryning** received pass degrees. **Lt David Wills,** taking Applied Science, gained an upper second class honours degree.

Brig Phippard, Director of Telecommunications, representing the Signal Officer-in-Chief, was present to witness the ceremony and to meet the Royal Signals graduands at the garden party which followed.

The photograph shows **Brig Phippard, Brig Birtwistle** (the Deputy Commandant of RMCS), **Col Briggs** (Military Director of Studies, EGW Division, RMCS), **Lt Col Cook** (Royal Signals representative at RMCS), and the Royal Signals graduands and their wives.

From: **S. Allinson**

Dear Sir,

'The Bantams' were a special force of volunteers in the British Army during the first world war. It was composed of soldiers who were well below average height. I am a professional writer engaged in researching a book about these men. I would be most interested and grateful to receive any information your readers may be able to provide me with on the subject of the old 35th Division—personal reminiscences, family anecdotes, letters, photographs, book references, diaries, or regimental histories.

The Bantams were an unusual and valiant brigade, and their story is well worth being set down. Hopefully, your readers will be able to help me to gather additional information about this unique piece of military history. I would welcome such aid, and can promise to take the greatest care in returning any material offered me regarding the Bantams.

Sincerely,
Sidney Allinson

102 Owen Boulevard,
Willowdale, Ontario,
Canada M2P 1G3.

From: **Maj J. F. Stokes, TD**

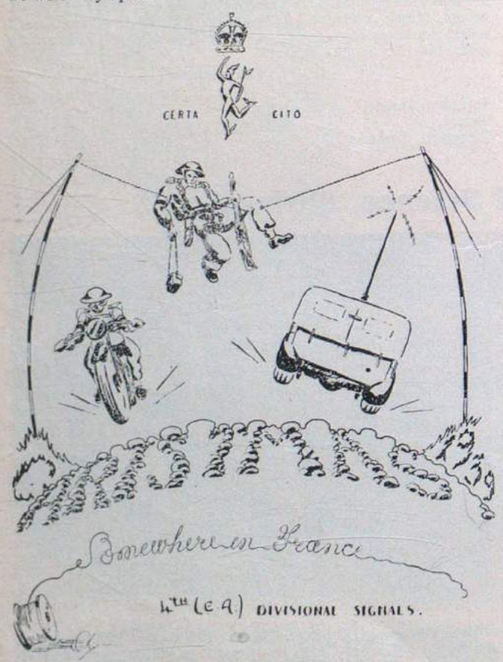
Dear Sir,

On the subject of nostalgia—the enclosed card dates from Xmas 1939.

Sincerely,
J. F. Stokes

The Bungalow,
Primrose Lane,
South Lopham,
Diss, Norfolk.

PS.—They had just made us take the 'T's' off our shoulders and we were very upset.



From: **Ex-Sgt A. Collins**

Dear Sir,

I was in England recently on a visit and had the opportunity to look up an old Army friend. Unfortunately, I found him to be suffering from Multiple Sclerosis.

I, apparently, am the only one of his ex-Army mates who have visited or seen him since he took ill and as I reside here in Australia, I am of little use to him.

What I am asking is, is it possible to get in touch with any member of the 156 Field Regt Sig Section, Royal Signals, between 1940 and 1942 and ask them to write or call on their old friend **Sgt R. A. Chisholm, 37 Delamere Road, Southsea, Hants?**

I am sure any visit or communication would be of great help to him. If it is possible for you to locate these ex-colleagues, I would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely,
A. Collins

36 Friend Street,
George Town,
Tasmania 7250,
Australia.

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The White Helmets 50th Anniversary Reunion

EARLY DAYS

IN September 1927 the decision was made to form an official Royal Signals motor cycle display team. Prior to this there had been many *ad hoc* teams formed by groups of despatch riders but in 1927 a team in Catterick became officially the Royal Signals Display Team (RSDT). I suppose that it would be fair to say that Royal Signals became our first sponsors!

Change of title

On October 1, 1977, 50 years later, the official title changed to CMCD (Corps Motor Cycle Display), 'The White Helmets'. Ah well, 'a rose by any other name'. We are, however, still the White Helmets. The reason for this change of name is that the Royal Signals Demonstration Team is moving from Hounslow to absorb us here in Catterick. You will notice that their abbreviated title is also RSDT. Something has had to give. We were thinking of changing ours to the RSMCD (Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display) but considered that that might get confused with the RSCMD (Royal Signals Corps Mobile Display) 'Quicksilver'. Nothing is simple in this life! So that we do not become confused with the Royal Military Police CMCD (Corps Motor Cycle Display) 'The Red Caps', we intend in future to refer to ourselves as simply 'The White Helmets'. Naturally wherever we go we will make our presence felt as members of Royal Signals.

First reunion

In September 1977 during the weekend of 24/25th we held our first reunion for 50 years and we may have started something which could become an annual event. Undoubtedly it was one of the highlights of our Jubilee Year. Ex-members came from all over Britain and BAOR. We even had a 'Good Wishes' telegram from an ex-member from Lerwick in the Shetlands. Ex-members came who had been with the team as long ago as 1932, in fact we had quite a large group of members from the Team in the early 1930s.

The Reunion began with ex-members checking in during the morning of Saturday, September 24. Most of them are now civilians and had to be issued with special passes to allow them into Gaza Barracks and, of course, into the dining room for their meals. Many of them after years as civilians, found living in barrack rooms again although only for one night, a very nostalgic experience. Several spent some hours wandering around Catterick just seeing how things had changed since they were demobbed. Those who brought their wives could not be accommodated in the barracks. They found somewhere to stay easily enough in Richmond.

Films of the '30s

We took over the Cable Drum Club in Gaza Camp for lunch-time drinks on the Saturday so that they could get to meet each other and us—the present team members. In the afternoon, **Capt Mike Prymaka,** the team captain, gave a talk to everyone about the team of today. This included information about the three different types of machines the team use. The Triumph 750cc Tigers for the rides and tricks, the CCM 500cc Moto-cross machines for our long jumps and the Technomoto children's machines used by the clowns. He also talked about how the team is now sponsored by Lucas, Meriden Motorcycles Ltd, who make Triumph motor cycles and several other British companies who look after our various interests. This was followed by some recent films of the display and then, much to everyone's surprise, an ex-member, **Mr Goffe** from Birmingham, produced some really good cine films, one even in colour, of the team as it was between 1932 and 1938.

The old days

During the Saturday evening the Reunion carried on in the Cable Drum Club with many stories about the good old times which somehow always happened to be the time when the story-teller was in the team. The Commander Training Group Royal Signals, **Brig Norman Butler,** who takes a great interest in the present day team's standards and performance had his ear bent by ex-members who would like tricks not seen for many years re-introduced. **Col David Cattermull,** CO of 8 Sig Regt, was heard explaining the training methods and systems used by the modern Trade Training School here in Catterick. The beer ran out three times, and on each occasion the team captain designate, **Ken Hadfield,** had to rush off in the team car and borrow another barrel from the Officers Mess. Pie, chips, and peas were served at 10 pm and at about a quarter past midnight the whisky ran out! Exit team members era 1932–39. 'If there is no whisky left we are going to bed.' 'Anyway, the Disco's getting too noisy.'

Ssgt Roy Coffill sharing a joke with past team members

The team members and many of the younger ex-members carried on with the party. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you what time it finished because the Commanding Officer had only granted an extension until 0100hrs. All our clocks and watches stopped at 5 minutes to 1. When the final clearing up began it was discovered that all that was left was half a barrel of lager and a bottle of vodka that somehow had been mislaid. The barman said he only hoped his OC would do a surprise stock-check first thing on Monday.

Discriminating audience—in the rain

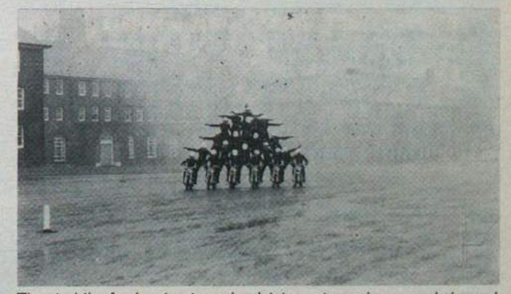
Sharp at 1000hrs on the Sunday morning the show began on Gaza Square. The team were more nervous about this one than the first night at the Royal Tournament. With all those experts from other times watching, they could not afford to make a mistake. The cross-overs and cuts had to be fast and perfect. The jumps had to be slick, the tricks had to look professional. Catterick being Catterick, it just poured with rain! By the time the show had been going five minutes everyone was soaked to the skin, including the spectators. However, there were no accidents though **Lcpls Chris Little** and **Nigel Nicholls** in the last cut of the backward ride came close when they missed each other by not more than one-and-a-half inches. Not bad at 40mph backwards!

Most of the team's hearts were in their mouths when it came to the car long jump which was over 10 bikes and their riders and the team car. Doing this on a tarmac parade ground is not very popular, it has a habit of making the wheels go square on landing. **Lcpl Colin Pitman** landed safely despite the teeming rain in his eyes and succeeded in not hitting any of the parked cars on the other side of the square as he slowed down more or less in control.

Next the Fire jump was set up and five stalwart volunteers went through while it was blazing. **Sig Larry Lloyd** went first to show off to his step-father, an ex-team member, that he was just as brave as Dad. He succeeded in burning off his eyebrows and scorching the back of his neck quite convincingly. He spent the rest of Sunday morning saying to his step-father:

'I got burnt for you.'

Until someone suggested that with a name like Larry he ought to put some mint sauce on it.



The six-bike fan leaning into the driving rain as they round the end of the arena

Ideas from the past

After the show everyone went into the team garage to warm-up, dry off and have a cup of coffee. It immediately stopped raining outside. The ex-members then spent the next hour or so taking photographs of each other on the present-day bikes, showing us photographs and posters of the team in their day, and discussing long-forgotten tricks and rides which ought to be resuscitated. We had to admit that many of them were pretty good and could well be used in the present show.

Ex-White Helmets Association

Altogether everybody had a good time and we all learnt a lot about each other. The suggestion was made that the Reunion ought to become an annual one, and that an ex-White Helmets' association should be formed. We would be interested to hear the views of ex-members. If you are interested in joining, drop the Team Adjutant a line with your name and address and we will then let you know if anything comes of it. **Maj Graham Williams,** the Team Major, has said that he does not mind the administrative staff acting as a secretariat, but any officers of such an association should come from the ex-members, preferably those who have settled down in civilian life who can supply the necessary continuity. If anyone wishes to volunteer his services to help organise and run such an association please let the Team Adjutant know. I will even offer you a name for it—'THE GREY HELMETS'!

Looking Back

249 SIGNAL SQUADRON (FARELF)

OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO's

SINGAPORE **26 AUGUST 1967**

Back Row: **Sgt Pollard L., Sgt Patterson A., Sgt. O'Brien J. T., Sgt Adey H., Sgt Elliott S. I., Sgt Morter J. V. RAOC, Sgt Nicol T. C., Sgt Markwell G. S. L., Sgt Lawless J.R., P.O. Parry R. RN., Sgt. Ward F.**
3rd Row: **Sgt Bowes A., Sgt Wade K. D., Sgt De La Mare E. W., Sgt Brown L. A., S/Sgt (F of S) Webb C. G., S/Sgt Carrington J., S/Sgt Stevenson R., Sgt Dicker L. J., Sgt Jennings M., S/Sgt Lea A. M., S/Sgt O'Donoghue M. C., Sgt Helme W., Sgt Gavin N., Sgt Gaymer-Derham J. L. REME.**
2nd Row: **Sgt Ahgue J., WO II (SSM) E. T. A. Webster, WO II (RQMS) B. Fisher, 2 Lt G. R. Bell, R. Aust. Signals, Lt C. J. Dakin, Lt D. J. Case, Capt. B. A. Blackwell, Lt T. A. Woodhouse, Lt M. A. Orwin, Lt J. F. Storr, WO I (F of S) P. Swaby, WO II (Y of S) I. F. MacPherson.**
Front Row: **Capt W. E. A. Edmonds, Capt T. B. Scarff, Capt (TOT) J. A. Green, Capt A. J. Hervey, Maj J. R. Roberts, Maj J. M. N. Lyons, Maj J. F. Hart, Capt (QM) R. G. Knight, Capt T. D. MacFarlane, RNZ Signals, Capt J. J. Cullen, Capt E. C. Vulliamy.**

We are indebted to Lt Col Neville Lyons for this photograph, a decade old. We hope it brings back happy memories for many who know Singapore and 249 Sig Sqn

FARAWAY PLACES . . . UNUSUAL JOBS
LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS?

This photograph was received recently from the Royal Signals Wing at the School of Artillery. It has neither caption nor date. Can anyone identify the group or anyone in it? It was probably taken in the late '20s or early '30s

From: Ex-**WO1 R. Todd**

It was with much regret that I read in the October issue of THE WIRE of the death of Brig W. C. V. Galwey, OBE, MC. I served with him in various parts of the world and got to know him very well.

I know that I speak not only for myself, but for thousands of ex-serving members of the Corps when I say he will be missed, especially at the Old Comrades reunion at Catterick where he was ever present.

Farewell, Brigadier,
Ray Todd

44 Keats Road,
Eston,
Middlesbrough,
Cleveland.

Association Reunions—1978

The dates for the 1978 Reunions will be:

BLANDFORD	—	May 21
CATTERICK	—	June 10–11

As is customary, the AGM of the Association will be held at Catterick at mid-day on Sunday, June 11.

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Movements

Officers

Rank and Name	NOVEMBER 1977 Unit to which posted
Capt (Tfc) J. W. Ankers	233 Sig Sqn
Lt L. K. Byrne	School of Signals (Course)
Lt A. D. Choat	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Dodman	9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Maj (QM) S. J. R. Dunlop	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt W. D. Dyke	HQ UKLF
Lt I. R. Fielder	School of Signals (Course)
Maj A. P. Fielding	HQ UKLF
Brig G. W. Gittins	LE(A)
Maj C. H. Glydon	Computer Centre BAOR
Lt I. N. Greig	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) A. G. Harfield	HS School of Signals
Capt C. R. Harper	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt B. Hewitt	School of Signals (Course)
Capt T. Keany	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) L. W. Leppington	10 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. MacHeath	39 Sig Regt (V)
Maj (Tfc) D. M. Maxted	AFSOUTH NCS LATINA
2 Lt P. T. Nicholson-Taylor	30 Sig Regt
Capt I. P. R. Robertson	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj K. Ryding	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Garrison
Capt M. R. Stone	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. Williams	SAF OMAN
Maj M. S. Wilson-Brown	HQ UKCICC

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

Rank and Name	NOVEMBER 1977 Unit to which posted
WO1 K. P. Derrick	HQ 11 Sig Gp (V)
WO1 (F of S) T. D. Brandon	Comms Projects Agency
WO1 (F of S) P. A. Cook	30 Sig Regt
WO1 (F of S) R. F. W. Livesey	HQ Trg Gp Catterick Garrison
WO1 (F of S) M. A. Walker	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO1 (F of S) M. J. S. Pankhurst	School of Signals
WO2 (F of S) J. Finney	School of Signals
WO2 (F of S) G. H. Nickson	242 Sig Sqn
WO2 (F of S) G. H. D. Ward	39 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (Y of S) C. M. Eastland	Royal Brunei Malay Regt
WO2 (Y of S) D. C. Lister	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. Roberts	HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO2 R. Townsend	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
WO2 F. M. Dempster	HQ UKLF
WO2 R. F. Drew	21 Sig Regt
WO2 J. M. Humphries	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. M. Lumley	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Yallop	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt (F of S) A. R. Threlfall-Sears	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt (F of S) T. I. Lloyd	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Mason	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. M. Newman	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt (Y of S) R. W. Badger	7 Sig Regt
Sgt (Y of S) P. S. Derry	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt (Y of S) J. Hindle	4 Sig Gp
Sgt (Y of S) D. G. Wright	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Brookes	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Crabtree	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Holland	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. W. Hornby	7 Sig Regt
Sgt F. C. Howley	School of Signals
Sgt D. G. Palmer	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Tierney	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Walmsley	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Lord	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. W. Morgan	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Fotheringham	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. L. Randle	School of Signals
Sgt P. J. Ascough	633 Sig Tp
Sgt I. Cross	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. T. Hedge	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. K. Dunn	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt R. Snape	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt F. W. Biddle	Comms Projects Agency
Sgt S. P. Bevis	Comms Projects Agency
Sgt G. Mullen	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. J. Sewell	Comms Projects Agency
Sgt J. T. Ryan	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Young	BR Forces Sig Sqn (Hong Kong)
Sgt J. D. Evans	SHAPE SP International
Sgt D. F. O. Thain	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. K. Mable	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Steen	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. Palmer	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. S. Smith	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Henderson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. Burton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt W. S. Matthew	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. D. Reynolds	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Howe	28 Sig Regt
Sgt I. F. Wilmot	30 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Nicholson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Gass	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. F. Burns	590 Rear Link Det
Sgt R. L. A. Paterson	13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Coxon	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. M. Gibson	14 Sig Regt
Sgt E. D. Feasey	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. A. Brack	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Knights	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. C. Morris	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. H. King	8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Taylor	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Luck	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Laingair	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Dooher	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Scullion	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. Whelan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. Nunn	227 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Roberts	21 Sig Regt
Sgt I. L. Ridley	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Dagnall	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. N. Green	224 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Drika	Comms Projects Agency
Sgt P. D. Hooker	School of Signals

Welfare

SEPTEMBER 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**39**
Number of clothing parcels	**29**
Amount spent	**£1,848·30**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**7**
Amount spent	**£168·38**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

SIGNALMAN, War time service. Now aged 63 and suffering from a progressive disease which has prevented him from working since 1970. Unhappily, his wife died earlier this year, leaving him alone. He is managing so far to keep going in his little bungalow, but it was felt that a telephone would be very desirable, and the Association made a grant of £50 to enable this to be installed. A letter received on his behalf is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

BECAUSE of his incapacity, Mr ——— has asked me to write to you to express his appreciation and sincere thanks for the very generous help he received from you, which enabled him to have a telephone installed. This has helped him no end to adjust with some form of independence since the death of his wife earlier this year.

THANK YOU

Since the beginning of September, gifts of clothing, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:

Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer, Maj Gen A. J. Woodrow, MBE, Capt D. S. McLuckie, Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole, Maj D. P. Gardiner, The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt, Lt Col G. M. Welsford.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1977.

	£
4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt	128·37
7 Sig Regt	247·52
Lt Col T. Rigby (Royal Signals), RAC Signal School	40·00
G. D. Webster, Esq	1·40
Lt Col A. B. Whatman, MBE	3·00
Chaplains Branch BAOR	20·42
	£440·71

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month (for publication the following month).

DEATHS

Irvin—Mr Stanley Irvin (ex-RSM) died on November 15, aged 67. He was a Founder Member of the Hartlepool Branch of the Association, and served continuously as honorary secretary until a few months ago when illness led to his retirement.

Read—Lt Col Leopold John Douglas Read, MBE, was commissioned in the Corps in 1933. In 1936 he took part in the operations in Palestine, then went to India. At the outbreak of the war he moved to Africa with 4th Indian Divisional Signals. In 1941 he was posted to Western Desert Force HQ as staff officer to the CSO when he was Mentioned in Despatches and appointed MBE. He was taken prisoner by the Germans in Greece and spent the rest of the war as a Prisoner of War in Germany. After the war he served in the Middle East when he was again Mentioned in Despatches. He commanded 7 Armd Div Sig Regt, 4 L of C Sig Regt, and 19 Army Group Sig Regt in BAOR from 1950–54 when he retired. He died on October 28 aged 64.

Rothwell—on October 27, at Royal Air Force Hospital, Wegberg, West Germany, Dorothea Renate, beloved wife of Maj (QM) G. K. Rothwell (Royal Signals), 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 35.

Spear—Col Ian Charles Spear died on December 9 as a result of a car accident. He joined the Army in 1949 and was commissioned from Sandhurst in 1951. In his 28 years' service he made his characteristic contribution in many fields but will undoubtedly best be remembered for his ability and leadership as a regimental soldier together with his success as a competitive yachtsman.

From 1962 to 1974 he was much involved with the BRUIN trunk communications system. First as a staff officer in Signals 35 during the development phase, later as a squadron commander in 7th Regt and finally as commanding officer of 22nd Regt. His powers of imagination and concentration contributed much to the success of BRUIN and to the strong position which the British Army now enjoys in command and control techniques. Among his lesser-known achievements was the successful organisation of communications during the Cameroons plebiscite. His imagination and energy also found its outlet in the organisation of many memorable and successful regimental social functions. He was particularly anxious to encourage all ranks activities and his period as Commodore of the Mohne See Sailing Club saw a steady expansion of the club facilities.

He was typical of those of his generation whose work has been mainly in Europe that his service brought him no medal ribbons but there is no doubt that he made in his career a full and individual contribution to the Army.

To his wife, Ann, and to his children, Sean and Christina, we offer our sincere sympathy in their sudden loss.

Tucker—Maj Colin Charles (Tommy) Tucker enlisted in the Corps when under age in 1925. He was commissioned in 1940 and retired in 1948 when he joined the TA. He served in many parts of the world, his last overseas posting being India at the time of Partition. After first retiring, he ran a taxi service in Catterick and was later employed with 30 Sig Regt when he helped to form the Dorset Branch of the Association. He joined the Dorset Special Constabulary, in which he reached the rank of Inspector, became a County Councillor, and for a short time was a Traffic Warden. He died on October 24 at the age of 68.

Wasey—Maj Willoughby Spearman Wasey was commissioned in the Royal Berkshire Regt in 1918, and served with the Royal Warwickshire Regt in Germany, Mesopotamia, and Persia between 1919 and 1922. He was seconded to the Royal Signals in 1923 and transferred in 1925. He retired in 1936 after serving with 'A' Corps Signals at Aldershot, and Air Defence Brigade Signals. He was recalled in 1939 and served throughout the war with Aldershot Command Sig Coy. He was a useful cricketer and represented the Corps on a number of occasions in the '20s and '30s. He died on November 3 at the age of 78.

FOR SALE

SD with two pairs of trousers, all in excellent condition. To fit height 6ft 3in, chest 42in, waist 36in, inside leg 33/34in; also Sam Browne.

Capt Miller, GW Wing, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wilts. Tel: Bulford Camp (09803) 3371 Ext 5405 or 5283.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES—JOB VACANCIES

WE always have a number of residential posts in the London area with free (limited) accommodation. We are also able to put applicants in touch with Divisions of the Corps throughout the United Kingdom for local employment. Examples of the sort of jobs we always have on our books are as follows:

Residential. Hampstead. £50 + free flat.
Club Porter. Piccadilly, W1. £50+.
Reception. Berkeley Square, W1. £3,000.
Chauffeur. Mercedes. Gloucester Square, W2. £65+.
Security. Osborne Street, E1. £50+.
Security. East Harding Street, EC4. £62 approx.
Messenger/Chauffeur. Crutched Friars, EC3. £50+.
Security. Mark Lane, EC3. £45+.
Chauffeur. Rolls-Royce. St Mary Axe, EC3. £3,000+.
Security. Knightsbridge, SW1. £50+.
Chauffeur/Messenger. Tooley Street, SE1. £3,000.
Security. Aldershot, Hants.

The Corps requires that all its members shall be of proven good character.

Applicants may write or telephone for an appointment; but there is, in fact, no real need for this as we are always open for interviews on Mondays to Fridays between 9.30 am and 3 pm.

Men are advised to bring the Service/Public Service Discharge papers with them.

VACANCY—ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TAVR

A vacancy exists for an Officer on consolidated rates of pay in the rank of CAPTAIN to perform the duties of Administrative Officer with 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (Volunteers) in Chelmsford, Essex. Applicants must have had recent experience of administrative and pay duties, and have served as a commissioned officer with the Regular or Reserve Forces. In special cases, candidates may be accepted on Ministry of Defence authority who have served as Warrant Officers in the Regular Army or TAVR and who have experience suitable for the appointment. Age limit on appointment is 56 but preference will be given to those in the 45–50 age group.

Salary:—

On appointment	£3,092	Plus Pay Supplements 1 & 2
After 1 year	£3,172	
After 2 years	£3,256	
After 3 years	£3,336	
After 4 years	£3,420	
After 5 years	£3,500	
After 6 years	£3,584	

Travel costs from residence to place of duty and subsistance allowance when absent on duty from normal place of work, are recoverable within the regulations.

Applications, which must be in the applicant's own hand writing, are invited soonest to:

Adjutant,
71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (V),
Hill House,
Beckenham Lane,
Bromley, Kent BR2 0DA

The following details are required:

Name and rank
Address
Telephone number
Date of birth
Brief particulars of service qualifications and experience
Date of availability if selected
Names and Addresses of two referees—actual references are not required.

Applications must be made immediately.

SITUATION VACANT

There is a vacancy for a Maintenance Electrician (Telephones) in 'SWS' Troop, 241 Sig Sqn, Sennybridge Detachment. The ideal applicant would be a Lineman or Cable Jointer who is leaving the Corps and favours an active out-door employment.

Anyone interested in applying for this post should write in the first instance to:

Maj (TOT) G. E. Pinder (Royal Signals),
Signal Works Services Troop,
241 Sig Sqn,
Parsons Barracks,
Donnington, Telford, Salop TF2 8LS.
Tel: Donnington Military Telford 603144 Ext 366.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CYPRUS COMMUTERS

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PATSALIDES TRAVEL, the leading Cypriot travel agency, have opened a branch in London at 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7.

Now members of H.M. Armed Forces can arrange their personal and family travel requirements conveniently knowing that they are dealing with the specialists.

Flights are daily from Heathrow on scheduled British Airways and Cyprus Airways. Patsalides offer these special fares to H.M. Forces.

RETURN
Adult: £129.50; Children (2-12): £84.00
Infant: £13.00

ONE-WAY LONDON-LARNACA
Adult: £71.50; Children (2-12): £46.50
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For further information, write, phone or call Mrs Cost at 01-263 4203. 53 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, London N7, and Cyprus Offices at Limassol—119 Makarios Avenue, PO Box 1311, Tel: 051 53222. Larnaca—Kition Buildings, PO Box 395, Tel: 041 55301/2.

I'm Sandy Scott, The White Helmets' Mascot

Photo courtesy: Paul Casares, Steyning

The Tee-Shirt I am wearing comes in four sizes:

Adults	—	Small and Medium	— £2·00
Childrens	—	5–7 and 8–12	— £1·75

We also sell White Helmets' Mirrors featuring a team member doing a 'Wheelie'—£1·50. The book, written by James Ladd, which tells the story of the White Helmets through the years—£5·95, Silver-plated Tankards: 1pt size—£5; ½pt size—£4. All these things make excellent Christmas and Birthday presents or ideal prizes. Why not write to us or ring us—Catterick Military Ext 556, and let us quote our price for anything you want. With our contacts we can almost guarantee to get things for you for less.

Send your order with cheque or postal order made out to 'THE WHITE HELMETS' and addressed to The White Helmets, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

VOUCHER WORTH 50 PENCE

When ordering *two or more* of the items listed above, use this voucher to get 50p off the listed price. Make out your cheque as before but for 50p less than the true total when you include this voucher with your order.

Anyone returning the voucher with an order will receive a complete list of items for sale from the White Helmets Road Shop. This includes Veldschoen shoes at half the price they are in the shops, from the company who make our riding boots and everlasting socks at factory prices from the team's sock suppliers. Make sure you do not miss this great opportunity to get high-quality goods at the lowest possible prices.

White Helmets, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS.

Attention ladies. A further supply of sterling silver Royal Signals stick pins are available from the Association, as a new item of goods. A very attractive and delicate item—supplied by Garrard—the actual size of the Corps badge is 17mm. Complete in a presentation case, with spring safety stud, the cost is £6·85 at home, and £6·25 overseas.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland BFPO 825

ORIENTEERING ACROSS THE WATER

An account of the HQ Northern Ireland participation in the recent Corps Orienteering Championships, by **Majs Roland Ebdon** and **Mike Rice.**

Discreet start

AT 0900hrs on Friday, September 2, a discreet, unmarked car pulled up outside a row of discreet, unmarked married quarters somewhere in the Lisburn area. Two discreet and unmarked (well nearly) officers checked their maps, compasses, whistles and luggage, said farewell to their wives and families and set off on a three-day marathon orienteering event.

Navigation sound

The registration area was set up at Larne Harbour, behind a grubby Perspex window. On handing over our pink form in lieu of entry fee, we were issued with a rather small, stiff control card for the first leg of this epic event. To our surprise, at the first checkpoint (Control Description: Man in Dark Blue Uniform by Barrier, Easterly of 3), the control card was punched for us by the feature himself. Once aboard the vessel, we found our immediate progress hindered by two large ropes—one at the front, and one at the back. (Bow and Stern Warps, I think I heard **Roland** call them. He knows about such things.) After a short argument, the mutinous lackeys untied the ropes and we were on our way. The first leg was quite easy to work out, and the Captain saw no real reason why he should not steer a course of 89° magnetic until further notice. This took us, after about an hour's brisk steaming, to an attack point off Loch Ryan (Milleur Buoy). When **Roland** asked the Captain for an immediate 90-deg turn to starboard, he seemed quite relieved, as a premature landfall on a rather lumpy bit of Scotland was imminent. There was then just enough time left for lunch before leaping ashore, still swallowing the last mouthful of fruit salad, to punch in at the next control (description: As No 1, but has different accent) and fall into a compartment on the Glasgow train.

Bus and Inter-city

The line from Stranraer to Glasgow takes one along Scotland's 'Costa del Golf'. This restful scenery (apart from the odd string of double-bogeys) and the ability to snooze whilst map-reading was good preparation for the horror to follow; a short- sharp urban inter-station leg across Glasgow. This involved the issue of a second special control card (fee 5p) by the driver/conductor of a No 77 Glasgow Corporation bus, who was amazingly patient about holding up the rush-hour traffic whilst we fumbled for coins (och no, I canna change a ten-pound note laddie). The leg was brought to a speedy conclusion when the eagle eye of **Ebdon** spotted the cunningly-hidden control. (Clue description: North end of street, Large British Rail station.)

Leg 4 was a smooth, swift inter-city run which brought us to the next control in record time. (Clue description: Railway Station at Foot of Large, Castle-topped Crag.) After a brief pause to take on tea and sandwiches (having selected from the multi-lingual menu, passing up the Toast Gebuttert in favour of Käsebrot), we found an enormous queue waiting to punch in at the next control. (Course controller please note—this is not good enough in an event of this calibre.)

Familiar ground

Leg 5 followed a wonderfully scenic route, with wide views of North Sea beaches, freshly-harvested fields and trout-filled streams, which gave way as light was falling to a vista of rugged new towns, industrial estates, and Newcastle Breweries. It was quite dark by the time our card was punched at Darlington; and we emerged from the station to trip over a white hospital bus sent to pick us up. This was a common control for runners on other (mostly shorter) courses. Time for day 1 was taken as we checked into the Catterick Officers Mess. **Rice** managed eventually to control his geriatric mutterings about having lived there ever so many years ago, as we followed the tapes through to the Annexe, and compulsory rest. On the way we had an inexplicable route failure and found ourselves in good company at a refreshment point at the far end of the Mess—the Bar.

A near miss

The events of Day 2 and the first half of Day 3 will be well-known to many readers, and are probably reported elsewhere in this edition. The change from wheels and keels to feet mk I (or mk II, in **Ebdon's** case) was noticed, and the sudden enforced use of hand-held navigation aids came as a rude shock.

The highlight of Day 3 was the presentation to our team, now augmented by a well-known refugee from Cyprus **(Ssgt Ernie Higgins),** of the prize for the first *ad hoc* or visitor's team. This had been sportingly declined by a two-man team, one of whom had run two very fast legs. This runner, a semi-bionic Royal Marine **(Lt John Rye)** had also come second in the individual event the day before. After the presentation by **Brig Norman Butler,** and a quick team photo we too declined to keep the prizes, after a rather humble **Capt Dave Etherton** had pointed out that, whilst we were a splendid team and it had been a real pleasure to announce our victory, he had been looking at the results again and had noticed that we had actually been beaten by about 50 minutes by the visiting REME team. However, this brief moment of glory was to sustain us in the hardships to come, as we returned to our main event.

Back on wheels

We started leg 1 of the return journey, still steaming from our exertions in the Hutton Cross Forest, in a big green bus (BGB) bound for Darlington station. We were glad to note that even a local competitor could make mistakes, as he reversed the said BGB around a corner in a quiet housing estate some way off our main route. What joy to discover at Darlington that our early arrival had caused the compression of our planned legs 2 and 3 into one smooth progression, thanks to a through train to Liverpool! Here started a memorable journey across t'Pennines, with views on all sides of t'mills, t'moors, and t'Chinese Take-Aways. **Ebdon** pretended to ignore all this, lying back with eyes half closed, dreaming of Devon, home and beauty; whilst **Rice** stuck his head out of the window to get a few lungsful of t'air (or what passes for it in those regions). At Liverpool Lime Street we checked on to our transport for leg 3, and even bigger green bus (two-storey BGB) provided by the P & O Ferry Co Ltd. We drove through the dark, rainswept centre of the capital of football (Liverpool are magic . . . *is* magic, surely?), finally catching a glimpse of those famous birds, still struggling in vain to lift the Liver building away over the Mersey and back to their nest on top of Snowdon, or some such place. At this point, speed, cunning, and a knowledge of the system came to our aid. **Rice** leapt ahead, luggage free, to secure a place on the Purser's waiting list for a berth, whilst **Ebdon** staggered through the terminal building, leaving behind security guards trying to fathom out why any one person should need to carry around so much damp, evil-smelling sports kit. The move paid off, and within minutes of the boat's departure we were the proud new occupants of a room with a view—an outside cabin on the port side. Matters of navigation now returned to the fore. On discussing our route with the Captain, it was confirmed that the Isle of Man would be a good attack point for Belfast Lough. We then left control in the hands of that capable seaman, and retired for egg and chips, beer and bed.

Another working week had already started by the time we disembarked and returned to Lisburn in our coach with its armed escort, which fortunately (!) had to pass our front doors (RHIP) hence completing the circle and the course.

Faraway Places . . .

Unusual Jobs

Let's Have That Story!

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

THE CAIRNGORMS

EXERCISE Ptarmigan I was the Squadron's annual hill-walking exercise in the Cairngorm area of Scotland and was held between September 7 and 20, led by **Lt Alan Evans.** His admin party of **Cpl Ray Newman** (RCT), **Lcpl Amey** (ACC), and **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** arrived at their base camp a day before the first party and promptly found their No 2 cookers u/s, and ended up eating fish and chips in Aviemore! They did, however, get their cooking arrangements sorted out before the first party arrived the next evening.

AN EFFECTIVE BOX

The first party consisted of **Cpl 'Dell' Goodman** (RPC), **Cpl Saunders** (RMP), **Sigs 'Lou' Fekete, 'Jock' Clements, 'Andy' Parrack, Dvr Keith Iley** (RCT), **Sigs 'Taff' Winkler, 'Taff' Williams,** and **Nigel Harris.** Accompanied by a local guide and led by **Cpl Newman,** the party set off for a six-mile 'warm-up' march the first day followed by two further days' hill-walking covering 16 miles each day. During their three days in the hills, **Nigel Harris** tore the ligaments in his thigh on the first day and hitched back to Aviemore. They shared a camp with a family who insisted on introducing a swear box at 5p a time which very effectively 'cleaned up' the language. They also made friends with a pet deer. The party enjoyed their walking in somewhat mixed weather but were glad to clean up and spend an evening in Aviemore. Their final day was spent on a visit to Grants Glanfarcles distillery and Inverness.

The second party consisted of **Ssgt John Chambers, Lcpl Eric Smeeth, Sig Bruce Barnes, Dvr 'Jock' Lietch, Cfn Frank Self, Ptes Dave Harris, 'Chalky' Amoah,** and **Dvrs Adams** and **Pudney** of 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

This contingent pursued the same activities as the first party except that the visit took place before the hill-walking. On their visit they also went to Culloden and all agreed that soldiering today was not so bad after all! They enjoyed almost perfect weather and they also encountered the friendly deer as our picture shows.

Party 2—'Deer stalking'

ENCORE

Exercise Ptarmigan I ended on September 20 and was followed by the long trip back to Londonderry. It was a complete success and everybody who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are now looking forward to Exercise Pine Martin II, a combined communications ski-ing exercise in the same area during February/March 1978.

CR SIGNALS CONFERENCE

This month the Squadron was host to the monthly CR Signals conference, and we welcomed the various representatives from the other Squadrons to 8 Bde. A very profitable day was had by all in addition to an excellent lunch.

ALL AT SEA

Following Her Majesty The Queen's visit to Coleraine University on August 11, and the apprentice boys' march in Londonderry on the 13th, operational efficiency was continued by a representation from the Squadron on 'Operation Grenada'. The picture shows HMS *Upton,* commanded by **Lt Cdr Tony Cooper, RNR,** six reserve Officers and 32 ratings. Between August 15 and 24 the ship was joined by **Lt Mike Fisher** and his intrepid boarding party, **Lcpl John Demery** (RPC), **Sig 'Miniscouse' Brisk, Ptes 'Shirley' Nichols** (RPC), **'Geordie' Holden** (RPC), **'Ramjam' Jackson** (RPC), and **Dvr 'Wiley' Iley** (RCT), were operational guests of **Cmdr Cooper.**

Operation Grenada is mounted periodically to sweep the 380-mile coastline of Northern Ireland. On this occasion HMS *Upton* was the sole ship and to illustrate the enormity of the task, 10,000 members of the security forces are currently deployed to sweep the border, a distance of some 340 miles! During the 10-day operation, some 14 tanker-sized ships were searched, two complete harbours swept, and numerous fishing boats inspected. The Coxswain of *Upton* will never forget **Lt Fisher** when he returned with nigh on 80lb of cod, several lobsters, and a king crab (for the Commander's table).

A 48-hour stand-down was organised in Campbeltown, Argyllshire, a favourite haunt of the Squadron in earlier months. The Squadron would like to add its appreciation and admiration of professionalism portrayed by the Officers and ratings of the Royal Naval Reserve crew based at Bristol.

On the 'Good Ship *Upton*'

Signallers at sea
(some happier than others)

'MIKE' TROOP

New arrivals **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** and **Sig 'Hitch' Hitchen** are now settled in. **Vince** joined the TE Techs and **Hitch** joined the Linesman taking over from **Sig 'Snowball' Priestman** as duty telegraph pole. **Sgt Alan Finney,** due to return from Pirbright shortly, will reassume command of Line Section from **Sgt 'Jim Boy' Baines. Sig Steve Gerrish** and **Lcpl Davy Johnstone** have been seen spit-'n-polishing just in case the Guards Depot have cracked **Sgt Finney.** Even **Sgt Baines** went as far as having his hair cut.

We congratulate **Foreman Norman Cowell** on his recent promotion to WO1. He has been very busy the past few weeks reorganising the Brigade communications following the deployment of several units in our area.

Sgts Pete Smedley, Denis Mustard, John Pennington and **Bob Bowman** continue to pretend that our REME detachment don't do all the work by changing equipment which was working quite happily for months, muttering something about PACE or routine maintenance. **Ssgt 'Stew' Harvey** just smiles.

Ssgt John Chambers continues to mislead the TE Techs by wielding a screwdriver, what sort of incentive for promotion is that? **Sgt Tim Howley** maintains a sense of direction for **Cpl Glen Baldwin** who, when not playing football is talking about playing football, **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** who, when not in the Squadron club is at least pointing in that direction, and **Lcpl John Arkless** who has just spent a whole month in the Squadron club.

CONGRATULATIONS

The most productive part of the TE Section is **Ssgt John Chambers'** wife, **Terry,** who in giving birth to a son, **David,** at least produced something that works!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We said goodbye this month to **Capt Nick Williams** and his wife, **Denise,** after over two years with the Squadron, and we wish them well in Blandford. He is replaced by **Capt George Heaney.** We also said goodbye to **Capt Roger Coleman** (R Hamps), our families officer for the last year, who will be missed by the Squadron and their families. He is replaced by **Capt Ken Kendrick** (Staffords). The Squadron also said goodbye to **Cpl Ben Casey** (RCT) who goes to Belize, **Sig Martin** who goes to 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Alexander** who goes to 229 Sig Sqn, and **Sig Kervin** who goes to 9 Sig Regt; we wish all of them the very best in the future.

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

NEW HOME

ON September 28, 1977, the 'official seal of approval' was given to 233 Sig Sqn's brand new home when the GOC Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir David House,** kindly unveiled a commemorative plaque at the opening ceremony. Unlike a Naval launching, the champagne involved was consumed properly, at a lunch-time reception following the GOC's tour of the newly-opened building. He had the opportunity to meet a cross-section of the Squadron personnel and PSA and DoE representatives.

SUITABLE CELEBRATIONS ATTENDED BY OLD HANDS

The celebrations continued with a buffet lunch in the Squadron Club, at which the principal guests were two former Officers Commanding of the Squadron. **Lt Col Blackwell,** now CO 11 Sig Regt, and **Maj Walker. Lt Col Blackwell** spoke on behalf of **Maj Walker** and himself, and congratulated the current OC, **Maj Horler,** on the Squadron's magnificent new Headquarters.

In reply, **Maj Horler** reminded current members of the Squadron that the planning stages of the building stretched back to 1973.

FANCY DRESS

For those few readers unlucky enough to have missed a tour at sunny Lisburn, a brief historical note. The Squadron was housed in the HQ NI building until 1969, when operational expansion enforced the move of all but the Commcen into the 'Stables' building at the rear of HQ NI. More recently, a large part of the Squadron worked in an *ad hoc* collection of Portakabins for 14 months, while our new building was constructed.

Incidentally, it is not clear whether the architect actually intended to provide us with a venue for large social functions, but the large roofed MT area admirably serves this purpose. The opening day finished with a very successful fancy dress party, given by Techn Troop to say farewell to **Foreman Lynn,** which was attended by nearly 100 guests.

ROYAL SIGNALS COLOURS

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All polyester Striped ..	**£2·20**	**Gold Wire Blazer**	
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Crested Cuff Links ..	**£4·25**	**in stock)**	**£5·35**

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—News from Headquarters—

HQ QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS BFPO 1

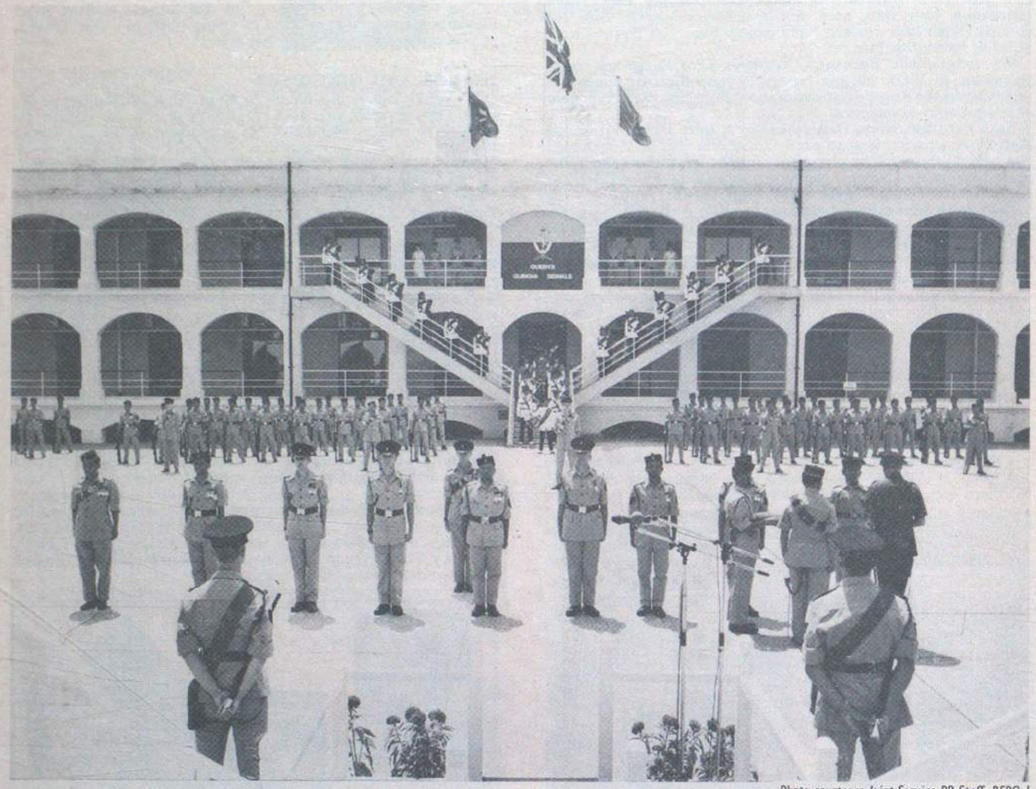


Photo courtesy: Joint Service PR Staff, BFPO 1

RETITLING PARADE

ON September 21 Queen's Gurkha Signals celebrated their new Royal title by holding a retitling and birthday parade at Gun Club Hill Barracks. The Inspecting Officer was the Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, **Lt Gen Sir John Archer, KCB, OBE.** On parade were the two Squadrons of the Regiment, Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn, and the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn, commanded by **Lt Col G. C. Verdon,** Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals. The MGBG was met by the Colonel of the Regiment, **Brig W. P. W. Robertson, CBE,** and after the General Salute the MGBG inspected the parade. Following the inspection the Major General awarded Long Service and Good Conduct medals to nine SNCOs of the Regiment both British and Gurkha.

These were: **WO1 Jamyang Dorje Lama, WO2 Khimbahadur Gurung, WO2 (F of S) T. Crawley, WO2 (Y of S) D. R. Heyes, Ssgts Surjabahadur Thapa, W. E. Tuplin,** and **Sgts Chakrabahadur Tamang, Setbahadur Gurung,** and **Tarakbahadur Thapa.**

Every year since 1954 the 'Birthday Speech' first made by the then MGBG, **Maj Gen L. E. C. M. Perowne, CBE,** has been read to the Regiment on parade. **Lt Gen Sir John Archer, KCB, OBE,** quoted this speech to the Regiment which ends:

'... By your badge men shall know you. By your loyalty, by your behaviour and by your technical skill, they will judge you as men, and measure your efficiency as soldiers.'

The MGBG then added his own words to his predecessor's of a quarter of a century ago:

'These sentiments are even more applicable now, when, 23 years later, and in this, Her own Jubilee Year, Her Majesty The Queen has granted you her Royal Title. I share with you the delight that you have received this honour and that henceforth you shall be known as Queen's Gurkha Signals. This is not something which is granted lightly but shows that you have proved your worth in peace and war, and it is recognition of your loyal and exemplary service. It puts upon every single one of you a new tradition and a new standard to be measured up to daily. I look to you all in Queen's Gurkha Signals to live up to this honour and I expect you to surpass the standards and achievements of those who served before you. I am confident that you will not be found wanting, and offer my sincere and warm congratulations.'

Guests entertained

After the General Salute the Regiment marched past, followed by the Pipes and Drums. The parade was followed by lunch in the Officers Mess and, as well as **Lt Gen Sir John** and **Lady Archer,** guests included **Brig** and **Mrs Crabtree, Brig** and **Mrs Chapple, Capt** and **Mrs Garnon-Williams, Gr Capt** and **Mrs Honley,** the Commanding Officers of Hong Kong major units, **Lt Col** and **Mrs Pratapsing Malla,** and the Gurkha Majors of the Brigade.

The Regiment was pleased to welcome two ex-Gurkha Signals Officers, **Col (Rtd) S. W. Brackenbury, MBE,** and **Lt Col (Rtd) J. I. Parkinson, MBE,** who had flown out from the UK. **Lt Col Parkinson** was on the original badging parade in Kuala Lumpur in September 1954.

In the WOs and Sgts Mess the SNCOs of the Regiment entertained the RSMs of Hong Kong units. Lunch was provided for the junior ranks, among whom were British (including WRAC), Gurkha, and Chinese ranks of the Regiment.

The Gurkha Major

In the 29 years of 'Gurkha Signals' the Regiment has had four titles. On being raised, at the beginning of the Malayan Emergency, in September 1948 the new unit's name was Royal Signals Gurkha, and this lasted until 1952 when it was replaced by the name 'Gurkha Royal Signals'. These first 'Royal Titles' gave way to the name 'Gurkha Signals' when the Regiment became a component part of the Brigade of Gurkhas in 1955. Our proud new title, 'Queen's Gurkha Signals', is thus our third 'Royal Title', but the first to be entirely our own.

The Regiment's Gurkha Major, **Maj (QGO) Tanghum Limbu,** the most senior serving QGO of the Brigade, has served the Regiment throughout its life and under all four of its titles. He enlisted in the Army on February 27, 1948, at the British Gurkha Recruiting Depot, Ghoom. He was amongst the very first Gurkhas to attend 'NCO Instructor Operator Wireless and Line' course in the UK in 1953 and was also amongst the first to pass Class I rating of the operating trade in 1954. He was promoted Sergeant in 1958, and was commissioned in December 1963. In 1975 he was promoted Major (QGO) and took over as Gurkha Major. Since joining the first and newly-formed Gurkha Ind Inf Bde Sig Sqn in Kuala Lipis, Pahang, he has served in Malaya, Nepal, Borneo, Brunei, Hong Kong, the UK, and BAOR. In 1978, on his retirement, he will be promoted to Honorary Lieutenant, the first Honorary Lieutenant, as well as the first GM of Queen's Gurkha Signals.

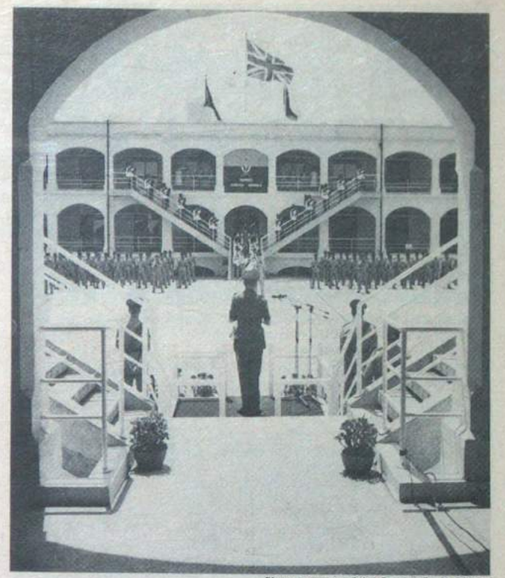


Photo courtesy: Joint Service Staff, BFPO 1

News from Regiments

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

TORTOISE BRINGS BIRDWOOD BARRACKS TO A HALT

IS it a codename for a terrorist alert? Is it an ancient Roman Military formation? Is it a figment of our dental officer's imagination?

The correct answer is, in fact, the latter. Our poor little dead tortoise became the object of everyone's attention when the dental officer thought that he had found a suspicious package. Anyone know how to carry out a controlled detonation on an empty 'shell'?

MARATHON DARTS MATCH

Ten o'clock on Friday, September 9, saw the start of the 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Marathon Darts Match. The two teams were the Corporals Mess versus the Sergeants Mess. The CO, **Lt Col John Halford,** and the 2IC, **Maj Peter Jones,** threw the first darts of the respective teams and from then on it was non-stop throwing, right through the night with an average of 30–40 darts a minute. The aim of the match was to raise £1,000 to be given to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.

On hearing of what was happening and the amount of money we hoped to raise, Chrysler Motors very kindly donated a up, which was to be given to the team with the highest score. Also at this point **Sgt John Moth** helped out. He ran a Marathon Disco which lasted for 38 hours non-stop which totals an average number of 760 played records!

And so, throughout Friday night the darts kept on coming together with the records. The teams of 12 each were divided into shifts of four dart players, who threw for four hours at a time. In addition to this there were the people on the adding machines, people handing darts to the players, the shouter who shouted out the scores and pulled out the darts and also the kitchen staff who kept everybody supplied with sandwiches and coffee.

On Saturday, to the background of darts and music, additional activities got underway. For the children and wives we had a film show, Noddy train and donkey rides and roll-a-penny. It

Members of the Sgts Mess who took part in the marathon darts match

all helped to boost the money and add to the atmosphere. And then on Saturday night everything turned into a disco and buffet night ready for the finish, **Cpl John Bowers** and **Sgt Guss Graham** threw the millionth-and-one dart at 1106 and 1112hrs, respectively. Finally, at 10 o'clock, the darts stopped. The Corporals Mess were declared the winners and the RSM, **WO1 Mick Jennings,** presented the Chrysler Cup to them.

With extremely painful right arms and right sides the teams were glad to finish. It was now a question of collecting in all the sponsorship money. Individual members and each team were sponsored. All in all a total of over £1,100 was collected, all of which can be sent to the charity Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society. **Sgt Moth** and his disco carried on until 3 o'clock Sunday

Members of the Corporals Mess who took part in the marathon darts match

morning after 38 hours non-stop playing. He made a notable contribution to the £1,100 collected. The resounding success of the Marathon Darts Match was all the idea of the Commanding Officer who passed the idea on to the RSM. However, the organisation and work behind it, was all due to **Sgt Terry Sutherland** and **Cpl Ian Beverley,** who organised everything from start to finish. They worked extremely hard, but it was certainly worth while. Our thanks also to **Ex- Caie Graham** who donated 100 darts from NATO Sports for the teams' use.

Sergeants Mess Team	*Corporals Mess Team* (winners)
Sgt Michael Giles	**Cpl Jan Scymzcak**
Ssgt Kevin Straw	**Lcpl Stewart Thompson**
Sgt Peter Berger	**Lcpl Tom Mitchell**
WO2 Douglas Price	**Cpl Bill Lovatt**
Sgt John Evans	**Cpl John Docherty**
Sgt Keith Hawke	**Lcpl Chris Stark**
Sgt Guss Graham	**Lcpl John Bowers**
Sgt Bob Brown	**Cpl Brian Rees**
Sgt Phill Cambell	**Cpl Des Rees**
Sgt Eric Massum	**Lcpl Kevin Raistric**
	Lcpl Dave Heaton
	Cpl Allan Wareham

FREEDOM OF LUBBECKE

Sunday, September 11, dawned with overcast skies and a definite threat of rain. Would the weeks of preparation for the Freedom of Lubbecke Parade be in vain? No, the weather just held and British Week Lubbecke got off to a fine start. The town decided to honour the 'soldiers in Lubbecke' with the Freedom of the Town but who are the 'soldiers in Lubbecke'?

Our 'soldiers' range from GOC 2 Armd Div, **Maj Gen F. E. Kitson, CBE, MC,** through 70 officers and 250 soldiers representing almost every cap badge in the Army, who comprise HQ 2 Armd Div, HQ Sqn 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and small detachments of other units. The Parade was commanded by **Maj David Hodges,** OC HQ Sqn, and all branches of the HQ and detachments in Lubbecke were represented. We were very lucky to have 32 members of the Corps Band, under **BSM Greer,** to lead us through the streets of the town.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ 2 Armd Div

Maj David Hodges (Royal Signals) (the only Royal Signals Officer on parade) leads the parade through the town of Lubbecke

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ 2 Armd Div

Maj Gen F. E. Kiston, CBE, MC, takes the salute as the Royal Signals Band, led by WO1 Jimmy Greer, march past

Taking the salute on the platform were the GOC, the Station Commander, **Lt Col John Halford,** the Bürgermeister, **Herr Warmann,** and the Stadtdirektor, **Herr Tiemeyer.** After the GOC received the Freedom Scroll on behalf of the troops, he presented the Bürgermeister with a Royal Signals side-drum which will be used, presumably to call order at Council meetings! After the ceremony the Guard marched through the town with 'bayonets fixed, swords drawn and drums beating'.

The ceremony was well supported by over 1,500 citizens and British families, and the layout of the Market Square was organised by **Lt Brian Gould** (2IC HQ Sqn) ably assisted by **Cpl McArdle.** Principal German guests were entertained to lunch in the Officers Mess, and the 'return match' was a Cocktail Party given by the Town to mark the end of British Week. Most of the attractions during the week were organised by HQ Sqn. They included band concerts, an exhibition cricket match, a 'black powder' shooting competition, and a grand dance. The town was decked out in hundreds of Union Jacks.

BUNDE SCOUTS AND CUBS

Congratulations are in order for the Scouts and Cubs of Bunde. They were the winners of this year's Commerzbank Challenge Cup. This is a cup which is presented annually by the Commerzbank to the stall which raises the most amount of money at the Kohima Fete. Their hard work started when they collected over 3,000 empty bottles and took their trolley loads by trolley loads to the local shops and NAAFI. This raised DM400 which enabled them to buy full bottles, ranging from a jar of pickles to a 3-litre bottle of brandy. It was **Mrs Sheila Cuckow** and **Mrs Janice Arundel** who then had the job of pushing 6,000 raffle tickets into cut-up drinking straws.

On the day of the fete, **Sgt Brian Eckett** used his skills to lash together a 30-ft A-frame of poles from which the Union Jack and the Scouts and Cubs Flags were flown. It was a very impressive stall and raised DM2,946 altogether. Their well-earned Commerzbank Challenge Cup was presented to them by **Herr Biermann** of the local branch of the Commerzbank. Well done, the Scouts and Cubs and also to their leaders, **WO2 (Foreman) Mick Woodhouse, Cpl Pete Cuckow, Sgts Brian Eckett,** and **Sgt Ian Holmes** who devote so much time and effort, not just for something like this but on a regular weekly basis.

Photo courtesy: Neue Westfalische, Lokalredaktion, Bunde

Cub Barry Woodworth and Scout Andy Harvey hold the Commerzbank Challenge Cup prize which they won for their efforts at the Kohima Fete. Standing behind them are (*left to right*): Cpl Pete Cuckow, Sgt Brian Eckett, Herr Biermann of the Commerzbank, who presented the cup, and Sgt Ian Holmes

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

SIX YEARS OF 6 SQUADRON

ALMOST 400 members of the Regiment paraded on a damp morning in September to say farewell to 6 Sqn and CCR Signals, **Brig G. W. Gittins.** Amongst those present on September 7 were the Commanding Officers of both 1 and 4 Div Sig Regts, **Lt Cols P. R. Davies** and **D. C. Whitehead,** and the Commander Royal Armoured Corps, **Brig J. P. Maxwell, OBE.** The parade, inspected by CCR Signals, consisted of a march past by the Squadron, a symbolic handover of command, and a march past of the newly formed Troop.

Formed in 1971

6 Sqn was formed in 1971 from elements of 4 Sqn, its role being the 1 (BR) Corps Recce Sqn until 1973 when it was given the role of HQ Covering Force Sig Sqn. It provided the equivalent of a Brigade Signal Squadron and was commanded by the Commander Royal Armoured Corps and his Staff. During 1977 the role of Covering Force passed to 4 Div and HQ RAC became one of the Brigade Headquarters in that Division. From June 1977 the Squadron has, in effect, been a Task Force Signal Troop providing communications for CRAC.

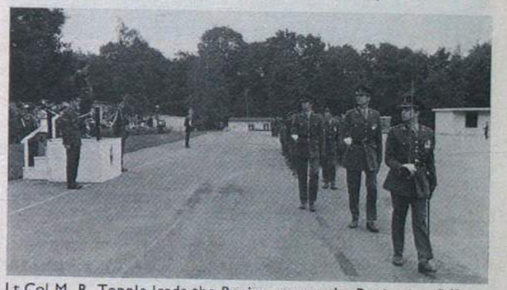
During the parade the Squadron Commander, **Maj Roy Westerman,** handed over command to **Capt Peter Bonser,** who is taking the Task Force Signal Troop to Hohne, when it becomes Task Force Bravo Signal Troop in January 1978. From that brief history it is clear that the Squadron has led a full and varied life during its six years, as all ex-members can vouch!

Reputedly posted in as Right Marker Sgt 'Lofty' Toothill chats to CCR Signals, WO2 SSM Dave Goldsmith and Lcpl 'Lurch' Anderson in support

Attended by many families

The Farewell Parade, attended by many families, was a huge success, a credit to the RSM, **WO1 J. R. Nicoll,** and all who spent many hours rehearsing—no doubt there are some glad to see us go! Quote of the day came from an Allied Commanding Officer present, who was heard to say that he wouldn't dare advance in review order in front of his Regiment! Watch out for our next WIRE notes which should appear under the 1 Div Sig Regt heading in 1978.

