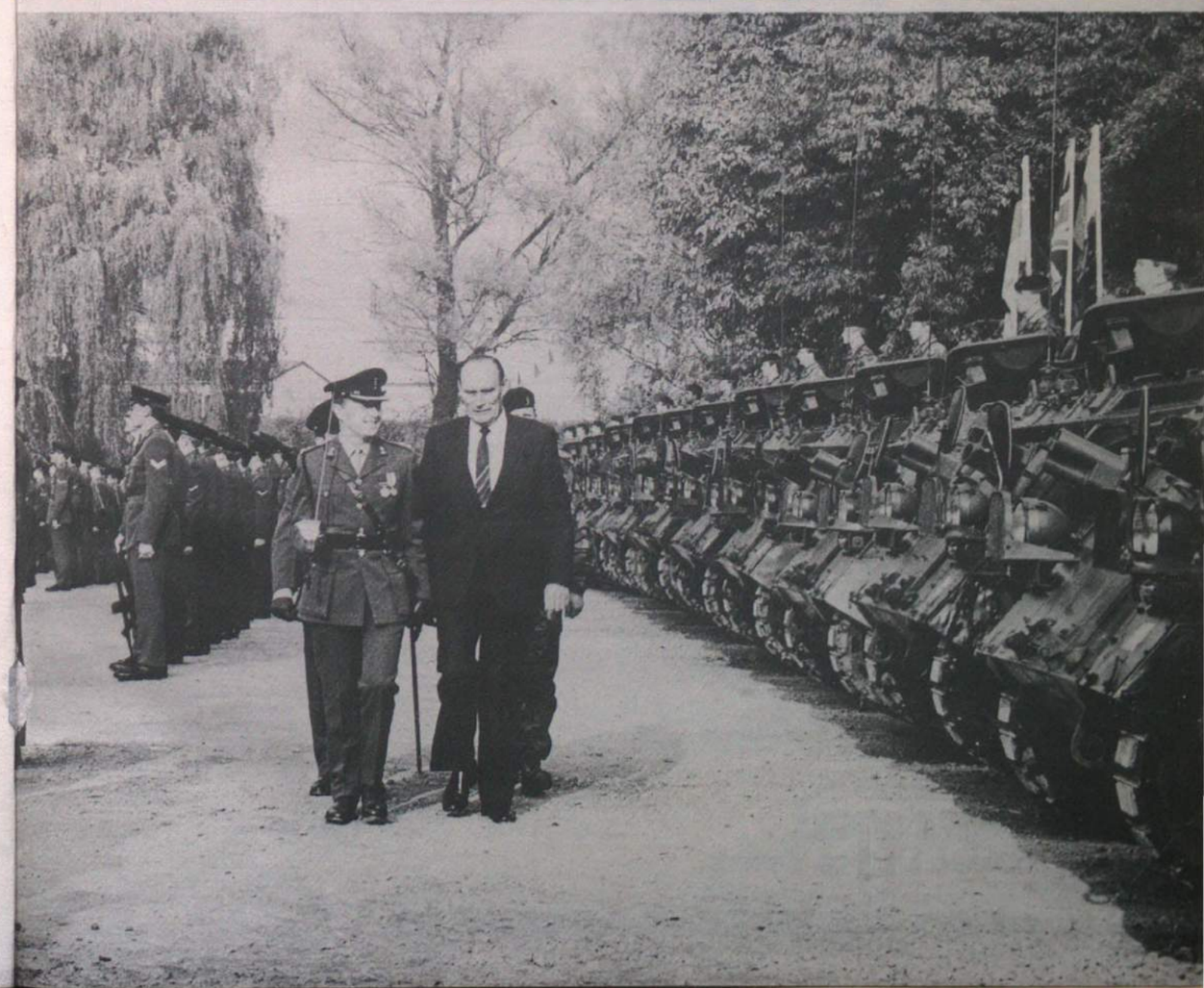
January 1983

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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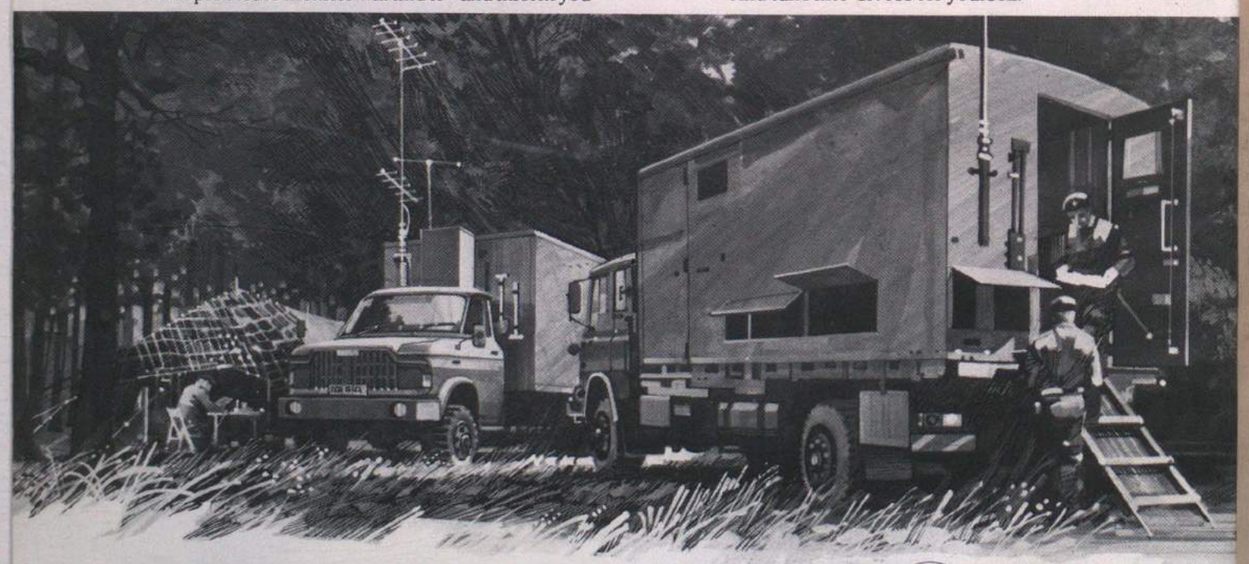

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THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
January 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No 1
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
Remittances should be made payable to:
Royal Signals Association

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE
Many thousands of our Corps, present and past, will have happy memories of service in Bunde during the past 30 years. Early in the New Year the happy association between Bunde and a major unit of the Corps will end. Our cover picture was taken in October, during the 'Farewell to Bunde' parade. It shows the Commanding Officer, 2 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, Lt Col Sam Cowan escorting the Burgermeister, Herr Herbert Voss as he inspected the parade. (See page 45 for full report)

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during December, for service in Northern Ireland between May and July 1982.

MBE
WO1 (FofS) A. J. Hall
WO2 (FofS) R. G. West

Mention in Despatches
Capt (TOT) J. D. Knox
WO2 (Supvr R) J. W. Groves BEM
WO2 (FofS) C. Ramsay
SSgt (Supvr R) M. Smart
Cpl J. Shaw
Cpl B. J. Tough

NEW YEAR HONOURS

We, also, warmly congratulate the Signal Officer-in-Chief and those of the Corps named below who received awards in the New Year Honours List.

CB

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CBE

OBE

Lt Col S. Cowan

CBE

Brig G. J. Curl (now retired)

MBE

Maj (TOT) S. Cottage TD
Maj R. H. G. Elford
Maj (QM) E. J. Mann
Maj (Dir of Music) G. Turner
WO1 (YofS) J. Doherty

BEM

SSgt G. F. A. Angell (TA)
SSgt (FofS) J. Aquilina
SSgt W. Henderson
Sgt K. Coatesworth
Sgt A. Taylor
Cpl R. G. Story

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF ATTENDS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS RECEPTION AT BLANDFORD

Report by: HQ 1 Sig Gp

TWO RECEPTIONS

HRH, The Princess Anne expressed a wish to meet as many members of her Corps as possible who had served in the Falkland Islands Campaign. As the total number involved was not far short of 400, it was decided that the only way to achieve this wish was to hold a reception. To accommodate everybody the reception was held in the HQ Officers Mess, Royal Signals in Blandford on 29 Sept. Two receptions were planned. The first before and the second after lunch, each for 150 soldiers and their wives, in the main ante-room. Those who did not attend the receptions had lunch in the Mess in the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief. Also present at lunch were some of the relatives of those in the Corps who were killed during the campaign. They met the Colonel-in-Chief separately in the Corps Room after lunch.

Although it was raining heavily a group of families and children were waiting to greet Her Royal Highness when she arrived at HQ Mess. After being received by the Master of Signals Her Royal Highness was told of the role her Corps played in the Campaign by Comd 1 Sig Gp, **Col M. Marples OBE** and the Commanders of the units involved. The briefing included a video recording sending greetings from the newly formed 266 Sig Sqn in the Falkland Islands, given by **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson**—CO of 30 Sig Regt but at the time Head of the Joint Force Signal Staff in the Falklands. Before starting the first reception the Colonel-in-Chief accepted a posy from **Kelly Alderson,** the daughter of **Cpl** and **Mrs Alderson** of 30 Sig Regt.

At the first reception were members of 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 244 Sig Sqn (AS), 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn, 3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 13 Sig Regt and 602 Sig Tp. Lunch for those who attended the two receptions was arranged by 30 Sig Regt in the Gymnasium at Blandford—suitably decorated and with the Corps Band providing incidental music. After lunch those attending the second reception were from 30 Sig Regt, 14 Sig Regt, 1 and 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and Comms and Sy Gp (UK).

Her Royal Highness spent longer than anticipated talking to those at both receptions which resulted in her departing more than an hour late. However the families and children who had gathered to see Her Royal Highness depart were rewarded for their wait when she went over to talk with them before getting into her car.

A most enjoyable and happy day which will be long remembered by those present.

With 5 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Sig Sqn

With members of 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn

HRH arrives at HQ Mess
A cheery wave to the families and children who waited in the rain

With some of the relatives in the Corps Room
From the left clockwise: Col M. Marples OBE, HRH, Mr & Mrs V. McHugh, Miss Davies and Mr J. Sykes, Capt & Mrs C. N. Lightfoot, Mrs K. McCormack

Patience rewarded. HRH talks with the families before departing

With 30 Sig Regt. *Left to right:* Cpl A. C. Reynolds, HRH, LCpls R. J. Jarvis and T. C. Tucker

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Candidates must have had at least 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

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For full details please contact Recruitment Officer on Cheltenham (0242) 2149 Ext 2269 or write to the

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 5AJ.

GCHQ

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WITH 33rd SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

A ROYAL OCCASION

Saturday 20 Nov was a Red Letter Day for 33 Sig Regt (V). The reason? It was the first time that the Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips GCVO** had visited the Regiment. The aim of the visit was to give the Colonel-in-Chief the opportunity of meeting as many members of the Regiment as possible and to see the Regiment deployed for its operational role in the field.

BY ROAD TO ALTCAR

That cold, blustery, but dry day began with the arrival of the Colonel-in-Chief exactly on time at Liverpool's Speke Airport where the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO** received HRH. The Master then presented Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Ian Shapter,** our Hon Col, **Col Michael Stanley MBE** DL, the Regimental Secretary, **Col John Francis**, and the ADC for the day, **O/Cdt Pat Woods WRAC.**

Introductions over, the Royal Party left by road for Altcar Trg Centre on the North West Coast where the CO **Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt** was waiting with a fully camouflaged Commcen Y1 deployed by 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) from Chester.

COMMS IN

On arrival at Altcar the Master presented the CO, who in turn presented the Trg Maj, **Maj George Carmichael,** the officer responsible for co-ordinating the arrangements for the Royal Visit, and OC 80 Sig Sqn (V), **Maj David Tebbutt** who was pleased to report 'Comms In'!

The Colonel-in-Chief visiting Commcen YI deployed by 80 Sig Sqn (V) at Altcar very suitably attired for such a cold day in a matching camel coat and hat with snood

Maj David Tebbutt presenting Sig Martin McLean to the Colonel-in-Chief. Capt Catriona Millar taking great interest! *L to R:* Cpl Dave Mottram REME, LCpl Dickie Rogers, Pte Jill Crabbe WRAC

Cpl Alf Rogers being presented to the Colonel-in-Chief

The Colonel-in-Chief then toured the complex escorted by the Commcen Comd, **Capt Catriona Millar WRAC** and spoke to the Royal Signals, WRAC, and REME members of the Sqn.

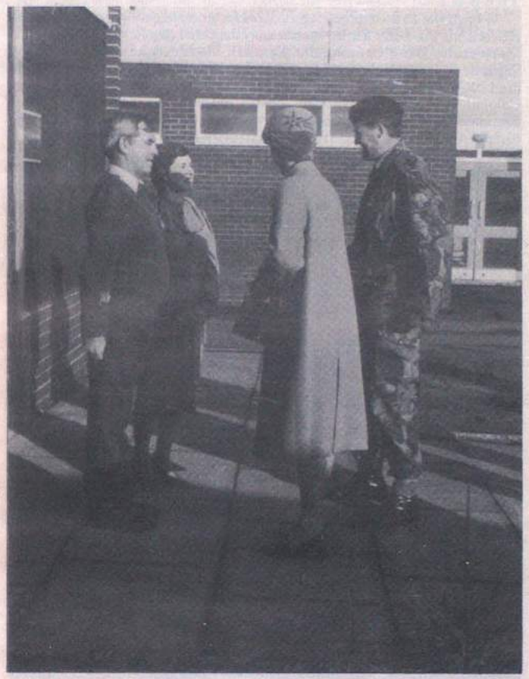
Families and friends watched from a specially erected spectators stand which gave some shelter from the bitterly cold wind.

The Colonel-in-Chief leaving Commcen YI escorted by the CO Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt and Maj David Tebbutt. Capt Catriona Millar WRAC and Maj George Carmichael in the background

(Photo courtesy of PR NW District & UKLF)

LUNCH WITH THE SERGEANTS MESS

Now somewhat chilled The Princess walked, via the spectators stand, where she stopped and talked to the families of 80 Sig Sqn (V) who were warmed by her charm and radiance, to the Officers Mess where the Colonel-in-Chief was the guest of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regt, for lunch. **WO1 and Mrs George Hardman** received HRH and The Master and other guests, with the PMC **WO2 (SSM) Tommy Watkinson** of HQ Sqn presiding.



WO1 & Mrs George Hardman receiving the Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by the CO Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt, on their arrival for lunch at the Mess

All those attending were presented to the Colonel-in-Chief prior to lunch and a total of 87 sat down to a light but delicious meal prepared by **WO2 Ron Gawthorne ACC** and his Regimental Cooks and presented by **Sgt Ken Ryan** recently appointed Officers' Mess Sgt, and soldiers of 80 Sig Sqn (V) who waited at table.

The Colonel-in-Chief talking to SSgt Ron Jones of 59 Sig Sqn (V), Mrs Annette Gordon *(on right)* wife of WO2 (RQMS) Gordon listens intently to the conversation

ON SAFARI AT KNOWSLEY PARK

Feeling warmer and refreshed the Royal Party left by road for Knowsley Park some 15 miles away, home of **Col The Rt Hon The Earl of Derby MC DL,** perhaps now best known for its Safari Park. The Royal Safari were however to visit the rest of the Regt!

On arrival the party transferred from staff cars to land-rovers for a short trip across country, to the site of the Regimental Command Post, during which **WO2 Les Goble** driving the Colonel-in-Chief managed to prove that land rovers *can* be driven sideways! Here the 2IC **Maj Adrian Leech** explained the deployment of the Regt for the Exercise and conducted HRH around the RCP Complex. He presented members of the RCP Staff before handing over to OC 59 Sig Sqn (V), **Maj Chris Byrom,** who escorted HRH around Switch Y Complex and presented her to the Merseysiders who had deployed from their Liverpool based Sqn for this task.

Returning to the land rovers the Royal Party went forward to a demonstration stand to watch the military finale of the day—a crash deployment drill by Manchesters' 42 Sig Sqn (V), commanded by **Maj Chris Clark.** From the Royal stand, the Colonel-in-Chief observed the whole Commcen move into location, 'cam up', and begin to transmit. The Sqn Comd, with fingers crossed, in fear the vehicles would bog down in the soggy ground, was relieved when he saw the ground hold and the action completed in the 20 minutes 'bogey' time.

After going forward to meet the men and women of the Commcen, now in the murky gloom of a November dusk, the Princess left the woods, her way lit by torches, to rejoin the Royal limousine—a change from her land rover!—for the short 10 minute journey to RHQ at Huyton.

Maj Chris Byrom *(left)* escorting HRH round Switch Y complex at Knowsley Park, followed by the CO, Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt, and WO2 (SSM) Brian Worthington of 59 Sig Sqn (V)

HRH in happy mood having just talked to the Radio Relay Det at Switch Y

L to R: Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt, Maj Chris Byrom, Sgt Bill Wilkie, LCpl John Waters and his father Sgt John Waters

(By Kind Permission PR UKLF)

Maj Chris Byrom commanding 59 Sig Sqn (V) presenting 2Lt Lynett Eaborn, Radio Relay Tp Comd

(By Kind Permission PR North West District)

HRH talking to families of members of 59 Sig Sqn (V), watching the Sqn deployed as Switch 'Y' at Knowsley Park

(By Kind Permission of PR North West District)

TIME FOR TEA

A number of WRAC members of HQ Sqn (V) in the Offrs Mess prior to the arrival of HRH for tea

L to R Back Row: Pte Jan Hypson, Cpl Ann Skinner, SSgt Marie Watkinson, Sgt Shirley Kane, Pte Sheila Barlow, LCpl Barbara Walker

Front Row: Pte Paula Fabb, LCpl Chris Holt, LCpl Pauline Claus, Pte Elaine McCormick, Pte Carol Thompson

It was now time for a little relaxation—and for tea—and after being received by OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Jenny Hindshaw WRAC** at Alamein TA Centre, HRH was escorted, nostrils rudely assaulted by the distinct odour of fresh paint, to the Officers Mess where members of HQ Sqn (V) were enjoying afternoon tea. At the same time **Brig Ian Shapter** visited the Regt Control Centre where the hard pressed Adjutant **Capt Keith Derrick** had been in command all day to ensure strict security was enforced within the precincts of the TA Centre.

After tea with members of HQ Sqn (V), signing the Visitors' Book, and meeting members of the civilian staff taking tea in the Sgts Mess, HRH left for a well-earned rest and to change at the CO's House. (Oh that fresh paint aroma!) for the final event of the day—the Officers' Ball.

THE BALL

At 8pm the Princess looking radiant in a cerise gown arrived back at Huyton for the Ball. Senior guests who included the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Wing Commander Kenneth Stoddard** AE, The Master of Signals, The Chief Constable of Merseyside, **Mr K. G. Oxford QPM,** the Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Ian Shapter, Col Pat Jolliffe TD** now TA Colonel North West District, past Commanding Officers and all Regimental Officers and their wives were presented to the Colonel-in-Chief. After which the Princess was invited to view the magnificent buffet which had been prepared by our own cooks under the able direction of **WO2 Ron Gawthorne ACC.**

Music for the evening was provided by the band of the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment under the direction of **Bandmaster K. Taylor** by kind permission of the CO, **Lt Col C. R. Cumberlege.** After the buffet The Princess returned to the Officers Mess for coffee with the Honorary Colonel, Commanding Officer, and some of the senior guests before departing by car for Liverpool Airport. The Drill Hall really looked very grand bedecked with flowers and potted shrubs, and the Ball was a very fitting end to a truly memorable occasion.

A group of officers and their wives awaiting the arrival of HRH at the Ball

L to R: Maj Jim Johnson (HQ), Mrs Brenda John, Maj Chris Byrom (59), Mrs Susan Johnson, Maj Derek Beckett (HQ), Mrs Val Byrom, Mrs Margaret Beckett, Maj Roger John

The Colonel in Chief, HRH The Princess Anne being received by the Master of Signals on her arrival at Alamein TA Centre for the Officers' Ball

A SPLENDID DAY

'We were all delighted to have the opportunity to welcome our Colonel-in-Chief and to show her how a Volunteer Regiment works' said the Commanding Officer—We were so pleased that Her Royal Highness was able to speak to so many members of each Squadron—over 350 in all—It was a splendid day for the Regiment, due to both the kindness of the weather and the efforts made by all ranks who no doubt will remember it with great pleasure for the rest of their lives.

FAREWELL TO THE MASTER

On 18 Nov the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO,** was dined out of the Corps for the second time, some 14 years after being dined out as Signal Officer-in-Chief. Uniquely, on this occasion, his wife **Peggy** and their sons **Stephen, Jonathan** and **Michael** were also very welcome guests. There had been a considerably greater demand for places than seats available and for those fortunate enough to be present it was a warm and emotional night.

At dinner the Signal Officer-in-Chief presented to the Master a bronze statue from the Regular and Territorial Officers, Royal Signals. The statue is in bronze and mounted on a two-tier base of black Belgian marble. The figure is an 18th century Italian casting from the antique of 'Hermes at Rest'. The presentation, which was subscribed to by serving officers bears the inscription:

Presented to
Major General P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO
Master of Signals
by the Officers Royal Signals on His Retirement
26 November 1982

In response to the SOinC's speech, the Master hit the target frequently with his wise words on the strengths and weaknesses of the Corps. It will probably have been of great comfort to the younger officers present to hear that the basic essentials of signalling have not changed.

After dinner, the Master was asked to conduct the Corps band and this he did vigorously for 'Begone Dull Care'. Then alas to the final moments: the SOinC escorted the Master and his family by the torch-lined mess entrance path to a US Army jeep, in memory of his 6th Airborne Armoured Division days. The jeep towed by Corps senior officers followed behind the Corps Band with torch bearers and Corps hierarchy in close escort on a short and emotional road to the farewell departure of the Master.

The Master's party seek their transport in distinguished company

Transport Found

Another fuel economy measure

DEDICATION of CHURCH PORCH and ROLL of HONOUR ALL SAINTS GARRISON CHURCH: BLANDFORD

Report by the Rev A. Dean

The Dedication of the new Church Garrison Porch at All Saints Church, Blandford and the Dedication of the Royal Corps of Signals Roll of Honour took place on Sunday 28 November. The Porch was a gift from the Royal Signals Association as was the cabinet housing the Roll of Honour. The Dedication was performed by the Chaplain General, **The Venerable Archdeacon W. F. Johnston MA QHC** and the Presentations were made on behalf of the Association by **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB.**

The new Church Porch with *(left to right)* The Chaplain, The Rev A. Dean CF, The Chaplain General, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson and Brig J. O. C. Alexander

The Roll of Honour Cabinet

Photographs were taken by **Kevin Peake (Kevin** is the son of **Maj (QM) R. A. Peake BEM,** Quartermaster (Gen), School of Signals.

NEW MUSEUM BROCHURE

A new Museum Brochure has just been published. It is illustrated in full colour and gives a brief outline of the History of Army Communications and features exhibits on display in the Museum. This slim sixteen page volume is beautifully illustrated and should prove useful both as an intriguing curtain-raiser for those planning a trip to the Royal Signals Museum and as a valued momento for those who have made a visit.

Maj L. J. Taylor MBE, our Curator holds the stock of these brochures which are available at a cost of £1 to personal visitors to Blandford or at £1.25 for those who wish their copy sent by post. Address to contact, **Maj L. J. Taylor MBE,** The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

40 YEARS ON

The SOinC (with 35 years service) toasts two members of the Signals Directorate, **Lt Col (Tfc) Geoff Oakley** and **Maj (QM) Sid Howard,** who each completed 40 years service in the Corps in October 1982.

Of the original boy apprentice tradesmen, who reported to Vimy A, Catterick, in October 1942, four remain in the Corps:

Operators Wireless and Keyboard
Lt Col (Tfc) Geoff Oakley and **Maj (QM) Dai Rees** (34(N) Sig Regt(V)).
Instrument Mechanic and Electrician Signals
Maj (QM) Sid Howard and **Maj (QM) Don Stanley** (38 Sig Regt(V)).

(Moral: Be warned—don't try and baffle your QM with science, he might have been a tech).

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

From: Capt A. J. Johnstone R Signals

Dear Sir,

I am currently trying to piece together a history of 233 Signal Squadron for the period 1969-1974. As the records of that part of the Squadron's life are sketchy I have written to many of the personalities who served with 233 for their help, and I would now like to hear from anyone in the Corps who was in the Squadron during that time, and who can relate any stories about Squadron life, especially in the many detachment locations.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Johnstone

233 Signal Squadron,
BFPO 801

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) FA—SWEATERS

In response to popular demand the Secretary Royal Signals (BAOR) FA has obtained sweaters for past and present footballers who have represented the Corps (BAOR) at football.

The sweaters are light blue, long sleeved, V-neck with the Corps badge and BAORFA on the left breast.

The cost is DM 35.00 or £8.30. Send cash with order, stating chest measurements, to:

Capt T. Guest R Signals
Secretary R Signals (BAOR) FA
16th Signal Regt
BFPO 35

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS —EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS

On the occasion of the Royal Australian Signals Corps Day, The Master of Signals sent the following signal to the Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Australian Signals.

'The Master of Signals and all ranks Royal Signals serving and retired send their warmest greetings and good wishes to their comrades of Royal Australian Signals on the occasion of their Corps Day on 10 November. On this day we in Royal Signals remember with pride and reaffirm the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between our two Corps and look forward with confidence to our continued close alliance under our Colonel-in-Chief and our continued close comradeship and co-operation in many fields of endeavour.'

THE CORPS FUNDS BUDGET, 1983

Report by Col J. A. D. Francis, Regimental Secretary and Corps Treasurer

The budget for 1983 features the following major items of expenditure.

Royal Signals Corps Fund	£
— To the Association for welfare, benevolence, the WIRE etc (includes the officers' share too)	158,000
— To the HQ Sergeants Mess, Catterick	1,300
— To the Corps Band for uniforms and instruments	15,300
— Royal Signals Yacht Club	9,270
— Recruiting	7,000
— Sports motorcycling, special grant	3,000
— Games and sports in general	25,200
The total budget for all items is	314,400

The Officers' Fund	£
— HQ Mess, Blandford, (much is for capital expenditure)	11,500
— The Corps Band	3,800
— The Institution for lectures, The Journal, Corps pictures, silver etc	14,800
— The Officers Dinner Club (to subsidise the annual Corps Dinner and Luncheon)	4,800
— The White List	5,200
— Prizes	730
— Recruiting	4,500
— Official Corps entertainment by most units on behalf of the SOinC	4,000
The total budget for all items is	112,200

The Royal Signals Association, out of their allocation listed under Corps Funds above, will fund all Corps games and sports, including sailing. Their other major budget items for 1983 are expected to be,

— Welfare and Benevolence
— Subsidy for the Wire
— Grant to the Army Benevolent Fund

The Corps Committee

On 26 November the Corps Committee met in formal session at the School of Signals. Their primary task was to approve the Budget 1983, but they also discussed,

— Lending policy for Adventurous Training and Assistance to Units.
— A grant for the SAVE THE CHILDREN Fund.
— Sports motorcycling—future policy.
— A new Corps History.

They met under the chairmanship of the former Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** for the last time. That evening the Corps Committee held a private dinner party to say farewell to **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Bradley** in the Headquarters Mess. Our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne,** also attended the Dinner.

THE FORMAL HANDING-OVER OF THE MASTERS OF SIGNALS

On the early evening of 7 December, the former Master and his successor, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** were given an audience by our Colonel-in-Chief at Buckingham Palace to mark the retirement of **Gen Peter Bradley** and to formally present the new Master, **Gen John Badcock.**

RETIRED OFFICERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

During November all retired officers who are already on the RHQ books as subscribers will have received a form asking them to consolidate their various subscription bankers orders and covenants into one integrated annual subscription to Corps Funds.

If any former officers have not received the new subscription form, and wish to have it, they are asked to write or phone RHQ, (01-930 4466 or LONDIST, Ext 376 or 372).

THE RHQ COMPUTER

The Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) have now installed the system hardware in RHQ and the software is being tested. The computer will provide,

— management and control of all Corps subscriptions,
— accounting services for all Corps funds, and later for Association funds,
— word processing and other domestic programmes to support day to day clerical work.

SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE—AIRBORNE SIGNALS

Members of Airborne Troop after a non-tactical practice jump

Contrary to popular belief, parachuting in Royal Signals is far from dead. The Corps parachuting role has been taken over by 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, based in Arnhem Barracks Aldershot, the home of Royal Signals Airborne Tp. Airborne Tp is made up mainly from Radio Telegraphists but also consists of Radio Operators, Radio Technicians and Combat Powermen. The Tp suffers from a lack of volunteers mainly because the Corps is not aware of its existance. This year we are looking for up to 100 highly motivated soldiers to undertake parachute selection and training and while most will need to be Radio Telegraphists, we will consider any trade. The selection course is tough and the failure rate is high. The selection process last 10 weeks, three weeks Corps selection/training, three weeks Depot Parachute Regt selection/training and four weeks parachute training at RAF Brize Norton. Volunteers would be attached to 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for the selection period and successful candidates would expect to be posted to Aldershot when a vacancy in their trade occurs within the Sqn.

If you consider yourself a good all-round soldier and tradesman and would like to do something different and serve with Airborne Signals then apply through your Unit Orderly room as laid down in the SOinC's Policy Directive number 206, or contact Airborne Tp direct for more information. We need you, and it is better to try and fail than to fail to try.

AN OLD SWEAT—PART ONE—I ENLIST

Report by Ex WO2 Bert Howell

There was once a great character Barleux (Maj Barlow) who used to write regularly very much like a 'Cassandra of the Signals'. I would like to try to emulate him by snippets of 'An old sweat 1939-61' and perhaps that could be my non-de-plume 'AOS'? The Wire ought to 'relax' occasionally.

The Editor has permitted me (in total ignorance!) to commence a series of my memories of 22 years in the Corps 1939-61. I promise not to spare myself, but perhaps I shall prove an inspiration to present members 'flogging on' that all is not lost making mistakes, meeting right 'B's' in the course of service. I did!!

In 1939 after deciding it was time to scarper from my job where I had been doing a fiddle with table tops which my mate and I were supposed to sand in a Trafford Park furniture factory, during the night. A very simple system of moving all those table tops which had been done. Moving out the first row and pinching the second rear stack, moving the ones left to do, into their place. No, I am not proud of it, but in those days it was sweated labour for sixpence an hour—so I don't feel too badly about it now, and of course at the age of 19 years, in those distant days, and working from the age of 11 years it was a dog eat dog existence and I was virtually an orphan. Not being an RC, even though my paybook said so (well! how to get off spud bashing on Sundays!). I have crossed myself and asked for forgiveness for 'nicking' two and sixpence from **Abe Friedland.**

I went along to the recruiting office in Manchester and asked to go into the Grenadier Guards. The Sergeant looked at me and said, 'Thar wilt have to put on at least two stone, and a bit of flesh on thee bones me lad, afore thar can gerrin Guards. Just nip down the corridor and get drinking as much water as thar can and cum back—then we will see'.

I could just about manage three pints of water and rushing back was promptly accepted to Royal Signals. The Sergeant said 'Sorry lad, thar'd be best on an 'orse in Signals, the horse won't mind if you pee on him'.

My elder brother who had been a Grenadier Guardsman and had urged me to join up duly collected his 'blood money' for introducing me to the Forces, bade me farewell, as I set off to that infamous place called Catterick Camp.

I am sorry to relate that the proceeds did not do my elder brother much good—he passed away an alcoholic, celebrating no doubt his achievement!, because obviously I was a pest and he wanted to smarten me up and get me disciplined.

My arrival at Catterick Camp, was singularly uneventful—a towering beef of a man dressed up in Officers uniform boasting one or two pips—**Lt Trapmore**—later I found out he was very handy with his mits!

I was consigned to a neolithic hut in Le Cateau Lines recently vacated by the Inniskilling Fusiliers—stark, grim and cold on the 13 Apr 1939.

But we had fun; loyalty, aggression and the spirit of the Corps from that day on—more next month chaps—the Editor has put the chop on me this time—but I became a millionaire in my next episode—you do not believe it—but it's true!

An old sweat

'AOS'

NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR

We welcome Mrs Marjorie Riggs as the newly appointed Assistant Editor of 'The Wire' and extend our best wishes to Mrs Hazel Lucas who filled the post for two years and left us in December on moving to Canada.

VERDEN GARRISON/ROYAL SIGNALS MARATHON

SSgt Bill Venus BEM R Signals won the Verden Garrison/Royal Signals Marathon on Sat 27 Nov in a time of 2 hrs 30 mins 30 secs. Eighteen seconds behind him was **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** from 22 Sig Regt. This the first event of its kind to be held in Verden and attracted a field of 538 runners aged from eight to 54. The idea for the event came from **Lt Col Danny Fisher,** the CO of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who also took part; he came in 149th.

The race began at 11 o'clock, started by a field gun, and was run over a flat continuous loop mainly on roads. The weather was very mild providing ideal conditions for both runners and spectators. The runners competed for a total of 27 prizes and every competitor completing the course received a badge and certificate to mark their achievement.

THE SPECIAL TROPHY

One trophy of special interest was the **Jim Barry** memorial plate awarded to the 1st R Signals Subaltern or Captain! This was won by **Capt Mat Campbell** of 233 Signal Sqn (NI) in a time of 2 hrs 50 mins 25 secs.

Lt Jim Barry, a R Signals Officer serving with 2 Para, was tragically killed in action in the Falkland Islands during the battle for Goose Green. He had previously served as a Troop commander at Bulford with 249 (AMFL) Sig Sqn which, at that time, was commanded by, the then, **Maj Danny Fisher** R Signals. The trophy, donated by all ranks of 249 (AMFL) Sig Sqn who served with **Lt Barry,** was presented by his father **Lt Col (Retd) Desmond Barry.**

SIXTY ONE TEAMS

A total of 61 teams entered the event including one from 1 Canadian Sig Regt who flew to BAOR from Kingston, Ontario, to take part. The T&AVR was represented by two Regts and one individual came all the way from Hong Kong! Of the 60 entrants who failed to complete the course the most unusual story was of a soldier from Northern Ireland who was forced to retire during the early stages of the race having been bitten on the finger by a dog. He was treated at one of the several first aid posts on the course, supplied by 1 Armd Div Fd Amb, and drove himself back to the UK that night.

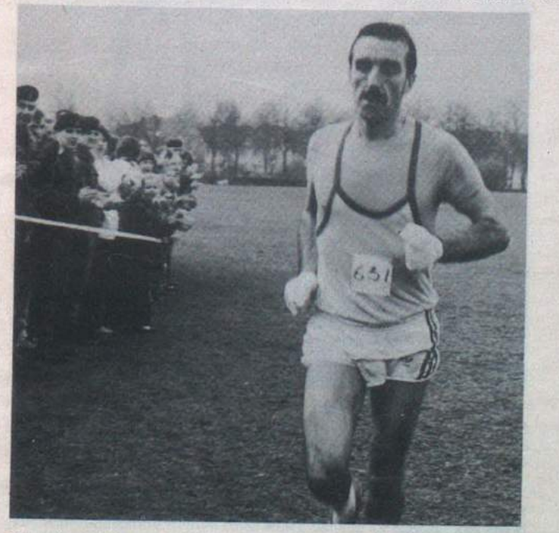
The youngest competitor was the eight year old son of **Maj Chris Shuker** who completed the course with his father in a very creditable 4 hrs and 17 mins. The oldest was **Herr Ackemann** aged 54 of Verden who finished in 3 hrs 09 mins and 53 secs. All the runners agreed that it was a very friendly event and look forward to next years race.