Maj Roy Westerman hands over command to Capt Peter Bonser



Lt Col M. R. Topple leads the Regiment past the Reviewing Officer, Brig G. W. Gittins

CCR Signals talks to an 'old' member of the Squadron, Lcpl 'Buli' Vuiyale, Maj Roy Westerman looks on apprehensively . . .

FREEDOM OF HERFORD ANNIVERSARY

This year 7 Sig Regt also celebrated its fifth anniversary of receiving the Freedom of Herford. The occasion was marked on September 15 by a ceremony at Herford Rathaus followed by a march through the City, a reception given by Herford Stadt and, finally, a concert given by the Corps Band.

Capt Hugh Smith led contingents from 1 and 2 Sqns to join the Corps Band on the Rathaus Platz. Our newly-arrived CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers,** and the Bürgermeister of Herford, **Herr Dr Schober,** inspected the troops and took the salute. Following the ceremony the Regiment observed its Freedom by marching the contingent through the streets of Herford with bayonets fixed and drums beating.

The reception given by the Stadt was held at the Schützenhof, where officers and warrant officers class 1 of the Regiment, together with their ladies were able to meet members of the Stadt authorities.

The concert by the Corps Band was given in the Stadt Theatre in their usual entertaining and professional style—a fine ending to our anniversary celebrations.

Brig G. R. Oehlers and Herr Dr Schober inspect Cpl 'Taff' Taylor and Sgt Philip Curran (Royal Australian Signals), temporarily of 2 Sqn

Bearing the Freedom Scroll—WO2 'Titch' Reynolds

REGIMENTAL FETE

September included the Regiment's Annual Fete. We hesitate to call it a summer fete as this year the day turned out to be a cold and wet one. Spirits were not daunted, though, and despite the weather and competition from a nearby unit the Regiment still managed to raise a creditable DM6,150 for charity. Two prizes of DM50·00 were awarded for the best stalls. The QM (Tech's) Straw Stall, organised by **WO2 (RQMS) Len Colley,** won the prize for the best money-spender, and 5 Sqn's 'Ditch the Witch' (you can guess the rest) won the award for the most demanding stall. Well done those lads who braved the ducking stool.

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

MARCHES DU VAL DE MARNE report by Capt 'Kim' Kimber (WRAC)

Early lessons

THE whole tortuous trip began at 1415hrs on Friday, September 23, 1977 (a day my feet will always remember). Our destination—Paris! We were to march 30km on the Sunday in the Marches du Val de Marne, 'what a way to spend a weekend', you might say but 10 intrepid marchers from 'W' Troop, 8 Sig Regt, boarded the Dunkirk ferry at midnight to do just that.

With feet and arms already aching, acrrying all the luggage including, of course, the Royal Signals Flag, we narrowly avoided a couple of potential international incidents and disembarked to join the Paris train. We were a bit slow in competing for seats with 'not so polite' nationals who pushed, shoved and shouted their way into all of those available, but we learnt by our mistakes (see return journey!). We took taxis to the part-ruined but lovely Chateau de Vincennes where we were staying with the French Army. After a few administrative hiccoughs, such as delay in registration and lack of transport to the other barracks (a French 4-tonner saved us eventually!), we found ourselves in the cavalry block surrounded by stables and the aroma of their occupants! We were three floors up in huge rooms with bunk beds, dubious linen, cold washing water and mixed loos! We promptly escaped these horrors, to sample the delights of Paris and returned at 2100hrs for an early night—exhausted!

Ssgt Marie Thomson woke us at 0640hrs. Dressed in our elegant denims, PT shirts, berets and assorted footwear, we set off for breakfast which was, needless to say, in the other barracks. The French Army have obviously studied time and motion as the bowl used for our chocolate was utilised as an ashtray as well as drinking out of! The march began at 1000hrs, and we followed the route of the River Marne into some beautiful areas with people watching us all the way.

Efforts rewarded

Nine miles later we had lunch, and by then **Cpl Anne McManus** and **Sgt June Hawkhead** had bad blisters. We were all revived by bread, meat, prunes and wine but, unfortunately, **Sgt Joan Baldwin's** missing little toe nail was causing too much pain for her to continue and she was whisked off by ambulance. I think we all secretly envied her! I was the only one to cause a stop after that as my arches needed supporting. I think my feet are retreads, as, at that moment they seemed so much older than the rest of me. We crossed the finishing line however, singing away, the relief on our faces obvious. We changed into No 2 dress, resisted the temptation to go to sleep and commenced the march past with people cheering and waving. We thankfully found seats and waited for the presentation. In amongst the French language, we picked out '8th Signal Regiment' and learnt to our amazement that we had won a prize as well as our medals, for smartness, drill, etc.

Tired and weary we returned to Catterick but, well versed in the rules of French travel, we managed to acquire seats on the train and ferry. It was an experience we should not have missed but next year? No, I don't think so!

PRESENTATION

Cpl Brian Collict was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Deputy Commander of NE District, **Brig Hutton,** on September 29, 1977. Following training in 1959, **Cpl Collict's** first posting to Germany was followed by service in Hong Kong, Singapore, Borneo, Malta, and the UK. He is now in our QM (Tech) Dept and leaves the service in December. He married his wife, **Pam,** in 1968 and has three girls aged 8, 6 and 4. The photograph shows him with his family and **Brig Hutton.**

'A' GRADING

Cpl Harold Reay enlisted in the Royal Signals in April 1971 and after his Technician Basic Course was posted to 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. He obtained his Class II rating and his second stripe two years later and was sent to 223 and 224 Sig Sqns, before finding himself in Ulster with a Brigade Signal Squadron. He came to 8 Sig Regt in January this year for his upgrading course and managed to get 22 'A' grades and 7 'B' grades in the various progress and trade tests. Needless to say he was awarded an overall 'A' grade.

The photograph shows **Lt Col Gordon Young** (OC TTS) presenting **Cpl Reay** with his Royal Signals Institution prize, with the rest of the course looking on. They are, from left to right, **Cpls Tekbahadur Gurung, Tallack, London, Martin, Leyland, Johnson** and **Rambahadur Gurung.**

22 YEARS AND A THOUSAND GAMES

or how to be a successful basketball coach by Lt Dave Llewellyn

Incentive

When I was serving in 6th (Boys) Training Regt in 1955, I noticed that, if you played sport for the Regiment, you got a pass which allowed you to wear civilian clothes and, most important of all, you got a late breakfast which meant more bacon and bigger butties. If you actually *boxed* for the Regiment you made friends with Johnny Prescott and you missed first work's parade and got even more bacon and bigger, better butties than most.

From ring to basket

So I went into the ring.

And big Dave Wootten (of ADP Blandford fame) belted me on the chin and floored me. So I played basketball for the Regiment and was content with less bacon and smaller butties. In those days, basketball was akin to netball. The main difference was that the boys wore shorts and had wispy moustaches and the girls wore skirts and shaved only once a month for the Regimental dances.

Near and far

My brilliance was soon noted and I was 'asked' to turn up for every match . . . as the equipment carrier. I had to sign for it too! From **Cpl Henry Jennings** (now a little older and with 11 Regt) How dare you bring back that ball dusty! Yes, Corporal!

With my talent I simply had to be posted to 1 Wireless Regt (13 Sig Regt). Only 'class' players went there. I became the best equipment carrier in BAOR. After four years, two BAOR finals, and a heady Corps Trial (sorry lad, Mick Jennings carries the kit and his brother makes you sign for it) I headed out to the Far East, where the 3ft 4in Chinese used to beat the daylights out of us. They could jump 12ft! Having collected my medal for beating the Indonesians by eight points, I decided that we could probably win the Borneo war without me, and returned to Germany where, valiantly carrying the kit over the Bielefeld Ridge, I matured my game. That is to say that I was older and slower. But, of course, I was wiser. My star rose while at Catterick with the School of Signals and a glorious choice of team saw me playing against Harrogate, who had three Army players. With my glasses broken and my blind right eye glaring, I stormed down the court and scored a beautiful basket . . . FOR THEM! We lost by one basket . . . carry the kit Llewellyn. . . Yes, Sir. 22 Sig Regt saw me really on form and I played in *every* game. Well, no-one else had a Volkswagen bus and it did carry the kit and the team, and the beer very well.

Current form

Currently I run the 8 Sig Regt team with an iron fist. I tell them exactly what to do, how to play, what tactic to use, and how to get the ball in the bucket. They go out and play exactly how they want to, enjoy themselves and win as well. Which is as it should be.

Twenty-two years and a thousand games later I see basketball rising as a national sport, schools and youth clubs teach and encourage it, thousands of ticket-buying public see it, millions watch it on TV, the Cup Final attracts 8,000, and every new sports centre features a first-class court. With all this and fit young soldiers to boot only one thing bothers me . . . how the hell did the WRAC team beat us by one basket last week? Carry the kit Llewellyn. . . Yes, Colonel.

(**Dave** leaves very shortly to go on a MIO's course and we lose a very enthusiastic, experienced basketball player, who attacks the game with his usual unfailing sense of humour. Good luck, **Dave!**)

SCHEMES GROUP MISCELLANEA

With the heavy commitment of 'B' and 'C' sections involving the Combat Radioman training, we have had to programme Line Section (The Hairy's) to run the 2½-day initial exercise known as First Cut. **Sgt 'Paddy' O'Brien** and his merry men entered into the spirit of this exercise with the vigour and down-to-earth planning expected of them.

On completion of the students' First Cut! they try and remember all the communication drills and procedures taught previously in the Trade Training School. Needless to say, whether it's working the C42 on Exercise Cutlass Thrust or tuning and setting up of the Radio Relay equipment on Exercise Broad Blade, a mental blockage is always apparent.

The turn-over of cadre staff seems to have increased over the last 12 months, many new faces and problems arising. Our congratulations go to **Sgt Rea** on passing out as 'Top Student' on

124 Staff-sergeants course and **Cpl Johnson** obtaining an 'A' Grading on his Combat Radio Class III course.

A most welcome sight is the WRAC Data Telegs working under field conditions during Exercise First Look. Their cheerful humour and willingness to learn is very apparent.

Last but not least, our condolences go out to **Cpl Hardy** and **Lcpl Kessel,** who have 'taken the plunge' and are now well and truly lumbered with their respective *homo sapien* counterparts.

A BIT HAIRY . . .?

A Foreman WO1 in the Regiment was saluted one day by a corporal. When he was thanked for his courtesy and asked why he had done so, the corporal replied: 'Sorry, Sir! I thought you were an officer because of the length of your hair!'.

9 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 58

THE end of summer in Cyprus is usually indicated by the appearance of rugby balls and citrus fruits. This year it was also marked by the last of the regiment's jubilee functions—the Jubilee Fete, and the grand opening of the Ayios Nikolaos Community Centre.

JUBILEE FETE

The fete was held on Wednesday, September 21, on the regimental sports field. The Squadrons and Wives Clubs provided the stalls and side shows ranging from 'throwing the horse shoe' to 'shooting' and 'archery'. Throughout the afternoon entertainment was provided by the Bands of the 3 Bn Royal Anglians and the 1 Bn The Royal Irish Rangers, a judo display by the Regimental Judo Club, a musical ride by the Famagusta Saddle Club and, finally, a free-fall parachute display. The tremendous effort put in by all concerned resulted in a substantial profit, much of which will be used in connection with the Community Centre.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

The jubilee fete coincided with the opening night of the Ayios Nikolaos Community Centre. The Community Centre is situated in the old Garrison Sergeants Mess and is open to all ranks. Three evenings a week a restaurant night will be held where a low-price meal can be had in pleasant surroundings. The Centre will also house the Thrift Shop, MMG facilities and a ladies' hair-dressing salon. The hard work and long hours put in by **RSM Jim Brown** and his wife; **F of S Peter Jones, WO1 Bill Clark** and **WO2 John Meehan** were rewarded by a very successful evening. Judging by the enthusiasm of those who attended on the first night the Community Centre will be a much used and appreciated amenity.

ANOTHER OPENING

The WOs and Sgts Mess celebrated September with the opening of their new indoor bar. Having just completed the work on this bar they are now setting out to refurbish other parts of the Mess. Rumours abound of swimming pools, massage parlours. . . .

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Bar builders

Left to right: WO1 Graham Widdowson, Sgt 'Ginge' Rose, Ssgt Bob Porter (RAF), Ssgt 'Chippy' Canning DEMI (LEP), Mr John Mortimer

COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS

Ferranti Offshore Systems continue to expand their North Sea activities which include the operation and maintenance of complex communications systems. They have an immediate requirement for engineers, probably at HND/Degree level, who will have relevant experience in several of the following disciplines:

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FERRANTI

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Presentation of IX Pennant to Sergeants Mess of 1 Bn The Royal Irish Rangers

Left to right: Sgt 'Ginge' Rose, Sgt Harry Keogh (R Irish), RSM Jim Brown, CSM Wally O'Malley (R Irish), Pipe Maj Jimmy McGoochan (R Irish)

To mark the extremely friendly relationship developed between the WOs and Sgts Messes of 9 Sig Regt and the 1 Bn The Royal Irish Rangers a unique presentation was held in the Mess. **RSM Jim Brown** presented **CSM Wally O'Malley** with a 9 Sig Regt pennant specially designed for the occasion.

SWIMMING REPORT

September also contained the final inter-station swimming and water polo meetings. The Regiment competed successfully in its guise of the Ayios Nikolaos station team in both competitions.

The water polo league was won handsomely which was not too surprising as the bulk of the Army (Cyprus) team consists of 9 Sig Regt personnel. An unbeaten record was maintained throughout the season. **QMSI Pete Perrott, Sgt Pete Stickland, Cpls John Chapman, 'Stu' Price, Bob Coolling, Lcpls Terry Waites, Martin Chapman, Sigs 'Scouse' Brereton, Mick Dowd, 'Barney' Barnes, SAC Jimmy Riddell, J/T Trev Banks** are to be congratulated on their fine performance.

Although 9 Sig Regt, again in the guise of Ayios Nikolaos station, narrowly won the final match of the inter-station swimming league they did not quite catch the league winners, Episkopi, and had to make do with second place. Those representing the station swimming team were the entire water polo team mentioned above plus **Majs David Geeves** and **Ray Woodcock.**

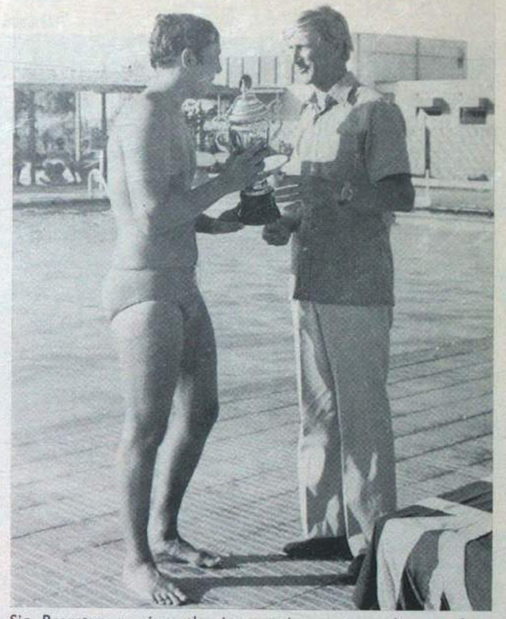
NEWS ON TWO

2 Sqn 'A' side fought their way through the Cyprus 7-a-side soccer competition to the final where they narrowly beat the 1 Bn Royal Irish Rangers 'A' team. Amongst those representing the Squadron 'A' team were **Sig Nigel Rock, Lcpl Peter Ridlington, Cpl Tony Willsom, SACs Dave Bues** and **Jimmy Riddell.** A good performance by the 'A' side and not a bad one from the 'B' side either, who lost narrowly by a penalty goal in the semi-finals to the Royal Irish 'A' side.

WO2 (SSM) Andy Boyle organised his last Squadron barbecue before he departs in October or thereabouts for the UK. An afternoon of gentle beach sports led up to the evening barbecue. A good turnout ensured a most enjoyable day which was very much appreciated by all those attending.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

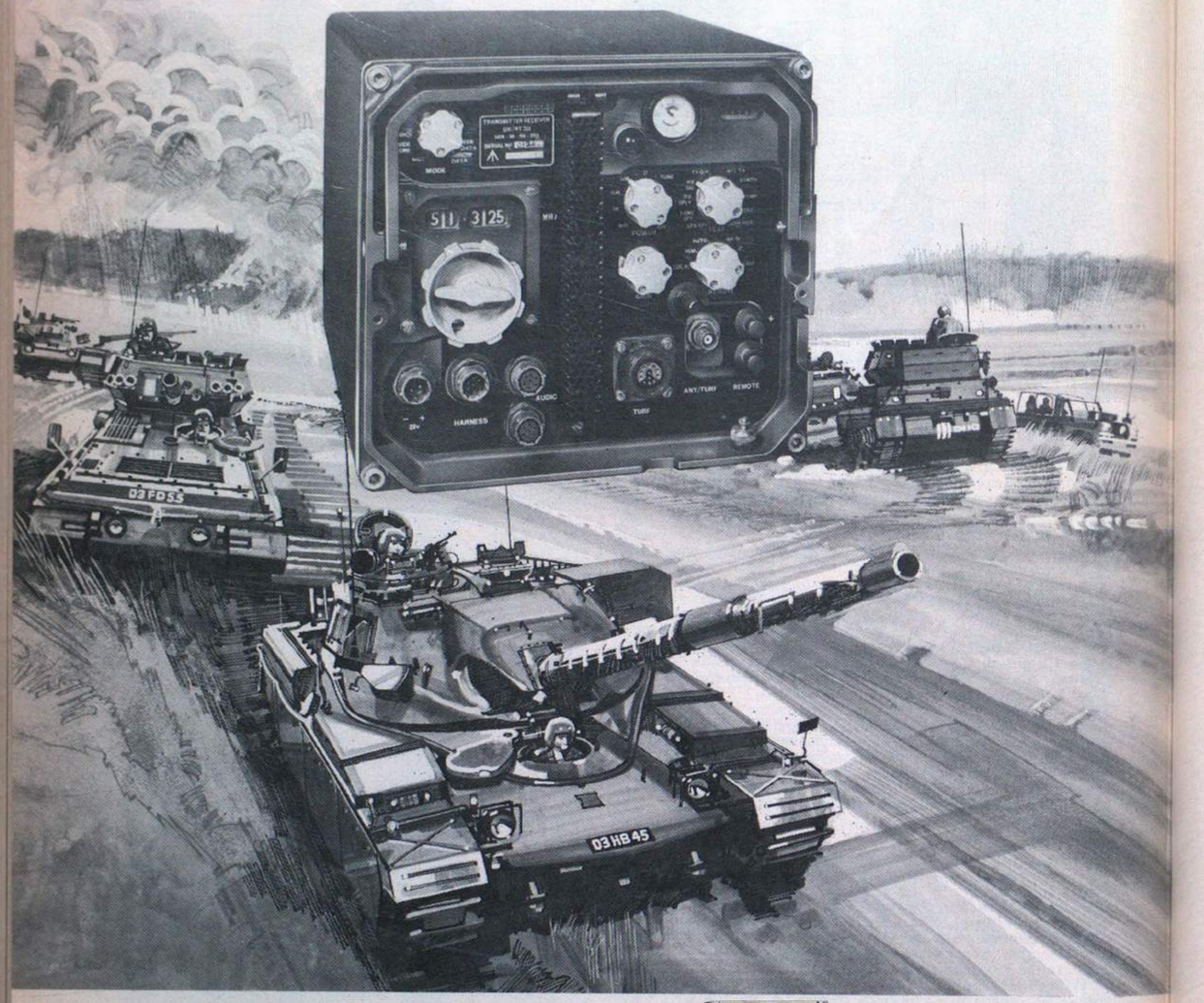


Sig Brereton receives the inter-station water polo cup from Lt Col Flower (REME)

AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR TWO

Sig Chris Eden and W/Lcpl Sue Palmer, both of 9 Sig Regt, on the occasion of their marriage

UK/VRC353. That's fighting talk.



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10 Sig Regt Hounslow

ANNUAL CAMP 1977

THIS year's camp was held from September 4–17 at St Martin's Plain Camp, Folkestone. The six-day programme was repeated each week to allow all Royal Signals personnel the chance to visit the sunny south coast resort for a few days' holiday!

The Camp Directing Staff consisted of the following shy, quiet, unassuming personnel:

Maj David Lycett-Gregson
WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton
WO2 (RQMS) John Hunt
WO2 (SSM) Geof Nelson
Ssgt Geof Marshall
Sgt Colin Richardson
Cpl John Robertson

Left to right: Sgt Colin Richardson, WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton, WO2 (Y of S) Allan Winstanley, Brig P. H. F. Webb, MBE, CO, Lt Col Peter Goldney

LDC Troop going over an obstacle

Pleasures ahead

The customers each week were welcomed by the DS, shown to their rooms and briefed on the future pleasures they were soon to encounter. Everyone must have been impressed and eager to do as much as possible, because they suddenly started running everywhere! After a marvellous lunch they had formed up into small groups, calling themselves sections, appointed leaders for each section and, just to ensure each section was entertained equally, they even had spokesmen calling themselves Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant.

Beautiful scenery

Being impressed by the apparent enthusiasm, the DS took it upon themselves to show the whole Platoon some of the beautiful scenery surrounding the camp. At the end of the conducted tour was a place of immense beauty and enjoyment. This place was to become fondly known as the assault course. Everyone liked the assault course so much that they booked themselves five hours each, over the period of six days. They particularly enjoyed the weighted stretcher escapades!

These jaunts became so competitive that the sections asked the DS to judge which was the best team each week. Reluctantly, the DS agreed and shown below are their findings.

Week One	*Week Two*
Sgt Roy Churm	**Sgt Graham Chapman**
Sgt Bob Scott	**Cpl Rab Anderson**
Sgt Charlie Walker	**Cpl Lee Hodds**
Sgt Eddie Postlethwaite	**Cpl Keith Bolton**
Sgt Jim Graley	**Cpl 'Robbo' Robinson**
Sgt Terry Spicer	**Lcpl Sam Burke**
Sgt Graham Hopper	**Lcpl Pete Lawlor**
	Sig Bill Berrie
	Cfn Pete McClune

Fancy dress, too

The next few days were taken up with holiday pastimes such as dressing up in fancy clothes and masks, country walks and shooting. The DS were slightly disappointed at the lack of inventiveness shown by the groups. It seemed that everybody had the same idea on what to wear for fancy dress. Charcoal grey suits and black masks were everybody's choice. They were so proud of themselves that they even kept their masks on for eating, drinking and shooting.

Once again the already overworked DS were asked to adjudge who were the best masked marksmen.

Week One	*Week Two*
Sgt Sam Saunders	**Sgt Chris Endean**
Cpl Steve Hall	**Sgt 'Jock' MacRae**
Cpl John Thomson	**Cpl Pete Hirst**
Lcpl Steve Cocksedge	**Lcpl Gerry Pickett**
Lcpl Dennis Millington	**Lcpl Marty Rabbetts**
Sig Steve Coleman	**Lcpl Sam Coltman**
Sig Ian Dyer	**Sig Billy Kemp**
Sig Adrian Downs	**Sig Graeme Lowe**

Night games

By now the days had flown by and it was Thursday and, would you believe it, the customers had the audacity to once again ask the poor DS to arrange some night games for them to enjoy. Hide and seek seemed the easiest game to organise so it was decided that the lucky customers could have picks and shovels to enable them to hide themselves away with and the DS would have the problem of finding them. To make the evening that little bit more exciting a fireworks display was arranged; unfortunately, some of the 'fireworks' were very bright, loud, smoky and, in some cases, strange smelling. Once again fancy dress was worn and proved effective against nasty-smelling fireworks. One of the many amusing incidents was when **WO2 (Y of S) Allan Winstanley** was heard to say he didn't need to carry out a 'sniff test'. He would merely wait for **WO2 (SSM) Wally Marsden** to stop coughing and crying.

Next morning there was a distinct air of gloom in the camp, which could only be explained away by the fact it was the final

day of the holiday. So to cheer everyone up, a potted sports competition was arranged in the afternoon by **Cpl John Robertson.** Lots of telegraph poles and medicine balls were used and for two hours non stop, the by now, physically shattered Directing Staff were required once again to monitor and assess the winning teams. By some remarkable coincidence they were the same teams which were so successful over the assault course.

Great success

The final evening each week turned out to be a very happy social occasion, so happy that people were actually volunteering to stay another week.

During the merry-making, **WO2 (RQMS) John Hunt,** on behalf of the DS, made a presentation of an ashtray to **WO1 (RSM) Danny Lamerton** who in turn thanked everyone for making the camp so memorable. (Late nights and early PT seemed to be the foundation for success.) Other presentations made during camp were to **Sgt 'Jock' MacRae** for his efforts over the assault course, **Cfn Peter McClune** and **'Paddy' Rafferty** for carrying the flag of the REME so reliantly and a rather special medal was presented by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Goldney,** to **Capt Noelle Vickers** (WRAC), OC LDC Troop, for 'leading by example' over the assault course.

The camp was a tremendous success and everybody is eagerly looking forward to next September when the Regiment goes on 'holiday' again.

1 SQUADRON (WILTON) REPORT

July saw a changeover of CDSO in the Commcen. We sadly say farewell to our Traffic Officer, **Capt Adcock,** who leaves us to take up new duties at Aldershot. At the same time we extend a warm welcome to our new Traffic Officer, **Maj Oakley.** Sunday, July 31, was the day set aside for the RMP centenary march at Chichester, the distance to be covered was 25 miles. The Squadron had seven entrants but unfortunately due to a couple of mishaps the only participants were **Lt Baker** (WRAC), **Sgt Green, Cpls Anderson** and **Bain** who all completed the course and were each presented with a gold medal.

The month also saw the departure of **Sig Richmond** who has chosen to try his hand at civilian life. We wish him and his family the very vest of luck.

Wednesday, July 27 the WRAC had an invitation to visit the senior citizens at Downside in Wilton, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. On behalf of the Squadron, **Lcpl Bray** presented the residents with a clock, purchased from the fund started in 1976. The remainder (£13) is to be sent to Westminster Hospital as a donation to the Research into Bone Marrow Deficiency.

RADIO TROOP, 2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

Since our last WIRE notes we had quite an influx of new arrivals within the Troop and so we would like to give a hearty welcome to **Cpl 'Skippy' Mounsey** and family (**'Skippy'** is on detachment from the Australian Army on Exercise Long Look), **Cpl Dommett** and family, **Sigs 'B' Hildreth** and **A. McE. Crook.** Unfortunately, we are also losing members of the Troop: **Lcpl 'Bernie' Randall** and his wife, **Hilary,** are destined for *life* in civvy street and also **Sig Dave Smith** and his wife, **Jane. Dave** is leaving us on posting to Belize.

For the last four weeks the Troop have been without their Troop Sergeant, **Sgt 'Shaun' Dillon-White,** who is recovering from a back complaint. **Cpl Keith Bolton** (who has been running the Troop in his absence) would like to say at this stage, 'Come back Sgt D-W all is forgiven'.

The Troop have been very busy since their return from Summer Camp. They have been involved in various HF and VHF exercises and also they have been preparing for the ARU.

SPORT

The Troop is quite athletic, **Lcpl Pete Lawlor** has been a regular Corps swimmer and also a keen Regimental footballer. **Lcpl 'Sam' Burke** has also been chosen to represent the Corps at squash and he is also a member of the Regimental squash team. On the cricket scene the Troop provided **Cpl Keith Bolton, Sig Dave Smith, Lcpls Wally Wallace** and **'Sam' Burke** for the Regimental cricket team.

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ALL GO

AS with most units September has been a month of activity after the popular leave periods in the summer. Operationally we have been as busy as ever with our usual number of visitors. Despite this we have managed a number of sporting activities, some of which are reported on below. Meanwhile, in this edition we have the six-monthly 'H' Troop résumé of events.

SPORTS ROUND UP

We have continued fostering interest in golf amongst those with the larger handicaps. To this end we have held an Officers *v* Senior NCOs competition and the autumn Regimental meeting. The former was won by the officers whilst in the latter **Maj Ken Aitken** won the main prize. Among the other prize-winners were **Cpl Andy Marshall, Capt David Easton** and **SSI Bob Parkinson** whilst 'H' Troop won the Inter-Squadron Cup. Our camera reports show **Maj Joe Adams** expertly surprising all (including himself) by playing 'out of' a bunker, and in the other the CO, the RSM, **Joe Adams,** and **WO2 Dave Cheyne** taking a little refreshment halfway round.

Golfing refreshments

On the cricket front we hosted the Corps (BAOR) side and the Pioneers Cricket Club during their match. The Pioneers, a touring side from the UK, included **Don Brennan,** the **Pope Brothers,** other well-known Derbyshire players and **Brig Norman Butler** from Catterick. We had a very enjoyable day, topped from our point of view by a fine bowling display of **Ssgt Dave Luckett,** and a magnificent 86 off the bat of **Ssgt Frank Dempster.**

The Royal Signals (BAOR) cricket team that beat 'the Pioneers' at Birgelen

Left to right. Standing: Sub (*name not known*), Capt Jerry Madren, Ssgt Frank Dempster, Ssgt Dave Luckett, Capt Jim Shaw, Maj Stephen Carr-Smith, Sgt Chris Bond, Mrs Thewliss (*scorer and morale booster*)

Sitting: Maj Bill Price, Capt John Thewliss, Sgt Dave Taylor (*skipper*), Sgt Bob Lawrence, Lcpl Rob Frape

Finally, in these sports notes we announce the victory of the HQ Sqn side in the Regimental cross-country competition. The competition was won individually by **Lcpl Campbell,** who was admirably supported by the rest of his team (see photograph).

An all-smiling HQ Sqn cross-country team having just won the inter-Squadron trophy

Left to right. Back row: Pte Frank Halliday, Cpl Alan Bullock, Lcpl Steve Rayner, Capt John Henderson, Lcpl 'Scouse' Hamilton *Front row:* Lcpl Ron Campbell, Lcpl Ian Bolland, Pte 'Squiggles' Wigley

'H' TROOP REMINISCENCES

With the summer now over it is perhaps time to reflect on what there was of it.

Firstly there are the usual changes of personalities to report. **WO1 (F of S) Dave Sugden** has departed for the UK and has been replaced by **WO2 (F of S) John Mellors.** To herald his arrival, the Troop was struck twice by lightning within five minutes, so at least he now knows where the spare fuses are kept. In addition the departure of **Sgt Garry Haynes, Cpl Bryan Wells** (ACC), **Lcpl Jim Keay,** and the arrival of **Sgt 'Willi' Willmott** (ACC), **Lcpl Jack Harris** (ACC), and **Cpl George Muir** are reported.

The annual suntan of the year award went to the 2IC, **Capt Peter Merritt,** who together with **Cpl John Hickman, Lcpls Sandie Campbell,** and **Jim Keay** spent a week sailing in the Baltic. Despite the absence of a good wind, it is understood that a good time was had by all, and that several ports were visited. Continuing in the sporting vein, the Troop soccer team has gone from strength to strength, remaining unbeaten by German teams. The OC, **Capt John Kay,** proved that Double Diamond works wonders when, after a sip at half time, he put five goals past a visiting RAF team in a 10—3 victory.

Troop players now feature in all four of the Dannenberg teams, **Sgt Mick Braddon** playing for the first team, **Ssgt Alec Gaw** for the second, **Sgt Terry Yardley** and **Cpl Dave Green** in the third, and the remainder of the players in the fourth. Last, but by no means least—**Sgt (38 years old) Don Shrives** plays for the Alte Herren (Old Men's team).

One of the main Anglo/German events took place in July in the form of the annual Fete. In addition to a football tournament, run by **WO2 Tony Baker,** the Wives Club ran a successful handicrafts and coffee tent, supported by the inevitable Bratty stall, capably staffed by **Sgt 'Willi' Willmott, Lcpl Jack Harris** and **Mr Ray Davies.**

The day culminated in a dance in the local Schützenhaus, with the Band of 13/18 Hussars providing the music. The second major Anglo/German event was the Schützenfest Parade. For the uninitiated, this parade is a test of real stamina, involving a 12-hour march around the streets of the town, stopping frequently to replace lost fluids. Representing the Troop were **Capt John Kay, WO2 Tam MacDonald, Ssgt Alec Gaw, Sgts Mick Braddon** and **Jim Merchant,** and **Lcpls Sandy Campbell** and **Jim Keay.**

Last but not least, the Troop has had its usual spate of visitors including **Maj Gen C. S. Wallis-King** and **Rear Admiral B. C. Perowne.** The latter senior officer presented the SSM, **WO2 Iam MacDonald,** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

YOUTH PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN

AUGUST was a quiet month with regard to exercises and other similar events; however, much time was spent organising and supporting a Youth programme for the children of Krefeld Station. The various activities which were overall co-ordinated by 28 Sig Regt, culminated in a Youth 'It's a Knockout' competition on August 27. Almost a hundred young people from 4 to 16 years took part in an afternoon of enjoyable competition which itself ended in a grand race requiring the entire team to leap into a water tank full of very cool water, in cooks' clothing and race 100 yards to the finish. The bright, sunny afternoon was only slightly flawed by a downpour just as the prizegiving commenced.

Regimentally, the moving light with regard to the Youth programme was **Miss Marion Lawler** our Youth Leader, aided and abetted by **Lt Ian Fraser.**

MARRIAGES

Slightly out of context, it should be mentioned that since the competition **Marion** and **Ian** were married. The event took place on September 24 in South Wales which, unfortunately, precluded attendance by the majority of the Regimental officers and other well-wishers. However, a few did take time to travel and celebrate the happy occasion.

To complete the notes on marriages, on August 6, **Lt Richard Thurston** married **Miss Angela Cantle** in Celle; she is the daughter of our past Quartermaster, **Maj Terry Cantle,** now of 14 Sig Regt. **Richard** has since departed, together with his wife, for academic pastures in Shrivenham.

FREEDOM OF KREFELD

On September 2 we exercised our rights as granted with the Freedom of Krefeld by parading and marching in the town. The event was attended by a number of senior officers and many local Stadt dignitaries. They included the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** and the Commander Rhine Area, **Brig J. C. Moore, MBE,** Commander 4 Signal Group, **Col R. H. Gilbertson,** and the Oberbürgemeister, **Herr Hanheinz Hauser.**

Combined with this freedom parade were the twinning celebrations between Leicester City and Krefeld. This is an annual event and once more the Regiment entertained the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, **Cllr** and **Mrs Albert T. Baker,** over the period September 1–4. Their programme was fairly hectic and varied, and on their leaving, although they were tired, they expressed their thanks for a most enjoyable weekend with the Regiment, marred only by their return flight being cancelled half an hour before take off!

Incidentally, many readers may remember **Maj Freddy Stork** who is currently residing in Leicester. He brought over the Leicester City Pipe Band who added colour to a variety of events throughout the weekend.

ANGLO-GERMAN SOCIETY

The annual Anglo-German Society Ball, usually held in December, was moved to September to coincide with the twinning ceremonies, Freedom parade and so on. The attendance at the Ball by nearly 400 Germans and British from Krefeld in our Regimental gymnasium is evidence of our healthy relations with the German civilian population. The event was most enjoyable in every respect with the exception that certainly two people were slightly disgruntled—one was **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** (WRAC) and the other was **Lcpl Dellenty** (RCT) (staff car driver for the Lord Mayor) both of whom lost their hats. We must wait until Karneval to see who the souvenir collector was.

Our latest adventure with the Anglo-German Society was to be hosted at the Herbstkirmes on September 29. This is the annual Autumn Fair and about 40 British and German partners visited the fair and were entertained to free rides and 'goes' on many of the more exciting 'big dippers' and so on. All those who attended remarked on how super a time they had had, which made those who had missed it all the more envious.

TENNIS

After many false starts the Officers Mess eventually fielded teams to play two invitation matches. The first was against the Officers and their wives of HQ 4 Signal Group led by the redoubtable **Maj (Retd) Henry Chapman,** which resulted in a win for 4 Signal Group. The second was in response to an invitation to match against Krefeld Tennis Gesellschaft. Again we were overwhelmed, but were sweetened by being entertained extremely well at what was all in all a furtherance of our aims to widen contact with the German community. There is now no more time to arrange return fixtures so certainly we have the pleasurable duty to arrange this next season.

DUTIES!

Regimentally we entered a team in the Rhine Area First Aid competition which took place in Düsseldorf on September 16, and the team which was organised by **Sgt Roberts** and 'captained' by **Cpl Bert Malseed** (of PRI) gained a creditable second place.

On the 22nd the inter-Squadron Cross-country competition was organised to sort out talent for the coming Rhine Area cross-country league. On the day the event, over four miles, was won by **Sgt Graham Crossland** and a very good run into second place was made by **Sig Benny Bywater;** 2 Sqn were awarded the trophy for overall team winners.

On September 26 the Choir, taking the form of an Edwardian Singing Troupe, did 'something different'. At Willich gymnasium, offered by 40 Army Support Regt RE, a grand Harvest Supper was staged. Overall this was organised by **Padre John Slegg** and faithfully aided by his wife, **Marlene.** After a vast number of rehearsals, which took most of the Commanding Officer's waking hours and those of his wife, and of the remainder of the choir, the show reached the stage. It was music hall in the style of 'The Good Old Days' TV programme and was very, very enjoyable and good family entertainment. It is a little risky to single out performances as the entire effort was so good but the excellent renderings of 'The Galloping Major' by **RSM Bob Vale** and 'I'm 'Enery the Eighth I Am' by **Mr John Perriot** (a NAAFI employee) had the entire audience of 350-plus singing their heads off.

Stop Press. In response to popular request the cast are putting on the show for the Anglo-German Society meeting on October 11.

SIGNAL CORPS US ARMY GUESTS

To help out our friends in the Corps Area we hosted 30 US troops on R & R from Exercise Reforger, they were from the HQ Coy of 121 Sig Bn. They arrived very tired from Stuttgart on the afternoon of Friday, September 30, and were so exhausted from the military exercise that they took much of Saturday to recover. However, they made many friends in the Barracks and certainly found their way into town. There were 30 very happy faces boarding the coach to return to South Germany on the morning of October 4 and at least one soldier was wearing the beret with 'Jimmy'. The NCO in charge, **Sgt First Class Nathan Nelson,** said they would love to come back next year and certainly they were excellent guests.

SQUASH

Over the weekend October 8–9 **Maj Tony Marley** played for BAOR 'B' team entered in the annual SHAPE Festival Tournament. The BAOR team won overall and, for the record, **Marley** won three of his four games.

QSMI John Nicholas, a keen squash player of some standard, leaves us this month for the Outer Hebrides. Before he went he was presented with a small token of appreciation from the squash-playing wives of the Regiment who have benefited from his Monday morning coaching sessions during his three-year tour.

ARRIVAL EXTRAORDINAIRE

From Melbourne, Australia, **Capt Gary Power** (RA Signals) on Exercise Long Look 77. He will be writing of his impressions of the British Army before he leaves in early December.

ALARUMS AND EXCURSIONS

Regimental Battle Camp at Vogelsang occupied a fortnight very recently. More detailed/amusing accounts from the field squadrons will follow next month. For the record, the patrol competition based on military tasks was won by **Sgt Joe Gill's** patrol from 3 Sqn group with 95½ points from 100; closely followed in by **Cpl Fawcett's** patrol from 2 Sqn group with only half a point less. Well done!

A Memorable Week-end

1 The Oberbürgemeister, H. Hauser (*centre*), listening to a response from the Lord Mayor of Leicester after the unveiling of the Leicester City plaque in the Rathaus. The Lady Mayoress looking on

2 The Oberbürgemeister accompanied by the Commanding Officer (Lt Col Keith Allwright) and the Second in Command inspects the front rank of the Freedom Parade contingent

3 The Lord Mayor takes tea with the Corporals in their Mess. Seated at rear, *left to right*, Lcpl 'Munch' McGreevy, Lcpl Alan Owen, Cpl Peter Probin. Seated *foreground*, Cpl Tom Williams and Lcpl Mark Jones, who seems interested in the conversation between the Lord Mayor and Cpl (now Sgt) Pete Jackson

4 The Leicester City Pipe Band parading prior to the Rathaus reception after the official Freedom Parade

5 The Commanding Officer flanked by the Oberbürgemeister and the Lord Mayor after Herr Hauser had re-named a married quarters road 'Leicesterstrasse' in that city's honour

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SCOUT AWARD FOR RICHARD BELL

THE 'calm courage' of 11-year-old **Richard Bell,** son of **Ssgt** and **Mrs John Bell,** of HQ Sqn, was recognised at a ceremony at HQ BAOR on September 23. **Richard** was presented with Scouting's Medal of Meritorious Conduct by **Gen Sir Frank King,** who is not only C-in-C BAOR, but also Commissioner, British Scouts in Western Europe.

Richard earned his award when he went to the aid of a young girl whose arm became impaled on a metal gate section. With knowledge gained during earlier Cub/Scout training, he had been able to give some medical aid to the girl before taking her to the Cub/Scout leader who lived nearby. Congratulating **Richard, Gen King** said he was 'a very good Scout'. The medal citation was read by the Scout District Commissioner for Heinsberg.

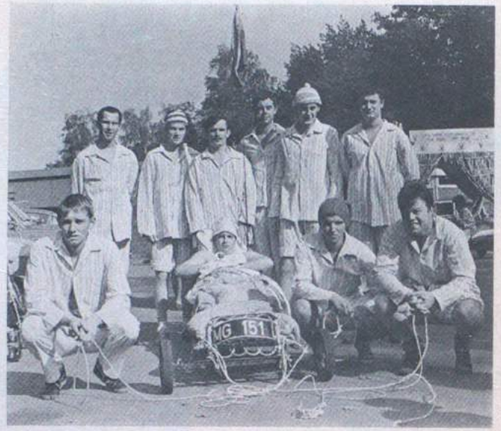
We would like to add the congratulations of the Regiment to **Richard** for his prompt and effective action.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ BAOR

Scouts' handshake as Gen Sir Frank King greets Scout Richard Bell in the General's office

SILVER JUBILEE BED RACE

The great, WRAF organised, charity bed race was held at RAF Wildenrath on Saturday, September 24. The event attracted a number of contenders from the Station and was watched by a large crowd. The 'beds' came in a variety of guises from a bicycle around which was built a bed of equipment trolleys. The only Army entry was from 2 Sqn; the GT bed driven by **Sig Terry Dullaghan** and pulled by **Lt Jo Fletcher** and his eight horse-power team. The team completed the 3½-mile course on foot towing bed containing patient, in an exhausting 19min 30sec, only 19sec longer than the winner on a bicycle (bed?). If anyone has



Left to right. Top: Sgt Starling, Cpl Geddes, Sig McKinney, Lt Fletcher, Cpl May, Lcpl Haydock. *Bottom:* Sig Whiting, Sig Dullaghan, Lcpl Ashbrook, Lcpl Donovan

any doubts about how strenuous the race was they should consult **Lcpl 'Taff' Donovan** and **Sig Dave Whiting** whose unofficial time was 30min including two 'pint stops'. Congratulations must go to the rest of the team: **Sgt Andy Starling, Cpls 'Geordie' May** and **Alan Geddes, Lcpls John Haydock** and **Bill Ashbrook** together with **Sig Ken McKinney** for a fine effort. Fancy being beaten by a bike! As can be seen from our photograph, the team was well turned out in issue pyjamas, courtesy of RAF Hospital Wegberg.

Footnote: When **Lt Fletcher,** fresh from this triumph, was admitted to Wegberg next day as a result of being thrown from a horse, he finished up in a badly-fitting pair of pyjamas with no buttons. As the nurse explained . . . 'All our good ones are out on loan to 21 Sig Regt'.

0·22 SMALL BORE SHOOTING

An inter-Troop small bore shooting competition took place on Friday, September 23, with the Nielson Cup as the prize for the team with the highest aggregate score. A prize was also provided for the highest individual score. A total of 13 teams participated including two guest teams, one comprised of RAF members of the Station Small Bore Club, the other made up from 16 Sqn RAF Regt. As a change from last year, when competing troops used standard No 8 0·22 rifles fired on the Station indoor miniature range, this year's competition was run on the 25yd outdoor range and used SLRs fitted with the Heckler Koch conversion kits.

After a fine day's shooting, 'M' Troop, captained by **Sgt Dick Sims,** took first place just pipping by two points the RAF team captained by **Sgt Borritt.** A red-faced OC 'M' Troop conceded that victory was, quote, 'in spite of me'. His appalling score wasn't helped by the fact that an additional round was fired after a misfire, when he assumed on re-loading that a round must have been ejected. An examination of the card at the conclusion of the practice revealed 11 shot holes, thus incurring a 10-point penalty (loss of highest scoring shot). *Moral*—always count your shots carefully! Great credit must be given to the other members of the 'M' Troop team.

The meeting finished at 1600hrs when the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Bernard Allen,** presented the cup to the winning team of **Sgts Trev Jones** and **Dick Sims, Lcpls Mick Buchan, 'Chick' Ross** and **Terry Hayes,** and **Maj Norman Cox.** The prize for the best individual was awarded to the captain of the RAF team, **Sgt Borritt.**

1 SQUADRON REPORT

Preparation for our winter commitment in Ulster has overshadowed what had promised to be a quiet autumn, but the Squadron has nevertheless acquired something of an international flavour. **Cpl 'Sandy' Sandever** has been to Norway on a Unit Expedition Leaders' course, a 'B' Troop team comprising **Lt Jim Stabler, Cpl Sandever, Lcpl Mick Frost, Sigs Steve Baines** and **Bill Laurie** is presently climbing in Wales, the OC, **Maj Mike Forge, Cpl Paul Stevenson, Lcpls Geoff Armstrong** and **Steve Mountford** are learning German, but formally this time, and a large part of the Squadron boosted by elements of 'G' and 'J' Troops from 2 Sqn have been on a patrol exercise in Belgium. This concluded with a 70-mile walk back to Wildenrath from Grobbendonk followed by battle innoculation under shot and shell at Camp Vogelsang in the Eiffel.

Sgt Dave Martin has been on an Ace High course at Latina in Italy for six months; **Sig 'Ash' Wood** tried his hand at sport parachuting; and a three-vehicle team led by **Cpls 'Sandy' Sandever, Les Tissiman** and **Dennis Hayden** is shortly to represent the Regiment on what promises to be a very demanding motor rally, Exercise Jubilee Magnum Spirit.

We won the cup, newly-presented by departing **Capt Len Leppington,** for inter-Squadron badminton, thanks to **Ssgt Bob Turner** and **Lcpl Billy Watts,** whilst we lost the equivalent rugby competition on the same day because of the high percentage of gladiators in our badminton team.

Sig Peter Lowe and **Lt Jim Stabler** have become fathers. **Sig Nigel Stevenson** of our Roetgen detachment has got himself spliced; and **Sig Dick Peacock** is all but recovered after a two-month hospital stay following a motorcycle accident in which he appears to be blameless (this time).

Last but not least, we welcome our new Squadron Sergeant-Major, **WO2 'Taff' Edmunds,** late of the Signal Wing at Sandhurst, who took over from **WO2 Fred Winton,** the only man in recent Regimental history to have been SSM and SQMS concurrently for some weeks. We wish them both well.

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HQ SQUADRON COMINGS AND GOINGS

WE are very sorry to say goodbye to our Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Stan Hargreaves,** and his wife, **Mavis,** who move, after almost four years, to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt. RHQ will be a sadder, quieter, place without his resounding repartee, and the soft strains of Stevie Wonder during tea breaks. In their place we welcome **WO2 (ORQMS) Ted Butterworth** and his wife, **Enid,** and hope that they will be as happy in 30.

Also departing this month is our long-suffering Master Coach, **WO2 Pete (The Schnozz) Hardwick,** and his wife, **Viva,** to 244 Sig Sqn. We thank them for their valuable work in the Regiment and the garrison, particularly in welfare. Thanks are also due to **Mavis Hargreaves** and **Viva Hardwick** for all their hard work in the Garrison Welfare Centre.

Our Officers Mess Sergeant, **Cliff Hitchcock,** after 18 months' valiant service with us in many varied areas, particularly Regimental functions where he guided many through the tricky stages of the Loving Cup Ceremony, has left the Army to settle in Southampton. We thank him and wish him and his wife well.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sunday, September 25, the Harvest Festival Service was held in the Garrison Church. The service was conducted by the Chaplain, **Padre Kester Carruthers,** and the sermon preached by the Bishop of Sherborne, **Rt Rev R. D. G. Kirkham, MA. Maj Ted Poole,** Paymaster, read the lesson and acted as Chaplain to the Bishop, who dedicated a Cope presented by the Guild of St Helena, to be used by the Garrison Chaplain on major Festival occasions.

The church had been beautifully decorated with gifts of produce, which were later distributed by the Blandford Charity Trust, to 25 old people of the area. Collections went to Christian Aid.

Following the service 150 people met the Bishop informally over coffee in the Jubilee Hall.

DANISH REPORT BY 1 SQUADRON

The major effort this month of August has been Exercise Arrow Express in Denmark, with the E21. On initial deployment we could easily have been mistaken for a bunch of Christmas trees sprouting gas masks and NBC suits from every conceivable pouch, whilst old BAOR hands muttered that it was never like this in Covering Force. The LSL trip provided us with an enviable opportunity to gaze at the stars through lashings of sea spray, as delays in our arrival time caused us to be turned out on to the deck with hours to spare. **Cpl Pat Thornton** succeeded in 'dropping' an RMP trailer from a great height, with the help of the LSL crane driver, much to the amusement of those watching and the annoyance of an RMP captain, with a memory for faces!

Photo courtesy: PR, UKLF

Exercise Arrow Express

Cpl Scurr (1 Sqn), Sig Bean (2 Sqn) and Cpl Leggate enjoying a break from the exercise

Fortified with cheese butties 'à la Dansk' we made the exercise area late the following evening to be welcomed by a 'long' fried-liver dinner. But things could have been worse, so we smiled, and sure enough the following morning it was raining so we knew it was time to set up.

Life in the Commcen soon settled down to a steady routine with an influx of day workers (workers?) whenever the kettle was plugged in. It was during these noisy intervals in our otherwise ordered lives that the following snippets of conversation were picked up . . .

'Shall we go to Copenhagen, SSB?'

'But what about the men?'

'Oh, they'll be all right, we'll send them for a shower run Monday, and anyway, we'll be back by tomorrow night.'

'Didn't you know electric razors don't bounce, Sir?', as **Capt Dougie Pawlow** drops his brand new electric razor; and

'Now that there's a "non tac" sign by the tents shall we get the men to fill the trenches in, Sir?'

The battle of the shift supervisors began about this stage with **Cpls Brian Coombes, John Scurr,** and **Sig Steve Fugill** stabbing each other in the back three times a day, virtually bleeding to death in the mud bath outside the back door of the Commcen till **Yeoman Keith Halliwell** accidentally stepped between them on his way to the bar, ending the war.

Almost everyone got away on R & R to Copenhagen despite the competing attractions of the Mobile Bath Unit, and **Lcpl Nigel Metcalfe** and **Sig Jim Hunt** got as far as Sweden, if only for half an hour, so the exercise was counted successful by all—and communications were good as well.

—AND BELIZE

We also bring you a photograph of the lads out in Belize, where we still have 11 members of the Squadron soaking up the sun.

ROUND-THE-WORLD YACHT RACE

Since August 27 we have been working a D13 to the yacht *Adventure,* the Joint Services' entry for the Round-the-World Yacht Race. **Sgt Tom Sawyer, Cpl Robbie Hill,** and **Sig Pete Poulson** have had a daily schedule with the ship, and then with JSSC Gosport to chart progress and pass on messages.

3 SQUADRON

Personalities:

OC	—	**Maj M. R. Adams**
2IC	—	**Capt G. R. Elliot**
Tp Comd	—	**Lt G. D. Corbet**
Tp Comd	—	**2 Lt P. C. A. Smith**
SSM	—	**WO2 J. G. Albon**
F of S	—	**WO2 M. Scott, BEM**
Y of S	—	**Ssgt S. J. Walls**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt G. S. Lowe**

The welcoming formation parade, when 1 Sqn, 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt became 3 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt was held at Blandford on July 29, 1977, two days before the official command change. Based on the fact that the Squadron was to be non-operational for the first two months, the first two weeks were to be spent on block leave, but someone had other ideas. . . .

CHANGE OF PLAN

The original plan for the 33-mile move of the Squadron was for the majority of the airportable equipment to be handed back to Ordnance (correct to CES—which CES?) and the remainder to be either handed over to 3 Div or moved to Blandford during late July. However, Her Majesty was visiting Ulster in early August and extra communication equipment was required; therefore, midnight on July 31, 1977, saw 'RR' Troop, with their vehicles and equipment (correct to a CES), about to board a BR ferry or an LSL bound for Belfast to assist 233 Sig Sqn. The equipment performed exceptionally well considering that for the previous three months it had been in the stores being counted (several times) and painted. The only problem encountered by **Cpl John Chapman,** not covered on any course, is how to keep a C50 antenna automatically pointing at the shore when the minesweeper in which it is mounted is circling HMY *Britannia.* The only solution, much to the annoyance of the Senior Service, is for the operator to appear on deck and swing the antenna. The Troop returned with the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters, courtesy of the LSL *Sir Galahad.*

HERE AND THERE

We were warned by the CO, when visiting Blandford in April, that the Regiment sends men all over the world but Divis MT was a little disappointing compared with Mt Troodos or Victoria Peak, Belize. This was soon rectified as within 10 days, three of the 7 Data Tg in the Squadron were on their way to Cyprus; within three weeks one-third of the Squadron had been overseas.

As August passed into September, thoughts returned to Commcen Whiskey becoming operational. One of the promised new 3-ton containers (real Bruin) had arrived and Antwerp had issued a TRV, last used by 4 Div in 1971 (?), complete with mod kits and mould. The container was tied on to the LHD Bedford RL with six pieces of quarter-inch wire welded into loops.

PENNINE WAY

The technicians of the Squadron decided fresh air was required, so six **(Sgts Tom Barton, Dave Bayley, Cpls Dick Bateman, Alf Boyles, Rick Prince,** and **Lcpl Al Craven)** decided to walk the Pennine Way in nine days. The party, with **Ssgt Steve Walls, Sigs Stan Urwin, Stan Haynes,** and **Ron Reilly** looking after the admin, left Blandford on September 16. The walk started at Kirk Yetholm, Roxburghshire, on the Saturday at 0600. The start was to be the same each day and the party would walk until dark. Nine days, 272 miles later, five of the party arrived at Edale. The only injury was to **Sgt Tom Barton** who tore a knee ligament on the descent from Pen-Y-Ghent and had to drop out. Was it worth it? Yes. Would you do it again? Yes, but with more time.

ALDERNEY DAY

The association between the Regiment and the island of Alderney was marked on October 7 with a visit by the President, **Mr Kay-Mouat,** accompanied by the Vice-President, **Mr Winkworth.** After inspecting the Quarter-Guard (commanded by **Sgt Ted Bentley**) The President and his party were entertained to lunch by the Sergeants Mess. The President visited the radio detachment working to the yacht *Adventure,* and was given a conducted tour of the equipment in the recently-arrived 3 Sqn.

The President of Alderney talking to Musn Andrew and Lcpl Harriman during the inspection of the Quarter Guard

The annual Alderney dinner was held in HQ Mess; in addition to the guests from Alderney, the Captain of HMS *Osprey,* Commandant Defence ADP Training Centre and the Operations Officer RNAS *Yeovilton* were also present. **Mr Cliff Hitchcock** was tempted out of retirement to supervise this event, and the Director of Music brought his band along to entertain us—which they did in their inimitable style.

Unfortunately, the Commanding Officer missed all this—being unavoidably detained in the Caribbean sunshine. A VC10 needed a new flint, or something!

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RACAL
The Electronics Group

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn B.F.P.O. 18

VISIT OF COMMANDER NORTHAG SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP

ON Thursday, September 8, our Commander, **Col H. W. F. Klauck,** of the German Army, came to visit us. He was conducted round the Unit offices and lines and had an opportunity to speak to members of all four nations. It was decided that as all units have almost the same sort of things to view, that the Commander should be allowed to do something no one else has managed yet—move ASRS. The Unit was paraded and placed on a German 42-seater bus (yes, we are that small) and driven around the camp. The Commander was not worried and confident that his WWII Panther, Tiger and King Tiger driving licences are still valid. The camp is still intact as is the bus. An enjoyable visit on all sides.

EXERCISE SUMMER CAMP 1977

On July 11 the Squadron departed for our annual Summer Camp at Bernkastel-Kues on the Mosel. Our hosts for the Camp were 1 Sqn, 22 Sig Regt, and the Squadron takes this opportunity in thanking **Majs Geoff Maude** and **Sam Saunders** for accepting us. **Lcpl Jim McKendrick** must be congratulated for the entertainment he gave the camp when trying to teach the German, Belgian and Dutch contingents of the Squadron the canoe capsizing drills. Wine tasting was tried (many times) and afterwards many gallons were consumed. Many more activities were laid on for us including swimming, boating, and mini-golf, and a good time was had by all.

SOCCER—JOC CUP

On Tuesday, October 4, 1977, the ASRS were faced with taking on the might of RAF Tongeren (NRISFL Div 1) in the quarter-final of the cup competition. The game was played under delightful conditions at a fast and furious pace. In the first 10 minutes RAF Tongeren were shaken with a well-taken goal from **Sgt (PC) Campbell.** After this shaky start the RAF team settled down to play some fine football.

They eventually scored the equaliser through their captain, **Cpl D. Genge.** Then they took the lead through that long servant **Flt Sgt D. Lewington.** After this setback, the ASRS settled down and started to get to grips with the game, and further goals came from **Sgt Campbell** (3), **Sgt Hoogars** (1), and **OGFR Scwanbeck** (1) to run out worthy winners 6—2.

On Wednesday, 5th, the ASRS were matched against the Belgium Air Force (BAF), in the semi-final. The game could easily be described as a massacre, with the final score reading 20—1 for the ASRS, with **Kpl Kuelen** collection a special mention for his misses which included a penalty. Scorers were: **Sgt Campbell** (5), **Kpl Thuenisen** (4), **Cpl Burns** (4), **Sgt Rogers** (3), **OGFR Elfert** (2), **OGFR Scwanbeck** (1), and **Kpl Lelievre** (1). A report on the final *v* NPC Glons in the next issue.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **Cpl Phil Tettersall,** who leaves us on promotion to Sergeant to 16 Sig Regt. Also to welcome **Cpl Dereck Coker** and his family to Belgium, we hope you enjoy your stay.

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 36

TM TROOP FOCUS

THIS month TM Troop air their views in the form of an article by **Sgt Bill Birch,** one of our tame technicians (in fact all the technicians are tame now as we have just finished our radio equipment PRE). However, before letting **Sgt Birch** loose there are a few notes of general interest.

Last month we reported on our adventure training exercise in Bavaria (Exercise Field Mouse) and you may remember that we almost managed to get rid of the OC, **Maj Bill Robins,** by arranging for the gremlins to hurl him off a mountain during a mountain walk; however, the good fairies came to his aid and arranged for his casevac by helicopter to Sonthofen Hospital and subsequently to Munster. We are now able to report that he is fully recovered.

We were talking about books, I proudly mentioned my 20-year-old 'O'-level Lit when all at once I realised I had somehow volunteered to do THE WIRE notes. Pride comes before a fall. I wouldn't care, but I even stopped writing to my mother the day I got a wife to do it for me. Years of filling in the dotted bits on report forms is no training for this sort of crisis. Why can't **F of S King** (Yes, 5 Fd Force does have a Foreman) do it, he's had lots of practice writing long imaginative letters to Records about why she should be posted back to Hong Kong!

Ah well, how shall I start? TM Troop is the Troop that parades with a supernumary rank of corporals in front of the sergeants—No, that won't do—how about TM Troop is the troop that spends the first two days of an exercise frantically fixing all the kit nobody could be bothered to test when we had nothing to do—No, can't say that—not true; we never have nothing to do, and if I'm too nasty to the Ops it puts them off their volleyball.

Let us be Military and (with the aid of a JSP 101) put it under Headings:

Work

Yes.

Sport

Ah, good, something here, **Lcpl 'Jonah' Jones** won the under-20 inter-Service sabre championship, but if I go on about that he'll only try again and we'll get no work out of him next year either. **Sgt Ricky Hough** does a lot of running about with a map, what is that sport called? **Cpl 'Gladiator' Duncan**—well—I could tell of his spectacular capsize whilst sailing on Alpsee—but, later on someone else did even better and he would only say I put it in to emphasise that he can't do everything better than me (give him a few years though). . . . Enough, or I'll have to write pages about **Sgt D'Oliviera Coward** and his cricket; **Sgt Steve Randle** and **Cpl Mick Poland,** our 'gentle giants', and their rugby, etc.

Personalities

Sgt Ray Iddon has left us for that great car-swapping club in the sky (Bradford) and **Sgt Lex Hegan** has finally hung up his wings (well almost) and left us exparaless (temporarily, I'm sure) to spend his last few months in the UK before retiring. **Cpl Mick Poland** is about to embark on a life of bratty and chips with his wife-to-be, **Monika.**

Liesure

. . . Must look that word up in a dictionary sometime.

Well, I shall have to finish, if I take this home to work on the wife will make me write letters and there's another run this afternoon and it should have been finished two days ago, so, in the words of the Squadron catchphrase, Biiiiiii. . . .

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

THE MANAGEMENT

Squadron Commander	**Maj I. E. Kerr**	Royal Signals
2IC	**Capt C. P. Conlon**	Royal Signals
Admin Officer	**Capt M. S. Whitfield**	Scots DG
QM	**Capt E. Lequesne**	Royal Signals
OC 'A' Tp	**Capt N. K. P. Hope**	Royal Signals
OC 'J' Tp	**Lt M. D. Crowther**	Royal Signals
RSM	**WO2 (RQMS) J. E. G. Humphreys**	Royal Signals

ROAST A PENSIONER

TRYING out his new-found pace stick, Acting RSM **Jim Humphreys** was patrolling Goojerat Barracks ever alert for sins of omission or commission. Suddenly, he spots a large notice board on a Landrover 'Roast a Pensioner'. Instantly alert and on the trail of some Granny bashers he follows the vehicle to the gang's lair—'J' Troop where the arch fiend **Ssgt Ron Crabtree** is eventually able to explain that all is well. Roast a Pensioner is a local welfare campaign jointly organised by the Age Concern charity and some enterprising students of Essex University. 'Jumbo' Troop have been able to swell the ranks of volunteers on the last few Saturday mornings. The Jumbos, with their hatchets and saws set off each weekend to cut down trees donated by local landlords. As **Sig Steve Rowley** shows, they are able to practise on the many elms ravaged by Dutch Elm disease. The timbers are then sawn into sensible lengths by another crew who finally split the logs and bag them. The bags of logs are distributed to local pensioners whose needs are the greatest—free fuel—helping to reduce their winter living costs. OC 'J' Troop, **Lt Mike Crowther,** observes that the Jumbos have gained secondary trades of B3 lumberjacks (and they're all right) and found methods of getting blisters with a chain saw. We believe that it's all a secret trial of a new form of basic fitness test.

Sig Kev Giles, Clive Skingsley, Lcpl Charles Hill, Lcpl Steve Chopping and Ken Russell (from the MCTC Staff)

Sig Paul Hebdige helping a student to chop up a branch. But which is which

CAMBRIAN MARCHES

September found 'A' Troop in the chills and fogs of the Welsh hills providing radio communications for the control of the annual Cambrian Marches. Led by **Capt Nigel Hope** and **O/Cdt Graham Bryson** (of Aberdeen University OTC) they re-discovered the arts of hill-climbing, unknown in these Essex flatlands. A week's hard communicating gave several new arrivals their first taste of detachment working and allowed the re-broadcast crews the opportunity to impress. All in all a good week.

A surprising observation from ourselves as bystanders was how few Army units were competing. The competition relied on Royal Marines units for its main competition. Although Royal Signals units might be at a disadvantage as not particularly expert in patrolling—the Marches are a great challenge that any reasonably fit gladiator might enjoy.

AIR/SEA RESCUE

One rather exciting incident happened on the afternoon of Thursday, September 15. **Cpl Bob Beebee** and **Sig Glen Howie** were crewing a vehicle commanded by a rather enterprising Staff Officer keen to get back to camp for dinner. He decided to break a new route through the heart of the Welsh mountains which would include three peaks of over 3,000ft high, seven miles of bogland, a 250-ft high cliff and a 30-ft wide river with no bridge over it! At about 4 pm a bleat was heard over the radio that c/s 16 was bogged in, surprised? At that time a combat recovery team led by **Sgt Peter Whitfield** and made up of **Lcpl Tony Reynolds** in a Radio Rover and **Cfns Stuart Griffiths** and **Allan Wright** in a recovery Landrover set off for the scene. By 4.45 pm another bleat for help said no help had arrived and now the Rover was up to its wheel arches in bog! Seemed like a potential disaster so 'Air/Sea Rescue' in the shape of an Alloette was called in to assist. It arrived on the scene to find a very sorry sight. Two of the three vehicles were badly bogged in and the third could not find its way out of a maze of boggy patches. By the simple expedient of bouncing along the ground **Brian,** the pilot (name withheld to protect the innocent) found a route for the third vehicle to get to the recovery Landrover and tow it out. An unlikely convoy of a helicopter and two Rovers now wended its way across to the scene of the original disaster. What a sight. What a smell. What a job! After much straining, splattering mud, and swearing, it came free and how! OC 'A' Troop now knew why he was the only one pushing the bogged-in Rover from behind a wheel. It took a lot of persuasion before the pilot would let him back in his plane again. The three Rovers, led out by **Sgt Pete Whitfield,** managed to return to camp by 7 pm that evening. Nobody mocked 'Teeny weeny airways' that night.

HMS 'ARK ROYAL' DETACHMENT

Ssgt Pete Forster and the now-famous **Cpl Bob Beebee** found themselves on HMS *Ark Royal* for a week during September 14–25, 1977. Whilst they were there **HRH Prince Charles** and the First Sea Lord visited the ship. We are still wondering what **Ssgt Forster** did this time to get such high-powered company.

REAR LINK DETACHMENTS

Among our many dispersed elements we are pleased to number the few Rear Link Detachments (or RLDs) who support our Close Support Regiment and Infantry battalions. They are not too distant, except when on operational tours all being based in Colchester. Nor are they forgotten, the OC, **Maj Iain Kerr,** having discovered that he has to exercise a 'god father' role for the RLDs. Our men in the limelight found it an offer they could not refuse.

Sgt Brian Innes commands 564 RLD who support 1 Kings. His detachment was made up of Kingsmen until recently.

However, with the Battalion off to Cyprus on a six-month UNIFCYP tour he found himself suddenly short—19 Bde Sig Sqn were able to help and **Cpl Ian Johnstone, Sigs 'Geordie' Croft, 'Dinger' Bell,** and **Clive Gladman** now find themselves temporary members of the King's Regt with the UN light blue beret on their heads. Being batchelors gay, they look forward to a winter tour in Cyprus and the prospects of a 'rooti-gong'.

Another RLD suddenly short of Royal Signals manpower was 537 RLD with 47 Fld Regt RA. **Sgt Weightman,** fresh from a course on CCTV operation, found the prospect of teaching his gunner/signallers to use a teleprinter too much. So **Sigs Dick Cooke** and **Dick Groves** find themselves en route for Northern Ireland for a four-month tour and the prospects of another gong.

1 Staffords, deployed as Spearhead Battalion to Belize in August, took 562 RLD consisting of **Sgt Alec Cheetham** with them. He has since finished his tour with the Battalion after a three-month stay in the sun and is now en route for Ulster and a quieter tour with the TAVR.

Finally, 563 RLD, attached to the Woofers as the 1 WFR are known, **Sgt 'Mac' MacDonald,** an old 19 Bde and Sig Sqn hand, has spent nearly two years with his Battalion. They have just returned from an Operation Banner tour in South Armagh where **Mac** found life extremely busy. Now back in Colchester he is busily counting his new issue of RLD equipment and, as with the other RLD Sergeants, watches the barrack gates for the arrival of his five men to bring the detachment up to strength.

The RLDs will bring a body of skilled and experienced manpower into the unit and will continue to be made most welcome. Anyone posted to an RLD has the prospect of lots of hard work and plenty of fun.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

As the head of our article shows, we have undergone several changes in 1977. We have recently lost our Quartermaster, **Capt Brian Turner,** and his wife, **Beryl.** They are going back to Cyrpus (for the third time) and will no doubt give 259 Sqn the same superb support we have come to depend on. Stepping into the QM's chair is **Capt Eric Lequesne** still somewhat bemused by his rapid transit from Malta to what appears to be his second tour in the UK in 26 years' service.

In August we said farewell to **Capt Arthur Merrick** and his wife for the lofty post of Adjutant of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Whether it's a misprint or not we do not yet know, but we are beginning to get correspondence referring to **Maj Merrick.** What's the secret, **Arthur?**

We also say goodbye to **Ssgt Crabtree** off to 14 (EW) Sig Regt, **Sgt Bungay** to 10 Ord Sp Coy Devizes, **Sgt Wilson** joining 32 Sig Regt (V) in Scotland, and **Lcpl Chopping** going to BAOR.

227 Sig Sqn. B.F.P.O. 18

AWAY FROM IT ALL

SEPTEMBER saw 16 members of the Squadron, led by the OC, **Maj Gus Vigurs,** attend a Unit Expedition Course run by the British Outward Bound Centre, Norway. Various orders and instructions had brilliantly concealed from higher authority that the real aim of the exercise was to get away from it all.

Competition for the 15 vacancies was strong, but the edge of enthusiasm was slightly dulled by the announcement in late June of twice-weekly training sessions, commencing well before any self-respecting sparrow had opened half an eye. **Sgt Chris Edler** made himself extremely popular by supervising these sessions, and all those who trained under him wish him a speedy return to 264 Sig Sqn, which is now known to be 'just round the next bend'.

Final selection was made at the end of August at a four-day 'warm up' camp in the Belgian Ardennes. The OC in attendance ex officio, left the contest for the final place between veterans **WO1 (F of S) 'Britt' Brittenden** and **WO2 (SSM) Mike Hothersall.** The former's Northern Ireland experience in anti-terrorist warfare had nothing to do with his selection, and the real reason for his selection remains obscure. The SSM's failure could have been due to his lack of determination during the epic compo-sausage-eating competition!

Two days overland

Two weeks later, after a two-day overland journey, the party found themselves debussing at the foot of a Norwegian mountain range, accompanied by force nine winds and blizzards. **Cpl 'Windy' Gale,** allegedly at home in these conditions, became the first casualty when he tore his overtrousers on a fence, thereafter resembling a destitute gypsy. The following night, after little progress due to the weather, **Sgt Eugene Dullaghan** and **Lcpl 'Scouse' Wilson** were forced to abandon their tent on discovering that its tearing threshold was lower than the wind strength.

On the third day the wind abated and the expedition was able to negotiate a steep 350-ft gully and get well under way on the 3,000-ft plateau above. The OC revealed a weakness for personally examining spot heights, an interest he endeavoured to share with the rest of the party. They somewhat reluctantly discovered that there is no real difference between trekking and mountaineering, and much less sense in trying to convince others of it!

Changeover point

After five, more up than down, days the party rejoiced in a contourless surrounding, which was the changeover point with the 1 WG Expedition. A cursory examination of the impending transport resulted in the re-examination of swimming techniques.

A five-minute lecture on the art of double canoeing embarked the party on an initial 30-km sortie. The un-intended, omni-directional start was soon brought under control, and most people seemed to get the idea after the first 29km or so. All, that is, except

'You must be joking', but we weren't. Sgt Eugene Dullaghan, Sig Clive Doughty, Cpl Keith Wolstencroft and Lcpl 'Scouse' Wilson

Only another spot height (1,018m)

for **Ssgt (Y of S) Pat Gethin** and the inevitable **Lcpl 'Scouse' Wilson,** who quickly earned the title of 'bargees', a reputation which they did the utmost to keep. **Sgt Eugene Dullaghan** and **Sig Clive Doughty** demonstrated that the Irishman's luck was

at least consistent by floundering their canoe. Repairs to their sieve-like vessel were effected with a roll of masking tape and they were soon on their way again, with only saturated kit to show for their experience. **Sgt Alan Finlayson** paddled the OC's fishing canoe whilst **Sig Colin Skitt** found that it was even more difficult to eat continuously whilst paddling than it had been when walking. Eventually his helmsman, **Cpl Keith Wolstencroft,** persuaded him to forego his nosebag in favour of progress. **Colin,** however, more than made up for lost time during the recognised stops.

Stretch at sea

The penultimate day saw the party crossing the renowned sea stretch, accompanied by a safety boat. The force five wind and sea did nothing to calm **Cpl 'Tomo' Tomlinson's** iron nerves, whilst **Cpl Peter Cosson** and **Sig 'Spike' Stingemore** looked surprised to have even arrived at the other side.

On the final full day, **Sgt Frank Byrne** led an all ranks map-reading party in 'hunt the fjord'. He won, and the island barbecue was a fitting finale to the expedition and training.

The return to barracks left the party bronzed, fit and full of memories. **Sgt John Telford** is still saying 'good 'ere, innit' to **Lcpl Dave Wright,** who, as usual, isn't taking any notice.

SPORT

We must make use of our column inches to congratulate **Sgt Dick Ellis** on winning the Corps Individual and Open Doubles Badminton Championships at Blandford during the summer. Having been left without a partner for the mixed doubles **Dick's** personal choice of a nearby cleaning lady took him to the quarter-finals. It is felt that he would have been a strong contender for the most original entry!

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

HINT TAKEN

NEVER let it be said that '234' can't take a hint! When the Editor of THE WIRE sees fit to print 'KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT' in large black capitals under our contribution it's time to take note. So here goes with, we hope, a bit more quality and a little less quantity.

WELL DONE, FREDDIE

With the departure of the 900-strong 41 RM Commando from Malta it was felt that at last the Army might have a chance to do better in the annual inter-Service swimming competition held at the Robb Lido. Alas, our optimism was ill founded and the Navy and RAF again proved to be too strong. Face was saved, however, by our resident Maltese swimming star, **Cpl Freddie Grixti,** who won the 200m freestyle and 50m butterfly events. **Freddie** is seen here receiving his plaque from **Mrs O. N. A. Cecil,** wife of CBFM, **Rear Admiral Cecil.** Well done, **Freddie.**

Cpl Freddie Grixti receiving his prize from Mrs O. N. A. Cecil, wife of the Commander British Forces Malta, who looks on

WATER SKI-ING

Thanks to last year's disastrous engine breakdown the start of the water ski-ing season was delayed until mid-June. However, after much hard work by **Ssgt Brian Peel** and his MT fitters, the boat was ready for the water and the club has been thriving ever since.

Of last year's enthusiasts only **Capt Alistair Clark** remained but it wasn't long before he had **Ssgt Brian Peel, Lcpls Steve Groom** and **'Knocker' Hardy** trained as Coxswains and rope handlers and ski-ing really got under way. This season saw a greater display of talent than previously and all but a few of the 23 members soon progressed on to mono ski-ing. The fine weather and good conditions in St Paul's Bay no doubt contributed to the success rate. Our picture shows **Sig Ian Drinkall** skimming the waves in fine style having mastered the art after his third ever attempt at ski-ing.

SUMMER CAMP

This year's camp had to be severely curtailed due to manpower shortages but **WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies** worked wonders to

Sig Ian Drinkall ski-ing at St Paul's Bay

produce a brief but worthwhile training programme. The aim of the camp was to cover the subjects not normally catered for in the weekly military training sessions as well as to ensure that everybody and not just the gladiators got some physical exercise.

WO2 Davies was ably assisted by **Ssgt Brian Peel, Sgt Charlie Peach, Cpls 'Tich' Peck,** and **Charlie Mifsud,** our resident PTI.

Apart from the classroom work, students enjoyed (!?) a fairly arduous 12½-mile night navigation treck, the annual PFA tests, a two-course meal in the gas chamber and a gentle gallop over 300m

Left to right: Ssgt Brian Peel, Naval Nurses Marie Calvert and Sheila Worral, Sgt Charlie Peach, Naval Nurse Millie Laing, Cpl Charlie Mifsud

of assault course. There were some very good performances achieved on the night trek and, needless to say, some amusing incidents took place; for example, the time the DS found **Cpl Gerry Talbot** and his team up to their necks in the sea heading for Sicily and muttering 'What a lousy route'. Spurred on by the incentive of a crate of beer for the winners, **Sgt Brian Neil, Cpl Dave Tarrant** and **Sig Johnny Gruppetta** (aged 40) clocked the best time of 3hrs 28min over a very hard route. Well done!

After the DS had given a demonstration run over the assault course (there's leadership for you!) the SSM decided it wasn't quite hard enough for the calibre of men in '234' and that each competitor should carry a water-filled jerrycan. This decision was acclaimed with delight by **Lcpl Steve Groom** and his team, **Cpls Freddie Grixti, Rod Hicks** and **George Brown,** who went on to win the crate of beer by covering the course in 7min 10sec. Our photograph shows **Lcpl Groom** negotiating an obstacle assisted by **Cpls Freddie Grixti** (facing camera) and **Rod Hicks.** The SSM and 'bodyguard' look on with **Cpl Charlie Mifsud** and not a few holidaymakers.

Left to right: Cpl Freddie Grixti, WO2 (SSM) Brian Davies, Lcpl Steve Groom, Ssgt Brian Peel, Cpl Rod Hicks, Cpl Charlie Mifsud

The third two-day session had a special attraction in the shape of six nurses who volunteered to have a go at the assault course. Kitted out in boots and boiler suits, courtesy of the QM's Department, our photographs show **Ssgt Brian Peel, Sgt Charlie Peach** and **Cpl Charlie Mifsud** assisting at the 12-ft wall, and Naval Nurses **Sheila Worral** and **Marie Calvert** coping with the swinging beam.

Finally, congratulations to **Sig 'Scouse' Williams** who won the title of the Best Student Summer Camp 1977.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

This month we welcome to the Squadron **Cpl Paul Clarke, Lcpls Alex Murphy** and **Bob Parkhill,** and **Sig Ken Lowe** not to mention **Maj Ken Smith,** our resident postie, who replaces **Maj Ken Patient** who left us for Mill Hill. Congratulations to **Lcpl John** and **Mrs Marie Dent** on the birth of their son, **Garreth.**

259 Sig Sqn, B. F. P. O. 53

EVDHIMOU BOUND

'SUMMER VENTURE II' was the Squadron Summer Camp held at Evdhimou over the period July 8–30. The Squadron were again sent, on attachment, an officer from RMCS Shrivenham to run camp. This year it was the turn of **Lt Ian Griffiths** to be subjected to the heat, it reached 110° on one occasion.

The camp was run as a military training exercise, to compensate for the fact that for most of the year the Squadron Members are confined indoors, worrying about the Island's communications! However, it was not all work and no play, we played sport most afternoons and the bar was well supported in the evenings.

Early and cool

The camp started with an early rise (0445), the only time it is cool, followed by the BE Test. To the relief of the DS everyone passed, otherwise it was early rises every morning until they all passed. We had many interesting lectures, especially an ATO lecture, during which we were given a demonstration of how to wear the ATO's special 'flak jacket', it was rumoured that **Sig 'Stumpy' Edwards** who wore it for most of the lecture lost a stone in sweat!

During a morning with the 15/19 H we were able to play with the Scorpion using a ·22 sub-calibre device attached to the main armament. Targets were set up on the 30-m range and we all had a cabi on the gun. However, **Cpl Tim Terry** was very reluctant to get off, he thought it was much better than Tonka toys!

Disappointing record

Two days per week were spent on the ranges, but, unfortunately, the expertise of the Bisley team did not go through the whole Squadron and we had very few passes on the shoot-to-kill, which, I may add, is a most difficult shoot. We did have a few passes but sadly they were mainly members of the shooting team.

The resident Battalion, 3 Royal Anglian, gave us a demonstration in section tactics and weapons. Part of the demo was a VCP in which the Squadron provided the 'enemy'. Weapons and rounds were concealed around the car and body, and **Lcpl George Glass** was extremely happy when they didn't find one particular lot, which even he found difficult to remove!

Disrupted sport

Sport was played most afternoons, although one volleyball competition was almost abandoned due to the discovery of a group of topless bathers! This episode and several similar ones led to the rise of a voyeurs club. The main look-outs being **Lcpl George Glass** and **Cpl 'Taffy' Gordon** but they were readily supported by **Ssgt Ray Georgeson,** our Training NCO, who found three weeks of camp a bit of a strain.

After sport we would go for a swim but these gentle relaxation periods soon turned deadly when a ball appeared. The instigation of 'murder polo' was a sign for the DS to disappear as all the day's frustrations seemed to be taken out during this period. It was then off to our shower tent, a doctored 160-pounder and I can assure you that 30 naked bodies, in a 160-pounder is some new experience!

BFBS angle

During one of the range days we had a visit from BFBS. The people interviewed were **Lcpls 'Pip' Piper, Derek Carman** and **Ssgt Ray Georgeson,** or so we thought, when the programme was sent out over the air we found that **WO2 (RQMS) Eddie Kellett** had sneaked in on the act. During camp we had a bad boys' list known colloquially as the 'heap list', the last week the main culprits were **Cpls Ray Cawtheray, Mickey Dunn, Sig 'Geordie' McMaster,** they managed to get a request played for **Ssgt Georgeson** (Dancing Queen!) but we're not quite sure why!

At the end of each week we had a barbecue, these were cooked by **Sgt 'Cordon Bleu' Gowling** to whom we are extremely grateful. The last week saw the DS and the students in jovial spirits and much drinking and singing were to be seen and heard. The highlight of the evening being a 24-verse rendering of the Music Man, **Sig Jed Monks'** verse of 'I can play the TOT' . . . brought the house down. Unfortunately, I have to report that it should have been 25 verses but the RQMS was last to go and he produced a repeat. Hence the party and camp were brought to a close by the strains of 'Why was he born so beautiful? . . .'.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

INTO AUTUMN

FOLLOWING a relatively quiet period since Summer Camp the autumn training opened with Exercise Hunters Moon on September 10–11. Also included in the exercise was a visit by Commander 11 Sig Group, **Brig I. M. Rose,** and his staff, as part of the Annual Fitness for Role Inspection. On the exercise we welcomed our new Qurtermaster, **Capt Philip Noble,** also on their first exercise with the Regiment were three other 'Regulars', **RQMS Brian Jenner, Sgt Dave Arnold** and **Cpl Jim Ryan.**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since Summer Camp, we have said farewell to **Maj Bill Sinclair, RQMS John Howes** and **Sgt 'Dusty' Miller** all of whom have left the Army.

Welcomed to the Mess for the first time were **Lt Mike Davis** who takes over the LAD, **Lt Jane Spragg,** who joins us from 40 Sig Regt, and **Officer Cadets Catriona Roebuck** and **Mike Cullen.**

Sadly, our Padre, **Rev Eric Essery,** had had to leave us as he has passed the age that Padres are permitted to serve. He was presented with a silver tray by the Mess, as a token of our appreciation for all he has done for the Regiment during his time as Padre. Wedding presents were presented to **Lts Chris Mote** and **John Geake** and we wish them all the best in married life.

On Saturday, September 24, we welcomed the General Officer Commanding London District, **Maj Gen John Swinton,** and D Tels, **Brig R. G. Phippard,** to a Regimental Dinner Night.

RMP CENTENARY MARCH—AND OUR CORPS BAND

The Royal Military Police organised a march to celebrate their centenary over the weekend July 30–31 for which 'B' Troop, commanded by **Capt Jim Mill,** entered a team of six. The team consisted of **Capt Mill, Sgts 'Dusty' Miller** and **Bill Wilman, Sigs Tony Geater, Dick Smith** and **Malcolm Brain. Sig Ken Timmins** was the support member.

Beer at halfway rest area

Left to right: Sig Tony Geater, Capt Jim Mill, Sig Dick Smith, Sig Malcolm Brain, Sgt 'Dusty' Miller, Sig Ken Timms, Sgt Bill Wilman

Photo courtesy: Capt G. W. Giles

2Lt Sue Fenney outright winner of the Royal Signals orienteering competition

The 40km route was from Roussilon Barracks over the South Downs via Goodwood and back to Chichester. The team successfully completed the course in 6½ hours and were duly presented with medals to prove it. Following the march, each team paraded through Chichester behind the Corps Band. The salute was taken by GOC South-East District.

39 Sig Regt (V) London

NEW FOREMAN

TO qualify as a Foreman of Signals in the TAVR is no mean feat. Our congratulations go to **Ssgt Rob Hunt,** 28, from Chelmsford, who was appointed Foreman of Signals in September. When not serving in the Regiment **Rob** is a Communications Research Engineer with Marconi.

PRESENTATION

During the Regiment's FFR inspection in October part of the Unit was located at Crowborough Camp, in Kent. It was there that our regular RQMS, **WO2 Eddie Davies,** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the inspecting officer, **Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, CSO UKLF.** Our sincere congratulations to **Eddie Davies** who has been with us for only just over a year, and has now completed 18 years' service.

Photo courtesy: PR, HQ UKLF

CSO UKLF, Brig D. Baynham, with Lt Col W. J. C. Foster, CO 39 Sig Regt, congratulating WO2 Eddie Davies

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

As a 'City of London' Regiment we have a tradition of participating in the Lord Mayor of London's Show. Although held in November, there is a warm feeling to the Show, not only from the flasks in hip pockets! At this time of year most of the tourists have departed and the audience are nearly all 'locals'. The Regiment have entered an even larger contingent this year, four Landrovers and one D11 pulling our own 'float' trailer, manned by some of our delightful WRAC girls.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Regiment were very sad to say goodbye to **Lt Col Bill Foster, TD,** who left us in November. Our first Volunteer CO for some time **Lt Col Foster** has served with the Unit since its formation. He is succeeded as Commanding Officer by **Lt Col Peter Myhill, TD,** to whom we wish every success.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Finally, may we just say the best of everything for the Festive Season/New Year to all our friends throughout the Corps wherever they are.

Association News

NINTH REUNION OF THE HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY 1939-45

Report by Harold Copsey

FORTY members and 33 relatives and guests attented our annual reunion held at Blandford Camp over the weekend August 19–21. We were all saddened to learn of the death of **'Molly' Morgan** earlier in the year and the absence of **Eddie Hutchison** due to illness. We all wish you a speedy recovery, **Eddie.**

From all parts of the United Kingdom members started to arrive on Friday afternoon and by the evening the bar and lounge became the focal point for personal reunions. The happy faces are evidence of the pleasure we get in seeing old comrades with whom we lived in good times and in bad. Mostly the talk is of pre-war days in Hong Kong; the old water polo team recall former glories and the old Headquarter Section boast of having held the Inter-Section football cup for the past 36 years! The exploits recalled would make good material for an author to write a best seller with a ready-made title of Tales from Wanchai! Naturally the prison camp days are recalled but even those grim times only seem to come through to shouts of laughter when talked about in such a happy atmosphere. Old comrades who have been dead for more than 30 years are remembered with affection and truly they have never aged as we recall their faces. They live again and surely they will never be forgotten as long as we meet like this.

On Saturday morning the wives made their annual invasion of Blandford town as the members held the AGM, at which **Fred Ashford** was elected chairman for the ensuing year. When the wives returned the raffle was drawn and our funds benefited. Well done, **Bernard** and all who contributed. The dinner held that evening was excellent and the proceedings well controlled by chairman **Harry Liley** and the president, **Vic Ient.** The chief guests were **Sir David Trench, GCMG, MC** (Governor of Hong Kong 1964–71), and **Col B. V. H. Fullerton** (Commandant Defence ADP Training Centre) and his charming lady.

Sir David entertained us with a very interesting talk on Hong Kong, also news of many old comrades who were still living out there or had departed from there to other lands. We received goodwill messages from the Signal units now stationed in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada. The customary toasts to the Gurkha and WRAC Signal units in Hong Kong were ably proposed by **John Campbell,** our latest joined member.

The evening's festivities carried on into the small hours. The two **Bobs, Cogbill** and **Parkinson,** took charge of the proceedings as they usually do and this means plenty of fun and laughter. Never a dull moment with these two in charge. **'More Loud' Bennett** called us on parade for a Tenko in true Jap style which was just as chaotic as in the past. We certainly do keep going the spirit that kept us going in the grim days.

Monty Truscott as usual organised the whole weekend's proceedings and to him and **Irene** we owe a great deal. Thank you both. Our thanks also to all the wonderful people who assisted them.

On the way down to Blandford on the Friday with **Hilary** and **Les Parry, Hilary** remarked to me that the flock of birds that we usually see on leaving the camp were already circling the camp as we got near, sure enough, they were there but they disappeared after we reported in. As we left on the Sunday they were circling the camp again, they followed us for a while then turned and flew eastwards. I guess we shall see them again next year.

If any reader knows of an old soldier who served in the Hong Kong Signal Company during the 1939–45 years please ask him to get in touch with us, we want to meet any old comrades. Our tenth reunion next August should be a bumper one. Sayanara.

Sport

BADMINTON SECRETARY HANDS OVER

WO2 Stan Hargreaves, who has so ably organised and co-ordinated the activites of the Corps Badminton for the last 18 months, is due to hand over in October. He has earned the gratitude of all those connected with Royal Signals Badminton for his fine efforts and the popularity of the Corps tournament is an indication of his success. We all thank him for his work, and wish him and **Mrs Hargreaves** all the best, on the courts and off, for the future.

SEVENTH ROYAL SIGNALS ANNUAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP

THE Royal Signals Annual Badminton Championships took place at Blandford from August 30 to September 2 1977. As usual the tournament was well supported with 36 men and 9 female competitors converging on Blandford from Germany, Holland, Northern Ireland. The Outer Hebrides, Catterick, and many others.

Play commenced on Tuesday, August 30, with the Men's Singles and steadily progressed through all the nine competitions to the finals which were held on Friday morning, September 2, 1977.

The standard of play throughout the competition was high and every point was strongly contested although all were played in the spirit of the game. For those interested in statistics, 114 games were played with 31 of these going to the best of three sets making a total of 319 sets in all.

The morning of the finals dawned damp and dismal but this did not affect the standard of badminton produced by those players who had strived for, and reached the finals. The highlights of these finals were three exciting three-set games in the Men's Singles, Open, and Unit Doubles.

The tournament came to an end for another year with the presentation of individual trophies by **Mrs M. Byng,** the wife of **Lt Col A. B. Byng,** President Corps Badminton, to the following:

MEN'S UNIT DOUBLES:
Winners: — **WO2 S. Hargreaves**—30 Sig Regt; **Sgt A. J. Brown**—30 Sig Regt
Runners-up: — **Ssgt R. D. Brown**—30 Sig Regt; **Lcpl N. Cannings**—30 Sig Regt

MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES:
Winners: — **Sgt R. J. Ellis**—227 Sig Sqn; **Sgt O. Chhetri**—1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Runners-up: — **WO2 S. Hargreaves**—30 Sig Regt; **Sgt A. J. Brown**—30 Sig Regt

MEN'S SINGLES:
Winner: — **Sgt R. J. Ellis**—227 Sig Sqn
Runner-up: — **Ssgt R. D. Brown**—30 Sig Regt

LADIES SINGLES:
Winner: — **Mrs M. Symonds**
Runner-up: — **Mrs P. Wyatt**

LADIES DOUBLES:
Winners: — **Mrs M. Symonds**; **Mrs M. Hargreaves**
Runners-up: — **Mrs P. Wyatt**; **Mrs M. Fielding**

MIXED DOUBLES:
Winners: — **Ssgt R. D. Brown**—30 Sig Regt; **Mrs P. Wyatt**
Runners-up: — **WO2 S. Hargreaves**—30 Sig Regt; **Mrs M. Hargreaves**

MEN'S VETERANS DOUBLES:
Winners: — **Ssgt R. D. Brown**—30 Sig Regt; **Sgt I. Gilbert**—8 Sig Regt
Runners-up: — **WO2 S. Hargreaves**—30 Sig Regt; **Sgt A. J. Brown**—30 Sig Regt

MEN'S SINGLES PLATE:
Winner: — **WO2 P. J. McLoughlin**—22 Sig Regt
Runner-up: — **Sgt W. A. Hutton**—RMCS

MEN'S SINGLES SAUCER:
Winner: — **A/T M. S. Holden**—AAC Harrogate
Runner-up: — **Sig I. Wells**—2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Once again a highly successful tournament which was well supported and (hopefully) enjoyed by all those who entered. Thanks once again to all concerned for making it an enjoyable week of badminton.

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Photoreport of Royal Signals Badminton Championships, August 30 - September 2, 1977

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES BY MRS M. BYNG, WIFE OF PRESIDENT OF CORPS BADMINTON

1 Winner, Men's Singles—Sgt R. J. Ellis
2 Winners, Unit Doubles—WO2 S. Hargreaves and Sgt A. J. Brown
3 Winners, Open Doubles—Sgt R. J. Ellis and Sgt O. Chhetri
4 Winners, Mixed Doubles—Ssgt R. D. Brown and Mrs P. Wyatt
5 Winners, Ladies' Doubles—Mrs M. Symonds and Mrs M. Hargreaves
6 Winner, Ladies' Singles—Mrs M Symonds

Corps Cricket Report 1977

The Management this year was:

President and Captain	—	**Col Alan Yeoman** (MOD)
Vice-Captain	—	**Ssgt Mick Raybould** (8 Sig Regt)
Secretary	—	**Capt Chris Wright** (6 Fld Force HQ and Sig Sqn)
Match secretary	—	**Ssgt Tom Commons** (8 Sig Regt)

AFTER the last two exceptional summers we returned to the more traditional English weather this year and the wickets which go with it. Bowlers got the upper hand and batsmen were made to think all the time. The Corps team began the season with the knowledge that we had available all of our recognised batsmen from last year but none of our bowlers. As the table of results show, our batsmen lived up to expectation but we were unable to get the opposition out on most occasions, resulting in the majority of our games being drawn.

The bat

Sgt Ian Gilbert (8 Sig Regt) had an outstanding season as an opening bat. In the 11 innings he had, he produced a remarkable average of over 50, with his highest score being an undefeated 95 against the RAC. Closely following **Ian Gilbert** on merit were **Sgt Gil Williamson** (8 Sig Regt) and that old stalwart of Corps cricket and the other opening bat, **Cpl Percy Drummond** (244 Sig Sqn). Others who batted well at differing times but not with the consistency of those already mentioned were **Ssgt (F of S) Bert Taylor** (School of Signals), **Ssgt Mick Raybould, Sgt Benny Grossmith** (Int Centre, Ashford), **Sgt Peter Knight** (10 Sig Regt), and **Cpl Terry Smith** (AAC Harrogate).

And the ball

The bowlers tried hard with no one trying harder than **Cpl John Moulson** (8 Sig Regt). In a season where some spectacular catches were taken but many more easy ones dropped, **John** did not have all the luck he deserved. Surprisingly, our chief wicket-taker was **Mick Raybould,** who was chosen for the team for his batting. Other bowlers worthy of mention are **Cpl John Swaine** (8 Sig Regt) and **Peter Knight.**

Perhaps the most surprising thing of the season was that the skipper, **Col Alan Yeoman,** was still able to stop the odd bye behind the wicket.

An exciting fixture

Looking at the games played, our most exciting match was against the RMA Sandhurst who declared, leaving us little time to score the 210 runs required to win; however, with some extremely good batting particularly by **Ian Gilbert** and **Gil Williamson** we did it with an over to spare. As a result of his fine innings in this game, **Gil Williamson** earned himself a place in the Army XI squad for the rest of the season.

Old enemies

The day followng, the RMA Sandhurst game we played our old arch enemies, the RCT at Aldershot. Again the opposition batted first on a perfect wicket but in this game our bowlers succeeded in bowling them out thereby leaving our batsmen time to score the runs required to win. **John Moulson** in particular bowled well and he was ably supported by **Peter Knight** and **Gil Williamson.** To his credit, **Ian Gilbert** was the model of consistency, following up his 77 in the RMA game with another 77 in this.

The best game

The best game of cricket we had during the season was that against the RAOC at Blandford at the end of June. The School of Signals excelled themselves with the administration and the cricket matched this excellence. The RAOC declared at 239 for 4; in a desperate attempt to score the runs in time the Corps just failed to win and the exciting draw that resulted provided everyone with a perfect day's cricket. Mention must be made of the stirling innings of **Percy Drummond** who scored 89 in just about even time.

The only defeat

The last game worthy of note was our resounding, indeed our only defeat of the season, by the RAF Signals. On a difficult wicket our batsmen again produced a good score with **Mick Raybould** showing everyone how well he could bat. Regrettably, our score was not good enough and the RAF walked away with a very comfortable win much to the disgust of our bowlers.

Caps and Colours

To end with, **Peter Knight, John Moulson** and **John Swaine** are to be congratulated on the award of their Corps Caps. **WO2 (Y of S) Ken Coker** (8 Sig Regt), our long-suffering umpire, **Ssgt Tom Commons,** the ever willing and enthusiastic match secretary, and **Sgt Joe Gleisinger** (8 Sig Regt) our scorer, who was awarded his Corps Colours, deserve the thanks and praise due to them for their efforts on behalf of Corps cricket.

Results Table

MAY 11 *v* RMCS Shrivenham—Drawn
RMCS 160—7 dec — Groves 2—23; Raybould 2—31
Royal Signals 88—5 — Drummond 44

MAY 21 *v* REME at Catterick—Won by 5 wickets
REME 127 — Scott 5—40; Moulson 2—19
Royal Signals 130—5 — Raybould 34; Williamson 33; Smith 33 not out

JUNE 1 *v* RMA Sandhurst—Won by 5 wickets
RMA Sandhurst 209—7 dec — Grossmith 2—7; Knight 2—39
Royal Signals 210—5 — Gilbert 77; Williamson 79 not out

JUNE 2 *v* RCT at Aldershot—Won by 7 wickets
RCT 226 — Moulson 3—49; Williamson 3—49; Knight 4—51
Royal Signals 227—3 — Gilbert 77; Drummond 67; Williamson 29 not out

JUNE 28 *v* RAC at Blandford—Drawn
Royal Signals 200—7 dec — Gilbert 95 not out; Drummond 36; Williamson 36
RAC 98—4 — Raybould 3—26

JUNE 29 *v* Royal Marines at Poole—Drawn
Royal Signals 179 — Grossmith 71; Knight 26 not out
Royal Marines 140—5 — Stanbridge 2—23

JUNE 30 *v* RAOC at Blandford—Drawn
RAOC 239 for 4 dec
Royal Signals 197—5 — Drummond 89; Raybould 41; Williamson 29 not out

JULY 13–14 *v* RE at Chatham—Drawn
Royal Signals 1st Innings 171 — Gilbert 53; Raybould 27
2nd Innings 188—9 dec — Gilbert 71; Drummond 35; Yeoman 27
RE 1st Innings 144 — Moulson 4—50; Stanbridge 2—14
2nd Innings 145—5 — Raybould 4—44

JULY 20–21 *v* RAPC at Catterick—Drawn
Royal Signals 1st Innings 222 — Taylor 55; Raybould 43; Drummond 34; Gilbert 33; Yeoman 23
2nd Innings 163—3 dec — Gilbert 67; Drummond 53
RAPC 1st Innings 158 — Swaine 4—24
2nd Innings 147—8 — Swaine 4—37; Knight 3—64

JULY 22 *v* RAF Signals at Digby—Lost by 7 wickets
Royal Signals 219—8 dec — Raybould 60; Drummond 34; Taylor 33; Commons 29
RAF Signals 220—3

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THE wire

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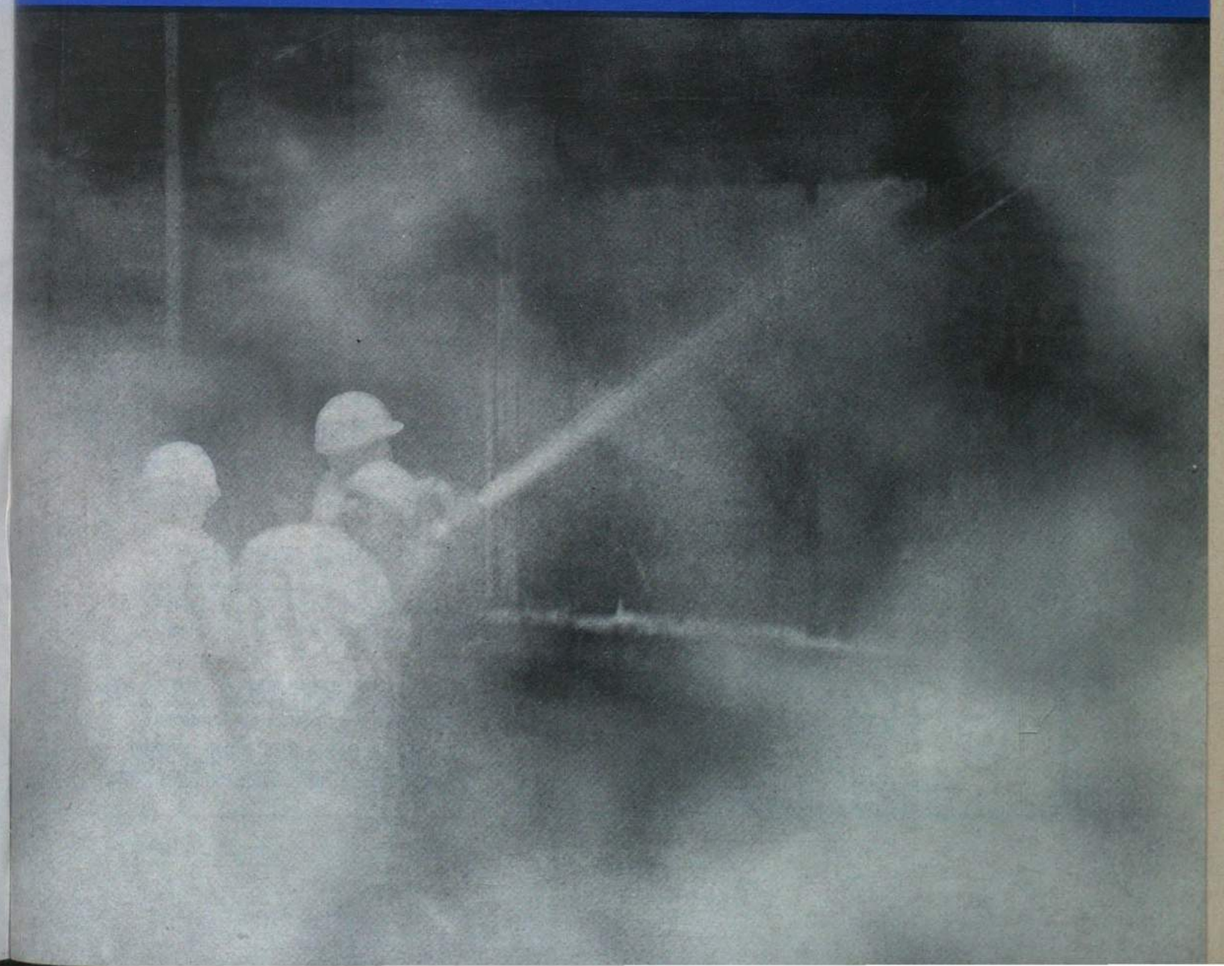

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THE WIRE

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MRS G. M. CRAWFORD

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Vol 32 *(New Series)* **No 1**

Editorial

OUR COVER PICTURE

When the Services assumed major responsibilities for the National fire-fighting commitment in November, few would have anticipated that the related industrial dispute would be prolonged. But so it proved to be and, in the best traditions of the Service, both the organisation and training aspects were quickly and efficiently implemented. In undertaking this exceptional role, the Corps played its full part and our cover picture from 8 Sig Regt reflects, in some measure, what it was all about

A NOTABLE PUBLIC RESPONSE

Early in the New Year, a very dear old lady called at our offices in Chelsea and insisted on handing over a small sum of money, as a token of her great admiration and esteem for all those in the Services involved in fire-fighting duties. In passing the sum to SSAFA (Appeal Fund), we were impressed to discover that more than £128,500 had been received from many thousands of people, many of them elderly. Let there be no doubt of the high respect which the Services command in the country.

We must also acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the judgment of Mr Winston Churchill, MP, Mr Ian Gilmour, MP, Mr Jo Grimond, MP, and Lord George Brown for so accurately sensing the climate in which to launch their national appeal, prior to Christmas.

A NEW POSTURE

It is disappointing that an industrial dispute precluded a smooth transition from monthly to bi-monthly publication. As a consequence we have combined the issues planned for December and January and go to press with a copy of 'The Wire' of exceptional proportions. For the future, we look forward to a well-regulated cycle of publication every other month and remind our contributors of the latest dates by which 'copy' must be received by the Editorial staff.

April 12	**for May issue**
June 12	**for July issue**
August 12	**for September issue**
October 12	**for November issue**
December 12	**for January issue**

—From our "In" Tray—

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE

Maj Gen P. A. M. TIGHE, CB, MBE

ON November 25, 1977, **Maj Gen 'Tony' Tighe** handed over as Signal Officer-in-Chief; he retired from the Army in December after 37½ years' service. **Tony** was educated at Christ's Hospital, leaving at the beginning of the war to enlist under-age in the Royal Air Force for training as a pilot. After being grounded from flying in Rhodesia, because of poor night vision, he transferred to the Army and joined Royal Signals.

He was commissioned in 1942 and from Catterick joined 59 (Staffordshire) Div Signals in Northern Ireland. Promoted Captain before his 21st birthday, he was appointed Signal Officer of 176 Inf Bde and with that unit went to Normandy. After the Orne battles 59 Div was broken up and, after a short time as the Radio Officer at 12 Corps Headquarters for the advance into Holland, **Tony** became OC 'A' Troop in 3 Div Signals, where he remained until VE-Day.

Older readers of the Journal may recall his description of an 'Encounter at the Summit' on the Rhine, when one of **Tony's** cables nearly decapitated the Prime Minister—an incident which prompted **Tony's** only conversation with the great man which consisted of Churchill saying: 'Better my hat than my head'!

Tony remained with 3 Div when it went to Palestine and was promoted to take over 3 Sqn. He remained overseas for the next four years, firstly as an Instructor at the Middle East School of Infantry and then in Ceylon, the first of his several tours in the Far East. In Ceylon he was granted his regular commission and married **Capt Elizabeth Frazer-Stewart** (WRAC).

Returning to the UK in 1950 he spent three years at the War Office Selection Board, where some 2,000 candidates passed through his hands, followed by a spell in Cardiff as Adjutant of 53 (Welsh) Div Sig Regt. He then went to the Staff College, Camberley, where he discovered a latent talent for pitching at soft-ball, and devised the Staff College pantomime. Staff College was followed by another Far East tour as DAA and QMG of 99 Gurkha Bde on operations in Malaya, during which he was awarded the MBE. He then returned to the UK for a tour of duty in the War Office as GSO2 in Signals 5; during this tour he devised a new system of numbering for the units of the Corps, allocating Regimental, Squadron and Troop designations which are still in use today. After attending the Joint Services Staff College **Tony** went out to BAOR, firstly as OC 2 Sqn and then as Second in Command of 1 Sig Regt; then, in 1963, he was posted for the third time to the Far East, to be MA to CBF Hong Kong. His promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel took him straight from Hong Kong to Borneo as Force Signals Officer and CR Signals 17 Div during the confrontation with Indonesia. For his work during these successful operations he was Mentioned in Despitaches.

The two years in Borneo were followed by what he considers to be the most valuable period of his service, his appointments in the Ministry of Defence, firstly as AMS MS1 and then as AAG AG11. During these tours he became personally acquainted with and a good friend to large numbers of the Corps, very many of whom have cause to be grateful to him for the work he did then.

On promotion to Brigadier in 1970 **Tony** was appointed to command the Training Brigade, traditionally regarded as one of the 'plum' appointments in the Corps. His tour there coincided with a period of great change in Catterick, including their amalgamation of 8th and 24th Regiments and the opening of the new Trade Training School by the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, together with the re-starting of our Junior Entry. The only sadness of his tour in Catterick was the death in 1971 of his wife, **Elizabeth,** who was a friend of so many members of the Corps during their 22 years of marriage.

In 1973 **Tony** was appointed Inspector of the Intelligence Corps, an appointment he held until becoming Signal Officer-in-Chief in November 1974. These last two appointments gave him the distinction, which is probably unique, of being Head of Arm of two Corps in succession.

The last three years have been a period of particular challenge, for the restructuring of the Army following the Defence Review of 1974 included major organisational changes to the command and control system in field formations involving the elimination of the traditional brigade level of command. At the same time plans have been coming to fruition for the introduction into service of the next generation of signal equipment—Clansman, the new family of field radios over the next year or two, and Ptarmigan, the next trunk communications system in the early 1980s. And, of course, throughout these years the Corps has been required to take on, with diminishing resources, a succession of emergency operational commitments; the Northern Ireland commitment continues unabated, and there are other important, though less publicised commitments, too, in Belize, in Cyprus, and elsewhere. So it has been a busy and testing time, and the Corps has been fortunate indeed to have an officer of **Tony's** outstanding ability to guide its fortunes during this difficult period. He was appointed CB in the Jubilee Honours List. Despite the pressure of work at his desk, **Tony** has made a particular point of getting out and about—there can be very few soldiers of the Corps who have not seen him on one or more of his frequent visits to our units throughout the world. If, as has been said, it is one of the marks of the best senior officers that a visit from them leaves their units with heightened morale and in a better and more confident frame of mind than before, then **Tony** must be one of the very best; for even a short visit from him acted like a tonic! His American wife, **Princine,** who must sometimes have found British Army ways somewhat curious, has not spared herself either, accompanying **Tony** everywhere, and we are extremely grateful to her, too.

Within a few days of handing over as Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Tony** and **Princine** left for Hong Kong where he is taking up a three-year appointment with the Hong Kong Land Company. We are assured that he will be returning regularly to the UK, and will not be out of touch with the Corps; and as he has been appointed a Colonel Commandant we shall enjoy the benefit of his wisdom, his experience, and his enthusiasm for the Corps for many years to come.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET XI 1925

From: **Brig (Retd) R. H. O. Coryton, CBE, BA**

Dear Sir,

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CRICKET XI 1925

I was very interested to see on the Cover Page of THE WIRE for October 1977 a photograph of 8 Sig Regt cricket team—winners of the Army Major Units Cricket Cup played at Aldershot in September 1977.

This brings back to me many nostalgic memories as it is exactly 52 years ago (1925) that a Composite Royal Corps of Signals played the Royal Engineers at Lords and, I think, it was the last time the Corps played a Representative match there. I enclose a copy of the team photographed after the game, which I am sure we won!

I am afraid that out of the 12 names only three of us still survive. I am happy to record that **Gen Rawson,** who captained the team still lives in London. The names of the remainder as far as I can remember are:

Left to right. Back row: Sgt Carpenter, Capt Pavey, Lt Power (Brig), Lt Scott (Col), Lt Coryton (Brig), Lt L. C. Boyd (—?—). *Front row:* Maj Hardy-Parsons, Maj Cobb, Maj Phillips, Lt Col Rawson (Maj Gen), Capt Mathews (Brig).

Yours faithfully,
R. H. O. Coryton,

Wybrants,
The Long Road,
Rowledge,
Farnham, Surrey.

From: **Brig N. C. King, MBE** (Retd)

Dear Editor,

The story of The Women's Royal Army Corps has just been published by Leo Cooper Ltd in their Famous Regiment Series.

The story starts with the forerunner of the WRAC in 1917 but naturally the largest part is taken up with the ATS in the 1939–45 War.

A large number of ATS and more recently WRAC married soldiers and might be interested in this book.

It is being sold by Leo Cooper for £8·50, but copies can be obtained from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey, for £5·95.

If you have a spare corner to fill and think that the wives of your readers might be interested we would be grateful for your help in contacting ex-members of the ATS and WRAC with this special offer.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. King,

Corps HQ WRAC,
Queen Elizabeth Park,
Guildford,
Surrey.

From: **Mrs K. Matthews (ex-Sgt K. Jones, ATS)**

Dear Sir,

Could you help trace a person, a LCpl Jimmy or James Kennedy, attached to the (43 T/P Section) Royal Signals BAOR, who used to be stationed at Brussels and Bad Oeynhausen, Germany.

Hoping to go to Dundee soon (where his home was) and would like to meet some of them; I was with them for two years and have lost touch.

He was discharged October or November 1946.

Hoping you can help me.

Yours sincerely,
K. Matthews,

85 Monthermer Road,
Cathays,
Cardiff CF2 4QY.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Subject to various factors still to be confirmed, it is hoped to hold our 1978 Reunion with the Regiment in Germany over a long weekend during the latter half of May.

Any ex-member of the Regiment who might be interested in attending should get in touch with me immediately for further details.

Maj (Retd) K. N. Smartt,
Imber,
Millway Road,
Andover, Hants SP10 3EU.

We are indebted to Mr W. M. Cotterell of 3 Osborne Close, Sompting, Lancing, Sussex, for sending us this 1924 photograph of the Canteen staff at Maresfield

From: **Maj M. R. Stephenson**

Dear Sir,

The attached photograph may be of interest. Maj Tony Hunt and I were both on duty (independently) in the USA. We were both in the Air and Space Museum in Washington DC, walking around in amazement wondering at what must be one of the best museums in the world.

While looking upwards at the real missiles, space-capsules and so on these two Englishmen bumped into one another, appologised, stood back when the other spoke with an English accent and almost succumbed to shock when they discovered that 'the other man' was an old friend.

Before adjourning for a reviving beverage, the event was recorded in front of the real (although reserve) Apollo capsule.

Yours sincerely,
M. R. Stephenson

From: **Maj (Rtd) F. P. Stewart**

Dear Editor,

I attended 33 Corps Signals Association Annual Reunion Dinner on October 29. As we have been doing for many years, we held the reunion in the Horseshoe Hotel in Tottenham Court Road. About 35 members and guests attended. Many had travelled from considerable distances to be there. The main reasons for the continued success of the dinner are the indefatigable industry and enthusiasm of the Association Secretary, **Ken Brown,** who devotes much time and energy to organising this and other Burma Association functions.

We were delighted when **Ken,** after giving an account of the Association and messages from absent friends, finished up by reading out one of his own poems. I attach a copy of it. I think it gives a very good picture of a Royal Signals unit at war. I hope you may find room in THE WIRE to print it.

Yours sincerely,
Freddie Stewart,

Ministry of Defence,
London SW1A 2EU.

The Signals of Thirty-Three Corps

by Ken Brown

When you sit in your chair by the fireside
When you're home from the office, or job,
Does your mind ever wander to countries out yonder
Where you soldiered on in the 'Mob'?

Perhaps it is only but seldom
Your thoughts may chance idly to roam,
To those days, long before, spent in Thirty-Three Corps
When a Chevrolet truck was your home!

Home, they say, is the place where the heart is,
And our hearts travelled over the earth
As we trod 'terra firma', from Mid-East to Burma,
Many miles from the land of our birth.

The homes that we lived in were legion
On our way from UK to Rangoon;
From the back of a truck, to a hole in the muck—
Rather damp in the annual monsoon!

Lines we laid covered miles by the thousand,
And so did our DR's, of course;
Ops, Wireless and Line, tapped away, rain or shine,
And filled up the ether with Morse!

Our signals, encoded by Ciphers,
The Tele-Ops typed on the wires,
Whilst electric distresses were fixed by ES's
And IM's with Meggers and pliers!

And, with all of our heavy equipment
There was no telling where we would be
Without transport; our Drivers were truly no 'skivers'—
And nor were the staunch LAD.

When you think of those days in 'The Unit'—
Those days now remote as a dream—
We owed our success to one thing, I guess,
—We worked as a tightly-knit team.

From the Colonel and Company Commanders,
The Majors, and Captains, and 'Lieuts',
And, well to the fore, the Tiger of yore,
With Sam Browne and highly-shone boots!

To the WOs, Sergeants and Corporals
And the Signalmen, every one,
We worked side by side with a feeling of pride
In getting the 'job to do'—done!

So, whether you'd 'pip's on your shoulder
Or if you were one of the 'ranks',
One thing can be said for those days that are dead—
They gave us a reason for Thanks.

'Thanks'—for all of our friends of the present,
'Thanks'—for all of the friends gone before,
And 'Thanks' for the tether that holds us together—
The 'Signals' of Thirty-Three Corps!