MARATHON PRIZES

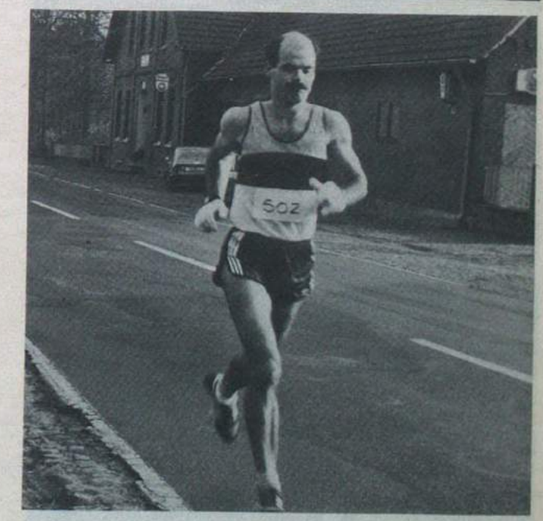
1st Overall team
  22 Sig Regt
1st Army (Non R Signals Team)
  32 Armd Engr Regt
1st Male Individual
  SSgt Venus BEM 1 ADSR 2hrs 30mins 30secs.
2nd Male Individual
  SSgt Hagarty 22 Sig Regt 2hrs 30mins 48secs.
3rd Male Individual
  Cpl Cowan 24 Inf Bde 2 hrs 43mins 26secs.
4th Male Individual
  Capt Neale 32 Armd Engr
5th Male Individual **Sgt Cameron** 1 Cdn Sig Regt
1st Lady
  Miss Burns 4hrs 13mins.
2nd Lady
  Capt Dorries 38 (V) Sig Regt
1st Veteran over 45
  Herr Ackemann (54) Verden 3hrs 09mins 53secs.
Jim Barry Trophy
  Capt Campbell 233 Sig Sqn (NI) 2hrs 50mins 25secs.
1st under 18
  Master R. Wood (14) 3hrs 4mins.
Youngest Competitor
  Master Shuker (8) 4hrs 17mins.

THE OFF

They're off. 538 runners at the start of the Verden marathon with a lap of honour round the Verden Stadium



The winner SSgt Bill Venus of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt arrives with a time 2.30.31



Capt Rene of 1 Canadian Sig Regt flew to Verden with a team of 4 runners to compete with their affiliated regiment 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

ROYAL SIGNALS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

FIRST PRIZE £60
SECOND PRIZE £40
THIRD PRIZE £20

The ORLO team from the School of Signals tours University OTCs and School CCFs to give a presentation on Royal Signals, emphasising the responsibility and variety of a young officer's life. The presentation hinges on some topical communications operation but the main content is a sequence of slides showing the role of Royal Signals units world-wide and the contribution that young officers make.

Send *two* colour transparencies that could be used to update this presentation and you could win one of the valuable prizes. Your photographs must show a young Royal Signals officer as the main feature. He or she must be involved in a communications task with a background that gives an indication of the role of the unit. Remember that the slides will be used for recruiting and so the Corps badge and badges of rank should be obvious.

RULES

The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers.

An entry must consist of two 35mm mounted colour transparencies.

A stamped self addressed package must be included if entries are to be returned.

All mounts must be marked in some way so that the entrant is identifiable.

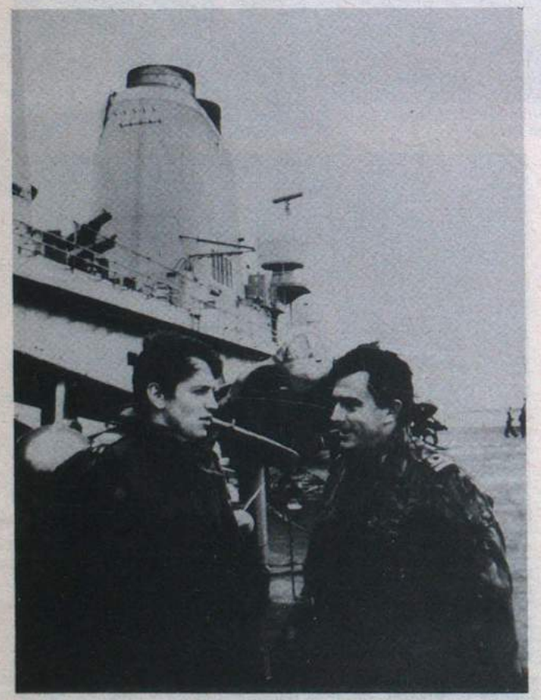
The organisers reserve the right to use any entry free of charge.

While every care will be taken of entries while in our possession, the organisers cannot be held responsible for loss or damage.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

Closing date is 31 May 1983.

Entries must be sent to ORLO, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH and marked 'Photographic Competition'.



From the campaign in the South Atlantic taken by Lt Col Thompson

RESULTS OF THE 1982 COMPETITION
First Prize—£50 Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson R Signals
Second Prize — £25 Not Awarded
Third Prize — £10 Sgt K. Parsons

Congratulations to the prize winners who have made a very worthwhile contribution to the Corps recruiting effort.

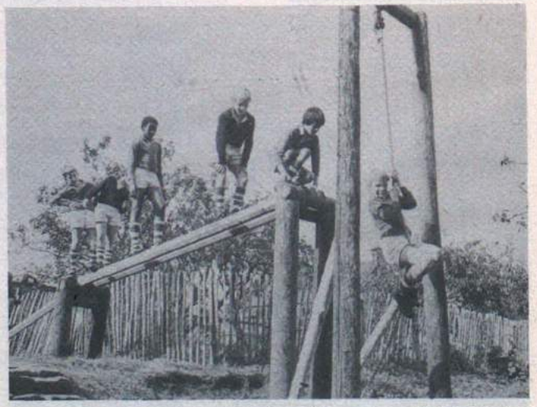
An operations room in the Gurkha Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn taken by Sgt Parsons

LORETTO JUNIOR SCHOOL

From: Clifford E. Hughes, MA, Cert Ed,
Headmaster

Dear Sir,

Boys at Loretto Junior School in Musselburgh (nr Edinburgh) have cause to be grateful to the Army. A weekend exercise by a TA detachment of 30 men has resulted in a permanent, solidly constructed Assault Course for 100 eight to thirteen year old boarders. The School provided the raw materials—old telegraph poles, concrete tubing, ropes and tackle—the soldiers did the rest.



From Jan 1983, Loretto Junior School is offering Service Scholarships up to the value of £1,000 per annum. It's not just meant as a thank you for the Assault Course. We have a number of Service children and I'm keen to welcome more.

Yours sincerely,
Clifford Hughes

Loretto Junior School,
North Esk Lodge,
Musselburgh,
East Lothian EH21 6JA.

A RATHER SPECIAL SERVICE

From: G. Wakefield

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a photograph, one of several taken by the press on the occasion of the recent Remembrance service held here in Conroe. It was a rather special service as we also had the dedication of both the new flag pole and flag. It was my great privilege and honour to be attending as guest of honour. The story is as follows:

Judge 'Red' Reynolds, the gentleman welcoming me to the rostrum, had spent many frustrating years trying to get some sort of memorial to those who gave their lives in two World Wars and in Korea and Vietnam. Finally a vacant lot was given and the memorial constructed in the form of a small garden with a round area with all the names engraved in it. Our part of the proceedings was to help with the garden, then after its completion, we offered our horticultural services to maintain it. That being our way of saying 'Thank You' to all the Americans who came and joined us in two World Wars, many of whom died for that. **Red** insisted that I attend as his special guest.

'Red' joined the US Navy in 1937 and served on USS *Houston* until she was sunk on 28 Feb 1942 at the Java Seas battle along with HMS *Exeter* and HMAS *Perth*. **Red** was taken prisoner and spent the entire war working in the mines on the north end of Honshu. He has lent me the diary he kept right through that period and it mentions a number of British soldiers, airmen and seamen. Should you decide to print this, I would welcome letters from any old sweats who may have served out their time in the area. I will pass them on to **Red.**

You may notice that although decorations are not worn (by request), I have proudly displayed both 'the badge' and regimental tie.

Many thanks for putting me in touch with old comrades in the past and more power to you in the future.

Yours faithfully,
G. Wakefield

PO Box 2117,
Conroe,
Texas 77305.

MINTURNO WAR CEMETERY, ITALY

Report by Maj W. Coxon, NCS Latina, Italy

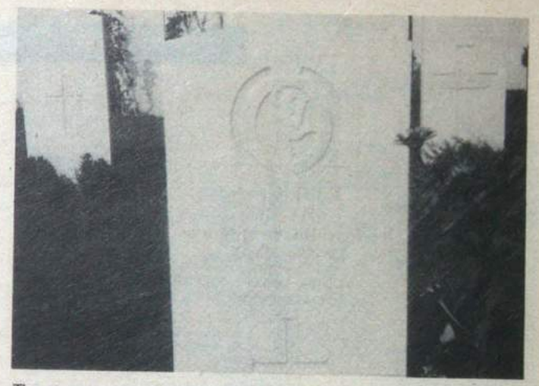
There is a British second world war cemetery in Minturno, an area located some 50 kms north of Naples, where a number of signallers killed in the Italian campaign, particularly in the battle for the bridge over the river Garagliano, are buried. This was the scene of some bitter fighting during the campaign in this region of southern Italy.

Minturno village itself is worth a visit. It is a medieval hilltop village which retains the 'olde worlde' values.

The accompanying photograph is rather amateurish, however, it does show some detail on the headstone and gives the correct impression of space and the obvious care which is given to the cemetery by the War Graves Commission.

The visitors' book makes interesting reading and the official history of the Italian campaign, with an excellent description of the Minturno battle, is available to visitors.

The region has excellent beaches and mountain areas well worth exploring and would keep any family group fully occupied on holiday. There are interesting Roman ruins which include an aqueduct, a small amphitheatre and a good Roman villa site, all within easy walking distance of the cemetery.



The stone reads: A soldier of the Second World War Royal Signals Airborne Commando January 1944

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If you are shortly leaving the Forces as a qualified Class I Terminal Equipment Technician you'll soon be ready to earn a high, tax-free salary with Lockheed Aircraft International in Saudi Arabia.

Lockheed needs men with your background to administer and supervise O.J.T. programmes for RSAF personnel to maintain conventional and electronic PABX, electronic and mechanical teleprinters, and modems and multiplexers.

As well as the two-year salary we've quoted, you'd get the full advantage of the Lockheed benefits package — free bachelor accommodation, food and laundry; medical care and life insurance; three paid leave periods a year with free return flights to the UK; excellent sports and social facilities.

Don't miss the chance of a job that's tailor-made for a serviceman such as yourself — talk today to the Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Hayes Road, Southall, Middx, UB2 5NJ. Tel: 01-574 5000. Please quote ref. L147.

Lockheed IAL

Movements

Officers

DECEMBER 1982

Rank and Name	
Capt A. G. C. Adams	71 Sig Regt (V)
Brig P. D. Alexander MBE	MOD (MS)
Maj I. D. Bingham	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. Blake	HQ BAOR
Capt J. P. Byrne	7 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. F. H. Colman	HS 11 Sig Regt
Brig P. R. Davies	2 Armd Div (12 Armd Bde)
Maj P. R. Dick-Peter	PR Svcs HQ BAOR
2Lt M. A. Eaton	HS 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Ebdon	30 Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Etheridge	8 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Evans	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt Col S. G. McK Gordon	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj S. G. Hughes	ACGS (OR)
Lt Col M. L. W. Jennings	HQ AFCENT
Maj (TOT) P. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) T. Johnstone	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. J. Lance	HQ BR Forces Hong Kong
Maj J. H. Lowe	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. J. McKinlay	SO3 RM Lympstone
Lt D. M. Mills	HS 30 Sig Regt
Capt A. M. Morgan	Cambridge University OTC (Adj)
Lt M. J. Perry	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj M. S. Reid	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj D. C. Richardson	21 Sig Regt
Lt F. T. J. A. Riley	HS 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Capt T. P. Rimell	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) F. D. Rogers	28 Sig Regt
Capt H. A. Ross	632 Sig Tp (Hebrides)
Maj M. A. J. Sheehan	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj (TOT) P. F. Soward	CPA
Capt M. L. Spoors	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Maj J. W. Stabler	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. D. Symonds	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt (HQ 7 Armd Bde)
Lt C. Wakerley	HS 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. M. Wallace	259 Sig Sqn
Maj R. J. R. West	RSRE (PE) (AE)
2Lt K. Whitehead	HS 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Brig A. M. Wilcox	School of Signals

JANUARY 1983

Maj R. D. Abbott	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Maj G. A. Allen	HQ UKLF
Capt R. Bates	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col J. G. Billingham	HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Catterick Garrison
2Lt N. J. Borrill	30 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Brown	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Burton	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
2Lt M. S. Castle-Smith	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. C. Chambers	7 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) M. D. Cherry	School of Signals
Maj A. J. Clark	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Capt (QM) R. Cockcroft	11 Sig Regt
Maj D. F. M. Collyer	DM(A)
Col M. F. H. Colman	R Signals M & RO
Maj S. A. Coltman	7 Sig Regt
Maj J. R. B. Cook	Staff College (JDSC)
Lt M. Cost	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Coupar	22 Sig Regt
Lt M. T. Crook (WRAC)	229 Sig Sqn (Berlin)
Capt J. L. Davies	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
Lt Col (TOT) W. G. Davis	SHAPE Sp International
Maj (TOT) J. C. Day	229 Sig Sqn
A/Capt A. A. Ewell	604 Sig Regt
Lt K. P. Fisher	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj S. D. Galpin	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Col P. Goldney	HQ AFCENT (BAE)
Col S. G. McK Gordon	School of Signals
Lt P. J. Grogan	7 Sig Regt
Capt H. A. R. Hancock	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
Maj C. R. Harper	HQ UKLF
Capt (TOT) D. J. Harries	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Maj A. Helm	HQ Trg Gp R Signals & Catterick Garrison
2Lt S. J. Herstell	7 Sig Regt
Maj J. A. Hood	RSRE (PE)(AE)
Capt T. G. Inshaw	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Capt H. Jennings	24 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt A. M. Jones	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
Maj D. P. J. Lavender	HS 11 Signal Regt (Depot)
Capt D. J. Lawson	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt M. P. Llewellyn	28 Signal Regt
Lt Col M. S. Louden	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj A. P. H. Marley	School of Signals
Maj D. S. McLuckie	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj G. Meakin	DSS(AD)
Maj C. V. Nind	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt J. P. B. Perks	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) J. A. Phillips	16 Sig Regt
Maj M. S. Reid	HQ BAOR
2Lt C. C. Richards	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col T. Rigby	HQ UKLF
2Lt F. P. Roberts	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Capt B. J. Scott-Morton	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
2Lt R. A. Sharp	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Shaw	HS Staff College Camberley (ASC 17)
Maj M. A. J. Sheehan	SHAPE (BAE)
Capt G. M. S. Shipley	HS RMCS Shrivenham (ASC 18)
Maj I. C. Shuker	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj S. M. Siddall	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (QM) M. C. K. Smart	40 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. G. Taylor MBE	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt R. G. Thomas	22 Sig Regt
2Lt N. F. Thompson	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) C. E. Timson BEM	AA College Harrogate
Maj M. S. Wallis	DGGWL (A) (PE) (AE)
Maj C. J. Walters	MOD DSS(A)
Brig J. Westlake	DSS (AD)
Maj R. F. Willsher	Gurkha Fd Force HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. M. Wright	HS School of Signals

WOs and Senior NCOs

DECEMBER 1982

Rank and Name	
WO1 (YofS) B. A. Rice	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) G. S. Gibson	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) J. R. Lingard	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) N. J. H. Naylor	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. A. Downie	HQ DCN
WO2 (FofS) R. E. Chapman	16 Sig Regt
WO2 P. S. Shotts	30 Sig Regt
WO2 J. A. Woolley	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
AWO2 H. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
SSgt J. R. Mountcastle	BR Contingent UNFICYP
SSgt R. E. Dickinson	22 Sig Regt
SSgt T. A. Jinman	7 Sig Regt
SSgt G. C. Reynolds	22 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Atkinson	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) B. G. Summers	Comms & Sy Gp UK
SSgt J. A. McManus	7 Sig Regt
SSgt E. A. A. Formosa	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. Culton	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Moore	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. L. Hair	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. Rutter	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. Bowstead	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Stoney	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt M. J. Cumiskey	School of Signals
Sgt S. F. Slade	10 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. M. Kemp	CPA Blandford
Sgt I. G. Barnes	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Wood	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Clark	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Mulligan	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. Aitken	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. C. Vine	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. R. Mogg	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Batt	10 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Bell	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. E. Cook	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. O. M. McKeating	13 Sig Regt
ASgt C. F. Harden	School of Signals
ASgt T. A. Davies	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
ASgt P. J. M. Jarvis	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
ASgt J. G. Bincliffe	587 Rear Link Det
ASgt W. Riding	591 Rear Link Det
ASgt B. M. D. Glossop	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
ASgt H. J. Douglas	9 Sig Regt
ASgt S. Palfreyman	9 Sig Regt
ASgt M. A. Hollands	633 Sig Tp

JANUARY 1983

WO1 G. T. McGurk	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) J. P. Rees	CPA Blandford
WO2 (FofS) J. A. Jones	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) R. N. Howes	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) D. P. Jackson	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. Bonnett	16 Sig Regt
WO2 R. W. Lockwood	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. M. Smith	13 Sig Regt
WO2 A. J. Thomas	Queens UOTC
WO2 J. W. H. Martin	HQ Trg Gp R Sigs and Catterick Garrison
AWO2 M. S. Goatley	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. F. Hanifin	School of Infantry
SSgt (FofS) D. S. S. Andrews	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. Wooff	Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt M. Roberts	School of Signals
SSgt R. G. Hunter	240 Sig Sqn
SSgt F. Dowie	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. A. Childs	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) D. Wright	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) M. J. Emmott	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) J. J. Kirk	13 Sig Regt
SSgt V. E. Bingham	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt A. J. McKitterick	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. Day	RMAS
SSgt W. J. Henning	9 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Davis	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt D. Hornby	Depot Tp R Sigs
SSgt R. I. Grant	266 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. Whillock	School of Signals
SSgt J. Liddle	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Poole	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt V. A. Hoyle	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
ASSgt J. H. Tovey	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. Davies	ACIO Chichester

Sgt T. A. Howell	AAC Centre
Sgt C. H. Smithson	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt J. H. Jackson	10 Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Tillman	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt V. P. Baines	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Haigh	22 Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. Jagger	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. F. Cutler	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Anderson	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. C. Davies	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. J. Tennick	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt I. Buick	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. S. Heaton	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. McMillan	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Hanlon	School of Inf
Sgt K. Robson	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. Paterson	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. B. Woodruff	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. J. Bull	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Southworth	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Harris	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Boyle	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. Simpson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. L. Donovan	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt M. McAnulty	632 Sig Tp
Sgt T. R. Payne	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt D. F. Kirkpatrick	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. M. Payne	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt A. J. Hill	CPA Blandford
Sgt P. A. Hill	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Lowery	School of Signals
Sgt P. A. M. Burrow	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Gray	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Pickersgill	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Turfrey	Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Tyler	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Butler	9 Sig Regt
Sgt H. K. Copestake	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. L. Jones	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Case	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt C. S. Donnelly	HQ BAOR
Sgt J. Woodall	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Quinton	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. Froggett	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Simpson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Whitfield	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt R. S. Galpin	577 Rear Link Det
Sgt R. S. Mawer	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. F. Bishop	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Bissett	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. A. Chew	Junior Regt
ASgt H. D. McKenzie	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
ASgt R. P. Dean	549 Rear Link Det
ASgt C. J. Whitehead	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt K. C. Symons	596 Rear Link Det
ASgt J. McKendrick	585 Rear Link Det
ASgt A. L. Flanagan	21 Sig Regt

Welfare

OCTOBER 1982

Number of cases assisted financially:	44
Amount spent:	£4518.30
Number of clothing parcels sent:	20

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	1
Amount spent:	£20

NOVEMBER 1982

Number of cases assisted financially:	38
Amount spent:	£4371.95
Number of clothing parcels sent:	18

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Number of cases:	Nil

ONE OF OUR CASES

Corporal, 1962-69, married with two children. He was the victim of a hit and run accident in 1980 and is still unable to work. The Association made him a grant of £100 for Electricity and the purchase of Fuel, and his letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

May I, on behalf of my wife and myself, thank you for the grant which you sent us to help us over the next few difficult months. They say that ease of mind is a great help when recovering from illness, and I fully agree. By the very generous deed you have done to us, we are now able to concentrate on giving our children the things that they need to live a normal healthy life, and for this we will be for ever grateful.

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

Lady Bowater; Mr & Mrs D. S. Mulholland; Miss D. Rutland; Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock; Mrs J. A. D. Francis; Maj J. F. Bedford; Lt Col J. M. N. Lyons; Mrs D. E. Strike; Lt Col (TOT) N. A. V. Ribchester; Mr & Mrs L. Smith; Maj & Mrs L. J. Taylor; Maj Gen M. S. Hancock; Miss M. Hyde Parker; Mrs Y. Duke; Maj Gen & Mrs E. S. Cole; Capt R. S. Bresloff; A. H. Wright, Esq; SSgt & Mrs G. Pickard; Mr & Mrs A. V. Tent; R. Sawkins, Esq; Mrs I. G. Swan; Mrs Sloan.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1982.

265 (KSY) Sig Sqn (V)	£922.32
In memory of W. J. Hart Esq MSM & F. Vince Esq	£ 33.00
East London Branch RSA	£ 30.00
In memory of W. J. Hart Esq MSM	£ 25.00
F. C. Wilson Esq	£ 22.90
Maj W. H. O'Neil	£ 17.50
Croft House School Ltd	£ 10.80
D. W. L. Randall Esq	£ 10.00
Anonymous	£ 9.10
Anonymous	£ 7.90
Aldershot Branch RSA	£ 5.00
D. R. Handley Esq	£ 5.00
E. D. Knight Esq	£ 5.00
G. D. Webster Esq	£ 5.00
P. R. Rouget Esq	£ 3.00
R. A. F. Chitty Esq	£ 2.90
Lt Col H. Scarborough TD	£ 2.10
Miscellaneous	£ 3.20
	£1119.72

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1982.

AAC Harrogate	£650.00
Leeds Branch RSA	£100.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 50.00
H. Liley Esq	£ 17.90
R. N. Hutchings Esq	£ 15.00
Mrs I. Harvey	£ 10.00
A. Walsh Esq	£ 10.00
Capt V. L. R. Dugdale	£ 10.00
E. C. Barker Esq	£ 7.90
Maj W. C. Savage	£ 7.90
P. M. O'Mahony Esq	£ 7.90
Mrs J. L. Power	£ 6.00
Mrs F. E. Stagg	£ 5.00
Mrs R. G. Smith	£ 5.00
Maj D. S. A. Hutley GM	£ 3.20
P. B. Cairns Esq	£ 2.90
P. A. Tully Esq	£ 2.90
E. Whiffen Esq	£ 2.90
J. W. McCulloch Esq	£ 2.90
H. A. Simons Esq	£ 2.90
J. Milburn Esq	£ 1.90
Miscellaneous	£ .75
	£922.95

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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

Bassett—Lt Col C. R. G. Bassett, VC ED., died at Devonport, Auckland, New Zealand on 9 January 1983 at the age of 91. As **Corporal Bassett,** of the New Zealand Divisional Signals Company, he was awarded the VC 'for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the Chunuk Bair Ridge in the Gallipoli Peninsular on 7 August 1915'. He had, in full daylight, succeeded in laying and maintaining a telephone line whilst under continuous and heavy fire. As a Lieutenant Colonel he attended the VC Centenery Celebrations in London during 1956.

Lt Col Bassett was buried with full military honours on 12 January 1983. The Corps extends sympathy to his wife, daughters and grandchildren on their sad loss and to the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals on the death of this gallant officer.

Easter—Maj Aubrey Easter was born at Sleaford, Lincolnshire on 7 April 1909. In May 1939 he enlisted in the Territorial Army and served with the Lincolnshire Regt. In July 1940 he transferred to the Intelligence Corps and a year later was commissioned as a 2Lt in that Corps. During the remainder of 1941 he served at HQ Yorkshire Division and then spent three months with the Home Forces Reserve Cypher Pool. From March 1942 until August of that year he served as the Cypher Officer in HQ 5 Division. In May 1942 he was transferred to Royal Signals. His next post was in Iraq where he remained until February 1943 when he joined 5 Divisional Signals in the Middle East. In March 1944 he moved to HQ 13 Corps and continued to serve in North Africa remaining in that command until September 1945, having spent the final six months with 1 L of C Signals. **Aubrey Easter** was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945 and retired from active service on 10 January 1946. He died in September 1982.

FAIRLIE—It is with regret that we record the death of **Mrs Constance Fairlie** on Christmas Eve, at the age of 88. She was the mother of **Capt David Fairlie,** late of the Corps and lived in a flat at his home, Myres Castle, Auchtermuchty. From 1951 to 1973, when she suffered a stroke, she sent 1006 parcels of books and magazines to units of the Corps in isolated and lonely parts of the world, or on active service. Recipients of parcels from **Mrs Fairlie** were:-

1st Commonwealth Div Sig Regt 1951-54	292 parcels
R Signals, Malaya and 17 Gurkha Sig Regt 1956-65	220 parcels
Joint Communications Unit, Borneo 1966	22 parcels
632 Signal Troop, Benbecula 1961-73	294 parcels
605 Signal Troop, RAF Gan 1967-73	178 parcels

With each parcel containing on average 4 books and 11 magazines **Mrs Fairlie** despatched about 15,000 items in all; enough to stock a small public library! In 1954, the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment presented **Mrs Fairlie** with an inscribed Corps Shield in appreciation of all she had done for them. In 1973, the Signal Officer-in-Chief presented her with an inscribed silver 'Jimmy' statuette on behalf of the serving Corps. At the same time the Royal Signals Association made her an Associate Life Member —an honour only given to the few who have done something very exceptional and out of the ordinary on behalf of the Corps or Association.

The Association extends its deepest sympathy to **Capt David Fairlie.**

Frampton—Maj Eric Harold Frampton MBE. Eric Frampton was born in London on 8 Aug 1907 and joined Boys' Service in 1922 when the Boys were stationed at Maresfield Park. After joining Man's service he served in Iraq and India. Returning to the UK he took part in the campaign in Norway in 1940 and then served for 2 years in Iceland with 49 Divisional Signals. From 1943 he moved to SHAEF and served on the staff of that HQ until the end of the war. He resigned in 1945 after having served in the Corps for 23 years during which time he had served as a boy soldier and retired in the rank of Major. He was appointed MBE in 1945. After retirement, **Eric Frampton** was employed as Chief in the Communications and Radio Division (US State Department) and then transferred to FBIS in 1946 and remained with that organisation until his retirement in 1972. **Eric Frampton** died on 1 Nov.

Nanney-Wynn—Lt Col E. R. Nanney-Wynn, K St J., DL., was born on 17 November 1907. He was educated at Riverlyn School Aberdovy, the Imperial Service College, Windsor and then became a cadet at the RMC Sandhurst where he was awarded the Sword Prize for an alternative subject, which was in his case, Electricity.

He was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1927 and after service in the UK he was loaned to the Canadian Government for employment during 1931 and 1932. From 1933 until 1938 he served with Egypt Signals and during that time saw active service in Palestine for which he was awarded the GS, with the Palestine Clasp. **Edward Nanney-Wynn** joined 3 Div Signals in 1939 and moved with that unit to join the BEF. During the evacuation period **Edward Nanney-Wynn** formed what was left of 3 Div Signals on the beaches at Le Panne into an orderly body and marched them to Neuport, in Belgium, where the remnants of the unit embarked on a gunboat (*the Mosquito*) and subsequently arrived at Dover on 1 June 1940.

He then joined 7 Guards Bde and in 1941 was appointed 2IC of Guards Armd Div Signals. Later in that year he was appointed Chief Instructor of 151 OCTU and remained there until he was given command of 2 AA Bde Signals in the Middle East. He remained with that unit until 1944 and then became OC Troops KUT, in PAIFORCE, in 1945. He continued his service in the Middle East by becoming 2IC of the Sudan Defence Force Signals in 1946 and also held the appointments of SO2 Signals, Sudan and Eritrea. In 1947 he returned to the UK and took up a staff post in AG22, The War Office. His final appointment before retirement was as CO of 44 (HC) Div Signals TA from 1949 until his retirement in 1950.

Edward Nanney-Wynn soon became involved in the Army Cadet Force and served as a Battery Commander of the 4th Sussex Cadet Regiment RA from 1950 until 1955. It was during 1952 that he attended the first 3rd Div Signals reunion which had been organised by another member of the unit **Ernest Bayley,** and in so doing became one of the founder members of the Reunion Club. In 1955 he was appointed CO of the 7th Cadet Bn RWF and in 1957 appointed County Cadet Commandant for Merioneth and Montgomeryshire, a position he held continuously from 1957 until 1969. In addition to this duty he was also the Chairman of the Wales ACF Sports and PT Committee for nine years from 1960 until 1969. Not only was **Edward Nanney-Wynn** committed to his cadet posts he was also a tireless worker for SSAFA having held the post of Chairman of the Merioneth Branch of SSAFA from 1957 until 1969. In 1970 he became Hon Secretary for Merioneth, and President from 1975 until 1982. He was also the North Wales Council Representative from 1977 until 1982. As if all these duties were not enough he found time to serve as the Assistant Chief Commissioner for Wales for the St John Ambulance Brigade from 1969 until 1978, and in addition during the years 1973 to 1976 he was also Chief Cadet Officer for Wales. He was created a Knight of St John in 1980.

In addition to his many interests in charities he was employed as an RO3 from 1956 to 1958 as the Garrison Adjutant at Tonfanau; from 1959 to 1960 as the Admin Officer of the All Arms Junior Leaders Regt and then finally as YLO at Tonfanu from 1962 until 1967.

In 1958 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant, Merionethshire and was High Sheriff of the Cocunty in 1967.

Edward Nanney-Wynn lived a full life and was a keen supporter of the many organisations in which he had an interest, which included RNLI. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in these organisations and by his family. He married **Marjorie,** the daughter of **Maj W. F. Sheffield DSO,** and will be greatly missed by his wife who supported him in his many interests and by his children and grandchildren. A memorial service was held on 4 Dec at which the Corps was represented by **Lt Col J. Bromley** of HQ Western Command. The sympathy of the Corps is extended to his wife and family.

Oliver—Lt Col John Gregg Oliver OBE. John Oliver was born at Coleraine, Co Derry on 27 Feb 1908 and enlisted into the Corps in March 1928. Before being posted to India, he served briefly with Rhine Signals and then with 5 Divisional Signals. On arriving in India, he joined L Coy at Jubbulpore but was soon posted to Waziristan District Signals on the North West Frontier where he remained from January 1931 until December 1935. After spending some time at the Depot he then joined 4 Divisional Signals but after a short time was on his way to India once again. He arrived in India in December 1938 and joined L Company. He was commissioned into the Corps on 21 February 1940 and then joined A Corps Signals. In October 1940, he moved to Northern Force Signals and to 2 STC (T) at Bangalore in March 1941. In March 1942 he was appointed 2IC of 1 (Indian) Air Formation Signals at Meerut and remained in that appointment until July 1943 when he became CO and commanded the unit in active service in ALFSEA. He returned to the UK in November 1945 and then spent two years as 2IC of 1 STC. For a number of years, he was in the training organisation which included a tour as Chief Instructor at the School of Signals. In May 1950 he became 2IC of 1 Inf Div Sig Regt in MELF but returned to the UK in July 1951 to take command of 2 AA (M) Sig Regt. In February 1952 he moved to BAOR and served with 4 L of C Sig Regt and 19 Army Group Sig Regt before returning to the training organisation again in November 1956 when he joined 1 Trg Regt. He remained in the training organisation until September 1960 when he was posted to 14 Sig Regt where he remained until his retirement in February 1963. In his retirement, he lived in Northern Ireland and died there on 25 September 1982.

Robertson—Maj Jack Cyril Robertson was born on 29 July 1906 at Bere Island, Co Cork. He joined the Corps as a Boy soldier in July 1921. He joined man's service in July 1924 and whilst serving in India was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 10 November 1940. In October 1941, he was appointed Adjutant of Waziristan District Signals and in November 1942 was appointed OC of that unit. His next post was still in India when he moved to become 2IC of 15 (Indian) Corps Signals. He returned to the UK in July 1944 and then joined 21 Army Group. He served as SO R Signals until December 1945 when he was appointed Assistant Controller 1 A&C Div CC. He remained in that Post until joining 7 Armd Div Signals in April 1947. In 1948 he became a Staff officer at HQ Hannover District and remained there until August 1949. He then joined the School of Signals as Admin Officer and remained in that post until December 1952. His next post was with 19 Air Formation Sig Regt in Singapore which lasted from February 1953 until July 1954 when he moved to Ceylon to take command of the Ceylon Squadron of the regiment, remaining with that squadron until May 1956. His final appointments were with 7 Trg Regt, 26 Signal Regt and 24 Signal Regt at Catterick Camp. He retired on 7 May 1961. He died on 18 May 1982.

Scantlebury—SQMS Clifford James Scantlebury who died on 20 Nov 1982, was the popular Treasurer of Plymouth Branch, and his hard work on behalf of the Branch will be greatly missed.

He enlised in the Corps in 1930, and saw service in India with 5 Div Signals; in UK with the Depot Bn, and in the BEF with 1 HQ Signals; in North Africa with 6 Command Signals; in Northern Ireland with (M) Dist SS, and in BAOR with 2 L of C Signal Regiment until his retirement in 1953 with the rank of SQMS.

Wymbs—Maj Patrick Brian Wymbs was born in Romsey, Hampshire on 15 Jan 1934. He enlisted into the Corps as a Boy soldier in Oct 1950. On joining man's service, he served with 3 Trg Regt at Catterick Camp and then with 38th Corps Engineer Regiment in BAOR. In Dec 1954, he joined Malaya Command Signal Squadron and remained with that unit until Mar 1957. On return to the UK he joined the Cadre at RMA Sandhurst and after a five year tour of duty moved to BAOR where he remained for three years serving with 2 Sig Regt. Then followed a short tour with 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus and commissioning. His first tour of duty after commissioning was with 21 Sig Regt and this was followed in May 1972 with a posting to 8 Sig Regt. In Oct 1974 he joined 40 Sig Regt (V) as the Training Major and remained with that unit until his final posting which was with the School of Signals. He retired on 21 May 1978. He died on 27 Feb 1982.