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Movements

Officers

DECEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. O. C. Alexander	ACGS (OR)
Lt R. A. Baker	233 Sig Sqn
Lt H. J. Bardell	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. Blake	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj W. G. Cunningham	School of Signals
Lt Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	HQ AFCENT
Maj R. Dransfield	Army Apprentice College, Harrogate
Capt A. H. G. Elford	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Ford	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Maj M. J. C. Galloway	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Capt P. A. Hallett	HQ 1 Div
Capt R. P. Harrison	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Garrison
Capt R. G. L. Hill	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col M. L. W. Jennings	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Col H. A. Johnstone, OBE	IMS Brussels
Capt A. M. Jones	22 Sig Regt
Lt R. A. Jones	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. R. Knock	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lawson	9 Sig Regt
Capt T. P. Mountford	Defence NBC School
Capt (Tfc) D. F. Reed	8 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. F. Reynolds	Army School of Mech Tpt
Lt Col E. L. Rogers	11 Sig Regt (Held Strength)
Capt D. M. Rutherford	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. C. Saunders	10 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. R. West	30 Sig Regt
Col J. Westlake	BAAT Nigeria
Maj K. A. C. Wilson	School of Signals (Held Strength)
Maj R. A. Wright	MOD DAT

JANUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (QM) A. S. R. Alfred, MBE	Scarborough Sig Trg Centre
Capt (TOT) C. N. Armitage, MBE	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Maj G. J. Barrett	DSS (A)
Capt (QM) H. Bell	608 Sig Tp
Capt P. J. Bonser	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Breese	11 Sig Regt (Ouston)
Capt (TOT) J. V. Bridgeman	CPA Royal Signals
Capt (QM) A. Burns	40 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. M. Burrows	BDLS Canberra (HS)
Lt T. W. Canham	8 Sig Regt
Col D. B. Carnie, MBE	BAS Washington
Maj S. R. Carr-Smith	ACGS (OR)
Maj A. F. Carter	Gurkha Fd Fce HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj W. R. Clare	School of Signals
Lt N. J. Corbin	7 Sig Regt
Maj H. A. Culley	HQ UKLF
Capt C. J. Dakin	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Capt R. G. Drake	234 Sig Sqn
Lt N. J. R. Ferriman	11 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) M. J. Gilycat	8 Sig Regt
Lt P. K. Gorford	11 Sig Regt
Maj H. Grenville-Jones	RAC Centre
Capt A. J. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) J. D. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt (HS)
Capt D. K. Hadden	BDLS (A) Ottawa (HS)
Maj J. F. Higton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2 Lt J. E. Hogan	8 Fld Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. S. Holden	7 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Lance	5 Fd Fce HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt F. Lavelick, BEM	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lawson	21 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. Leach	22 Sig Regt
Maj P. A. Lenthall	8 Sig Regt
Maj T. C. McCoy	38 Sig Gp RAF
Maj J. G. McK McLuckie	RCB
Maj M. J. MacKlin	DSS (A)
Capt T. R. Manders	28 (BR) Sig Regt
2 Lt D. P. Mankin	7 Sig Regt
2 Lt S. J. May	16 Sig Regt
Maj E. Mulley	NDC
Maj D. S. Mullineaux	NDC
Maj J. P. Munnery	AWRE MOD (PE)
Capt I. A. Noble	HQ British Gurkhas Nepal
Capt J. T. Noon	4 Signal Group
Lt T. C. O'Brien	11 Sig Regt
Maj D. G. M. Overton	DGGWL (A) MOD (PE)
Maj W. H. H. Parkes	13 Sig Regt (Radio)
Capt D. S. Pawlow	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Lt Col M. A. Petheram	HQ AFCENT (BAE)
Lt T. P. Rimell	30 Sig Regt
Lt P. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Snowdon	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. A. Spooner	SANGCOM
Capt J. W. Stabler	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) V. Stephens	7 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) G. A. Stephenson	21 Sig Regt
Capt J. D. Stokoe	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. F. Storr	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. E. Truluck	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt R. Vasper	APSG RSC Sutton Coldfield
Lt G. W. Wilton	RMP Trg Centre
Maj R. M. Yolland	RSRE

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

DECEMBER 1977

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 H. G. Arnold	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 C. Moore	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (Y of S) A. O. Harkins	HQ UKLF
WO1 D. L. McCluskey	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
WO1 J. W. L. Frost	MOD DSS (AD)
WO2 (F of S) C. E. Napier	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) D. C. Snowdon	17 Port and Maritime Regt RCT
WO2 E. J. P. Kellett	38 Cadet Trg Team
Ssgt (Y of S) N. J. I. Cox	633 Sig Tp
Ssgt B. J. Beadle	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Ssgt N. R. Cox	7 Sig Regt
Ssgt D Remmer	241 Sig Sqn
Ssgt P. H. M. Toovey	11 Sig Regt
Ssgt D. I. Wilcox	249 Sig Sqn
Ssgt (F of S) R. J. Wherry	LSP Oman
Ssgt B. F. Williams	1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt R. J. Duffy	HQ 4 Sig Gp
A/Ssgt C. G. Bellamy	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Mason	19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. M. Kemp	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. J. T. McLean	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Williams	British Forces HQ and Sig Sqn Hong Kong
Sgt A. L. Denne	20 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt M. S. Goatley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. E. P. Rock	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Young	Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Hancock	School of Signals
Sgt P. Forshaw	School of Signals
Sgt S. Cane	30 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Higman	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Squire	School of Signals
Sgt P. V. Davies	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. D. M. Green	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt A. W. Lythaby	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. H. Loates	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Hopkins	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. E. Berry	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Hagan	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. I. Scott	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt G. M. Whelan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Hough	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt M. Rogerson	40 Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Hooper	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Hughes	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt W. McKenna	HQ Dhekelia Gar/3 Sig Gp
Sgt I. C. Chant	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Mead	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt D. R. Eastmond	13 Sig Regt
Sgt I. J. Jones	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp) for att to 233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. J. Lander	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. McCormick	28 Sig Regt
A/Sgt P. Toye	229 Sig Sqn

JANUARY 1978

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 M. G. Springer	7 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (F of S) N. C. Cowell	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (Y of S) A. D. Harkins	HQ UKLF
WO2 (F of S) J. MacDonald	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (F of S) J. A. Murphy	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) D. G. Lunn	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 (Y of S) E. P. Mahoney	227 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. Adam	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 A. M. Boyle	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
WO2 T. J. Friend	13 Sig Regt
WO2 C. S. Gledhill	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 P. Kearns	2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (Y of S) J. R. Meehan	28 Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) J. Hindle	4 Sig Gp
Ssgt (Y of S) D. Lomas	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt (Y of S) M. J. Tivenan	School of Signals
Ssgt D. McGimpsey	13 Sig Regt
Ssgt J. P. Shergold	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Ssgt J. C. Matthews	19 Airptbl Bde Sig Sqn
A/Ssgt T. D. Fulton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Millar	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt W. O. Airlie	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. A. French	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. P. Hewitt	602 Sig Tp
Sgt I. M. Duncan	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Parker	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt G. H. Wharton	School of Signals
Sgt J. G. Carnegie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Kerr	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Kidd	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. G. Kingdom	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. B. Wyllie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. O'Neill	CPA
Sgt M. R. Buckley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. D. Morrissey	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt F. W. Gardiner	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. K. McKay	6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Ramsay	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Wooff	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Davies	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. E. Dickinson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. R. Bachelor	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt K. J. Bradley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. H. Coleman	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. A. Ellis	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Morley	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Sgt A. Coates	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Forshaw	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Dalquen	8 Sig Regt
Sgt L. R. Smith	CPA
Sgt M. Eaton	CPA
Sgt D. L. Butchers	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt J. C. Ellis	School of Signals
Sgt J. M. Nicholson	School of Signals
Sgt S. Williams	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Swan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. E. Palmer	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. G. Barnes	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. Craggs	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Hampton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Beddow	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Henderson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. F. Simpson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt C. E. Williams	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt B. W. Pollard	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt C. J. Conroy	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Garvie	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. Reynods	16 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Bean	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Freudenfeld	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. Burton	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt N. A. J. Worth	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Spink	8 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Toothill	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt E. Gough	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Frost	562 Rear Link Det
Sgt J. McManus	576 Rear Link Det
Sgt M. Pettis	579 Rear Link Det
Sgt B. L. Eckett	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
Sgt D. S. Berry	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
Sgt D. J. Walker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Constantine	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Snaith	22 Sig Regt
Sgt L. J. Hyde	Army Apprentices College, Harrogate
Sgt N. P. Stevenson	ADP Development Team

Welfare

OCTOBER 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**25**
Number of clothing parcels	**58**
Amount spent	**£918·98**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£50·00**

ONE OF THE MONTH'S CASES

WIDOW of a Corporal, who served in Royal Signals 1925–36 and 1939–45, died earlier this year. During his long terminal illness, various commitments had piled up, and the Association made the widow a grant of £100 to clear them and put her straight. Her letter is printed below.

ONE OF THE MONTH'S LETTERS

WHEN I read your letter, I can't tell you how thankful and grateful I was for the kindness and generosity of your Committee in granting me £100 to clear all my outstanding problems. I was so touched I must admit I shed a few tears of gratitude. I had never had these sort of problems before, and they had certainly laid heavily on me at a time when I could not cope so well, but now I feel as if a weight had been lifted from me, and such a relief that I can clear things up and keep my home going as my husband would have wished. I am sure that this also will help me to feel better in health and make a go of life again. It is good to know there are people who care so much.

THANK YOU

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

Leeds Branch, Royal Signals Association; Mrs J. M. Crowder; The Thrift Shop, 10 Sig Regt; Mr and Mrs H. W. Palmer; Maj Gen and Mrs E. S. Cole; Col R. A. Chell; Mrs K. N. Smartt; Sgt A. W. Lythaby; Maj Gen and Mrs J. M. Sawers; Capt and Mrs D. M. Maxted; Lady Scott; Lt Col D. A. Dickson.

NOVEMBER 1977

Number of cases assisted financially	**40**
Number of clothing parcels	**58**
Amount spent	**£1,681·14**

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of grants	**2**
Amount spent	**£93·32**

THANK YOU

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

Maj T. F. Jenkinson, Mrs J. Fraser, Maj R. O. Edwards, Maj and Mrs A. F. Carter, Mr and Mrs J. Adlard, Lt Col J. Bayfield, Lt Col and Mrs D. A. Dickson, A. W. Smith, Esq, Maj and Mrs F. Iveson, Mrs E. Fladgate, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, The Thrift Shop, Blandford Garrison.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

ANNUAL DINNER 1978

The Aldershot Branch Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3, 1978, at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants. Full particulars and reservations from A. V. Ient, MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3SQ, or Telephone Aldershot 23658.

Assembly is at 7.15pm. Dinner at 8pm.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1977:

	£
Secretary, Blandford Garrison Welfare Committee	50·00
Maj C. A. M. Robertson, HQ 12 Sig Group	30·00
OC 10 Sig Regt	25·00
Chaplain, St Alban's Church, Hildesheim	24·75
Memorial Service for the late Lt Col R. W. Atkinson, OBE	30·15
Capt Keith Beamnont	25·00
Maj E. D. Shilton	10·00
Capt B. T. Lord	7·50
OC Gurkha Sig Sqn	4·16
W. G. J. Kidson, Esq	3·00
OC 83 (London) Sig Sqn (V)	2·00
L. G. Toogood, Esq	1·00
Miscellaneous donation	·50
In memory of the late Brig W. C. V. Galwey, OBE, MC	105·00
	£318·06

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1977:

	£
HQ Mess, Royal Signals	35·15
OC, 224 Sig Sqn	10·00
In memory of the late Brig W. C. V. Galwey, OBE, MC	12·50
F. C. Wilson, Esq	15·40
Capt (QM) T. Keany	12·50
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	5·00
J. Johnston, Esq	5·00
A. F. Morgan, Esq	5·00
Capt N. G. Stevens	5·00
E. C. Partridge, Esq	3·00
P. A. Tulley, Esq	2·90
G. W. Cook, Esq	2·90
Mrs J. Power	2·50
E. Whiffen, Esq	1·90
P. M. O'Mahoney, Esq	1·90
H. Liley, Esq	1·90
J. Power, Esq	1·60
G. A. Jenkins, Esq	1·50
P. B. Cairns, Esq	1·15
F. Veness, Esq	1·00
J. H. A. Potter, Esq	1·00
Miscellaneous Donations	10·20
	£139·00

We gratefully acknowledge this cartoon from Ron Rigby Jnr, 8 Sig Regt.

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—25 words excluding address/telephone number — be they related to Births, Marriages, Deaths or items required or for sale. There is no charge for this service to any serving member of the Corps (or those retired who subscribe to THE WIRE), unless the 'ad' is related to a business interest. To those ineligible for 'free space', we request that their notice be forwarded to our Advertising Managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR, who will provide details of charges, on a case-by-case basis. All matters for publication must reach the Editor not later than the 12th of every month preceding publication.

DEATHS

Mathew—Brig Felton Arthur Hamilton Mathew, OBE, MC, JP, was commissioned in the Royal Engineers from Cambridge University in 1914. He went to the Western Front in 1915 when he was awarded the MC and French Croix de Guerre. He was wounded in 1917 and returned to the Front in 1918 when he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and appointed OBE. After the war he was with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine and also in Silesia, when he transferred to the Corps. Between 1923 and 1930 he served with the STC at Maresfield and 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot, then for four years in Egypt before returning to the UK in 1934, where he commanded a Tank Brigade Signal Squadron, and later a Mobile Divisional Signal Squadron. At the outbreak of the war in 1939 he was commanding a Mobile Divisional Signals Squadron in Egypt which later became 7th Armoured Divisional Signals. In 1940 he became CSO Western Desert, then moved to Greece where he was involved in a serious traffic accident necessitating his hospitalisation in Egypt. After recovering he became CSO 9th Army until 1944, when he was posted to Scotland as CSO. His last appointment before retiring in 1946 was CSO Allied Forces Norway, where he was awarded the Order of St Olaf. In his youth he was an outstanding cricketer and rugby player in both of which sports he represented the Corps. After retirement he settled in Somerset where he became a JP and joined the Civil Defence Corps as Senior Signal Officer. He died at his home on December 9, at the age of 84.

Muscat—It is with great regret that we record the death of Sig Alfred Muscat whilst on duty at Siggiewi on November 15. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his widow and son, Josef.

Meiklejohn—Col Ian Forbes Meiklejohn was commissioned in the Corps from the RMA Woolwich in 1927. He retired in 1955 and, of his 28 years' service, the majority were spent in various staff appointments, mainly at the War Office and in the Middle East. He commanded 1 L of C Sig Regt from 1946 to 1948 and 5 Training Regt from 1949 to 1950. His last appointment was as CSO Singapore Base District. He spent over three years in the Antarctic as Wireless Officer with the British Grahame Land Expedition of 1934–37 for which he was awarded the Polar Medal. He was a keen sailor and, after retirement, kept a small yacht at Dartmouth, when he was living at Bayards Cove. He died at his home in Forres on December 26, at the age of 70.

Nelson—Maj George Craig Nelson was commissioned from the RMA Woolwich in 1931. He served at Tidworth and Bulford before going on to India in 1936. At the outbreak of World War II he moved to North Africa and served in Egypt and the Sudan till 1942 when he returned to India. He retired in 1944 on medical grounds and died on January 25 at the age of 66.

Robertson—Ex-Cpl Alec Robertson died in hospital in Surrey on January 2. 'Jock' completed 22 years in the Corps prior to retiring in late 1976, having served his last tour with 21 Sig Regt. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Mrs Ann Robertson, who currently resides at 60 Florentine Court, Hemlington, Middlesbrough TS8 9LQ, Cleveland.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Handyman/Caretaker required for National Services Charity in Knightsbridge. One-bedroomed self-contained flat, free gas and electricity provided and up to £2,000 per annum for the right couple. Possible employment for wife. Apply to: The Secretary, 122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE.

FOR SALE

Mess Jacket, with Staff sergeant's chevrons. Height 6ft, Chest 39in. Telephone 01-788 3026.

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FRANCE...vive la difference!

£39 TO COVER THE COSTS OF BOOKING, TRAVEL, FIVE MEALS IN FRANCE, AND THE OVERNIGHT HOTEL

DEPART: FRIDAY, 5 MAY 1978 (20.30 hrs.)
RETURN: SUNDAY 7 MAY 1978 (23.30 hrs.)

Full details from:
ALAN E. FOOT, 96 CHILTERN CRESCENT, EARLEY, READING RG6 1AN

Sultanate of Oman ARMY APPOINTMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified officers of the British Army Royal Signals, recently retired or due to retire very shortly, to fill an *immediate* vacancy on the Headquarters Staff of the Oman Army as

STAFF OFFICER GRADE 2 (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) (Major)

Applicants must have proven staff experience, and should have completed either the TEM or the TE course at the School of Signals. Preference will be given to officers who are qualified PSC, PSC(W) or SQ.

This is a uniformed appointment of 3 years duration initially, unaccompanied (although short family visits to Oman may be possible) and the age limit is 47.

Conditions of service include annual emoluments commencing at the equivalent of £10,000 at the current rate of exchange (tax free); an end-of-contract gratuity of £6,000 plus; normal Service mess facilities with air-conditioned bachelor accommodation and services free of charge; and 60 days home leave annually (usually taken in two periods of 30 days) with air passages paid. Interviews for this post will be held in UK very shortly and applicants are therefore asked to write immediately for further details, quoting reference 51/H, to:

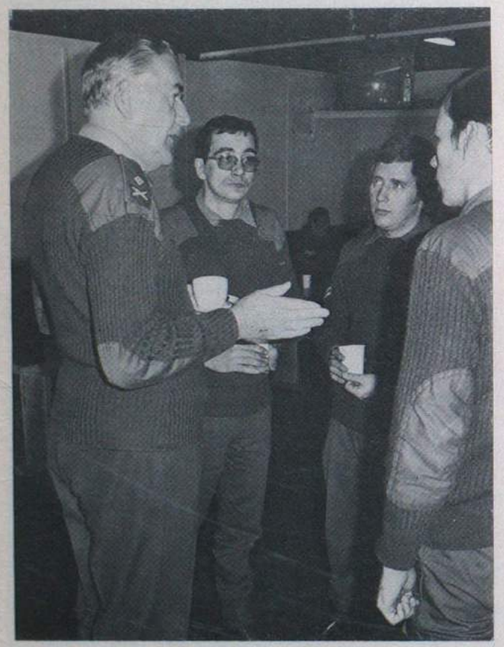
Senior Personnel Officer
AIRWORK SERVICES LIMITED
Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport,
Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6EB

REPORT FROM ULSTER

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 809

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	—	**Maj J. J. Ventham** (Royal Signals)
2IC	—	**Capt D. F. M. Collyer** (Royal Signals)
QM	—	**Capt (QM) J. E. Ient** (Royal Signals)
Admin Officer	—	**Capt (QM) A. Beveridge** (RCT)
OC 'A/TM' Troop	—	**Lt H. A. R. Hancock** (Royal Signals)
OC 'B' Troop	—	**Lt R. J. Turnbull** (Royal Signals)
OC 'D & E' Platoon		**Capt M. D. McMahon** (RPC)
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) M. C. K. Smart**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) J. Francis**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) W. S. Balding**
MTO	—	**WO2 B. Hudson**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt (ORSQMS) G. C. P. Moloney**



Signal Officer in Chief meets the lads
Cpls Pete Young, Jack Lawler and Colin Savage

FAREWELL VISIT

ON Wednesday, October 5, 1977, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** paid his farewell visit to the Squadron in Portadown. Like all well-organised and planned occasions and after some of the very poorest weather the clouds disappeared and out came the sun. It was in this very pleasant and relaxed atmosphere that the SO in C was able to meet all but a few of the Squadron personalities. Break was taken in 'The Huntsman', a popular meeting place well known for 'old ale' and 'good company' but on this occasion 'old ale' was replaced by coffee.

AROUND THE TROOPS

'A' and 'TM' Troop

Although it is very quiet operationally the comms battle still goes on. PRE has come and gone—rumour has it that **WO2 (F of S) John Francis** achieved his excellent result by issuing all the U/S equipment to Beleek, Co Fermanagh (on the border—much too dangerous for Tels Inspection teams).

Our usual home electrical installation and repair service has been busy. **Cpl John Findlay** installed hi-fi cassette/radios in Crossmaglen and Forkhill. These had been presented to the roulement companies by civil servants in PSA London. **Sgt Tony Salter** and an antenna rigging team were scrambled to Belcoo, Fermanagh, by the CLF—they now have BBC1, UTV, and RTE (sort of). We have been reinforcing various units for particular jobs. **Sigs Eddie Key, 'Birdie' Hurlow** and **Lcpl Chris Wills** (REME Tels Section) turned out to help the local roulement Bty control football fans returning from supporting Armagh in the Gaelic Football Final. They lost (the football team, that is) and were very docile. The only damage was two broken windows at the station. The only things thrown were a handful of gravel and a light bulb.

We were glad to see the SO in C, **Maj Gen Tighe,** during his visit to Northern Ireland. **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** showed him our latest exotic antenna—a C42 Yagi. **Cpl Dennis Corser** showed him that a Tele Mech can be an R Tech, and **Sgt Tony Salter** and **Sig Keith Williamson** managed to avoid falling off a Rasmussen mast in front of him.

'Bravo' Troop

We welcome aboard **Sigs Dave Bunning, Ralph Campbell** and **Billy Monahan** (who has returned to the fold after a brief spell in Cyprus—heaven help us all!). And we say farewell to **Sig 'Jock' Duncan** who leaves us to 'exercise' his talents in BAOR.

STOP PRESS! . . . congratulations to **Cpl John Mullen** on his recent promotion . . . **Sig 'Geordie' Teasdale** is now back on *terra firma* after his free-fall course . . . **Lcpl Ollie Bowerbank** is still trying to dry out after his canoeing course in Wales . . . !

0900hrs . . . and amid the pounding of boots DMS, groans and gasps for breath, the dreaded morning ritual once again takes place. Under the merciless eye of **Lt Bob Turnbull** reluctant volunteers step forward to undergo Basic Fitness Test Training. Needless to say, OC Squadron and the RSM have both claimed passes. However, the officials suspect foul and dastardly play and a re-run will soon take place. Our MT section, with its fair share of 'Jimmy' representation, continues to do battle against the ever increasing demand for transport. Our faithful disciples line up as follows:

WO2 Brian Hudson
(I want some leave)

Sig John Cleese Dewis	**Lcpl Steve Balance**	**Lcpl 'Scouse' Goater**
(I'm getting married . . . .)	(Annie Oakley in disguise)	(?)
Cpl Dave Burbridge	**Sig Mark Roberts**	**Sig John Horrocks**	**Sig Jerry Foster**
(Our secret weapon)	(Red is the colour . . .)	(Our SDS man)	(Our 'Enry)

With a line-up like that, we just can't lose (I hope).

PROVIDERS OF ALL

Since last appearing in print the QM Department has undergone a little 'surgery'. Two sturdy characters have moved on in the form of **Ssgt George Bray** (WRF) off to LOA land in Germany, and **Sgt Roy Willoughby** (RRF) to England prior to retirement. We wish them well and in their place we welcome **WO2 Brian Canderton** (RHA) and **Csgt John Wardle** (PWO). Another new face is that of **Sgt Ron Roberts** to assume the post of Estate Warden for the Portadown area.

Like all integrated Brigade Headquarters, we have a mixture of Regiments and Corps working side by side. Communication and Technical equipments are managed by **Sgt Jim Neil** assisted by **Lcpl John Dixon** and **Sig Trevor Potter** and with one of the largest areas currently operationally active they are kept busy. **Sgt Dave Cook** (RAOC) supplies the 'goodies' for FAMTO and FATSO and **Cpl David Crabbe** (RAOC) is in the boots and socks department. A mixed bag if ever there was one and not forgetting **Lcpl Dave Roberts** and **Pte 'Snowball' Tumilson,** both RAOC. Although PRE is over, there is still the Annual Inspection due in late November so the pace of life in the

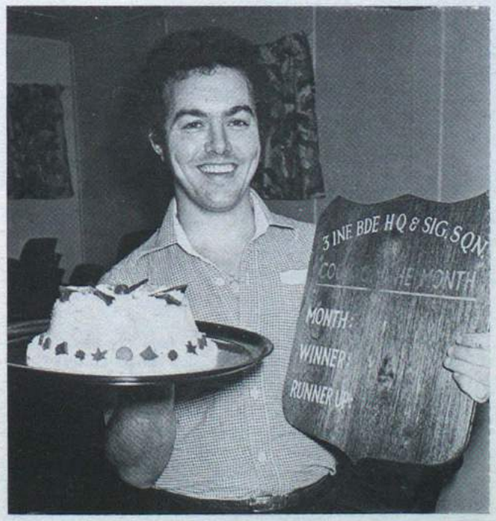
QMs Department, 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, BFPO 809
Left to right. Back row: Lcpl D. Roberts (RAOC), Cpl D. Crabbe (RAOC), Sgt J. Neil, Sgt D. Cook (RAOC), Sgt R. Roberts, Lcpl J. Dixon, Pte Tumilson (RAOC)
Front row: J. Burns, Csgt J. Wardle (PWO), WO2 B. Canderton (RA), Capt (QM) J. E. Ient (Royal Signals), WO2 (RQMS) R. M. D. Collins (Royal Signals), WO2 J. Mowe (WRAC), Sgt R. Willoughby (RRF)
Absent on leave: Mrs Pat Mooring, Sig T. Potter

Province is maintained at its fast and sometimes hectic rate.

This hardworking, undaunted and motley crew are joined in their efforts by **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Collins** and the QM, **Capt John Ient.** A noble band, providers of all things from married quarters to dry batteries.

IN THE KITCHEN

On Wednesday, October 26, 1977, the fifth competition in our 'Cook of the Month' competition took place in the Community Centre of the Westacre Estate Craigavon. Ladies from the Wives Club including **Mrs M. Woodford,** wife of the Brigade Commander; **Mrs Fill** and **Mrs Lawler** adjudicated. A simple task it seemed, to select from nine entries in the 'Cold Sweets' class a winner. After considerable deliberation it was **Lcpl Steve Ibbotson's** 'walnut coffee eavour' that took the honours. It is our hope to repeat the competition just before Christmas for the traditional Christmas cake, and making it an open event must—create a stir.



Cook of The Month
Lcpl Steve Ibbotson wins in October

SERGEANTS MESS

WO1 (RSM) M. C. K. Smart is now firmly in the chair and indeed never gets off it. Mess entertainment has been plentiful and varied and there is no truth in the rumour that Mr Healey was contracted to help out with the Mess bills. Highlights of the month were Friday, October 21, when the Officers Mess were challenged to a games evening. The trophy, in fact, was a 'po' which had never been used, which the Sergeants Mess retained over a narrow margin of 6 points. The games were enjoyed by all, although the draughts (for ½ pints) was a killer to say the least. After the games were over a 'cabaret' swung into action performed by Sergeants Mess members which included a male vocalist and an illusion act which did not confuse anyone except the performers.

The following night, October 22, 1977, the ladies of the Mess were dined with husbands waiting on; this went off very well although many ladies spent the following Sunday in bed with severe headaches. The 'cabaret' from the evening prior was shown to the ladies but was heavily censored by the RSM.

The month culminated in the Dining in of the Deputy Commander, **Col Edelsten,** and the Brigade Major, **Maj Deverell.** This took place on Friday, October 28. This excellent evening brought a most successful month to a more dignified end with all Mess members looking forward to November with anticipation and worried bank managers.

SPORTING SCENE

A high spot in the sporting calendar was the first ever Brigade Autumn Golf Meeting which took place on October 5, 1977, at the local Portadown Golf Club course. An encouraging entry of 24 took part in what proved to be a most enjoyable and competitive day. Honours in the morning went to **Capt Tony Patrick** (RAOC) of the Brigade Staff with 36 points in the Stableford, and **Capt Andrew Harrison** (RAOC) took the bogey prize after lunch. The team prize going to 6 UDR.

Although difficult, the Squadron takes part in all the recognised games and figures prominently in the Northern Ireland soccer, rugby, and hockey leagues. However, the current craze is ski-ing and at least three times a week devotees gather on the dry slope outside Lurgan to collect the standard quota of limps and bruises. I am pleased to report no broken bones yet.

Instructor's 'Nightmare'
Instructor (*unknown*) with broken binding
Pte Corran (RPC), WO2 (RQMS) Collins, Cpl Newman (Int Corps), Sig Latham, Pte Tilley (RAOC)

FAREWELL

Having opened with one we now finish with one—**Cpl Duncan Matthews** recently posted to 1st Division only to learn he was mentioned in Phase III and is to retire in August 1978. We wish you and yours luck and happiness. A fond farewell also to **Cpl 'Blue' Baker** on his way to 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

Although slightly hampered by the 'local situation', social life does prosper in Ulster. Our picture shows the cast of a Combined Services Show being taken for a ride by 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

SPECIAL GUESTS

SINCE we last appeared in the Corps magazine a lot of water has gone under the bridge. Our FFR (ARU?) went off very well and our build up to the many Christmas functions went well. The Wives Club have been well and truly wined and dined in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, for which the RSM must be credited, and all his members, for an excellent evening. Thanks, too, to the Squadron officers who waited on.

In the sporting world the Squadron keeps its head above water with **Sgt Paul Tippetts,** our Pay Sergeant, running the rugby, **RQMS Ron Collins** running the squash, **Capt Mike McMahon** the hockey, and **Lt Bob Turnbull** the soccer. Our Community Centre waltzes along under the guiding influence of **Sgt** and **Mrs Dave Cloake,** although some of the 'pads' seem to find it hard work getting back to their quarters.

'SHQ' Troop, under the guiding influence of the Squadron Admin Officer, **Capt (QM) 'Boots' Beveridge** (RCT), gives us not only excellent service in the administrative field, but also cash from the PRI. His staff do a great job, sometimes under arduous conditions (in between cups of 'Oxo'). Our Chief Clerk, **Ssgt Gerry Moloney,** and gang keep the system turning over although **Cpl Stan Stanley** was heard to remark: 'Chief, what's a bass broom?' when he found himself on area cleaning.

'QM' Troop bash along amazingly under the slogan 'we've got it, you can have it, but not today we have a heating problem'. It is rumoured that the QM and his staff are to be issued with 'Porsche 924' and magic wands so as to live at the pace at which they operate. Well done, Molar Division—you do a great job.

'MT' Troop in the MT world—It is rumoured that 'D & E' Platoon will break off diplomatic relations with MT if **WO2 Brian Hudson,** our MTO, does not allow them to win a football match. Here again with all the trials and tribulations of Northern Ireland we have an excellent service and no problem is too great—well done, 'MT' Troop. 'Snoopy' going on 'leave' again?

The quickness of the hand . . .'
Capt A. T. B. Kimber (Royal Signals), Brig D. M. Woodford, CBE, WO1 (RSM) M. Smart (Royal Signals)

FAREWELL TO THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

On Monday, December 5, 1977, the Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn bade farewell to the Brigade Commander, Brig D. M. Woodford, CBE, by ceremoniously towing him through the barracks at Portadown, complete with champagne. On behalf of the Brigade we wish him and Mrs Woodford *bon voyage* and every good wish for the future

BREEDING GROUND FOR TARZANS

'Alpha/TM' Troop has had weather-beaten month. The autumn gales were late this year but were stronger to make up for it. **Lcpl 'Geordie' Marrs, Sigs 'Jock' Gregory** and **George Poole** spent a chilly week on a mountain top swinging on the masts, catching falling antennae and re-deploying others. They are now on the short list for the Irish remake of Tarzan—no ropes (think about it). It has been a month of 'It's a knockout' with antennae.

Cpl Colin Savage, Lcpl Steve Griffiths and **Sig Adrian Waters** hung one antenna 30ft below a helicopter for one job while for another **Cpl John Lawlor, Lcpls Trev (Courses) Smith** and **Paul Kinsley-Smith** had to build a special scaffolding for a monster C42 Yagi.

One of our Landrovers, having become fed up with abuse from the British Army, developed Republican sympathies and threw its back door at **Cpl Pete Younger** and **Sig Adrian Petchey.** The Northern Ireland yellow cards, blue cards, pink cards, white cards with red print, white cards with green print, and orange cards were all consulted for guidance. Finally, the Rover was given an Internment Order (1045) and incarcerated in the LAD for rehabilitation.

Our other criminal is 'Katie' (**Cpl Pete Younger's** canine pride and joy) who has been served with an Exclusion (from camp) Order. She lifted a string of sausages from the Guardroom rations and did what comes naturally to a dog with a full stomach on finding a suitable patch of grass (outside the OC's office!). But not for these heinous crimes is she excluded. The circumstantial evidence surrounding the disappearance of the OC's packed lunch was the telling blow—despite counter-claims of a 'frame-up'. 'Katie is innocent—OK?!'

We congratulate **Lcpl Steve Lodge** on the recent birth of his second daughter, and we wish him and his family well in their forthcoming posting to Germany. We welcome **Cpl Malcolm Rose, Sigs Steve Farr, Richard Ling, Michael McGough** and **Steve Norfield** and hope that they enjoy their tour.

'BRAVO' TROOP

We welcome aboard **Cpl Phil Stevens, Lcpl Stan Robinson** and **Dvr 'Geordie' Leslie,** who have swelled yet again our RCT contingent of drivers—all 'Jimmies' beware! And we say farewell to **Cpl Harry Dransfield** after 16 years' service (he didn't really want to go!), and **Sig Brian Latham** who has left on transfer to the Sappers—Good luck!

Stop press . . . Congratulations to **Sig 'Beastie' Clare** on his recent marriage . . . **Lcpl 'Scouse' Goater** has passed the Institute of Advanced Motorists Test, while his wife has increased the **Goater** household by one! (There must be a connection somewhere . . . !)

Rumour has it that one can now apply for a B1 Fire Fighters course. **Lcpl 'Jock' King** and **Sig Barry Blain,** having completed Day 1 of their B2—B1 upgrading course, have been spotted in the North Yorkshire wilds posing as firemen (who's kidding who?).

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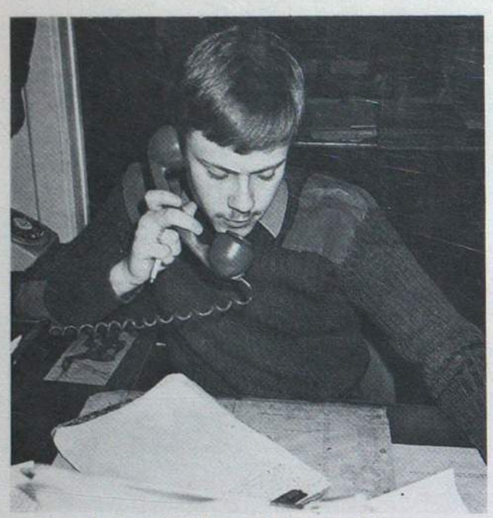
T. FROST (Saddlers) BAWTRY
Nr. DONCASTER

Our men in the Commcen continue to work wonders under their taskmaster, **Ssgt Brian Aldridge.** The ceaseless chatter of teleprinters and the scurry of SDS drivers produces a hectic life, serving 16 units and handling many thousands of messages per month!

Our photographs show two of our intrepid Commcen ops hard at work—**Sig Steve Grantham** on the 'phone and **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** at the keyboard.



Sig Steve Grantham at the Commcen 'phone

Cpl 'Vince' Vincent clearly enjoying his work

STOP PRESS

Despite having said so much already, one must mention the 'D & E' Platoon, an intricate part of the Squadron, who bash along (literally) on duties day and night. A special Christmas thanks from them to 'A/TM' Troop who are constantly repairing their telephones/TVs, although one tech was heard to say, 'Do they really eat them?'

Our next issue will have all the tales of Christmas and the parties to write about. Who's Who; who was invited; who dropped a clanger; who said what, why and when.

Well, that will be another tale—but from all of us here in 3 Bde, we say 'stag on', and if you want a good posting—come to Portadown.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

WATERATS RULE—OK?

THE 'Waterats', the pet name for our tame Squadron rugby side, are having a very successful season to date. Having beaten all minor units challenged including our Signals rivals at the blunt end of the province, we await with baited breath the start of the Northern Ireland knock-out competition. The 'Rats' are supremely confident this season. As is iterated in their motto 'feared throughout the province', donated to the 'Rats' by **Lt James Shaw** as he was carried from the field last season. The 'Rats' were very unfortunate in the early part of the season in losing their skipper, **Capt Tony Dalby-Welsh** (RAOC), with a severe achilles tendon injury. The unanimous committee decision was that injured skippers were a bad omen for the club. **Capt Roy Lennox,** another ex-Army player, was promoted skipper and **Tony** assumed the responsibility of OIC one-legged cheer leaders.

The 'Rats' set the standard for entertainment recently, in the form of a Ladies' Night. Over one hundred players, supporters, and their better halves made the Gramsby Club hum until the early hours of the morning. The euphoria of good food, flowing drink and female company seemed to influence a number of senior officers, who disappeared in the twilight hours to the Officers Mess to try their hand at the roulette table. The PMC of the 2 Bn Coldstream Guards we are informed 'was not amused'. Situation normal. The 'Rats' have now launched themselves into the big band scene and are busy organising a 'Bavarian Night' for the end of November.

Sgt 'Scouse' Davies, one of the three organisers of the 'Rats' left for Berlin this month. Our thanks to him for all his sterling work, and hope that **Ssgt Ray Duffy** and **Lt Mike Fisher,** the remaining survivors, continue the action. The photograph shows **Ray Duffy** being grossly obstructed by a member of 233 Sig Sqn (a typical tactic) whilst **WO1 (RSM) Ian Buckley, Lcpl 'Johnno' Johnstone** and **Capt Roy Lennox** (RAOC) rush to **Ray's** aid. The ball had a very quiet game.

STOP PRESS

Waterats win Northern Ireland Minor Units Cup

Last month's notes featured an article on the Squadron rugby team; better known as the Waterats. We are pleased to report that they have just won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Final, beating 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by 9 points to 6.

A fuller report will be included in next month's notes.

SO in C's FARWELL VISIT

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** paid a flying visit to the Squadron recently to bid farewell to all before his retirement and departure to Hong Kong. Among the many departments he visited was Communications Troop. Since his last visit, the SO in C was delighted to see two elements of Comms Troop. The new Radio Room featuring Console 3000 and the Commander's Rover Group garages now complete and fully operational. The pictures show the SO in C on his tour of Comms Troop.

The SO in C signs the visitors book for the last time, the Officer Commanding and OC Comms Tp act as witnesses

Lcpl Green explains the functions of Console 3000 to the SO in C

The SO in C meets members of the Brigade Commanders Rover Group

'Well one of you must be right'. The Officer Commanding and Cpl Walker the Rover Group Commander putting different versions to the same theme

NORTHERN IRELAND PAY AND ALLOWANCES

During his visit, **Maj Gen Tighe** was most interested to learn from the serving soldier in Ulster what effect the recent pay and allowances scheme has had. For those serving outside Northern Ireland it may be of interest to note the impact. In brief, the single man in the permanent garrison will be relieved of food charges (93p a day) during his tour. The married accompanied man will receive the same rate of daily food allowance (50p a day) as is paid to members of the UDR called out for duty for days when food is not provided by the unit. Single men will also be relieved of accommodation charges and for married accompanied men occupying official quarters, accommodation charges are abated by the amount appropriate to a single man's accommodation charge. These changes have helped appreciably to offset the high cost of living in Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, a fond farewell to **Ssgt Carl Bellamy** and his wife, **Ann,** who have given so much to Comms Troop and the Squadron in their two years here. Good luck as an SQMS in 7 Sig Regt. We welcome **Ssgt Ian McGrindle, BEM,** and his wife.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn unit notes continued on page 73.

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

FINAL VISIT BY GEN TIGHE

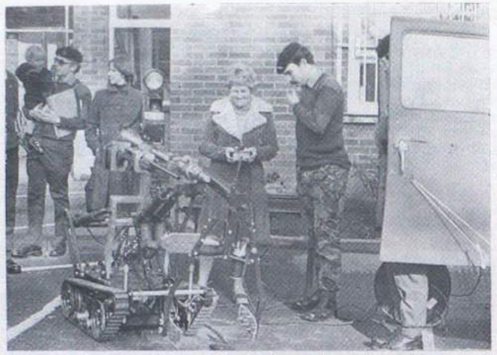
MAJ GEN TIGHE paid us a brief visit during his farewell tour of the Province. His main aim was to meet as many soldiers as possible, and this he did, seeing not only Royal Signals but RCT and RPC members of the Squadron in their places of work. His visit coincided with our annual technical inspection, and so there was much *genuine* vehicle and communications equipment maintenance going on! Among other things he watched **Pte Mick Brennan** (RPC) adroitly fire a baton round through the window of the bedding store, followed by **Lt Col Ian Shapter,** C Royal Signals, 'quelling' with one round an ugly riot composed of a 6ft GS table leaning against the fence of the tennis court. We are told that the table and the window are both fully recovered.

The SO in C presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to WO1 (RSM) R. Harris in the WOs and Sgts Mess. He also presented LS and GC Medals to WO2 (RQMS) R. V. Huxtable and WO2 (AQMS) R. Chapman (REME)

OPEN MORNING

We suspect some skulduggery over the breakfast table in the **MacMillan** household, since **Brig John MacMillan,** Commander 39 Inf Bde, committed himself to allowing his wife, **Belinda,** to bring all the Squadron wives in to the Headquarters on Wednesday, October 12, to see what their men got up to during the day. In the event it was a tremendous success, raising over £43 for the Lord Roberts' Appeal. The ladies held a bring-and-buy sale, visited various parts of the Squadron and finally met together for a sherry before lunch.

This is a vital piece of Commcen equipment—Sig McGreevy's head WO2 (Y of S) Phil Castle, Sig Dave McGreevy and several wives



'I know it's a wheelbarrow, but where do you put the leaves?' ATO demonstrating their equipment. In the background Ssgt (ORSQMS) Paul Leniston and his wife, Jan, appear preoccupied with family matters

'Is that how you do it?'
Cpl Trev Cartledge, Lcpl Clive Williams and Capt Alan Poppleton at Long Kesh

THE OPERATIONAL SCENE

As always, the work keeps pouring in. A major landmark of late has been the Firemen's strike, which still goes on. Well over 30 radios were installed in the first week, and we continue to be heavily involved with maintenance and modifications to the radio system. We have recently completed a major redeployment of the Brigade's roulement units which involved much moving of equipment and rebuilding of operations rooms. On top of all this such routine matters as PFTs, technical inspections, regular weapon firing and annual personal weapons tests go on as usual. There is certainly not much opportunity to sit back—but rumour has it we are all enjoying ourselves!

Sgt Pete Ascough, our karting ace, in a different guise

KARTING SUCCESS

Sgt Pete Ascough, our high-speed technician, won the Northern Ireland 125 Class road and track karting championship, having competed in a series of over 20 races. It is his first major success at this sport—but we are not expecting any great things from him in the next year or so, as he has gone to Belize, where, by all accounts, karting has not got a large following.

The charred skeleton of the Horseshoe Club after the fire. Notice the arrow indicating the way for the smoke to go

ASHES TO ASHES

AT what could hadly have been a worse time, the Horseshoe Club was burned to the ground on the night of November 23/24. Not only was the Christmas period almost on us, but the renovation of the club was almost complete, and an enormous amount of hard work has now come to nothing. All our sympathy is with **Capt 'Paddy' Henry** and **Lcpl Hamish Burgess** who had put so much into the improvements; we only hope that before too long we will have rebuilt and be back in proper business. For the time being we are running a temporary bar in Squadron Headquarters.

HOCKEY SUCCESS

A conspicuous victory was celebrated by the hockey team on Friday, December 2, when they defeated 233 Sig Sqn 4—1. All the benefit of the exercise was lost by the players after the match in the temporary club on its opening night. This is the first time that 233 have fallen to us for four seasons. **Cpl Sid Hayward** scored three of the goals and **Capt Robin Burrows,** in his farewell match, scored the other.

RUGBY

We shortly play 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the Northern Ireland Minor Units Final having defeated 233 Sig Sqn 4—0. Distinguished players were **Capt Hugh Young** (scrum half)—a Brigade watchkeeper who leaves shortly, **Sgt Ian Higgerson** (wing forward)—a tough tackler, and **Cpl Geoff Ford** who lends a little maturity and experience to the pack.

Capt Robin Burrows in his underwater busking hockey referee's outfit

FAREWELLS

Capt Robin Burrows leaves us in early December for the Australian School of Signals. During his two years as OC Comms Troop he has regularly baffled us all with his high-speed approach and his jet set cars and sports. His commercial acumen has brought the Comms Troop Fund almost into the VAT bracket, and his administrative mark is indelibly left on the Squadron. Our very best wishes go with him and **Caroline** (and Bilges the dog).

Maj Tony Meagher, the BEME, left recently. A very fine squash player he captained the Squadron team through two most successful seasons. Our photograph shows him taking his farewell breakfast in the Operations Room—a special treat as it was rumoured that he normally went back to the Mess for a leisurely breakfast after the Commander's briefing.

Maj Tony Meagher, BEME, taking breakfast during the Commander's brief on the last day of his tour. Please note that the rock on the left is not part of the meal, but his presentation from the Brigade Officers Mess

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

SOCIALISING

LIFE in 233 Sig Sqn for the last week of September and the first week in October was very hectic. The fortnight started with the official opening of the building by **Lt Gen Sir David House,** GOC NI, and ended with the Annual FFR inspection by **Brig G. L. Body,** COS NI. Between these, were visits by **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** SO in C (A), and **Brig A. Field,** Hon ADC Director WRAC.

Visiting Commcen Troop: Brig G. L. Body, Capt D. F. Reed and WOI (Y of S) Moat
'This is where the extra fingers for typing long messages are kept'

Left to right: Mrs G. Horler, Cpl and Mrs Smillie, Cpl and Mrs Cox
'Refreshing themselves in style'

Presenting LS and GC to Sgt Stokes who is escorting an apprehensive OC 'S' Troop—Lt Caroline Lee—before the presentation of her GSM (NI)

Placing the sealed box in the entrance hall of 233 Sig Sqn's new building with OC, Maj N. A. Horler
'Gently does it—notice the golfer's overlap grip and stance'
This box is to be opened on June 28, 2020

LIST OF ITEMS ENCLOSED IN SEALED BOX
233 SIGNAL SQUADRON (NI)

Photographs of original Squadron Building (stable block of Magheralave House)
Photographs of the Squadron Detachment at Balsculloch, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire
Daily Telegraph dated August 31, 1977
Sunday People dated August 28, 1977
Nominal Roll
Families List
Jubilee edition of 'The Visor' (published by Army Information Services).
Plan of Lisburn Camp showing Squadron locations
Map of the Province
List of Squadron responsibilities
Squadron organisation chart
Squadron current establishment
Squadron plaque
Operations brief for period August 26–31, 1977
A selection of current Army Forms
Traffic analysis for July 1977
Squadron forecast of events for August/September 1977
A selection of postage stamps in current use
A thermal printhead (from a NCR EM-T3 Teleprinter)
A mechanical printhead (from a Creed electronic printing and perforating machine)
A specimen of cable in current use
A gramophone record ('Top of the Pops' for September 1, 1977)
Two Corps badges

—News from Headquarters—

Signal Wing, HQ Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Photo courtesy: Marshalls, Camberley

Photo courtesy: Marshalls, Camberley

ON the last Sovereign's Parade the photographers and TV spent most of their time watching every move of Princess Astrid of Luxembourg as she watched her brother's Commissioning Parade. However, the Press did allow time to capture HRH The Duke of Kent presenting the LS and GC Medal to **WO1 (Y of S) Len Yates** and also to **Ssgt Alan Rutherford.** The Commandant, **Maj Gen Sir Philip Ward,** is also in both photographs together with the ADC, who can be seen making a new drill movement which goes something like 'Down - two - three - up!'

THE SUN, THE SAND, AND THE SALESMEN

Report by Ssgt Mick Carpenter, Signal Wing, RMA, Sandhurst

At a pinch

IN mid-September I had one of my many summons from the RSMI—**WO1 (Y of S) L. Yates** (affectionately known as 'Len the Pen'—guess why?). 'The CI **(Maj Colin Brown)** has been asked for someone to go to the Middle East to assist with a Clansman trial demonstration with the view of selling the range to the United Arab Emirates Military Forces—can you spare the time away from work?' After due consideration and lengthy programme deliberation—which took about a micro second, I told the RSMI that I could probably manage it at a pinch!

Hectic preparations

The following three weeks were quite hectic, as in addition to the usual heavy work load that the 'Q' has (groan, groan), I had to try to get: lightweight uniforms (no chance, where's the authority?), numerous inoculations (certainly—roll up your sleeves!), and quite a substantial advance of pay (think the Pay Staff have recovered!). I also had to know something about the equipments which I gained from a whistle-stop tour of the School of Signals. I was now ready to tell all about Clansman—some heavy, some light, but all green!

Comfortable beginning

On my first visit to MOD Sales (no bargains here) I met **Maj Peter Webster,** of the Defence Sales Organisation, who was to act as co-ordinator and unbiased referee of the team of Salesmen and Technicians who were to make the visit to Abu Dhabi. One of **Maj Webster's** most unenviable tasks was to ensure that events occurred on time—difficult enough in the UK but in the UAE (with respect) quite impossible.

On October 4 **Maj Webster** and I flew from Heathrow by BA Tristar (far more comfortable than the multi-coloured military jobs!) to Abu Dhabi. Fortunately, the weather had cooled down by Middle East standards to a mere 88°F when we landed at 0800hrs! Our accommodation was quite spartan compared to that of the company representatives, we only had a refrigerator, air-conditioning and colour TV in our single rooms. Unfortunately, the hotel had no swimming pool so we had to rough it as we would any normal military exercise! The first four days were spent meeting the company representatives as they arrived and installing the Clansman radios into the four FFR Landrovers as well as the operations room which were provided by the Signal Regiment of the Western Military Region. A day of testing, adjusting, and general 'ironing out' ended with an 'O' Group for the entire team where our individual tasks were allocated.

To parts unknown

The first day of actual trials consisted of the manpacks being used by local operators from section up to Company level. The 349, 350 and 351s certainly satisfied the 'locals' but I think they were more impressed by the following three days' trials away from Abu Dhabi and in the desert.

We managed to start the exercise on the right day if not actually on time when, with scenes akin to Indianapolis(?) we took off in a cloud of dust and European expletives—(we as visitors sat in the back—no operators' seats!)—for various parts unknown. I say parts unknown which is not quite true as we knew we weren't to stray outside the UAE. Maps and compasses were not in evidence at all during the exercise; therefore the only indication to location was by referring to the speedometer. Movement was controlled throughout the exercise by the Commander of the Signal Regiment and his staff. This was by radio to the Arab operators with each detachment, so, knowing that was in the hands of fate and desert experts, I sat back to enjoy the view. I did find it slightly disconcerting at times when I realised my local Warrant Officer was not passing the time of day with the odd traveller on camel back, but asking directions!

Excellent results

On my Detachment the local operators worked perfect voice communications, day and night, with the 321 and the 353 over a range which surprised even the Marconi experts, as we were using just an 8-ft vertical whip antenna. One of the local operators with me was a **Sgt Yusef** who, I understand, is shortly coming over here to attend a year's course at the TTS. I'm sure he will be shown the same hospitality as I received in the UAE (I hope he manages better with a knife and fork than I did with my bare right hand at meal times).

Suitably impressed, the exercise commander called all stations back to Abu Dhabi, where three of the vehicles and the operations room were stipped in record time before we desert amateurs staggered to our hotels to replace three days' worth of lost liquid.

No photographs

On October 14, while the locals respected their Holy Day, the team devoted their time to the rehearsal for the formal presentation which was to be held in the Signal School Theatre, in front of the Commander of the Western Military Union. **Maj Webster** introduced the team, he was followed by a short presentation by each of the company representatives of the Clansman manufacturers together with the complete range on display. Following the presentation, the Commander and his staff were shown the remaining FFR, still fitted with 321 and 353, and an array of antennae. I would like to have taken some photographs of this display and of the areas visited, but they were forbidden.

Immersion

Tanned faces paled slightly when it was pointed out that all trials had been carried out apart from the immersion tests; this really was important as one never knew when a vehicle-borne or manpack set might disappear into a stream, river, lake, etc! (I wonder if Scott took a bucket and spade to the Antarctic?). Anyway, the sets were very dusty so into the vats they went. Only the AMP FR 250W started to bubble so that was quickly rescued, but the remaining equipments soaked for about 14 hours with no ill effect.

Versatile civilians

Sunday, the 16th, and time to leave the UAE arrived all too quickly, hasty farewells were said to the civilian representatives who had been operators, combat powermen and technicians in mufti. Their voice procedure still makes me wince, but their hospitality and good humour took the edge off 'How do you read me please, Over'.

Personalities met on the visit were: **Capt Bill Dukes,** QM of the Western Military Region Sig Regt, late RSM 216 (Para) Sig Sqn.

Marconi:	—	**Col Derek Emley** (late Royal Signals)
		Mr Vernon Tonkin
		Mr Eric Heys
Racal:	—	**Mr Geoff Spurling**
MEL:	—	**Mr Donald Brodie**
Plessey:	—	**Mr Graham Dare**

All of whom pass their regards on to their many friends in the Corps.

Finally, may I say to those who wanted to make the visit from Sandhurst:

WO1 (Y of S) Yates—'You wouldn't have liked it—it was like one great big bunker'!

and to:

WO2 (Y of S) Bob McLaren, currently of HGV 1 fame: 'Even you would have had trouble driving over those sand dunes'.

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

THE HIGHLANDS FOR ALTITUDE

THE School again sponsored and organised Exercise Diamond Height for 1977, and this year the weather co-operated. The exercise involves moving four aircraft of the Army Gliding Association into the Scottish Highlands, together with their ancillary equipment and a group of pilots, and then using lee wave phenomena to fly at high altitudes. Lee waves occur when a stable airstream strikes a sizeable range of hills, the effect being to produce oscillations in the air rather like the ripples which form downstream of an obstruction in a stream of water. In the case of airmasses, however, the ripples are more dramatic and are known to extend upwards to 30,000ft or more. The expedition was based at Aboyne, on the Dee Valley, and flew the wave produced by the Grampian Mountains. Much flying above 10,000ft was carried out, and four flights are worthy of particular mention.

Climbing high

Lt Col Lombard climbed to 18,000ft in a K6E to win the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) Gold Award for gain of height in excess of 3,000m (10,000ft). **Maj Falla** flew the same aircraft to 20,000ft for an FAI Diamond Award (a gain height in excess of 5,000m—16,000ft), and **Maj Pack-Davison** climbed to 21,000ft in an Astir to win an FAI Diamond Award. All three flights involved the use of oxygen, flight above cloud cover, and were performed in temperatures as low as −38°C. An attempt at the UK National two-seater height record by **Maj Falla** and **Lcpl Jupe** (REME) was broken off when cloud cover completely obscured the ground. At that time the aircraft had climbed to 12,000ft in some 20 minutes and was still rising at 400ft/min.

HQ UKLF, Wilton

Photo report of visit of CSO to 8 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn during their JOCOMMEX with HMS *Fearless* on September 15, 1977

'I can't make it work either'

Left to right: Capt Tony Manders, Capt Roy Lloyd-Jones, WO2 (Y of S) David Thomas, Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, ADC, Sgt 'Taffy' Johns, Sig John Nesbitt

8 Fd Force Sig Sqn—Capt Roy Lloyd-Jones tells the CSO what it is all about while Capt Tony Manders and WO2 (Y of S) David Thomas listen in astonishment

Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Catterick

LOOKING BACK ON JUBILEE YEAR

AS summer approached, people all over the country prepared to celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee. Not to be outdone, the Demonstration Team, under the watchful eye of **Col Derek Sherrard-Smith,** made preparation for a better-than-ever effort for the same purpose; indeed, the Colonel also went to BAOR to assist with arrangements for the Corps Display at Her Majesty's Review of the Forces in Sennelager in July, and our Workshops turned out some suitable displays for shipment to Germany for this great event. Meanwhile, the sky-blue vehicles, of the 'Royal Signals Flying Circus', better known as 'Quicksilver', were made ready for the coming summer tour, and a lot of effort was also devoted to the painting and polishing of the gear to be displayed in our two-tone parasol tent. After the usual nail-biting concern that things would not be ready in time, in fact, we met our target dates.

On the move

Anyone who was about in Hounslow during the early morning of May 7 would have realised that our 1977 Tour had begun as our vehicles, in their distinctive colours, left for the first show at Blackheath in London. This was the moment of truth for the new members of the team and for the four WRAC girls who had recently joined us, since they were going to meet the great British public for the first time. In the event both they and the old hands quickly settled down to the building of the display and making all things presentable. The very next day we travelled North to the Tri-Service Day at RAF Woodvale, illustrating just how apt is our name 'Quicksilver'. Our display here was augmented by a Mobile Radio 'Operate a Radio on the Move' display by 19 Bde Sig Sqn and a mobile air rifle range fitted out by our Workshops in Hounslow.

We then turned southwards to take part in several shows including The Bath and West Show. Here we were invaded by teddy-bears which we later discovered had been won by **Sig Pat Silvester** at the showground. Next stop was Bournemouth where we were visited by our old Foreman, **WO2 Chris Payne,** and his wife. Of course, just to be sociable we returned the visit and drank them out of house and home; many thanks, **Chris** and **Mavis.**

Soon we were in Rushmoor Arena for the Aldershot Army Display, where **WO2 Graham Griffiths** and his staff had been hard at work for some weeks building the setting for the Royal Signals' stand. All their work was not in vain for the show was a great success—although the weather could have been better. Perhaps that is one thing the Colonel and the Sergeant-Major could not arrange.

Meanwhile, **Sgt Joe Fisher** was busy preparing for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. **Joe Fisher,** in fact, retired from the Army after 33 years' service before the Display was actually erected in Earls Court. Our good wishes to **Joe** in his new career in civilian life and our grateful thanks for the many years he has spent in ensuring that Royal Signals made a good impression at public displays.

From the dust of Aldershot, 'Quicksilver' moved on to the green grass of Plymouth Hoe, where the Royal Engineers Corps Mobile Display challenged us to a game of volleyball, and the prize was a crate of beer (for the next thrilling instalment read 'Hijacked', below).

The middle of July found us moving from Devon across to Kent and thence North via Sheffield to Newcastle. Here we were visited by our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne.** We believe we were the first unit of the Corps to be visited since her appointment. The Princess showed great interest in our display and spoke to all members of the team on duty. After Newcastle, it was a case of South again to Portsmouth, where we put on a show on the seafront at Southsea. After a short rest we moved North again through Coventry and Morecambe to a well-organised KAPE in Glasgow. It seemed that not only were the military preparations for this show well laid but so were the plans made by the victors of Plymouth Hoe.

Hijacked

The first show at Ayr was followed by visits to Greenock, Falkirk and then, finally, Glasgow. On our way to the Glasgow Show **Capt Richard Hoole's** moped was hijacked by the Royal Engineers and held to ransom for the crate of beer that they had not got when we lost the volleyball match in Plymouth. A red-faced OC 'Quicksilver' succeeded in rustling up the appropriate booze which restored both his moped and the good relations between the two display teams.

The winter tour

Preparations were soon made for the forthcoming winter tour during which it is planned that 'Quicksilver' should visit between 70 and 80 schools throughout the United Kingdom. As an additional commitment this year the Team will also be supporting the UOTC Presentation Team when they make their visits to 16 universities throughout the country.

Change of location

At the time of writing these notes, the Team is busy making preparations for its move to Catterick where it is to be co-located with the White Helmets in Gaza Barracks. A small mobile element is already on tour visiting schools whilst the remainder of the Team is occupied in dismantling and packaging of equipment at Hounslow awaiting the eventual shipment of this up to Catterick, where it is hoped we will be back in business after Christmas.

Congratulations

We congratulate **Chris** and **Betty Williams,** and **Jack** and **Barbara Barry** on the recent additions to their respective families. Both were girls, and we offer them and their parents the best wishes for a long and happy life.

Long Service awards

On November 2 the SO in C visited us in Hounslow to review the UOTC Team. The opportunity was too good to miss, and **Gen Tighe** was therefore asked to present some Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to soldiers serving in Hounslow. Of the four medals presented, two were to members of this Team, namely **SSM Graham Griffiths** and **Cpl 'Kayser' Bond.** By way of coincidence two Lieutenant Colonels were in attendance at the presentation, each of whom had been **Griffiths'** OC along the way (see photograph below). It was a great occasion for the Team and was suitably celebrated in an appropriate manner after the formal presentations had been made.

WO2 Graham Griffiths was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal on November 2, 1977 by the SO in C. Present on that occasion were Lt Cols Derek Sherrard-Smith (OC Demonstration Team) and Peter Goldney (CO 10 Sig Regt). When Graham Griffiths was serving as a young soldier in Germany soon after his enlistment he came under the command of the then Lt Goldney in 5 Agra Sig Sqn, and later on whilst serving in Kenya he was under the command of the then Maj Derek Sherrard-Smith in 210 Sig Sqn

A coincidence!

Au revoir

This year we have said farewell to **Jim Stirratt, Ozzie Evans** and **'Taff' Carr** who have all left to cross the water to new units in Germany. They will soon be followed by **Barry Watson** and **Gary Shaw,** while **Bill Woodmason** will be going to 5 Fd Force in Osnabruck on his promotion to Sergeant early in 1978. We thank them all for their services to the Demonstration Team and wish them and their families the very best of luck in their new units. A special mention should be made of the girls who served with us during this summer. **Yvonne Stevens** and **Jo Merritt** joined us from 10 Sig Regt, whilst **Jane Torrent** and **Maggie Williamson** came over from Germany. They settled in and worked hard through the summer and are very much missed now that they have returned to the units—nobody makes coffee as well as they did!

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CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES

News from Regiments

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

Photo courtesy: PR HQ 1 Div

Over 220 years' service recognised by the award of 12 LS and GCs, presented by CCR Signals on his recent visit

'AUTUMN SALES' IN EIFFEL

THIS two-week exercise in the Eiffel area of Germany was the major event for us last month. It was an unknown part of the world to us from the communications aspect as we re-enacted Patton's rapid advance to the Rhine with the command elements of our restructured Division. 1 Sqn knew something of the area from the time they had spent down there on their summer camp in early September. After visiting them and seeing the scenery, the CO planned that we all were to go down early to enjoy (?) an extra couple of days before the Staff took up their positions for the Big Advance. Not that Commhead PAPA initially saw too much of the rather splendid countryside: their first location was a railway tunnel and their arrival and departure was in the dark. Commcen Charlie got itself nicely dug in by 45 Fd Sqn RE on the Schneeiffel. In the digging, the Sappers came across the remains of the Siegfried Line which, for **Ssgt Stan Adams,** was an opportunity too good to miss. He posed dutifully for a photograph with his 'washing hanging out on the Siegfried Line'! The officer who took it has not been able to produce the result of this unique occasion and has now been banished to Herford! We may eventually forgive him when he pops up again with the new task force Troop which is moving from there to Hohne in the New Year.

MISSING DETACHMENT

Back to the exercise and Line Troop's part in it. **Lcpl Trevor Skingle** and his detachment including **Sig John Lowden,** went missing for 2½ days, such was the speed of our advance and especially our Rhine crossing. Having reeled in, he properly went to the grid reference of various future locations only to find that the rest of us had 'bugged out'. Quite stumped but still playing for real, he cammed up under an overhanging roof near the main road to Bonn. This may explain why the Commhead OC, out looking for him in a helicopter, didn't actually find him! The LAD chugging along with one of their vehicle casualties were his salvation. He arrived in location just as Endex was being called! **Sig John Matley** made concerted attempts throughout to write off his Bedford. Finally, OC Line Troop, **Lt John Steed,** who has now departed to the Junior Signalmans Wing, Newcastle, commanded his raft of line vehicles in the best traditions of Capt Cook as they crossed the Rhine. From his position forward, he landed on the other side with dignity and was seen tossing those small copper crimps to appease any unfriendly native.

INSTANT EJECTION

As always, incidents which cause momentary panic are the ones always remembered. **Ssgt (Y of S) George Coles** of 2 Sqn won't forget **Sig Dennis Topley's** handling of his Landrover in a hurry. He said it was the first time he actually had to eject from one. We feel that his action in retrospect was reasonable, since the backsliding vehicle had by then gathered some considerable momentum on its reverse journey down a particularly steep hill.

WARM WELCOME IN CHELSEA

On Thursday, October 20, the Commanding Officer attended the annual Reunion Dinner of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt in Africa at the Officers Mess of the Duke of Yorks Headquarters in Chelsea. He was invited on the strength of the announcement that our Regiment is to be redesignated Armoured early next year after restructuring. The 16 officers assembled for their 15th Reunion Dinner gave him a warm welcome and in his after-dinner speech **Brig W. R. Smyth-Windham, CBE, DSO,** spoke on how pleased they were that their old title was once again to be seen in the British Army's Order of Battle and said that he hoped in due course to be able to hand over some of the old Regimental silver to use. In his reply, the Commanding Officer told his hosts something of the life of the Regiment in Germany and invited the Reunion Dinner Club to visit us sometime next year to present personally any silver located in their vaults! We look forward to seeing them here next year and, meanwhile, the Commanding Officer can be seen sporting a handsome tie which was presented to him at the conclusion of the dinner.

2 SQUADRON NEWS

It is with regret that we announce the passing of 'A4' Troop. Known affectionately as Pygmy Troop, they have dispersed to be absorbed into the Troops of their bigger brothers, each man carrying with him a pewter tankard as a commemoration. It is rather sad when one remembers the size the HF Troop used to be here only a few years ago, with the D11s camped all round the perimeter of radio village and yards and yards of HF antenna and mast guys formed a natural defence and early warning system.

Some of the Squadron's steely-eyed soldiers together with an Australian Captain and a New Zealand Gunner spent a few days on the border stopping at predetermined grid references. The patrol worked northwards from Lauenberg and **Capt Shaw** records that it was a 'gentle' three days away from 'normal' Regimental life. All worked vigilantly at the techniques of observation. On occasions, **Sigs Maclean** and **Skelland** apparently frightened certain locals, and indeed their passengers, with their driving and **Sigs Armitage, Miller, Jowitt, Brennan** and **Andrew** all attempted to poison the Patrol Commander with their cooking. A patrol with nothing to report except a far greater awareness by all of the proximity and construction of the Iron Curtain.

Included in this section is the Rugby Club's tour to Malmo since it was arranged and led by the OC Squadron. The team did not actually win the two matches played, but the female supporters of the opposition teams were reported as being fantastically consoling!

AREN'T OUR LADS WONDERFUL?

The 'show must go on' attitude was provided by the White Helmets as the rain dismally teamed down on to the floodlit square and over a large number of spectators who had turned up in anticipation. Straight from the indoor show at the Berlin Tattoo, they actually appeared to take to the water like ducks as clouds of spray masked their precision cuts and the wind threatened to blow **Cpl Mick Palladini** off his ladder-bike. It was a tremendously good show made all the more nail-biting by the conditions under which it was carried out. The team were so well hosted by 1 Sqn that they asked to stay an extra day with us to recover!

If you are so broke that this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

boy you sure need sympathy!

Our new GOC Maj Gen R. G. Lawson, DSO, OBE, inspecting part of the Quarter Guard

Left to right: Cpl McCombie, Sig Cawley, Sig Lewis and Sig Robinson

GOC's VISIT

Finally, on November 10, our new GOC, **Maj Gen R. G. Lawson, DSO, OBE,** paid this unit the compliment of being first on the lists of visits he undertook. We think he enjoyed what he saw and with the WOs and Sergeants hosting him at lunch and the Officers at a Regimental Dinner Night, he quite rightly did not include anything too strenuous on his agenda the following day!

RHINE ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

EDITING the notes submitted by the Squadrons for what was forecast as 'November—a reasonably quiet month' has been difficult in that each claims to have worked harder and to have shone brighter than the others!

However, pride of place at this moment in the sporting field must go to the Regimental cross-country team who (on December 7) achieved their ambition of winning the BAOR Championships. Running at Verden on a particularly frosty afternoon, the team worked up to what looked like second place to 21 Sig Regt at the end of the first lap of three miles. The finish on Caithness playing field proved most exciting as our rivals came in neck and neck with us. Once the 'eight to count' from both teams (there were, of course, other units but they didn't seem to feature) had crossed the finishing line, those adept at mental arithmetic realised we were level with 21 Sig Regt at 105 place points each. We proudly carried off the trophy because the last of our runners to count came in (well) ahead of the last of the opposition. We shall meet them again, and the UK contestants at the Army final at Tweesledown on February 23, 1978.

INTO THE SNOW

Other general news is that our langlauf team has disappeared to Bavaria for six weeks training and **Lt John Ewbank,** who is now down at the Snow Queen Chalet, Mossbach, phoned up recently. He said that snow was good, the team was training hard and members of Triangle Troop, Junior Signalman Wing, 11 Sig Regt, who we have sponsored on a visit are having a splendid time on their 10-day ski-ing exercise. They are using the Chalet there as their base.

REMOTE DETACHMENT

Members of Line Troop, **Sigs K. Smith, A. Smith, Lowdon** and **Clark,** served a few weeks' attachment to 39 Bde Sig Sqn. In Belfast they helped to sort out the catscradle of lines that seem to proliferate everytime new roulement units occupy the bases. We are assured they were in no way responsible for the electrical fault that burnt down the famous Horseshoe Club in Thiepval Barracks just before they left!

CANADIAN LIAISON

We were pleased to receive a visit from **Lt Col Banks,** 1 Canadian Sig Regt, who spent a good day here at Verden. Our CO, **Lt Col Peter Davies,** subsequently mentioned that the two of them sat up well into the night and we now expect at least an affiliation, certainly more exchange visits and a host of spin-offs from the strengthening of our ties!

1 SQUADRON WRITES

The Squadron hosted soldiers of Kompanie Zwei, our opposite numbers in FMBtl 1 to a day of sport in Verden. We included most winter-type sports and a game of baseball to make our Canadian Officer, **Capt Hugh Coyle,** feel at home. The OC Squadron left himself time to work out the correct phrases to describe the day's programme and was aghast to be confronted by the company drawn up one hour early and waiting attentively. Whilst it was clear from the guttural sounds being made by **Maj Peter Pearson** that he had recently been taught German to a colloquial level, it was equally clear from the uncomprehending faces of the Germans that they had not attended the course required to understand him!

The tug-of-war was noted for the lack of equality of the teams. When they lined up for the first pull the Germans (at 124 stone) seemed hesitant, they apparently could not believe that the British team (conforming to an 88-stone limit) and led by the **Mighty Murf Sig Anthony Murphy** at 5ft 4in and 8 stone were not handicapping themselves by kneeling down. For all this, it was a close contest and the Germans eventually won 2 pulls to 1 after a really long and hard-fought battle.

The professional side of our activities was greatly assisted by the close friendship forged earlier. Exercise Happy Union was designed to prove the compatibility of our Bruin system with those of our flanking German formations, and further, to prove the feasibility of a British unit becoming the responsibility of a German one for resupply. Early fears that we would starve when presented with the German ration of one hot meal and a haversack ration for the rest of the day proved groundless. Once the initial shock of black bread and sliced meat for breakfast wore off, most people if not actually preferring it to egg and bacon, at least found it palatable.

PARTISAN NOTES FROM 2 SQUADRON

I am sure that COs of Divisional Signal Regiments know that if something really important is wanted, the Radio Squadron must be tasked. This is particularly true at Verden. First of all, the world's leading exponents on turf cutting and lawn laying, in the shapes of **Maj J. J. Cullen** and **Ssgt Brian Eason,** organised the Regimental Guy Fawkes night, judged the Guy competition, lit the fire and put on a firework display.

During this celebration, **Lt Charles Le Gallais** and the intrepid, **Sgt Denis Parker** were deploying five terminal detachments, two liaison vehicles, two VIP Rovers and four rebros for the Artillery Shoot, Exercise Autumn Gallop. This was the major FTX of the year for the Divisional artillery and in the event even rivalled our own firework display. With a considerable amount of red-hatted brass around, the move of a complete detachment of a mere 10 yards for **Lcpls Heywood** and **Mason,** and for **Cpls Gibbons** and **Crisp** was a mere trifle. Communications on the command nets worked well and the exercise was successfully concluded on November 11.

During the same period **Lcpl Chris Taylor, Cpl Jesse James, Sigs Terry** and **Andrew** were providing control communications at the Divisional Mortar Concentration. One glowing report returned, though who the congratulations were from is open to wry interpretation since the signal was headed 'Brenda for CO'!

During the period November 21–23, the Squadron rolled out a few more of the endless supply of detachments, on a joint Anglo-German radio exercise. The 3 Kompanie of our partner Battalion—FMBtl 1—and ourselves exercised to the east of Nienburg and attempted various communication configurations. **Ssgt (Y of S) Coles** and **Sgt Tony Bowen** commanded one radio village and our compatriots another. Mixed nets practised CW, FSK, Voice and RRB working. Some English soldiers spoke some German, but our German allies proved far more competent at speaking English. **Cpl Phil Davies** and **Lcpl Chris Taylor** were our senior representatives at the German radio village and needed no sign language to communicate with their bosses. **Cpls Steve Fuszard** and **'Bart' Bartholomew** attempted to teach **Sigs Nevill, Salisbury, Andrew** and **Terry** the art of joining a German-controlled net in German, whilst **Capt James Shaw** and **Maj J. J. Cullen** entertained CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** and **Brig Gen Bruhn,** Deputy Commander of the 1st German Division, to lunch.

Straight in from this exercise, we did a 'U'-turn and immediately positioned five detachments to cover the 1st Division Cross-Country Championships.

Then came Exercise Long Haul which was a night convoy training exercise in the area east of Hamburg. The exercise finished with an M2 bridge crossing on the River Elbe. This bridge was probably the longest built for some time in BAOR, consisting of 43 sections.

Cpl Brian Tortice performed the task of LO at the bridge, and **Cpl Harry Crutchley** kept the convoy informed of the bridge's progress through his Rebro. The convoy crawled many miles up to the crossing in dense fog which froze on to the wind-screens. The crossing made on the swaying sections in the middle of the fast-running Elbe at 0300hrs was both exciting and, let's hand it to the Sappers, most impressive.

Finally—take one CRA—Brigadier rank; feed and water him regally at his farewell party in the Sergeants Mess; find 432; find crew; place CRA in 432 and drive him (gently) round to his staff car! **Cpl Jesse James** and **Cpl Alan Donaldson** we salute you. It had to be 2 Sqn—we may be good, but can we have some leave as well?!

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

4 (TASK FORCE) SQN REPORT

TIME TO SPARE

EXERCISES in BAOR tend to dominate our lives and Autumn Sales, the Corps CPX in October, was no exception. This large exercise took place in the Mosel and Rhineland and was a headlong advance in Patton's footsteps of December 1944. The stresses of high-powered exercise life came into some sort of perspective when **Cpl John Marriner's** 'exercise notes' appeared on the Divisional engineering net early one morning:

Delta and District Times

Autumn Sales is to finish seven days early. It's all part of MOD's plan to test our reaction to disappointment. Did you know that we are not, in fact, executing a sweeping advance against Soviet Forces, that is pure propaganda, the truth is we are rehearsing a retreat from the Armed Forces of Luxembourg, due to defence cuts we can no longer afford first division enemies.

Certain Staff Officers are, in fact, airing their views on our declining military strength. Maj Malpractis (OC Rhine Area Compo Crate Disposal Unit) told a meeting of NATO top brass at a Rheindahlen 'Tupperware' party last night: quote: 'If these defence cuts continue there's a good chance Great Britain could fail to qualify for World War III' unquote. He then went on to express his bitter disappointment, 'We only needed to win it the third time and we could have kept the trophy'.

The RMP were called in last night when it was discovered that someone had broken into G-Sleeps and stolen two teddy bears, a womble, and a batman suit. **Cpl 'Sandy' Sanderson** has been ordered back to our first location to remove the barn full of sandwiches he left behind.

Loads of lads are asking 'Who is this 4 Div we keep hearing from?' Well lads, so far as we can make out 4 Div is in fact a top comms unit whose place of residence is situated somewhere between Herford YMCA and the Garrison Dental Centre. We will try to find out more about them for you later.

Meanwhile, as our Tels wagon is up to its neck in mud and bumpers, we hear rumours of Charlie Troop's narrow escape from death and destruction. Apparently an ex-SS Suicide cyclist hurled his machine into the rear of Charlie's message centre and succeeded in pushing it into the path of an oncoming bus. Fortunately, no one was injured. Our message centre is not sending so much these days as they are too busy doing recovery missions.

THE SIT REP

Luxembourg's Armed Forces have pushed BAOR back across the Rhine and are now attempting to encircle five Bundeswehr Divisions in the Ruhr area. Their forward patrols are at this moment probing the Lippstadt/Soest area. Considerable delay is being experienced in bringing the whole power of NATO to bear on this front. Military aid from France has failed to materialise due to the sudden appearance of Monaco's Armed Forces on the outskirts of Paris. HQ BAOR stated last night, 'Hold fast lads, this is obviously an attempt to keep us out of the European Song Contest', unquote.

NEWS FROM THE OTHER FRONTS

Escorted by gunboats the Icelandic fishing fleet broke through the Mersey boom-defences last night and proceeded to fish the Manchester Ship Canal as far as Runcorn.

The Welsh Nationalist Army crossed the border last night, shouted 'bang' and threw a bullet through a police station window in Crewe.

The Scottish 'Tartan' Army claimed responsibility yesterday for the 500-lb bomb that exploded at Darlington's football ground last Saturday. Fortunately, Darlington were at home so no one was injured.

The IRA claimed responsibility this morning for sinking the *Titanic*. 'Such is our power', unquote.

In order to impose a threat to Luxembourg's southern flank the Italian Army has made landing and established firm beach heads on the Canary Islands. USAEUR announced last night, 'We cannot legally declar war on Luxembourg until they have bombed Pearl Harbour'.

The Warsaw Pact countries remain silent. According to the Chief of Soxmis in an intercepted signal to the Kremlin: 'Just like any other Friday night except for another Jubilee party in the Lippstadt/Soest area, PS. Who is 4 Div?'

There was much more but we thought you should share some of it. The photograph shows **WO2 (Y of S) Ian Sleightholm** and **Lcpl Dave Pickersgill** trying to think up a suitable spontaneous reply.

BACK IN BARRACKS

Life continues to be as busy as ever with the practical realities of the restructured Division being felt keenly at task force level. We enjoyed a minor success when **Ssgt Ray Vallance's** cricket XI won the Garrison Cricket League in convincing style. There have been some changes in personalities including the departure of the 2IC, **Capt Derek McLuckie,** with his wife, **Jan,** and new addition, to Staff College, and **WO2 (F of S) John Finney** to the School of Signals. We welcome **Capt John Ambrose** and **Anne** to fill the first gap, **Ssgt (F of S) Smith** is still looking for a new friend. We also welcome **Ssgt Tony Morrison** (RCT) of MT Troop, **Lcpl 'Taff' Davies** of TM Troop, **Sgt 'Eric' Nanty** also of TM Troop, and **Sigs Pashley, Yarwood, Quirk** and **Gainey,** who have come to join in the fun, not to mention the un-named signal man who left this letter where the editor could pick it up. . .

Dear Mother,

This Task Force Squadron is really full of promise, **Sgt 'Boggy' Marsh** has promised me tank driving lessons, **Y of S Sleightholm** has promised me a rat-catchers' course, and **Sgt 'Eddy' Winterburn** has promised to jail me. Our OC, **Maj Eastburn,** has a hell of a life, his bicycle is forever being confiscated by **Sgt Maj Didon,** and I know for a fact that **Capt Whipp** is planning to run away to Osnabruck taking Delta Troop with him. Last week I bought an old English sheep dog from **Staff Derwanz** because Staff told me the profits would be used to buy the OC a new bike for Christmas.

TFD Signal Troop on Exercise
Lcpl Pickersgill and WO2 (Y of S) Sleightholm

We have some technicians with us, they are all big and strong like **Harry Corn** and **Sgt Melville, Cpl Bruinsma** said they have to be strong in order to carry all their money home each month. **F of S Smith** was fuming last week, he discovered that one of his lancecorporals was trying to marry a commoner!

Lcpl 'Davy' Neal runs a great bar for us, along with his mate, **'Bob' McCulloch.** They let me sneak in for only half the normal fee. Another great bloke is **'Paddy' Flannagan.** He's in Forward Air Control. I'm not sure what this means but **'Paddy'** reckons he can get me a flight home anytime. **John Douglas** has started a cess pit diving team. I might go with him, but I'm trying to join **Jim Gooch's** public speaking classes as well.

I've still got a lot to learn, like why every time the sun shines **Capt Truluck** takes Charlie Troop out on a scheme, and **Staff Hurel** starts chasing Delta Troop around camp with a stop watch. Nor can I understand why they post all the Lieutenants named Rodney to the same unit.

Must go now, Mother, it's my turn to flush the redundant linemen out of the cellars.

Love Scouse (Your Son)

PS Send more money. **Cpl Vickers** reckons I'm two weeks in arrears on my SLR!

Heart warming isn't it? To prove it's not all beer and skittles a visiting Australian 'Rodney', **Maj Paul Mench,** dedicated this poem to the Squadron as he left:

The 'Step up' 'Step Down' Polka
(Danced without troops)

Around us dark Teuton forest
where tall trees and arials intermingle
Misty moonlight shafts down
on the dank leafy floor,
to cast shadows over murky shapes
who slip past, from tree to tree.

The hum and putter of generators,
the drone of tired voices
the buzz, blip and squawk of radios
violate night's tranquillity.

No birds sing in this forest,

Men huddle in their armoured cocoons;
minds wander as the dark hours pass slowly.

But still the phantom enemy reels
from the **bold** thrust of blue arrows
clever map pincers
catch him unawares
and spill his phoney blood.

To protect us from such misfortune,
we need no skill or luck.
The direct fat for us . . .
is surely to become
notional casualties, of this notional battle
But how different is War?

WIVES CLUB FASHION SHOW

During October our 2 Sqn Wives Club held a very successful

Photo courtesy: Cpl Light 2 Amd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Left to right. Top row: Trish Illingworth, Morag Wilson, Sandy Allen, Cathy Giles, Ingrid Birnstiel, Jan Chambers, Elka Birnstiel, Pat Daniels

Bottom row: Cpl Brough, Pat Large Carol Minter, 'Paddy' Rowe Pauline McMullen June Jennings, Cpl Pape

and professional Fashion Show. There were seven models who wore 150 outfits covering night, day, and evening wear of the latest autumn and winter fashions provided by **Frau Birnstiel** of ELKA Boutique, Bunde. They worked very hard and glamorously for three long hours, but not without the invaluable back-stage help provided by **Mrs Pat Large, Carol Minter, 'Paddy' Rowe, Pauline McMullen,** and **June Jennings.** They dressed and undressed models, made the buffet, built the stage, and decorated everywhere with flowers. **'Paddy',** wife of **Maj Barry Rowe** (OC 2 Sqn), also did an excellent job of the compering.

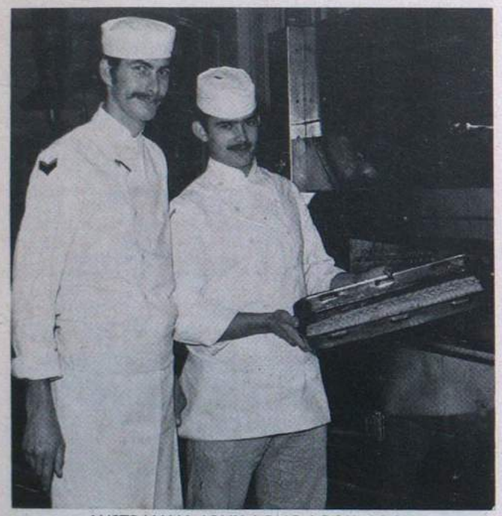
Cpls Donnie Brough and **John Pape** must be thanked for coming along and providing the music and lights free of charge. Perhaps their reward was in watching the show!

Well done, ladies. An excellent evening.

LONG LOOK COOK

LAST week we said farewell to **Sgt Robert Moss,** of the Australian Army Catering Corps, who has been attached to us for the past four months on Exercise Long Look. He appears to have thoroughly enjoyed his visit and has managed to visit Bavaria, Holland, and Austria. **Sgt Moss** has found that because of the climatic differences he has had to produce 'heavier menus' for the British soldier whereas in Queensland he often cooked Chinese and Indian dishes and lighter meals such as cold meats and salads. He said, 'I have introduced quite a few sweet and sour dishes and curries and one Australian speciality; steak fingers in mushroom sauce went down very well'!

Sgt Moss has had to ensure jokes about kangaroo meat. He said 'Roo meat is a bit hard to come by in Europe. Though I've tried it myself it's very stringy, and I wouldn't want to inflict it on my customers'. **Sgt Moss** now returns to the UK for a week, where he will go to the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College in Aldershot, to study their training methods, before returning home to Australia. We wish **Sgt Moss** all the best.



AUSTRALIAN ARMY LONG LOOK COOK
Sgt Robert Moss (*left*) supervises the creation of a jalousie, a pastry confection filled with jam

SIG STEVE LANCASHIRE AIMS FOR BIATHLON OLYMPICS—1980

A switch from cross-country running to cross-country ski-ing has put 20-year-old **Sig Steve Lancashire** in line for a place in the British Biathalon team in the 1980 Winter Olympics. He has already been chosen for training with the British Intermediate Biathalon team and is currently spending two months in Switzerland langlaufing in the Alps.

He is a wiry 5ft 7½in and 11½ stone which, he says, is certainly not an ideal stature for Biathalon. However, having been his school cross-country champion, and then the North of England Schoolboys and Cheshire County Champion this has not deterred him. In the Army, whilst training at Catterick, he kept up his

Sig Steve Lancashire keeps in condition 'langlaufing' round Birdwood Barracks on his roller skis

running and, in 1976, broke the record for the Army 2,000m steeplechase which he still holds. He also won the Combined Services Steeplechase. So, with stamina in abundance, cross-country ski-ing was a natural progression for **Sig Lancashire.**

He first tried ski-ing last winter in Bavaria when he entered for the 2 Armd Div Ski meeting. After only three weeks' ski-ing tuition he won the best novice prize. This performance led him to the attention of the Biathalon team. Already this summer he has spent two 'dry' training sessions with the Biathalon squad in Germany circuit training and roller ski-ing. **Sig Lancashire** says that it is the hardest training he has ever done. They are up by five thirty in the morning and complete four training periods a day, often finishing in the dark at eight thirty in the evening after roller ski-ing up to 45km

Sig Lancashire is training with an 18-strong squad who are competing for up to eight places in the Olympic team. He hopes to be one of them. His reward, if chosen, for the harsh grind of training, which will go on for the next two years, will be a trip to Lake Placid in the United States, where the next Winter Olympics are being held. We wish him the very best of luck.

THE WHITE HELMETS

On Saturday, November 5, we were lucky enough to have a display by the already famous team 'The White Helemts'. It was their last show of the year and in spite of the very slippery conditions a magnificent display as the photographs show.

We were honoured that they could fit a visit in to us in their busy schedule, having just finished the Berlin Tattoo.

Maj Gen F. E. Kitson, CBE, MC, inspects and talks to the team, accompanied by Capt Mike Prymaka, Lt Col John Halford, CO, looks on

JUBILEE CHARITY MARATHON

What do you get if you cross an Irishman with a Geordie and several pints of beer? Answer: A 26-mile Jubilee Charity Marathon for the over 35s. Well, that was the original idea of **Ssgt Derek Scott** and **SSM 'Paddy' Leggett.** However, after about six weeks of hard selling—the entrants totalled only six and they were diminishing quickly with the usual back ache problems, etc. It was soon realised that to get full support for the event it would have to be open to everybody. Hence the three entrance classes: Under 25s 25–35s Over 35s.

The marathon consisted of two very long 13-mile circuits, which was broken down into 1-mile relays for the Cubs and Scout entrants. The PRI very kindly donated medals (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) for the three classes, and ex-**Ssgt Caie Graham** donated a trophy for the winning team. The great day arrived, the weather being cold, wet, and windy and the first ones away were the Bunde Cubs and Scouts. Then the big rush came at 11 o'clock, as 50 competitors were started off by **Mrs Madelaine Halford,** the CO's wife.

Only 15 failed to make the full distance, and of the remainder who fought the elements and the temptations to stop at the liberally-sprinkled replenishment points; the most amazing team was the RCT drivers, otherwise known as the Wingate Wonders, and the Kamikaze squad. They recommend 'Herforder' as an ideal training method.

However, after this gruelling event the overall winner was big **Steve Lancashire** in the amazing time of 2hr 38min. The last man was home, in under five hours. 4 Sqn were the team winners, for which they received a barrel of beer and the Caie Graham Charity Trophy. The results were:

Over 35s 1. **WO1 Kidd,** 2. **Ssgt Scott,** 3. **WO2 (SSM) Leggett**

25–35*s*—1. **Cpl Cain,** 2. **Sgt Lovejoy,** 3. **Cpl Graham**

Under 25s—1. **Sig Lancashire,** 2. **Sig Graham,** 3. **Cpl Kerr**

Ssgt Derek Scott would like to know who drank the barrel of beer left by the winning team. It mysteriously disappeared nine-tenths full and then found its way back into Staff's office on Monday morning, EMPTY, with a note 'Ta' written on it! In summary, it was a very successful day with all the proceeds (approx DM4,000) being donated to the Ex-Servicemen's Limbless Association. Congratulations to all those who took part.

Ready and raring to go as Mrs Halford starts them off

The leaders on the first 13-mile circuit. *From left to right:* Sig Kevin Randall, Cpl Bill Cain, Sig John Graham, and Sig Steve Lancashire

WO2 (SSM) 'Paddy' Leggett 'Aaahhh!'

WO1 (F of S) Ray Kidd and Ssgt Derek Scott competing for the Darby and Joan Trophy

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 106

THREE SCORE YEARS AND TEN

WITH the exception of the war years and other exigencies of the service, there have been representatives of HQ 3 Div in Bulford Camp from 1907 to 1977. In the 70 years concerned 3 Sig Regt and its Royal Engineers predecessors have served a total of 45 years in the Garrison.

During these years hundreds of members of the Regiment formed close and lasting relationships with the people of Bulford and the surrounding area. Many of these have settled in the area and look upon Bulford Camp as the spiritual home of the Regiment.

To mark this special relationship with the Garrison a brass plaque was placed in the Garrison Church as a permanent memento of all who have served and worshipped there. This was dedicated by **Padre Joe Bell** (CF) (once Royal Signals) at a special service on Sunday, July 31, 1977.

The plaque reads:

'This plate is erected to the Glory of God and to mark the departure from Bulford in 1977 of the 3rd Signal Regiment. The Regiment and its Royal Engineer predecessors has worked and worshipped in this Garrison for a total of forty-five years trice leaving for active service in France.

1907–1910 3rd Div Telegraph Coy Royal Engineers
1910–1914 3rd Div Coy Royal Engineers

—— o ——

1920–1922 3 Div Sig Coy Royal Signals
1922–1939 3 Div Sigs

—— o ——

1959–1962 3 Inf Div Sig Regt
1962–1977 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt.'

This constitutes a simple but eloquent tribute to a long and honourable association and is one which all past and present members of the Regiment can be justifiably proud of.

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Take a dash of Dunkirk, a pinch of Singapore, a twist of Suez, the merest hint of Aden, mix well with the motoring madness of 'The Great Race', add the vaguest trace of military expertise, a liberal helping of the genius for improvisation of all British NCOs, garnish with the stoical good humour of the average soldier and you have the perfect recipe for moving a Divisional Signal Regiment from the UK to BAOR. Our plan for this complex and intricate manoeuvre was a masterpiece of simplicity, 'All this lot here, are to move over there'. Much to everyone's suprprise it appears to have worked. Lonely Bulford, you should now contact JSBC where you will learn something to your advantage.

Amorphous equipment

Having divorced themselves from all things technical, **Capt (TOT) John Bridgeman** and **WO1 (Y of S) Bob Baker** have opened up in opposition to Pickfords as baggage officers and container stuffers. With a single mindedness of purpose they have applied themselves to the task of moving all the Regiment's goods and chattels whilst making the most economical use of the containers available. In their quest for perfection they have developed a veritable genius for making awkward-shaped pieces of equipment fit the spaces available. Any unit interested in acquiring a round TDMS or a conical C42 should contact our QM.

A question of confidence

After an instant quarter mongering course, **Capt (QM) Terry Martin** donned his Arthur English mantle and proved himself to be the Prince of Wide Boys when he took over as QM (T) rear party and proceeded to dispose of the unit's assets in the UK. Like those most fearsome of predators, genteel old ladies at a village jumble sale, unit reps descended on Carter Barracks in search of bargains. Callously they drew attention to every minute blemish and slight imperfection in an effort to beat down the asking price. Many an eye misted and stiff upper lip quivered as members of the Regiment listened to well-loved equipments, which had produced immaculate circuits between the Ski Slope and The Belt over the rugged inhospitable terrain of Salisbury Plain, being held to ridicule. Undaunted, **Terry** showed all the perspicacity and determination of a Jewish camel trader as he wore down all opposition and succeeded in his Herculean task. Friends will no doubt be delighted to learn that his efforts have not gone unrewarded on posting he joins the UDR as QM.

New places—same old faces

Having handed over in the UK, **Capt (QM) Ron Knight, WO2 (RQMS) Les Budworth** and **Sgt 'Brummy' Andrews** made a lightening cross-Channel dash to open up shop almost in the same breath. In no time at all they were suffering from vertigo as they clambered over mountains of kit which had materialised overnight. **Ron** was convinced that one of them was the sorcerer's apprentice who had turned on ordance's magic computer and then found that he could not stop it. Lakes of midnight oil were burned up whilst our unholy trinity strove to stop the flow, account for every last nut and bolt and distribute it as planned.

If their respective wives should read this, take heart, your husbands have not deserted you they are still with the unit. They should qualify for R & R from 12 to 1 on Christmas Day. You will find that they remain quite calm if you allow them to make out a CES for the children's toys before taking them on charge. It would also help if you could join them in singing. The Equipment Regs to the tune of 'White Christmas'. All three, in their brief lucid moments, agreed that it has been an unforgettable experience, then pray fervently in unison that it will never be repeated.

Within these walls

A frenzy of activity is manifesting itself as the hierarchy of 2 and 3 Sqns busy themselves with imaginative schemes designed to make their respective Squadrons comfortable in the old Canadian Prison complex. This building boasts all the more pleasing aspects of Pentonville coupled with the homely atmosphere of Alcatraz. Being already fitted with security lights which illuminate in random order and huge searchlights, it only requires a few tastefully placed watch towers and machine guns to transform it into Stalag St Sebastian.

The SSM of 2 Sqn, **WO2 Pete Dalton,** reports that he is experiencing great difficulty in thwarting a very active and ingenious escape committee. He is convinced that they have succeeded in harnessing the thousands of voles which infest the area to work in concert and produce a tunnel suitable for a mass break out. The CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell,** is endeavouring to borrow a flail tank to negate this scheme and prevent the prison being undermined.

Let the dog see the bunny

OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Lee Tilson,** ably assisted by **Capt Mike Podmore,** has decided to channel his men's surplus energies into cross-country running and participation in Volkslauf organised by the various local communities. These have proved to be very popular, particularly since **WO2 (SSM) Steve Marshall** has introduced his own incentive scheme. The SSM appears to be a keen disciple of the dog track which suggests to him the idea of a quarry to rouse their hunting instincts. The hare he used to produce electrifying results on a recent run was the Squadron's shapely typist, **Mrs June Gibney.** Dressed in brief shorts and a T-shirt which complemented her figure, she was secreted in a wood about two-thirds of the way around a gruelling 5½-mile course.

After the first dozen runners had raced past her hiding place she burst out and ran gracefully down the track behind them. The effect on the remainder of the field was devastating. A miraculous transformation was achieved as faded spirits soared, leaden feet grew wings, aching muscles became sinews of steel, and sagging paunches were drawn up to form bulging pectorals. Even the dedicated sloths were converted into sleek gazelles.

Fortunately, **Mrs Gibney** is also fleet of foot, and she managed to wing home well ahead of a massive pack of Brendan Fosters intent on creating new world records. Since the over-forties have reported that the NAAFI has sold out of Phyllosan, the SSM's demanding saliva tests and seeking the services of a competent handicapper with buckets of wet sand before he organises the next event.

Reading between the lines

On returning from a recent border patrol, **Lt Simon Richmond** and **Alan Choat** reported that their first night RV was 200m inside East Germany. As they had no wire cutters, cold feet, and Len Deighton was not available to chronicle their exploits, they decided that discretion was the better part of valour and chose their own RV. They are now wondering whether this was a genuine typing error or was the CO trying to tell them something.

Silence is golden

This fact was graphically illustrated recently when the members of the Soest Scout Troop took part in a marathon 24-hour sponsored silence. The event organised by Scout Leader, **Sgt Paul Jackson** (RAOC) of 5 Fd Wksp able assisted by **WO2 (Y of S) Tony Lomax** and **Ssgt (F of S) Brian Carter,** was designed to raise money to purchase a colour television set for mentally handicapped German children in Soest. The authorities in charge of the home suggested a target of DM900 for the event.

The Scouts camped out in the Soest Community Centre for the duration of what most parents considered to be, 'Mission Impossible'. They were proved wrong by some very determined boys, over 50 per cent succeeded in maintaining silence for the full period and numerous others only narrowly failed by inadvertently speaking on waking up.

Sgt Carter was full of admiration for one little chap who was sick and in spite of numerous notes urging him to give up he steadfastly refused to abandon his effort. The long night vigil was relieved by a number of sleep walkers who had to be led back to their beds in silence.

The Scouts exceeded all expectations and anticipate collecting approximately DM3,000 for this very worthy cause. A presentation ceremony is planned for December 11 in the Garrison Church at Salamanca Barracks when a television set or the money raised will be handed over to the home.

2 SQUADRON REPORTS

THIS month's notes are contributed by 2 Sqn, which has had a considerable changeover of personalities in the Squadron soon after arrival in BAOR. They are as follows:

OC	—	**Maj Ian Knock**
Admin Offr	—	**Lt Colin Meredith**
OC 'A1' Tp	—	**Capt John Burnage**
OC 'A2' Tp	—	**Capt Tony Elford**
OC 'A3' Tp	—	**Lt Simon Richmond**
SSM	—	**WO2 Peter Dalton**
Y of S	—	**WO2 Tony Lomax**
F of S	—	**WO2 Peter Bruce**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt Ted Fendley**

With the move to BAOR, the changeover of NCOs and soldiers is so great that it would be possible to fill a page of comings and goings, so we just wish to say farewell to all that have left the Squadron and welcome to all those who have joined us. Having said a sad farewell to Bulford, we were all looking forward to our new location. However, on our arrival, the Squadron ended up in jail (our Squadron accommodation is in a former prison). We discovered that we were surrounded by a large wire fence with search lights. Rumour is that it's to keep other people out; however, the USO has already found three of our tunnels and has made us fill them back in! What's that saying again?—'Don't fence me in'! Others just think we are being cagey about what we do! There's no truth in the rumour that the electric chair which is in the OC's office is still in working order and that the Admin Officer, when in his office, throws the switch, just to let the OC know that he is still alive.

FIRST TO GO

As usual 2 Sqn were the first to show the way on exercises and border patrols, having sent detachments out with 6 Bde and on border patrol within a few days of our arrival. According to what we hear all went well. **Lt Simon Richmond** and his merry men had a few enjoyable days, but still blame the other side for the loss of one or two items of kit. No, it wasn't in the GDR!

NEW APPOINTMENT

As you may have noted from the last time we wrote, we have a new appointment within the Squadron, that of an Admin Officer and, true to form, he is helping the world's shortage of paper along (bless him).

SQUADRON MOTTO

With the arrival of our new Squadron Commander the Squadron motto has apparently been changed to 'Don't Knock It'. **Maj Ian Knock** is taking over from **Capt John Burnage** who has been carrying the heavy burden of 2 Sqn for three months.

'JAIL TALK'

Sgt Alan Berry is the Squadron MT Sergeant and at the moment is run off his feet, trying to keep up with the changes to the size of our vehicle fleet and the sizes of our Squadron Tac signs.

Unfortunately, some of our Troop offices have by necessity been located in some of the cells within the prison, much to the dismay of **Sgt Dwight Peart,** as his men keep locking him in every time they get the opportunity. In fact, if it had not been for a sharp-eyed member of the guard recently, he would have spent the whole weekend locked up.

Lcpl 'B to Z' Budkiewicz is our man at the Ministry (Squadron Clerk) and, with all the paperwork the four Troops require, he is just about keeping his head above the paperline.

Apart from the initial turmoil and hard work of settling into our new surroundings, we are still finding time to participate in all the Regimental sports competitions. We provide quite a number of soldiers for the Regimental teams, complete our BE tests, and join in most of the social events.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Capt John Burnage** and his wife, **Pat,** on the birth of their second child, **James Jonathon.**

3 SQUADRON

3 Sqn have taken first blood in the Regimental inter-Squadron Competition, by taking first place in the cross-country race. It must be true what their SSM, **WO2 Steve Marshall,** says: His Squadron are run off their feet. The Squadron also entered and won a German Volkslauf race, but were asked by the organisers to pay for the medals. Never mind—you can't win them all.

HQ SQUADRON

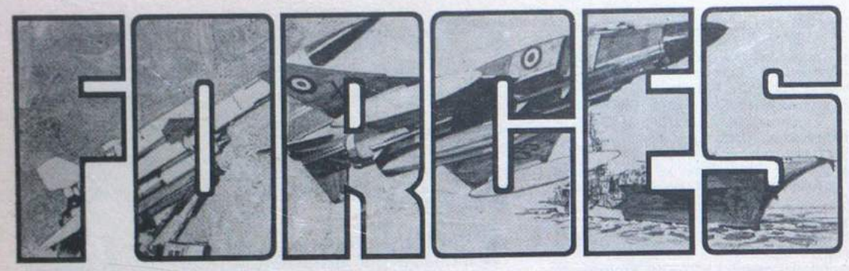
HQ Sqn are feeling the pinch at the moment, especially with all the kit which is coming into the Regiment from all directions. It is said that the QM (T), **Capt Ron Knight, MBE,** and the QM (A), **Maj Gordon Long, MBE,** are both going through their parts lists looking for the part number for soldiers multi purpose. Any offers as to what this part number is would be gratefully received so that a priority demand may be submitted.

SPORT

In two of the BAOR competitions the Regiment have had some limited success at the first attempt. We did quite well in the rugby competition but unfortunately lost to 3 BAPD who were the better side and who have had much more experience in BAOR competitions. Next season may tell a different tale. In the BAOR Cross-country competition we have done quite well, coming second in the Division competition which puts us through to the BAOR finals—well done, **Capt Mike Podmore** and his cross-country team.

WELCOME

Welcome to 1 Sqn, the large part of which is now beginning to arrive from 1 Arty Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. With the formation of the two Task Force Signal Troops, Echo and Foxtrot, and when 1 Sqn are here, the Regiment's new organisation will be complete. They will be contributing their reports in due course.



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(Don't worry if you're not on the phone. We'll be in touch.)

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

REFLECTIONS

THE snow falls gently over a peaceful Northern Germany but down in Herford something stirs—the CO is back from the CSO Study Period and it's only days to the annual FFR or ARU (amongst other names that only a British soldier could christen this festivity).

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and New Year resolutions will be thankfully broken, the Regiment will be re-structured (or is it resutured), and we will have changed our name to another tongue-twisting title—4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. Rumour has it that we are changing our motto to 'Forewarned is 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt but we're not so sure (even though we're swift enough!).'

Thirsty work this Jubilee parading!

Jubilee Year is over and we rest in the firm knowledge that 1978 just cannot possibly be as busy as 1977—can it? To show you what really went on during the Jubilee parade (7.7.77) we enclose an incriminating photograph taken in the CO's 432. The Adjutant, **Capt John Stokoe,** is pouring a glass of Moet et Chandon (what else?) for the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Frank Worrall.** The CO, doing the knees up in the foreground, wishes to remain anonymous.

INTER-SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION

At the end of September we held the annual inter-Squadron novice boxing competition. It was an enormously successful affair concluding in a win for 3 Sqn. Their trainer, coach, manager and general factotum, **Ssgt Dave Darlington,** whilst being impressed with his own team's performance, heaped praise on the young boxers of the other Squadrons. Methinks there's a bit of talent spotting going on.

HEAVYWEIGHT FINAL

Lcpl Clyde Atherley (*left*) and Lcpl Lloyd Whittaker in action
The general concensus of opinion is that none of us would wish to meet these gentlemen in, shall we say, adverse conditions!

The CO, Lt Col D. C. Whitehead commiserating with Lcpl Lloyd Whittaker (heavyweight) after losing to Lcpl Clyde Atherley (*standing left*)

3 SQADRON BOXING TEAM

Left to right. Back row: Sig Westen, Dvr Harland, 'Q' Darlington (*manager/trainer*), Sig Miller, Cpl Howie, Lcpl Whittaker
Front row: Sig Cook, Sig Gibson, Cpl Dunlop, Lcpl Demster
Winners of Regimental inter-Squadron Boxing Novice Championship

The new GOC 4 Div, Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers, MVO, OBE, signing in at the WOs and Sgts Mess

CHANGE OF COMMAND

During our first week of Exercise Autumn Sales the command of 4 Div changed hands. **Maj Gen N. T. Bagnall, MC,** departed for the environs of Whitehall. We wish both him and his wife every success in London. **Mrs Bagnall** recently confided that her only worry was having to make him sandwiches for lunch again—such is the price of progress!

We extend a warm welcome to **Maj Gen R. M. H. Vickers, MVO, OBE.** Having arrived in the middle of an exercise, he got to know the Regiment very quickly. His searching questions, force of personality and his battledress trousers left quite an impression.

Back in Herford, **Gen Vickers** has already beaten several of our better squash players and, to the embarrassment of many staff officers, has passed his BE test!

INTER-SQUADRON SHOOTING COMPETITION

The inter-Squadron SLR shooting competition took place at Senne in late October. One of the surprising aspects of the day was the number of young soldiers who made up the Squadron teams (you, you and you?). 3 Sqn, which was the eventual winner, had in its team no less than six recent arrivals in the Regiment out of eight. The most notable of these newcomers was **Sig Neil Howarth** who came runner-up to **Maj Brian Belton,** OC 1 Sqn, as Best Individual Shot and **Sig Stephen Leather** who only arrived a day or so beforehand. The only shooting both of these soldiers had done previously was during their basic training at 11 Sig Regt—old sweats watch out!

HEADMASTERS VISIT

We recently had pleasure in hosting 24 headmasters from various schools throughout the UK. Although the purpose of the visit was to aquaint them with a more-upto-date view of Army life, it provided an excellent forum for an exchange of views on all educational matters. I think that we enjoyed their visit as much as they did. Our picture shows **WO1 (RSM) Worrall** *(centre)* sharing a joke with **Mr Bruce McGowan,** headmaster of Haberdashers Ashes School, who had the doubtful privilege of being 'senior' head. **Mrs Elaine McKenzie** was not amused.

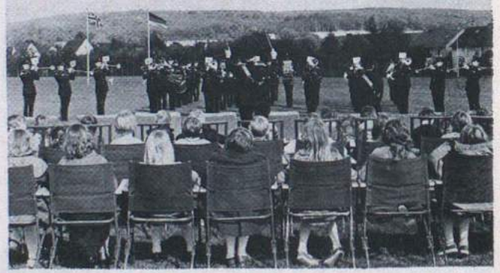
BUFFET SUPPER IN THE WOs and SGTs MESS FOR THE HEADMASTERS

Left to right: Mrs Elaine McKenzie, WO1 (RSM) Wondall, Mr Bruce McCowan

DISPLAYS

During the latter half of the year we have been pleased to welcome the Corps Band and the White Helmets. The Band did us proud on the playing of Retreat and for their rehearsal in the afternoon we invited the children of Lister and Fleming Schools to watch—needless to say they thoroughly enjoyed the performance and an afternoon off school!

The White Helmets put on their usual brilliant performance despite the fact that the Regiment had a 'turn out' in the morning and most of the Regiment didn't get back in time to see it—however, the wives and children enjoyed themselves.



The Corps Band rehearsing to an audience of several hundred children of Lister and Fleming Schools

ETCETERA

Thanks to the Editor for his message of thanks to all contributors. I wonder if the cheque will come with the New Year's card?

Headquarter Sqn Headquarters team won the inter-Troop Besketball Competition by narrowly beating Headquarters Sqn LAD team—congratulations to them.

WO1 Bert Schneider has hung up his rugby boots for the third time in a year. This time he has his ankle in a sling. At least he now has an excuse for stepping out of line. Get well soon, **Bert,** the Sergeants Mess needs the bar profits and the rugby pitch needs rolling.

The snow continues to fall, and it's getting colder—in fact, the only thing that isn't frozen here is the rent. A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

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

IN RETROSPECT

'COULD you write 400 words on RHQ for THE WIRE before you depart from the Regiment?' asked **Sgt 'Bruce' Forsyth,** with a significant glance towards the blank space on my clearance certificate marked 'Orderly Room Sergeant'. So, with only 48 hours to go, I am still trying to put down on paper my impressions of the organisation and personalities that go to make up Regimental Headquarters.

THE TEAM

At the top (a good place to start), concealed in clouds of cigar smoke, can be found the CO, **Lt Col M. R. Topple,** ably assisted by the 2IC, **Maj Barrie Burke,** who also smokes many cigars, preferably Canadian. The Adjutant's chair has recently been occupied by **Capt Graham Hand, BA (Cantab),** who has resisted taking up cigars but continues to consume rather exclusive, gold band, Fribourg & Treyer No 1 Deluxe, as befits his position. The Adjutant's right-, and left-hand man is **WO1 Barney Hill** who still maintains that angling is classed as a Regimental sport, and a suitable way of occupying Wednesday afternoons (he smokes kippers). Not far down the corridor we meet (or avoid—depending on your status) the Regimental Sergeant-Major, **WO1 J. R. Nicoll** (the next sentence comes under 'intentional deletion'). The RSM is very much the 'navigator' in RHQ and keeps the Regiment on the straight and narrow, ensuring that we never lose our way (the RSM has graduated from 'Tom Thumbs' to 'Castellas'). And so to the workers! ('Silk Cut', 'Woodbines', etc). We recently said goodbye to our Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Les Wilkinson,** who has been replaced by **WO2 (ORQMS) Brian Dearman** from 40 Sig Regt (V). We shall all miss the 'old' Chief's ready sense of humour and witty sketches, produced for RHQ parties; and welcome the 'new' Chief who is busily studying 'Party tricks for all occasions'. The Orderly Room is run by **Sgt Frank Dawson** who has recently replaced **Sgt 'Paddy' Crooks.** He is suitably hindered by **Cpls Gerry Wells** and **Ron Watson, Lcpls Mel Brooks** and **Steve Jones,** and our 'all powerful' **Sigs 'Dinger' Bell** and **Phil Staddon.** Between them they bear the brunt of the day-to-day administration of the Regiment. They have recently survived a Unit Documentation inspection and a Defence Audit and can be forgiven for appearing slightly jaded and green around the gills. Other RHQ personalities include **Cpl Brian Carter** (District Attorney) who looks after discipline documentation and ensures the successful prosecution of the 'criminals' in our midst (he's totally underemployed). Hot from the Officers Mess, **Sig Roger Charlesworth** now sits in our despatch office learning all about the rudiments of becoming a 'good clerk' (two lumps please).

FINANCE AND OPS

Within our RHQ team we have our financial wizards, the RAPC staff. The leaders of this very efficient bunch is **Capt Basil Holmes, BEM,** and **WO2 Tom Wightman.** The Pay staff look after the Regiment extremely well and provide us with all the necessary financial know-how (including currency speculation). According to **WO1 Barney Hill, 'Q' Wightman** is also an excellent fisherman whose unique technique should be seen to be believed (he beats them to death).

Finally, to the Operations Cell; incarcerated behind the 'grill' we find the Operations Officer, **Maj John Potier** (non-smoker), **Capt (Tfc) Ted Heasman** (non-smoker) and **Capt (TOT) Ray Boulter** ('Silk Cut', 'Woodbines', large cigars, small cigars, boots, etc, etc). Their supporting cast is **WO1 (F of S) Frank Gadman, Ssgt John Lawrence** and **Lcpl 'Diddy' Didcok.** Their main asset appears to be a coffee percolator, and unlimited hospitality in handing out cups of this rather grey and doubtful 'brew'.

AND NOT LEAST

We must not close without mentioning the dear young lady, **Mrs Wendy Wright,** who is going to neatly type these notes, double spacing and all, and send them to the Editor.

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE SO in C

On October 26 the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE,** and **Mrs Tighe** paid their farewell visit to the Regiment.

The SO in C Inspects a very smart Quarter Guard provided by 4 Sqn

The SO in C visits 'shiny 5', accompanied by Lt Col M. R. Topple
Left to right: Maj 'Bill' Bowen, Sig 'Zambesi' Davies, Sig 'Danny' Daniels, Sig 'Minnow' Minvalla and Sig Pat Reilly

After inspecting a very smart Quarter Guard, and a discussion with our CO, **Lt Col M. R. Topple,** the SO in C visited one of the new accommodation blocks of HQ Sqn. He was very impressed with the 'new look' and congratulated our Quartermaster A, **Maj Clem Palmer, MBE,** on fighting the project through and ensuring that our soldiers get their new accommodation as soon as possible.

The party moved on to visit 5 Sqn, commanded by **Maj Bill Bowen,** who were suitably dressed in their 'Noddy kit' carrying out military training, under the ever watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) 'Tich' Reynolds** (is he still there?). One of the major events of the day was a visit to the Sergeants Mess where the SO in C presented one of our longer serving 'soldiers', **Frau Brose,** with a beautiful carriage clock (25 years at Maresfield and still going strong). Whilst the men were doing their 'thing', **Mrs Tighe** accompanied by **Mrs Topple,** had a most interesting day seeing the historic buildings of Herford, and enjoying 'coffee and cakes' with **Mrs Maggie Bowen** at 'Schloss Bowen'.

In the evening the SO in C and **Mrs Tighe,** accompanied by the CCR Signals, **Brig G. R. Oehlers** and **Mrs Oehlers,** were royally entertained in the family atmosphere of the Officers Mess where **Capt 'Dicky' Dyer,** suitably disguised, compered a superb 'cabaret'. The 'star' of the show was none other than our very own top 'drag' artist, **Lt Nick Ferriman** (or was it Ferriwoman?).

A most successful visit; we sincerely wish the SO in C and **Mrs Tighe** our very best wishes for their future venture in Hong Kong. . . .

TWO SILVER JUBILEES IN ONE YEAR?

After our success at the Queen's Silver Jubilee parade at Sennelager, we were well prepared and practised for our second Jubilee of the year. **Frau Brose,** our Officer in charge of civil

Lt Col M. R. Topple congratulates Frau Brose

labour, is celebrating her 25th year at Maresfield Barracks. Many ex-members of the Regiment will remember Frau Brose; her memories of the past characters of the Regiment would surely fill two books.

Frau Brose began working for the Royal Signals in Maresfield Barracks on October 12, 1952. Initially she was employed as a motor transport clerk but her flare and ability were quickly recognised and she became full-time Officer in charge of civilian labour. Her team is 53 strong and includes such trades as tailors, storekeepers, vehicle mechanics, clerks, gardeners, labourers and cleaners. Added to her many duties Frau Brose acts as translater, interpreter, and all matters relating to liaison with the local German population. To mark this notable 'jubilee' occasion, the SO in C presented Frau Brose with an inscribed carriage clock as a token of our appreciation for her work over the years. According to Frau Brose this is only the first half; she is now preparing to serve another 25 years at Maresfield (perhaps she will see Ptarmigan).

It is interesting to note that when Frau Brose was 'posted in', the Adjutant was only two, the RSM was still in short trousers, and the QM (A) was only 55!

8 Sig Regt Catterick Garrison

Left to right: WO1 (RSM) David Hughes, WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin, Brig Butler, WO1 (SSM) Bill Leslie and Sgt Bill Page

GOOD ATTENDANCE?

The WOs and Sgts Mess bar was a busy place at lunchtime on October 20, 1977, when four of its members were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **Brig Norman Butler,** Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison.

No lesser person than the RSM himself, **WO1 David Hughes,** was a recipient as was **WO2 (SSM) Bill Leslie,** SSM of 1 Sqn, and **Sgt Bill Page,** Troop Sergeant of 'M' Troop. **WO1 (ASM) Peter Dolphin** commands the LAD which used to be attached to Headquarters Training Bde but has now been absorbed by 31 Command Workshops, and his support to the Regiment is greatly appreciated.

THE FIRST IN THREE YEARS!

For the first time since 1974 'A' Grading Prizes were presented to Radio Telegraphist Upgraders **Lcpl Mick McIvor,** of 596 Rear Link Det, 8 Fd Force at Tidworth, and **Sig David Appleyard,** of 22 Sig Regt.

Lcpl Mick McIvor was trained as a Radio Telegraphist at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and was posted to 12 Mechanised Bde and Sig Sqn in 1974. A two-year posting to NITAT preceded his present job to which he can return, proud in his achievement of nine 'A' passes and first place out of 15 above-average students.

Sig David Appleyard is also an ex-Harrogate Apprentice whose first posting was 262 Sig Sqn in Cyprus. He happened to be there during the troubles of 1974 and was heavily involved in the evacuation of Famagusta. Late 1974 saw him at 602 Sig Tp followed in 1976 by 22 Sig Regt where he commands a D11 radio detachment. He came second on the course with eight 'A' gradings.

Both of them go back to their units with our heartiest congratulations and best wishes and hope their success may inspire other Radio Telegraphist Upgraders! Good Luck! The photograph shows from left to right: **WO1 (Y of S) Peter Sharpe, Mr Jim Stainer** (SI (Op)), **Lcpl Mick McIvor, Lt Col Gordon Young** (OC TTS), **Sig David Appleyard** and **Maj John Doody** (CI (Op)).

COINCIDENCE?

Is it pure coincidence that with the departure of all four officers of 3 Sqn, the Squadron has had to close down and be integrated with 2 Sqn? All four have contributed a great deal and we are sad to see them go. **Maj John (Huntin', Shootin' and Fishin') Messer-Bennetts** has opted for the 'good life' in Cornwall, out of the hectic life of the Army, and **Capt Mike Crane** has gone to wrap up things in Malta. **Lt Dave (Stand by your beds) Llewellyn** is at present attending the MIOs course at Ashford before posting and **Lt George Wilton** is forsaking the Royal Signals to join the RMPs, obviously with the thought that 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em'!

MORE FAREWELLS

'Our man in Greenland', **Maj Rod Dransfield,** having survived the Expedition goes shortly to the Apprentices College at Harrogate which suits him, as his home and family are there, but we will miss the energy and enthusiasm which inspired his Squadron on to great athletic and cross-country feats.

Everyone in the Regiment felt very sorry for **Lt Hugh Bardell** when they heard his posting—OIC 2 Div Ski Team! He himself has taken it very well and the fact that he had packed his MFO boxes two days after hearing the news is irrelevant! We wish him the very best of luck in Zermatt, Germany, etc—with gritted teeth of course!

SPORT IN SHORT

Rugby . . . In the first round of the Army Cup our team beat 1 RHA from Topcliffe 15—3. As luck would have it, we now have a bye to the fourth round and await to hear who we play next.

Football . . . In the preliminary round of the Army Cup the team defeated Chester Garrison 5—1 and went on to beat the Queens Own Highlanders 3—2 in the first round. Next time round the opposition is Central Engineer Park, Longmarston.

Hockey . . . Yet again, as luck would have it, we had byes to the third round of the Army Cup and into the second round of the District Cup when we play York Garrison.

FORWARD THE GREEN GODDESS

BEFORE the Firemen's strike, fire to 8 Sig Regt was just something the White Helmets jumped through, now it's a way of life! Since our re-allocation to a fire-fighting force in November, WRAC 'Strippers' with the help of the odd man, have 'de-mothballed' 53 'GGs'; our fire detachments in County Durham have fought 193 fires including 10 serious ones; and one Green Goddess was sadly mutilated in an accident which put one crew member, **Sig 'Staff' Storey,** into hospital for a few weeks.

WIDE DEPLOYMENT

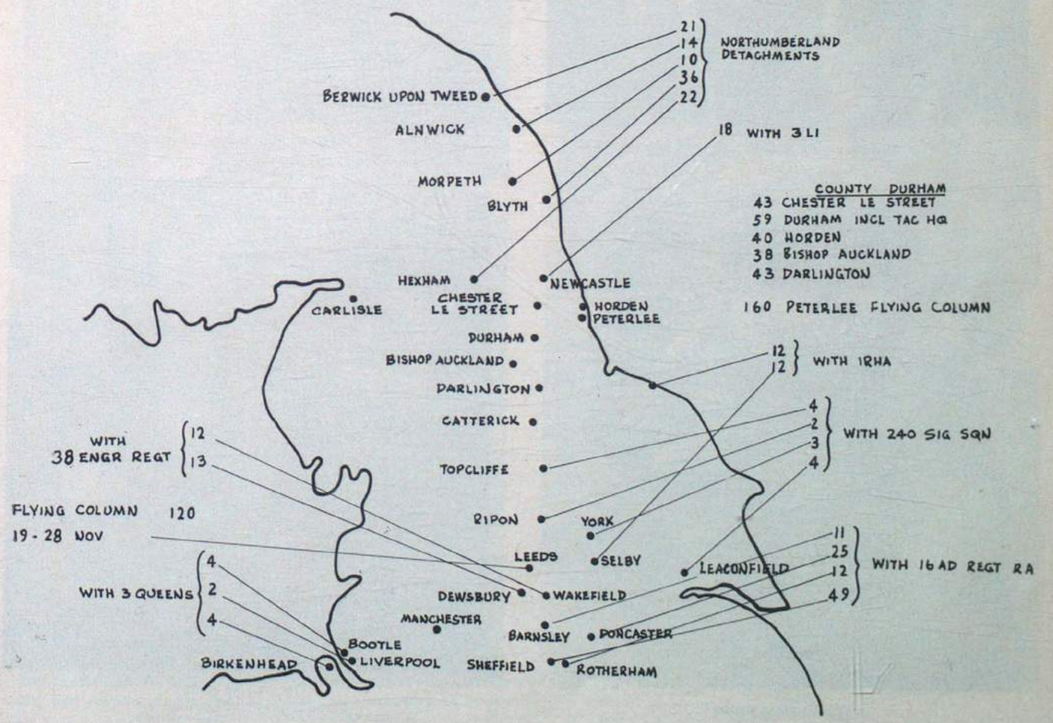
The Regiment has nearly 800 officers and men deployed, including 35 WRAC; this does not include the Rear Party stalwarts who cheerfully meet the many requests from field locations which vary from replacement crews to jelly moulds! Reports from all locations show that everyone is enjoying the challenge of a new experience but still managing to play their sport—the rugby team has moved to the Flying Column at Shotton Hall, Peterlee, where off-duty time is spent in training and perfecting their 'flying' tackles!