REUNION

Mr Eric Ball is trying to arrange a reunion of the members of 113 Special Wireless Section which was disbanded as a unit in Austria in 1945.

Members of this unit are requested to contact **Mr Ball** at his home address, 77 Pashley Road, Eastbourne BN20 8EA, with a view to attending a function on Sat 26 Mar 1983, in Eastbourne.

WANTED

Wall Plaque, 255 Sig Sqn (Bahrain). 'Jimmy' on a red background with Gulf shoulder flash on top left hand corner. **Sgt J. S. Baker,** CE Group, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks, DL9 3PS. Tel: Catterick Mil Ext 2634.

PERSONAL

Attention Bridge and card addicts. Crested sets of playing cards are now available. These attractive items are manufactured by Waddingtons of Leeds & London. (See Association goods on page 108.)

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the constructive suggestions he has received, bearing on the content and presentation of 'The Wire', in response to his request in the Nov 1982 issue.

For that special presentation or anniversary. The Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear is now available in 9 carat gold. See listing of goods on page 108.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

OPERATIONS SUMMARY
This period started with the run up to the NI Assembly Elections. Major interest centred on the participation of Provisional Sinn Fein (PSF). Despite attempts by INLA to disrupt the elections, in general the event passed peacefully. Results soon indicated a surprisingly high level of support for PSF which had four candidates elected including **Gerry Adams** and **Danny Morrison.** Despite this success at the ballot box the election was followed by an increase in terrorism by PIRA. Indication of a 'Loyalist' backlash was evident by the murder of several Catholics. The PIRA military activity lessened in the first half of Nov as PSF leaders again took the initiative by announcing their intention to stand in Westminster elections. Progress, however, has been made by the SF with the arrests of many terrorist suspects on information given by the Londonderry 'supergrass' and the capture of **Seamus Kearney** in S Derry. This period has tragically closed with the massacre of 16 soldiers and civilians in the Droppin Well Ballykelly.

CHANGE AT THE TOP
Brig Prosser the Comd 8 Inf Bde, departing for RCDS, handed over to **Brig Mattingley** on 17 Nov. During a high spirited farewell ceremony the Brigadier was borne through the camp on a carriage drawn by members of the Sqn in a torch-lit procession.

Brigadier's farewell torch lit procession led by, *from right to left:* LCpl Robert Risk, Sig Barry Eglington and LCpl David Kaminski

Brig Prosser gives his final address before leaving 8 Inf Bde

LS & GC PRESENTATION
Despite a very full programme the 'new' Bde Comd managed to visit the Sqn on 22 Nov. During his visit he presented LS & GC Medals to **Sgt Fred Bennett** and **SSgt Nigel Brocklebank** ACC.

Brig Mattingley presents LS & GC Medals to Sgt Fred Bennett and SSgt Nigel Brocklebank

COMMS TROOP OPS
This has been a busy period for Comms Tp with several operational deployments of our 'green' vehicles in support of various battalion operational and training commitments. Highlights of this period included an operation in East Tyrone when 8 UDR were deployed in battalion strength to carry out a sweep search. A Battalion HQ was established in the field with forward and rear link communications being established with a variety of military and commercial equipments. The detachment manned by **Cpl Mick Wray, LCpl Scouse McLaughlin** and **Sig Scouse Hatton** was a success on all counts.
More recently our special comms vehicle, Alpha 8, has spent several nights at sub-zero temperatures on a hilltop site in County Londonderry testing command and control communications for 1 Cheshire's annual march and shoot. This time it was in the charge of **Lt Bill Mawer,** temporarily promoted 2IC Comms Tp to detachment comd, and **LCpl Rab Risk.**
This has also been a busy period for the rest of the Tp, in particular the riggers who have been installing equipment in South Armagh following a series of incidents there, while trying to establish order on the other masts before they are all covered with ice.

The Liverpool lads LCpl Scouse McLaughlin and Sig Scouse Hatton prepare for the 8 UDR Op.

575 RLD

ADVENTURE TRAINING
In Oct a party of 10 men from the unit attended a Unit Group Adventure Training Course at JSMTC Wales in Tywyn. The group led by **Sgt Pete Daly** from 570 RLD, Londonderry, arrived at Tywyn with some trepidation but once they had got used to the 6.30am jog to the sea, and swim, and discovered that a large party of WRAC were in the centre at the same time, they settled down to enjoy themselves. Adventure Training activities indulged in during their stay were a two-day march on the local mountains and raft building. A good time was had by all.

SPORT
With the winter sporting season well under way unit teams have continued to find success. The Rugby team though not unbeaten, have had success against a number of battalion sides. The Hockey team have also been holding their own in the league, but our Football team, has yet to record a win. Running, of various types, is also proving popular with the cross-country runners doing very well in the weekly league events with consistently good performances by **LCpl David Cheung RAOC** and **Sig Alan Jenkins.**

VISIT BY CLF
The Sqn was pleased to have a visit from **Maj Gen Chiswell,** CLF NI, on 23 Nov. Grasping this unique opportunity to brief the CLF on the extensive range of communications support provided to the Bde by the Sqn, our visitor was given a whirlwind tour of all departments. During the very busy programme highlights included the scaling of the Ebrington comms tower and an inspection of our special comms vehicles.

Cpl Gordon Thursfield briefs the CLF before climbing the mast, Capt Nick Corbin and Cpl Mike Roe look on

END OF AN ERA
In Tyrone the departure of the QDG heralds the end of an era as it is planned they are the last Armoured Regt, to serve in the Province. In their place we welcome 1 Queens to the Bde, and have forthwith detached **Sgt Hump Thompson, Sigs Chris Aspinal** and **Pugwash Puckering** to form 575 RLD.

OPENING OF THE NEW SQN CLUB
In a high spirited and well attended ceremony the 'new' Sqn bar was opened by 8 Bde Dep Comd **Col Elliot.** The Colonel was quickly in action behind the bar drawing a pint for the first customer **Cpl Tommo Thompson.**

Handing over the first pint in the Sqn Club

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

OPERATIONS

An extended period of calm came to an end with the NI Assembly elections on 20 Oct. The Sqn was stood by for most of the election period and for the following weekend but in the event the contingency communications which we deployed were not required. Rover Group probably saw the most action whilst taking the Bde Commd around the polling stations but nothing more serious than the usual bricks and bottles came their way.

Just prior to the election **Cpl 'Fossil' Raistrick** completed a hectic month of work by installing a new Ops Room for 1 WFR at Whiterock. D Coy had survived with a very battered set-up which had, in turn, been rescued from Grand Central Hotel and the new console has made life much easier. Fossil aided by **Sigs 'Gaz' Garrity, Dave Harris** and **Dave Will,** did the job in 14 hours of non stop work which was well received by the 'Woofers'.

The Bde staff tested contingency plans for reinforcing the HMP Maze Guard in Nov. For some time before the event **Capt Terry Canham** was seen wandering around with the old CEI muttering, 'This just doesn't make sense'. He is now re-writing the CEI! The day did, however, go well and much was learnt by all.

'Look what I found!' Cpl 'Fossil' Raistrick shocked by the sudden appearance of Sig Dave Harris from under the new console at Whiterock

Sigs Dave Will and Dave Harris rebuilding D Coy Whiterock Ops Room

Bde Comd's Rover Gp at Springfield Road. *L to R:* Cpl Dave Pollard, Cpl Charlie Swanson, RMP, WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne (just visiting) and LCpl Chris Artingstall, RCT

TWO WORLD FIRSTS

For many years we have been the only unit in the Corps to hold helicopter-borne colour TV equipment, Heli-Tele. The old Scout kit which had given sterling service has now been replaced by a modern system designed for the Lynx helicopter. It just so happened that the Scout was phased out in the Province as our new Heli-Tele arrived enabling the TOT, **Capt Ben Lawson** and **Sgt Phil McGiveron** to carry out their trials. The new equipment has proved to be thoroughly successful and being the only unit to operate it means that those involved are always 'on the go'.

'Almost There'—Capt Ben Lawson smiles as Sgt Phil McGiveron, LCpl Gerry Carr and REME Aircraft Techs work on new Heli-Tele

Our second claim to fame is that on 1 Oct we closed down our C42 net without replacement. We think this makes us the only operational Bde in the Army that can claim that it does not use military radio for its normal communications. This has all been made possible by the use of commercial equipment.

Larkspur is not yet dead, however. It is still maintained for certain contingency operations.

FOCUS ON SHQ

The AO, **Capt David Clark,** has need of **Barbara Woodhouse.** He has just acquired a puppy 'Tufty' who chews everything from incoming letters to (occupied) barracks dress trousers. 'Tufty' also has delusions of grandeur as the photograph shows.

The AO is in—Tufty 'in the chair'

SHQ must bid a sad farewell to **Cpl Geoff Biss** who departs for pastures new. **Geoff** has been one of the fittest men in the Sqn for the last two years and has been a keen member of the cross country and orienteering teams. He passes his BFT in 7¼ minutes! We welcome **Cpl 'Vinny' Vincent** as his replacement.

Cpl Geoff Biss—Super Clerk?

SOCCER VICTORY

Oct saw a victory over our keenest rivals on the soccer field. The Sqn team beat 233 Sig Sqn 1—0. The **RSM, WO1 Dave Osborne** was called out of retirement to play and the goal was scored by one of our RPC escorts, **Pte 'Sparrow' Payne.**

DARTS COMPETITION

Cpl Brian Mackey as PEC of the Horseshoe Club recently ran a highly successful Sqn darts competition. The doubles competition was won by **LCpl Terry Taylor** and **Mrs Wendy Davies** and the fours by **Cpl Steve Harland, Sig Alex Aitken, Ptes Steve Woodrow** and **Garry Cartledge.**

Sqn Darts—Doubles winners Cpl Terry Taylor and Mrs Wendy Davies

The buffet was prepared by **Mrs Margaret Mackey** who used her experience in the catering trade to good effect. It was an excellent spread much appreciated by all.

Cpl Brian Mackey and the Spread. Margaret was unable to be at the party due to a family illness

A POPULAR ATTACHMENT

One of the features of service in Ulster is that the Sqn never deploys on exercise—but of course many men yearn for those days spent in wet woods in Germany! So there were plenty of volunteers when we heard that 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt had spaces for a few 'helpers' on Ex *Jog Trot* in Nov (or was it the prospect of 'duty frees' which attracted them?). **Cpls John Dyer** and **Eddie Connelly, Sigs 'Snapper' Snape, 'Tiny' Latham** and **LCpl Graeme Bryson** found themselves manning HF detachments in Belgium. The exercise was most successful in terms of communications and liaison with the volunteers. Many new friends were made and it is hoped that both units can get together for more social and military events.

CONGRATULATIONS

Nov saw the weddings of two of our men. **Sig Alex Aitken** married **Miss Sharon Irwin** at St Columbs Garrison Church on 5 Nov. All went well and **SSgt George Fitzgerald** found himself closely involved in organising the catering arrangements at the reception in the Shamrock Club. **Sig Dave Will** married **Miss Noreen Pinker** at the Lisburn Registry Office on 26 Nov. We wish both couples increasing happiness for the future.

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

SUPER SOLDIER 82

This year's Squadron Military Skills competition (known as Super Soldier) was again held at Ballykinler on what turned out to be a relatively dry day in November. Seven teams were entered, representing the troops of the Squadron, which included for the first time, a WRAC team, who were all hand picked, (or so they complained). The stands which the teams attempted were, map reading, NBC, first aid, command task, military general knowledge, landrover wheel changing, weapon handling and shooting, with the assault course as a finale. During the first part of competition all teams appeared to be fairly close, with the WRAC team shaming the men at NBC and general knowledge. However, after the shooting the Comms and Tech troop teams pulled into the lead, with Tech Troop being the eventual winners.

The WRAC team in action during the Super Soldier Competition: *L to R* LCpl Jan Spencer, Cpl Lyn James, Ptes Debbie Horton and 'CJ' Johnson, with LCpl Kate Whitehouse obscured

SENIORS TRAINING DAY

On 22 October the Squadron's seniors presented a day of lectures on various current affairs topics including Lebanon, the Falklands, the future of Combat Net Radio, ADP in the office, Royal Signals career structure, and Britain's nuclear deterrent. A lot of hard work went into the presentations, including a home-made video from the Whiskey Troop Syndicate on the development of radio, and a very informative insight into the Falklands by the Victor Troop team. There was a lively discussion of the various trade structures and pay bands, which was expected, as nearly all the Royal Signals trades were represented in the audience. Undoubtedly everyone learnt a good deal about all the subjects discussed.

A GOOD RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

Very few people in the Squadron are unaware that the TOT, **Capt Matt Campbell** likes running. His prowess and stamina have been in evidence quite a bit recently, either with the orienteering team, the cross-country team, or as an individual marathon runner. The Squadron's orienteering teams, both male and female have had a most successful season under the guidance of **Cpl Dave Cresswell,** who has personally had a very good season. In November they went to Catterick to take part in the Royal Signals UK Championships, where the men's team came second in the Minor Units category. The Squadron relays team also contains **Capt Matt Campbell** and **Cpl Dave Cresswell,** with **SSgt Graham Campbell** and **Sig 'Frostie' Frost** completing this successful team who, having won the N Ireland Championships at Ballykelly, went on to be placed sixth in the Army Championships at Blackdown. Not content with all this, **Capt Matt Campbell** also organised a fun run as part of the McKelvie Trophy Competition in which about 75 members of the Squadron took part. The event was won by (you guessed it) **Cpl Dave Cresswell** who contributed to Admin/Echo Tp coming second, whilst Whiskey Troops first place was due

The Squadron's Orienteering Team (Male and Female). *L to R* Cpls Dave Cresswell, 'Jock' Dengate, Pte Debbie Horton, Sig (now LCpl) Stu Allan, LCpl Kate Whitehouse, Sgt 'George' Pickersgill, Pte Elli Garland, Sgt Alec Armstrong and Capt Matt Campbell

The NI Relays—Capt Matt Campbell hands over to Cpl Dave Cresswell

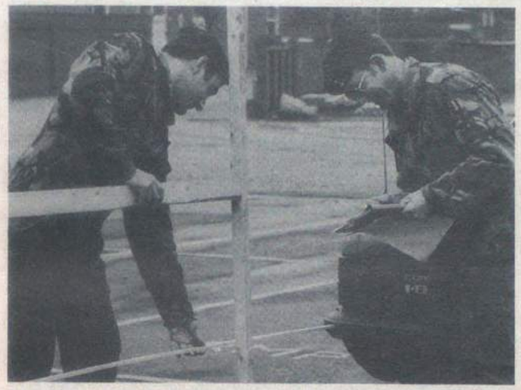
to the efforts of **SSgts Graham Campbell, Trev Mortlock, Sgts John Bishop** and **Alec Armstrong, Cpl Steve Wardle** and **Sig Ken Horsley-Wrjght** (he only arrived a couple of days before the run!). The first lady runner home was **LCpl Kate Whitehouse** of Commcen Troop. The TOT's exploits do not end there. He also took part in the Verden Marathon organised by 1 Div Sig Regt where he came 11th and won the **Lt Jim Barry** Memorial Trophy for his efforts.

BOXING

For the first time for several years the Squadron has raised an enthusiastic boxing team who are nurtured, coached and encouraged by **SSgts Tony Dark, Dave Sparkes** and Team Manager **Pete Mills.** Although spoiling for a fight, they won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships on a walkover, as the opponents failed to put in a team. Thus they went through to the UK Zone B Finals where they were drawn against the UK Minor Units Champions for the last six years, 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE at Plymouth. In a valiant match the team was beaten 13 points to 8 by the experienced and skilful Sapper team. The boxers were **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood,** featherweight, **Sig 'Snowie' Buckley,** lightweight, **LCpl Steve Robinson,** lightwelter, **LCpl Mick Jones,** light-middle, **Sig 'Ted' Heath,** middle-weight, **Sig Steve Connolly,** light-heavy, **Sig Ted Palmer,** welter-weight and reserves **LCpl 'Taff' Webb** and **Sig Drew Collins.**

COMMAND DRIVING COMPETITION

Another kind of competition was the Northern Ireland Command Driving Competition in which 33 teams from the Province were entered, including two from the Squadron. Our B team, consisting of **Cpl Dave Williams, LCpl Steve Robinson** and **Sig Dave Johnson** came third overall, with **Dave Williams** being awarded the prize for best novice driver. The 'A' team were awarded a prize for the best performance on the Highway Code Test. Helping out with the judging were QTOs **WO2 'Bounce' Spring** and **SSgt Dave Sparkes.**



The NI Command Driving Competition—WO2 (RQMS) 'Bounce' Spring and SSgt Dave Sparkes in charge of the vehicle manoeuvring stand

CHRISTMAS BALL

Although by the time these notes appear in print Christmas will be long gone, few will forget the Squadron Christmas Ball in a hurry. Hypnotist **Wynne Roberts** was booked as the cabaret and had soon recruited some 'willing' volunteers for his act. There was then a chance for these seemingly quiet individuals to become superstars overnight. **SSgt Dave 'Tinkerbell' Sparkes** led us in the festive mood, whilst **LCpl 'Sid' Elliott** showed great promise as a future Sergeant Major, and **Cpl Nigel Kirkby** showed hidden talents as a dancer. Our thanks go to all who took part for being such good sports, and were game for a laugh.

SSgt Dave Sparkes in action at the Squadron Christmas Ball

Cpl Nigel Kirkby adopting the prone unsupported position under hypnosis. Wynne Roberts in the background, and Cpl 'Tad' Thomas testing for comfort

THE DRAGON DEPARTS

In December our assistant admin officer, **Lt Lindy Turner** left us to become a photographic interpreter. As well as controlling the PRI cash, she also found time to take part in the Garrison pantomime, playing the part of a dragon. Hope it's not typecasting! We all wish her good luck in her new job. In her place we welcome **2Lt Val Grimmett** who joins us from the School of Military Engineering. At the same time, we also bade farewell to **Capt Roger Courtney,** OC E Troop, who left us for the milder climes of Catterick.

ADMIN TROOP

The troop's secret plan to retain the coveted **McKelvie** Trophy is going well. The instigator of most of our victories, **SSgt Tony** 'Je ne comprend pas NIRTT' **Dark** now has us neck and neck with Tech Troop, and with only four events to go—watch this space!

The MT Dept has been extra busy lately with two new arrivals, **Cpl Bob Quinn** and **Sig Perry Hoskins. SSgt Dave Sparkes,** the boss, has also been busy organising boxing training and preparing people to take the Institute of Advanced Motorist's test. We would like to thank him for his delightful version of Swan Lake at the Christmas Ball—he's very good with a wand. **Cpl Bob Quinn** has also made his mark—especially with the families' club when their transport failed to turn up to take them on an outing. Next day the transport turned up, but no families' club. Never mind **Bob,** you'll get it right sooner or later. **Sig Dave Johnson** found a new way of keeping the RMPs and RUC busy when he 'lost' the OC's car. Fortunately, it wasn't hijacked, just **Dave** had forgotten where he'd left it.

The Admin Officer/Troop Officer, **Capt Len Jeffery** has been improving relations between the Squadron and the RUC, but the less said about that the better.

The RQMS Dept, with its new arrival, **Sig Steve Upfold,** has also been busy. **Cpl Terry Skee** and recently promoted **LCpl Roy Johnson** (why did you go to Aldergrove Airport to be promoted?) were a little mystified when they had 5000 Signal message pads delivered. A check with the Squadron clerk, **Cpl Willy 'Hare Krishna' Coyne,** revealed that a slip of the pen (that's his story anyway) had mistakenly multiplied the order by 100. Result: 4950 message pads too many.

Two members of the recently established Training Wing, **Sgts Alex Mair** and **Dave Aldous,** would be advised to keep a close watch on the other member, **Cpl Terry Males.** He has been known to use his wife's underarm shaver whilst his electric shaver is in for repair.

STOP PRESS

There is a nasty rumour circulating the Squadron that the **SSM, WO2 Tony Hand** has bought a packet of cigarettes. We are unable at the present time to confirm or deny this rumour. However, if past performance is anything to go by, this is most unlikely. Talk about emulating the boss!

WHISKEY TROOP
REPORT BY LCPL McCARTHY

It has been an eventful couple of months in the Troop with many comings and goings. Firstly we bid farewell to **SSgt Dick Russell, Sgt Mo Harkin** and **LCpl Dee Andrew.** Next we congratulate our newly-weds, **Cpl Dave Metcalfe** and **Kath, LCpl Mark Strangways** and **Julie,** and **Sig 'Daisy' Cartwright** and **June.** We also wish to say well done to **Sig Paddy McKissock** who proved that you can smoke 90 cigarettes a day and pass your BFT (just), to **LCpl Mark Strangways** for passing his Det Comds Course and to **SSgt Trev Mortlock** for surviving his RQMS Course.

Much hard training was put in by our entrants in the Super Soldier Competition and they were notably successful in the Shooting. The team was **Cpl Steve Wardle, LCpl Martin Littlewood,** and **Sigs Kev Allen, 'Daisy' Cartwright** and **John Coltman,** whilst **LCpl Jan Spencer** joined the WRAC team. On the sporting front **Cpl Dave Metcalfe** and **Sig Kev Allen** put in a fine performance to win the Stableford Competition in the Squadron Open Golf Day, whilst our intrepid orienteering team, **SSgt Graham Campbell, Sgt Alec Armstrong, Cpl Nigel Kirkby** and **Sigs Steve Summers** and **'Daisy' Cartwright** gained third place in the **McKelvie** Competition. Shame about the Rugby, though. We extend a warm welcome to our new arrivals, **SSgt Graham Campbell, LCpl Jan Spencer,** and **Ptes Alison Carter** and **Sue Lisle.**

FOOTNOTES

Few words can reduce rugged men to tears more effectively than 'Staff, I was in my bath last when I had this brilliant idea . . .' Thus we know whence **Maj 'Archimedes' Williams** gets his good ideas, but what we want to know is where the bad ones come from.

Another officer from the Squadron was described by the MO as having 'the heart, lungs and blood pressure of an 18 year old and the knees of a 60 year old'. Who could it be?

Last and least, a mention for **LCpl Paddy Graham** the sailor and **Cpl 'Simon the Pieman' Quinn** who have both added a little colour to our lives.

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

ALL GO

Yet another busy period, activities included, a brief but eventful visit from the SOinC, a Gala Charity Band Concert, Cycling, Canoeing, Orienteering, coal humping in Scarborough, a recruit weekend, confirmation that Tac Ex Tp does exist and as normal, the Commandant creating a stir.

Apology. The Editor of the College Newsletter proffers sincere apologies to all concerned for the incorrect caption on page 506 of the Nov issue. The banner was presented by the President of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society **Mr A. T. Preston.**

VISIT BY SOINC

On the evening of Fri 19 November the **SOinC Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, CBE** paid a flying visit to the College to present Pipe, Fanfare and Music Stand Banners to the College Band and to open the new Senior Term Club.

The Banner project was conceived by the Commandant in July 1981 as a means to educate the apprentices about the Regiments and Independent Squadrons of the Corps, their locations and function within the Army and to provide the College Bands with new banners. The banners display the individual insignia of the Regiments and Squadrons and are supported by large unit display boards around the College. Together they present the apprentice with a broader aspect of his future career and a better chance to consider his initial choice of posting. The total cost of banners was beyond the means of the College and the Commandant asked individual Regiments, Squadrons and Corps Funds to contribute towards the cost.

The SOinC gave a short address to the gathered company, outlining the significance of the banners and the proud history of the Regiments and Squadrons they represented. He then made a token presentation of two banners to representatives of the Band; **AT Neil Taylor** received the banner donated by 200 Sig Sqn (**Col Verdon's** old command) and **AT Pipe Maj Brucy Bruce** received the banner donated by 7 Sig Regt (**Maj Gen Birtwistle's** old command). They will be paraded with pride and make a colourful display on future ceremonial occasions and act as a constant reminder to the apprentices of the Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps and their world wide commitments. Immediately after the Banner Presentation the SOinC moved across the College to open the new Senior Term Bar. This project being conceived as an introduction for the graduating term into the functions of a Junior Ranks Club in a Regular unit, the committee elected to run the bar being elected by the Senior Term apprentices and chaired by the AT RSM.

Maj Gen Birtwistle presenting the banners

Maj Gen Birtwistle with AT RSM Neil Longley at the opening of the Senior Term Bar

SOinC pulls a pint in the new Senior Term Bar watched by three lovely NAAFI ladies

GALA MILITARY BAND CONCERT

A Gala Military Band Concert sponsored by His Worship the Mayor of Harrogate and **Col G. C. Verdon,** Commandant of the College, was held in the Royal Hall Harrogate on Sat 20 Nov. The proceeds from the concert were donated to various charities, which were closely involved with supporting the families of those who had been wounded or killed in the Falklands.

For only the second time in history, the bands of Royal Corps of Signals, 34 Sig Regt (V), the Pipes and Drums of 32 Sig Regt (V), Pipers of the Queen's Gurkha Signals and the Pipes and Drums and Corps of Drums of the Army Apprentices College played together. Some sixty musicians under the baton of **Maj G. Turner,** who is the Director of Music Royal Corps of Signals, played a large selection of music, ranging from Dvorak's New World Symphony, to rousing, hand clapping negro spirituals. The compere for the evening was **Charlie Williams.** He warmed the audience up with his quick-witted jokes and even attempted to conduct the Bands at one stage. The evening was a success raising £1200 for SSAFA, £650 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and £650 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The climax of this historic and very worthwhile occasion took place at the College when **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** received, from the Commandant and the Mayor of Harrogate, cheques to the value of £2,500 for the service charities concerned.

Presentation of cheques donated to service charities received by Lt Col Murray from Col G. C. Verdon and Councillor Frank Pickles, Mayor of Harrogate

COLLEGE CYCLING TEAM

The sport is an all year effort within the College. The cycling year starts in Jan with Reliability Trials, switching to Road Racing and Time Trials in March and moving indoors for Roller Racing in Oct. This season, the early results in the Junior Road Championships were disappointing, but the senior team persevered to take second place in the season Long League Championship. The team fought off the challenge of local rivals, 38 Engineer Regt, but were edged out by the 40 Support Group team from BAOR. Several rides merit mention, the most outstanding being that of **AT LCpl Mick Culyer** in the 100 mile TT. He completed the course in under six hours even though the conditions were so dreadful that about half those who started failed to finish. **AT Bill Tillotson** and **AT Slim Hughes** produced fine rides in the 50 mile TT.

Our juniors responded to these results in the Army Open Hill Climb Championships held at Much Wenlock in Oct. **AT John Winn** taking fourth place with **AT Andy Cooper** ninth.

JUNIORS SUCCESS

The autumn term is dominated by the indoor events. In preparation for the Army Championships several friendly matches are organised. This year we took on the best teams in the country. Kanarsborough CC and North Yorkshire Coureurs were defeated but Otley CC and Penine CC narrowly beat the College team. These defeats were the inspiration we needed to work harder! When the riders gathered at Woolwich in late Nov, the College team of ten seniors and ten juniors was as strong in depth as any we have produced. The juniors rode their match first and took ten of the top fourteen places in the 400m race and all top ten places in the 1000m. **AT Andy Cooper** captured the individual 400m junior title in a close race with **AT Dick Blacklock. AT Paul Ruddock** was third and **AT Dave Parkes** and **AT John Winn** tied for fourth place. **AT Dave Parkes** had his revenge in the 1000m when he tied for first place with **AT Steven Bartleet,** relegating **AT Andy Cooper** and **AT Paul Ruddock** to third and fourth places respectively.

SENIORS TOO

Having watched the juniors win their championships by 28 points, the senior team were determined to do even better! They did not quite do so individually, taking ten of the top seventeen places in the 400m and the ten top places in the 1500m. **AT Cpl Tex Dallas** won both individual events with **AT Keith Dwyer** taking third place in both. **AT Kev Copes, AT Dave Laverie** and **AT Martin Ferris** tied for fourth place. **AT Martin Ferris** maintained his form in the 1500m event to take fourth place overall. **Mr A. Green** the team trainer and organiser produced good form to gain seventh position overall. The seniors won their championship by 53 points.

INDIVIDUAL TROPHY

To round off the season's triumphs. **AT Cpl Tex Dallas** was awarded the Army Junior Best All Round Trophy for the year for some fine performances throughout the year. The team is now in training to improve on these results next year.

COLLEGE CANOE CLUB

Since our last mention I am pleased to say that we have had an influx of new members (apparently keen to get wet every week) namely **AT 'Taff' Reed, AT 'Dobo' Dobson** and **AT** 'I like the rough stuff' **Anderson.** These three in addition to the 'Old Hands' produced an excellent performance in the Army White Water Championships held in Richmond.

The 'A' Team of **AT LCpl 'Oscar' Wilde, AT Sgt 'Mal' Maloney** and **AT 'Humph' Humphriss** were clear winners of both the Junior Open Competition and the Div 'C' Youth Competition, thereby becoming the Army Junior White Water Champions for 1982. This was a splendid result that embarrassed a number of Army Senior Teams.

The 'B' Team of **AT Taff Reed, AT Dobo Dobson** and **AT** 'I like the rough stuff' **Anderson** put in a very credible performance to be placed in the first ten, especially since all three were newcomers two months ago. It is also rumoured that the result could have been even better if an unnamed member to the team hadn't volunteered to practise his swimming test during the race. The Club is now going to spend the Winter months training and preparing for the 1983 season.

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering has a unique status in the College. As an integral part of the Champion Squadron Competition, all apprentices participate once a term for the coveted 'Genge Trophy'. This autumn was no exception with a win for Rawson Sqn—incidentally, commanded by OIC Orienteering, **Maj Dick Hoyle.** The individual winners, **AT Sgt Ian Rutherford,** second **AT Mark Blacklock** and third **AT Sgt Paul Moloney.**

AT Mark Blacklock receives 1st Prize from the SOinC at the Corps Championships

The College team dominated the Junior Section of the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships held at Wass Forest 16/17 Oct. **AT Mark Blacklock** gained first place, followed by **AT LCpl Mathew Hughes** and **AT Cpl Jerry Bailey.** In the relay event Harrogate Juniors A, B and C teams took the first three places.

THE CHARITY COAL HUMP

On Sat 28 Nov at 0630 hrs, whilst most were still in the land of nod, the brave Scott Sqn Coal Humpers arose to the cold morning air. At 0745 hrs, we collected the 'death packs' and trudged off to the coach where we met **Sgt 'PJ' Probin, LCpl 'Pontoon' Ploughman, LCpl Jock Spittal** and **Sig Shaun Martin** (bus driver). At 0800 hrs we departed camp and before long the bus rang with the sound of Zs!

At 1000 hrs, we reached Scarborough and decided to have a preview of the course. From our seats the hills looked big, but not as big as they were going to look (and feel). Soon we reached the crowded start and as the toilet sign on the station wall came into sight the coach emptied. After this great relief we collected our sacks and prepared for the great pains ahead. **Sgt 'PJ'** soon set off in his class (individuals) and after cheering him off we weighed up and eyed up the opposition (female). Then it came time for our four teams to depart in their class.

And they're off, **AT Lewie Bartleet** sprinted off for Scott B team, Scott A, C, D kept up and soon Scott A left the rest behind. The hills were long and seemed to grow as we ran up them. After the gruelling hills had eaten away our energy, muscle and ego it was so nice to stand at the bar of the finish (Blacksmiths Arms, Cayton) and ponder over a pint of bitter. **Sgt 'PJ' Probin** had finished his class in first place and the apprentices collected a first, second, fourth and sixth. To add to these cups we collected a lot of prizes from the raffles. **AT** (I only look gay) **Knowles** won three litres of white rum (that never saw Harrogate), **AT** (non alcoholic) **Lewie Bartleet** won a half bottle of whiskey (that soon died), and **AT LCpl 'Deano' Briers** won a box of forks.

Coal Humping Party

Standing L Top: Michael Angove, Michael Garbett, Lewie Bartleet, Keith Johnson, Dave Lynam, Eddie Williams, Cpl (I'm a poser! Leyshon, Skinhead Omerod, LCpls Dave James, 'Deono' Briers, Billy Barnes. *Front Row:* Andrew Burdge, John Roberts, Graham Adams, Paul Gartside, Sgt 'PJ' Probin and Paul Knowles

We spent all afternoon drinking, singing and laughing. **Mr** and **Mrs Hogg** (an ex AT's parents) invited us to tea so twenty two squaddies went. We sat down and began to eat an endless supply of food. We then returned to the Blacksmiths Arms to say goodbye to the humpers. The thing that made it so good was the thought that it was all for charity. A great day was had by all and we would all like to thank **Sgt 'PJ' Probin** for his effort and sportsmanship.

£270 was raised for The Sunnyside and May Lodge Children's Homes.

RECRUIT TROOP WEEKEND 6/7 OCT

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme the recruits of Bradley Sqn spent a weekend doing community service with the North York Moors Railway Trust. The activities given to the troop by the Railway Trust were both challenging and interesting, varying from the renovation of old railway steam engines to trackside clearance. The accommodation throughout the weekend was perfectly in keeping with the theme of the weekend, old railway carriages.

The troop was split into groups of 6-10 persons each with their own tasks, all nicely set in the beautiful surroundings of North Yorkshire. The weekend was highlighted by a superb Bar-B-Q on Saturday which was noted mainly for its burnt offerings, stylishly produced by **Sgt Stuart Brown** and his team. However, the weekend was a tremendous success and **Lt Steve Wallis** will try hard to improve and repeat the weekend for future recruit intakes.

TACTICAL EXERCISE TROOP

Tactical Exercise Troop continues to flourish under the merciless glare of the Harrogate sun (well it's the wind really), despite a large recent turnover of personnel. Currently the OC is **Capt Bruce 'Rock Hopper' Coram,** a man of many parts—most of them second hand! **SSgt (YofS) Alan Watts** is busy packing his penguin roaster in preparation for a six month holiday in the Falklands. The following radio telegraphist PS are welcomed: **Sgt Keith Tubman,** who is able to recite the whole of Gunga Din at the drop of a hat (if anyone else drops a hat, I'll kill him), **Sgt Dave Quinton** who is leaving us due to his recent promotion (but he wants to stay really!), **Sgt Jim Taylor** who, being a dour Scot, constantly smiles, **Cpl Mick Dawson** who wears his lovely red beret and talks of jumping out of aeroplanes (why?). They join the 'old guard' of **Sgt Ron (Porky) Smith,** (could his nickname have anything to do with applications to join the police force?), **Sgt John** (I can crack walnuts in my elbows) **Tyreman, Sgt Gary** (I keep trying but they keep slipping out) **Dodd** and **Cpl Graham King,** who thinks that an exercise is something you do early in the morning to keep you fit. **Sgt Pete Childs,** the troop's pet technician, is still trying to convince us that, the fact that he works 25 hours a day justifies his ridiculously high salary. His two Radio Relay Operators, **LCpl Alan Farr** and **Sig Billy Mill** constantly complain about having to pay for the privilege of working with him. Down at the MT, things have changed. **Sgt George Burtan** arrived from 7 Sig Regt and for weeks afterwards drivers and powermen had a lot of good words for him. But all is now settled and works parade can be mentioned without fear of injury. **Cpl Gary Dando,** recently promoted, has bought yet another house (he only ever has one, but he changes it regularly), **LCpl Frank Mason,** recently re-promoted, is trying for a record number of car crashes, **Sig Andy Slater** was going to the Falklands, then he wasn't, now he might—but he'll get married first, perhaps. **Sig Jock Sinclair** is learning how to soldier after detachment to the Fort George Volunteers for six months, **Sig Phil Hayden** has autographed all the walls in the MT—so now he's stopped, **Sig John Wilson** has just arrived from 1 Div and can't understand why everyone laughs at him and lastly **Sig Tom Robson** has been warned for posting to the Falklands just so that he doesn't have to remove his foul-weather jacket in the summer. We would like to say goodbye to **Maj Robin Ovenden, YofS Des Jepson** (now **WO2**), **Sgts Bill Sutherland** and **Cliff Marshall** and **Sig Jonah (Blue Moon) Jones.**

COMMANDANT STIRS IT IN 1982

The 'it' was actually the Christmas pudding mixture for this year's celebrations. The Commandant kindly came to the Main Kitchen and stirred the final mixture for this year's batch. The 1982 total is 1,000 portions with a total weight of 3131lbs.

The list of ingredients include: 122lb dried fruit, 120 eggs, 20oz Navy Rum, 20oz Brandy, 15pts of Guinness, 2½pts Sherry and even 5pts milk (for the under 18s you know!). Amongst the 'secret' ingredients are the traditional goodies such as brown sugar, spices, almonds, oranges, lemons, ginger, flour and suet. The taste promises to be good and no doubt the stirring has a lot to do with it!

Col Verdon stirs it, assisted by *L-R:* Pte Carl Mawe, SSgt Rod Dinsdale, Capt Doug Eeles, Sgt Keith Holroyd

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

COMMANDER INSPECTS

The Group ARU took place on Tues 12 Oct and this year's inspecting officer was **Brig J. B. Howard**, Commander 49 Inf Bde. After an initial briefing by the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson,** on the role of the Group, **Brig Howard** visited and spoke to members of the unit throughout Garats Hay Barracks.

At 1200 hrs, unit personnel were paraded and **Brig Howard** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 (QMSI) Brian Pyle, SSgt Ron Potter** and **Sgt Ron Paterson.** Immediately following the traditional 'medal wetting' ceremony in the Sgts Mess the unit was again paraded and the energetic phase of the inspection commenced, closely supervised by the military skills team from HQ 49 Inf Bde. Personnel were random selected to undertake tests in weapon handling, shooting, BFT tests, First Aid and NBC drills and finally to close the day's activities the unit was tested on IED Drills. Prior to departing the unit, **Brig Howard** again paraded the Group. He reported that he was well pleased with all aspects of the unit and awarded the unit a half day holiday on the Friday.

What size waist Colonel?

Fish and chips four times? Certainly Sir

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

This year's firework display once again fell to HQ Troop to organise. There was much consulting of the firework catalogue to see whether to order starburst, angel's delight or kiss-me-quick displays.

The yearly household clearance began. Old MFO boxes, wood that one so desperately wants to build a new bar with, sofas from the MT rest room (well-worn mind you). All these plus half the trees and bushes in Garats Hay Barracks as well.

As usual the gods did not smile on us. It rained for 72 hours solid prior to the event, however, as in all organised Army events efficiency prevailed. The build up to the 5th went smoothly. Everyone on leave, sick, sports etc and even in the end the Regimental Policeman, assisted in setting up the firework display area. Fire hoses were laid out just in case anything went wrong. A marquee had been erected by the workhorses of 2 Sqn under the direction of **SSgt (YofS) Brian Lawrence,** cursing and swearing about missing another sports afternoon. The cooks set up their mobile cookhouse and the NAAFI sensing a bit of profit quickly had a 'wet' area in action.

At 1900 the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson,** visited the arena and gave permission for the display to start. This year it was to be a purely aerial display, it also lessened the chance of a flying cartwheel spinning off a post and changing your profile. After ten minutes the last rocket left its launching pad and it was time to light the fire. To start the fire a series of complicated devices had been employed, unfortunately these are under Government patent and cannot be revealed. The winners of the Guy Fawkes competition, **Nicola** and **James Downey** were called upon to start the fire. This went without mishap and for the rest of the evening even though it rained throughout the fire raged on, devouring the effigies of Mr Fawkes. After an hour or so, which seemed like an age to the fire watchers, the crowd started to disperse having had a very wet but enjoyable time.

RUGBY

OIC **Maj Clive Arthur** (Fixtures); 2IC **Cpl Keith Armstrong** (Secretary, Trainer, Coach etc); Capt **SSgt Dave Bicker;** V Capt **Sgt Pete Lang;** Treasurer **SSgt (FOS) Dan Matthews.**

Looking at the hierachy of the club, which calls itself 'Woodhouse Weasels', most rugby players within the Corps should recognise at least one name. Apart from these 'Old Campaigners' the club has a good bunch of players, both on the park and off. Up to the writing of this article, the 'Weasels' have played 5, won 4, lost 1; points for 91, points against 36.

Having a full fixture list now the 'Weasels' are going strong, so all you rugby players not considering a posting to Comms & Sy Gp (UK) think again, as life is certainly better here now for the rugby player.

The top scorer for the club so far is **LCpl Martin Thirsk** with **Cpl Bob Thompson** and **LCpl 'Russ' Russell** pushing him hard. Some of the squad members are in their first ever season and some should by rights have already seen their last! All in all we are looking forward to a highly enjoyable season, and who knows maybe a successful one.

EASTERN DISTRICT SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

After two date changes the tournament eventually took place on the 27 Oct at Colchester. This required a very early start for the two teams entered by Comms & Sy Gp, the transport leaving Woodhouse at 0700 and arriving at Colchester at 1015.

Both the A & B teams were in difficult leagues with the winners of each league going through to the semi-final being the order of the day.

The B team, captained by **WO2 (FofS) Pete Coleman,** lost their first game 2—0, drew the next 3—3 and won the last two 1—0 and 4—0. The team played well with **Sig Andy Williams** scoring six goals during the four games, and they were unlucky not to qualify for the semi-finals.

The A team, whilst quietly confident and captained by **WO1 Dave Smith,** nevertheless got off to a shaky start against Depot Queens Division with a 1—0 win. Convincing wins 2—0, 3—0 and 4—0 in the remaining games saw the team safely through to the semi-final against 39 Eng Regt. All the team were playing well by this time, **Sgt Tommy Wright** being the principal goal scorer ably assisted on both wings by **Sig Pete Willett** and **Sgt Dave Kent,** the pace of both causing problems for all defences.

The semi-final was a comfortable 2—0 victory, the whole team really getting it together in this game. **Sig Gary Payne** playing in midfield was outstanding, his stick control and distribution totally destroying the opposition.

The final, played against 2 Battalion The Queens Regiment, was a scrappy affair with the Comms & Sy Gp defence having to withstand a lot of pressure but nevertheless the scores were equal at half time. Play resumed with a more positive approach by Comms & Sy Gp, and with both teams committed to attack a break from one side was always on the cards. Shortly before full time this happened when a good ball to **Sgt Tommy Wright** left him only the keeper to beat. This he did with composure to ensure a 1—0 win for Comms & Sy Gp. Mention should be made of **Sgt Danny Cullen** who kept a clean sheet in goal throughout the six games.

The long journey, at the end of a successful day, had all been worthwhile.

MR McADAM RETIRES

Mr P. F. J. McAdam reluctantly took off his boots on Wed 24 Nov and entered the 'pension brigade'. For him it was a very sad occasion as he feels, as we do, that there is at least twenty years left to do. To mark this auspicious event, a series of farewell parties were arranged, thus indicating the high esteem and respect in which he was held. The first took place at a local restaurant of good cuisine and was organised by **SSgt (Supvr R) Brian Inglis** and his supporting team. **Mac** and his wife **Brenda** were 'dined' out by the OC, **Maj Fred Searle,** 2IC, **Capt Dave Thorp,** Warrant Officers and SNCO's of 2 Sqn. During the dinner **Maj Fred Searle** presented **Mac** with a framed curriculum vitae to mark the occasion.

The second party took place at a different local restaurant. This was the 2 Sqn Xmas party and the guest of honour, **Lt Col John Dobson,** presented **Mac** with two silver candlesticks which were mounted on a plynth and suitably inscribed.

Donations for this gift came from near and far. The CO, **Lt Col John Dobson,** thanked **Mac** for all his dedication and loyalty during his service. **Mr McAdam** thanked everyone for their contributions and wished them well for the future. Other functions have been arranged and will take place at a later date.

Major Fred Searle presenting Mr Mac with his framed copy of his curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae printed below is a reflection of all this dedication and loyalty shown by **Mr McAdam** during his long service and is a suitable guide for young soldiers just embarking on their career in the Army.

Mr McAdam joined the Royal Corps of Signals in March 1936. He was posted to Palestine Signals in Nov 1937, and served with the Secret Night Squad (SNS) which was formed to prevent illegal Jewish immigrants breaking out and building communes.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, he was posted to L of C Western Desert. He joined the Middle East Commandos in 1940 and subsequently transferred to the Long Range Desert Group in late 1940.

As a wireless operator he was in the first patrol (Rhodesian) serving under **Col Bagnold,** to enter KUFRA, where he remained with the Free French until relieved by a New Zealand patrol some four months later.

From there he joined 2 Wireless Regiment in Palestine in 1941, returning to the Western Desert in early 1942 with 105 Signal Section.

In June 1942, he was captured by the German Africa Corps and taken to Italy. In 1943 the Italian Army surrendered and he was taken to Germany (Ober Silesia).

In January 1945 at the start of the Russian advance he started out with other prisoners on a long and hazardous march. He managed to escape off the march but he was recaptured in Czecheslovakia where he spent two months in a Concentration camp. He again started off on a march but once again escaped, this time managing to get to PILSEN where he joined the American advanced troops until the end of the war.

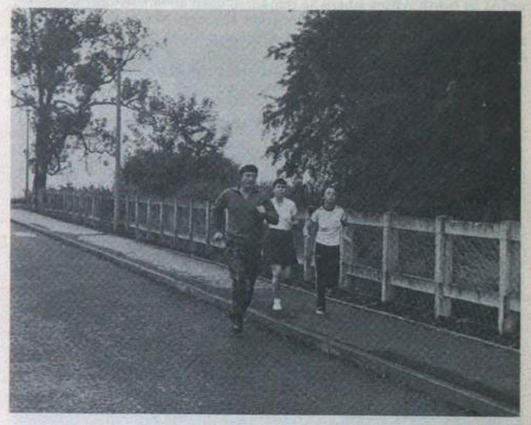
Since then he has served in Gibraltar, Germany and the UK. Finally for 12 years as a Civil Servant at Garats Hay.

GROUP X COUNTRY

The Time—1430
The Date—Wed 24 Nov
Weather—Dry but very cold

We now have the setting for the Group X Country competition. The course was a mixture of track and roads with a few muddy fields thrown in to ensure everyone became nice and dirty. In all, 90 competitiors from within the Group took part in the race including the CO **Lt Col John Dobson,** the Adjutant **Capt Bill Clark** and the **RSM WO1 Jim Crannage.** The individual winner was **LCpl Andy Worsley** of 3 Coy with **Sig Bobby Fanning** from 2 Sqn a very close second. The overall team result was a win for 3 Coy with HQ Sqn second.

A good day was had by all concerned, including the RSM, who could be heard shouting for **WO2 (QSMI) Brian Pyle** the organiser of the event to report to his office next morning to clean his running shoes!



Who's catching who?

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We say farewell to **Sgt Paul Freeman** and **WCpl Wendy Couling** on posting and welcome to the Group—**WO1 'Red' Rigley, Sgt Bill Brennan, Sgt Dave Dolling** and **Cpl Martin Wortley.**

SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL PRESENTATION

On Wed 1 Dec the Group was paraded in the unit gymnasium for the presentation by **Col C. J. Gilbert** of the South Atlantic Medal to members of the Group who had taken part in that campaign. The recipients of the medal were **Maj Mike Dawkins, Capt Dave Thorp, WO1 (Supvr R) Alan Newman, Sgt Roger Hern** and **Cpl's Eric Ball, Benny Bennett, Joe Davin, Baz Lukehurst, Mick Reehal** and **Mr (ex LCpl) Colin Cross.**

After the medal presentation, which had also been watched by their wives and girlfriends, the medal recipients accompanied by **Col Gilbert** retired to the '447 Club' for the traditional 'wetting' of the medal.

HQ UKLF

JOHN 'JOCK' MILLAR

Communications Branch at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces is a small, closely knit organisation. It is therefore very noticeable when one of our number leaves, particularly when he is such a long standing and loyal member of the Branch. Thus it is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our long serving **Clerical Officer Jock Millar.**

Jock boasts a long and distinguished career with Royal Signals having enlisted as a Lineman in Catterick in 1936. It is interesting to record that basic training in those days consisted of sixteen weeks on the square followed by nine months in the stables! On completion of training he was posted to A Corps in Aldershot until the outbreak of the war. **Jock** was soon to find himself in the thick of things when he joined 2 Div in France. He departed France via Dunkirk and had by now attained the rank of Corporal. On his return to England he joined Southern Command in Wilton, although by 1942, he was back in action in North Africa where he remained until 1944. He joined 53 (W) Division for D Day and the campaign through North West Europe, seing action in France, Belgium and Holland where he was awarded the **Military Medal.**

At the end of the war **Jock** was in Hilden in West Germany, returning to England in 1946. In 1948 he was posted to Lagos in West Africa where he remained until 1948. A tour in the TA as a Staff Sergeant Instructor followed with 85 Army Group Royal Artillery where he was promoted to Warrant Officer Two. A posting back to 1 Training Regiment in Hooge Lines followed when, in 1950 he was posted to Singapore. He returned home in 1953 and spent his remaining service as RQMS of 4 Training Regiment.

Although **Jock** left the Army in 1959 he was soon involved again with the military when he joined the Civil Service with the Command Secretariat at Wilton. In 1965 he joined Signals Branch where he has since remained. Sadly, **Jock** leaves us on an internal HQ UKLF move when he joins G4 Supply. He will be sadly missed by us all for his loyal dedication, great sense of humour and his ability to recollect his adventures with such clarity and wit. We wish him the very best in his move and hope he continues to enjoy life as much as he has done during his forty six years with the Corps.

As a tribute to his many years with the Royal Corps of Signals 'Jock' Millar was presented with a personal memento of the Corps badge at a farewell ceremony by Brigadier A. W. McL McKinnon, Commander Communications at HQ UKLF

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HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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HQ 1 SIGNAL GROUP TIDWORTH

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS FAREWELL VISIT TO 1 SIGNAL GROUP

Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO, paid his farewell visit to the units of 1 Signal Group during the period 26-28 Oct, accompanied by his wife. The visit started on the 27 Oct with a walk around 1 Signal Group before departing for 244 Sig Sqn (AS) at Brize Norton. Here, he was shown the workings of the Sqn, in support of Tactical Communications Wing at RAF Brize Norton. The unscheduled bomb scare in the Officers Mess prior to lunch, precluded the arrangements prepared, and the party had to settle for an impromptu visit to the pub down the road. Just as well received we are told! From Brize Norton the party headed for 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) at Bulford where the Master saw static displays of Volvo and Arctic equipment, in addition to meeting many of the Squadrons' soldiers. That evening the Master and Mrs Bradley were entertained to supper by Officers of the Group where a further bomb scare was engineered in the form of a 'Moriarty Bomb' being presented to the Master.

The next day saw the Master at 30 Sig Regt where he visited the soldiers at work in the Squadrons, before attending the Falklands presentation. Lunch was arranged in the Sgts Mess where **Gen Bradley** presented the MSM to **WO2 Ball ACC** from 30 Sig Regt. The whole of the Mess turned out to line the route and bid a fond farewell to the **Master** and **Mrs Bradley** as they took their leave and headed homewards—we wish them well.

Master of Signals presenting WO2 Ball ACC with a Meritorious Service Medal

Master of Signals meets Sig Kitchener of 2 Sqn

Master of Signals meeting a detachment of 3 Squadron in the Message Centre. *Left to right:* Capt Stockdale WRAC, Sig Warren, Sig Roberts, Sig Kitchener

The Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs say goodbye to the Master of Signals outside the Sergeants Mess

OP CORPORATE PRESENTATION

The Op Corporate presentation on 28 Oct was originally planned for the Master of Signals and the Senior Officers Course at the School of Signals. On the day the anticipated audience of 30 or so swelled to overflowing point in Princess Mary Hall and the projectionists were delighted at the 'admission fees' being forced upon them for entrance to the gallery. Weeks of rehearsals had slimmed the presentation down to the minimum and it was only by cutting coffee and starting early that any time was left for questions.

The Commander 1 Signal Group, **Col Mike Marples,** opened the batting by outlining the Campaign and the Units involved. He was followed by **Maj Andrew Gale,** also from 1 Group, who dealt with the preparation for war and covered C in C Fleets involvement at Northwood, Port and Internal UK Communications and the Communications Plan itself. Still on the preparation, **WO2 (YofS) 'Korky' Corcoran** from 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn continued with the nightmare prospects of equipment issues, Exercise *Welsh Falcon* in Sennybridge and the takeover and passage on board the *QE2*. Phase 1 was over, Phase 2 The War, was just beginning.

Capt John Thomas from 30 Sig Regt opened the scene by describing the beach-head and his early deployment in Bomb Alley with the TSC 502 of the Strategic Rear Link. He was followed by **Maj Kieth Butler** the OC 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn who dealt in detail with the Land Force HQ, the breakout from the beach-head and the interesting insights into the 5 Bde battle. The 'nuts and bolts' end of the war involved the soldiers serving with the RLDs and TACPs. **SSgt Granitza** from the RMAS gave us a graphic account of life with 2 Para and the operations at Goose Green. He was followed by **Cpl Reynolds** from 30 Sig Regt who, with the 2nd Bn Scots Guards, got to know Tumbledown intimately. The War Phase of the presentation was brought to a close by **Cpl Dale** from the TACP who provided Air Support Comms for 5 Bde.

The final phase of the presentation the 'Aftermath' was introduced by **SSgt Glen Harwood** from 30 Sig Regt who described the situation immediately hostilities ceased and also how he ran **Gen Moore's** Tac HQ! Then perhaps the most interesting part of the presentation with 10 minutes of video Summing up the Aftermath, from 'Thompson of Stanley'—**Col Roger Thompson,** now of 30 Sig Regt.

The lessons learned from the operation were summed up by the Commander 1 Signal Group who then presented three heroes; Satellite Communications, Clansman Radio and the Men. This was the cue for **WO2 (YofS) Baron** from 30 Sig Regt and **RSM Hunt** from 5 Bde to close the presentation with an insight into the excellent performance from our Royal Signals soldiers.

The audiences appreciation was gratifying for all the effort and hard work put into the presentation, but as a footnote for those that missed the day and who would like to see the results, we are recorded for posterity sake on video—obtainable through the School.

HQ 4 SIGNAL GROUP
BFPO 40

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 29 Oct command of the Group passed from **Col A. D. Lewis** to **Col M. J. Hales.** Our photograph shows the youngest member of the Group HQ, **Sig Ian Simister,** presenting a pair of engraved crystal decanters and silver labels on behalf of the Commander's staff, military and civilian, at a farewell party on 19 Oct. Mrs Lewis looks on, with Chief Clerk, **Mac MacDonald** and **Mrs Alden,** wife of SO2 Ops/Plans, in the background.

In his very last moments in command, **Colonel Tony** turned over his office to a drinks party, and it was appropriate that the final words in his honour should be spoken by our oldest civilian **Mr Bill Davison.**

We thank **Col** and **Mrs Lewis** for all they did for the Group—they were good to us and for us and as Bill said 'good luck in Saudi! We extend a warm welcome to **Col** and **Mrs Hales** and hope that they enjoy their time in Rheindahlen.

'You really have been popular—we needed *two* cards for all the signatures!'

RMCS Shrivenham

CAMP AMERICA 1982

Report by Lt M. E. Pincott

One of the most important decisions to be made during the academic year at Shrivenham, is that of where to go during the long summer recess. **Capt Kevin Barrett** and I started to consider this problem in Sept 1981. We were both determined to go somewhere in the world that our Military careers were unlikely to take us.

We started by purchasing a copy of a book called 'Working Holidays 1982', which we had seen reviewed in a national newspaper. This turned out to be a most useful book, full of odd ideas for summer jobs around the world, together with contact addresses and telephone numbers. After a few false starts we decided to apply to an organisation called 'Camp America' who arrange for young people from the United Kingdom to work in childrens' summer camps in the United States of America. This we did, and after completing a vast array of application forms and attending an interview in Oxford, we were both accepted onto the scheme.

BRIEF INSIGHT

By early April, we had both been offered places as sailing counsellors, **Kevin** at Camp Scatico, New York and I at Camp Watitoh, Massachusetts. These camps turned out to be conveniently close to each other, only some 50 miles apart and this made our travel arrangements a great deal simpler. We left RAF Brize Norton on 18 June bound for Washington DC, both feeling a little unsure as to what we had let ourselves in for.

We spent the first week visiting Washington DC, New York City and Niagra Falls. This gave us a very brief insight into the American way of life, before we were thrust into the isolation of camp. We were particularly surprised at how expensive everything was, that is with the notable exception of petrol, or perhaps I should say 'gas'. Our all too brief holiday ended very quickly and after dropping **Kevin** at his camp, I drove back into New York City to return our hire car. This rapidly turned into a most alarming experience as I became more and more confused. To those who have never driven on Manhattan—avoid it.

INTO TWO AND CABINS

Camp starts with three days of staff orientation. This consists mainly of a series of lectures on camp policy and procedures interspersed with games sessions intended for the staff to get to know each other. Any spare time I had I spent on the waterfront assembling the fleet of dinghies. This period of orientation was much enjoyed by all the staff and proved an ideal run up to the start of camp proper, with the arrival of the children.

This camp was basically divided into two, by sex. The boys' camp being about 150 strong to the girls' 125 with a total staff of about 80. The children are divided into 'Cabins' by age, each cabin consisting of about eight children and two counsellors. The cabins are very basic, with only the bare essentials of modern conveniences. The children, most of whom have spent several previous summers at camp, do not seem to mind this rather crude life. It came as a bit of a shock to at least one member of staff though!

THE GREAT DAY

At long last the great day came when the children arrived. The whole atmosphere of the camp suddenly changed, a new life and spirit had sprung up as if by magic. The camp very quickly settled into the daily routine, each moment ruled by a fairly rigid timetable, dominated by bugle calls. These bugles rapidly became the scourge of my life. I grew a particular loathing for the reveille bugle signifying the start of another day, at the rather disturbing hour of 7 am. The children, having aroused their counsellors, (I think it was supposed to be the other way round), lined up for the hoisting of the US flag, followed by breakfast. Meals at camp are quite remarkable experience. The children aim to eat as much as possible in the shortest possible time, with total disregard for any form of table manners. After eight weeks of hard work my co-counsellor, **John Michaelis** and I had just about managed to restore some form of normality to our table.

THE CHANCE TO TRY

After breakfast the children returned to their cabins for a clean up period which was immediately followed by an inspection at 0930 am. The remainder of the morning was spent in two instructional periods, one land based and the other on the waterfront. The selection of activities available was impressive, with everything from water ski-ing and sailing to baseball and gymnastics on offer. These morning sessions were arranged to give every child the chance to try everything during the summer. 1230 pm signalled the start of round two in the dining room, both sides braced to do battle over lunch. This meal was immediately followed by 'rest hour', regarded by most of the staff as the best part of the day. The children were expected to return to their cabins, where a skeleton duty staff attempted to keep order. This gave the remainder of the staff, the run of the camp and its facilities for a whole, glorious hour.

Rest hour was followed by hobby period, one of the few co-ed activities that took place during the day. The options available were as for the morning periods, but the children were allowed to select their own activities at the beginning of each week. The remainder of the afternoon was taken up with two further periods, again one land based and the other on the waterfront. The timetable arrangement did mean that the waterfront was always in use and some days, particularly when the temperature was 95° + it became very wearing. On a few days it was just too windy for the children to sail, but a few of us would venture out for some very exciting sailing indeed.

TRIBE TIME

After the evening meal the children were given the run of the camp, with staff at key points to prevent a major disaster from occurring. This period, known by everybody as 'tribe time' was much enjoyed by both children and staff. During the day many of the children would have fixed themselves up with a 'date'. It was great fun to watch two 9 year olds going for a walk hand in hand, or to see a 12 year old buying his girlfriend a soda.

ALL INVOLVED

Tribe time was immediately followed by the evening activity, it was perhaps here that the true talents of both children and staff became apparent. The selection of events presented was very varied indeed, some were quite staggeringly good, perhaps even brilliant. Most evenings were spent in the social hall, with some form of show, film or competition, once a week there would be a disco for the upper half of the camp. This was a most interesting event. To start with, the staff would dance and the children would watch, but as the evening wore on the children would pluck up the courage to dance, and by the end of the evening everybody would be involved. There were a few evening activities which I will never forget. The 'counsellor show' put on during the first week, without any form of rehersal, was exceedingly funny, I was weak from laughing by the final curtain. Another outstanding night was the presentation of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' by the senior part of the camp. I cannot really do this production justice, for considering the age of the performers, it was outstandingly good. Just before the end of the camp, all the European staff got together and put on a show for the rest of camp. When there are only 9 of you, and each of you has to be script writer, prop manager, performer and stage hand it is difficult. God bless 'Not the Nine O'Clock News' for the inspiration; it was a fabulous night.

THE DAY OF PEACE

It would be wrong to imagine camp as all work. Following the evening activity the staff, except those on duty, were free to go out, though you were supposed to be back by 1230 am. One day a week was different from all the others; my day off. I quickly discovered it was important to get as far from camp as possible. Some people were content to sit in a motel room and watch television (there was no television at camp), others would go to Boston or New York. I managed to find something different to do each week, though two days in particular stand out from the rest. The first was the day I spent in Boston, a most wonderful city. The second was a day when I went to visit **Kevin** and quite by chance met four friends from Shrivenham. The six of us spent a most enjoyable evening together.

R AND R

All too quickly camp was over and **Kevin** and I flew to Florida for 9 days rest and recouperation. He then returned to England via Washington. I flew to Texas to spend a week with a friend I had made at camp and from there I returned to England, some three months after having left.

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

It is very hard to put my feelings for camp on paper, it was a wonderful experience, but I don't know whether I would do it again. I did gain a very wide knowledge of the American way of life and look forward to what I hope will be many future visits, perhaps even a posting there (AG 11 hint!). I know my feelings towards camp were shared by many of the European counsellors and I must quote one of them, **Martin Warwick** who wrote in the camp magazine. 'When I return to Britain in Sept, I will be taking back much more than my battered old over-stuffed backpack. These things defy photography and elude the most gifted of writers, but they won't escape my memory'.

Capt Kevin Barrett and Lt M. E. Pincott at Disney World, Orlando, Florida

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →	→	4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →	→	11	11 →	→	3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →	→	18		16 →	→	1	22 →	→	7	7 →	23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose? To make electronics technicians who already have a C & G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

The courses last an average of seven weeks and by the end, you'll be ready to fly straight out to Saudi Arabia to take up a challenging two-year assignment.

If that's a prospect that appeals to you and you're leaving the forces soon, contact your Resettlement Officer or fill in the coupon.

TO: The Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ.
Please send me full details of careers with Lockheed.

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ADDRESS _____

RANK _____ SKILL _____

AVAILABILITY _____

REF. L192

Lockheed IAL

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

AN HISTORIC OCCASION
Ptarmigan goes to BAOR for the first time. Here shown are all the installations and soldiers from Trials Sqn lined up on the square at Blandford ready to head for the ferry at Dover and on to Germany

TRIALS SQN SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

It's been a busy time for Trials Sqn over the past few months—Ptarmigan trialling, summer camp, the BAOR trial of Ptarmigan, not to mention the usual work in the rest of the Sqn in Radio Troop and Development Troop. We decided to cover the two main events in a bit more detail than usual, with a special feature on the Ptarmigan Tactical Interface Trial in BAOR. First of all though summer camp. **SSgt Mike Goatley,** NCO IC Dev Tp tells it all . . .

SUMMER CAMP '82

OC Sqn (shouting down the corridor . . .) Trialling is all well and good, but we must still keep up with our military training . . . 'Staff . . . you're not pressed at the moment!' Author (gulp!) 'Yes, Sir, how about a "Fun Camp". Tech Adjut (disgruntled . . .) (**Capt Bob McKay**) 'Wot! No large packs; no webbing; no night exercises!' . . . Author (trying to please all) 'I'll see what I can do, SIRS'.

After cutting the corners on the administration and receiving a crash course on Messing Accounts, the scene was set for the trip to Penhale Camp, Holywell Bay, Cornwall. As it happened, the Sqn was allowed 14 days to get away as many of our members as possible, subject to trials, all having the opportunity to participate in activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, windsurfing, swimming, visits and a night exercise.

Ably assisted by the DS in the forms of **Sgt 'Pete' Hickey** (Climber), **Sgt 'Chuck' Walker** (Windsurfer), and **Sig 'DC' DeClancy** (Canoeist), many of the attenders discovered hidden talents, others were not quite so sure, but the evening pint or two ironed out many of the uncertainties. The weather was unkind on week one, where the night marchers had the chance to find their way in the dark and actually walk themselves dry, (and I don't believe the Tech Adjut got a lift for 18 miles . . . or do I?).

VARIETY

All was not 'hard work' as the visit of our CO and RSM proved, with the CO enjoying a round or two of 'proper golf' and the RSM electing to mark the cards of the intrepid 'Pitch and Putters' **SSgt (SQMS) 'John' Garbutt, Ssgt** (I'm starving) **'Mike' Goatley, Sgt** (MT) **'Bernie' Rice** and **Sig** (2IC Stores) **'Roy' Price,** as they tackled the par 3's and par 4's of the local 18 hole course. Only knowing the number seven iron, the SQMS was heard to remark 'I like this game . . . seven bat 'eh . . . I'll buy a bag of bats when I get back' . . . In the end, a good time was had by all, even to the point where the Camp Commandant was impressed by the thank you afforded him by our **SSM 'Ray' Marshall** and yours truly (after chasing over three or four sand dues to find him!!). We look forward to the hospitality of Penhale Camp in 1983.

For those readers interested in seeing our Album, come and join us, we're a great bunch of guys, (and we need more good techs for Development Troop—OC).

BRUIN MEETS PTARMIGAN

As part of our Ptarmigan Phase 1C Trials, we, Trials Squadron, were tasked with testing and confirming that the Tactical Interface Installation (TII) was capable of passing voice and telegraph traffic between Bruin and Ptarmigan subscribers. Our original visit date in Feb could not be met, so it was with an air of 'it may be cancelled' that our BAOR exercise plans for Aug were laid. The main planning team consisted of: **Maj Phil Whitemore**—OC Trials Sqn; **Capt Tim Bryning**—SO3 Comms (Trials), Trials Div; **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins**—OC Systems Tp; **WO1 (FofS) Pete Appleton**—Trials Officer; **WO1 (YofS) Maurice Campbell**—Asst Trials Officer and Custodian; **Sgt 'Scotty' Handibode**—Tp Sgt.

CONTEMPLATION

Although planning was started very low key and was interleaved into our 'normal' work schedule it soon reached a very excitable level with drivers, being 'driven' by **Cpl Tim Hardy,** threatened with death, or worse, if they should fail their BAOR Tick Test. **Capt Tim Bryning** was also reaching the normal staff officer state, suicidal with recurring bouts of frustrated hair pulling and teeth gnashing. The boss, **Maj Phil Whitemore** was ecstatic (I think) over his team's planning efforts but could never quite understand why his proposed driver kept changing or how the total numbers in party also kept changing at each re-count.

THE OFF

Eventually, despite our staff efforts, D Day or should I say P Day dawned. Ptarmigan in all its glory (our front page) set out on its historical journey with **Lt Col Keith Powell, Capt (TOT) Bob McKay** and our newly arrived SSM, **WO2 Ray Marshall** providing a back-drop to history and waving a fond farewell. I could easily lose the reader with tales of a certain Staff Captain leading his packet on a scenic route, or how packet three arrived at Dover before packet one, who left Blandford first, or how a certain **Major W,** who only wanted a quiet snooze on board ship, won a fortune by having a punch-up with a one-armed bandit, or how **Capt Andy Harkins,** with **Sgt Scotty Handibode** roared ahead of the main convoy to arrange transit reception at Emblem, managed to pass the convoy not once but twice and still arrive last at Emblem . . . but I won't bore you. 16 Sig Rjgt provided a much needed overnight transit stop and although our stay was short **Sigs Mick Mickle, Jacko Jackson** and **Taff John** still managed to fall in love again. Our thanks to 16 Sig Regt for their excellent hospitality on both our outward and return journeys.

A GOOD HEART

With the minimum of rest, we were soon setting-up on 7 Sig Regt square in readiness for the Restex, the lead-in to Ex *Silver Shot,* the field exercise with 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **WO1 (FofS) Pete Appleton** with his support team **WO1 (YofS) Maurice Campbell, Sgt Bob Branson, Sgt Dave Shaw** and **SSgt (FofS) Gav West** after first checking that the switch installations (the computer and heart of the system) were working after their epic journey, (they worked first time) went straight into the first major trial with the Tactical Interface Installation (TII). During the next four days and nights hundreds of Ptarmigan-Bruin and Bruin-Ptarmigan telephone calls were made by **FofS Pete Appleton** and his team. The TII was worked successfully through Commcens Alfa, Bravo and Zulu. The major problem area was found to be in the differing levels of the exchanges which resulted in **FofS Pete Appleton, Sgts Bob Branson** and **Dave Shaw** all living a nomad's existence between the TII and Bruin exchange installations. Also during this period **YofS Maurice Campbell** also successfully passed telegraph traffic through Tarif into the Bruin system and highlighted some problem areas which should be overcome by SOPs (still to be written).

HUSTLE AND BUSTLE

In conjunction with the TII voice and telegraph trials we were also assessing the other Ptarmigan equipments; all was hustle and bustle. **Cpls Andy Snaith** and **Gary Waters** were becoming experts at working 25 hours a day in providing power, which even with **Sig John Dickinson's** help was still a severe test of their powers of endurance.

Sgt Scotty Handibode had devised a plan whereby he and his merry band of R Relay experts had an easy time and only worked 19 hours per day. He took his team on an SHF Trial to test its working range over typical German terrain. The two RR detachments under **Cpl Alex Dick** and **Cpl J. J. Smith** were hard pressed to complete the full test schedule. Finally after a formal presentation/demonstration of Ptarmigan to 7 Sig Regt and elements of 1 Armd Div personnel, we were rewarded with a weekend to recuperate and prepare for the field exercise phase.