Morale is high, but with Christmas nigh, the 'burning' question is leave. However, the County Councils and other civilian bodies have been more than helpful and if their hospitality to date is anything to go by, a good Christmas is assured for those on fire-fighting duties.

PS To all units—please don't worry—fire-fighting courses have not been added to the list of Specialist Courses run by the Trade Training School, though you will be getting some budding Fire NCOs from future outputs!

Amidst sending off nearly 300 soldiers of all ranks to fire-fighting training at RAF Catterick, we were amused to receive a Civilian Staff Bulletin advertising the job of Firemen with the Army Fire Brigade assuring 'generous time off', good pay, etc!

8TH SIGNAL REGIMENT DEPLOYMENT ON FIRE FIGHTING DUTIES (OP BURBERRY)



AS THE CAMERA SAW IT

Preparation
WRAC at Catterick prepare Green Goddesses for issue to detachments

Deployment—November 13
For once it wasn't raining

Crew training at RAF Catterick

The GOC North-East District

'What's gone wrong?'

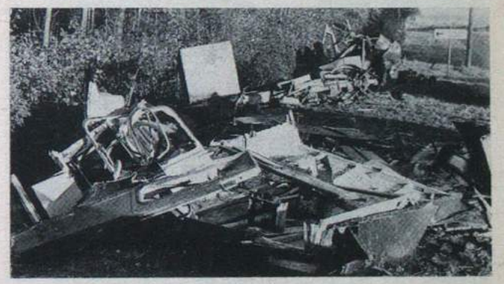
The waiting game
Standby crews at Darlington

'Fire'
Bishop Auckland

Caught short!

Maj Gen Anderson's first visit as SO in C just happened to be to our fire-fighters in County Durham

The Hexham crew before the accident. Sig Storey (*top left*) was the only casualty—he is now on sick leave



Casualty of war
The Hexham GG after skidding on black ice

Visitors
The Master of Signals

9 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 58

SUMMER CAMP IN WSBA

IN the last two weeks of October the second half of Summer Camp took place at Evdhimou in the WSBA. Camp activities included orienteering, sightseeing, boating and ·22 shooting. Some 110 attended over two four-day camps. The success of the camps was largely the result of the effort put in by the administrative staff. Thanks must be given to **WO2 Pete Perrott, Ssgt Charlie Brown, Sgts Des McGonigle** and **Colin Wing, W/Cpl 'MJ' Watson, Lcpl 'Chef' Holgate, Sigs Bob Pinnell** and **Pete Rixon** for their hard work and good humour throughout.

RUGBY REPORT

On Saturday, October 8, 1977, the first 'Keo Cup' competition was held at Ayios Nikolaos. This competition is a knock-out competition for teams of 15-a-side playing for 15 minutes each way; 9 Sig Regt organised the competition and Keo Breweries provided the trophies for the main competition winners and runners-up and a plate winner's trophy.

Nine teams took part and the competition provided some exciting rugby throughout the day, enjoyed by spectators and players alike. 9 Sig Reg 1st XV won the cup, beating Flamingoes (the Akrotiri 'A' team) in the final 9—6; a drop goal by **Cpl Mick Dowd** in the last seconds ending a hard-fought game. 9 Signals Hornets won the plate, beating Episkopi Racasans 6—0; needless to say all players and spectators were well refreshed during and after the matches with Keo Beer from the bar manned by wives of 9 Signals RUFC.

Photo courtesy: Stan Wilson

Lt Col R. K. Ward, CO 9 Sig Regt, presents the Keo Cup to IX RUFC 1st team captain C/T Al Eddy

NEWS ON TWO

Anyone arriving in the midst of 2 Sqn at the beginning of September would surely have been taken aback at the upsurge in activity. All departments changed gear as the long, hot summer drew to a close and everyone began to atune themselves for the cool-season activities.

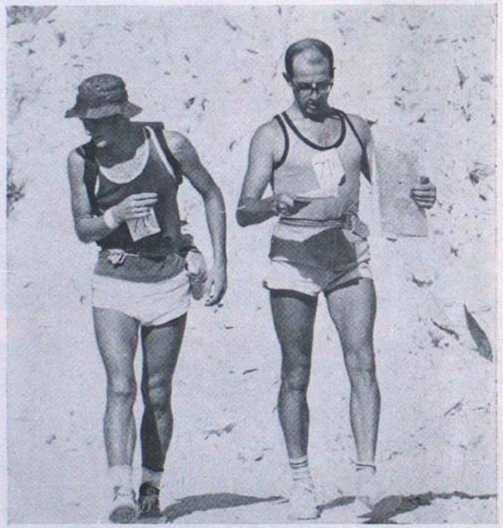
At the Regimental Fete the Squadron involvement was particularly 'heavy' with **SSM Andy (Al Capone) Boyle** hustling a good 'numbers racket' by organising the Grand Draw. It was then up to the 'Godfathers' in the shape of **WO Woodcock** and **WO2's Poole, Honor** and **Groves** to send their soldiers (and airmen) into the field and sell the tickets, with the result that saturation coverage was soon achieved—the fact that Christmas leave was up for consideration had nothing at all to do with it!

WINTER SEASON UNDER WAY

Activity continued unabated through to the start of the football, hockey, rugby, and cross-country season. 2 Sqn were well represented in the team which narrowly lost the Carter Cup soccer final. Excellent performances were also put in by three teams in the Cyprus Walkabout competition. The brave men who ventured the 60 miles-plus round trip were **Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts, Sgt Pete Forster, Cpls Derek Calder, Martin Dullaghan, SAC Dave Bues, Jnr Tech Trev Banks, Lcpl Pete Ridlington, SAC Kerry Gray,** and **Cpl Bob Bell.** On the hockey scene, the Squadron 'A' team narrowly lost the Regimental 6-a-side competition by the closest of margins to 1 Sqn; an unlucky day for **Ssgt Rod Goddard** and his team who had played some fine entertaining hockey throughout the course of the competition.

The Regimental 15-a-side rugby competition drew teams from all over the island and resulted in a win for the Regimental side. Again the Squadron was well represented and **Sig Mick Dowd** was one of the outstanding performers of the day. Unfortunately for **WO2 Dave Poole** and his volleyball team from 'B' Troop, most of the players were also rugby enthusiasts, with the result that their performance in the All Island Volleyball Championships next day was a bit below par, and the team went down fighting after a long and exciting match against 62 Sqn RE.

Scarcely were these events over and Summer Camp was with us again. This time it was the turn of 'B' Troop, under **WO2 Dave Poole,** and 'D' Troop under **WO Harry Woodcock,** who unfortunately had to return to the UK at short notice, and missed the variety of adventure training fare offered by the Training Centre staff. Both Troops claim to have enjoyed the change of routine which included potted sports, orienteering, early morning dips and PT. What with adventure training, and the vast range of sporting activities in progress it actually looked at one time as if the Squadron would have to rely on a ladies' team to compete in the Dhekelia Dash 15-mile relay, but **Cpl Birchall** came to the rescue with a last-minute selection, which, on the day almost pipped the more fancied selections, and finished a close sixth.



TAKING A BEARING—OR FOLLOWING TRACKS?

Navigation by old and new methods as practised by Cpl Martin Dullaghan (*left*) and Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts in the Cyprus Walkabout Competition 1977

COMINGS AND GOINGS

All that remains is to record the departure of **Lt John Morrison** to RHQ and the arrival of **Lt Cherry Hume-Lewis** to take over the appointment of Admin Officer. **WO2 (SSM) Dick Sargent** is in the process of taking over from **WO2 (SSM) Andy Boyle,** who is off to the AAC Harrogate. Also recently posted was **Cpl Jack Carpenter,** to the far-off land of 1 Div at Verden. All will be very much missed, and we wish them well in their new appointments.

As for arrivals of a different kind, we are pleased to record the birth of a girl to **Lcpl** and **Mrs Adrian Tindall,** and a boy to **SAC** and **Mrs Bob Pritchard.**

VISIT OF COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES CYPRUS

ON November 14 the CBFC, **Air Vice Marshal R. D. Austin-Smith,** accompanied by his wife, visited the Regiment. The visit began with the AVM inspecting a Quarter Guard commanded by **Ssgt John Farrell.** The guard was comprised of both RAF and Army personnel trained by **SSM Tony Davies** (who managed to iron out the differences in drill between the two Services quite effectively). The AVM then toured the Regiment with the CO, visiting the gym, TM workshop, and Vals compound before ending in the Community Centre where he performed the 'official opening'. Before leaving the Regiment the AVM and his wife were entertained to lunch in the Officers Mess.

Pictured after the presentation of LS and GCs. *Left to right:* WO2 and Mrs Bob Smith, WO2 and Mrs Bob Smith, Air Vice Marshal R. D. Austin-Smith, WO1 and Mrs Graham Widdowson

ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD

The gym now boasts a large basketball electronic scoreboard designed by **QMSI Pete Perrott** and built by 'TM' Troop under the supervision of **Sgt Pete Strickland.** From conception to installation the task took just under a year.

MILSKILLS COMPETITION

All four Squadrons entered a team in the Cyprus Milskills 77 competition that took place over November 17–18 at Episkopi. 2 Sqn had the best result finishing in sixth place, closely followed by 3 Sqn in eighth place. Those who took part deserve a word of congratulations for all the hard work and effort they put in.

REGIMENTAL GOLF COURSE

The Regimental golf course was finally opened in November. The course was designed by **Majs Alec Taylor** and **Dick Richards** and its construction was mainly due to the advice and assistance of **Tom Thirkall** from PSA and 62 Fd Sp Sqn RE. The course has 9 holes and is about 2,200yd in length. Providing it rains soon there will also be some green fairways. The initial golf competition was held on November 26 and consisted of a men's, ladies' and junior's competition. The winners were **Sgt Alan Grant, Mrs Gillett,** and **Steven Paterson** respectively.

Lt Col R. K. Ward presents the Regimental 'Tie of Merit' to Mr Bob Thirkall for his work in building the Regimental golf course

Lt Col R. K. Ward opens the 9 Sig Regt (Radio) golf course

NEWS ON TWO

Warm conditions at the beginning of the month matched the tone of the activities for the succeeding weeks as 2 Sqn launched into the work-up for Christmas and the social season. For **Ssgt Tony Buttery** and his small band of eight it was activity with a vengeance as they prepared for the Military Sills competition held at Episkopi in mid-November. Despite an age gap, one half of the team was over 30 and the other half under 20, **Sgts Mo Emmott, Kem Galbraith, Keith Smith,** and **Alan Franklin** all found it a stimulating business to keep up with the younger element in the shape of **Cpl Pete Genge** and **Sigs 'Charlie' Drake, Chris Glasgow, Steve Shannon,** and **Steve Woolard.** Despite a minor drawback at the start of the contest, the team recovered well, and by a sterling series of performances in the 10 military phases, gained a placing of sixth overall, and this against some very experienced opposition.

While all this was taking place, the remainder of the Squadron were indulging busily in the usual wide range of sports available at Ayios Nikolaos. **Ssgt 'Screw' Crofts, Cpl 'Paddy' Dullaghan, SAC Kerry Gray, Sig Julian Quinn,** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Doughty** have all been turning in good performances for the Squadron 'A' team in the Cyprus Joint Services Cross-country League, and maintaining a useful position near the top of the league table as a result. **WO2 John Groves** has been forcing the Squadron 'A' side up the soccer ladder, with **WO2 Clive Honor's** 'B' team hot on their heels. Even SHQ has been caught up in the fitness drive, with **Cpls Derek Calder** and **Steve Swann** turning out on the soccer field, **Lt Cherry Hume-Lewis** playing a starring role in the local tennis competitions, and **Maj Tom Moncur** wondering how to keep up with the stalwarts of the Squadron 'B' Cross-country team. **Capt Stan Brice,** recovering from an ankle injury, has decided that standards on the hockey field are in need of a boost, and is already to be seen swinging a hockey stick with his usual relish. **SSM Dave Sargent** says he's too busy keeping everyone else occupied to have a chance to do anything sportswise.

Movements this month included the departure of **SSM Andy Boyle** and his wife, **Rachel,** together with **Sgt Bob Eastmond** who also returns to the UK. Both will be much missed by the Squadron and the Regiment—we wish them well in their new postings. Among the arrivals were **Ssgt Tony Buttery** and **F of S Dave Armitage,** both renewing acquaintance with Cyprus.

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

10 Sig Regt
Hounslow

1 SQUADRON ROUND UP

SEPTEMBER, as always, proved to be an active month for 1 Sqn at Wilton.

Several changes in Squadron personnel occurred, we bid farewell to: **Ptes Kathy Clegg, Terry Rhodes** and **Jackie Erdbeer.** And in turn welcomed **Sgt Jeff Battisby, Ptes Sandry Whitney, Karen Sanderson, Jeanette Brew** and **Cpl Peter Smith.**

Two intrepid 'walkers' of the WRAC took part in the Le Marche Val de Marne in Paris. **Lcpl Pam Moss** and **Pte Lisa Barker** being the brave soldiers who joined the UKLF Regimental team for the 30km march. They departed from Wilton on Friday, September 23, and arrived in Paris the following afternoon, Sunday, September 25, being the big day and the Big Walk. **Lcpl Pam Moss** completed 25km but then had to retire due to very sore feet, but **Pte Lisa Barker** completed the distance and is now the proud possessor of a very fine medal.

Wednesday, September 28 saw another marathon attempt, this time a 40-mile bike ride by **Lcpl Mandy Pateman** and **Pte Karen Chubb.** This was a sponsored event in order to raise money for the Senior Citizens of Downside Wilton and The Bone Marrow Research Fund. The route and mileage were checked and the event supervised by **Ssgt (Y of S) Larry Bird** and **Cpl Terry Bain.** Support and cheers were provided by **Ptes Lou Jackson, Val Sharp** and **Mrs Bird.** Forty miles were completed by both participants and a very useful sum of money raised. More sponsored events are planned for October and November and it is hoped to provide a super outing for the residents at Downside.

3 (BIONIC) SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

Nine adventurously-minded members of the Squadron braved the rains of the Brecons for a week. Despite cries of 'I didn't know what I was letting myself in for' and half way up a rock face 'I don't like rock-climbing'. The week was spent hill-walking, rock-climbing and abseiling with die hards such as **Lcpl June (Rigga) Rigby, Ptes Norma Wilkinson, Jill Perring** and **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** going back for more.

One night was spent under canvas with three to a tent in the middle of Wales. In the picture **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** is cooking 'compo' for all, watched by **Lcpl Jackie Oliver** and **Pte Wendy Hodgson.** The following morning **Lcpl 'Rigga' Rigby, Ptes Jill Perring** and **Ann McKenna** woke up to find a sheep on their doorstep. The incident has been recorded by one whose catch-phrase was 'where's my camera?'

3 Sqn have 'invented' a new sport for getting down off mountains, well, what goes up must come down, so down we all went—in a sitting position at some very good speeds. Sliding down,

Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Rigby, Pte McKenna, Lcpl Oliver, Pte Wilkinson, Pte Coppin, Lcpl Taylor, 2 Lt Wilson
Sitting: Pte Perring, Pte Hodgson

much to the amusement of **Mick, Dell** and **Jerry** our AYT instructors (who, we have it on good authority, have recovered!).

Wherever 3 Sqn went the hills were alive with music of one sort or another, mostly led by **Lcpl Lottie Taylor.** One day the weather was too bad to continue so Dan-yr-og of caves had the pleasure of our visit. The photograph is taken outside the caves.

1 Squadron, Wilton

HARD AT IT!

OCTOBER has been its usual busy month for 1 Sqn at Wilton. Involvement in exercises, operations, sponsored events, ARU and documentation inspections, has kept all members, both civilian and military 'hard at it'. Yet humour still prevailed and the following 'poem' reflecting this is enclosed for publication.

An originator who had been taken to task for message writing irregularities, heard that his Commcen had received a Comstar award and mistakenly assumed that this meant promotion for the solo civilian operator. At the Commcen, not a thousand miles from here, the following ditty arrived:

Dear Supervisor of fierce renown
Who 'pon my signals thou dost frown,
What must I do to win thy favour?
What works of mine wilt thou savour?
Must we only speak of war?
Can we not discuss 'amour'?
Please look more kindly at my plea
Accept my signals graciously
Congratulations upon promotion
Cannot cause too much commotion
In your speedy signal cell
Where you work so hard and well
Let us therefore both agree
To conduct our business peacefully.

In keeping with true signals tradition the following reply was despatched:

Upon my desk, what falls next?
T'is a small but poetic text.
Do not bemoan my strict decision
Signals are sent with due precision.
To win my favour and respect
Send only signals that are correct.
I speak not of peace nor of war,
Just labour quiet behind my door.
Stick to the rules my Col-O-nel
Not made by me, but a higher cell.

2 SQUADRON (HOUNSLOW)

This month we say farewell to **Maj Richard Harrison** who is on his way to Catterick Training Group. He has served 2½ years in Hounslow having been OC Radio Troop, Squadron second in command, Operation/Comms Officer and, finally, the Squadron Commander. In his place we welcome **Maj Graham Saunders** as our new OC who has left the air-conditioned world in ADP at HQ UKLF!

3 SQUADRON (ALDERSHOT)

A very military (looking) Super-Sub!

or

Baggy Pants & Tight Boots!

November started quietly enough; **2 Lt Stephanie Westall** (Super-Sub) returned in triumph from BOBC Norway, duly qualified to venture out into 'The Wild'; and in the South-East District Badminton Championships, **Lcpl Helen Abbott,** from our switchboard, partnered by **Sgt Nicki Rochelle,** of ASPT, was a runner-up in the Ladies Doubles. **Lcpl Abbott** was also a finalist in the Senior Mixed Doubles and **Pte Annette Jackson** reached the semi-finals in the Ladies Plate competition. Well done each!

Somewhere in the middle of the month, however, there was a sudden flurry of activity, and, much envied by our neighbours, 10 Coy WRAC, the Squadron 'mobilised'. Having cheerfully cancelled all leave, issued warrants, arranged for extra kit issues and organised movements and accommodation, the SSM, **WO2 Carole Austin,** promptly began her 'work-to-rule' when informed that her own imminent leave was also forfeit. Some unkind soul opined that nobody had noticed any difference! Naturally enough, once she got used to the idea, the SSM recovered her composure, as did 10 Coy, who kindly took on extra local duties and helped out with personal equipment issues. Those of us who actually moved away from Aldershot have settled well into new, if temporary, homes—we are hoping that **Pte 'Reamo' Reames** (Super Taff) is treading warily in her new environment! Perhaps the only real casualty of the whole operation was **2 Lt Nannette Wilson** who was told that she could not go to Deepcut to learn to be a Fireperson for the time being.

To further deplete our ranks, if only temporarily, Super-Sub then despatched in a hurry to do her bit for 'Avon Express' by conducting foreign visitors around the exercise area—using to the full her newly-acquired experience, she assures us that she didn't get lost once, and she duly returned a few days later, looking very military, but complaining bitterly that her borrowed New Zealand Army boots (courtesy **Sgt Irene Lockwood**) were too small and that **Capt Celia Stephens'** baggy pants did nothing for her dignity.

Ah well, Happy Christmas, one and all!

10 SIGNAL REGIMENT—'MT' TROOP (HOUNSLOW)

This Troop of much maligned stalwarts is commanded by the MTO, **WO2 Wally Marsden,** ably assisted by **Cpl Brian Biddiscombe.** We have in the Troop a very good track record as far as our accident rate is concerned being the lowest in the Regiment and our mileage is second highest.

No doubt the fact that the MTO organises the football team may have something to do with the fact that out of a Troop strength of only 10 military and three civilians, three of our number turn out for the Regiment's football team: **Sigs Colin Mason, 'Spider Legs' Nicol** and **'Chubby' Sparks** are the offenders all, of course, entered in the Sniffer League.

Comings and goings

Welcome to **Sig 'Sandy' Sanderson** who has recently joined us from Berlin. Farewell to **'Gonzo' Ralph** on posting to AFCENT. The RSM misses you, **'Gonze'.**

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

The Regimental football team is going through a period of change both in management and in players. The team this year is being run by **WO2 (SSM) Marsden** and **Sgt Brian Slavin.** A new star posted in to the Regiment in the guise of **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Nelson** who is proving to be a steadying influence on our younger players. **Geoff** has been selected to play for the Army side this season and together with **Cpl Eddie Gallacher** and **Lcpl Pete Lawlor** for the Corps team, so for a minor unit we are doing well. The London District League is suffering from the Firemen's dispute, so few games have been played. However, we have managed to continue in the Saturday Hounslow District League. Our biggest claim to fame is that we have won through to the London District Minor Unit Cup Final versus the Postal Depot at Mill Hill, which is a repeat of last year's final. Watch for our victory in the next edition.

PA SYSTEMS WORLD WIDE
Report by Sgt Macrae, 'SWS' Troop (Hounslow)

I have been, for want of a better term, tasked to produce an overall look back at our PA commitments for the year 1977, Her Majesty's Jubilee Year. Our commitments have been many and varied—ranging from the London District Cross-Country Championships in January 1977, held in the wilds of Pirbright, to the Military Band Tour of Iran in October 1977.

Our VIP participation list is quite impressive. This includes **Her Majesty The Queen** and other members of the Royal Family, and also the **Crown Prince Teza Pahlavi** of Iran.

London District Cross-country Championships

This commitment deserves a mention because it was a pleasure to work with a commentator who had full confidence in our equipment and also knew how to use a microphone properly. Other PA engineers will appreciate how I felt.

Wembley Musical Pageant

This worked very well indeed using our equipment in conjunction with the studium PA systems. I learnt a great deal about tact and diplomacy in this situation and also enjoyed working with the stadium PA engineers who remained unflappable throughout. What fond memories—the feeding of the two thousand—our Catering Service really surpassed themselves.

The Director of Music who came to our van in the evening asked if he could use it as a dressing room; consent given, our reward was a supply of gin and tonics. Thank you once again.

A high-level 'O' group was held on the side lines at 1205 on Saturday to discuss a run through at 1400hrs only to be interrupted by the question from the PA engineers 'That's OK, but which one of your group is going to sign my overtime sheet?' Deathly silence!

Royal Engineers Open Day—Rochester
What style! A closed-circuit TV review of the previous year's show to highlight the problems they had. Needless to say, when we did it there were no problems.

Old Comrades—Hyde Park
This is one of our standing bookings; at the end of the service we are booked again for the following year. PA subscribers please note the length of notice we are given. The sooner your booking is in (UKLF SI No 11) the better chance you have of our services.

HM The Queen's departure from Greenwich Pier
This commitment I mention to highlight our 'hours of work'.
Set up time—0500–0900.
Test time and fault clearance (if any) 0900–1000.
PA Live time—10 minutes.
Dismantle time—1100–1230.
Even though the live time was only 10 minutes our consolation was in giving full coverage in a difficult situation.

To jog my memory I obviously have had to consult my diary and have now come across the following entry. '48FG38 in for respray'. It is enough to say that my boss, **Capt Murray,** now knows the difference between Brunswick Green and Olive Drab. I still get rather peculiar looks when I drive into location. I'm sure that onlookers expect soldiers in combat kit to jump out of the van and do an attack.

Chester Tattoo
The VIP rehearsing his speech asked what we had done with the feedback that he had to contend with the previous year. On discussion, I was told that previously we had to wear headphones and had made his speech from inside a car. Need I say more!

RA AT Home—Woolwich
A very enjoyable week. The commentator, who I had previously worked with at Greenwich Pier and Wembley, knew what to expect, and therefore had no worries about out side. **Dame Vera Lynn** was the VIP, and sang a number of wartime hits. When she had finished and was departing we played back a couple of bars of 'We'll meet again' which we had only seconds before recorded.

HM The Queen's Birthday Parades—Horse Guards
At the end of 1976 I had a check of all equipment and found that I was a 20-ft pole deficient. Now to lose one of these poles is rather difficult. At the start of the 1977 Birthday Rehearsals I was asked by the RE Warrant Officer, on seeing my poles, if I had ever lost one. On confirming that I had, he showed me my 'lost' pole at the back of 10 Downing Street, saying that he had been asked the previous year what it was, and he had replied that it was a special type of lamp-post!

Presentation of Colours—York Race Course
An ideal situation for PA because the grandstands act as giant parabolic dishes throwing out the sound. On arrival we were given a VIP tour of the Race Course by the head groundsman. I did not know so much went on behind the scenes during a race. For example, how photo finishing is achieved and that each race is video taped in case of a stewards' enquiry. I finished up being weighed-in on the Jockey Scales. The VIP should have been **The Duchess of Kent** but on the day it was announced that all her engagements had been cancelled. As can be understood, a general flap occurred but **HRH The Duke of Kent** stepped in and all went well.

Blue Cone II—Sunbury
An exercise with the Metropolitan Police Display Team. These people really appreciated our help. During the exercise they gave every thought to our comfort and, as a show of appreciation invited us to a cheese and wine party later in the year.

Not forgotten—Buckingham Palace Gardens
This is another standing commitment. On some tasks we come across people who put the system through a thorough test. One such person is **Dame Anona Wynn,** and her test is to give an operatic rendering of the musical scales. Believe me, when she has finished, my equipment has had a better test than I could achieve with an audio generator. On this occasion we have to be 'switched on' as she works with radio and TV artists such as **Ernie Wise, Vera Lynn, Charlie Chester,** etc.

RAF Stafford Open Day—Stafford
What a plum. Another of the Services requiring our assistance. This was one job where we did not want any raspberries so we carried everything bar the kitchen sink. The RAF really know how to live in style; our reception and administration were excellent. On the sites, which measured 600×100yd and 100×80yd plus two Hangars, we found, once again the usual concern about feedback but when we gave a rendering of 'Bonanza' they were reassured.

Presentation of new Colours by HM The Queen at Birmingham
This was held in the Garden of Remembrance, a small but beautiful setting. This was a bit awkward as the microphones had to be placed in position and retrieved during the service. This required a certain number of 'drill movements' which were duly practised by the team and all went well. The boss turned out for this one. I think he had heard rumours of the party taking place afterwards but lost out as we packed up immediately it was over and headed for Plymouth.

Review of the Royal Marines by HM The Queen at Plymouth
The job was intended to be the finale of a very busy season. On the recce it had seemed to be a small job and we were looking forward to at least eight days' holiday by the sea. Alas, looking at the Hoe in daylight I thought I was having nightmares. The area was still the same but the stands for the public had changed. Wembley seemed small in comparison. An emergency trip to Hounslow soon put thing right and we ended up with 18 poled speakers giving beautiful coverage, and as people who know the Hoe can understand, no feed-back problems. We were hosted by 29 RA Commando whose hospitality was unique. A good time was had by all.

Military Band Tour—Iran
Whilst attending 10 Sig Regt Summer Camp—'God bless the RSM', I say, others state differently—I was asked by the Brigadier HQ 2 Sig Group about my PA jobs and especially if the kit was portable, and what coverage it could give. Of course, I could only tell the truth, that we could cover virtually any situation portable or static!

Later on at an evening at volleyball practice I met up with the boss—who also says—'God bless the RSM'. He muttered to me, 'You've been talking to the Brigadier. For your sins you are now going to Iran on a Military Band Tour to supply PA when and where needed'.

Oh what visions! Harems, Turkish Delight, dusky maidens, etc.

After Summer Camp—no, I'll not say it again, I met up with **Lt Col L. E. Blanc-Smith** who was to be my leader for the three weeks in Iran.

I was told there was no chance of a recce but would have to be prepared to cover anything from park concerts to Tattoos held in Olympic stadiums. There would be PA systems in some locations which I could use but no guarantee as to what the sound reproduction would be like. In conversation, nasty things like, travel 1,000 miles in a day, one hour set-up time and 20-hour days, were casually mentioned. I do not know what sin young **Sig Ian Dyer** was guilty of but he was volunteered to accompany me. Did he also speak to the Brigadier?

Our rehearsals—which took place at South Cerney—were very successful, so on October 11, 1977, we set off on our tour, full of the joys of spring.

We arrived in Iran. Iran. What does one say? I think, to put it in a nutshell, an experience of a lifetime never to be forgotten. Social life was impossible for the majority of the time due to the tight schedule we ran. Food was a problem; prepared by local 'chefs'! I think I spent more time in the toilets than I did at work. I suffered; you name it, I caught it.

Work was an experience. Fortunately, the PA systems I came across were good so all we had to do was operate in liaison with an Iranian engineer!

Language was also a problem. We had the use of interpreters which was a help, but how do you translate FEELING, because one did get frustrated at times. I soon learnt that the thumbs-up sign has a totally different meaning to the Iranians. The Iranians I worked with were polite and very patient although their sense of timings and outlook were totally different from mine.

Everywhere we went we were treated as VIPs. One amusing incident was the day I was given a 'General Salute'. I was leading the advance party into a barracks when out came the Guard of Honour and gave me an immaculate General Salute. I debated whether to stop the vehicle and inspect but thought better of it. Obviously, I paid them a return compliment. What visions of grandeur I had. When entering a stadium, whether it be one or all of us, we were given a standing ovation.

The reception after each show was fantastic. Our hosts just could not do enough for us. Our Grand Finale was in front of a 30,000 audience in Tehran, including the Crown Prince with the tour being completed by a football match between Manchester United and Iran. In the words of the British Ambassador who spoke to us before we left for home, 'The Tour was a fantastic success'. I felt very proud to show our Corps cap badge on such an historic occasion.

Having completed my look back at 1977 I purposely kept the names of characters to a minimum, as I think that they deserve more than a passing remark. I have written this report but none of the jobs could have been completed with such success without the close-knit co-operation of the very expert team of which I have the honour to be a member. This small team of men, in my opinion, has done so much for the prestige of our Corps over the year. In conclusion, my thanks to the whole Troop for their support but in particular the following:

Capt Murray The boss, whose ear I tend to bend when things are not going my way.
Mr Hatcher Who guides us when we seem to be losing.
Ssgt Marshall Who keeps the admin machine ticking over and ensures that we are left alone to get on with the work.
Sig Walker Whose enthusiasm for the job has to be seen to be believed.
Sig Dyer Without whose help and understanding in Iran I could not have survived.
Our MT Who ensured we get 'wheels'. Never mind the engines as long as it moves.
Mr Bird Last but not least we come to our civilian continuity man, **Mr Cliff Bird. Cliff** has been with the team since 1970. His knowledge and experience is considerable and he is a highly valued member of the team. His loyalty to the team is unquestionable and when we reminisce about the jobs we have done I always come back to when we were setting up for one job where the subscriber kept on coming and expressing his doubts about our equipment and our capabilities until **Cliff** politely mentioned that if our PA was good enough for HM The Queen and family to use it should be good enough for him. We had no further interference.

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

IDEA IS BORN

OUTSIDERS would be excused for thinking that it is madness for a Regiment to attempt to put on a full-scale Tattoo. We, the insiders, know that that is a fair definition but the secret is that it's enjoyable madness.

Those of you who have run down a steep hill will know that there is a time when gravity takes over and there is no way of stopping. It was like that with the Tattoo. It started with the offer of the White Helmets in May to put on a show during their stay with the Regiment on their BAOR tour in October, prior to the Berlin Tattoo appearances. Ah ha! Thought we, in a year when we are flat out on fund-raising activities for a new swimming pool, this could be a chance to expand into a little money-making show—we could put on something like an 'It's a Knock-out' show —perhaps the Corps Band will be available, warming up for the Berlin Tattoo like the White Helmets—maybe we could get a little outside help from the Germans or Dutch or both? The idea of a mini-tattoo was born.

The concept into reality

When would we have it? October 3 was fixed by the White Helmets' visit but that's a Monday. We'll hold it at night. We'll need lighting then (sorry about the statement of the obvious). Where will we get that from? The Sappers and, in particular, the Corps Lighting Troop from 7 Sig Regt—provisional agreement was obtained.

Next question was where will we have it? Well, the square seemed suitable but spectator facilities weren't good and during the investigation to cure this deficiency another couple of ideas were born. The investigation took place during a walk between inspection points during a routine CO's inspection. In this case the 2IC was standing in for the CO.

2IC — 'Staff' (to **Ssgt Boyle** (RE), our PSA representative), 'How would you like to build a castle wall at that end of the square' (vague hand wave towards cookhouse), 'and build stand seating around the other three sides?'
SSGT BOYLE — 'Sir' (readers will understand the variety of intelligence and meaning to this answer).
2IC — 'Yes, we're going to have a Tattoo in October.'
SSGT BOYLE — (Paler now, but assuming logically that this is merely a humorous conversation). 'And I suppose you'll be wanting a musical ride of PSA bicycles in the show, Sir?'
2IC — 'That's a good idea' (meaning it).
RSM — 'In Osnabruck there used to be Castle Walls which are used for Massed Bands' performances.'
2IC — 'Find out if they're still available.'
RSM — 'Sir' (again).

And so the idea developed. Form a PSA bicycle team and get the Osnabruck Castle Walls. Other ideas formed.

The Corps Band was not available but, after a little telephoning round BAOR, the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots and the Military Band of the Cheshire Regt were.

International participation

Rugby memories of Fijian singing produced the idea of a Fijian song and dance turn and, using **Cpl Joe Cagilaba** from nearby 21 Sig Regt as a contact, a troupe was formed.

The thought of producing a Regimental drill team we discarded quickly because of the practice involved but this led to thoughts of a US drill team. As we had **CWO2 John Patton,** of the US Army, as a means of liaison, this made good sense. He offered contacts for two teams, the Heidelberg USAREUR team and the Berlin US Brigade team. We boobed a bit here by booking both in our enthusiasm and had to decline regrettably the use of the Berlin team.

The Regimental cocktail party and a conversation with a Bundeswehr guest from the Raketen Schule der Artillerie, **Obersleutnant Sommer,** created the idea of an act by that unit.

Meanwhile, the Regiment was creating its own little ideas at a prolific rate. **Ssgt Bandy,** one of our Dutch-speakers, had family contacts with the Roermond Post and Telegraph Band who are the Dutch National Champions. He made contact and we engaged them for pre-performance and interval music.

Lcpl Campbell, one of our PTIs, suggested a small trampoline and floor gymnastic show and after a short demonstration was given the go-ahead. In 24 hours he had formed an act with gymnasts from the Cheshire Regt in Minden, APTC in Antwerp, RAF Police at Wildenrath, and **Lcpl King** and himself from this Regiment. He played the part of Freddie the Clown, and also appeared in the PSA bicycling act.

Ssgt Janaway suggested a five-minute display of model aeroplane flying and that was in.

One of the archers thought we should have a quick demonstration of archery since we were the champions of BAOR. That sounded good with archers like **Cpl Rettallick** and **Ssgt Jones** about.

To join this miscellany of small acts we created a little fairy tale of Birgelen and produced two characters. Willy the Wurst, alias **Ssgt McDermott,** and the Red Butcher, alias **Ssgt Garner.** Willy the Wurst, a very friendly sausage, was threatened by the evil Red Butcher who wished to destroy him but who fortunately was easily distracted by other activities, e.g. gymnastics, bicycling, model aeroplane flying, etc. However, despite these distractions the Red Butcher was about to succeed when the PSA bicyclists, this time armed with lances, made a second appearance and channelled the Red Butcher towards a helicopter, piloted by **Sgt Green** (late of Royal Signals) now Army Air Corps, who landed and disappeared again with captive butcher less than 30 seconds later. The show was embellished by an explosives expert ATO from Bracht who enhanced the archers' performance with some powerful bangs.

There still remained the problem of Public Address but 16 Sig Regt were available with their excellent public address system under the skilled hands of **Sgt Cooper** (Royal Signals). Given the system, what about commentary? Was it to be English only

or trilingual? In the end we compromised with bilingual, with the 2IC doing the commentary in English and **Obersleutnant Sommer** once again helping out by giving his services as the German commentator.

The work begins

That was the concept complete. Then the work started. **Capt Burwell,** our Assistant Adjutant, was publicity queen and got on with poster production, ticket selling, programme printing and advertising. **Lt Taylor** was our artist for the posters and programme front. The RSM, **WO1 Jones,** became arena manager, and **Sgt Cooper** (RPC), the Provost Sergeant, got the building of the stands under way.

Ssgt Garner quickly became the Castle construction expert. There was a regrettable withdrawal by the Corps Lighting Troop because of a change in exercise schedule but they lent us an expert in **Sgt Kaye** who welded a team of Sappers from 2 Fd Sp Sqn of Iserlohn into a very professional lighting team although they had never done a show before. **F of S Turner** provided our technical expertise. The show was extended into a two-night performance because it seemed a waste of effort to do it all for just one night. The CO hovered gently overall showing admirable restraint and excellent illustration of the management by exception principle despite a strong desire to get to grips with the task.

Splendid first night

Fingers were crossed on the first night. The weather which had been very suitable for three weeks had suddenly become colder. The acts were being strung together for the first time and, therefore, timings were unknown. Despite this, changeovers went smoothly and a splendidly varied show went on in front of an audience of over a thousand. The Salute was taken by **Brig Moore,** Commander Rhine Area.

On the day between performances, informal competitions were held between the performers on the 10-seat bicycle used in the PSA bicyclists act. It is not an easy machine to ride and requires a fair amount of practice. At least that was what we thought, but the White Helmets made it look ridiculously easy by going off first time. The US Army, Royal Scots and Cheshire Regt didn't find it quite as easy but eventually achieved success.

Rain mars second performance

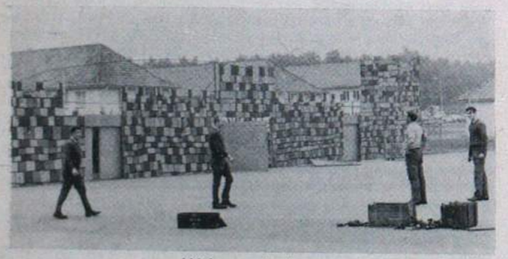
The second night was much more cruel. Torrential rain poured down shortly after the Fijian troupe did their war dance and the Royal Scots Pipes and Drums got the brunt of it but their music was perfect. The USAREUR drill team, too, must have been badly hampered by the terrible condition but it was not noticeable. The White Helmets gave an immaculate display as usual. Behind the castle walls the door controller, **WO1 Jones,** was doing sterling stuff administering cherry brandy or whisky to performers waiting to go on.

The Salute was taken by **Brig Popham,** BGS Intelligence HQ, BAOR, and afterwards there was a party for the 300 performers involved and the working organisation of nearly 100. A good time was had by all.

—AND IN PICTURES

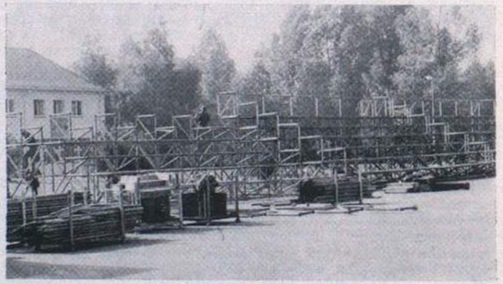
The first truck arrives

It must go somewhere here

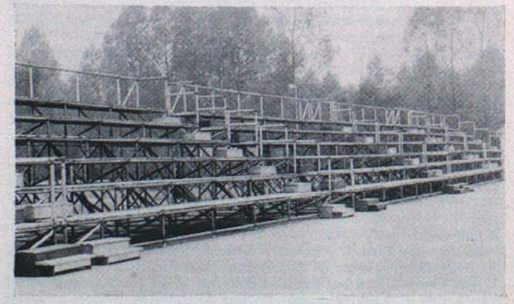


We're nearly there

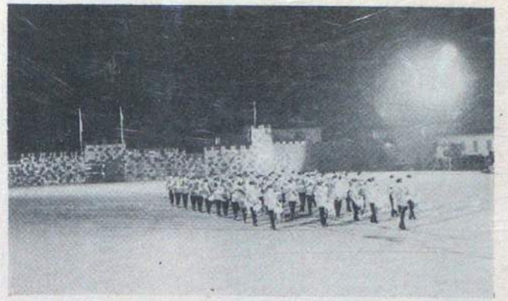
Meanwhile, at the other end of the square



We're nearly there (again)



How about that?



The Cheshires

The PSA Bicyclists

The Royal Scots Pipes and Drums

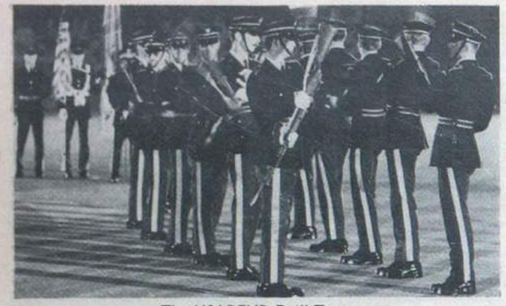
The White Helmets ready for the off. Easy!

A Fijian Hula by Mrs Masevale (wife of Sgt Masevale)

White Helmets ready for the off—again

The Red Butcher and Willy the Wurst

The White Helmets' Fire Jump



The USAREUR Drill Team

Photo courtesy: PR HQ BAOR

A poignant end as Fijian Lei is placed over the head of Lt Col Pickard, the CO (with begarlanded Brig Pipham in the background)

Hectic, exhausting, and worthwhile

The Tattoo will make a profit which as yet we cannot quantify because all costs have not been settled at the time of writing. The profit will be divided between international charities nominated by the US Army, The Bundeswehr, the local Dutch town of Roermond, the Silver Jubilee Fund, and 13 Sig Regt Welfare Fund.

And so it is all over. The Regiment, operating on a shoe-string, had put on a large and quite spectacular show. It was a hectic, exhausting, but very enjoyable exercise. The CO was enthusiastic, 'We must have another Tattoo', said he, 'in about three years' time'!

3 SQUADRON REPORT

Since the Squadron's last appearance in the Corps magazine, the unit has recently undergone the traumatic 'hot seat—winds of change' (excuse the pun) with the arrival of **Maj Ray Windmill,** his wife and family, we hope that they will enjoy their stay in Berlin.

NEW BERET

Unlike so many Signal Squadrons who have few attached personnel, 3 Sqn is liberally sprinkled throughout with many different badges, this fact was highlighted recently with the issue of the green beret to the Intelligence Corps members. This was vividly apparent when a whole batch of lawns suddenly started walking round at heights varying between 5ft 6in and 6ft 4in.

A most welcome visitor to the Squadron was the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** who was asked by a junior member of the unit if there were any plans in the pipeline for the issue of a tricoloured beret in the Corps colours to combat the sudden 'sprouting'. The CSO offered condolences but replied in the negative.

COMMANDER INSPECTS

Our most recent achievements must be the dedication in all departments as preparations for the annual FFR got under way. Although we occupy part of the only hill in Berlin, some figures

The Officer Commanding 3 Sqn escorting the Field Force Commander and his wife from the 33 Club after the 'Pub Lunch'
Left to right: Brig C. R. Grey, Maj R. L. Windmill, Mrs A. Grey

were often seen floating round at about 'Angels ten' definitely trying to emulate our resident 7 Flight Army Air Corps.

The big day finally arrived and our inspecting officer, the Berlin Field Force Commander, **Brig C. R. Grey** was shown life, including zeroing with SLRs on the range. This inspection was terminated by one of our now almost legendary 'Pub lunches', which was held in the 33 Club (a facility we share with 3 Int and Sy Coy). The photographs speak for themselves, we all had a most enjoyable time.

Brig C. R. Grey, Commander Berlin Field Force, talking to Squadron wives and members
Left to right: Mrs Kathleen Clark (*slightly off camera*), Mrs Olivia Ferguson, Mrs Lyn Emery, Brig C. R. Grey, W/Lcpl Sheila Dibben, Mrs Marie and Miss Jennifer Hammond

STRAIGHT SHOOTING

Congratulations were extended to **Ssgt Pete Westwell** and **Sgt Tom McCulloch** on their result in the Berlin Field Force Minor Units tackle skill-at-arms shoot with the 9mm pistol. Their scores now go forward to BAOR and possibly beyond, where, it is hoped, the Squadron will fare well. The ·22 rifle team are also keeping fingers crossed in the hope to better last season's achievement of runners-up in the Field Force Minor Units Trophy small-bore shoot.

Ssgt John Clark, BSAC Club Instructor Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor, France Expedition

SUB-AQUA

A lot of emphasis is placed on individuals taking part in many sports, and this is particularly true in a small Suqadron. However, within the Suqadron we are very lucky indeed to have many members taking part in what can only be described as an individual sport. The sport is sub-aqua, and we have two very highly-qualified divers. They are **Ssgt John Clark,** who is a BSAC Club Instructor and Joint Services Supervisor. **John** is also the Diving Officer for the Berlin Sub-Aqua Club; **Ssgt Bill Cooper,** who is a second-class diver and Joint Services Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor. Other keen members include **Capt David Rawlings** (novice diver) and, until recently, the secretary for the Berlin Club, even the old OC, **Maj David Mitchell,** was treasurer until his recent posting. Our divers try and get in at least one expeditionary change every year from the dark and often bitterly cold waters of the Havel in Berlin, where one can find everything from crashed aircraft to old tyres! For the last two years the Berlin Sub-Aqua Club has visited France. The first time to the south of France and this year to Brittany. Next year they are already talking of a venue in Elba. Our photograph shows **John Clark** 'happy—it would appear' in his aqueous element.

Photo courtesy: Karl Tietz, PR Berlin

WO1 Tom Lackenby receives a £25 voucher from Brig Charles Grey, Commander of Berlin Field Force, as first prize in the Berlin Garrison's window box competition. Tom's outstanding display can be seen behind them

CONGRATULATIONS

Sgt Tom McCulloch is to be congratulated for the second time in this magazine on his win in the Berlin Minor Unit men's singles plate tennis tournament.

Another victory of a slightly different nature than sport has also been added to the Squadron's list. The prize this time was a £25 voucher for the owner of the best floral display in the Garrison Window Box Competition. As this is Jubilee year, **WO2 Tom Lackenby** decided on a display which naturally incorporated the the colours red, white, and blue. This he achieved by a very tasteful mixture of asylum, geranium, perlargoniums, lobelia, verbina, petunia, and asters. **Tom** was presented with his prize for the best entry by the Berlin Field Force Commander, **Brig C. R. Grey.**

'OH WHAT A DAY IT WAS'

IT always seems that when it comes round to my turn to write these notes that the previous month is devoid of exciting 'happenings'. I truthfully cannot claim this to be the case this time but certainly the month was dominated by one day, November 24. That was the day of, firstly, the ARU and, secondly, the hand-over of RSMs. The ARU caused some disruption in the Regiment and perhaps the odd heartache or two as well. **Brig J. C. Moore,** Commander Rhine Area, was the inspecting officer, and he made it clear prior to the big day that the Regiment was to be tested rather in the vein of the old FFR. Indeed, all members of the Regiment were to stand to in defensive positions. Nearly all were required to complete the BFT run and additionally perform five half-hour long military tests (NBC, First Aid, Weapon Training, Map-reading, and the BAOR 'Tick Test' for drivers). With the prospect of such tests to come, it was considered prudent that some revision of the appropriate subjects was carried out in the Regiment. Extra military training was thus the order of the month.

The big day came and, true to form, it started fine with large black clouds looming menancingly in the background. The Brigadier was escorted around the camp inspecting those in the defensive sangars. These have recently sprung up out of the ground like giant mushrooms. **Cpl Scott** tested the sense of humour of the inspecting party by having an arrow sticking out of the sandbags behind which he was crouching. I have yet to be told who passed and who failed the test!

This part of the day over, the other more strenuous side began and so throughout the day, squad after squad completed each test or fitness run. It was my intention to accompany this article with photographs but regrettably there was no one left to take them. The end of the day came and the Brigadier wished to address the Regiment to tell us how we had fared. We had achieved the Brigadier's required standard, which was a relief, as rumours (since substantiated) had spread that other units in the area had been required to repeat all or part of the process. We heaved great sighs and a large number of the Officers and Seniors of the Regiment retired to the Sergeants Mess, which neatly brings me on to the next part of this article.

NO MOOR GROUSING—PERHAPS

WO1 (RSM) Tony Jones will certainly be remembered in the Regiment. In particular I believe his mark (or epitaph) will be Golf and Grouse. Dealing with the sporting aspect first (perhaps they both could be classed as sports), it's not that he was so much a low-handicap player, or a stylist but more that his game included much of what is fascinating about the pastime. I recall the following recourse of action adopted by the ex-RSM in an attempt to break '100'. Firstly, putting whilst bent double, hand one inch above the blade, feet facing the hole. The putting didn't improve but his backache got worse. Then the no back-swing phase, where he lined up his shot, the club then flew directly above the head, a swish (as per fly swatting) and the ball again shot into the rough as with the previously-used conventional stroke. However, in all the phases and through all the frustrations **Tony's** sense of humour rarely failed him and, of course, he always had plenty of fellow golfers eager to play a round with (or against) him.

Which particular Grouse do I refer to? The one taken with two fingers of water! This was **Tony's** favourite drink. On the evening of the 24th he was presented with a statue of the famous bird filled with whisky. This being consumed, the story goes that he was given the option of drinking two more bottles or a swim in our outdoor pool (remember November 24). He chose, or was persuaded, to take the latter course of action which, I suspect, had a somewhat sobering effect.

Tony Jones holding his newest ornament—at this stage still full of whisky

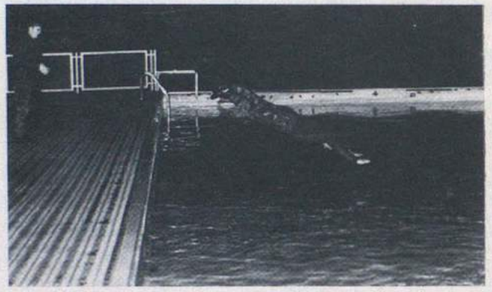
From all of us in the Regiment we wish **Tony** and his charming wife, **Margaret,** a very happy future and enjoyable tour in 4 Div Sig Regt.

FAREWELL VISIT OF SO in C

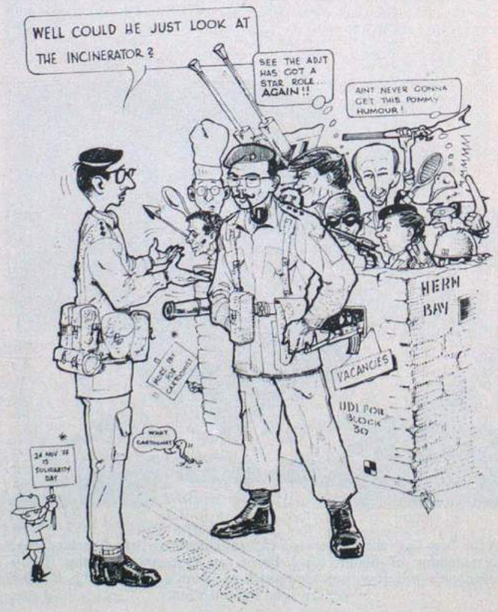
We have, over the past month, been honoured with a visit by **Maj Gen Tighe** to both the Regiment and 3 Sqn in Berlin. We were able to personally wish him well for his future, whilst all members of the Regiment enjoyed his visits to us.

SO in C's Farewell visit to 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt
The picture shows Maj Ray Windmill saying farewell to the SO in C. In the background is WO2 (SSM) Dougie Edmund

THE VIEW FROM THIRTEEN - NOVEMBER 77



RSM Tony Jones dives into the freezing cold pool



14 Sig Regt (EW) B.F.P.O. 102

THE MANAGEMENT

CO	—	**Lt Col I. O. J. Sprackling, OBE**
2IC	—	**Maj A. R. Bushell**
Adjt	—	**Capt C. P. P. Barnes**
RSM	—	**WO1 P. D. Robinson**
OC 1 Sqn	—	**Maj M. W. J. Clowser** (Int Corps)
OC 2 Sqn	—	**Maj C. E. Byrom**
OC HQ Sqn	—	**Maj G. A. Maude**
ORQMS	—	**WO2 I. L. Dudding**

ROUND AND ABOUT

ONE of the rumours currently circulating is that RHQ may remain in its present location for Christmas. For although the Regiment remains split in three locations awaiting the eventual Regimental barracks we have not remained static. Comms Troop moved from Langeleben into the cellar below RHQ at Hildesheim, and subsequently into a disused pig sty. After Exercise Autumn Sales RHQ moved into the Block vacated by the disbanding 1 Arty Bde, while HQ Sqn moved into the old RHQ. As 1 Arty Bde Sig Sqn move out of the accommodation below RHQ, HQ Sqn are moving in there, starting another round of musical telephones. Planning is now under way to move us into a temporary Regimental barracks in Celle some time in the spring.

Some of the temporary accommodation occupied presents its own problems. While moving their stores into the cellars, mentioned above, it became apparent to Comms Troop that the main qualification required for storeman was a height of 4ft 6in. **Cpl Don Blacklaw,** at 6ft 4in, had to bow out to **Cpl Al Brown** who finally managed to organise the stores literally into nooks and crannies.

Despite the continual reshuffling of accommodation, the Regiment has been heavily committed to various exercises. On September 28–29 a war game was played at Langeleben as a prelude to the main October exercise, due to start with a surprise call-out in early October. As predicted by the pundits, Exercise Regal Humour started on October 2 with a move to hide locations by night. Subsequent activity gained the Commanding Officer something of a reputation as an insomniac. The exercise ended a week later on the Luxembourg border, coincidentally the start point for the Corps CPX Autumn Sales which then followed.

VISIT BY SO in C

On October 27, the Regiment, just back in barracks, was visited by the SO in C, **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE.** During his visit **Gen Tighe** spoke to the assembled officers and SNCOs in the WOs and Sergeants Mess at Langeleben, and presented LS and GC medals to **WO2 (SSM) Boag, Sgt Parry,** and **Cpl Rod Fraser.** The medals were duly christened later in their respective Messes. **SSM Neillings** distinguished himself by trying to hasten the SO in C's departure from the Mess, in accordance with the programme, to be met with the cry 'I've been thrown out of better places than this'.

We are pleased to include in these notes a piece of internal recruiting. **Paul Lightfoot,** son of **Capt C. N. Lightfoot,** from 1 Sqn, was recently attested and welcomed into the Corps by the Commanding Officer. **Paul** is destined for the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, as an Apprentice Telegraphist. We wish him well in his chosen career.

SPORTS ROUND UP

On the sporting front our efforts continue in spite of the difficulties of getting team members together from Hildesheim, Langeleben, and Wesendorf. In soccer we are making good progress in the Army Cup, having reached the fourth round by beating 25 Fd Regt RA 3—2 and 14/20 Hussars 2—1. Orienteering is also showing promise with our 'A' team currently heading the 1 Div League. 2 Sqn has also embarked on a gruelling sports programme. The Squadron soccer team, led by **Sgt Kirk,** lies second in the 1 Div Minor Units League despite having to call once on the playing services of **Capt B. C. P. Higson** who then found himself locked in the changing room for the first 15 minutes of the match. Meanwhile, the summer tennis tournament continues. On foggy, winter days the few remaining participants can be seen peering through the mist and splashing across the court in most un-Wimbledon fashion.

AU REVOIR

Finally, we take the opportunity to wish luck to **Capt P. W. Welch** and his wife, **Wendy,** who have left us to go to 13 Sig Regt; and the same to **RQMS O'Brien** and **Ssgt Robertson** who are both leaving the Army.

Left to right: Cpl (Mick) Davies, Lcpl (Steve) Jones, Sig (Al) Holden, Sig (John) Doan
'Smooth, cool and keen we are the RRB boys'

WO2 (Bob) Hartley (Royal Australian Signals). 'OK Blue where is the war?'

WO1 (George) Lile. 'Ready to go when you are—note blue flag!'

Lt Col Ian Sprackling welcoming Paul, son of Capt Terry Lightfoot, into the Corps

16 Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 35

OCTOBER DIARY

A NUMBER of events occurred this month and they are best documented in the form of a diary.

October 10
The Regiment were treated to an impromptu show by the White Helmets who were accommodated by us during most of their show tour in Rhine Area. On the previous Saturday they had performed at our sister Regiment's (28 Sig Regt) Freedom of St Tonis celebrations.

October 13
Regimental Dinner Night at which a number of officers were dined out. One of those officers, **Maj Ian Stevenson** (RE), was leaving the Army and this was his last Dinner Night in Service and he took the opportunity to present the Mess with a quaich suitably inscribed. This present was particularly appropriate as **Ian** is very much a Scotsman.

October 20–22
KATS put on yet another excellent play, this time the comedy 'Sailor Beware' by **Philip King** and **Falkland Gary.** All the members of the cast performed extremely well and the comedy came over very strongly indeed. Space does not permit a full description of the play, nor plaudits for the entire cast but **Mrs Carol Davey** in the main role performed faultlessly during every performance. To mention only one other, **Lt Sue Rollo,** in the role of a down-trodden yet kind-hearted elderly lady was

similarly expert in her interpretation of the character. The photograph shows **SSM Geoff Northey** and **Lt Sue Rollo** (not in costume) at a rehearsal of part of the play; **SSM Northey** played the sailor.

October 21
The SO in C visited the Regiment for the afternoon only, during which time he visited a couple of patrols of 5 Sqn training at Hülserbruch; later presenting the LS and GC to **Cpl John Brine** and to **Cpl Pete Hopkins.** He ended his visit by taking tea in the Corporals Mess. The photograph shows the SO in C inspecting the Quarterguard outside RHQ on his arrival.

The SO in C, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, CB, MBE, inspecting *(from the right)* Sig Shutt, Sig Carr, Cpl Ferris, Lcpl Brittan, and the Guard Commander, Sgt Fox. Also on parade but out of picture, Lcpl Sloggett, Lcpl Heenan

October 23—Netball
For those readers not aware about our pursuit of netball, I can inform them that the station fields a netball team called the '7 Ups' which plays in a Rhine Area League. The following is a write-up from the team secretary of their latest exploits on October 18 and 23.

'The Krefield Ladies Netball Club (7 Ups) have started the season very well with both the 'A' and 'B' teams reaching the

Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Angie Syndford, Mrs Sue Harrison, Lt Col K. S. J. Allwright (CO 16 Regt), Sgt Dave Topp *(Coach)*, Cpl Vicky Lewis, Mrs Sue Robinson, Mrs Marie Staines
Front row: Mrs Lyn Coleman, Mrs Jill Steed, Cpl Jenny Thomas, Mrs Sue Hammett, Mrs Jean Booth

finals of their respective tournaments. The 7 Ups 'A' team met Bruggen ladies in their final at RAF Bruggen, and although they fought very hard, Bruggen just had the edge and came through eventual winners with the score at 19—17.

The following week the 'B' team showed the 'A' team how it should have been done, when they reached the final of their tournament in Krefeld on Sunday, October 23. They played some brilliant netball throughout the day and despite a shaky start in the final against Wegberg ladies, emerged as worthy winners with the score at 17—12. Well done the 'B' team. The photograph shows the 'B' team with their trophies which were presented by the Commanding Officer, 16 Sig Regt.'

October 27—November 4 — Exercise Plain Sailing
The Regiment was deployed on this exercise in a communicating role and also provided a Command Cell for the Headquarters. As usual the communicating went well and after a slow start the Command Cell was able to inject much communicating expertise into the command system for the information of the Staff. At the same time we were picking up experience of new requirements in the field and consolidating our views about well-known requirements for communications.

October 31
The pre-Yeoman of Signals course held in the Regimental lines begins with an address by the Commanding Officer.

November 5
Naturally we celebrated Guy Fawkes' night with a bonfire and firework display. We took this opportunity to entertain our thriving Anglo-German Society to the demonstration and afterwards to a short get-together in our Village Hall.

November 7
HQ Sqn officers and warrant officers pistol shooting practice. Second-in-Command scores 64 out of 72 points. First time he is a marksman—with a pistol. Well done!

November 10—Rugby
First round of the Army Cup. We played 26 Amphib Eng Regt and won 7 points to 0 (try and penalty).

Forthcoming events
Our very active Sub-Aqua Club departed for Gibraltar on Exercise Rock Dive I on November 17 for two weeks. Nine members of the Regiment are involved and they will provide a report on what promises to be an interesting experience for the next edition of THE WIRE.

WO2 (Y of S) Altham receiving his BEM from His Excellency the British Ambassador in Bonn

FITNESS TRAINING

AFTER our all-out effort in the late summer endeavouring to qualify every person on strength up to BFT standard, the lull has been filled by the November meeting of the Wives Club which concentrated on Keep Fit. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Those brave ones who completed all the exercises suffered in two ways, firstly the comments of those sitting on the sidelines having fallen out and secondly, the stiffness in their muscles which lasted for the following week. The point, therefore, has been made that we can all do a little extra to keep ourselves in trim.

ST MARTIN'S PARADE

The middle weeks of November in the Krefeld area is the time for celebrating the St Martin's Day. There is no particular day for parading and different areas of the City celebrate in their own way. Basically, St Martin, on a white horse and with a large voluminous cloak meets on his travels a beggar who is without clothes and, in the traditional way, shares his food and his cloak with the beggar. These acts are symbolised by the cutting of his cloak into two, by the distribution of bags of food, mainly sweets and fruit, to the children parading, and a small bonfire. For this act of sharing, Martin was canonised. The Regiment were particularly concerned with two such celebrations, the first in the form of the Scout and Cub Scout groups sponsored by the Regiment.

Thurday, November 10—80 members of the 1st Krefeld Scout Group enbus for nearby Stadt Kempen to join approximately 5,000 other boys and girls on their St Martin's Day evening procession. On arrival at Kempen the boys were placed second in line which deemed to be a place of honour in the procession. Amidst the sound of drums and trumpets with lanterns lit they sang their way through the streets of Kempen. At the half-way point (to allow the young ones to rest) the parade halted, at which time a superb display of fireworks was shown. When the end was finally reached all boys who took part received a gift of goodies from St Martin, who was leading the procession. The Scouters who attended enjoyed themselves as much as the boys. Thanks must go to all who assisted in making the Group's visit possible, especially the Headmasters of the schools, the staff of the Regimental Restaurant (for an excellent meal), **Mrs Prof Muelbauer** who did interpretation and liaison for us. A mention must be given to the boys for the hard work they put in by making the fine lanterns used on the parade.

The one for which the Regimental Barracks was used was for our immediate area and approximately two-and-a-half thousand paraders with their lanterns trooped through the premises and celebrated the act of sharing on the square. This one occurred on November 18.

November 18
On this day the officers dined out **Capt Peter Hallett** to Minden, **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** to Aldershot and **Lt Frances Canham** to Catterick. On this occasion each responded to the CO's words on their progress through the Regiment. All were amusing but **Miss Canham's** 'speech' was particularly apt as was her presentation—'The Lost Chord'; and this was a telephone cord from the old Bielefeld exchange which has now been replaced by a cordless variety.

November 22
This evening the new exchange at Bielefeld was opened, although the formal opening of it did not take place until December 7. We await the reaction of the subscribers using this exchange to discover its advances over the old-style board.

November 23
Twenty-one members of the Music Appreciation Society, lately formed by **Maj Vince Collins** (RAEC), went to see 'Hansel and Gretel'. This is the third of such ventures into the Krefeld Theatre and each succeeding date attracts greater numbers of followers. This can only bolster our links with the City and further our aims of the Anglo-German Society—although the two are not yet formally connected.

THE WIRE . . .
WITHOUT IT
YOU'RE NOT WITH IT!

Guild of St Helenas Fair
RSM Bob Vale: 'I know it's for a good cause but that's ridiculous'. Mrs Brenda Barden (*right*) (a GOSH agent): 10 Marks, love! Take it or leave it!

November 26
The local Guild of St Helena branch held a Christmas Fair in in the gymnasium and although many others contributed in hard work and industry to the day, mention must be made of **Mrs Marlene Slegg** as the guiding light for GOSH in sponsoring and organising the Fair. In hard cash terms the profit from this venture was well over DM5,000. Well done, GOSH.

CSO's Dinner Dance
A new venue was chosen for this event on November 30 with 21 Sig Regt negotiating the premises of RAF Wildenrath Officers Mess for the annual CSO's dance. It was a well-organised gathering to which the Regimental officers went in some strength (26 including wives) in our new Regimental bus. The bus was suitably decorated by the MTO's staff, and music courtesy of 'M' Troop plus a hot punch (in a Baby Burco boiler!) served by Father Christmas. Naturally, we arrived the best primed Regimental group and probably the largest, taking up some two-and-a half tables. The evening was very successful and served the purpose of bringing old friends together in BAOR, if no other.

December 3
The third party in the formal programme and this was 5 Sqn Christmas Dance. 5 Sqn are formed as a Prison Guard Force and will be absent from BAOR after December 16. They have virtually completed their training and are in fine spirit for the move off. We all wish them safe and well.

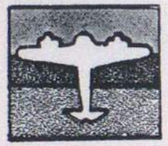
December 6
The Regimental Smoker was held this evening in the gymnasium and this coincided with the visit of OIC Records, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE.** The Show producer, **Ssgt Ray Jones,** had a difficult task in co-ordinating the rehearsals for this and, in fact, the dress rehearsal was entirely disrupted by a practice alert. His instructions were to limit the show to 1½ hours; in fact, it ran over by a mere 90 minutes. However, the content was good enough throughout the marathon to keep almost everybody in their seats to see just what would happen next. I cannot single out any particular act, as each in its own way was evidence of the amount of work put in by the casts but with regard to the compere, **Ssgt Jones,** his linking was extremely good, almost professional.

December 7
The Wives Club Christmas Dinner was held in the Village Hall, the event being presided over by **Mrs Valerie Allwright,** and 99 ladies sat down for what was an extremely good meal and very well served by a large number of volunteer Sergeants and Officers. A small cabaret had been arranged but it was evident that the ladies preferred to chat amongst themselves rather than be entertained. However, **WO2 Geoff Northey** mimed to a John (Are You Being Served—TV series) Inman record and had everyone in stitches. He clearly has grease paint in his blood after his successes in the previous KATS production and last month's Regimental Smoker. Overall, the evening was a great success—my wife did not get home until a quarter to twelve.

December 9
Although we have dined out **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** a last mention of her time spent at RAF Laarbruch will not be out of place. She consistently spent weekends and Tuesday evenings at the Flying Club at RAF Laarbruch, and in her time in the Regiment has qualified for her private pilot's licence which achievement is good evidence of her industry—I will mention nothing of the Red Baron. The following contribution tells its own story.

TRIBUTE TO A FLYER

Start time 0900, *Sunday December* 4, 1977. Out of the mist and haze sneaked a Ford Capri, passengers one male, one female. A quick ID check at the gates of RAF Laarbruch, 'Straight on, Sir, they are waiting for you'. A smart salute and the car rolled on, aircraft warming up on the runway, pilot already aboard, a quick handshake from **Sqn Ldr Peter (The Red Baron) Gooding** (RAF), 'Good luck, who's first?'; a female form approached and boarded the aircraft, quick take off, much smoking from those on the ground, was this a secret mission to drop agents in the East! Twenty-five minutes later, aircraft approaches flare path, safe touch down, female disembarks, male embarks, ten minutes later mission completed, passengers and pilot enter lounge, smiles and back-slapping all round 'Mission now completed', states pilot and makes entry into Log Book. First solo flight by **Lt Rosemary Hewlett** (WRAC), passengers **Karen Bresloff** and **Capt Steve Bresloff,** all of 16 Sig Regt. Well done, **Rosemary,** now the proud holder of a private pilot's licence; nice to see what you can achieve in a year, 'thanks for the ride'.



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

3 SQUADRON MANAGEMENT

THIS month we should like to highlight the lads of 3 Sqn. They are the only traditional 'air formators' in the Regiment—the Original 'Hairies'?

OC 3 Sqn	—	**Maj Ivor Amos**
2IC	—	**Capt John Markham**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) Ray Drew**
SQMS	—	**Ssgt John Sells**
OC 'H' Troop	—	**Lt Colin Markie**
OC 'K' Troop	—	**Capt John Thewlis**
OC 'L' Troop	—	**Capt John Worrall**
OC 'N' Troop	—	**Capt Reg Heath**
OC 'S' Troop	—	**Capt Roy Lund**

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

There is no basis in the rumour that **Tanya** commands the Squadron.

What do most readers of this journal know of airfield communications? We think that just as most would be hard-pressed to identify our four basic aircraft types even fewer could recognise our basic equipment. However, airfield communications are alive and kicking as never before. Keeping four active bases up to the standards required by RAF technology means many changes compared with even five years ago. Achieving this with fewer tradesmen than ever before shows impressive improvements in productivity which could justify the whole Corps being treated as a special case in the next round of Government pay talks!

Our basic item is the Key and Lamp Unit (KLU—shown in the photograph). Hundreds of these concentrators are used to provide for the many one to one and omnibus requirements of operations staff. Over a hundred circuits are readily available to a number of desks. Intercom keyboards and telebrief requirements which include terminals in aircraft cockpits add complexity and challenge to our work as well as headaches for our technicians.

Five different types of telephone exchange, rather more 30-channel PCM systems and several CAE telegraph repeater systems add further variety to a selection of more well-known Army equipment which we also use. It is cable, of course, which provides most of our facilities. A total of 650km which comprise over 1,300 cables which include 44,000 pairs are involved.

DIGINET (or DIGIHOLE)

One of this month's panics is called Diginet, entailing the burial of 2·5km of cable. Due to various delays which seem to be the fault of nobody—according to the PSA, FBAs and staff—our cable was late being delivered but the system was still needed for Santa Claus to use in his message to the RAF. Therefore the need was for an instant trench. We called on our friends to help, and men came from the other Squadrons and some from our good friends (so far) in 16 Sig Regt. These instant Telemechs set to work with a will and the trench was dug.

Some relief was expressed during the dig for a failure from the Second World War. This was an unexploded 2-kg bomb which was exposed. The work was stopped for four hours while a disposal team detonated it with spectacular results. Our two photographs show some of the diggers with the bomb followed by the (controlled?) explosion. We should like to thank our friendly trench diggers from 16 Sig Regt and the other Squadrons and confirm that the enterprise went like a bomb!

GOODBYE FOD '

This month we say goodbye to **Sig 'FOD' Pluskota.** After three years and hundreds of cable joints, **Pluskota** is off to the sunny climes of Cyprus. **FOD,** as he was affectionately called, hails from Bradford and, as a member of the cable-jointing section, was always at the forefront of any hole in the ground with his jointing test, whatever the weather—usually snow or heavy frost.

VISITORS

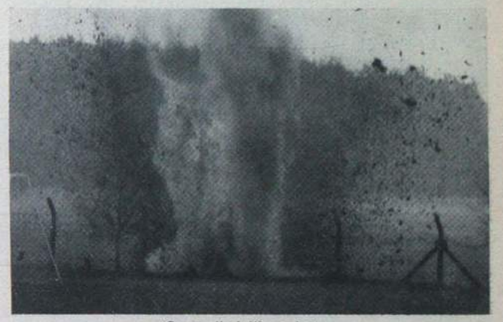
The Regiment had its share of visitors during the month. First off was **Col P. S. Davies** from AG11, and many of the officers took the chance to try and convince him of their need for a place in the sun. He was followed by **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** CSO BAOR, for our ARU, who kindly presented LS and GC medals in bulk. The recipients being:
WO2 (RQMS) Joe Chambers, WO2 Gordon Kemp, (RE), **Ssgt Bob Cross** (RE), **Ssgt Lyndon (Taff) Ricketts, Sgt Tony Tai, Sgt Brian Hulme, Cpl George (Spud) Whitfield, Cpl Dave Bowerbank** (REME) and **Sig Roy Parker.**

To round off the month, **Col J. A. H. K. Findlater, OBE,** OIC Manning, paid a visit to the Regiment on December 8, 1977, when it was the soldiers' turn to convince him of their need for a place in the sun!

STOP PRESS

Sadly, we have to admit that the BAOR Cross-country Cup has changed ownership. Following a hard race at Verden on December 7, a tie on points (105 each) was decided in favour of 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt who had their eight men in before ours. Congratulations to the better team (on the day). We will be looking for a win at Tweseldown in February to prove we have not lost our touch.

'The bomb'
Sig Wright, Sig Jones, Sig Eley, Sig Dolan, Lcpl Copley, Sgt Taylo, Capt Worrall



Controlled (?) explosion

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY JOB VACANCIES?

It may be that some of our readers in civilian life are aware of employment vacancies which could be filled by those leaving the Corps on retirement or those already retired who are seeking employment. It would be greatly appreciated if details could be forwarded to the Association.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

Photo courtesy: RAF Gutersloh

1 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt based at Wildenrath is seen lined up at Gutersloh prior to joining the Harrier force for Exercise Hunt Free. Unfortunately, owing to the height of the hangar and the precarious position of the RAF photographer, to whom we owe our thanks for these pictures, only a half of the Squadron's vehicles are shown.
Left to right: 'G' Troop Commanded by Lt J. H. Richardson, Troop Ssgt: Ssgt Kenny Harlick. 'F' Troop Commanded by Capt D. Conlan. Troop Ssgt: Ssgt 'Gill' France. 'E' Troop Commanded by Lt N. Moore, Troop Ssgt: Ssgt Mick Ambler. *Front:* 2IC: Capt D. Richardson OC: Maj M. Davis

2 'J' Troop of 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, our other Troop based at RAF Gutersloh is also aircraft orientated, namely it supports 18 (Wessex) Sqn RAF, communications wise in its many roles throughout BAOR. The Troop is Commanded by Capt T. Bushell

3 A Harrier landing at its deployment site on Exercise Hunt Free. Communications from these flying sites, both Bruin and radio (net) are provided by 'E' and 'F' Troops of 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt. In many cases a Corporal commands the communications on the sub site where this picture was taken. From 'E' Troop Cpls Terry Males and 'Taff' Thomas, and from 'F' Troop Cpl 'Paddy' Stewart, now with 7 Sig Regt, and Cpl Dave Ship have the responsibility of carrying out this task

4 This shows a dual-seat Harrier taking off from the concrete Eberhart site on Sennelager ranges during Exercise Hunt Free. Members of the Squadron have had flights in this

5 Cpl Steve Fletcher of 'E' Troop. Besides being an accomplished artist, he is a handy man with the hook on his belt and the Widey Hound give his trade away

6 *Left to right:* Ssgt Ian Collins, Sgt Bill Young (RAF Regt), SQMS Keith Johnson outside the ground defence tent at the Forward Wing Operations Centre (FWOC) site during Exercise Hunt Free. The FWOC site (non-flying) is the Harrier Force Headquarters, and the communications to the flying sites and Corps Commcens are provided by 'G' Troop, 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt

Faraway Places . . .
Unusual Jobs
Let's Have That Story!

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

22 Sig Regt, B.F.P.O. 107

INSPECTIONS GALORE

WITH the Regiment's ARU due on December 12 the last weeks have been spent in preparation for the various inspections from medical to mechanical and postal to pyrotechnical. Added to this the various Squadron and departmental Christmas parties are now well under way which only goes to show that it's not 'all work and no play' here in Lippstadt.

OLD KING COLE

The Lippstadt Players recently amused a lot of people with their excellent production of Old King Cole. Cole was played by **WO2 Derek Cheesman** (ACC) whose wife swopped jobs to play his daughter. **Mrs Mary Bonaker** was the gay Queen, whilst her husband, **Maj Hugh Bonaker,** scared all the children as the wicked devil. He even had to reassure some that he wasn't wicked all the time. The shapely Princess Sonatinarina **(Capt Chris Durham)** and Albert The Lord Chamberlain **(Ssgt Bob Mapletoft)** kept everybody amused with their antics.

WIVES CLUB

In November the Wives Club had a demonstration of Christmas cake baking and decorations, kindly organised by **WO2 Derek Cheesman** (ACC) and his cooks, who also provided the ladies with a delicious fish supper. This was followed in December by the Christmas Dinner in the WOs and Sergeants Mess where they were waited on hand and foot by the Warrant Officers of the Regiment. Food is obviously high in the thoughts of the Wives Club members as I hear that they are considering taking lessons in the finer points of cookery under the direction of the ACC.

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FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, October 8, saw the celebration of the first anniversary of the granting to the Regiment of the Freedom of Tonisvorst. Instead of the usual parade, it was decided to hold a less formal affair. The major event of the afternoon was a soccer match between the Regiment and the Stadt. The Regimental team, under the new management of **Capt Bob Hope,** with only half of last season's Army Cup-winning squad, had a very good 2—0 win, with both goals scored by **Sig Andy Edwards.** The Band of The 1st Queens entertained the spectators before and after the match, and during the interval. The highlight of the afternoon was the display by the White Helmets. The driving through the ring of fire was of particular interest as this was performed by two ex-members of the Regiment, **Sigs Colin Young** and **Gary Chalkley.**

Cpl Peter Dignam receiving the winner's trophy from the Bürgermeister of Tönisvorst—Herr Beckers—as the honorary team captain in his last game for the Regiment

RHINE AREA FIRST AID COMPETITION

Knowing full well that the Commander Rhine Area was showing a keen personal interest in the compeition, the Regiment entered two teams this year. The 'A' team consisted of **2 Lt Don Steele, Cpls 'Mash' Calderbank** and **Pat Connelly,** and **Lcpl Pete Ormond;** and the 'B' team: **Sgts Alex Palmer** and **John Nicholson, Cpls 'Rick' Rickard** and **Tony Rae.** Thanks to the vast experience gained by **Cpl 'Mash' Calderbank** as the resident medic on Summer Camp, the 'A' team won the competition with the 'B' team coming a creditable third.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Don Ireland on his marriage to **Lynn Donachie,** daughter of **Lcpl John Donachie.**

Sig and **Mrs Derek Birt** on the birth of a baby boy.

Sig and **Mrs Arnie McCullough** also on the birth of a baby boy.

Those who are laughing all the way to the bank after being selected for redundancy!

DIGGING IN

Not being the warriest of units, it came as a bit of a shock to be told by the CO that Exercise Canary Caper 4/77 was not only to be fully tactical, but horror of horrors, we were to dig defensive positions. This came as an even bigger blow to HQ Sqn when Echelon was ordered to deploy. However, to cut a long story short, we were in luck because the training area was very sandy and the trenches were not too difficult to dig. The CO, **Lt Col Terry Eamey,** decided to have a best trench competition and, despite a valiant effort by the workers of 2 Sqn, the shirkers of HQ Sqn won because they had nothing else to do!

The enemy was provided by the Training Platoon of our German sister Regiment—840 Sig Bn, who duly attacked Echelon on the Wednesday evening. On Thursday, 1 and 2 Sqns, co-located for this exercise, stood-to expectantly but nothing happened. As trigger fingers were itching almost beyond control, the gallant OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Barry Cox,** led a small party off to simulate the enemy. Amidst all the chaos and confusion which ensued, the real enemy also decided to mount an attack. They were somewhat startled to find a marauding band of Brits stumbling through the undergrowth. This band were promptly challenged; the gallant Major ran for his life but his SQMS, **Brian Langford,** was captured. The 'Q' had the last laugh though, as the Germans were so pleased to catch a prisoner that they took him back to their camp and poured vast quantities of beer and Sauerkraut down his throat, sending him back some three hours later hiccupping gently.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Left to right: Mrs Sybil Armstrong, Mrs Sylvia Atkins, Mrs Jenny Nelson

These three ladies, members of the Regimental Wives Club, recently raised DM1,207 (£300) for the charity 'Action in Distress'. Their fund-raising activities included a sponsored no-smoking week, a bottle collection, and sale, and an Anglo-German barbecue night. To all three ladies we say 'Well done'

30 Sig Regt

BLANDFORD CAMP

THE main events in the closing months of 1977 have seen an arduous expedition to Singapore on Exercise Sail Mart, and the AMF(L) Exercise Avon Express.

HQ SQUADRON

Marking the association between the Regiment and the Dyers Company, the CO and **Maj Turney** attended the Swan Dinner held in Clothworkers Hall on October 12.

The Guy Fawkes bonfire and fireworks is customarily organised by the unit Fire Officer; the unfortunate incumbent this year was **Capt Reg (Bonfire) Banham,** who reports:

'Unknown to me, the planning for the bonfire started 10,000 miles away when I was in Hong Kong. It was then that the Regiment was tasked to run the Garrison Bonfire and Fireworks Display, and as I was not there to influence matters I was "volunteered". Another logical argument was that as I was to become the Unit untrained Fire Officer—who better to control the event? July came and off went the order for the fireworks; all PRIs and Messes were very good and provided their share of the cost outlay. Meetings and recces followed and the week leading up to the event dawned. By this time I had completed my master stroke by picking the RSM, **WO1 Robinson,** as my 2IC. With **WO2 Dodson** (IC bonfire), **WO2 Porter** IC goodies), **WO2 Chaloner** (PA and lights organiser), and **WO2 (AQMS) Irwin** (REME) (IC the gunpowder plot), I could not go wrong.

'The bonfire was huge, contributions came from breweries, a school (soiled mattresses), and the PSA (dead elm trees). The fireworks turned up, Training Support Sqn of the School of Signals were ready with the lights, the Pay Office had organised the tickets for the food. Saturday, November 5, was about the wettest day since the Flood (or so it seemed). However, spirits were not dampened (ugh!) and the event proceeded as planned. The publicity campaign verbally conducted by **Lcpl Mathews** ('TM' Troop) appeared to have some effect for one or two people turned up. **Mrs Byng,** wife of the CO, and **Mrs McMillan,** wife of the RSM School Regiment, judged the Guy Competition.

'Although the rain continued, the firework display went rather well. **WO2 Irwin** and his merry band had organised well and their prior preparation was evident. Towards the end of the display came the $64,000 question, would the fire ignite? Oh ye of little faith, with **SSM Dodson** in charge, it ignited in a most spectacular manner.'

2 SQUADRON

For the past couple of months life in the Squadron has been running at an abnormally hectic pace with more than the usual share of overseas 'cabbies' to keep everybody well and truly tied up (or down?). Exercise Sail Mart took elements of 2 Sqn to the Far East (1 Sqn came too, but we don't talk about that), providing an ICS detachment from 'HF' Troop with the chance to sample the delights of down-town Singapore for a few short weeks in October. **Lt Nick Corbin** was sent with the operators from 2 Sqn on the understanding that he was there to keep them out of trouble, but as it turned out they had to spend most of their off-duty time preventing him from buying Bugis Street in a crooked Monopoly game. The crew consisted of (in order ranging from decent to utterly immoral): **Lcpls Jim Graham, Chris Deary, Sigs 'Noisy' Briggs, Dave Kneale Eddie Mooney,** and last but definitely not decent, **'Catsuit' Bungay.**

WIND AND RAIN

The best part of November [*sic*!] was spent with virtually the whole Squadron deployed on Exercise Avon Express exercising on that piece of real estate just north of Salisbury (hated by both man and beast alike). The aim of the exercise was to provide control communications for AMF(L) and 6 Fd Force who were having a bit of a punch-up out in the sticks. In fact, the first week or so of the exercise was spent practicing that age-old sport of chasing 12×12ft tents across field and ditch to the accompaniment of gale-force winds and lashing rain—Oh, the joy and ecstasy of it all. Still, to be serious, we finally managed to get things pegged down and ended up having a good time. It was good experience for all concerned, being able to work with soldiers from other NATO countries, it really is amazing what an American soldier will give you in exchange for a heavy wool jersey, and I don't mean stockings!

Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express
Cpl Foy (1 Sqn), Sig Kneale (2 Sqn), and Sig Hayles (1 Sqn)

Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express
Cpl Spurgeon and Sgt Bayley (3 Sqn) in the Radio Relay SystemControl

Photo courtesy: PR UKLF

Exercise Avon Express
Lcpl Allen and Lt Corbet of 3 Sqn

AND SUN

On a much sunnier note, 'HF' Troop have had crews deployed to exercise areas in Kenya for the last three months or so providing rear links for Infantry Battalions who are using these now up-and-coming training grounds in Africa.

Most recently the Squadron has had the honour to put yet another notch on its operations board, by sending six operators to the trouble area in Bermuda. Ably led by **Lcpl 'Fred' Fry** were **Sigs Stan Hardy, Joe Corfield, Dave Morgan, Pete Mason** and **Dave Nicol**—all masters at the art of the easy suntan.

Departures. On a somewhat sad note (who said that?), we will soon be saying a farewell to our stalwart Squadron Captain—**Dougie Pawlow**—who is off to the sunnier climes of Harrogate (titter!) where he claims that the LOA is now three extra students a term—still, joking apart, we wish him every success in his new job.

3 SQUADRON

Every month has its high spot—that is to say, the period during which all concerned reach maximum altitude. Without doubt, Exercise Avon Express was the high spot for November. For us, the man in the middle was **Capt Graham Elliot,** who spent the month pre-exercise waring a groove in the corridor outside the Ops Room. He has since been nominated for a place in the 'Guinness Book of Records' after successfully melting eight tie-lines on the Garrison Exchange.

The exercise was a triumph for the spirit of international co-operation and friendship. As shown by the Belgian convoy, caught in an ambush, who broke through the language barrier, crossed the frontiers between our two cultures, and demanded of their assailants 'Wot ze 'ell you doing?' Or the American caterers, who generously gave us the full benefit of space technology, in the form of intradental stimulator packs—toothpicks to you and me! Or the Italian Major who, with the spirit of international brotherhood, commandeered a Landrover to looka for 'isa tenta. Not forgetting the German who thought a log periodic was some form of forestry operation on Salisbury Plain. We have not become contenders for the title of 'Most Religious Squadron', having called upon our Gods 'en masse' at least hourly for the duration of the exercise.

The end of November also saw a classic example of 'the swerve' by **Lt Corbet, SSM Fogg,** and **Yeoman Walls,** who unavoidably had to miss the traumas of exercise clean-up by going to Dartmoor. The official line was that they had gone to recce for an exercise next January. The gallant trio braved the tempestuous conditions of the Moor for four days, got lost only once, and retrated to the luxury of the Tavistock Arms Hotel, Gunnislake, when darkness fell. They aren't all *that* gallant!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have several new members in the Squadron, and to them, welcome: **2 Lt Paul Nicholson-Taylor, Sgt Luck, Lcpls Smart, Tullock, Sigs Lorimer** and **Reed.**

Farewell and best wishes to: **Sigs Hunter, Banor** and **Barrett.**

And, finally, congratulations to **Sig David Seeley,** who has recently become a daddy!

THE WORLD WITH ONE—EPISODE 99—SINGAPORE

THE year 1977 has definitely been the Year of the Beaver, and 1 Sqn appears to have gone from one challenge to another without a pause for air. With only a week's break in Blandford to change from our European uniforms into Olive Greens we were once again battling through a murky October night towards the Air Mounting Centre at South Cerney. Destination—Singapore. Duration—4 weeks. Still raining—who cares! Exercise Sail Mart should have been held in the summer but the emergency deployment to Belize caused a delay and after only a quick 'probable perhaps' from UKCICC and a 'definite maybe' from 1 Signal Group, the venture was re-arranged for the autumn. Even so, we only felt we had actually made it when we arrived at RAF Lyneham and watched the Receiver Cabin being winched slowly out of the persistent drizzle, into the hold of a Hercules knowing it would emerge 10,900km later in the swelter of Singapore. The airlift required three Hercules for the gear and the intrepid communicators and it took over 30 hours of bone-shaking massage, and an unending series of White Knuckle Airways snacks before we arrived at Tengah. A glass of cold beer at Colombo Airport at 9 o'clock in the morning can be partially excused when one realises it was, in reality, only the end of a late night out in Bournemouth! The main party followed some 48 hours later in a VC10 and flew into Paya Lebar with hardly a hair out of place. Rumour has it that **Lt Cdr Bruce Lemonde** was seen buying beer at Bahrein Airport on the way, but the contact report was never followed up and he quickly covered his tracks over the next few weeks.

OUTSTANDING NEW ZEALAND HOSTS

In Singapore, the exercise was accommodated by 1 Bn, Royal New Zealand Inf Regt who have moved from Terendak Camp, Malacca, to Dieppe Barracks in Sembawang. As if the dangers of Singapore were not enough, the thought of our innocent young combat powermen being escorted across the Island by a 'Smile' of Maoris (the only collective name I can think of that suits!) brought the peril sharply into focus. The New Zealand Forces in Singapore, to a man, were outstanding hosts—nothing appeared to be too much trouble and everything was accompanied by a huge grin and twice as much as we needed. It was, therefore, a bad start when most of the Brits appeared to find the Messes and the NAAFI (still in the throes of the 1972 withdrawal!) well before they found a place to sleep. Anchor followed Tiger—Tiger followed Anchor, a few San Miguels to get a flavour of the East and all that extra money from 1977 Pay Rise was gone.

CHANGE OUT OF ALL RECOGNITION

Singapore has changed out of all recognition since 1970. The duty-free hot spot with street traders and characteristic smells of rotting drains has gone, and an ultra-modern city, spotless in every detail, has arisen from the once-decaying swamp. Orchard Road abounds with modern and expensive international hotels, the Bukit Timah is divided by spaghetti junctions and the city bustles as the recently erected high-rise flats disgorge themselves into dual-carriageways which now connect the outskirts of the Island to the City and Jurong. Not all is new and many of the old favourites quickly re-establised themselves. Bugis Street is now a fully commercialised tourist attraction but the 'girls' are no longer so obvious and have clearly employed the many techniques of advanced surgery to improve their attraction. 'Freda' and 'Rosemary' were adopted as Sail Mart mascots, much to the chagrin of some of the other regulars, who would offer free beer when allowed to sit next to our regular rep—**Capt Marcia Reid.** As throughout the City, the night atmosphere was always enhanced when the Maoris joined us with their guitars and we Anglo-Saxons harmonised well into the dawn. No blow-by-blow account of Bugis Street would be complete without recording the meeting between **Sig Steve Fugill, Cpl Mick Chapman** and **Rolf Harris** the famous Strine who, from the roof of the Public Lavatory (as yet unmodernised) was persuaded to sing 'Two Little Boys'—an appropriate tune for Bugis. Elsewhere in the town Zam Zams the curry shop flourishes, Fatty's still produces the best Chinese food, and the Pebble Bar is going strong in the Singapura Hotel. Past members of 249 Sqn (the real one) will be sad to know that **Trudi,** the pianist, has gone and the Bar is now described as 'Gay'!—it always was—but not in that way.

VISITS

Col Bob Benbow, Commander 1 Signal Group, visited the Exercise during the Piccolo phase. His days were spent with us on the site and shooting on the pistol range. The nights were spent with the Officers and Seniors in various spots providing local colour. A quick beer in the Tangle Inn, Satay in the Cold Storage Car Park and a handful of Tigers down Bugis Street, saw the evenings and mornings come and go. It must have been a physical relief as he settled down amidst the austerity of an 18-hour trip by British Airways Jumbo bound for Heathrow. Throughout the Exercise we averaged at least one visit a day. It was very good to see the SO2 (Tels) 1 Signal Group and the Operations Officer from the Regiment on October 13, to see **Maj Phil Whitemore** and **Maj Robin Ingram** on the 14th, and the Ops Officer and SO2 (Tels) with one of the Hercules' crews on the 15th. We understand the problems they must have had exchanging the air-conditioning of the Equatorial Hotel for the squalid heat of the communications sites. Rumour had it that they were forced to leave their hotel to off-load the LOA which had gone over the top of their air baggage allowance.

BARGAINS GALORE

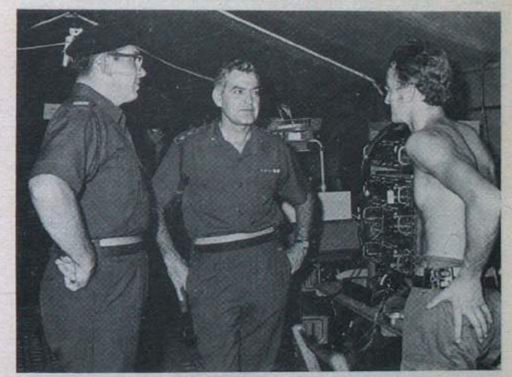
Although the demise of sterling has greatly dissipated the power of the pound abroad, there are still many bargains and much junk to be gained in the less-fashionable areas of Singapore. Shopping was also an interesting insight into individual personalities when haggling was required in Transit Road, Nee Soon, or the Sembawang Strip. **Foreman Brian Livesey** was undeniably the meanest man on Sail Mart and a host of Chinese traders went without their daily bowl of rice after listening to **Brian's** lament of living on a Foreman's pay in Blandford. Many got

Camera report on ex Sail Mart.

Sail Mart Management
COMBRITEXFORSING, Brian Livesey, 'Taff' Assender, Col Bob Benbow, Capt Marcia Reid, Rupert Halliwell, Keith Eustace, Nick Corbin

Sig Steve Birchenough prepares one of the 200 out messages transmitted each day to Hong Kong

Ssgt Barry Brown and Sig Eddie Mooney with the initial contact station working to Melbourne. The VRC310 (*background*) and the PRC320 were used to great effect



Col Benbow and COMBRITEXFORSING discuss an obtuse operating point with Sig Jim Hunt

Lcpl Phil Wilkinson gets that little bit extra from the R241 diversity receivers

F of S Keith Eustace explains the results of the trial on the Racal piccolo working from Singapore 10,900km back into the UK

excellent suits made almost overnight—**Ssgt Pete Bentley** succeeded in finding yet another pair of trousers—British cloth with custom-built pockets by Chubbs. The only failure to get a bargain appears to have been **Lt Nick Corbin** (2 Sqn) who agreed to pay 80 dollars when offered an 18-dollar deal on the Sembawang Strip. **Nick** must have been suffering from jet-lag.

SAIL MART

The CONCOMMEX itself involved working to Melbourne, the UK, and Hong Kong and, as usual, we exchanged liaison parties. **Foreman Ken Suckling** and **Cpl Brian Coombs** went to Australia via Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang and Sydney. They came back to Singapore the same way with tales of hospitality galore. Much of this exercise was routine three-way shift practising our profession. The occasional visit, however, by grass cutters who slashed our cables, and lightning storms which struck all around our 80-ft masts, did much to enliven the day. Towards the end, a black cobra—huge and vicious—gave **Lcpl Mick Babb** the fright of his life. On several occasions it raised itself to full height and unveiled its cobra hood. It took **Foreman Brian Livesey** and an 8-ft section to remote its head from its tail which was then wound onto a cable drum.

SPORT ALSO

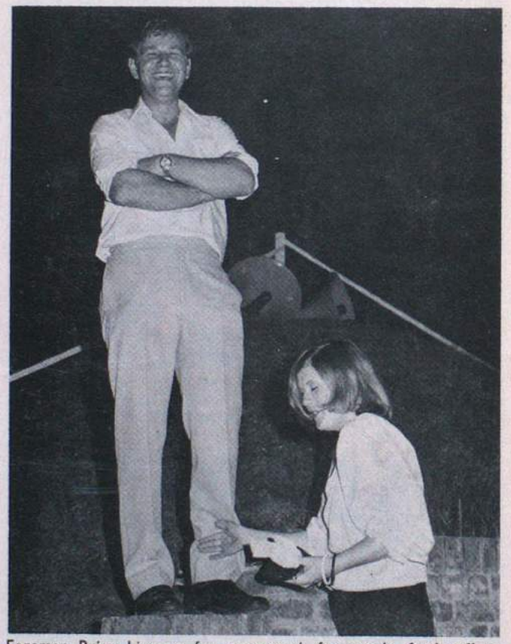
Unbeaten in Singapore! The soccer team, under **Lcpl Paul Ellis,** drew 2 each with the British High Commission and then beat a Kiwi Select 8—1. **Lcpl Mick Babb** and **Lcpl Chris Deary** starred in both matches which produced many side bets under **Yeoman Rupert Halliwell,** who was also made captain for the day when we visited the Singapore Cricket Club. The rugby team played the Battalion Signal Platoon in a monsoon downpour and won 15—8 points. **Lt John Fletcher** scored two tries and made a third—which the opposition accepted gratefully. The match was continued in the NAAFI after a shower. **Cpl Pat Thornton** never stopped talking all evening about how the game was won in the front row—a wise observation. We also found seven intrepid tennis players who caught the morning bus to the STC in the cool of the day.

The Unbeaten Eleven
Steve Fugill, John Peat, Fletcher, Paul Ellis, Pat Thornton (*goal for first half only*), Mick Bqbb, Tony Thomas, Ritchie Gunson, Chris Deary, Mick Chapman, Eddie Mooney
Goals for 10 Against 3

BARBECUE

As with the custom of recent years, Sail Mart ended with a barbecue to say thank you, and farewell, to all the people who had given us so much assistance and friendship, during our month in Singapore. Amid peanut butter sandwiches, gallons of Milo, and a great spread of local meats from our cooks, **Sgt Meachin** and **Cpl Guy,** we bade a sad farewell to **Foreman Brian Livesey,** who is leaving us for the TET in Catterick. **Brian** has been a senior counsellor in the Squadron for nearly two years, an agent for the Ramsbury Building Society, and an authority on International Banking. We wish him well with Ptarmigan—a bitty job from all accounts. Our photograph shows **Brian** delivering his farewell speech after receiving a small gift from the Squadron. The visitress clearly wanted to see what makes this very popular chap tick. We also said goodbye to **Lcpls Paul Ellis** and **'Geordie' Matheson** who are leaving the Army to take employment in the Worcester area (separately). Both have been excellent colleagues—we will miss **Paul's** footballing skills and **'Geordie's'** sense of humour at Sennybridge.

A 'smile' of Maoris open the guitar session whilst the Foreman and Yeoman are chatting the girls from the British High Commission



Foreman Brian Livesey, for once stuck for words, fends off an interested admirer

RECOVERY

In early November we commenced the recovery to the mists of Blandford. Singapore as well as being a mobile station, should, on this occasion, be more appropriately described as an Anchor area. It provided some great memories—some repeatable—some not, and we made a host of friends. By the time you read these notes we hope to have regained control of the Receiver Cabin, currently on long-term rates of LOA at Colombo Airport—and redeployed ourselves to the British Virgin Islands and Antigua. It's all go in 1978, and we'll keep you posted on our movements in THE WIRE.

News from Squadrons

Gurkha Fd. Force HQ & Sig Sqn, BFPO1

VISIT TO QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS
Report by Lt M. A. Little (Royal Signals) (RMCS attachment July 19 - September 15, 1977)

JET LAG

I COULD not believe it, actually being posted to Hong Kong, for eight weeks; however, the long VC10 flight soon brought home the truth (I tried to aclimatise myself before I left by spending a lot of time in both the sauna and solarium at RMCS). Stepping off the plane at RAF Kai Tak showed me that the saunas were a waste of time. I arrived at Sek Kong at lunchtime exhausted and I am sure I met many people whose names I forgot immediately because I was so tired.

WEEKS IN A NUTSHELL

Week one of my programme was climatisation week and I needed it, but still I managed to cram a few visits into it. I went on a tour of the border posts with 'N' Troop and also spent a fair amount of time with Ah Lee, the tailor, who made some good-fitting clothes for me.

Week two consisted of my official visit to the Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn. During this week **Capt Tom Richardson** and I looked after the Junior Police Children's Day—a CR project which also gave me the chance to see the remainder of the camp. I was not too good at answering tricky questions from the Chinese though, but I made some good guesses. I also visited a working rebro on Castle Peak by Gazelle, and not only did this show me Gurkha Signallers in action but I saw Hong Kong from the air.

Week three was spent in Kowloon, and on Hong Kong island visiting the Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn; and also had the chance to see the nerve centre of the colony by day and night.

In week four my job was to stand-in for **Capt Len Jeffery,** the Adjutant of the Signal Squadron, and during this week and, in fact, week five I helped to organise a small part of a TVB JADE CR film at the Gurkha Depot.

Week six was perhaps the highlight of my visit as I was allowed to join 2/2 GR on border duties. On the Monday I visited the TOLO Coy and took part in one of their ambushes during the night. The next morning, after a short sleep, I joined a party of Gurkhas for a liaison visit to HMS *Wasperton* and spent the remainder of the morning on sea patrols. Lunch, the climax of the day, was in a small isolated village, somewhere in the Colony, and this was followed by swimming in the harbour. In the evening of Tuesday I was taken to Sha Tau Kok Coy.

After a quick bath, I joined another ambush. These Gurkhas were using ZB 298 (what a way to spend a birthday). The following morning, after a couple of hours' sleep, I joined a party of men and we walked from Robins Nest to Sha Tau Kok, it was slightly uncomfortable because it was the hottest day of the year, a mere 34·9°C.

On Thursday, I visited the border posts and saw many interesting activities happening in Mainland China. The final event of my border visit was to accompany a standing patrol somewhere in Deep Water Bay. This time the Gurkhas were using 'TWIGGY' and 'NOD'. The following morning I returned to Sek Kong and the week was over. In week seven I was the stand-in for the Second-in-Command of the Squadron **(Rick Brown)**; during this week I prepared my first exercise (Exercise Green Dragon 1). This exercise proved to be not just a good teaching aid to the Squadron but to myself as well.

Eight weeks seemed to pass far too quickly but this was because of the care and interest taken by **Maj Roger Willsher** and the officers and men of his Squadron to ensure that I was well looked after. It was hard for me to thank them and to say good bye.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn B.F.P.O. 18

LS and GC AWARD

THE Squadron would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **WO2 (Y of S) A. Young** on the award of his LS and GC.

The award was made by the CSO BAOR, **Maj Gen P. A. C. Baldwin,** on October 19, 1977, whilst visiting the Squadron.

FOOTBALL—JOC CUP

The JOC cup final was played on Wednesday, October 19, against NPC Glons.

The game started at a furious pace and after 10 minutes the Squadron went into the lead with a tremendous 25-yard drive, scored by **SLD Harry Thoma** (NLA). Then the Squadron went further into the lead with a goal from **Kpl Theunissen** (NLA). NPC then came back into the game with a goal before half time to make the score 2—1 for the Squadron. The start of the second half saw **OG Schwanbeck** (GE) score a goal with a beautiful through pass from **Cpl Walter Burns.** NPC were then awarded a penalty, which was converted, to make the score 3—2 for the Squadron. Straight from the kick off NPC equalised. With three minutes to go, a penalty was awarded to ASRS, and up stepped **Sgt (PC) Campbell** to convert the penalty and the ASRS won the JOC Cup. The cup was presented by **Maj Dick Drew** (Royal Signals), OC NORTHAG ASRS.

ASRS SHOOT

This year the ASRS Shooting Competition was hosted by the Squadron on October 20, 1977. The result was the Squadron came fourth out of five, but were contratulated on being excellent hosts—free beer and a first-class barbecue. It was such a success that the following day the Deputy Commander NSSG enquired of the date of next year's competition.

FAREWELL

We say farewell to **Sgt 'Doc' Hyde** and family to AAC Harrovate. **Sgt Chris Wise** and family to 21 Sig Regt. **Sgt Clive Rogers** (REME) and family to REME Brain Factory, and **Cpl Alan Hill** and family to 21 Sig Regt, with congratulations on his promotion. We thank them sincerely for their hard work and loyal support and wish them every succees for the future.

WELCOME

We welcome—**Sgt 'Taff' Crook** and family, **Sgt Graham Parker** and family, **Sgt McLean** and family, **Cpl Hainey** and family. We wish them a happy and successful tour.

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

MORE RALLY SUCCESSES

SINCE our last report, this Squadron has achieved yet more successes in the 'rallying' field. Despite cries of 'The vehicles are off the road; we've no more spares', from the LAD, and the MT Sergeant's constant concern for providing vehicles for details first thing every Monday morning, we have entered crews in another four events.

The first of these was 'Autumn Leaves', a rally superbly organised by 12 Armd Wksps REME at Osnabruck over the weekend September 10/11. **Lcpl Kev Hughes,** in his first rally, teamed with **Lt Malcolm Touchin** to achieve a finish, but, regrettably, little more, while the **Capt Jim Blake**/**Ssgt (Y of S) Bob Holt** combination narrowly avoided finishing when **Jim Blake** tried to engage a gear which Landrovers don't have, and was then able to place the gear-lever exactly where he wished. His navigator's advice at this point is omitted for brevity's sake. **Ssgt Pete Shotts** managed to get himself appointed BAMA Steward for this event which is basically an easy way of getting maximum points.

The next two events were both organised by the RAF—'Nightride'—at RAF Wildenrath and 'Border' at RAF Bruggen. Fears that the Rovers would have to be driven sideways soon proved unfounded and both events turned out to be most enjoyable and well organised. In 'Nightride', **Pete Shotts** took first place in the car class, while **Jim Blake** with **Bob Holt,** and newcomer **Lcpl Bob Turley** with **Malcolm Touchin** both achieved good placings in the Landrover class. Ever since 'Autumn Leaves', **Jim Blake** has been looking for a navigator who doesn't break gear-levers, while **Bob Holt** has been looking for a driver who can break gear-levers without blaming the navigator.

The big one

These two events were well used by the BAOR crews as warm-up events for the climax of the BAOR rally calendar—Exercise Jubilee Magnum Spirit—a 500-mile event lasting some 36 hours and including six special stages. The Squadron entered the 'Ramshead team', in the name of our new Regiment. **Bob Holt** decided to try his hand at gear-lever breaking, and drove for **Pete Shotts,** seen in the accompanying photo. **Jim Blake,** in his search for the perfect navigator, managed to secure the services of **Tpr Geoff Saunders** from the QOH in Detmold. **Bob Turley** and **Malcolm Touchin** remained together. **Jim Blake's** ploy of getting **John Blackwell** interested in rallying paid off, as **Bob Holt** and **Pete Shotts** were able to borrow his personal Landrover, which, fortunately, they returned unscathed. In fact, **John Blackwell** has been very generous to the Squadron in many ways—his wife, **Marion,** is on permanent loan to us as the typist (hence the misprints in this article).

The Ramshead team, less Lcpl Bob Turley, after the presentation of the second team prize

On their way to the championship
Ssgt (Y of S) Bob Holt and Ssgt Pete Shotts on one of the special stages in Exercise Jubilee Magnum Spirit

Good team result

The rally was organised as two 200-mile sections each similar to the usual weekend events, and about 100 miles of special stage sections in between. It certainly proved to be a demanding test of both skill and endurance—only 17 vehicles finishing out of the original 108 starters. All three Squadron crews were among the 17 finishers and were, in fact, the only unit team to finish, taking second team prize after MSC Osnabruck.

Army champions

The accolades, however, must go to **Bob Holt** and **Pete Shotts** who finished first overall, earning the title of 'Army Champion Drivers of 1977'. **Jim Blake** and **Geoff Saunders** came third overall, and **Bob Turley** and **Malcolm Touchin** finished eleventh overall, althogether a really first-class result of which the Squadron and the Corps as a whole can be justly proud.

A special mention must be made of our Admin Officer, **Capt Frank Rogers,** who recently got himself appointed Regimental Motor Sports Officer without really trying. Our thanks must go also to our new CO, **Lt Col Ray Bell,** for the support he has so far given the team. We look forward to reporting further successes in these pages in the near future.

5 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn.
B.F.P.O. 36

GLANCE TO LEG

'T' TROOP take their turn to write THE WIRE notes this month. After much soul searching, **Capt Roy Owens,** the MTO, announced at coffee that since he wore an RCT cap badge he could not in all fairness be expected to produce notes for a Royal Signals Magazine. After the raspberries died down (produced in chorus by the remainder of the Squadron officers), he tried to sideload the job on to the Adjutant, **Capt John Gray,** being the only other officer available at the time. On being reminded that **Capt Gray** was not only not in 'T' Troop but was a Gunner to boot, he wandered off for a re-think. Result? A scintillating account of our Annual Military Skills Competition, Exercise Pot Shot, by **Sgt 'Abby' Abdul Rahman,** the senior Royal Signals NCO in the MT.

EXERCISE POT SHOT

From September 26–28 the Squadron was involved in Exercise Pot Shot at the Sennelager Training Centre. The Squadron was divided into 12 teams of eight based as nearly as possible on Troop organisation.

The whole exercise was run by our MTO, **Capt Roy Owens** (RCT) (though he's not so good at WIRE notes!), and involved many competitive military activities. Marks were awarded for the best individual and team performances and were recorded on a massive scoreboard that needed its own 4-tonner to carry it.

Let me mention team eight, 'T' Troop team, consisting of myself, **Sgt 'Abby' Abdul Rahman,** team leader, **Cpl Graham Lonsdale** (Royal Signals), team 2IC, **Lcpl Nigel Price** (RCT), **Lcpl Barry Silk** (RCT), **Lcpl Eddie Ord** (RCT), **Dvr** (now Lcpl —welldone!) **'Smudge' Smith** (RCT), **Lcpl 'Geordie' Hannah** (Royal Signals), and **Dvr Mick Pryce** (RCT).

The first day saw a drama for team eight on shooting. Our marksmanship was not too good (2IC—an understatement), and we ended day one rock bottom on the scoreboard.

FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO RESPECTABILITY

Tuesday, September 27, came and there was **RSM Jimmy Akehurst,** pace-stick in one hand, stop watch in the other, and a big smile on his face setting the teams off on a quick 10·777 . . . mile walk. Neither did he neglect to remind them that they had plenty of time to make their destination, all two hours of it. Well done, team eight! It was hard graft and sore feet but the spirit was high all the way, singing and jumping all over the road until the last two miles when it was really biting on the corns. We all done, team eight! It was hard graft and sore feet but the spirit us up the ladder.

And what about the driving competition that afternoon? There is, of course, no need to ask who scored highest marks. You're right—team eight.

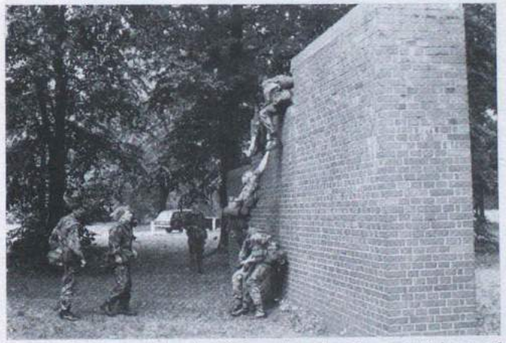
The third and last day was our best. There were 12 stands, each testing a different military skill and the finale was an assault course competition. We reported to the first aid stand to find one of our own members running it in the shape of **WO2 Pete (Dr Kildare) Leonard** (RCT). After a quick DS briefing followed by a short team leaders' brief, we heard, 'You have

arrived in this location to find two Landrovers involved in a collision at a road junction. Carry on!'. Apart from minor mistakes all went well. The best laugh was when **Lcpl Nigel Price** placed 'Sprengstoff' signs (explosive) on the road instead of the regulation hazard triangle.

Team eight gradually crept up the scoreboard as the day went by until it was time for the assault course. **Lcpl 'Geordie' Hannah** and **Lcpl Barry Silk** were left to organise how we should tackle the assault course. They did well since we covered the course like greased lightning in a record time of 2min 55sec to end first and collect 1,000 points.

This monumental effort brought us up to fourth position overall which was not bad after being twelfth on day one. However, it was not quite good enough and congratulations must go to **Sgt Terry Beckett** and his team who came first in an interesting and arduous competition.

BEFORE—The course before the final exercise



Section Twelve tackles the 10-ft wall under the watchful eye of Capt Lynam

Section eight
Lcpl Ord, Lcpl Silk, Dvr Pryce, Lcpl Smith
Lcpl Hannah, Lcpl Price, Cpl Lonseale, Sgt Abdul Rahman

Commander 5 Field Force, Brig Pascoe, presents Sgt Beckett with his winner's tankard. RSM Jimmy Akehurst looks on

The winning team
Cpl Mahdjonbian, Sgt Beckett, Sig Waddington, Sig Thomas, Lcpl Craddock, Sig Buchannan, Lcpl McCoid, Sig Violet

AFTER—Those who made it to the final RV

ESCAPE AND EVASION

From October 31–November 11, 5 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn held a combat survival course at Vogelsang Camp. It was attended by 38 NCOs and soldiers selected from the Squadron, and 11 guest students from 3 Para. The course consisted of one week of classroom instruction and practical demonstrations, and one week's escape and evasion exercise. The exercise director was **Maj Bill Robins,** our OC. The course was masterminded by **Capt John Griffin,** and the instructors were **WO2 Colin Lewis** (PWO), **Ssgt Bert Connon, Cpl Pete Davies** and **Cpl Dick Kilpatrick.**

The subjects covered ranged through Resistance to Interrogation, methods of escape, wild foods, how to catch, kill and cook rabbits, to close-quarter battle (which came in handy for killing the rabbits). **Capt (Retd) Dick Howe** and **Capt (ex-Dutch Navy) van den Krap,** both ex-inmates of Colditz came to lecture us on their experiences, and **Maj Louie Lillewhite** (RAMC) lectured to us on Survival Medicine.

PARA HUNTER FORCE SPRING EARLY SHOCK

For the escape and evasion exercise 3 Para provided a company-size hunter force commanded by **Maj Colin Thompson.** They were assisted by a dog team from 1 Army Dog Training Unit, two Scout helicopters from 9 Regt AAC, one flown by **Capt Willy Berwin** of the Corps, the local police, and the local foresters.

The exercise started with a bit of a shock for the students. They were all given a briefing for an infiltration-exfiltration-type operation and told to parade at 0400 for breakfast. In reality, Vogelsang Camp was attacked by the Paras at 0001 and the whole course taken prisoner. What follows is an account of the exercise written by **Ssgt Derek Biggs,** our senior student.

The thoughts of Chairman Biggs

SUNDAY Attended briefing. All points taken in. My team is:
Ssgt Biggs
Lcpl Rowlinson-Bates (Alfie)
Pte Brandeberry (Fred) 3 Para
Pte Clairmonte (Charlie) 3 Para

That uneasy feeling

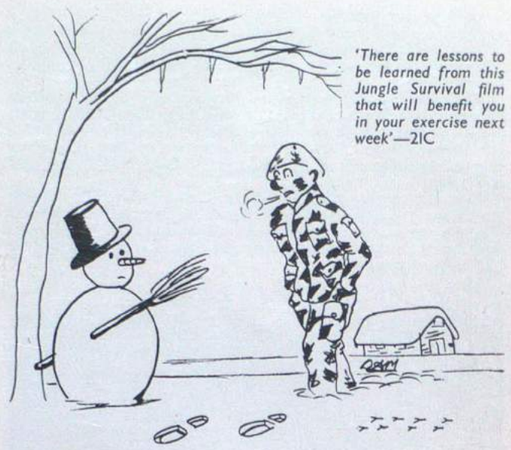
Brief the boys. The Paras want to run in twos but that does not suit me so I persuade them that their best bet is to stay with us until the task is completed and then we will decide the best way to run. Must try not to overawe them with rank but get us working together as a team. Send them away to prepare their kit. Still not happy with the briefing. Something fishy. No way can the DS search 50 blokes' kit in half an hour. Still, I must prepare my own kit. All through the course I have travelled in the same truck and so my best bet is to hide all useful kit on that truck and pick it up when dropped off. Fifty-fifty chance. Sneak through woods to car park and hide kit. Now to bed. Still not happy. They must be making us change into kit from the plastic bags. Stop worrying, have your last fag and off to sleep.

The catch

BANG, BANG, BANG! That's the catch you fool. Why didn't you think of it? Too late now. Hello, Mr Para, of course I'll lay down on the bed with my hands on the floor and a bag over my head. One up to the 2IC. I can see through the bag but must play the game and not let on. Bump into walls and trip over steps, etc. That dog has a cold nose. If he bites me I'll get my own back on him. I'll wait till around Wednesday, search him out and eat him. Dressed and on to the back of a 4-tonner. Next to last man. Good. Maybe I will be able to work out where they are taking us. Funny thing but every time I try to lift my head to see where we are going, a size ten DMS boot hits me on the back of the neck followed by a flurry of rude words. These boys are efficient. Okay as far as Schlieden, after that I am completely lost.

Monday

INTO THE POW CAMP. Guards leave us. Too much talking. Loft above us and two strangers in our midst. Tell the lads to keep quiet. Strangers identify themselves and issue maps and compasses. Quick look at the map, gather my group. **Fred** missing. Can't wait, must get away first chance. Here we go. Clear of the camp, look for the Plough and North Star, found it. Great. Now head due West until we hit route 51. What a great bit of luck. Hit route 51 at the exact point I wanted. Was it luck or am I just a natural genius? Look around the RV and then find a LUP. Decide to do the first guard myself and let **Alfie** and **Charlie** get some sleep. My turn to sleep, can't, too cold and wet.



'There are lessons to be learned from this Jungle Survival film that will benefit you in your exercise next week'—2IC

Survival swimming in November
Sgt Critton and Cpl Garratt swimming Vogelsang Lake. Lcpl 'Dinger' Bell looks on from the safety boat. Dry clothes and essential kit in plastic bag

Can't stop shivering. Long day. Last light. Good. **Fred** joins us. It appears he broke out too early without map or compass, met another group who told him, so he broke back in to get them. All the group together. All I need now is the agent. Is that him? It must be. Approach carefully, make contact. Great. Must ask him why everyone else except **Biggsy** has shirt, vest, ID Card and 30 pfg. Have I been set up for something?? He gives me ID Card and money, says I will collect vest and shirt at next RV. Hands me a plastic bag informing me it contains chocolate, sweets, a brew kit and water. Great. Now for the briefing for my next contact. Wish his red torch was a bit brighter. Still never mind. Got it. Now back to the LUP to brief the boys.

Another catch

Back at the LUP I start to dish out the contents of the bag. First bar of choc for **Alfie.** Empty rest of contents. ALFIE, DON'T EAT THAT CHOCOLATE! That's all there is between the four of us. The rotten b.....s. Count the squares, two each! We all fall about laughing. The team spirit is there. Great. I had also managed to cadge a couple of fags for **Alfie** and I. Not 'Three Castles' but beggars can't be choosers. Brief them and away we go. North to the village, scout it, find an isolated light and brief them in detail on the route when close enough to see the map. Explain exactly where we are going and how I intend to get there. All agree. Good, away we go. Thank God for the North Star, these compasses are rubbish, West again boys. Hours later. Must have gone wrong. Any ideas? No. Must get out of these .... woods and find the nearest village to locate where we are. More hours later, a village at last. Hope it is marked on the map. Yes it is, 2 km south of our starting point. Must have gone in a figure eight. Only one thing for it now, we must take a chance and tab alongside the roads using whatever cover we can find. Brief the lads that all lights must be considered as hostile and must be avoided. Away we go. Team spirit still high because all had been consulted on all decisions. Finally, arrived at destination, collecting on route 1× bottle of milk from an urn, 2× cabbages, 2× turnips, and a tin label off a telegraph pole for use as a knife, peeler, spoon and anything else we could think of. Show everyone the cowshed which was to be the RV point for the agent that night and move up into the woods to the south to find an LUP.

Pain

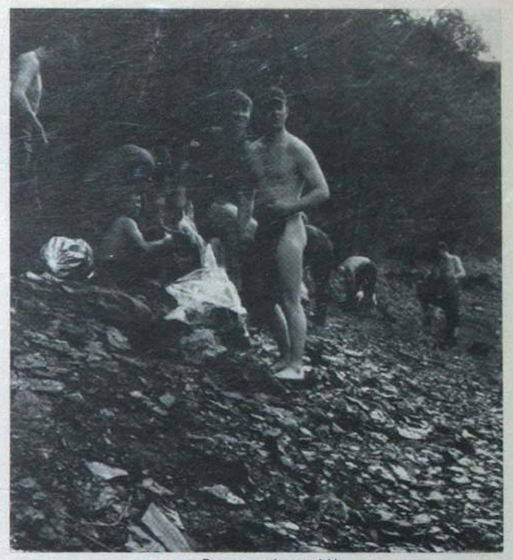
By this time I was walking with considerable pain, it felt as if a bone had gone in my right foot. It had gone in the last 10km but I daren't stop. Don't want the Paras to think the Signals are soft. To the woods. Lie down and try to sleep. No good, too cold and wet. Must snuggle up in pairs. I get **Alfie.** Snores like a pig. I must be nuts. I've got a lovely wife at home all snug in a big double bed and here I am freezing in the middle of nowhere cuddling up to **Alfie.** Still, any port in a storm.