IT WORKED WELL

For Ex *Silver Shot* we deployed a limited Ptarmigan Trunk Node comprising: Two Switches, Two 20 KW (twin) power installations, Two Systems Control Staff vehicles (SCS), One Electronic Repair Vehicle (ERV) and One Node Command (NC). The Trunk Node had R Relay contact with the TII which was colocated with each Commcen in turn thereby providing access into the Bruin network. This set-up worked well and again allowed each Commcen the opportunity to experience working with the TII, a very worthwhile exercise for all.

A BARRAGE

The Trunk Node remained static in its field location and was the focal point for the numerous visitors taxing the knowledge of even such switch experts as **Cpl Steve Howarth** and **Cpl Andy Minvalla** with a barrage of questions. Again during this phase we were not only keeping Ptarmigan communications and facilities in operation but still carrying out user assessments, testing SOPs, checking repair procedures, vetting AESPs, guarding ourselves etc. It was at this time that the ERV really proved its worth with **SSgt Bob Webb,** one of our more experienced Ptarmigan experts, taking time out to open the 'Excellent Refreshment Vehicle (ERV) in which his most regular customers were our indomitable, and mostly underworked, trio from Plessey **Mr Brian Scowcroft, Mr Keith Payne, Mr Graham Brenes.** In the evening a rival establishment, run by the 'Kray twins' **Cpls Tim Hardy** and **Peter Hutton** did a roaring trade selling Herforder (herfy) survival kits at a modest 100% profit. In flight entertainment was provided by **Sig 'DC' DeClancy** who was stung on the neck by a wasp. It turned out that he is allergic and suffered a frightening reaction to the sting.

VISITORS GALORE

On the successful completion of Ex *Silver Shot,* it was back to Maresfield Barracks and the serious task of visitors time, not without drama. **FofS Gav West** and **SSgt Bob Webb** worked feverishly for nearly two hours securing a vital socket on the switch skin which had come loose and fallen inside. This 'simple' task involved disconnecting more cable ends than are fitted in a Command Space Module, before you even reached the socket. It was completed with minutes to spare before our first batch of 50 visitors arrived. Then once again our versatile team swung into action, **Sigs 'DC' DeClancy, Jacko Jackson** and **Taff John** demonstrating subsets, data adaptors and Cossor teleprinters not forgetting **LCpl Bill Sabor.** By the end of our final demonstration we estimated that a total of 200 visitors had viewed Ptarmigan from CSO BAOR to Signalman. Efforts on this scale were only possible thanks to the excellent support from the CO 7 Sig Regt **Lt Col Peter Burke,** OC 3 Sqn **Maj Phil Cooper, Capt Joe** (fixit) **Moreland, Maj Martin Roberts,** HQ BAOR, and many more.

DIFFICULT BUT SUCCESSFUL

A final party was held in the JRC 7 Sig Regt courtesy of **Mr Keith Brewer,** Test and Trials Manager, Plessey, during which we said goodbye to our hosts, 7 Sig Regt. It was a good party, **LCpl Bob Frew** was told next day how much he enjoyed himself. **Cpl J. J. Smith** tight-rope walked the no-parking lines, **Sig John Dickinson,** with one arm in a sling, was there to catch him if he fell off. **Maj Phil Whitemore** took the opportunity to have one last braty and chips, **Sgts Martin Hardy, Jeremy D'Alquen, Bill Ritchie, Sigs Pete Morrow** and **'DC' DeClancy** ate the rest. **Cpl Colin Hoyle** and **LCpl John Grove** took sanctuary behind the Herforder bottles (empty), with **LCpl Chris Wilkinson** practising his secondary trade of 'car pool hustler'.

Although Ptarmigan, at its present development stage has some teething troubles, these have mostly been identified with development or SOP action in hand. So it was with a feeling of having completed a difficult but successful exercise that we departed on 6 Sep to return to Blandford . . . some leave and back to trialling.

NEW CORPS PAINTING UNVEILED

The latest in the series of new paintings commissioned by the Corps Pictures Committee was accepted and unveiled at Blandford on 26 Nov. The painting depicts the action at the Caen Canal Bridge, Benouville on 6 June 1944 when **Cpl Thomas Waters** was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry. His citation reads:

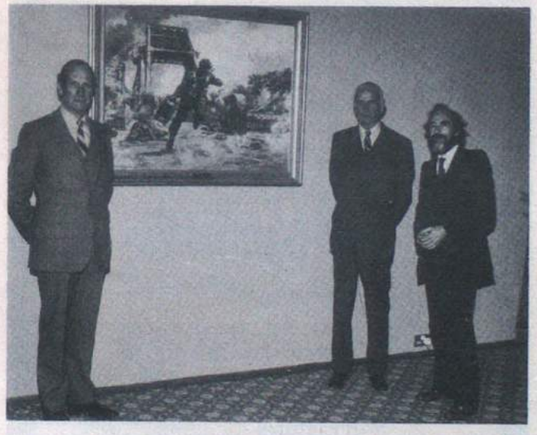
'. . . For conspicuous gallantry, coolness under enemy fire and devotion to duty during airborne operations in the Ranville area on 6/7 June 1944. On 6 June **Cpl Waters** volunteered to bring in a wounded comrade from an exposed position: in the face of accurate enemy sniping which had already caused casualties he cooly went forward and brought in the wounded man.

He then continued his duty of laying a signal line along an exposed route under constant enemy sniping and small arms fire. When this line was cut by enemy fire **Cpl Waters** again went out under fire and repaired it. On these later occasions this NCO went out voluntarily and repaired communications in full view of the enemy.

By his gallantry and complete disregard of personal dangers **Cpl Waters** maintained communication between Bde HQ and a Bn holding a vital position . . .'

This painting depicts **Cpl Thomas Waters** on the Caen Canal bridge breaking from the cover of the bridge parapet and, under accurate sniper fire, dashing towards 7th Parachute Battalion's location. In his right hand is the line layer which had been dropped on the bridge by the wounded lineman. On the ground lies a Telephone Set L left by the lineman when wounded. The two dead Germans were killed by the coup de main party during the original attack. At the far side of the bridge in the background are two of the four gliders which delivered the coup de main party with pin point accuracy. The painting also depicts sniper fire striking the ground. This was coming from the maternity hospital building at Benouville a few hundred yards on **Cpl Waters'** left. The building on the far left of the painting housed a German bunker which was overrun in the initial attack. The clouds of smoke in the distance come from shell fire on DZ N near Ranville which was used as the dropping zone for 5th Parachute Brigade. **Cpl Waters** carries a smoke grenade in his left hand and his Sten Gun on his back. Common to all airborne soldiers is the toggle rope around his waist and on his right thigh is a sheathed fighting knife. His airborne wings and badge of rank are clearly visible on the right sleeve of his parachute smock.

5th Parachute Brigade Signal Section, in the vanguard of the assault on Europe, claim with great pride that the line **Cpl Waters** laid to 7th Parachute Battalion on the morning of D Day was the first line laid on the Continent following the invasion. **Capt Radmore** recalls that, 'the outstanding features of this action were not only the extreme gallantry of **Cpl Waters** but his initiative without orders from me, to appreciate the importance of this line link and take it on his own responsibility to get the line through at mortal risk to himself. **Cpl Waters'** action that day set the highest standards for myself and the rest of the Section which I had the privilege of commanding on an historic, thrilling and successful airborne operation in the biggest amphibious landing in history.' **Cpl Waters** fulfilled in every respect those immortal words of his Divisional Commander—'GO TO IT'. His courage, dash and determination in the face of considerable odds were in the finest traditions of Royal Signals.



At the ceremony in the Corps Room in HQ Mess the picture was handed over by the artist, **Peter Archer,** to **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson,** Chairman Royal Signals Institution in the presence of the full Corps Committee which was meeting later that day. The painting was unveiled by **Capt Guy Radmore** who was **Cpl Waters** Section Commander during the action. **Capt Radmore** described the action in detail to the Corps Committee. Our photograph shows (left to right) **Maj Gen Jackson** accepting the picture from **Capt Radmore** and the artist **Peter Archer.**

SHAPE
B.F.P.O. 26

ROUND THE CLOCK ACTION

After the somnolence of the SHAPE summer break, activity appeared to erupt everywhere on SHAPE, as people returned to work, children went back to school, and all the sporting and social events got under way. One of us first off the mark, appropriately enough, was the SHAPE Runners 24 Hour Relay, an event which involved a joint team from SHAPE Signal Group and SHAPE Hash House Harriers taking part as one of eight in what must be one of the more demanding charity events ever to be staged at Casteau. Corps personnel taking part were **Maj Tom Moncur, Sgt Charlie Donnelly** and **LCpl Dave Richards.** The team covered a distance of 196 miles in 24 hours, and raised some £400.00 plus, for the chosen charity of Cancer Research.

SHAPE 24 Hour Relay—Maj Tom Moncur is obviously happy at having missed the unlucky number while Sgt Martyn Case practises relaxation

SPORTING SIGNALLERS

The sporting scene continued to grow, with several Corps personnel being involved in the SHAPE Marathon, notably **Sgt Martyn Case,** who finished fifth in the very creditable time of 2 hours 58 mins. Also prominent these days is SHAPE Hash House Harriers, in which a whole galaxy of Royal Signals personnel have been known to participate, including **Lt Col's Ian Graham, Chris Story** and **Gerry Birch, Maj Tom Moncur, WO2 Mike Provart, Sgts Pete Holder, Fred Darlow, Charlie Donnelly** and **Martyn Case,** not to mention **Cpl Paul Cooper.** Also active has been **SSgt Taff Roberts** in running the SHAPE Blades Hockey team, following the departure of **WO2 Allan Eames** to AA College, Harrogate. All the other sports, of course, were not neglected, and it is pleasing to record that Royal Signals personnel played their part in helping the United Kingdom Element to win the annual SACEUR Trophy Sports Competition.

BRISK BUSINESS

Operationally, the main event has been Exercise *Able Archer,* and the associated work-up exercises. This traditionally involves SSG in a lot of preparatory work, including ordering of circuits, inspection of equipment, and preparation for the arrival of our augmentees from 31 Sig Regt, who traditionally support us in these exercises. This year was no exception, and **Maj Peter Treseder** led a happy, enthusiastic and highly motivated detachment across the channel to provide invaluable support during the exercise. We are now gearing up for *WINTEX 83,* in which SHAPE will be testing fully the results of its latest reorganisation. One of the implications of this reorganisation has been the relocation of hundreds of telephones, intercoms and associated equipment, a task which **WO2 (FofS) John McKay** and Wire Section

have been coping with heroically, given their present low manning levels. The exercise also provided a veritable baptism of fire for **WO2 (FofS) John Barrowman,** recently arrived in the maintenance area of SHAPE Operations Centre and as far as we can record, he has come through with comparatively few hairs singed.

SHAPE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

One of the interesting aspects about the present SHAPE branch of the Royal Signals association is the presence of a ruling Gaelic Mafia, with **WO2 John Barrowman** in charge, closely supported by **Sgt Charlie Donnelly, WO1 (YofS) Glenn Bartliff, WO2 John McKay,** with **WO1 (RSM) Alex Nicol** providing back-up, as indeed does that R Signals adopted honorary Scotsman, **F/Sgt Harry Dale.** It will come as no surprise to know that the last function was at St Andrews night, attended by **Brig** and **Mrs Jimmy Blake,** and held in the SHAPE Top Graders Club. There is no truth in the rumour that **Sgt Hugh Sullivan** took leave before the event because he had heard that all non-Scots would have to prove their allegiance by eating single-handed a plate of haggis before the event.

MOVEMENTS

Movements continue to be at a high level, with several well known faces departing, **Lt Col Bill Michie** to MOD, **WO1(YofS) Jim Doherty** to 16 Sig Regt (complete with wife **Ann** and newly arrived son **Joseph**), **WO2 (FofS) Don Dallow** to UK for his last six months, and in the future, **Sgt Charlie Donnelly** to HQ BAOR and **Sgt Martyn Case** to 4 Armd Div & Sig Regt. The arrivals include **Cpl Paul Cooper** from Catterick (he arrived with wife just in time for daughter to be born in SHAPE Hospital), and **Cpl Mick McGrath** from 21 Sig Regt. Also recently arrived are **WO1 (YofS) Glenn Bartliff** from BAOR, **WO2 (FofS) John Barrowman** from 32 Sig Regt (V), **WO2 (FofS) John McKay** from Latina and **WO2 (FofS) Mike Provart** from Blandford.

SHAPESPEAK

Once again, a few immortal terms that will live forever in our vocabulary.

Reaccomplish it:	You have made a total botch of what I told you to do; tear it up and do it over again.
Retool it:	It wasn't a total botch, but you'd better do it over again anyway.
Wordsmith it:	(Most often used for documents to be shown to the public). Translate this document into English that people can understand. Rewrite this document to mean what I want it to mean without stirring up the people who want it to mean something else.
IER:	International Efficiency Report. A report card on military personnel, and an exotic art form. Unless you know how to read and write them, and which adjectives count, you might be surprised to see that 90% of personnel are in the top 10%.
Superb:	(As used in IERs and letters of commendation). Adequate. Example: 'X is a superb NCO.' Translation: 'He messes up only once in a while.'
Outstanding:	(Used often in IERs): Good.
Good:	(Used rarely in IERs): Terrible.
Non-Selected:	Fired.
Reclama:	A protest, usually occasioned by a Budget cut. The bureaucratic equivalent of 'Hey, that was something we really wanted!'.
Wiring Diagram:	An organisation chart.
Stud List:	Equivalent of the White list.
Punching Tickets:	Getting the right series of appointments to get promoted.
Co-ordinate:	To get the agreement of everyone with the slightest interest in an action. The need for this explains why, when asked to design a rifle, one ends up with one that not only shoots bullets, but also has treads, and a rotor, is water-submersible and can carry nine men, but that all parties agree on.
Non-concur:	To disagree. Enough to stop a project in its tracks unless appropriate adjustments are made, eg, adding a rotor.
Trident:	A camouflage term used by Naval personnel. When you are talking about the submarine, they are talking about the missile, and vice versa.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **WO1 (YofS) Jim Doherty** on a notable double personal triumph, being selected in Dec for commissioning, and receiving an **MBE** in the New Year.

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News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals Ouston

VISITS

The Groom Study came to spread gloom but was hopefully enlightened. The AFPRB visited and spread light and hope; a little anyway! Ouston is at last, clearly on the map, and we have been delighted to see so many visitors both from within and outside our Corps.

THE ARC

The Annual Reporting Centre which was run for 10 days at the end of Oct had a profound effect on our lives, with many of the Cadre fully committed. Here is how someone closely involved viewed the whole affair.

Noah foresaw the flood but **Sgt (ORS) Steve Armitage** did not foresee the deluge of reservists who visited our ARK (sorry ARC) at Newcastle (just around the corner from Newcastle United St James Football ground). The Regt had gone to the City rather than have a repeat of last year's nightmare when many reservists became lost trying to find us somewhere on Hadrian's Wall.

On Sat 30 **Lt Col Keith Turner** was on hand to show the Vice Adjutant General, **Maj Gen Boyne,** around the system and meet some of the 1900 reservists who passed through.

Maj Gen J. Boyne MBE speaks to Cpls Mowforth and Miller on the documentation desk

Sgt Pam Wesson pays out a travel claim calculated by her Royal Signals assistants Cpls Tulip and Wright

On arriving at the centre the Geordie lads and lasses were welcomed by **SSM Sandy** (and labrador Scandy) **Catterall** and passed, after documentation, to change into their military clothing (a fine sight!) which was checked by **SSgt** (I've a pullover for £3.17) **Davies.** Thence to NBC Training with **Sgt** (Cheerful) **Chilton** where they donned NBC suits and respirators (an even finer sight). On again to **LCpl Bailey** (hidden behind a mountain of sandwiches) where many families, who had accompanied the reservists, had been waiting. Suitably replete, there followed the high spot of the reservists visit, the claims desk manned by **Sgt Pam Wesson** and the £70 bounty issued by **Maj Ken** (Happy) **Hathaway.** At this point many wives were on hand to relieve their husbands of the heavy burden of so much cash.

Even so it was sad to note the number of unemployed amongst these ex Army men (nearly 1 in 4), however of those employed it seemed that the Tyne Tees bus service depended heavily on the RCT while the Corps had cornered the market with Securicor.

Maj Gen J. Boyne, MBE talks to reservists whilst Lt Col K. G. Turner MBE and Maj Robin Overden (OC ARC look on)

LCpl Pete Skates assists Sgt Steve Chilton (incognito in Noddy suit) instructing on the NBC stand

EXERCISE 'FRANCISCA ENCOUNTER'

Battleaxe Troop in common with all troops of the Regiment is affiliated to a Regt of the Corps, in their case, with 28(BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG). Exercise *Francisca Encounter* was a Troop exercise which enabled them to visit their affiliated regiment at St Tonis in Germany, to see how the other half lives—so to speak! The visit was made over the half term break with minimal adjustment to the training programme. Only six periods of Military studies had to be re-arranged. These were exchanged for an evening out in Koln under the guise of 'Cultural and social familiarisation in Germany' (A'hem!).

The journey out to Germany was uneventful but the visit itself was a great success. The story is perhaps best told in the words of the lads. Most of them are as presented, some have been 'sanitised', but they do reflect in the main that the exercise was good value, and our grateful thanks go to **Maj Brian Robinson** and **RSM Dick Hamilton** for making the trip possible and such a success.

JOURNEY THERE AND BACK

On release from Albemarle Barracks . . .

When we got on the boat, I felt a bit queezy (it was still tied-up!).

The only person who did not get much sleep on the bus was **Cpl Rice,** *he kept asking people if they would swop some meat sandwiches for cheese.*

It was a long and tiring journey on the train and my case seemed to get heavier by the minute. (Nobody told him to put it in the case rack!). We ended up with a five star army bus with suspension that went out with the Romans.

DAY IN CAMP, ST TONIS

We also had a look at exactly the same stuff in combat conditions—the only difference was a giant net over the top.

Then they showed us a giant Radar disc which bounces messages off the ionosphere—and puts them back together again. Very impressive I must say! This day I thoroughly enjoyed as I got a lot of information out of it. It was quite unusual to see the Mercedes and DAF trucks rolling around inside (instead?) of the good old Bedfords. (Big Bedfords!).

Lt Col Belton receives Battleaxe Troop Plaque from J Sig 'Joe 90' Blood

Two lads of Battleaxe, JSigs Fowler and Whitfield eating the Assault Course

KOLN

A few lads got under the weather that night (it rained hard!), but they enjoyed themselves.

As for Koln, we could have visited it when it was open (who closed the door?). I found talking to the Germans was great, they are much more friendly towards squaddies than they are at home.

I would like to have another night in Koln.

EINDHOVEN, EVOLUON (Phillips Electronic Museum)

I did not find this very interesting. I had a laugh with all the knobs and switches, even though I did not have a clue about them. I think the best one was when we went to that Electronic Museum somewhere in Holland. Evoluon was very interesting; it has all different kinds of things like 'optical illusions' etc. I can say that this visit was by far the best because of the nice, clean country and the warmheartedness of the Dutch.

J Sigs *(L-R)* Fowler, Howard, Dickenson, Mason, J/LCpl Richardson and J Sig O'Flinn. 'The Americans left it here, the Dutch don't want it, so can we take it back to Ouston Sir?'

ARNHEM

I found this very interesting. The evening before we saw 'A Bridge Too Far', for the fifth time! We lost the battle because communications failed. The Arnhem bridge and Airborne Museum was one of the best parts of the trip. There were layouts (Diaramas) of the radio rooms used. And finally to the actual bridge, an impressive structure, but looking back you're tempted to ask 'Was all the death really necessary?'.

Maj Robinson and RSM Dick Hamilton pointing out the dropping zone at Arnhem!

SOCIAL AND GENERAL

The food in camp was better than the food we have here, but I got a bit sick of curry-wurst and bockwurst. The accommodation was very good.

Money spreads out a lot further than it would in the UK (Pass the money pot please). I would rather have gone home on weekend leave.

All in all the trip was worthwhile, if it was boring in places, it was well worth the money we paid and we learnt a few things ie. the fact that the men of 28 Sig Regt are not always at Full Stretch. (You've been found out 28!).

The journey back to Ouston was broken at the 1JLB Shorncliffe for the 2 Sqn boxing team (most of them) Battleaxe to compete. Sadly they lost as their 1 Sqn counterparts were winning at home. However they made use of the assault course for secret practice and returned to win the Inter Troop competition.

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

IN THE MIND

'The OC says it is our turn to write the Wire Notes for Aug and Sept'. It was with these dreaded words still ringing in my ears that, in July, I travelled back from 3 Sqn Summer Camp at Rendsberg in North Germany. As the Regimental 'William Hickey' I would have to keep my eyes and ears open. I wondered whether I could use some of the incidents that were still fresh in my thoughts from Summer Camp. Little pictures flitted across my mind like the sight of **LCpl** (I'm a PTI) **Munro** standing in the middle of a river in his underpants, while **Lt Steve Richardson,** also only clad in underpants, led his band of brave warriors across the chest high river; the picture of **Steve Bovan, Oddball Giddings** and others parading in the beauty contest at the end of camp barbeque clutching cans of Tennants lager—were we really expected to judge them!?

Memories of Ex *Final Drive* the OC's finale to the camp came flooding back. Was **SSgt Mick Knights** meant to confuse us with the wrong grid reference or was he at the wrong point?—maybe we shall never know; certainly the exercise had tested us in map reading, first aid, weapon training and a whole host of other things.

A LOOK BACK

The month of Aug was very quiet for your Super Sleuth, most people taking advantage of the lull before the autumn turmoil of exercises, to take some leave. Some of us became involved in the Ptarmigan trials with 7 Sig Regt, an exercise that called for almost total commitment from 1 Sqn. 3 Sqn. **SSgt (YofS) Steve Atkinson** packed his boomerang and went 'down under' for Ex *Long Look*. Meanwhile we welcomed **WO2 'Aussie Yossie' Parkyns** from 1 Sig Regt in Australia.

THE FREEDOM MARCH

Late in Aug we all started to become very busy polishing boots and pressing uniforms ready for the Anglo-German weekend when we were to exercise our right to march through the streets of Verden 'with bayonets fixed and bugles playing'. Your reporter is still mystified as to how this freedom march could be connected with **RSM Ron Hails'** riding course at the Saddle Club; however, maybe time will tell. Meanwhile there is every truth in the rumour that the RSM spends less time in his office than ever before—but then those saddles are ever so hard!

OPEN DAY SUCCESS

Sept arrived and found us all very busy preparing for the Anglo-German weekend. 4 Sept included the parade, followed by an open day for the German Public. One of the activities at the day was the now well established 'It's a Knockout'. Under the fiendish direction of our **QMSI Dave O'Toole,** teams from our sister German Bn, The Fire Brigade, Officers Mess and Sgts Mess competed for prizes. At the time it appeared that all the games had one end in view—to get everyone soaking wet. The day was a tremendous success and truly reflected the hard work put in by all ranks to weld our relations with Stadt Verden. Sat night continued the 'welding process' with a Disco in the Gym. The lighting under **Cpl** 'I'll make it smoochy if thats what you want' **Bellew** was a great success and certainly appreciated by all. This year the bar, under the careful direction of **SSgt Mick Knights,** did not run out of beer despite the estimated 1,500 people.

Sun saw our athletes under the guidance of veteran **SSgt Bill Venus** take part in an Anglo-German competition. Our athletes did well, but the competition from the Bundeswehr PT School was very fierce, added to which **Sig** 'Cas' **Castro** had lost his little red hat and hence was not on top form!

Late Sept saw elements of the Regt, under the QM, **Maj Eric Herrington,** deploying to Tofrek Barracks, Hildesheim, for Ex *Quarter Final*. However, more of the Danish girls using the mobile showers at the same time as Line Troop will be revealed later, that is, if it gets past the censor!

'Its a Knockout' at the Verden Anglo-German Weekend

ARRIVAL OF WAVELL TROOP

WAVELL troop, consisting of **Capt John Shepherd** and 23 soldiers, arrived in Verden from Lübbecke on the 6 Nov having decided they could not afford to return to the land of no LOA! Since their arrival they have been busy installing their equipment in the old LAD complex at Sheil Barracks and demonstrating WAVELL's extensive capabilities to a great variety of interested parties.

A Regimental training day was laid on to familiarise the Officers and SNCO's with WAVELL and to show that the smooth executive looking types were in fact WAVELL soldiers! On a more serious vein OC WAVELL plus three soldiers and two vehicles gave demonstrations to RCDS, NDC and the German Staff College at Fallingbostel on the 19/20 Nov. By Jan '83 the divisional HQ along with that of 7 and 22 Bdes will be fitted for WAVELL operations. Stage I WAVELL will remain supporting 1 Div until the arrival of Stage II with Ptarmigan.

VISITS

In Nov the Division was visited by two VIPs. On the 9 Nov the **Rt Hon John Nott MP,** Secretary of State for Defence visited Verden as part of a tour of BAOR. He was shown the hardened and reduced version of the HQ and also spent some time having the intricacies of WAVELL demonstrated by the WAVELL OIC, **Capt John Shepherd.**

Rt Hon John Nott MP, meets RSM WO1 (RSM) Ron Hails

Our second visitor was **Brig Gen George Stotser** of the 2nd (US) Armd Div (Fwd), the Hell on Wheels division. He inspected a guard of honour commanded by the Regt's newest officer **2Lt Scott Workman. Gen Stotser,** whose division is stationed near Bremen, had brought a group of his officers with him on his liaison visit to the 1st Division.

Brigadier General Stotser inspects the Guard of Honour

. . . AND THE SQUARE WAS BASHED!

Increased self confidence and a feeling of achievement were the aims of the Regiment's Junior NCOs Cadre Course which took place during Oct and Nov.

The 50 Junior NCOs who took part in the two seventeen day courses were instructed in a wide range of subjects including, drill, method of instruction, military law, accounting procedure, first aid, NBC and fieldcraft. Instructors were drawn from throughout the Regiment but special mention must be made of **SSgt Peter Sutherland** who is chief 'drill pig' grasped the opportunity to rift soldiers in practice for his promotion to SSM 2 Sqn—well done PK! The NCOs who came top of their courses were **Cpl Roose** and **LCpl Sartorious.**

THANK YOU TO RESCUERS!

The plucky courage of two Corporals of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden, **Stephen Buxton** and **Bob Maskell,** saved the life of 47 year old **Ulla Wedekind** from Walsrode. The 47 year old, who would have lost her life in a crash between her car and a goods train if these two soldiers had not intervened, has now thanked her rescuers.

Quick witted action can save lives . . . Cpls Maskell and Buxton

The 4 Aug will stay in **Ulla Wedekind's** memory forever. On that evening she was in her car on the way to the local heath for a breath of fresh air after work. Suddenly, from the right, she saw a train approaching. She braked hard but could not stop in time. The car was spun down the embankement by the locomotive and immediately caught fire. **Ulla Wedekind** was thrown out but was lying right next to the burning wreck.

Close to the scene of the accident is the fifth tee of the Tielingen golf course were two ready to tee off. When they heard the crash and seconds later saw the burning car, they immediately rushed to the rescue. **Ulla Wedekind** was saved, but had to stay in hospital for a very long time. Now that she is well again, she invited the two Corporals with their wives and three little children for coffee and cake. She thanked her rescuers saying, 'I am sorry that I interrupted your game of golf.'

SLIM FOR CHARITY

It's not only the soldiers in Verden who are keeping themselves in peak condition, the wives have caught the fitness fad as well. Our 'head muscle man', **QMSI Dave O'Toole,** has been organising classes for the girls to keep them in top form. There were no fees for the courses but a collection box was put out for the ladies to contribute as they wished.

He has now collected DM 2000—which he has given to **Capt Ann Quicksall** QARANC from BMH Hannover, who will buy an 'Ambulift' to lift patients in and out of bed with. Let us hope with all these fit girls around it won't be needed!

SOLDIERS WIN THEIR SPURS

Saddle Clubs have long been the stamping grounds of officers and children. To right the balance, the CO decided to encourage all ranks to partake in equestrian delights by holding a series of beginners courses. The courses took place every afternoon over a 12 day period and were aimed at teaching the basic rudiments of riding as well as some stable management.

The Nov course ran from the 1 to 12 and had five, would be 'Easy Riders' on it. All those who successfully completed the course received a D grade certificate from the CO. This basic grade enables them to ride in the Saddle Club and ride out with a more experienced rider. Instruction was given by **Maj Bob Symonds RHA,** an ex OC of Kings Troop RHA, **Bde Frank Bramley RA** and **LCpl Nobby Clarke RCT.**

Since July there have been four courses enabling 24 soldiers to learn to ride and more courses are in the pipeline. The star of the Nov course was undoubtedly our Catering Officer **Lt Terry Reddings ACC** who has now set his sights on a career in films having successfully completed his basic cowboy!

Postscript to the Troops.—Our **RSM WO1 (RSM) Ron Hails** is also a qualified rider so beware the sound of fast approaching hooves!

Lt Col J. H. Fisher MBE, SSgt (FOS) A. L. Hooley and 'Blackie'

SPORT

Harrington Trophy

At its annual general meeting at Aldershot, the Army Athletic Association awarded the Harrington Trophy to **SSgt Bill Venus BEM.** The trophy is awarded annually to an athlete or official for his outstanding services to Army Athletics.

Bill Venus has been an Army Cross Country runner for the past twenty years and is still going strong as witnessed in his recent triumph in the Verden Marathon. He also competed in the New York Marathon this year and was the second fastest veteran. He is captain of the Regiment's Cross Country team who did very well in the annual 1 Div event and we wish them well in the BAOR event which we hope to report successfully on in the next edition.

INTER-SQN NOVICES BOXING

The boxing contest took place on the evening of the 4 Nov and was a splendidly fought competition. The winning Sqn was HQ Sqn who put together a very strong team under the direction of the Boxing Officer **Capt (TOT) Ian Forbes.**

The results were as follows:

Winners	*Weight*	*Runners-Up*
Sig Kershaw (1 Sqn)	Bantam	**Sig Brown** (3 Sqn)
Sig Campbell (1 Sqn)	Feather	**Sig Potts** (3 Sqn)
Sig Knox (HQ Sqn)	Lightweight	**Sig Jones** (2 Sqn)
LCpl Jacobs (HQ Sqn)	Lightwelter	**Sig Plant** (2 Sqn)
LCpl Breen (HQ Sqn)	Welter	**Sig Berry** (3 Sqn)
Sig Finch (1 Sqn)	Light Middle	**Sig Speede** (3 Sqn)
Cpl McLean (HQ Sqn)	Middleweight	**Sig Morley** (1 Sqn)
LCpl Brown (3 Sqn)	Light Heavy	**LCpl Cameron** (HQ Sqn)
LCpl Parkinson (HQ Sqn)	Heavyweight	**Sig Johnson** (3 Sqn)

Best Loser: **Sig Greenwood**

Ferguson Trophy for most courageous Boxer—**Sig Morley**

FERGUSON TROPHY

The Ferguson trophy was a new trophy presented by all ranks of 1 Sqn as a memorial to **Sig Ferguson** who sadly died whilst a member of the Sqn after a long illness. He was a very courageous soldier both in and out of the ring and it was fitting that his trophy be won by a fellow member of his Sqn.

RUGBY

Sig Cappleman (3 Sqn) was selected to tour the UK with the Army Colts XV. He has since returned from this sporting success and is once more a Verden Vulture!

FOCUS ON 207 (7 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

THE COMMAND STRUCTURE

OC	**Maj J. D. Stokoe MBE**
2IC	**Capt N. J. Thompson**
OC A1 Tp	**Lt J. W. Clark**
OC A2 Tp	**Lt S. L. Hawkes**
SSM	**WO2 J. Preston**
YofS	**WO2 J. Floyd**
FofS	**SSgt P. Waring**
SQMS	**SSgt E. D. Feasey**
CC	**Sgt A. A. Wood**

1982—THE REBIRTH OF THE DESERT RAT

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn is the direct descendant of 7th Indep Armd Bde Sig Sqn, one of the original units of 7 Armd Div, The Desert Rats; 1982 has seen the enhancement of that connection with the red, Desert Rat insignia appearing once again on the new Sqn pennant and on Bde shoulder flashes.

'Whatever his shape, his colour or his attitude,
the Jerboa remains the farthest travelled animal
with the longest fighting record' FLOREAT JERBOA
(**Maj Gen G. L. Verney,** GOC 7th Armoured Division 1944).

1982 has been an eventful year for the Sqn, both technically with the introduction of Clansman CSSH and Triffid, and militarily with the granting of the Freedom of Soltau in Sept. The latter event symbolised 33 years in Soltau and cemented the close relationships fostered between the people of the town and the Bde HQ and the Sig Sqn.

The next few paragraphs and photographs give a glimpse into the life of this Sqn and bring the Sqn's history up to date!

SQN ACTIVITIES

Like their predecessors, the Sqn never stands still, which is very true of this past year. The Sqn has exercised from Wolfenbuttel to Luneburg, from the Harz mountains to the Deister. Adventurous training has taken place in the Mosel region and in Canada. Individual soldiers have acted as Forward Air Controllers in Belize, rifle-men with 3 Queens in Canada, tank-men with the Royal Hussars and gunners with 5th Regt Royal Artillery. Life is never dull, as **Lt Clark's** team discovered during a Sqn escape and evasion exercise when they took 21 hours to complete the course, 12 hours longer than the OC!

WO2 (YofS) Floyd delivers his briefing before a range practice on the Squadron Battle Camp
Left to Right: Cpl McCready, Sig Wilson, Sig Carter, Sig Dunbar

The Squadron March and Shoot competition (section commanded by Cpl Jones)

Though small, the Sqn has involved itself in a number of sports. The football team won the Bde Sqn Football Cup (still known as the Task Force Cup), the cross-country team won the Divisional Minor Units Cup, the orienteering team were runners up in the Divisional Minor Units Cup and recently third in the 1 (BR) Corps Relays and the Hockey team is still trying! With the skiing season here once again, teams have entered for both downhill and langlauf competitions.

THE FREEDOM OF SOLTAU

Exercises and sports apart, the main event of the year was the Freedom of Soltau Parade on 18 Sept. A parade consisting of 3 Guards marched through the town, led by the Band of the Coldstream Guards. The Guards comprised: A small contingent of Brigade Staff Officers and Clerks, a mixed Guard of Royal Hussars, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards and 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment, a Guard formed by the Signal Squadron.

The parade took place on a hot Sept's day, watched by many local people and, amongst the guests, HE The British Ambassador from Bonn, C in C BAOR and Comd 1st Armd Div. Following an inspection and speeches by the Burgermeister of Soltau, the parade marched through the town with drums beating and bayonets fixed, along a route packed with bystanders, temporarily entertained during their Sat morning shopping.

The Freedom of Soltau Parade 18 Sep

PERSONALITIES

Throughout this busy Sqn life, 1982 has left its mark on many people.

Sqn Comds changed in March when **Maj Rowbory** handed over to **Maj Stokoe,** SSMs changed in July when **WO2 Osborne** handed over to **WO2 Preston,** YofSs changed in Sept when **WO2 Bartliff** handed over to **WO2 Floyd,** and if that was not enough, 2ICs and both Tp Commanders changed in a space of six weeks! 1982 was also the year in which the **SQMS, SSgt Feasey,** proved that he still could not map read and found out how to do foot drill: when **SSgt Middleton** from the LAD bogged his vehicle and a second recovery vehicle when trying to rescue the OC's landrover; when both MT Sgts succeeded in damaging their own cars at the same place on the same day and when the ski team found table-tennis easier than skiing.

POSTSCRIPT

Since the Sqn appears to have been lost from The Wire 'map' in recent years, this has been no more than a summary of the year to let readers know that we are still around. We will be back!

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

FAREWELL VISIT OF MASTER OF SIGNALS

The Master of Signals **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** recently made a Farewell visit to the Regiment, accompanied by his charming wife. On arrival in Bunde **Mrs Bradley** was taken by **Mrs Jean Reed,** wife of **Maj John Reed** to meet some of the wives and their families. She also visited the school at Hunnebrock and the families' medical centre. **Gen Bradley** was given a tour of all the squadrons and their departments and was introduced to many of the personalities of the Regiment. Whilst visiting the Cpls Mess he presented the LS and GC Medal to **Cpl Kent RCT.** He also presented the following with LS and GC whilst in the Sgts Mess: **WO2 Soper REME, Sgt Dillon R Signals** and **Sgt Dewhurst RCT.** Congratulations to all four.

After lunch in the Officers Mess, **Gen Bradley** was given a terrific send off. A 432 was parked up outside the Officers Mess ready to convey the Master to his staff car which lay waiting at the gates of the Barracks.

We wish **Gen** and **Mrs Bradley** the best of good fortune in the future.

The Master of Signals meets members of 3 Sqn
From *left to right:* Maj Ben Higson, LCpls Priest, Williams, Warberton and Rankin

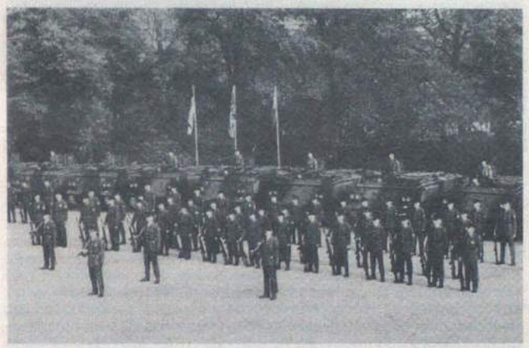
1 Sqn was next on the list: Maj John Reed, 2Lt Adam Hearn and WO2 (SSM) Georgeson

FAREWELL TO BUNDE PARADE

As most are aware, the Regiment is soon to reorganise and move to York in early 1983 as 2 Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. The Corps has been in Bunde since 1952, and so to mark our departure after 30 good years and to say thank you to the Stadt, the Regiment hosted a Farewell Parade in Bunde on Fri 29 Oct.

Led by the CO, **Lt Col Sam Cowan,** 200 soldiers of all ranks followed by 21 APCs paraded past the Burgermeister, **Herr Herbert Voss,** who also inspected the Parade. In his speech **Herr Voss** spoke of the emphasis which he placed upon Anglo-German relations. Relations between the British soldier and the German fraulein must have been good since 150 Anglo-German marriages have taken place since the signalman first set foot in Bunde.

Later, at a Farewell Reception in the Bunde Rathaus, the CO presented the Stadt with a colourful reproduction of the Battle of Kohima and a silver Mercury presentation piece. **Herr Voss** presented the Regiment with a plaque bearing the Bunde coat of arms and wished the Regiment the best for the future. Amongst the guests were the GOC 2 Armoured Division, **Maj Gen Farndale** and Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Henry Hild.**



2 Sqn headed by Maj Tez Fish await the arrival of the Burgermeister

Herr Voss inspecting members of 3 Sqn

After a successful inspection, the Regiment marches past the saluting dais

Not to be forgotten, the 432s also said their farewell to Bunde

3 SQN REPORT

COMMANDING OFFICERS' TRAINING PERIOD

The CO's training period covers all aspects of military training in six weeks, culminating in the inter troop competitions. The initial instruction was conducted by members of the Sqn, and featured:

Cpl (where's the war?) **Callaghan**	—Battlefield Survival
Sgt (which way?) **Brabbins**	—Map Reading
Sgt (blood and guts) **Harris**	—First Aid
SSM (tick tack) **Hayward**	—Drill
Lt (Dimbleby) **Sparshatt**	—Current Affairs
Lt (Don't shoot) **Gillespie**	—Geneva Convention
Capt (mortar board) **Ellis** MA	—Instruction
Maj (legal eagle) **Higson**	—Military Law
Cpl (make them) **Knight**	—NBC

In the inter troop competitions we were destined to be the bridesmaids and not the bride, achieving second in the march and shoot, boxing, BFT, and asault course events. However **Lt Dick Sparshatt's** team had the fastest time over the assault course and **Capt Paul Ellis** won the young officers competition by dint of his knowledge of horse-racing and opera, amongst other things.

LCpl Black going strongly on the final leg of the assault course

FAREWELL

We bid a sad farewell to **FofS Allen** and **Dot,** who leave the army shortly. **Dot** was dined out in style by us at the Wives' Club Christmas dinner, being waited upon by the subalterns. **Capt 'Chunky' MacNiven** found his vocation in life serving the wine, although more went down his neck than into the glasses; and **Pte (Yo Ho Ho) Pater** was smothered with kisses as Santa Claus.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

Despite the fact that the Regiment is shortly to re-title and move to Imphal Barracks, York, there has been no lessening of the social calendar, indeed, for most of us, due to pack up houses and move our families soon after Christmas, it almost seems as if the list of functions is actually growing. Some effort, has, however, been made to pool resources and effort with 2 Division Transport Regiment RCT; in particular with regard to the Christmas Draw which this year will be one of the biggest ever organised and promises to be a memorable last major function in this station.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE MASTER

It is not easy, having missed the last issue, to recall all the many and varied events of recent weeks, particularly whilst still recovering from the annual CO's Training Period. On Thurs 16 Sept the Regiment was visited by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO,** as part of his farewell tour of the Corps. Having toured every nook and cranny of the camp and spoken to almost every member of the Regiment, the Master came to the Mess to present three Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. The recipients were **WO2 (AQMS) Les Soper REME, Sgt Hugh Dillon** R Signals, and **Sgt Taxi Dewhurst RCT.** Upon hearing the various citations read out, most of the Mess members were surprised to hear that nearly everything which **Taxi** has been waffling about since his arrival was almost true; his exploits being truly remarkable, almost as good as his stories. Presentation of the medals over, the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** presented **Gen**

LS&GC Presentation: Sgt Dewhurst RCT, Mrs Soper, Master of Signals, WO2 Soper REME, Sgt Dillon

Bradley with a small gift on behalf of the Mess. **WO2 (SSM) Pat Gallaher,** almost en route for England at the time, attended the presentation as his final event in the Mess prior to taking up the appointment of RSM 19 Brigade Colchester; his place in the Regiment being taken by **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison.**

The Master of Signals discusses the finer points of becoming an RSM. *L-R* Gen Bradley, WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison, WO2 (now WO1) Pat Gallagher, WO1 (YofS) Phil Castle

FAREWELLS

Immediately there followed a long, taxing, but rewarding FTX, which took us up to the 10 Oct. The Mess then re-entered the social whirl with gusto . . . sometimes confused with dread as one viewed the mounting piles of packing cases growing magically all over the place. On Fri 15 Oct we dined out our Mess Manager, **Sgt John McQuillan,** R Staffs, in truly novel and remarkable style, a donkey being provided to take him and **Christine** from the scene of the meal (The RCT Sergeants Mess), to the scene of the remainder of the festivities. Incidentally, the choice of the donkey was **John's!** Two weeks later we were all back at the table to Dine out **SSgt (SQMS) Geoff Batkin,** sometimes called Grandad, other times called other things. Luckily for ourselves and **Geoff** there was no Hypnotist present. This dinner was the first of many to be organised by our new Mess Manager, **Sgt Barry Lewis,** R Signals, amongst whose many qualifications for the job, is the fact that he is about the only member tall enough to plug in the snooker table lights.

BOXING

The following Mon, 1 Nov, the, by now, rather grubby mess kit was brought out of its light preservation again, this time for the Regimental boxing finals, after which we hosted the Officers, as is traditional, to supper in the mess.

Having carefully considered last year's Hoolie where he got his hands, colours, and corners completely mixed up, **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** came up with a secret weapon in the fight to get it right. As soon as he had entered the ring to introduce the events of the evening, a very smart **Cpl Knight** pounded up to the RSM bearing a salver upon which rested two gloves, one red, one blue, which he donned, to the delight of the audience.

A LARGE FIRE

As usual the Station Bonfire, which this year was organised by ourselves, was held on the 5 Nov. Due partly to all of the rubbish which we potential house movers gave up, the fire itself was one of the largest in living memory. The honour of lighting it went to **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison.** Unhappily, having lit the fire, IT returned the compliment and lit HIM!!! **Steve** was burned about the head and face, and was only saved from extensive injuries by **SSgt Ken Whillock,** who, having realised that it was not part of the display put **Steve** out efficiently. Despite his injuries **Steve** managed to join us all in the Mess after the display to partake in the families' buffet, where fairly or not, he was used by some parents as an object lesson in what happens to little boys who play with fire.

A KNOCKOUT

Two days later, Sun 7 Nov, again saw the Officers and SNCO's locked on the field of Combat. The contest this time was 'Its a Knockout', devised by our erstwhile entertainments member **SSgt (YoS) Nicky Hammett** with the aid of **Sgts Archie Arbuckle** and **Sgt Pete Harris.** Another Cricket match was ruled out by the RSM, who

The Final event; Sgts Mess team scramble as many as possible across the obstacle, whilst under barrage from the Officers *L-R* Capt Kidner, SSgt (SQMS) Paddy Kelly, SSgt Pete Haywood, Sgt Tony Churchward (imitating ancient Mariner)

since the last one has a 'Thing' about balls. Needless to say almost every game involved the use of water in copious quantities, which, whether it was in tanks, balloons or highly coloured buckets, was nevertheless freezing due to the prevailing brass monkey weather.

All competitors tried hard, particularly **Maj Reed,** who surreptitiously wore spiked shoes to overcome an intentionally slippery obstacle, however, our able judge **Sgt Archie Arbuckle** quickly ruled this out with one deft blow of the whistle. Another notable trier was **SSgt (YoS) Ron Burrell** who tried hard to fill a barrel with water whilst fighting the same slippery surface against the pull of a stretch cord, and as usual failed to reach his objective. Once again all families, officers and members had an excellent repast which was followed by a film and sweets for the children. **SSgt (SQMS) Mike Schnable** must have known well in advance as he turned up with nine guests—Treasurer please note. The only incident to mar this otherwise memorable day was when **Sgt Pete Preen** broke his leg in two places attempting the last event. Unhappily his sojourn in hospital coincided with his 'A' Level Examinations, which had to be cancelled.

VISIT BY OIC MANNING

The following day, Mon 8 Nov, saw the OIC Manning and Records, **Col A. J. Jackson** visiting us, . . . having briefed the Regiment upon Dream sheets and flattened a few Egros the Colonel joined us in the Mess where **RSM Neillings** made a small presentation to him on our behalf.

Sgt Gerry Knight, the proud possessor of a Box Brownie, inevitably finds himself at every mess function taking the obligatory pictorial record; it is thanks to him that we have photographs to send to the Corps magazine. For this reason, and because he has never seen his name in print, we thank him.

CRAMMED

The calendar is still crammed with events, all of which will be reported on at a later date . . . some of these are the Christmas Draw, underprivileged childrens' party, Regimental childrens party, Officers to Sergeants Mess, and vice versa, Christmas Lunch, the respective Dinings out of the CO and **WO1 (Supt Clk) Clive Mason,** and various squadron functions too. In the meantime, we shall strive to pack our boxes, families, vehicles and encumberances off to York.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Finally the Mess has said farewell recently to:- **WO1 (now WO1) Pat Gallaher, SSgt Tony Spray, Sgts Charlie Abbott, John McQuillan, SSgt Geoff Batkin, SSgt (now WO2) Pete Bradley, Sgt Brian Boomer,** and **SSgt John Sture,** and is pleased to welcome:- **SSgt Lloyd-Williams, Sgts O'Brien, Cogan, Measures, SSgt Lutterlock** and **Sgt Townson.**

Whether they came to, or left the Mess, we wish them and their families all the very best of luck.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt B.F.P.O. 106

FOCUS ON 202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Determined as ever to be in the news, here is the word from the outback, and as it is positively their last appearance in 3 Div Sig Regt's notes we will let them have first say.

Sep was a busy month for the Sqn. Not only did the CO, **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh MBE** inspect the Sqn, but later in the month some of us were involved on Ex *Keystone.* During the CO's inspection, the Sqn was organised into five platoons and undertook military training. The stands were, NBC, First Aid, Battlecraft, Weapon Handling and CO's special task.

Also in Sep a group of the Sqn spent a day with B Sqn 3 RTR. Driving a Chieftain is certainly more comfortable than a 432.

CO seen speaking to (testing) Lt David Baxter (V) and Cpl Eric (Bunny) Hutchinson. The SSM in the background quietly briefs Lt Simon Renfrey on what to expect when his turn comes—The OC—no comment

The NBC stand showing *left to right* Sigs Hudson, Edminson, LCpls Faiers, Tolton, Sig Holt and Pte Carlin, all looking enthralled!

The First Aid stand shows Cpl Wynn, Sig Terry, Cfn Wilson and patient Sig Dunning

Seen here are Sig Hankey, LCpl Jenno and Sig Scroggs. Maj J. Longman OC B Sqn is standing with his back to the camera. 'Thank you' to him for a good day

The RSM WO1 Marshall takes all of the platoons for 'pokey drill'—Cfn Bluff looks tired already!

ECHO ONE TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

Echo One Troop's adventure training took part in the aptly named village of Beerfelden in Bavaria. Our five adventurers: **Lt Simon Renfrey, Cpl Colin Joseph, Cpl 'Rab' Kerr, Sig 'Billy' English** and **Sig 'Chas' Fox** spent 10 days camping and hill walking up and down the slopes of the Bavarian countryside. Everyone enjoyed themselves as they were ordered to as well as making a good impression with the locals.

Sig Fox to Tp OC—'Sir, are you sure you know the way—you have been studying that map for half an hour!'

Even the QM Tech, Maj Jack Simpson and his RQMS WO2 Vic Shillingford got in on the act. Cpl Jason Cooney (eyes closed!) listens while the SQMS SSgt Colin Lawrence gives the answers! Bluff and counter Bluff!!

BAVARIA

Echo Two Troop set out early one Sat morning (well at least before noon) to Sonthofen in Bavaria to enjoy six days welcome respite from Category P Active Edge and the horrors of never-ending resupplies of the Troop Fridge during the warm season in Paderborn. As it was, the troop was in short supply. Having left **Cpl Storey** (much against his will!) in Paderborn, the six tourists from the troop had an exciting time canoeing, sailing, hill walking, swimming and river walking. Despite the serious ever present danger of catching sunburn (*not* heat stroke) the six managed to return unscathed. Well not entirely unscathed—**Sig Edminson (Mr Chuckles)** did have a curious (and inexplicable) attack of laughing at 3.30am one morning. Even **Sig Edminson** couldn't explain the reason for the attack. Mind you, **LCpl Messenger (Mr Chubby)** had a few ideas . . .

In spite of this, **Sig** (now **LCpl) Blunsden, Sig Francis (Mr Sleepy), Cfn Bluff (Mr Happy)** and even **2Lt Baxter (Mr Baaxter)** enjoyed themselves!

LCpl Messenger, Sig Francis, Cfn Bluff and Sig Edminson try to appear inconspicuous as they wait for an unsuspecting German National to approach so they can steal his surfboard

TERRITORIAL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE REGULARS!
(Reprinted from Sixth Sense)

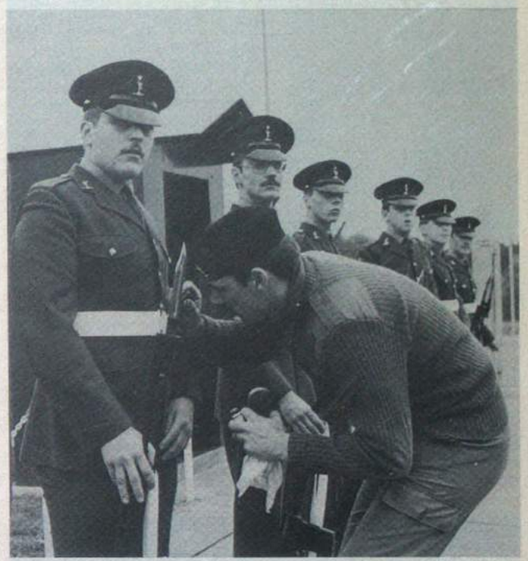
2Lt David Baxter R Signals (V) joined 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in July 1982. **David,** seen here inspecting the regimental guard in Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn.

David trained as a Chartered Accountant and whilst training decided to join the TA. He joined a TA Signal Regiment because he was interested in communications and secondly because his father was the Technical Officer Telecommunications in the Regiment. **David** became an officer cadet in 1979 and after 18 months gained his TA commission. **David** had always wanted to do a short service voluntary commission (SSVC) and because he did not have the pressure of a settled job he could spare the time and was finally accepted in 1982. The verdict so far from **David** is 'I would not have missed it for the world.'

HANDOVER PARADE

The big event for 202 recently was the parade to mark the change of Divisions. The Sqn was symbolically handed to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt at a parade in Paderborn on 3 Dec. We wish them well with their 'new owners'.

CHANGE OF GOC



But before the show—eyes right for a touch up. Sig Phil Morgan shows the steady hand necessary

Maj Gen J. N. S. Arthur has now departed to MOD and been replaced by **Maj Gen A. K. F. Walker.** The quarter guard, under the

The CO Greets the new GOC 3rd Armd Div Maj Gen A. F. K. Walker. WO1 (RSM) Steve Marshall looking smug about having the shiniest shoes on parade

command of **SSgt John Hatch** was turned out for the new GOC's first day in the office. Having got that one just about right, the GOC made two further formal visits to the regiment. The first was a quick walk round the barracks when he was briefed by the CO and squadron commanders. During the visit, the CO was able to make the point

An admiring (?) look and a word for Cpl George Greig as the GOC inspects the Regimental Quarter Guard under the command of SSgt John Hatch

about the variety of people in an integrated HQ and Sig Regt by parading all the cap badges, a staggering total of 42 different ones, all of which we are assured can be instantly resupplied by the QM(A)'s clothing stores. Stores, it would appear are not just for storing. The GOC also paid a visit to the regiment on exercise. The visit took in Commcen Yankee, Commhead Oscar and Tac HQ. Again more briefings and much emphasis from the General of the importance of his communications in the Division's plans.

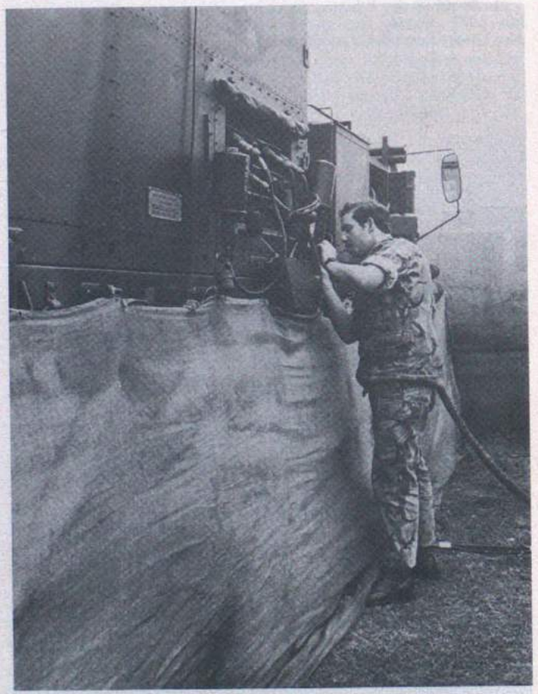
'My God Cpl Holmes, you've trapped the GOCs finger!'

EX 'KEYSTONE/LOGEX'

As promised in the last issue, more notes this time. Our photographs show some of the less serious events of the exercise.

The families' visit, arranged by OC 2 Sqn **Maj Chris Donaghy**, was a great success during a quiet middle weekend. All the visitors left knowing a bit more about the mysteries of a Control HQ and even less convinced about the hardships of being on exercise. It must be admitted that not every exercise allows us to use a standard cookhouse for messing arrangements. The unusual venue led to unusual menus, by courtesy of **Maj Peter Moody.**

Scenes from Ex *Keystone Logex*
Maj John Lane, QM(A) hands over one Control HQ



LCpl 'Manny' Mann shows that any old operator can cope with a bit of patching

WO2 (FofS) Phil Vince and Sig 'Eddie' Edwards try their hand at something a little more demanding at the Control HQ frame

SSgt Don Holmes briefs 'is 'eroes, who prefer to remain anonymous, before they deploy on an enemy task

Maj Peter Moody, Cheshire, OC HQ Sqn, explains to Lt Geoff Warburton ACC, SCO, the meaning of some of his more subtle humour on the menu for the 'Last Supper' of Ex *Keystone*. Pte John Olley ACC meanwhile just gets on with the job

The SCO ensuring that all catering needs are met during the families' visit to Ex *Keystone*

THIS SPORTING LIFE

'Wire' Notes would be pretty dull if all we reported was exercise activity and formal visits. As it has been a quiet period, or at least that is how it looked six months ago, many of the inter Sqn sports competitions have been played recently. One of the main aims of the competitions has been to reveal new talent lurking in the prison or down in Salamanca barracks. In this aim the events have been successful; in particular, boxing has become a growth activity under the energetic supervision of **Capt Ken Blease** RCT, our MTO. 3 Sqn won the inter Sqn Boxing and the Regimental team won the first round of the inter unit competition against 26 Fd Regt RA.

Inter Sqn Rugby was won predictably by 1 Sqn with the big boot of **SSgt Alan James** and strong running of **Sgt Elton Prince** doing much of the damage.

Volleyball was won by 1 Sqn and basketball by 3 Sqn and 3 Sqn won the overall six monthly competition for the second successive time. Full time training in the prison annex must make a difference.

The hockey competition was played some time ago and that was won by 1 Sqn. A very high standard was achieved and six of the regimental team have represented the Division or the Corps in recent weeks.

Cross-country is a popular (with some) activity in the regiment and the regimental team has won both the Divisional League and the Inter Unit Competition. The BAOR Inter Unit event saw the Regiment come a very close third. Where were you 2 Div? Eating your heart out with 1 Div? The CO's Quarterly Run continues to be a source of fun for the mass of the regiment and the last one saw a few of the wives running well enough to shame some of the men into moving a little faster. It seemed to work as the average time for the almost four mile course was

This Sporting Life
LCpl Charlie Foster receives the Inter Unit Cross Country Cup from GOC 3rd Armoured Division Maj Gen A. F. K. Walker

reduced by nearly two minutes.

Football got a much needed boost recently when **Capt Malcolm Robinson** organised a Six-a-Side competition to raise funds to support **Sig Gary Carthy** who was invalided out of the army recently after an accident whilst on exercise in 1981. Twenty teams from the Division took part and Welsh international player, **Trevor Hockey,** guested for the local youth side and presented the Target Life Trophy to the winners; XI Black Watch. The proceeds from the day reached almost £1,000. A most worthwhile event with 110 goals and not at all dampened by the continuous rain.

Orienteering goes from strength to strength under the energetic leadership of **Capt (TOT) Gerry Sullivan,** with the Regt winning the R Signals Inter Unit competition. The TOT organised the event which was attended by over 200 runners. The Regt is also leading the Divisional League. If we could only teach some more of the cross country runners to read a map, well who knows what . . .? 202 Sig Sqn also won the Minor Units' Competition.

Winners of the Royal Signals Inter Unit Orienteering Competition
Standing: Maj Bill Bowen, SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin, Capt (TOT) Gerry Sullivan, Cpl John Arkley
Kneeling: Cpl Dennis Prince, Capt (Tfc) Tony Whydell

ARDUOUS TRAINING

Just a little march out, a quick kip, a bit of scoff and a stroll back to pick up the transport. Well that may be one way to describe it but it is probably just as well that five preparatory marches were organised before Ex *Frozen Members* took place. Over two days, more than 400 members of the HQ and Sig Regt set off into the Arnsberger Wald. Patrols led by JNCOs spent the time map reading around the hills, building bashas in the woods and finally making a forced march back to an RV. The aim was to put some pressure on people and to test their map reading and military skills in difficult conditions. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your point of view the weather was rather mild although heavy rain on the second night made the event uncomfortable. There were of course a fair selection of soggy blisters and some groups marched rather further than intended, due to some pretty indifferent navigation, on what must have been the darkest night of the year. Nevertheless it taught most people a little bit about how hard life can be in the woods carrying all your own supplies and how much difference there is between BFT fitness, athletic fitness and the pure slog of marching with full kit.

EULOGY TO THE 19 SET

Discovered recently whilst having a dig out in the stores a 19 Set has been refurbished and made to work a link to a VRC 321 by **Sgt Ken Rushton.** Well done.

QM(A), Maj John Lane RGJ was once a regimental signaller of some skill and on seeing this equipment from his past felt he had to commit his reminiscences to paper.

'BE NOT DECEIVED—EVIL COMMUNICATIONS CORRUPT GOOD MANNERS'
(CORINTHIANS (AV) I 15v33)

'Meter Switch to AVC! . . . Now that, except in a very few places, all the trumpets have sounded on the other side for Larkspur radio I wonder if anyone ever harks to those happy, simple days when A40s, A41s, A13s, C11s, C42s and all the rest were but a tiny far off gleam in the eye of whoever was about to write their GSRs? Let alone Clansman!

'System Switch to R/T' . . . The days when VHF was something that those new fangled 88 and 31 Wireless Sets (no radio then, that was a very nasty Americanism used). Anyway, it and they would never be as good as the 38 or the 18 and, what is more, they were not compatible with the bigger sets which were, of course, all HF. Who remembers the throat microphone of the 38? If one forgot to unclip it before removing the set from one's body, one strangled. This probably kept the military crime rate down. Operators acquired an idea of what capital punishment was all about. Who serving today has ever peered into the

Eulogy to A 19 Set
Sgt Ken Rushton with the 19 Set which he has refurbished and which prompted the QM(A)'s eulogy

tent-like contraption that hooded the controls of the 18 Set? By day, one could see little, by night, nothing at all. One's friend, if he could be called that, who was carrying the thing was always in a bad temper and any slight increase in its weight caused by the operator putting his hand on the set case in order to steady it whilst re-tuning made he who bore the load positively murderous.

'Both Gains fully Clockwise' . . . Who amongst us ever used a 62 Set? It was a lightweight set designed for airborne operations. So it was if one discounted the 12V 22AH batteries and the little petrol charging engine that only rarely started and even more rarely actually charged anything if it did start. It was also mule portable and, indeed, had carrying frames designed to make it and its equipment a two mule load. The trouble with this was that no mule detailed for the task had ever attended the long Mule Wireless Set Carrying Course. It would kick everything and everybody when the frames were being strapped on its back, it would roll when all was finally in position and, if one did manage to achieve the state of everything on board and the mule in motion, it would catch some esoteric equine disease and drop dead.

'Range Switch to the required Range' . . . That, of course, was quoted in Megacycles. Who was this guy Herz? I think I only ever saw a picture of this or, perhaps, read the working instructions. I seem to remember that it came in about ten separate and very large kits. One of these was a large white tent. Possibly a Tents IPP—Indian Pattern Personnel? Was this the set one walked inside in order to change frequency?

'Flick Levers to FLICK, turn Dials by Square Knobs, unlock BLUE screws, turn Dials by Square Knobs, unlock RED Screws' . . . 'What do you unlock them with, Corp?' 'A penny, lad.' Did one have a penny? Of course. For an ambitious soldier a polished penny for opening the butt trap of his No 4 Rifle and a clean, pressed, folded white handkerchief were all that stood between him and a cell at guard mounting.

'Turn Dials by Square Knobs to approximate Frequency, Flick Levers to SET' . . . Remember the 53 Set? Large, relatively powerful by the then standards. Lots of refinements that British sets did not have—it was of Canadian origin—and lots of little knobs and switches to play with. More importantly it possessed telescopic masts. Anyone who has ever tried to erect the British sectionalised, screw together mast in anything but a gentle zephyr of a breeze and on anything but level ground, will remember those 53 Set telescopic masts with something akin to love.

'Net Switch UP, Rotate the Variometer for maximum, Mush in the Headsets' . . . We have arrived at the best of them all. The W/S 19. The Mk III unless you happen to be much older than I am. It is its setting up drill that has been recited at the beginning of each of the foregoing paragraphs. *Everybody* irrespective of role, operated or spoke on the 19 Set. Frequency range 2-8Mc/s. Physical range using an 8ft rod aerial (antennas came much later and they did not look any different when the name changed), as with all that generation of HF sets, was who knew by day and, perhaps, a mile or so at night. How many hours spent at night on the lower end of the band (2-4½Mc/s), listening not to the stations on one's net but to North Sea trawler skippers talking to each other and to North Foreland Radio and blotting all else out? How many hours spent hearing nothing but crashes and bangs and strange foreign voices but never a word from those one should have been hearing?

I have always regretted the passing of the 19 Set and its brothers and cousins. They were part of my youth and, maybe, my innocence. When they went, so did all of that. Sitting the other day and looking at a recently discovered 19 Set that has been restored by the technicians of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt all these things came back to me, but those days are over, we now have multi-skilled tradesmen.

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

1 SQN REPORT

Since Ex *Quarter Final* the Sqn has been fully committed to getting the C50 vehicles up to scratch cosmetically, mechanically and technically. The Radio Relay operators under the supervision of **Sgts Bob Hill** and **Colin Elstob** have been working very hard with few breaks and fewer sports afternoons. Some people couldn't hack it, like **LCpl 'Dolly' Dolyna** and chose the 'soft option' of a trip to the Falklands to join **Cpl Smudge Smith, Cpl Tony 'Bungalow' Howse** and **LCpl Adrian Woodley.**

The only sporting triumph of note in the last few months was that of the OC Sqn **Maj Mike Wallis,** who after many hours of dedicated tracking managed to pin down **Cpl Billy Watts** and prise him out of his track suit and get him back into Army uniform. (Rumour has it that it took him nearly a week to remember how to put it on properly.)

Our special commiserations to **Sgt Jim 'Bung' Richardson** who after his valiant attempts to refloat the Italian wine industry was rewarded by having his car broken into whilst on his ACE High Course at the NCS Latina.

Our best wishes for the future to recent departures **Maj Mike Wallis** (OC Sqn), **Capt Paul Moseley, WO2 Stu Gray-Cowan, Sgt Colin Elstob** and **Cpl Billy Watts.** We extend a warm welcome to **Maj John Hayes** (the new OC) and **WO2 (SSM) Phil Welch.**

THE MASTER VISITS 2 SQN

On Wed 8 Sep the Sqn said goodbye to the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO,** when he visited the Regiment as part of his farewell tour.

The Master spent most of his time with A3 Troop or Radio Troop as it will be known after 'hardening and reducing'. Here, he met the Tp Comd **WO1 Bryan Selkirk BEM** and **SSgt (FofS) Ian Donald** who showed him the differences between the new 1 Tonne 353Z rebros and the old ¾ Ton FFR C42Z rebros.

The Master also met the crew commanders **Cpl Ray Patrickson** and **Cpl Nigel Sloane** who explained the distinct advantages of the new kit over the old and told him how impressed they were, particularly with the new 1500W generator.

A CONVINCING WIN

On Tue 21 Sep the Sqn boxing team excelled when it convincingly won the Inter Squadron boxing competition. The team managed by **Sgt Pete Stemmer** and trained by **Cpl Geordie Petty** won 8 out of the 11 bouts and but for a late injury to **LCpl Andy Young,** which gave a walkover to his opponent, would have won 9.

The victorious team was:

Bantam	—	**LCpl Andy Campbell**
Feather	—	**Sig Mark Schwalm**
Lightweight	—	**Sig Chippy Wood**
Light Welter (A)	—	**LCpl Pete Jones**
Light Welter (B)	—	**LCpl Geordie Emmerson**
Welterweight (A)	—	**LCpl Andy Young**
Welterweight (B)	—	**Cpl Keith Brownless**
Lightmiddle	—	**Cpl 'Muscles' Taylor**
Middleweight	—	**Sig Dick Tredwell**
Light Heavyweight	—	**Sig Dave Clarke**
Heavyweight	—	**Sig Brian Lyons**

THE SEPTATHALON

On 28/29 Sep the Sqn was invited to participate in the Royal Artillery Septathalon regarded by many as one of the major gunner events of the year. Despite heavy commitments to visits, preparation for Ex *Quarter Final* and 'hardening and reducing' the challenge was accepted.

The seven sports contested were: Football, Volleyball, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Cross-Country Running and Tug O War.

These were all based on a league basis and so everyone had to expend a lot of effort over the two-day event. Despite our not enjoying the intensive training of the Royal Artillery the Sqn gave a very creditable performance in all events doing particularly well in hockey and cross-country running. The wide variety of sports combined with the fine weather made it a very enjoyable and worthwhile two days and we look forward to a repeat invitation next year.

THE MARATHON

Two members of the Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) Mick Kerr** and **Sgt Geoff Armstrong** competed in the Berlin marathon and completed the courses within the bogey time and so received their commemorative medals.

CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

Friday 1 Oct was chosen to be the day for the Regimental cross-country run. All members of the Regt were expected to participate and the MI room had its usual crop of unusual injuries and illness just prior to the event.

The Inter Squadron competition was run over a 10km course while the female members of the Regt and the old and bold had a mere 7km to complete. Once again the Sqn were victorious with individual honours going to **LCpl Wally Walsh,** 2nd overall, and **Sig 'Marty' Martinez,** 3rd overall. **SSgt Chuck Kemal** was the winner of the 'old and bold' race.

HARDENING AND REDUCING

On the 2 Nov the Comd Comms HQ BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE,** visited the unit briefly to inspect the progress of the Hardening programme. He visited A1 Tp under the command of **Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones** and spent an hour with the troop, during which time he ascertained the faults and problems which the CIAT team were experiencing.

The new installation comprises a complete Clansman Harness. It also has a new form of tentage which is proving to be markedly faster to assemble. This when combined with the improvement in communications should result in a much faster 'in and working' time. Provided that the staff accept certain constraints in exchange for these advantages it should prove to be an exciting and rewarding change.

ANGLO/GERMAN RELATIONSHIPS

The following article was published in the local German paper.

'The lights go on again in Herford
and
British soldiers lend a big hand

Sigs Trevor Shanks and Trevor O'Connor making sure that all the bulbs work and are pointing the right way

Herford, 17/18 November 1982 (by Heiko). Once again the lights of Herford's City Centre will shine for the Festive Season and, hopefully, to attract many Christmas shoppers. As in previous years the former city gates will be festooned with decorations. It goes without saying that in these days of shoe-string budgets the Town Council would like to save as much as possible on the costs of the operation and hopes to reduce them from the usual amount of DM17.000 to DM12.000.