Tuesday—Mixed fortunes

First light, thank God. I must recce the wood to find a better LUP. Can't believe my eyes. A beautiful spot. Wake the boys up and move in. Send the lads on a recce to see what they can find while I start a fire and get a brew on. Coffee ready, lads return. Total haul: 1× massive cooking pot with handles, 1× kettle complete with whistler, 2×plastic bowls, 1× plastic mixing jug, and a few potatoes. Great. **Fred** also reported that he had seen a shed full of eggs but that a woman was working in there so it had been too dangerous to approach. I told him to try again at last light. Coffee finished, on with the vegetable stew. Beautiful. Things couldn't be better. Even the wind was blowing the smoke from the fire and there was no sign of it from the outside of the wood. Decided to let the guard keep the fire going all day because of minimal risk of detection. Last light. Decided to send **Alfie** down to meet the agent because my feet were still painful. Also sent **Fred** to get a couple of eggs. I went down to the edge of the wood to watch out for **Alfie** returning. **Alfie** returned at about half past six to say there was no sign of the agent and that there were about six cowsheds in that vicinity. **Fred** had just returned with FIFTY eggs by then so I sent him back down with **Alfie** to cover one of the other sheds. **Charlie** and I still kept watch from the woods. At seven o'clock we saw a car arrive and pick up an agent from a cowshed 200m from the spot that **Alfie** and **Fred** were watching. I will not repeat what I said but suffice it to say that I wasn't pleased. The thought of my shirt and vest disappearing in that car was too much to take. Time for another decision. At a push we could make it back to Vogelsang that night or else we would have to phone Marcel. Explained to the lads that the chances of making Vogelsang were good but being as we had been taken prisoner this indicated that the Paravians had advanced and were now in control of the area so the only thing to do was to contact Marcel. All agreed on that point. Next decision was when to move. Factors were my feet, which were still killing me, the eggs which could cause problems of transportation, and the fact that I had already studied the map and the route to Marcel just in case, and it was woods all the way. We decided to stay, have a good night's sleep in a shed full of hay on the edge of the wood, boil all the eggs in the morning so that we could carry them more easily.

Wednesday—And next leg

After a good night's sleep off went **Alfie** to the village to make the phone call. I won't say that the cooking pot was big but we managed to get all 50 eggs on the bottom without any trouble and boil them. Then we boiled up the milk and had a hot drink with four boiled eggs for breakfast. Approx two o'clock and away we went on the next leg of our journey, but only after we had eaten a couple more boiled eggs to keep us going. We must have looked a sight. Two leading and two bring up the rear carrying the cooking pot containing all our worldly possessions. As normal, the rain was pouring and there were gale-force winds, but we didn't mind, we were in good spirits. Well fed and rested. In fact, the only problem was a personal one. My stupid feet. What had happened was that when the right foot had become painful I had transferred nearly all the weight on to the left and consequently it had become badly blistered. I felt pain with every step. I was walking like an old man of 90, but I soon discovered that if one keeps to a pace the pain becomes regulated and is easier to bear. We had walked about 3km to the east and I decided



Boy was that cold!
After the swim, a tot of rum and into dry clothes. *Foreground, left to right:* Sig Jeffries, Sig Riley, Cpl Godfrey and Lcpl Parry

it was now time to head north. We came down off the hills to the outskirts of a village just as we had planned. Just confirm the name of the village and then north through the woods to our next point on the map before changing direction. Despair. The village was not the one we expected it to be and it wasn't marked on the map. Where the hell are we? We would have to cheat and ask a local the way to the village we wanted. She told us that it was about 7km through the woods. Here we go again. After a couple of kilometres we heard the sound of vehicles. Hide. Luckily, it was two tractors with ploughs attached.

Local nourishment

They stopped, and we asked if we were going in the right direction. Yes. They gave us a lift for about 3 or 4km. Great. Approached the village at last light. A young man had already given us a packet of tobacco and some papers to roll a few fags. We decided to hide from the elements in a bus shelter, roll a fag, and then move on. Time was getting on and I was worried in case we didn't get to the agent on time. **Fred** volunteered to go ahead to make the contact. Team spirit coming to the fore. No sooner had we settled down in the bus shelter when about 15 kids suddenly appeared. We chatted to them, explaining that we were on exercise. I decided to ask one of the lads to go to the shop at the side of the bus stop to buy us a Mars bar and something else for 10 pfg. He came back with the Mars and a chewy animal shape. They thought it was hilarious when I cut both items into three and issued them out. One lad asked if we would like some bread and cheese and away he went. Next thing I know the old dear from the shop came out to us carrying a big plate full of ham sandwiches. Her daughter had a steaming pot of coffee. She laid out three cups, a sugar bowl, a milk jug and proceeded to pour us a cup each. She left the jug with us so we could have seconds and thirds. We ate a couple of sandwiches and decided to save some for later, and for **Fred.** Next came the little boy with another plate, this time with three big cheese sandwiches and three pieces of home-made cake, with a couple of beers to help digest it. We ate the cake but decided to save the sandwiches to have with the others. I returned the crockery to the old dear, she invited us into the shop but I declined because we were covered in mud, etc. I asked for her name and address but she wouldn't give it. Even more so when she found out we were intending to send her a bunch of flowers when we returned to Osnabruck. She asked us what we had lived on so I dipped into the cooking pot and pulled out the half-eaten turnip (at the same time carefully concealing the eggs). She nearly had a fit and wanted to go back into the shop to find some more food for us. We

persuaded her it wasn't necessary and that she had done enough already. We left the village and proceeded on our way. We all felt marvellous. I felt we had cheated on the exercise rules but it all seemed worthwhile from a little remark that **Charlie** made as we went along. He said, 'I never knew that Germans were as kind and friendly as that', so at least I had done my bit for Anglo (Para)-German relations. We hit the checkpoint without further problems to meet **'Dinger' Bell** dressed in Belgian uniform, in a Belgian Rover with a Belgian driver. What a star! We got the information and food (that's a laugh) from him. As usual I managed to cadge a couple of fags from him. German rubbish this time. What type of escape line is this? Don't the organisers realise that all the best British squaddies smoke 'Three Castles'? He told us that **John Bird** and **Graham Garratt** were in a workman's hut just across the car park so I decided to pay them a visit. We stayed with them for a couple of hours, swopped stories, had a good laugh and then proceeded to our next and final RV. We felt on top of the world. I had eventually caught up with my vest and shirt. If only I could borrow someone else's feet. We had to be very careful on this last leg. The area was swarming with enemy.

Thursday—And so near

After a few hours we could see the radio tower which was to be our final destination. You've done it, **Biggsy** boy. Send **Fred** on to recce the best way in to set up the final LUP. While he has gone we may as well go forward to the junction to check the signpost to double confirm that we are in the right place. Yes, correct. Easy isn't it. Sit down here behind the signs and wait for **Fred** to return. By gum, that was quick, **Fred;** what are you doing with that SLR. OH NO!! You're not Fred are you? Yes, of course, we will come along with you. Here we go. NUMBER, RANK, NAME, DOB. I'M SORRY I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION, SIR. You idiot Biggs. You know one of the basic rules is to avoid obvious junctions. You knew that even before you came on the course. You deserve to be caught, you bungling, over-confident idiot. FIFTY METRES from the end. I bet the 2IC set this up. What difference does it make if he did, you should still never have been caught. Lie down in the back of this 4-tonner. I'm sure I've been in this situation before recently. Keep switched on. See if you can work out where they are taking you. He we are and I am pretty sure I know where we are. If we ever get out we have another tab of about 8km. My feet feel like plates of faw meat, I don't think I will make it. This could be the easy way out. SNAP OUT OF IT! STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF! You got the lads into this, now it is up to you to get them out. Start acting ready for the interrogation. Make out you are completely shattered, that shouldn't be too hard. Hope when he comes he will start on me then I can give the lead to the others. Here he comes OC Hunter Force. I hope they had to get him out of bed. He is starting on me first, great. What is going to be his style? I've got it now. He is trying to split us up by making me look like an idiot in front of the boys. He won't get any reaction out of me by calling me names, I bet he can't think of as many as I've called myself since I was captured. 24010163 Ssgt Derek Biggs, November 26, 1945, that's your lot, mate. He's not bad for an amateur though. Oh no, **Alfie's** trying to be smart. He's got him on the chocolate bit now. He is offering me some chocolate now. Carry on the act, snatch it and gobble it down. Give some to **Alfie** to stop the line of questioning. Snatch it quick, **Alfie,** and swallow it. Oh no! **Alfie's** not switched on to what I am doing. He is obviously leaving the other two alone because he knows them and considers it would be unfair. Good. Is that it? Has he finished? Yes, we can go. Now to face my punishment for being stupid, a lovely 8km stroll, serves you right! No mistakes this time.

Here's the 4-tonner. And, would you believe it? They still haven't got any 'Three Castles' with them. I must be surrounded by idiots. Still, it takes all sorts to make a world.

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed in advance of any change of address. It is impossible for us to keep up with hundreds of posting orders and your 'Wire' will go to your old address unless we hear to the contrary.

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

TO THE ALPS

EXERCISE Edel Axe was an adventure training expedition to the Bavarian Alps with the prime objective of climbing Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, 2962m. The expedition party consisting of **Maj John Almonds, Sgt Tony Denne, Lcpls Willy Williams, Mel Jenkins** (RCT), **Eddy Brooks** (ACC), **John Harradine, Sigs 'Two Sheds' Mepham, Andy Ewens, 'Tich' Whitehurst, 'Para' McHugh, Pete Nisbet, Cfn Owen Reed, Sigs Keith Fisher, Steve Lord, Mark Jones, Nigel Parker,** and **'Prince' Walter Chadwick.**

Left to right. Back row: Lcpl Joe Williams, Maj John Almonds, Sig 'Two Sheds' Mepham, Sig 'Tich' Whitehurst, Lcpl John Harradine, Sig Nigel Parker, Sig Pete Nisbet, Sig Mark Jones
Front row: Sig Mel Jenkins, Sig 'Para' McHugh, Sig 'Prince' Walter Chadwick and Sig Steve Lord

Into trim

Planning and training started at the beginning of June with **Sgt Tony Denne** fighting with lists of pistons and prussik loops, while the rest of the party enjoyed the early morning runs! With the preparation finished the party started the 500-mile journey from Minden to Walchensee on the evening of Sunday, July 31, ably assisted by three ¾-ton Landrovers and one 4-ton Bedford. Everything seemed to be going fine until we reached Munich where the 4-ton Bedford decided that it had gone far enough and promptly broke down! This gave our mechanic **Cfn Owen Reed,** ample opportunity to show us his skills; however, after much struggling it was decided to send the rest of the party ahead to the camping site leaving the Bedford to make its own way. The camp site was reached on the evening of August 1; the journey which had been planned for 12 hours had taken 24!

An element of doubt

Tuesday was spent setting up base camp including a flag pole. The OC, **Maj John Almonds,** decided to do a recce of the mountain as there was some doubt about the conditions on the Zugspitze. Wednesday was spent climbing the Simetsberg, 1835m, with full kit (phew!). This was designed to give everybody in the party some idea of what we were up against. On our return to camp **Maj Almonds,** having finished his recce, told us about the near Arctic conditions on top of the Zugspitze (burr!). At this stage there was some doubt as to whether we would be able to attempt the climb, with this in our minds we went to sleep for the night helped by one or two beers!

Useful wire

Lucky for us the weather changed for the better during the night so our assault on the mountain was on. The party moved as close to the mountain as possible by Landrover and then we trekked 6km through some beautiful scenery until we reached the bottom of the 'Brett', which at first sight looked like 600ft of sheer rock face; at this stage whispers of 'let's go back' could be heard. These, however, soon stopped when it was seen that wire rope had been fixed into the rock so that it was just a matter of 'clipping on' and hoping for the best! This obstacle was finally overcome without incident. The expedition camped that night at the top of the 'Brett' where we could have a 'brew up' and enjoy some breathtaking views looking down the Hollantal valley and looking up at the summit with its trailing glacier.

Success in the clouds

On the following day it was decided that a group of three, **Maj John Almonds, Sigs Pete Nisbet** and **Para" McHugh,** would make the final assent on the summit. The rest of the party would climb the glacier until we reached about 400ft from the summit where our intrepid trio would leave us for the top. At this stage, cloud came down over the mountain so we were unable to see anything of the climbing party until they re-appeared out of the cloud very wet and tired but successful.

Useful incentive

Saturday was spent on the return journey down the mountain. We had the added incentive of a litre of beer at the 'Hollantalager hütte' which soon turned the descent into a race much to the amazement of some German climbers (verrückter Engländer). Back at the base camp **Lcpl Eddy Brooks** (ACC) filled everybody up with some 'real food' much to the delight of **Sig 'Two Sheds' Mepham** who always managed to look hungry.

Next some R & R seemed in order and some time was spent sightseeing, which included Munich (lovely beer), Dachau, and Neuschwanstein Castle where the film Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang was made. Unfortunately, the last two days were spoilt by the monsoon season starting, which made base camp look something like a paddy field. Thursday, August 11, was the day set for the return to camp which was achieved without any trouble from the Bedford! Next Everest?!

Hang on in there!

Admiring the scenery at the bottom of the 'Brett'

19 Airptbl Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester

EXERCISE AVON EXPRESS

THIS must be by way of being the biggest 'small-scale FTX' the British Army gets involved in. It is a biennial exercise for the AMF being held this year on Salisbury Plain. The Squadron has moved *en masse* to Westdown Camp to prepare the Joint Distaff HQ having given away its radios to other units to allow them 'Flexible Response'. Now we are restructuring into a temporary administrative role.

Two members of our MT faced with the problem of painting guy ropes white went about it in a novel manner. Having painted as far as they could reach on a chair they then realised they could not finish the job. So they formed a human pyramid and, armed with brush and pot, continued on to the top. It is not surprising that **Lcpls 'Nobby' Clarke** and **Stothart** are the only two members of the Troop not covered with white splotches. They held the brush and pot. Though I must say the seven flag poles and guys looked really smart surrounded by white-speckled grass.

'Q' TROOP AT LARGE

The Troop recently has begun to get smaller in more ways than one. Apart from the losses to the wilds of civvy street of **Maj Martin Lee** (RPC), and **Sgt Charlie Zammit** our complete families office staff and to whom go our very best wishes for the future, we have also had a change of QMs. This brought a reduction in size with the farewell of 6ft 8in **Capt (QM) Brian Turner** and the arrival of 6ft BA of **Capt (QM) Eric Le Quesne.** It also brought a sigh of relief from **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Humphreys** who is also acting RSM, who was heard to comment that his crick in the neck might now be relieved.

The resources of The Troop were severely tested with Exercise Avon Express, hand-overs, G1098 review, preparations for PRE, to mention a few. Nevertheless, we still allow our footballers, **Ssgt Dave Fox** and **Sig 'Russ' Russell,** to represent the Squadron never knowing whether the latter would be locked away permanently by the referee of the day, for his enthusiasm on the field. Congratulations must got to **Lcpl Mick Dalgleish** on his recent promotion and also to **Cpl 'Taffy' Power** (RPC) on his success within the world of shooting.

Stop Press. Warning to all Signal Unit 'Q Troops, 'Super glue 3'. **Sig 'Russ' Russell** spent some considerable time with his hands stuck together after using it.

SOCCER REPORT

The Squadron soccer team has been hailed as 'giant killers' this season by disposing of 47 Regt RA team 1—0 in the first round of the Army Cup. Credit to 47 Regt, they came to Colchester to play good attacking football but, alas, a slick sharp pass from **Sgt John Rae** in the first half sent **WO1 Mick Hartley** (RAOC) behind the RA defence to score the only goal in a tightly-fought contest.

We then travelled to Cambridge for the second round to meet 1 RRF, hot favourites to win the coveted Army Cup. The Squadron side battled hard against a side who had previously beaten 8 Fd Wksps REME soundly in the first round. At half time we trailed 1—0. A hotly contested second half found 1 RRF again finding the net in the opening stages. Our enthusiasm was rewarded by a well-taken goal by **Cpl Terry Anderson** to bridge the deficit. Striving to find the equaliser in the later stages of the game left our defence wanting. 1 RRF took full advantage to settle the contest with a creditable 3—1 victory. Best of luck in the next round.

We felt the Army Cup to be a bonus so our efforts were directed towards the Yorks and Lancs Cup. A 2—2 draw against 156 Provost Coy RMP Colchester gave the Squadron side enough incentive to settle the round by winning 3—1 in the second leg, a good 5—3 aggregate win. Goals by **Sig 'Taffy' Giles, Cpl Terry Anderson** in the first leg and **Sig 'Taffy' Giles, Cpls Terry Anderson** and **Lenny Dunford** in the second leg.

Our second round brought us against 665 Aviation Sqn AAC, who, surprisingly, won 2—1 in the first leg. A good goal by **Sig Archie Fulton.** The Squadron side fully realising the possibility of a shock exit in the cup pulled out all the stops to produce a fine 4—1 victory. **Sgt John Rae** (2), **Sig 'Taffy' Giles,** and **Lcpl Lenny Dunford** were the goal scorers. The Squadron side must be considered as hot candidates for the Yorks and Lancs Cup if current form prevails.

CROSS-COUNTRY

We have never had a reputation for this cruel sport but we appear to have some strong representation from the supporting cap badges in the Squadron. The LAD provides us with four of our team, **Sgt John Rae, Lcpls Phil Ockenden** and **Phil Massetti,** and **Cfn 'Evi' Evison.** MT Troop provides **Lcpl 'Jonah' Jones,** though to be fair, half the Troop turns up to make a veterans' team just for the fun of it. 'A' Troop has two youngsters, **Sigs 'Jock' Kerr** and **Street.**

So far we have been placed 2nd and 5th in a local league of 13 teams but hope for better things in December after three weeks of training on the Salisbury Plains.

SHOOTING

During the third week in October our D & E Platoon shooting team went to Northampton to take part in the RPC skill-at-arms meeting. **Cpl 'Taffy' Power** had an outstanding competition and, despite some strong competition, won the Egypt Cup for the best rifle shot. He also collected a trophy for coming 2nd in the Army Hundred Cup.

Lcpl Battle, who was shooting well, had to drop out mid-week due to a knee injury. **Pte Tinkler** took his team place and kept up the challenge. Despite this, the team didn't manage to win a trophy. They did, however, reach the semi-final of the Falling Plate Match. Other members of the team were: **Ptes Tinkler** and **Graham, Lcple Battle, Cpls Stevens, Power** (RPC). Non-shooting team captain: **Sgt Banks** (Royal Signals).

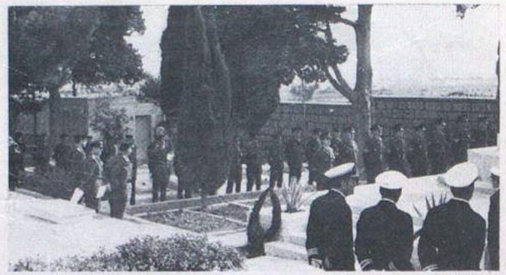
234 Sig Sqn, B. F. P. O. 51

A RUNDOWN SITUATION

THE Squadron is engineering the run-down of the island's military communications network but there is no sign of the lethargy that seems to be creeping into this 'rundown situation' in other spheres. At work we are removing telephones with all the deftness of the legendary 'kleftiwallah' who could steal the bed without disturbing the sleeper, and off-duty our profile is anything but low. Our recent activities would fill a page or two but, bearing in mind the Editor's exhortation to 'keep it short', here are the News Headlines from Malta.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

The fifth of November was to have been celebrated in traditional style but a number of factors beyond our control prevented this. Besides being up-staged by the Royal Navy in the shape of HMS *Ark Royal* and five other visiting ships and a giant economy (i.e. free) bonfire at nearby RAF Luqa we had trouble with our insurance. Anyone who has any experience of Maltese fireworks will understand why! Our resident Ammunition Technician, Staff-sergeant RAOC, rates them as superior—his term—to anything the Chinese can produce.



Army Elements on parade for the Remembrance Service Mtarfa Military Cemetery

LEST WE FORGET

Memories were stirred in a more solemn manner when, on Sunday, November 13, the Squadron, together with the staff of the Royal Naval Hospital, Mtarfa, held a Remembrance Day service at the Mtarfa Military Cemetery. The weather was kind, and the presence of mourners whose relatives were buried there added particular point to the service. A member of the Squadron also laid a poppy wreath beneath a plaque which was erected in Holy Trinity Church in Sliema to commemorate those members of the Royal Artillery killed in Malta during the Second Great Siege. A number of these plaques were set up throughout the island by various Regiments and Corps and this is perhaps not an inappropriate place to note that the Quartermaster's Department has the task of recovering these memorials from de-consecrated Service churches and forwarding them to the various Regimental Depots and Associations concerned.

GONE WALKABOUT

Regular readers of this column may recall the appearances of that well-known RAF-jet-setter and Ambulatrice Extraordinaire, **Karin Clark** in connection with sponsored walks. **Karin** is currently suffering from a foot injury but saw no reason why this should deprive the service inhabitants of Malta of their walks, and promptly organised one in aid of the Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund. Battered by a force eight gale and soaked by torrential rain, the walkers plodded round the 25 (what else) course to pull in over £400 for the Fund. Well done the walkers—and the workers. Watch this space for photographs of the lady in question giving away more money!

VISIT OF CSO UKLF

On November 16 CSO UKLF, **Brig D. H. Baynham, GM, ADC,** arrived at RAF Luqa for an official visit to the Squadron and Army Elements in Malta. He is no stranger to Malta and the Maltese members of the Squadron were particularly amused by some of his stories of life in Malta 'in his younger days'. He returned to the UK on November 23 and carried the good wishes of the Squadron to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who was being dined out at Blandford that evening. Prize for the best remark of the visit goes to Anonymous of Siggiewi who said: 'Anybody who has raced overhead camshaft Nortons can't be all bad'!

Meet the new Admin Officer—Capt Mike Crane

The Squadron Commander introduces WOI Forster and RQMS Moody at the entrance to the WOs and Sergeants Mess

Let me tell you a story
Eager listeners are Cpl Afred Grixti, Lcpl George Cilia, Cpl George Zammit, Cpl Vincent Mallia, Cpl George Brown, Cpl Winston Pace and Sig Saviour Grech

The CSO meets Sgt Salvu Privitera, who has just completed 27 years in the Service

Mixing the Christmas pudding—assisted by Sgt Danny Holmes NN Karen Little and Lcpl Alex Murphy

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
R.A.F., Brize Norton

Personalities

OC	—	**Maj A. L. W. G. Steane**
2IC	—	**Capt J. R. Cadwallader**
Admin Officer	—	**Capt T. Keany**
OC 'A' Troop	—	**Capt J. Boyle**
OC 'E' Troop	—	**Capt V. G. Strivens**
RSM	—	**WO1 (RSM) A. G. Morgan**
RQMS	—	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Brackston**
RQMS Designate	—	**WO2 (RQMS) P. Hardwick**
Y of S	—	**WO2 (Y of S) J. Lovell**
F of S	—	**WO2 (F of S) M. P. Coley**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

WE bid farewell to **Capt (QM) Tom Keany** and **Margarite,** who are moving, on 'promotion', to 8 Inf Bde. **WO2 John Brackston,** having completed 26 years in the forces, also leaves us. After 26 years he probably deserves a rest! In their places we welcome a new 2IC, **Capt Jim Cadwallader,** and RQMS, **WO2 Peter Hardwick,** both from Blandford.

We have been enlivened by the presence, on Exercise Long Look, of **Capt Bruce Gladman** from the Royal Australian Signals. He has proved that all Australians really are called **Bruce.**

CARTERTON GALA

Although the Squadron has been at Brize Norton only a short time, we have already built up a good relationship with the local village of Carterton. We helped at the village gala. Members of the Squadron were employed mainly behind the scenes—the best place for them(?). **Capt Tom Keany** did judge the fancy dress competition and was more nervous about that than last year's FFR!

EXERCISE IN DENMARK

Most of the Squadron were deployed in October on Exercise Tacomex 10 in Denmark. Masterminded by **Maj Leslie Steane,** the exercise was both battle camp and communications training. The sight of our attached RAF operators doing section attacks (driven on by **Capt Jack Boyle**) warmed the heart of even **RSM Tony Morgan. Lcpl 'Joe' Olds** had a personal ambition to complete one attack without getting wet. The heavens were against him because every attack was across a ditch too wide to jump. Even on the defence phase it rained! 'Commander Australian Forces Denmark' (alias **Capt Bruce Gladman**) and 'General' Welch **(Ssgt Dave Welch)** provided plenty of fictitious traffic for our communications exercises. Higher and lower control was manned by **WO2 (Y of S) John Lovell** ably assisted by two enthusiastic but bewildered Flight Lieutenants!

VISITS

The Corps Band visited RAF Brize Norton on October 21 to entertain the Station Officers at a dinner night. Unfortunately, most of the Squadron were away in Denmark but the RAF were delighted with the performance.

On November 4 we had **Col John Findlater** visit us from Royal Signals Manning and Record Office. He gave us a very interesting and informative talk and then spent an hour 'sorting out' the Senior NCOs, before helping us lunch out **Capt Tom Keany.**

The same evening, at a Ladies Guest Night, we said thank you to **Col Ronnie Stonham,** CSO 3 Div, for all the help he has given the Squadron whilst we were under his technical control. To round off the evening a lone piper played on our behalf. **Sig 'Robbie' Burns** did very well and undoubtedly earned his drink.

RED HAND REUNION

The Red Hand Reunion will take place at 244 Sig Sqn (AS), RAF Brize Norton in April 1978. The exact date is yet to be decided but look out for notices in THE WIRE and tell other members of the event.

259 Sig Sqn, B. F. P. O. 53

LEGGING IT AROUND CYPRUS

CYPRUS WALKABOUT

IF you raise your eyes northwards from Episkopi, in the distance, pine-green against the sky, sit Troodos and Mount Olympus 25 miles away. It is from Episkopi to the Troodos Leave Centre and back that the Cyprus Walkabout Competition takes place over some 60 miles of rugged, dirty country. To qualify for the Certificate of Merit the total time taken to complete the course is not to exceed 24 hours.

The Squadron entered three teams this year: **Cpl 'Taff' Gordon, Lcpl 'Pip' Piper,** and **Sig John Crispin** (Episkopi); **Lt George Lord, Sigs John Pirie** and **Richie Reeves** (Airfield Troop); and **Sgt Pete Wheeler-Lilley** and wife, **Joan,** and **Cpl John Fitzsimmons** (Mountain Troop).

Day one starts at 0430hrs with some 80 teams of three, some from the UK and BAOR, moving in turn into the map tent and away. A straightforward fast course, lots of road and track and all three teams make good time to complete the 30-mile 'up' leg. But day two dawns and the map tent reveals the worst: the checkpoints widely scattered forcing the teams over huge rubbly hills, across baking empty ravines, zig-zagging east and west. The day takes its toll: like many others, **'Taff' Gordon** and **John Crispin** succumb to injury half way home but **'Pip' Piper** manages to join a composite team and finishes with only minutes to spare. Sadly, Mountain Troop are very disappointed to be caught by the 'cut off' time and are forced to retire. Airfield Troop plod on but morale is high with endless appalling jokes, gallons of water, visions of horizontal repose, and a catch phrase—'we can hack it'! And they do, completing the last two legs across the 'bondu' in darkness.

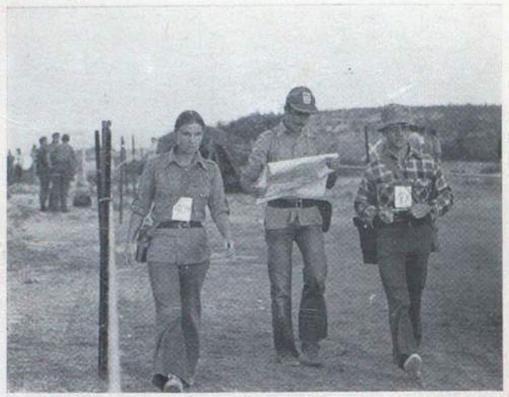
Just one word from the participants: next time you see someone who has just been in something like this, don't ask how we feel; how do you THINK we feel?!

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY—
Episkopi Troop conquer all

The rigorous training on NAAFI pasties and Keo beer really paid off for the lads of Episkopi Troop cross-country team. Despite heavy odds, in the shape of **'Geordie' Shave,** we managed to conquer the favourites, Mountain Troop.

'Hot legs' Chris Brearley with the aid of **'Mine's a straight' Marty Case, 'Tearaway Tony' Hogg** and **Alan Armstrong** managed to take four out of the first seven places. Then it was touch and go to get the next two in to have our first qualifying six but we made it in the shape of **'Spud' (Maybe he's the real one) Murphy** and **Ray Stone.** This tallied our points to 56, which was just 7 points different to the second-placed Mountain Men, who deteriorated in the heavy air.

Would you believe this was all possible despite the lack of two of our 'stars'. These being **'Pip' Piper,** due to a Cyprus Walkabout injury, and **Cliff Swailes,** who felt left out as he was on a Mediterranean cruise. It must also be mentioned that the other two members of the team who didn't count but nevertheless completed the 4·7 miles of gruelling 'Bondu'. These were **'Lemon' Tony Dawson** and **'No shoes' Mick Denny** whom, I hasten to add, finished the last two miles in stocking feet and still wasn't last. A short message for Mountain Troop: Better luck next year, maybe the Sergeant-Major will join our team.



Early morning—30 miles to go!
Mrs Wheeler-Lilley, Sgt Wheeler-Lilley, Cpl Fitzsimmons

DHEKELIA DASH 77

The Dash takes place between Ayios Nikolaos and Dhekelia. It is a team event with 15 members each of whom 'dash' a mile section. Rank features in the team qualifications as does age. The team must have at least one officer and five WO/SNCOs and members' ages must total 400 years minimum. In earlier years the Dash was a much less serious affair with competitors having to down a pint before 'dashing' their mile. Today, trainers pale at the sight of ale; stop watches and glucose tablets are the in-thing.

First in were 62 Sqn RE who determined to beat their previous second and third positions came home in 1hr 17min. Second were the 'Unbeatables' (their name)—262 Sig Sqn—last year's winners, followed closely by 22 Locating Battery RA. They did extremely well; here on a month's exercise they ran away with the guest's team cup. Resident units of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area only, qualify for the real one. Eventually, some 30sec behind came 259's man, **Sgt Moss Walker,** hell bent on closing a 250-m gap down to 50—which he did! But alas, our hold on the guest team cup had slipped away.

Our team, to whom we say well done, was:

WO2 (SSM) Brian Selkirk
Ssgt (F of S) Pat Baldwin
Sgt Moss Walker (capt)
Sgt Dave Lumb
Sgt Eddie Higgins
Cpl Marty Case
Cpl Nev King
Cpl Paul Wilson
Sig Tony Hogg
Sig Chris Brearley
Sig Alan Armstrong
Sig 'Geordie' Pirie
Sig Ernie Taylor
Sig John Barker and last but not least
Maj (TOT) Roy Edge who provided years in lieu of speed

Watch out for 259 next year! But be there early if you want to see us finish.

News from Troops

633 Sig Tp, B.F.P.O. 12

'633 Sig Troop is proud to announce the arrival of its Force Radio Sub-Troop'
(Report by WO2 (Y of S) Lemmy D. Lomas

FILLING THE GAP

TRADITIONALLY during times of threatened aggression 633 Sig Troop have always taken over the resident Infantry Battalion's Radio Room to release the Regimental Signallers for forward deployment. With the recent reinforcement, however, there was the need to rationalise net radio communications to enable the Force Commander to command the two Battle Groups which form the nucleus of his Force. This was obviously too great a task for the Battalion Signal Platoon's resource of manpower and equipment. Consequently, 633 were asked to fill the gap, resulting in the formation of Force Radio Sub-Troop.

Maj Roger Thompson, the Force Signal Officer, arrived with the early reinforcements from 30 Sig Regt accompanied by **Sgt Bill Johnson,** who is now the Force Radio Sergeant, and four Radio Telegraphists making up the nucleus of the Troop. On arrival, one of the first jobs for the Force Signals Officer was to re-write the Communications and Electronics Instructions to cover a two Battle Group situation. This all had to be done by 'yesterday', and consequently much wailing and gnashing of teeth was heard from **Y of S Lemmy Lomas** and his **Cipher Cpls Brian Moseley** and **Dave Denning,** who, nevertheless, produced the goods on time. Meanwhile, the regimental signallers of 1 Queens signed over the Battalion Radio Room to **Sgt Johnson's** boys, and Force Sub-Troop was born!

Transferred at sea

One of the Troop's first tasks was to provide a C42 detachment on board HMS *Achilles* led by **Sgt Bob Hey** and **Cpl Keith Jones.** It was only a matter of days, however, before the detachment transferred at sea to HMS *Ariadne*. Shortly afterwards our original operators on board were replaced by **Lcpl Steve Parry** and **Sig Andy Farmer** just in time to steam off on a cruise to the Bahamas calling in at Miami en route. The detachment has since been transferred to HMS *Scylla* which gave **Sigs Ronnie Corbet** and **Andy Farmer** a cruise which included Kingston, Jamaica, and Trinidad. The C42 detachment on board provides a valuable ship-to-shore circuit which enables the ship to work into the Force Command Net, contrary to **Lcpl Pete Murton's** theory that it is an engineering channel for the Yeoman's ship-to-shore RATT circuit. The transfer of detachments between ships is carried out at sea by Bosun's chair, and even though when not operating on set the soldiers carry out 'Seamans Duties' such as painting, greasing and scrubbing there are no shortages of volunteers from the Troop. One detachment even carried out the daily 'colours' ceremony.

A high feature

Linking up the north and south of Belize has long been a thorn in many a Regimental Signal Officer's side, and **CSM Husein,** of the Royal Regt of Wales Sig Platoon breathed a sigh of relief when he learned that 1 Queens had handed over the 'Baldy Beacon' rebroadcast station to Force Radio Sub-Troop. As the photograph shows and the caption explains, the station sits atop one of the highest features in Belize, Mountain Pine Ridge. **Lcpl George Davison** and **Sig Jess Ward** together with two signallers from the 1 RRW Sig Platoon took over the 'Tin Tabernacle' at the beginning of August.

Baldy Beacon is very reminiscent of Gandale in that on a summer's day 18 degrees above the Equator one can still feel quite cold. Currently taking in the high altitude Kur are **Cpl 'Jock' Stephenson** and **Sig Jim Webster.**

The second Rebroadcast Station in the south of the country has always been the responsibility of 633 Sig Troop and is currently being commanded by newly arrived **Cpl 'Mac' Macintosh,** assisted by (and adding a touch of integration) **Cpl 'Tommy' Atkinson,** of the Royal Engineers, **Lcpl Mick Marsh,** and **Sig Chris Sugden.**

Headquarters Battle Group South, in the absence of the 1 Staffords Regimental Signal Officer, is currently being whipped into shape HF communicationswise by **Lcpl Steve Parry,** who, under the eagle eye of our new Force Signal Officer, **Maj Warren Armstrong,** is fast becoming the Clansman King with regular 24 hours SSB Voice communication time to his credit. The attachment to Battle Group South was the last piece in the Force Net Radio Jigsaw. Finally, no Troop would be complete without its own T-shirt, and the Force Radio Sub-Troop can be justifiably proud of theirs which shows the Troop motto 'Good Vibes Nationwide'.

The Rebroadcast Site on Baldy Beacon
Sitting on top of the world

'Es Bueno Aqui No?' or You Better Belize It
(Report by WO2 (Y of S) L. D. Lomas

AT A STROKE

LSL *Sir Geraint* joins the net. To enable the Force Ordnance Officer to co-ordinate the unloading of the LSL, a new VHF Net was set up linking the LSL, the Customs Wharf at Belize City, and Airport Camp. Details of the task were given to **Sgt Bill Johnson** and the Y of S at 1225 one Friday lunchtime, and as usual, everything was required to be ready for a 6 am start the following Monday morning. Nevertheless, by close of play Friday the 'Force Ordnance Lotistics Net' was a viable proposition, and at 0530 on the Monday morning **Sgt Bill Johnston, Lcpl George Davison,** a couple of Signallers and an FFR Rover borrowed from the Royal Regt of Wales moved to the Customs Wharf to open up the net. After the initial difficulties of trying to get Merchant Navy 'Sparkers' to speak in Voice Procedure, the net worked very well. By being able to call forward trucks to meet barges, and barges to the ship, the LSL was 'turned round' in 72 hours. The amount of time saved in terms of cargo equated to about 2,000 tonnes of freight, and the Force Logisticians were duly grateful.

The other big event was the arrival of **Sgt Roy Pledger,** who took over from **Bill Johnston.** We hope **Bill** gets a few days to acclimatise before embarking on Exercise Hardfall. Most of the handover was done by helicopter, and **Roy Pledger** now suffers from the first-known case of 'Puma Lag'.

COMMCEN NEWS

The Commcen, under the whip of **Sgt Tom (Beanstealer-in-Chief) Wardle,** continues to 'hack' the ever increasing daily traffic load, which, of course, is made no lighter with the presence of our resident frigate. Masters of Ship/Shore communications are: **Lcpl Roger (King Ratt) Secker, Sig 'Tonka' Thompson, Lcpl Terry Woolcombe,** and **Sig Rab (Fistfull of Dollars) Lee.** Communications and co-operation on this link are very good and the amount of Green Time logged grows daily. HMS *Eskimo* is the latest visitor to read our Maritime Rear Link.

As the festive season approaches and the local units start to get into the seasonal spirit, it wasn't surprising to intercept a signal from 1 Staffords Advance to 1 Staffords Rear tasking their Regimental Signals Officer to bring out to Belize 'Outfit Father Christmas, Red, Complete, quantity One'. Obviously a case of communicators getting into Christmas Media.

MISCELLANEA

To mention all the visitors to the Troop during November and December would end up reading like a Who's Who of 1 Signal Group. However, the CO of 30 Sig Regt eventually managed to leave us in mid-October after an enjoyable visit hampered only by a 'duff' VC10 delaying his departure. Members of the pre-Christmas 'Rum Run' include **F of S Fred Brown,** and **Capt TOT Cliff Webb** and their CPA team to install 'Piccolo', **Y of S 'Geordie' Atkinson** of the CDCN team, to mention but a few.

Cpl Bill (Scooby) Tidswell continues to amaze us with his aquatic exploits, his latest being to teach the fish in the Transmitter Site pond to jump through hoops while **Sgt Pete Ascough** has taken over the overall running of the Safari Park and Transmit Site from **Sgt Collin (with two Ls) Brown.**

Volleyball is the 'in' game at the moment following some disastrous football results. The volleyball team stars **Lcpls Terry Woolcombe** and **George Davison, Sig Lenny Lawrence,** and many other stalwart players managed and coached by **Sgt John Bainbridge** who unfortunately leaves us shortly for 'civvy street'.

Sig Mike Wilding, Radio APC Programme Manager and DJ Extraordinaire, has played his last 'jingle' and has handed over the 'Caribbean Sunshine Sounds' to **Cpl Tony Orwin** complete

Lcpl George Davison, in action at the net during 633 Sig Troop's 5—0 victory over the Royal Regiment of Wales Sergants Mess team

with a daily Breakfast Show. Well done, **Mike,** for providing and producing a great morale-boosting service. Also breaking into the world of Showbiz was our Troop Admin **Ssgt 'Taff the Staff' Ben Elliott** who is shortly to publish his novel 'The Confessions of a Road Manager' after a week on the road with a **Miss Brandy de Frank.**

Finally, on behalf of the Force Signals Officer, **Maj Warren Armstrong,** the OC 633 Sig Troop, **Capt Brian Chubb,** I would like to wish a sincere Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all who served with us in 1977; and to all the families back in the UK, especially those of our reinforcements from 30 Sig Regt and 244 Sig Sqn who were not at home for Christmas.

The Volunteers

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)

TO BELGIUM BY SEA

zzON November 12 a party of 25 soldiers from the Regiment zzO crossed to Belgium to augment the communications Staff at SHAPE for Exercise Able Archer. The party was commanded by **Capt Bill Morris,** who took 10 soldiers and the vehicles to the Continent by Commercial Car Ferries. **RSM Keith Childs** commanded the remainder of the party that was due to cross the Channel by hydrofoil. Due to rough weather in the Channel the two parties did not meet at SHAPE until approximately 2300hrs, where everyone was glad of a meal and to retire to bed.

ON THE BALL

The following day the exercise started and communications were soon established under the eyes of our two Foremen, **WO1 Roger Knowles** and **WO2 Reg Thurbon.** Much curiosity was aroused among the American communicators about our equipment and the speed and skill shown by the crews at moving into a location and erecting the antennae, all of which caused much favourable comment.

The data telegraphists went to work in the Relay and our two WRAC representatives, **Cpl Linda Stone** and **Lcpl Christine Mills,** with **Cpl Bill Flynn** went to work in the main SHAPE Communications Centre. Once the Radio Relay communications were established the operators settled into a steady shift system which enabled them to have time off for sleeping and shopping, etc.

AND HOME

On Thursday, November 17, a small party was held in the British Mess to say thank you to all those at SHAPE who had helped us and made the visit go smoothly. Friday was spent packing up after the Exercise, buying the last items to take home and generally preparing for the journey back to the UK. After an early start, both parties left SHAPE and, after an uneventful journey, arrived back at their respective Drill Halls. Everyone felt a sense of a job well done and renewed confidence in the ability of members of the Regiment to work with and be accepted by the staff at SHAPE.

Erection of antenna mast at Pippingford park

Y of S Brian Alway instructs Cpl Khokhar on the intricacies of logging messages at Blandford, November 19

AUTUMN TRAINING

While the party from Belgium was returning, the remaining Data Telegraphists went to Blandford to practice their skills in different surroundings. Our thanks to the School of Signals for their assistance. On the same weekend **Lt John Geake** took the radio relay operators to Pippingford Park training area in Sussex for a weekend's training.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

As usual each Squadron organised a dance and draw, all of which were very successful. The season started with Headquarters Squadron party on October 29, followed by 47 Sqn on November 26 at Harrow. The next event was the Sergeants Mess Draw at Hammersmith on December 4. 83 Sqn were unable to hold their draw at Southfields on December 10 as the crews of 10 Green Goddesses are sleeping in the Drill Hall, but they were still able to organise a very good evening at Hammersmith thanks to **SSM Bland.**

Cpl Ali Metabdin organised buffets for the Sergeants Mess and 83 Sqn of the usual very high standard. The last function was 41 Sqn's Draw at Coulsdon on December 17. Despite the heating problems, the function was again very successful.

FIRE-FIGHTING

As the Firemen's strike is in its fourth week at the time of writing, all our available operators and HGV drivers have been assisting in the fire-fighting duties. **Ssgt Jim Lycett** and **Y of S Brian Alway** have done valuable work at the London control centre at Kingsbury; while **Sig Ward** has been away for three weeks driving Green Goddesses from Chelsea Barracks. The Regiment also hosts two fire stations at Southfields and Cobham.

33 Sig Regt (V), Liverpool

THE VAL DE MARNE INTERNATIONAL MARCH 1977
Report by WO2 A. Gouldson (APTC)

GOOD THINKING

WITH a fortnight's leave from my civilian employment coming up in September, it seemed a good idea to have a weekend in Paris with HQ Sqn's team entered for the Val De Marne International March. Out of an original list of 15 the team was finally reduced to seven. Myself and **Sgt Keith Reynolds** giving moral support to five WRAC soldiers!

Paris bound

The journey was uneventful but enjoyable. The 0705 train to London, a coach to Ramsgate, the Hover Lloyd to Calais and then we picked up the 2030 coach to Paris. There, we were met by an open French Army truck which allowed the French casanovas early greetings from our Huyton ladies ('Allo der Wack') for some 20km to our barracks. Settling into our accommodation it was a welcome sight to see **Cpls Frank Rowlands, Barry Shone,** and **Lcpl Patrick Black** of 80 Sqn's team who were also 'showing the flag for the thirty third'. Well done chaps.

All ages

With more than 600 competitors, from the very young to the more seasoned veterans, a very happy family gathering assembled at Chateau de Villiers ready for the trek. The girls having 'borrowed' a broom handle for our Regimental flag, we awaited the weighing of our packs at 'checkout' before finally, at 1000hrs, we stepped off to the strains of 'In my Liverpool Home'.

Blisters and sardines

With blisters beginning to form, we were grateful after 12km for our first stop, where we ate a packed meal of a tin of sardines, some French corned beef (urgh!), a tin of raisin juice, and the traditional French loaf. Back to marching, and we descended from the hills to cobbled streets along the river banks to be engulfed in a thunderstorm. Pressing on we eventually crossed the River Marne at 20km.

Impressive conclusion

After 25km one of the girls wanted tablets for a headache, but having sat her on a bed, the amorous French Medical Orderly was told 'Tablets we go!' (we spoilt his afternoon I think). From the 28km mark to the final 'run in' was very similar to Windsor Great Park; a long straight road in parklands lined with trees. Crowds lined the route all the way to the finishing line, and with the French Foreign Legion and Americans having large contingents their songs echoed far away across the parkland.

Showing the Flag of 33 Sig Regt (V)
Left to right: Sgt Keith Reynolds, Cpl Marie Watkinson, Ptes Veronica Raynard, Shirley Kane, Ann Smith, Susan Wilson and WO2 Alan Gouldson

Not to be outdone, the 'Thirty Third' filled the air with 'Roll me over in the clover', 'Heart of my Heart', and 'The bells are ringing for me and my girl'. The crowds rose to the gameness and spirit of the girls, and the clapping and cheering to the finishing line was a marvellous welcome. Within 20 minutes the march past, took place at Chateau de Vincennes, an imposing castle and courtyard. Both **Sgt Reynolds** and myself were quick to remove the concrete slabs from our packs! A shower, followed by a visit to the international bar, provided the necessary refreshment.

Homeward bound

On Monday morning we started our journey homeward, and finally arrived at Lime Street Station, Liverpool, at 0235hrs on Tuesday.

I would like to pay tribute to the guts and determination of the WRAC team, and I applaud the pluck of 80 Sqn's team, particularly **Cpl Rowlands** who completed the 45km march even though he required hospital treatment afterwards! Finally, my thanks to **Sgt Laura Nuttall** for her hard work in making all the Administrative arrangements, and for transporting us to Lime Street Station at 0630hrs to set the 'Adventure' on its way.

Association News

CARDIFF BRANCH

IT was with deep sadness that we received the news of the death of **Mrs May Rolls,** wife of our chairman, **George. May** was the 'first' lady of the Branch, a stalwart supporter and fund-raiser. We are grateful that she was able to attend the last reunion at Catterick in June when she thoroughly enjoyed herself. Our deepest sympathy is extended to **George** and their son, **David.**

On Monday, October 24, Honorary member **Glen Stevens** and his wife, **Flo,** celebrated their Golden Wedding with a splendid party, organised in secret by their family. **Glen,** a Founder Member of Royal Signals, was taken out with **Flo,** for a quiet drink' and were both greatly surprised when they found they were involved not only in a family reunion but with a miniature Royal Signals Reunion! This very popular couple were greeted and congratulated by many pre- and post-war members and ex-members of the Corps, including **Col V. W. Hawkins** and **Lt Col W. F. G. Bale.**

On Sunday, October 30, a sponsored walk, kindly organised by **Capt Alan Burden,** OC LSG Troop, 55 Sig Sqn, and the members of LSG Troop in aid of our Branch Funds proved a very successful venture and was well supported, not only by members of LSG Troop but with six WRAC members of 53 Sig Sqn.

All freely volunteered to take part in a walk from Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, to 5 RRW TAVR Centre, Pontypridd, a

distance of 12 miles. The only casualties sustained were the inevitable blisters but our funds will be greatly enhanced with the success of this very splendid effort. We are most grateful to all who took part.

We now hope to add further cash to the kitty with our annual Armistice Dance on November 12, and a Jumble Sale set for November 19.

Capt A. Burden and the members of LSG Troop tell me they intend to repeat their very kind gesture of last year by again entertaining our pensioner members with a Christmas Dinner and Social Evening on or about December 10. These, and other such kindly gestures as sponsoring some of our less affluent members for the Catterick 'At Home' each year merits the highest of praise to all members of LSG Troop who have literally taken Cardiff Branch into their hearts.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AT LEEDS

ONCE again the Branch is indebted to **Maj Bill Illingworth, TD,** and personnel of his Squadron (49) for providing the facilities for yet another 'five star' Annual Dinner held on Saturday, October 1, in the TAVR Centre, Regent Street, Leeds.

We were very pleased to welcome **Brig** and **Mrs N. A. Butler** from Catterick (third time lucky), **Col** and **Mrs F. Ramsbottom,** Army Apprentice College, and **Capt Peter Studd,** Adjutant, 34 (N) Sig Regt (V), as guests of the Branch. Over the years guests and members have travelled 'fairish' distances to attend Branch dinners, but they don't often jet it from abroad. **Michael** and **Sandra**—son and daughter-in-law of the chairman—made it from California to attend, what turned out to be for them—and their 'Mom', a memorable occasion. In May of this year the Central Committee of the Association agreed that **Mrs Mary Edwards** be invited to accept Associate Life Membership in recognition of 40 years of voluntary welfare service to members and families of the Corps and the Association. This unique honour—the first to a lady—was marked by the presentation by the president, **Col Richie Bigland, TD,** on behalf of the Branch members, of a pair of antique silver candelsticks, suitably inscribed, to **Mary.**

The loyal toast was proposed by the president and. The Royal Signals Association' by **Mr Trevor Smith,** assistant secretary. The toast 'Our Colonel-in-Chief' made a welcome re-appearance in the programme and was proposed by the chairman, **Maj Bob Edwards.** He also proposed 'Our Guests', during which he noted the Army Apprentice College flavour of the guests: **Charles** and **Margaret Rhodes**—he was an Apprentice, **Capt Peter Studd,** on the permanent staff serving three commandants, **Col Freddie Ramsbottom,** the Commandant, **Brig Norman Buler,** past Commandant and now Commander, Training Group, Royal Signals, which includes the College, and **Maj Bob,** for 8½ years on the permanent staff—it really was a coincidence. **Brig Butler,** no mean after-dinner performer, responded on behalf of the guests. He was complimentary, witty and amusing.

The diners were entertained by an enjoyable rendition of some excellent music by the Band of 34 (N) Sig Regt (V). Following dinner, dancing took place to the excellent music of a first-class trio who catered for all tastes. It was a great pleasure to have with us **Capt Joy Hill, Mr Jack Harriman** and our 'over 80s', **Ted Speight** and **Len 'Twinkletoes' Payne.** We missed **Maj Tug** and **Kathy Wilson** but hope they will make the next 'do'.

During the evening the Annual Draw took place. Five winning counterfoils were un-named—it is thought they may have been sold at the Corps Reunion. Details are:

Ticket Nos	834	Prize £30
	279	Bottle of gin
	4047	Travelling clock
	13863	Travelling clock
	11235	Bottle of wine

Readers holding any of the tickets should notify the Branch secretary.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

DUE mainly to the efforts of **Reg Jewell** the Branch has been reformed after a lapse of some 23 years. At the first meeting **Maj Barry Ashcroft** was elected to fill the chair and the posts of secretary and treasurer are filled (quite admirably) by **Richard Newcombe** and **Cliff Scantlebury. Brig F. Clarkson** agreed to become president and his enthusiasm and hard work on the Branch's behalf has already become apparent. The Branch consists of war-time ex-members (some of whom must have known Jimmy as a boy), ex-Regulars, and quite a few ex- and serving TAVR members. The mixture is garnished by the presence of some ex-WRAC and thanks to the efforts of our 'Live Wire' entertainments committee **Fred Northcott, Dave Rees, Terry Rowlands** and **Christine King** was well and truly shaken if not stirred at our first social.

Arrangements have been made to obtain a Branch Standard and discussions are going on regarding the dedication. More about that in the next issue.

To mark Remembrance Day, a Cross was planted in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey by our president and the Branch sent a contingent to the Plymouth Festival of Remembrance.

The Branch membership now stands at 63, and meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Royal Artillery Club, Llambhay Hill, Plymouth.

READING BRANCH

Report by N. A. Wickens

READING Branch reporting a happy and busy summer season with parties paying visits to a Grand Band Concert at Kneller Hall, The Wembley Band Pageant, and two informal dinners—plus parties enjoying the hospitality of the Blandford and Catterrick reunions.

On October 15, under the presidency of **Maj Gen J. M., Sawers, CB, MBE,** the Branch held its Seventh Annual Dinner. The official guests were **Brig** and **Mrs A. A. G. Anderson Col L. W. Wright, TD, Maj** and **Mrs K. R. R. Boulding Maj L. H. Caldicott, MBE** (chairman Brighton Branch) and **Mrs Caldicott, T. S. Baynham, Esq, MBE,** and **Mrs Baynham.**

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by Mr Len Pearson

NOVEMBER 5, 1977, was a very special day for Scarborough Branch. Our president, **Maj F. Mansfield, MBE,** representing the Branch, was presented with our first Standard to celebrate over 30 years' existence of the Scarborough Branch. The Standard was presented by **Maj T. W. Jackson,** OC Signal Training Centre, Burniston Barracks, on behalf of the Commandant and Permanent Staff.

Maj Jackson, in his presentation speech, remarked on the Military History of Standards and their great and honourable significance in Army ceremonial as well as every-day life. In battle they marked the Headquarters of the formation and, consequently, were well guarded. The new Scarborough Branch Standard would, in his opinion, be as honoured and well guarded as the Standards of old.

Thanking **Maj Jackson** and the Permanent Staff for such a wonderful gift to the Branch, **Maj Mansfield** said the Standards of old were also used as a 'Rallying Point' for stragglers who had become separated from their parent formation and were always treated with affection and great honour. Our new Standard would become a treasured and well-guarded possession of Scarborough Branch, and hoped it would become a 'Rallying Point' for many more Royal Signals Old Comrades in the Scarborough area.

The presentation took place during a buffet dance held in Burniston Barracks NAAFI. The buffet dance followed a bonfire and firework party, which was attended by a large number of children and their parents. The children also enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, baked potatoes and lemonade. The evening could not have been such a great success without the hard work of **Ssgt Chubb, Sgt Ken Coatesworth, Cpl Sam Doole** and **Cpl Lynn.** The ACC cooks, **Cpl Jones** and **Lcpl Malcolm,** added to the success of the evening by preparing a lovely buffet. One Old Comrade insidted the curry was the best he had eaten since 1929! Dancing, both ancient and modern, carried on until the early hours and we all believe the new Standard was truly 'wetted'.

Photo courtesy: Scarborough Evening News

Arrangements are already under way for our Standard to be dedicated in St Martin's Catterick,, on our Old Comrades' Reunion Church Parade in June 1978, at which we hope to have a record Branch attendance.

New Secretary for Indian Signals Association

Lt Col "Nat" Gould has handed over the seals of office as Secretaty of the Indian Signals Association to:

Mr J. T. Dexter
23 Kelvin Avenue
Palmers Green
London N13 4TH
Telephone (01) 888 3305

Sport

ROYAL SIGNALS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB 1977-78

(1) **Results**

Played 4 Won 3 Lost 1

Corps 1—4 RMAS	Corps 4—1 REME
Corps 3—2 RCT	Corps 4—1 RAEC

(2) The Corps Squash team is still looking for new talent and Unit Secretaries are requested to forward the names of promising players to:

Maj J. S. Doody (Royal Signals),
Secretary Royal Signals SRC,
8 Signal Regiment,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 807

Editors Note:- We apologise for the positioning of these notes which are way out of sequence!

OC	—	**Maj K. P. Burke**
2IC/Comms Officer		**Capt R. G. Heaney**
QM	—	**Capt (QM) T. Keany**
AO	—	**Capt G. A. Kendrick** (Staffords)
OC Comms Troop	—	**Lt M. S. Fisher**
MTO	—	**Lt A. T. Evans**
RSM	—	**WO1 R. I. Buckley**
RQMS	—	**WO2 M. S. W. Olive**
Y of S	—	**WO2 J. T. Nichols**
F of S	—	**WO1 N. C. Cowell**
ORSQMS	—	**Ssgt M. R. Yallop**

FOCUS ON SHQ

THIS month's contribution comes from SHQ and firstly features the Orderly Room staff. Our photograph includes both the incoming and outgoing Chief Clerks with the other staff. They are described by **Ssgt Duffy** (the outgoing Chief) as follows:

Cpl 'Eddie' Clancy who (when he's not serving in the Tudor Bar or Rugby Club) is the unit's Orderly Room Corporal. A very dour 'Jock' who's very difficult to prise out of the Chief Clerk's seat.

Lcpl 'Taff' Roberts, an excellent Welshman, who is the unit's

'resident expert' on leave (told you he was a good lad!) and movements, and is a keen 'Waterats' supporter.

Sig (I want to change my trade) Addison, a lovable character who, it seems, is rarely seen in or around the SHQ area (come back, all is forgiven).

Sgt 'Joe 90' Chanter is our tame RAPC Pay Sergeant who has just returned from his Div 2 course after receiving a very good report. An air of calm has now returned to the Pay Office after two rather chaotic months.

We welcome **Ssgt Ray Yallop,** newly arrived from 30 Sig Regt and looking forward to his tour as ORSQMS in 'Shamrock' Londonderry.

Finally, we say farewell to **Ssgt Ray Duffy** who has been a very active and enthusiastic member of the Squadron both in the Orderly Room and in the sporting and social life of the Squadron. We wish him well in his new job at 4 Signal Group.

The other main element in SHQ is our 'D & E' Platoon of RPC personnel, headed by **Sgt 'Joe' Tappin.** Since our last notes we have said farewell to **Lcpl Oliver** and **Ptes Whittaker, Collins** and **Currie.** We wish them the best of luck in their future postings. We say Hello to **Cpl Goodman, Ptes Webster, Radbourne, Harris** and **Cole.** We hope they will have a pleasant and safe tour. The Platoon is kept busy with many varied tasks in addition to their routine work, providing escorts and guards and assisting the RSM with range days. **Cpl Paige** and his team also got in on the act by helping to assemble the mast sections.

Finally, we wish to congratulate **Sgt Tappin** on the award of his LS and GC Medal.

SERGEANTS MESS

The Squadron WOs and Sergeants share the Mess with our resident Battalion—2 Bn Coldstream Guards—and have for some time hankered after 'a place of their own'. Now they have been able to open their own club called the Foyle View, thanks to a lot of hard work by **RSM Ian Buckley** and many others. The club was officially opened by the Commander, **Brig A. D. Myrtle,** on December 2, and our photograph shows him signing the Visitors' Book.

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Small	0·16	0·16
Blazer badge (*as approved by the Corps Committee*) (on navy or black background)	2·20	2·35
Car badge—square, acrylic	2·20	2·35
Motor cycle badge	0·75	0·75
Corps cravats—terylene	1·85	2·00
Corps cuff links	2·20	2·40
Identity card holder	0·16	0·17
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0·29	0·31
Corps cocktail mats (*set of six*)	3·90	4·20
Corps table mats (*set of six*)	14·13	15·25
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	4·35	4·67
Corps scarves—Woollen	3·30	3·55
Corps squares—terylene	2·52	2·72
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	1·25	1·35
terylene 2½"	0·20	0·25
woollen	0·95	1·00
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0·55	0·58
medium (7½" × 5½)	0·51	0·55
small (3" × 2⅜")	0·33	0·35
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	1·76	1·90
'Begone Dull Care'. The Corps Band Record. (LP)	2·10	2·25
Corps pendants	0·38	0·40
Corps badged ball point desk set	0.75	0.80
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Acrylic paper weight incorporating Corps badge	1.85	1.95

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(b) overall control of communications procedures, message handling and security, and relevant policy matters;
(c) Liaison between the Services on these subjects.

Previous service as a Royal Signals Traffic Officer with staff experience is essential, and preference will be given to the applicant who has worked in a security sensitive environment.

Technical Officer Telecommunications (Ref: No. 51/G)

Duties involving the overall control and supervision of radio servicing workshops and technicians.

Applicants must be fully conversant with the normal range of military HF and VHF radio and associated terminal equipment, and be capable of effecting on-site repairs, conducting user field trials, etc. Preference will be given to an ex-Royal Signals Technical Officer Telecommunications or Senior Foreman of Signals who has had staff experience.

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