In the past the illuminations of the city gates have proved very costly mainly because of the wage bill. Since the installation work was carried out by workers of the District Surveyor's office outside normal working hours it had to be paid at overtime rates. This year use is to be made of extra workers from other departments so that the lights can be put up within normal working time.

Offers of help have come from the British community. That is why since yesterday four men of the 4th Signal Regiment are busy helping council workers to put up the illuminations on the Steintor and the Renntor. It is hoped that this help will enable Herford to save the target amount of DM5.000.

This voluntary help of the British soldiers for the benefit of the German community as a whole is not an isolated case. In 1980/81, for example, they helped to build a children's playground between Glatzer Strasse and Breslauer Strasse. Offers of assistance in the running of charity functions are always forthcoming and let us remember too the personal commitment of individuals to the care of Herford's senior citizens.'

SPORT—BADMINTON

FIFTH ANNUAL ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

On 23/24 Nov, the Fifth Annual Badminton Tournament took place in Herford, kindly hosted for the 3rd year running by 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

27 Players from all corners of BAOR turned up to fight for the trophies on show. Play started at 0930 hours on 23 Nov and to make the tournament that much more interesting the Regt was called out at 1030 hours, deployed into the field and returned some 27 hours later! On their return one of the players from this unit was heard to remark that playing in Noddie Suits and DMS boots did nothing to improve his game—we saw him play and we are not too sure!

The competition was extended for one day and on the morning of 25 Nov the finals took place. It could be said that this tournament was a show ground for the skills of **LCpl Jim Moore** of 21 Sig Regt who qualified for three finals and won them all, and this was after qualifying for four finals in the UK tournament two weeks previously. Once again **Mrs Anthea Eastburn**, wife of the CO, kindly presented the prizes. The final results were as follows:

Winners	Runners Up
Singles	
LCpl Jim Moore 21 Sig Regt	**Capt Stan Hargreaves** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Unit Doubles	
Sgt Om Chhetri/LCpl Jim Moore both 21 Sig Regt	**Capt Stan Hargreaves/ LCpl George Dudley** both 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Open Doubles	
Sgt Om Chhetri/LCpl Jim Moore both 21 Sig Regt	**Capt Stan Hargreaves/ Cpl Phill Adams** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt/ 14 Sig Regt
Veterans Doubles	
Capt Stan Hargreaves/ WO1 Bryan Selkirk both 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	**WO1 David Gilchrist/ Sgt Om Chhetri** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt/ 21 Sig Regt
Singles Plate	
Sgt Brian Innes 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	**Sig Steve Whitehead** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Singles Saucer	
Sig Errol Ricketts 21 Sig Regt	**Sig Dave North** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

LCpl Jim Moore receiving the Men's Singles Trophy from Mrs Anthea Eastburn. Capt Stan Hargreaves, Corps Secretary and runner-up in the Men's Singles, looks on

Sgt Om Chhetri and LCpl Jim Moore receiving the Open Doubles Trophy from Mrs Anthea Eastburn

REGIMENTAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Squash in the Regiment is on the up and up and this year's championships reflected its improvement with five competitions taking place over three days. The most emotive competition was the Inter-Squadron. Last year's winners, 1 Sqn, were this year's underdogs as 3 Sqn were able to call upon available talent of Staff Troop, comprising the Div HQ staff. Not surprisingly 1 Sqn and 3 Sqn met in the final which 3 Sqn won convincingly. Their team comprised: **Maj Duncan Jones** Royal Signals, **WO1 (SMI) John Larkham, WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould, WO2 Bob Allison, LCpl Winston Mattis.**

WO2 Allison, part of Finance branch, had a busy time. He reached the final in both the veterans, beating **WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould** of 3 Sqn, and the Open, beating **Capt Neil Fisher.**

The results were as follows:

Inter Sqn	—Winner 3 Sqn Runner Up 1 Sqn
Open	—Winner **WO2 R. G. Allison** Runner Up **Capt N. F. Fisher**
Veterans	—Winner **WO2 R. G. Allison** Runner Up **WO2 (SSM) M. M. Raybould**
Ladies	—Winner **Maj L. Lodge** RAMC Runner Up **Mrs Dawson**
Plate	—Winner **Sgt B. Innes** 2 Sqn Runner Up **Cpl Wood**

The victorious 3 Sqn Squash team
Standing: LCpl Winston Mattis, Maj Duncan Jones, WO1 John Larkham APTC
Kneeling: WO2 Bob Allison, WO2 Mick Raybould

FAREWELL TO THE QUARTERMASTER (TECHNICAL)

On 29 Oct at the end of a long and varied career **Lt Col (QM) Peter McNaughton OBE** (469 months service) was pushed in a wheelchair, slowly, out of Hammersmith Barracks Herford by **Sig Michael Reed** (14 months total service). The Regiment led by the CO, **Lt Col Alan Eastburn,** and **RSM, WO1 Mick Ledwards** escorted the 'old' soldier to the main gate. Both the Corps and the Regiment will be very much the poorer for the loss of one of its most liked and respected members. We all wish **Peter** and **Joan** every good fortune in their new life.

WIVES NEWS

Thanks to the foresight of former COs' wives, **Mrs Georgina Westlake** (Hairdressers and Coffee Shop) and **Mrs Jilly Cook** (Craft Shop) we were able to move already flourishing businesses over to the Bradley Centre in May, before the visit of **HRH The Princess Anne.**

The Centre takes up the whole ground floor of one block. It is designed to appear non-military and welcoming to the shyest of wives. The use of bright colours, pictures and plants help promote a friendly atmosphere. It houses the families' offices and officer, a PRI shop and video centre, a travel agency and the Wives' Club run the Craft shop, Hairdressers and Coffee shop.

The Bradley Centre has been a great success. The wives' club now employs twelve wives and with profits accumulated this year have a recent addition to their empire—a Driving School for wives. The Bradley Centre Driving School (what else!) employs a secretary and two driving instructors (ladies of course!) The car is a brand new mini and since opening in October we have had a 100% pass rate, are fully booked with a waiting list and are about to purchase a second car. Our aim is to encourage wives to be independent and make the most of their tour in Herford. Two Squadrons have already visited Berlin this year and we are planning a trip to Paris in the Spring.

If you are ever in Herford you are welcome to drop in for a coffee and toastie, a quick hairdo (it's a unisex salon!) craft items or a chat with our secretary. We are proud of the Bradley Centre we hope you will be too.

Mrs Ledwards (RSM's wife, left) and Mrs Eastburn (CO's wife, right) watching Mrs Julia Reilly, wife of GOC 4 Armd Div opening the Bradley Centre Driving School

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

PURE BLISS

It was decided that 8 Sig Regt should not be excluded from all the fun of the fair and so a date was set to carry out an ARU. Groaning and moaning was heard even from the inner depths of the TTS as the preparations hotted up for the visit of **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** on the 14 Oct.

As is always the case a programme was produced which was subjected to last minute changes when the Brigadier arrived. He presented the Regiment with a number of problems as 'extra tasks'. HQ personnel, whose personal weapon was a pistol, found themselves on the range during their APWT. A brief on the Falklands campaign was required and all the young officers, and some not so young, were sentenced to a day of misery producing their solutions to a problem to be presented to the Brigadier, CO and the visiting party at the end of the day. Pure bliss.

Once these tasks had been detailed the inspecting officer commenced his tour of the Regiment. He visited schemes troop on exercise where trainee linies were being put through their paces.

The Brigadier speaking to Sgt Dickie Bird of Schemes Troop during a Line Exercise. *L-R:* Sgt Dickie Bird, Capt Dave Kirkup, Maj Peter Gravestock (visiting), Sgt Bill Laycock and Brig Sprackling

He also visited the OP Window sports scheme, run by the regiment to ensure that each basic trainee takes part in several sports during his stay. Apart from the visits to various departments, he also met the 3 Sqn Stainton Chase Team who had only just arrived in the Regt?

During the afternoon phase of the visit the Brigadier inspected two exercises in progress. 1 Sqn was tasked with providing a security net around the Regt's lines. If it moves check its ID was certainly the cry. Outside of camp 3 Sqn became involved in a home defence exercise and under the command of **Capt Tim Inshaw,** all problems were quickly solved. The cry in this case was 'Cuff it'. Probably the only mistake made on this exercise was the Installation of a radio set in the Brigadier's staff car. To check that it worked, the Brigadier ordered 3 Sqn to move to his HQ and defend it. That night even the cleaners were not allowed into the building?

And so the ARU began to reach its end, only the final presentation to go; was the Brigadier happy? The task set to the 'subbies' was one of the most original ever. In short three Hercules aircraft were about to crash in Camp Centre in 30 minutes. What are you going to do about it before they crash and when they crash? The following photo just about sums up the solution found by all . . . PANIC.

Subbies with a Problem
L-R: Lt Steve Herniman, WO1 (RSM) Mick Stevenson, Lt Ian Seraph, Brig Sprackling, Maj Joan Roulstone, Lt Bridget O'Hara and WO2 (SSM) Barry Williams

ARMY SIX-A-SIDE CHAMPIONS

As was reported in local press and the 'Soldier' magazine, 8 Sig Regt won the National final of the AFA Six-a-Side Tournament held in Aldershot. To qualify for this Tournament, four sides were entered for the District Competition from 8 Sig Regt and the results showed that the Regiment had a very strong squad.

16 teams qualified for the National finals and it took 8hrs of football to decide the overall champions. The competition was played first on a league basis to decide the semi-finalists and then on a straight knock-out. In the semi-final stage the winners of this competition for five of the last seven seasons, Trg Regt, Royal Engineers, were well beaten by 8 Sig Regt. In the final the team met 10 UDR from Belfast who could boast a Bn Strength of 1100—some squad! However, it was not their day and soon went 3—0 down with goals coming from **Cpl Phil Welham** (one pen). The Ulsterman came strong in the second half to pull two goals back, but 8 Sig Regt defence fought well to win the trophy. The team was: **LCpl John Tayne** (Capt), **LCpl Andy Hill, Cpl Phil Welham, Sig Mick Halligan, Cpl Robbie Hall, Cpl Ally McKenzie, Cpl Sugar Barclay** and **Sig Martin Oxley.**

ARMY WHITE WATER CANOEING 1982

The White Water canoeing championships were held over the weekend of 20/21 Nov on the River Swale. 'D' Tp provided the arms and legs to erect tentage and Schemes Troop ran the race control communications and river safety radio net. **Sgt Joe Busutill** and his gang made a metal road in an attempt to prevent *all* of the four tonners from becoming submarines, and **SSgt Bob McArthur** and **Sgt John Fitzgerald** had a very efficient PA System laid out for the event. In the meantime OIC Canoeing, **Capt Dave Llewellyn,** went canoeing and **SSgt Trev Johnson** the SQMS cum general factotum, went off and played rugby!

TEAM EVENTS

Sat, the team events day, went off very smoothly indeed. The water was reasonable for the experienced competitors and challenging for the younger ones. A few of our well-known names viewed the river bed from the wrong vantage point (ie upside down) and realised that it happens to the best of us! But Richmond was full on Sat evening with a lot of well satisfied canoeists.

SUNDAY—INDIVIDUALS DAY

We would rather forget about Sun, but the story must be told. Driving up to the start at about 0830 **Capt Llewellyn** saw that the Swale had taken over this part of North Yorkshire and was about to make a bid to drown Richmond! Torrential rain all night and a strong wind had forced the Swale to rise some eight feet, burst its banks in general places and had turned very nasty indeed. Poor old **Maj Mike Simms-Reeve** had to make the decision to cancel the event and the three hundred odd competitors took it in the best possible way. A few top-class paddlers had a run on the river, but even they were not impressed with conditions.

BUT IT'S THE FINISH THAT COUNTS

So everyone went home a bit disappointed—except the Deltroids, who were treated to a rather exceptional lunch by the Army Canoe Union! **Capt Llewellyn** proposed a toast to the ACU and **Sig Lawrence,** getting his first taste of power by sitting in the Brigadier's chair, looked appropriately appreciative! **Sig Oliver,** acting as the Mayor, sipped his sherry, **Sgt Joe Busutill** complained about the coffee only being instant and everyone agreed that Catterick in winter wasn't all that bad, a bit wet you know, but all in all not insufferable . . . pass the chicken please . . . could I have a bit more of that egg mayonnaise.

EXERCISE 'STAINTON CHASE'

Exercise *Stainton Chase* is organised by NEDIST and teams are invited to enter from both TA and Regular units. The Competition takes part in two phases and is aimed to test patrols of ten men in basic military skills. This year the competition took place during the weekend of Nov 19-21, with the weather being far from pleasant.

The competition format began when teams reported at the start and team commanders were briefed. The team was then inspected and sent off to the gas chamber for an NBC test. Pure joy at 3am. Once the gassing was finished the team then had to run to the range, a distance of one mile against the clock. At the range with no time to rest, the section then had to display their marksmanship skills in the dark before dressing back to their transport for phase two. A nominated driver was required to take a driving test whilst the shoot was in progress.

Phase two took place some 40 miles from Strensall ranges and so a drive through the countryside at night followed. (When does one sleep?) Each team was given a report time and the section had to be prepared to march over a course of some eight miles meeting a command task situation en route. With a bogey time of two hours there was little time to hang around as time cost points. The command task turned out to be a test of first aid, voice procedure and general knowledge in the form of a terrorist attack. Once the command task was finished it was just a stone's throw from the finish tent and a welcome beer.

In all, four teams took part from 8 Sig Regt in the male competition and one team took part in Ex *Maidens Scurry,* which was a competition for WRAC teams. The only difference to *Stainton Chase* was that the girls fired SMGs and only went for four miles on the long march. The results were very creditable and 8 Sig Regt dominated the top ten places. Results were as follows:

Ex *Stainton Chase:*
2nd Overall: 3 Sqn
3rd Overall: HQ Sqn
5th Overall: 2 Sqn
10th Overall: 1 Sqn
58 teams competed

Maiden Scurry:
2nd Overall/1st Regular team: 8 Sig Regt
11 teams competed

Maiden Scurry Best Regular Team/Overall Second 8 Sig Regt
Back row L-R: Pte Sue Pashby, Cpl Chrissie Whitwood, Sgt Joan Taylor, Pte Julie Shakespeare, Pte Heather Boyes, Pte Michelle Clarke, Pte Ellane Pellow, Pte Karen Tyndall
Kneeling: 2Lt Lane Boxall, Lt Bridget O'Hara (Team Leader)

INTER-SQUADRON BOXING

The Inter-Squadron Boxing Tournament took place this year on the 28 Oct. Participating in this event were students of the three trade training sqns all competing for the very coveted 'Fighting Cocks Trophy'. All bouts were well fought and it was clear by the high standards produced that training must have been vigorous.

Although all three Sqns gave their all, it was 2 Sqn that displayed the techniques and winning spirit on the night. All bouts were cleanly fought and the contestants well matched. Although this tournament is boxed at novice level, it would surprise some amateur associations of the standards that can be produced in a very short time when the willingness to win is encouraged by enthusiastic trainers. The final scores: 2 Sqn—15 pts, 1 Sqn—12 pts, 3 Sqn—7 pts.

Prizes to individual winners and runners up were presented by **Col N. Moss**, CO 8 Sig Regt and the team award, the 'Fighting Cocks Trophy' was presented by **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE.**

Winners of the Fighting Cocks 2 Squadron
Standing L-R: LCpl Steve Pellant, Sig Stew Willcox, Sig Chris Bailey, Sig Simon Turner
Kneeling L-R: Sig Andy Robertson, Sig Tim Langley, Sig Willy Wallace, Sig Graham Lambie. Trainers: Sgt John Salter, Cpl Stew Jones and Sig Eddy Gajny

INTER TROOP SQUASH

Squash is one of those games which has become more and more popular over the past few years. **Mr Bill Lerigo** decided it was about time that an Inter Troop Competition was run and organised, a competition for 16 teams to play during the dark Nov evenings.

Rules were simple and each team was only allowed to play two players of Regimental standard. This led to a very even competition, but 1 Sqn managed to produce the winning teams for both the plate and main competitions. Prizes were presented by **Mrs Moss**, who despite giving strong moral support to the CO's team in the final, saw them come second. Perhaps the most enjoyable match was the Plate semi-final between HQ C and 1 Sqn D. With each individual match going to 3—2 in games and the final result being 3—2 in favour of 1 Sqn, the atmosphere was tense to say the least. Final results: Open: T Tp4—HQ A 1. Plate: P Tp5—1 Sqn D0.

1 SQUADRON

The Sqn Cadre have once again changed around. **Sgt Billy Dyson** leaves us shortly for 3 Div and **SSgt Roy Smith** takes over from him as P Tp SSgt. **Lt Bridget O'Hara** WRAC leaves T Tp in the safe hands of **Lt Wayne Coupland** and assumes the role of Admin Officer.

On the sporting front, 1 Sqn achieved good results in the Inter-Troop Squash Competition. The Plate Final was an entirely 1 Sqn affair with P Tp carrying off the trophy. In the Open Final T Tp A beat HQ Sqn A. **Cpl Hank Potts** graciously gave in to the CO in his game and lost 3—1.

Academically **LCpl Philip Cox** is to be congratulated in achieving an A grade on his basic technicians course.

Regimental Open Squash Tournament 1982 Plate and Overall Winners 1 Squadron
Top Row *L-R:* Cpl Bob Dodds, Cpls Skuggi Barclay, Sig 'Wos' Wosika, Mrs Moss, Cpl Brian Walkden, Sig Peter Furness, Sig Mick O'Connell
Bottom Row *L-R:* Sig Kenny Everett, Cpl Hank Potts, Cpl Jimmy Coyle, Sig Pete Anwyll, Sig Deen Richardson

2 SQUADRON

It's been a very busy period again on the sporting scene with our boxing and orienteering teams putting on magnificent performances to win the Regimental Competitions.

Lt Ian Seraph has been kidnapped by HQ Sqn to lead their Stainton Chase Team. **Sgt Maj Gavin Escott** is up and out at all hours training our team and **2Lt Jane Boxell** is working hard with the Maiden's Scurry Team. All this is done in soldier's 'spare' time as trade training goes on undistrubed. The Sqn administers, all WRAC trainees which keeps **Sgt John Salter** busy, the girls currently out numbering the boys in B Tp. The quality of students passing through is demonstrated by recent results. **Cpl Angie Warnes** of the School of Signals gained an 'A' grade

Cpl Angie Warnes is presented with her 'A' Grading pass by Lt Col David Dudley as her Course: DT910UR look on

Pte Caroline Lightfoot and Pte Gaynor Silversides with the remainder of their course after receiving their Grade A certificates

on her D Tg Class 1 Upgrading Course. Could she be the first potential Yeowoman of Signals? **Pte's Caroline Lightfoot** and **Gaynor Silversides** are also to be congratulated on gaining 'A' grades on their basic Switchboard Operator course. **Caroline** is the daughter of **Capt (Tfc) Terry Lightfoot.**

Again the Sqn Cadre has had a nasty attack of turbulence. **LCpl Nicola Amey** has arrived to bring some temporary assistance and relief to **Vera Thompson** and **Mrs Doreen Galliers,** our dedicated clerical staff.

Cpl's Harry Duncan and **Les Beatson** have arrived to relieve **Cpl's Mike John** and **Barry Bostock,** who, after an all too brief stay, have moved on to HQ Sqn and TTS respectively; we wish them all well.

3 SQUADRON

For the first time in three months, the Sqn Cadre have finally managed to remain relatively stable. Avid readers of the 8 Sig Regt column will remember the turbulent days of OCs leaving—2ICs coming and going, and the whole Sqn being run by subbies. Now the calm has been resumed. Our new 2IC **Capt Dave Shakespeare** is applying to become Golf Officer. (Has he found some spare time?). **Capt Tim Inshaw** has now commenced the wind-down prior to posting after much finger nail chewing leading up to the ARU.

Outside of SHQ the activity has been intense. 'C' Tp lost both their OC and SSgt within a week, one to 'D' Tp and one on a course and so **Sgt Chas Ward** has had to cope with the Tp office and the boxing team. In 'D' Tp the action has all been centred around Stainton Chase. After disappointing results in the orienteering and boxing, it was good to see that when it came to real soldiering 3 Sqn led the way. Stainton Chase is a NEDIST March and Shoot Competition and the team led by **Lt Steve Herniman** and **Sgt Paul Smyth** finished second out of 58 teams. The highest placed Regimental team. It was due to the famous **Sgt Paul Smyth's** breakfast produced on the day!

'D' Tp would like to say a fond farewell to **Sgt John Bell** who has now moved into the accommodation office and prefers to be part of SHQ. He will be sadly missed at 'D' Tp parties, skiing and all the other fun activities of 'D' Tp.

SGTS MESS AMALGAMATION DINNER

On the 31 Oct 70 the amalgamation of 8 and 24 Signal Regiments took place. To celebrate the 12th anniversary, the **RSM, WO1 Mick Stevenson,** decided to organise a mess dinner. **WO2 Hodgekinson** and **SSgt Bill Dewhurst** presented to the Mess a cake to mark the occasion. This work of art was a sight to behold and, at an extra ordinary mess meeting, it was decided to raffle the cake for charity. **Sgt Dave Price** was the lucky winner of the cake and a cheque for £178 was presented to a local children's Foster Home in Richmond.

Sgts Mess Amalgamation Dinner Cake

10 Sig Regt Hounslow

VISIT BY BRIG HART

On Fri 5 Nov RHQ and 2 Sqn received a visit from the 2 Sig Bde Comd **Brig J. P. Hart OBE.** He arrived in the Regt to be met by the CO **Lt Col Peter Webster,** Adjt **Capt Lyn Rolph** and **RSM WO1 Mike Wringe.** Having probably the biggest 'Patch' of any Brigade Commander (2 Sig Bde encompasses the whole of the United Kingdom), it had been almost a year since **Brig Hart's** last visit, and although the role of the Regt remained the same, we had quite a lot of new equipment and personalities for the Brigadier to see and meet. Escorted by **Maj David Podevin** OC 2 Sqn, **Brig Hart** met the Heads of Department and members of Radio, SWS, MT, QM and support troops.

It was then on to the regimental club known affectionately to all as 'The Bruno', where the Commander presented a silver comstar award to **Mr Michael Martin** and **Miss Nisa** of Hounslow Commcen. The Imperial Service Medal to **Mrs Beatrice Holmes** and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO2 Maureen Livings** and **Sgt John West** watched by relatives and friends, and members of the Regt. We extend our congratulations to all concerned.

An excellent all ranks lunch provided by the PRI rounded off an informative and enjoyable visit.

Brigadier Hart presenting the LS & GC Medal (Military) to Sgt John West

Brigadier Hart presenting ISM to Mrs Beatrice Holmes

Mr Mike Martin and Miss Nisa, Hounslow Commcen, after the presentation of their Silver Comstar award

Brigadier Hart presenting the LS & GC Medal (Military) to WO2 (SSM) Maureen Livings

'It was in one piece when I left it Sir'. A rather bemused Sgt Andy Vella with Colin Hatcher in the background attempting to give some spiritual support.

Sgt Steve Jackson explaining the use of the pocket phone to Comd 2 Bde

Our resident BT engineer Mr Wally Tucker sharing a private joke with Brigadier Hart

1 SQN
PRESENTATION OF GOLD COMSTAR

A Gold Comstar has been won by the Army Communication Centre Middle Wallop. A Gold Comstar is awarded when no operating errors are found in random samples of messages analysed over a period of six months. This degree of accuracy is a particularly praiseworthy achievement which reflects a constant and sustained effort by the staff.

Gold Comstar award to Middle Wallop Commcen, *left to right:* Lt Col P. B. Webster, Mr R. Snowden, Mr K. V. Beales, Maj R. A. H. Hoghton, Mr J. A. Cutt and Col D. F. Mallam MBE

The Gold Comstar was presented on 16 Nov by the Commandant Army Air Corps Centre—**Col D. F. Mallam MBE.** The faultless members of the Commcen (pictured) are: **Mr Jack Cott** (Supervisor) from Andover, **Mr Ken Beales** from Idmiston, **Mr Ron Snowden** from Middle Wallop.

These gentlemen have won four Gold Comstars over the past few years. Our congratulations are extended to all concerned.

1 SQUADRON REPORT

Aug saw the closing stages of the CinC's Cup sports competition where we managed to reach the quarter-finals at Hockey and the final at Volleyball; we will have to wait another year to be outright winners. The remainder of Aug was quiet which allowed some members of the Sqn to take leave before Exercise *Evergreen* our annual Battle Camp.

The first three weeks in Sept was given to training at Fremington Camp in Devon where we managed to get the majority of the Sqn down for one week and yet still maintained (just) a four-way shift in the Commcen.

On 25 Sept, Exercise *Red Shoes* which was part of the TAVR Annual Camp took place at Wilton, with detachments from 265 (KSY) Sig Sqn (V). This was a Comms exercise which involved the transmission of live traffic over TAVR radio circuits to various locations in the UK. The detachment at Wilton was co-located with our Commcen so we saw at first hand the professionalism of the TAVR operators.

During Oct five WRAC members of the Sqn, **SSgt Joan Wilmot, LCpl Helen Bond, Ptes Trica Doyle** and **Elaine Johnson** were part of the quarterguard for HQ UKLF. They paraded four times for distinguished visitors which included DWRAC **Brig Meechie.**

Brigadier Meechie inspecting the quarter guard at HQ UKLF

The predominantly 1 Sqn quarter guard during a more relaxing moment. The fortunate male in the background is RSM O'Connor HQ UKLF Regt

EXERCISE 'EVERGREEN'

Of the three weeks of camp the third week was estimated to have had the equivalent rainfall as that of a tropical rainforest. However when his pencil finally dried out **Sgt Jim Lander** jotted down a few thoughts.

The week started with rain on the journey down to camp and did not bother to stop until we returned. This made the two days walk/map reading exercise over the moors a dour experience, with the wind and rain on the night exercise so wild we should have been issued with coastguard rockets to contact the other sections spread along the beaches of Devon. By the way it is not true that **Capt Pauline Binnie** is thinking of starting a riding school, after the day spent pony trekking. On the 30-foot wall **SSgt Joan Wilmot** surprised everyone by scaling it in about 10 seconds flat, this motivated **Capt John Meehan** to a much faster second attempt.

Section four virtually cleaned the board but **LCpl Carrol Fitzpatrick** put that down to their section leader being the re-incarnation of a SS Storm Trooper. Now the blisters have all healed we can look back and say the majority of us enjoyed it, only next year could we exercise in Cyprus?

SPONSORED SWIM

On 22 Oct **Ptes Di Salmon** and **Val Griffiths** took part in a sponsored swim, organised by **Pte Di Salmon** at Bulford Garrison swimming pool. The event raised £100 in aid of SSAFA and below **Pte Di Salmon** relates her account.

'We started at nine o'clock in the morning for what turned out to be a long and tiring day. We were assisted by the permanent PTIs of the Bulford pool who counted off the lengths and continually called out encouragement to us.

Pte Val Griffiths who has represented the WRAC at swimming completed her first 100 lengths in 45 minutes. Throughout the day members of the Sqn came to spectate and we appreciated their visit and the encouragement they gave us. **Pte Lyn Beech** was constantly on hand with chocolate and barley sugar sweets to give us the much needed energy. By 1pm with aching muscles we stopped for a welcome cup of OXO, given to us by the PTIs to stop dehydration, then we set off once again. At 3pm, to my relief I completed my target of 250 lengths. Then 45 minutes later **Pte Val Griffiths** completed an incredible 500 lengths. All in all a good day was had by everyone and for a worthy cause.'

THE GUINEA PIG

Even after the rigours of battle camp there were no shortages of volunteers to try anything from being a guinea-pig to Quicksilver tours.

Three lazy weeks, full board and extra cash for a visit to CDE (Holiday Camp) Porton, this report by 'ex inmate' **Pte Shirley Wraith.**

'I arrived at Porton with great anticipation for three weeks of experimental tests. I must admit I was quite nervous, would I be using drugs? Would something go drastically wrong?

My fears were unfounded as female volunteers are not allowed to test drugs, so I along with three other WRAC and two WRNS would be helping with the improving of the NBC suit mark 3 to mark 4.

We found ourselves sitting in a hot chamber where the temperature was near that of Cyprus, dressed in full combat and NBC suits. On entering the chamber we were weighed with full kit; then without. Next we spent two hours sitting and perspiring, then five minutes on a treadmill just in case we had not perspired enough. After that we had our temperature taken and were weighed once more to determine the amount of body fluid lost.

There were other experiments such as having our facial structures measured to help towards a better fitting respirator for females. There were blood tests and we even tested NBC casualty bags. For volunteering for Porton there is extra cash plus money for each individual experiment so it's well worthwhile! There was plenty of time to ourselves and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away with the knowledge that we had contributed something to a better NBC suit.'

2 SQN RADIO TROOP

Ex *Rough Justice* took us to Cornwall in Aug. By coincidence the nudists were out on the beaches and, whilst **Sgt 'Spud' Murphy** was collecting blackberries for his blackberry and apple pie, **Sgt John West** and the OC, **Lt Louise Rough,** (both fully clothed it must be added) were racing along the beach in a Landrover terrifying the naturists. Unfortunately they were rather red-faced when they couldn't get back up the gully to the top of the cliff and almost had to summon help from some passing bathers. Luckily they turned out to be Royal Marines on a beach recce and were also quite decently clad. **WO1 (YofS) Bob McLaren** heard about the 'skinnydippers' and made a valiant attempt to drive from Hounslow to Penhale. Unfortunately he overheated and failed to make it.

The following week we all recovered from the excitement/exhaustion of the previous week by putting the vehicles back together and recharging the steam radios. Summer camp on Dartmoor arrived next and so did the blisters, the agony, and the pony rides. **Sgt Murphy,** the cruel taskmaster, positively whipped his team around the course of the three day march. Next time we'll tie weights to his feet!

After trialling Mould in NW Dist, it seemed a good idea to go on exercise again and Ex *Murphy's Magic* was born. The beauty of the lakes was replaced by the excitement of Barossa. **LCpl Wragg** came out with us for the first time and wished he hadn't—as the sole D11 tech, he never had chance to get his head down, apart from the occasion when the resident Sandhurst SMC course wanted to 'share' our location and wouldn't allow any vehicle movement. **LCpl Wragg** was then lulled to sleep with thunder flashes and the like.

Just in case anyone mistakenly thinks that we have become a real field tp we have also had a few public duties to do in the meantime: a couple of State banquets, the State Opening of Parliament, the Remembrance Sunday Parade and the State visit of **HRH Queen Beatrix,** of The Netherlands. Until next time, Happy New Year.

3 SQN REPORT

Recently we said a very sad goodbye to our Squadron Operations Officer **Capt Peter Sharpe,** who has now left the Army. We wish him every success and happiness in his new life and welcome a sailing fanatic, **Capt Tony Cudlip** who joins us after six months in the United States. Another departure was **2Lt Julia Spence** who has moved to RHQ in Hounslow to become Asst Adjt and 'drive a desk'; we wish her a happy tour. Last, but not least we welcome back **LCpl Helen Cliffe** from the Army Youth adventurous training scheme, held from May to Nov at Fort George. **LCpl Cliffe** has put pen to paper and tells all of 'Life at the Fort' later.

STARS OVERNIGHT

The last two months have been a busy time in the Sqn starting with an exercise at the beginning of Oct about which more later. Then out of the blue, the girls became stars overnight, when a camera crew arrived to shoot the new WRAC recruiting film. For two days the cameras, the bright lights and the microphones were a familiar feature in both the Exchange and Commcen whilst the crew filmed everyone at work. We now avidly await the results and hope to see this masterpiece when it is released!

REMEMBRANCE

On Remembrance Sunday, the Aldershot Garrison Church held the traditional service to remember all those who had fallen for their country. After the service, contingents representing the many units stationed in the Garrison formed up for a Remembrance Parade, with **Lt Gen Sir Richard Trant KCB** taking the salute. The band of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment played on parade and helped cheer up a very grey, wet and windy day. Despite the appalling weather the parade went very well.

EXERCISE 'RED SHOES'

Report by WO1 Jill Trainor

A detachment of 94 Sig Sqn (V) from Windsor was based at Aldershot for about seven days, participating in Ex *Red Shoes* and a Sedist exercise running simultaneously. Both the TA and Regular operators built up good working relationships, with knowledge being gained on both sides. Unfortunately, during the week it rained almost non-stop, so this meant 'wallowing in the mud' around the TA complex, which was situated on the side lawn of Sedist HQ! Before departing 94 Sqn invited 3 Sqn personnel to a very enjoyable Endex BBQ—again in the rain— and we look forward to returning the compliment at Christmas.

PS. The live traffic phase of the exercise was successful.

FORT GEORGE VOLUNTEERS

Report by LCpl Helen Cliffe

On 10 May Fort George opened its gates once again to the Army, but this time not to an actual Regt. It was now the Army Youth adventurous training unit, under the command of **Lt Col John Blashford-Snell RE.** The role of the unit was to take courses of young people aged from 16-18 years on adventurous training, each course lasting for two weeks. We had eight courses through altogether and each course consisted of 300 girls and boys from all walks of life. The kids were split up into sqns, four male sqns and one female sqn, each being named after a famous explorer. Our sqn was named after **Lady Barker.** All the girls went into this one sqn to keep them away from the 'wee spotty boys', as **Sgt Dave Henderson** of the Royal Scots referred to them. The sqn was split into four patrols of which we had 18-20 girls, plus three instructors. The first week in the Fort was rather hectic, more for the instructors than for the kids. They were introduced to the thrills and excitement of abseiling, canoeing, swimming tests, rock climbing and sports in general. It turned out that the girls were extremely competitive against the lads, so not wanting to be out done there was friendly rivalry between the patrols. Generally each course was kept as busy as possible starting with PT at 0600 hours continuing with other activities until 2130 hours most nights. They spent five days away from the Fort where they lived under canvas, cooked 24 hour ration packs, kept clean in nearby streams, learnt survival methods and walked up Ben Nevis, which for some of them was quite an achievement! They all received certificates saying that they had completed the course and it was then stamped with the words 'I've reached the summit of Ben Nevis'. After they arrived back from their five day expedition they then had two days to recover, before setting off on a 48 hour expedition of their own choice, for example rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, pony trekking or cycling around the area of Loch Ness, multi-pitch, survival and command tasks which were done in the Orkneys. On the sixth course we had the Secretary of State **Mr John Nott** pay us a quick visit. The last course must have been one of the busiest as **HRH The Prince of Wales** visited us, plus the BBC who were filming us over the final two weeks. During all this time we had so many funny incidents that it would be impossible to list them all, and really you would have had to have been there to appreciate them. The night before each course left to go home we held a disco in the NAAFI for them, although the drinks were all soft. All in all, the kids enjoyed their two week courses and we, the instructors had a terrific six months, leaving us with many happy memories.

STAR FOR A DAY

Report by Pte Sally Gridley

During my Army career I have tried my hand at many tasks, but I'd never given acting a thought until 18 Oct, when I was asked, along with the rest of us on the Aldershot Telephone Exchange, to help make a recruiting film. (Well we've all got to start somewhere!) At precisely 1400 hours the camera crew arrived, obviously they had an eye for talent and mine was about to shine through, (well somebody thinks so, even if it is only me!). Before shooting the film, much time was spent by the camera crew, not only setting up the equipment but also reminding us that it was a recruiting film, made to recruit new girls. In other words, could we all be on our best behaviour! After one mad dash for the 'Ladies', armed with hairbrush and lipstick, the filming finally began. Up and down the exchange they paced, zooming in on close ups, with cameras rolling and floodlights glaring; we all felt like top models but unfortunately that is where the resemblance ends. Next came my big moment, I was asked if I would like to be interviewed. (I had no option really.) I turned to face the camera and my acting debut began. I was asked all sorts of questions—like, why did I join the Army? Did I enjoy the life? Did I enjoy my chosen trade? etc, etc. To which I answered—beats me, what life, what trade! (just joking). My real answers were exactly what they wanted to hear. The things I do to please people! I then handed over to **Pte Lorna Waud,** it was now her turn to be interviewed, and my acting career was over in a flash. By 1630 hours the now harrassed camera crew were ready and willing to leave Aldershot telephone exchange—bound never to return.

COMSTAR AWARD

Our congratulations are extended to **Mr D. M. Battey** of Ashford Commcen on achieving yet another Gold Comstar award.

The Sqn has also had many sporting achievements recently, namely Netball when we came second in the South East (West) championships held here in Aldershot. The netball team includes **WO2 (SSM) Carole Austin, Cpl Lyn Thomas, Ptes Gaynor Silversides, Pauline Chilcott, Lyn Harrison, Viv Bancroft,** and **Sue Raycraft,** all of whom are dedicated players and so far this season they are doing very well in the league matches. Another Sqn sporting success has been badminton when our squad did extremely well in the Army championships held at Worthy Down in Oct. Shooting is again playing a major part in 3 Sqn evening activities, a team having entered for the Clinch Cup which is a Small Bore Shooting Competition run by HQ 2 Sig Bde. For more details of some of these activities, over to those who took part.

Brigadier Parritt presenting the Gold Comstar award to Mr D. M. Batty of Ashford Commcen

BADMINTON VICTORY

Report by LCpl Judith Haynes

3 Sqn entered a team in the South East Badminton championships which took place at Worthy Down between 2-4 Nov. Our team consisted of **Cpl Lyn Thomas, LCpl Judith Haynes, Ptes Viv Bancroft** and **Lorna Waud** all of whom are keen badminton players. The competition began with the Ladies singles, in which, out of 34 entries **Cpl Lyn Thomas, LCpl Judith Haynes** and **Pte Viv Bancroft** progressed to the semi-finals with little difficulty. The final play off was between **Cpl Lyn Thomas** and **LCpl Judith Haynes,** the victor being **LCpl Judith Haynes** with a score of 12—11 and 11—2. **Pte Lorna Waud,** in her first ever championships did extremely well and came runner-up in the Ladies Singles Plate after three hard and very close games. In the Ladies Doubles **Cpl Lyn Thomas** and **Pte Lorna Waud** reached the semi-finals, but it was **LCpl Judith Haynes** and **Pte Viv Bancroft** who went on to win with a score of 15—6 and 15—6. Finally, in the mixed doubles, 3 Sqn won again when **LCpl Judith Haynes** partnered **Cpl Noanis** RAOC and took the last game 15—5 and 15—8. Besides winning every trophy available, the championships were great fun to take part in.

Now Available from The Royal Signals Museum

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Written by Maj A. G. Harfield, the Corps Historical Officer.
Published by Picton Publishing.
Price £3.00 plus postage 26p.

A fifty-four page laminated covered booklet giving all the information on Corps cap badges, collar badges, shoulder titles, buttons, garter flashes etc. It is a comprehensive guide to the many changes that have occurred to the badges etc of the Corps since its formation in 1920. Contains over 60 illustrations.

Publication available from Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

SUMMER REPORT—CONTINUATION TRAINING

Now that these hectic activities have died away and those concerned in continuation training have returned from exercises, leave, courses etc; it was considered that a report outlining the training undergone in the summer should be made. Continuation training is for the soldiers of 11 Sig Regt and Jnr Regt R Signals who have completed their basic training and are awaiting trade training. The main team responsible for this training was **Lt Peter Telford** R Signals, **Sgt Mick Foster, Cpls Geordie Storey, Jim Waddingham, Scouse Clair, Barry Spiers, Jerry Richardson.** Many activities were undertaken but the following are an outline sample.

EX 'MAD HATTER'

A week's combat survival training was taught mainly by **SSgt Roger Stanton.** At the end of this 18 lucky lads were chosen to pit their wits against the cunning of OC Hunter Force, **Capt Simon Cook Derr,** and his section commanders **Cpls** 'I thought I was on leave' **Clair, 'Julian?' Holcombe, Paul Conway, Tony Meade** and IC Dog Section **LCpl Schulz. Sig Gray** deserves special mention for outwitting these and surviving Otterburn Trg Area to complete the course before there was a small border incursion.

Cpl Jim Waddingham during the combat survival training week in best kit

EX 'MUSTARD MUSHROOM'

Three 36 hour NBC exercises were run. The idea behind these exercises was to revise the soldiers in their basic NBC skills and to put them into an NBC scenario for a protracted period. They finished off by firing personal weapons on a field firing range. Everyone enjoyed it because they were enthused by the excellent instruction (Author).

EX 'POT SHOT'

Two field firing weeks were run on Otterburn Trg Area. The week was progressive, finishing with live firing section attacks.

PARACHUTING

Two one day parachuting courses were organised for twenty seven soldiers who all completed one static line descent. No injuries were incurred during the jumps but there were quite a few chewed fingers and 'Do you think my ankle will hold?' during the kitting up.

EX 'NORTHERN CROSS'

Our answer to 'Now get out of that'. Two teams had to move around a course solving problems at different points. It was meant to be a fun exercise and the instructors had plenty of fun.

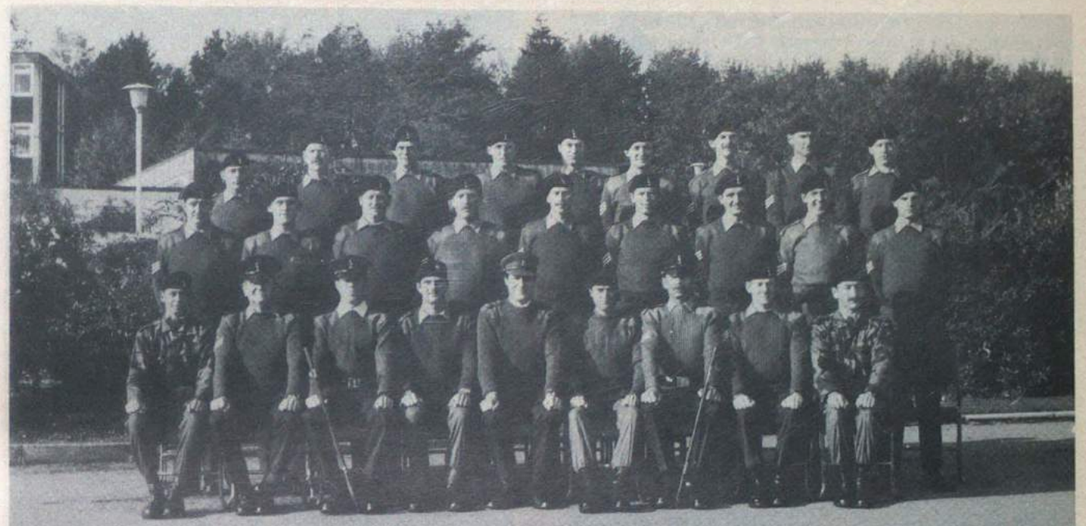
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Ex *Mercury Gallop* was a patrol competition run throughout the summer and eventually won by a patrol commanded by **Sig 'John' Paterson.** A visit to Swan Hunter shipyard was enjoyable particularly as they had a bottomless pit of biscuits. 28 soldiers were instructed by **Cpl Jim Waddingham** up to St Johns basic standard. **Capt Denton** RAMC, the Unit MO, passed all 28. More mundane activities like endurance training, weapon training, orienteering were naturally fitted into the programme to maintain the soldiers basic standards.

STAFF SERGEANTS COURSES

We have found it necessary to make the Staff Sergeants Course a little tougher and have enlisted an experienced soldier in the form of 'fuhrer' Friend whose photograph is shown below under the photgraphs of our two most recent courses.

'Führer' Friend welcomes a Staff Sergeants Course



Royal Signals SSgts Course No 192
Back Row Left to Right: Sgts Gibbons, Garratt, Ridley, Livermore, Sarginson, Roberts, Flaherty, Stockdale, Mee
Centre Row Left to Right: Sgts Croot, Bruce, Kennedy, Baines, Kidd, Smith, Murray, Tomlinson, Manders
Front Row: Sgt Brumfield, SSgt Bell, WO2 (SSM) Minty, Capt Cook Derr, Maj MacCulloch R Signals, WO2 Bentley, SSgt Licence, SSgt Pinder, Sgt Logan

Royal Signals SSgts Course No 193
Back Row Left to Right: Sgts Sharkey, Graham, Jevons, Jackson, Galbraity, Dean, Richards, Crosby
Centre Row Left to Right: Sgts Dipple, Walter, Smith (642), Smith (653), Cadywould, Houghton, Whateley, Woodward
Front Row: Sgt Logan, SSgt Bell, WO2 (SSM) Minty, Capt Cook Derr, Maj MacCulloch R Signals, WO2 Bentley, SSgt Licence, SSgt Pinder, Sgt Brumfield

13 Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 42

Brig Russell talking to the guard—escorted by Sgt Richardson

ARU

The main Regimental event of the last two months has been our ARU. The day was 19 Nov and the Inspecting Officer was **Brig G. D. J. R. Russell CBE,** the Commander Rhine Area. **Brig Russell** arrived at 0900hrs to be met by the CO, Adjt, RSM and a Barrack Guard provided by men of the RPC Platoon. After inspecting the Guard he went on to visit all parts of the Regiment, as well as a selected sample tested in various military skills including NBC, First Aid, Skill at Arms and Field Craft. A martial arts demonstration was seen in progress with **QMSI Bryson** showing how to use the Low Profile Baton. A short break was taken for lunch in the Officers Mess before finishing the tour in the Gymnasium, where the Commander presented a GOC's Commendation for Service in Northern Ireland and an LS & GC to **WO2** (EW Op) **Gibson.** Before stepping into his car he said a few complimentary words to some of the assembled members of the Regiment.

WCpl Foreman gets a grip of the Brigadier. The Adjt *(left)* finds the whole thing amusing and the RSM looks slightly concerned

Pte Ferguson being ministered to by WLCpls Raybould and Rowles

Capt Lander in all round defence!

Is it a tree?—is it a bush?—no, it's Cpl Hopwell and friend before the battle handling tent

Comd Rhine Area presents WO2 (EWOP) Gibson with his LS & GC

THE INTER SQUADRON CROSS-COUNTRY

This annual event which drags everyone out of their hideaways was held on a bright and sunny 22 Oct, a good day to run through the woods and look at the scenery one could say, but not many said that. If they did it was lost in amongst the mumbles of 'I'm too old for this really—do they realise it's my sleep day'—I'll have to think of a better excuse next year', etc as the Regiment flexed their muscles ready for the starter's gun, which incidentally failed at least three times! It goes without saying that once again the 1 Sqn 'fleet of footers' won the day and therefore retained the Trophy, which is a good thing really as the original one seems to have been mislaid, or in the words of OC 1 'We didn't bother to bring it as we are going to win it anyway'. From that bold statement you see the boss thinks quickly when his back is against the wall.

A few results: First, **LCpl Taff James** (1 Sqn), Second **Sgt Steve Ible** (HQ), Third **Sgt Terry Waites** (HQ) and in the veterans contingent: First **WO2 John Bandey** (1 Sqn) and Second **SSgt Rod** 'the stores' **Myers** (HQ). Last, but by no means least, the ladies: First **W/SSgt Anne Livesley,** Second **W/LCpl Denise Overton** (nee **Chapman**) and Third **W/Cpl Chris Meadows** and a special mention to **Mrs Anderson,** wife of **Maj Anderson** and **Mrs Savage,** wife of **SSgt Savage,** who actually came first and second in the ladies race. They ran as guest runners.

HOT PRESS FROM 'O' TROOP

Welcome to **WO1 (YofS) Nick Naylor** who has just literally stepped through the grill door and joined the ranks of 'O' Tp and last, but by no means least, congratulations to **LCpl Phil Day** and **W/Pte Gill Dolman** on their recent marriage.

Note: no babies allowed, as it upsets the shift roster.

FAREWELL WO1 (SUPVR R) GRAHAM EAGLE

The Berlin Inf Bde Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess said farewell to **WO1 Graham Eagle** on 12 Nov after 24 years service to the Corps. **Graham's** service to the Army in the scouting field will also be sorely missed. I am sure there are numerous families in the forces community who owe him a debt of gratitude for all the spare time he has sacrificed to the scouting fraternity, ensuring youngsters have a good idea of life's values at a young age.

The dinner was a resounding success as was **Graham's** speech. The photograph shows **Graham** receiving part of his farewell present from the Bde **RSM WO1 P. J. W. Roderick WFR. Graham** intends to start a new career in the scouting world on his retirement and we wish him every success.

BERLIN BRIGADE MINOR UNITS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

On Wed 13 Oct over 200 runners (including Berlin Bde Major & Minor units, invited allies from the US & French Sectors and the West Berlin Police) completed the 6.5 mile course in good cross-country weather—drizzling rain and wet underfoot. Two teams entered from 3 Sqn with the best six from eight counting in each team. The Bde Comd started the race with 2 RMP firm favourites to regain the trophy from BGAU. The Sqn with a completely new team from last year surprised everyone with a fine win over the favourites by five points.

Standing (left to right)—LCpl Nick Ranier (21st), Cpl Pete Pearson (13th), Cpl Mick Morby (29th), Cpl Phil Gordon (24th), Sgt Terry Morrissey (3rd).
Kneeling (left to right)—Sgt Manny Calland (7th), LCpl Tim Ward (15th), LCpl Phil Bracey (18th)

BERLIN BRIGADE BADMINTON LEAGUE

The Sqn badminton team is having a successful season in the Berlin league. Despite losing the first match the team, ably managed by **SSgt Dave Green,** has won four fixtures in a row and share top placing at time of going to press. The team consists mainly of **Cpls Jeff Wilson, Phil Gordon, Nick Rainier, Lance Marshall** and **Tony Gilbert, W/LCpl Hazel Budden** plus our civilian team members, **Mrs Heather Ward** (wife of **WO2 Brian Ward**) and **Mr Bob Coulling** (ex-**Cpl,** R Signals) **SSgt Green** anticipates a couple of tough games soon, but expects the team to continue to do well and remain at the top of the league.

VOLKSLAUF NOTES

One of the sights to be seen on the Berlin roads most Sunday mornings is a convoy of cars making their way to some wood in a far off part of the city to take part in the local German custom of 'hammering the body'. (Especially true if the Saturday night feeling is still with you). Each Sunday since the season opened in late August, one of the local German running clubs has organised a 'lauf' through the woods with distances ranging from 7km to 25km. These runs are open to all ages and it is not unusual to see a grandfather of 70 running along with grandson of 10. The unit has put out as few as 8 and as many as 16 runners over the season, making us the best represented British unit in the Bde. With each run providing a different reward for the effort, many quarters and barrack rooms are now decorated with various medals, certificates and plates. Finally, congratulations to three of our regular runners, **Sgt Terry Morrissey, Cpl Phil Gordon** and **Cpl Mick Morby** for successfully completing the Berlin marathon.

FISHING

The very successful 3 Sqn Anglers League which covered 17 matches finished on the 27 Nov on the River Spree. This match gave us our final league places. **SSgt Keith Hall** came out on top but only just ahead of **Cpl Mick Morby** and **LCpl Mally Wiltshire** who were beginning to close the gap. **Cpl Lance Marshall** managed to hold on to the biggest fish title. Lots of fish came very close, but his Bream of 1lb 11ozs remains the best. The league must close now as nearly all of the members are posted early next year, so the remainder must join other clubs or continue to fish as loners. The OC, **Maj Gus Vigurs** can now perhaps go back to using flies instead of maggots, and **Sgts Paul Vollentine** and **Hugh Devlin** can stop pestering people to stand in for them for the mid-week matches. The fishing in Berlin is excellent but we do suffer from a huge amount of boat traffic, especially barges, as anyone who has ever fished in Berlin will know. Hopefully, wherever the now ex 3 Sqn anglers get posted they will be able to carry on fishing.

BIRGELEN GOLF CLUB

The Birgelen Golf Club, the Mecca of the 'Gawfers' draws many a pilgrim every month to participate in a strange and sometimes warlike ritual called a 'Medal'. (Please take note **WO2 Tony Halliwell**). When all the occult is assembled, the Chief Druid **(SSgt Keith Smith)** or the High Priestess **(Mrs Eileen Smith)** gave communion in the shape of a white card. This seems to indicate the start of a pilgrimage which visits 18 Holy Temples (and many a strange Oath has been heard on leaving certain Holy places). Once the pilgrims have ended their tour of Temples, they return to the Golf Club to receive the second half of communion which is in a liquid form, and a collection is taken.

The Chief Druid then consults the Gods (and Handicap Committee) and returns with favours for the pilgrims who prayed the hardest. Once the gifts have been given to the chosen few, some pilgrims drift off, from whence they came and others sit around discussing some of the miracles which happened during the day. Most of the 'Gawfers' always comment on the 7th, 8th and 9th Temples, where a winged messenger, (Jimmy to his friends), flew down and took up their prayers to a place called out of bounds. This is a place where prayers are screened from the Gods, thus disallowing prayers (no matter how good their intention) from being heard and subsequently no favours are given. After much discussion the faithful leave the meeting place to prepare for the next 'Medal' (not spelt Stableford) Guess who? which takes place approximately four weeks later.

The success of these pilgrimages are only due to the hard work by the people responsible for maintaining the Holy Temples and we, the Occult, would like to personally thank them for their labours. To **SSgt (Scouse) Davies** (now at Blandford), **Maj (Smokey Joe) Adams** (Sennelager), **Capt (Barney the Chain Saw) Hill,** the new High Priest of maintenance **WO1 (John) O'Kell** RAOC, and to all the members who put in a lot of hard work during the pilgrimage season, a very big thank you for the excellent pathways between the temples and the top quality decor of the Holy Carpets themselves. To the Highest Priest of all **Lt Col Walker** for allowing these meetings to take place on camp, without protest rallies or interference from the many other sects within the Regt, we all give thanks.

The golf season is now at a close and I would like to take this opportunity to review the golfing activities within the Regiment, as a unit team and Birgelen Golf Club. Firstly, the unit entered two teams in the Rhine Area Summer League and after playing some very stiff opposition from Major & Minor Units, our 'A' Team finished runners up to Dusseldorf Stn, and the 'B' Team (comprising mainly of newcomers to the game), finished 9th of 13 teams.

TEAMS

A	HDCP	B	HDCP
Capt (Len) Yates	4	**Maj (Stan) Brice**	24
Capt (Barney) Hill	12	**WO1 (John) O'Kell** RAOC	24
RSM (Paul) Glover	7	**SSgt (Scouse) Davies**	20
Maj (Phil the Pay) Glendinning RAPC	14	**SSgt (John) Sands**	24
SSgt (Keith) Smith	14	**Sgt (Colin) Burnett** RAOC	24
Sgt (Brian) Cullen	9	**Sgt (Al) Lindsay**	24
Cpl (Andy) Marshall	3	**Cpl (Bob) Ness**	16

Throughout the summer the regimental team was involved in the BAOR inter unit team Knockout Competition and were beaten in the semi-finals by that famous band of outlaws, HQ 1 BR Corps Bandits (eventual winners). Play off for 3rd place v Queens Regt, resulted in a win for 13 Sig Regt on the 19th hole. The team consisted of: **Capt Hill, Capt Yates, RSM Glover, Sgt Cullen, Cpl Marshall, SSgt Smith.**

The Regiment has this season provided 7 Corps Players, 4 Rhine Area and 3 BAOR for various matches throughout the season. **Capt Yates** (Present Captain of BAOR), **RSM Glover** and **Cpl Marshall** having represented BAOR.

It has been a very full and rewarding season for golfers who figure in the prize lists of all Rhine Area competitions but especially when one of our newer players **SSgt (John) Sands** won the 2nd 18 hole handicap at the Spring meeting held at Bruggen Golf Club. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Birgelen Golf widows for putting up with this most time-consuming game and in allowing the fanatical followers of 'Golf' to pursue the white ball.

STOP PRESS—SWORD OF HONOUR

All members of the Regiment send their congratulations to **O/Cdt A. J. Rock,** until May a Corporal of C Tp, 1 Sqn. **O/Cdt A. J. Rock** has been awarded the Sword of Honour for his intake at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, which was presented at the Sovereign's Parade on 10 Dec.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

VISITS

On the 28 Nov **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh** flew to Germany to visit Army and RAF units. He started his tour on Monday with a visit to his own Regiment, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), followed by a tour of 12 Armoured Workshops REME, both units stationed in Osnabruck. During the evening a reception was held in Rheindahlen for the Duke to meet Intelligence Corps and REME officers and their wives, the Duke being Colonel-in-Chief of both Corps.

On 30 Nov, **HRH** visited HQ BAOR, being met at the entrance of the main building by a flag guard provided by members of the Intelligence Corps. Two members of this guard were provided by the Regiment, **Cpl B. Collinson** and **Cpl D. Labdon.** The Duke met both of these NCOs as well as **Mrs Debbie Labdon,** at a presentation ceremony later that morning, before departing for RAF Bruggen.

The Adjutant General, **Gen Sir George Cooper KCB MC** paid a flying visit on the 27 Oct, even though he could only stay for a couple of hours he found time to present LS & GC medals to **WO2 (QMSI) Graham Smith APTC** and **SSgt Alan Brooks.**

Medal Presentation
Left to right: Mrs Irene Smith, WO2 (QMSI) Graham Smith, Gen Sir George Cooper, SSgt Alan Brooks, Mrs Brooks

FAREWELL

It seems we are always bidding someone a fond farewell and this month was no exception—**Maj Frank Williams** OC HQ Sqn has decided to exchange his desk in the Sqn HQ for the more uncertain style of life in 'civvy street'. **Maj Williams** is intending to settle in the Osnabruck area and we wish him and his family well for the future.

SPORT

The last two months have again been dominated by the fastest growing sport in the West—marathon running.

SSgt Paddy Heyland is to be congratulated on coming in 168 in the New York marathon out of a field of 16,000, the second British soldier to finish; an outstanding performance, and we wish him well on his next run in the London marathon.

More recently we were well represented in the Verden marathon hosted by 1 Div Sig Regt. This marathon, although on a much smaller scale to the New York run, still attracted a large entry, many of those entering having never run in a marathon before. Special mention should go to **SSgt Ian Blair** for his time of 3 hours 32 mins and to all those who finished the course.

1 SQN REPORT

The Sqn has seen its way through a 'normal' three months working with Ex *Carbine Fortress,* Ex *Quarter Final,* Ex *Fox Head,* a week of demos, audits, stock-taking, an 'Open Course', the Small Arms, Catering and Postal Inspections, a PRE, and an Active Edge. This left the Sqn with just enough time to say goodbye to **Maj R. G. O. Randell** on his way to 13 Sig Regt. To him and his wife **Judity** we give our thanks for all their hard work and send our best wishes for the future.

We have also said goodbye to a number of Sqn personalities namely, the 2IC and computer wizard **Capt Adrian Morgan, SSgt Brian**

Maj Frank Williams enjoys a farewell drink with Maj (QM) Tom Keany. The TOT asking for another round of drinks as usual!

Summers, Sgt Steve Palfreyman, Cpl 'Mac' McKenzie (claimed to be with us so long that he was entitled to ED pay from the PRI), **Cpl Mick Hartley 'The Commander', SSgt Paddy Harding, SSgt** 'You'll have to Pay' **Ron Crabtree, SSgt 'Davey Crocket' Cook** on promotion, **Cpls Jock Douglas** (Survival Expert) on promotion, 'We have the Technology' **Brian Geddis, 'Dingaling' Bell, Andy Barbour,** 'BFT Fail' **Brian Barnes, SSgts John Anning** and **Taff Thomas.** To you all our 'Thanks' for your contributions to the squadron.

To all the New Arrivals 'Welcome'; this includes, **Lena Chilman** daughter of **Taff** and **Elke Chilman, Ceri Thomas** daughter of **Taff** and **Delyth Thomas** and last but not least daughter of **Geoff** and **Denise Taylor, Alexandra.**

A TP BADMINTON

The sport within 'A' Troop this year has shown great improvement with **Cpls Phill Adams, Tony Well** and **LCpl Graham Baker** all showing great interest.

Recently at the BAOR Signals championships all three improved on previous competitions results with **Phill Adams** reaching the Singles Quarter Finals, Unit Doubles Semi Finals and being losing Open Doubles Finalist with **Capt S. Hargreaves** (4 Armd Div). Also on Finals Day, **Tony Wall** was asked to umpire a Final which is in itself an honour.

Congratulations to **Phill Adams** who on the 11 Dec is playing for the Corps in the BAOR Inter Corps Championships (which the Corps won last year). It is hoped that the keen interest shown so far this season will continue throughout and that more honours will come for the Troop.

AN EVENTFUL YEAR

As 1982 draws to a close and the icy grip of winter takes hold here in BAOR, it's worth pausing and taking a long look back over what for us has been a very eventful year. Personalities have come and gone, both CO and RSM have changed during the year and as far as visitors are concerned the highlight of our year was of the course the visit, in the field, of **HRH The Princess Anne.** The Adjutant General and many other VIPs did the Grand Tour on the circuit of Celle—Wesendorf—Langeleben and back to Celle, all of them in some way leaving their mark on our way of life.

We did our fair share of exercises during 1982, joining the US Forces in Southern Germany for Ex *Reforger* and then almost immediately participated in Ex *Quarter Final* which was the 4th Division FTX. This is the second time we have joined Ex *Reforger,* the last time was in 1979 when we witnessed the beauty of S Germany in the depths of winter, this time it was the rather more gentle shades of Autumn.

The annual Autumn FTX this year was Ex *Quarter Final* run by 4th Div. During this exercise the results of the UK/US unofficial exchange system were clearly in evidence with US Army cots and clothing in abundance. The Quartermaster (T) nearly suffered a stroke when the MTWO inadvertently referred to the CO's Rover as a Cadillac.

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

VISIT OF ALTENKAMERADEN 106 AUFKLARUNGSABTEILUNG

On 10 Nov the Regiment hosted a party of old comrades from 106 Aufklarungsabteilung (106 Recce Group) on the occasion of the 60th birthday of one of their members. They first met in Dec 1940 when their unit was formed in Adolf Von Nassau Kaserne Krefeld—now Bradbury Barracks. This was their first visit to the Barracks since then, and in fact the first time half of them had met in almost forty years. Their unit was the spearhead of 106 Inf Div's campaign in Russia in 1941 and saw action in often unbelievable conditions until the survivors were disbanded in 1943. During their visit they were conducted on a tour of the barracks by **2Lt Fiona Grundy** WRAC and **WO2 (YofS) Dick Richardson.** Although memories were a little hazy, several interesting facts emerged, which will be revealed in a later article by **WO2 (YofS) Richardson** who is researching the history of the barracks and its previous occupants. The tour started with sherry and birthday cake in the Leicester Room, while the old comrades were shown Volume I of the photograph album containing photographs from 1938 to 1940; they were able to identify several personalities. A walk round the camp followed, including a visit to the Guardroom (fond memories?), their old barrack rooms in Block 6, a modern soldiers' flat for comparison, and the Regimental Restaurant.

The tour was rounded off with more sherry, promises of assistance with the Historial Research and tenative arrangements for future visits.

Visit of Old Comrades
WO2 Dick Richardson and 2Lt Fiona Grundy discuss the Regimental historical record with Oberleutnant Worlter, Gruppenführer Denne and Oberleutnant Bloedorn

REPORT FROM 1 SQUADRON
Squadron Personalities:

OC	**Maj S. I. F. Johncey** WRAC
OC O Tp	**Capt (Tfc) C. M. Eastland** R Signals
OC X Tp	**Capt C. G. Snedden** WRAC
Admin Offr	**2Lt J. C. Chambers** WRAC
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) P. J. Beynon**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) S. M. Sims**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) M. S. C. Carmichael** WRAC

O TROOP

The peace and quiet of the BAOR Commcen was shattered on 26 Sept by the terrible cry of 'Hehn Out'. Anyone with experience of the BFG static telegraph system will know that means the BFG TARE had failed. Frantic patching saw the Regt's TARIF quickly installed in the system and proceeded to support the network for the next 41 days. Traffic totals in the BAOR Commcen rose from 1500 transactions to over 4000 per day. Fortunately we were assisted by three 'Blue Job' operators who throughly enjoyed the experience of working for a living and fitted in very well (after the girls had knocked the rough edges off them!). We understand that two out of the three now want to join the Army, was it something we said? As a result of the loss of the TARIF, a 'computer dump' took on a whole new meaning, but unfortunately it was too big to go through the window! Nevertheless, it was an interesting and never to be forgotten experience.

X TROOP

The Troop has been very busy over the last three months with exercises. During Exercise *Jog Trot* **Pte's Wilkinson** and **Edwards** departed for Commcen KILO only to be flooded out two days later (war is hell). **Cpl McKenna** headed the next expedition to the front, taking with her **Pte's Lea** and **Kynaston.** An exciting week was had by all working with the RAF at Maastricht. It was reported that the Verge Inn takings rose by 100%, but alas the booze ran out on the last day (war certainly is hell). Wedding Bells rang for **LCpls Pritchard** and **Ferris** who tied the knot on the same day, but not to each other of course! Welcome to new arrivals, **Ptes Wilkinson, Lea, Bell** and **Gibbs.** Goodbye to **Pte Binge** (good job we didn't send her to Maastricht) and **LCpl Fletcher.**

3 SQN WIVES VISIT EX 'JOG TROT'

It all started with the new Sqn 2IC, **Lt Ron Collins** saying 'Why not let the families visit us whilst we are on Ex *Jog Trot*?, then they will really see what husbands are missing when they are at home' (The wives will kill me). Sun the 24 Oct was the ideal day, *Jog Trot* had not started and Juliet Troop were nice and comfortable in location having being deployed since the previous Wed for a Regimental warm up exercise. After a journey of some 2½ hours the families arrived, suitably dressed in mackintoshes and yellow wellies. After an initial brief by the OC **Maj Tony Gibb** both wives and children were organised into four groups and under the watchful eyes of the OC, 2IC, OC J Tp, **Lt Graham McNeill** and the SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Roy Coffill** were given a guided tour of the location. Next came a most excellent Sunday lunch. The **SQMS, SSgt Alfie Hall** and his admin team, after a great deal of time and effort really did us proud. Poor **Mrs June Booth** did suffer, her younger son left us in no doubt. In his loudest voice 'Hey mum, this is much better than your cooking', he pronounced to all! I must say it was nice to see the look of pleasant surprise on the faces of everyone as they cleared their plates. Immediately after lunch, we had a small family service with the padre, **Rev Colin Gibbs.** Volunteers were called for and three ladies stepped forward in good tradition. They quickly changed into 'pinnies' (NBC suit, gloves and respirators) and got on with the washing up. The afternoon was taken up with what only can be described as having a military flavour. Under the close scrutiny of the SSM, the children were ordered to dig in and conceal themselves (this was about 2 o'clock) and were called back in again to get on the bus to go home (about 4 o'clock). All in all it proved a very successful day. I believed it was going to be so from the support for the idea. The families I am sure have a better feeling for what it is to be on exercise. They went home happy but tired at the end of what was for some of them a very long day. Everyone thanked me and all seemed to ask the same question 'what are we going to do next time'. I'm thinking . . . I'm thinking.

3 Sqn Wives Visit
Chores all finished Lt Ron Collins, Mrs Teresa Dunnings, Mrs June Booth, Mrs Anne Collins and Master Adrian Booth prepare for their attack on Commcen Juliet

LEICESTER TROPHY
Report by OC LAD Capt Pat Mason REME

Please excuse the pen of one REME who is more accustomed to bending spanners than writing for such an august magazine as 'The Wire'. It is, however, part of the prize of the LAD REME winning this Summer's Leicester Trophy. This competition is played twice a year vaguely aligning itself with the winter and summer seasons. The aim during each of these periods is to cover about eight sports with 16 points to the winning team, 14 for second and so down until the team in eighth place gets two points. 2 Sqn provides three Troops, A, K and R, while 3 Sqn have two, F and J. HQ Sqn have LAD REME and M Tp combine with T Tp while all the rest form themselves into RHQ Tp. Deciding that these sports are to take place is one thing, finding the time to fit them into an already crowded regimental programme is something else altogether. So it was with the cricket, which was out for a duck without a ball being bowled. Plans are already afoot to ensure we don't get a pair next year. However, the season did get started and here is a brief report on each of the events:

ATHLETICS

The famous West Park was the venue for this regimental sports day which incorporated a WRAC Inter Sqn competition as well as fun events for wives, mothers and children. The outstanding athlete of the day was **Sig Bob Banner** winner of the Victor Ludorum with notable performances from **Sig Jimmy Hayes** A Tp, **Sig Harry Harrison** A Tp, **Sig Nick Withers** K Tp, **Cpl Phil Lee** LAD, **Cpl Andy Trivett** R Tp, **Cpl Paul Stringer** J Tp and the airborne **SSgt Fred Payet** J Tp. Despite the efforts of their two stars, J Tp made up the rear of the Inter Troop competition, but not so in the Chain of Command Trophy race where they were led by **Sig Goodie Goodson** to take the coveted prize. The result of the Inter Troop competition was: 1st A Tp; 2nd K Tp; 3rd LAD REME; 4th R Tp.

WIMBLEDON SCENE

The **RSM WO1 Bill Miles** laid on perfect weather for this competition which took place every evening for a week. What the play may have lacked in skill was certainly compensated for in enthusiasm, effort and sportsmanship. There were none of the Wimbledon tantrums, mind you, there were also no cucumber sandwiches, peaches and cream or sleepy linesmen. The discoveries from this event who should make up the regimental team for next year are: **SSgt (YofS) Gordon Duncan** R Tp, **LCpl Dave Johnstone** LAD and **LCpl Kevin Wilson** A Tp. The result was: 1st A Tp; 2nd LAD REME; 3rd R Tp; 4th F Tp.

RSAAM

Mon morning saw the arrival of the Regiment at Arsbeck Ranges with a view to identifying the best Shooting Troop in the unit. **Capt Ray Briant** masterminded this three day event in yet again beautiful weather. Each of the eight Tps had to produce a team of 12 members each to fire SLR, SMG and Pistol. Clearly not a sprint competition, more a question of endurance and concentration. The SLR and the Pistol matches got started simultaniously and therefore it was difficult to pick out a clear leader but the pundits were placing their bets on R Tp. So it stood at the beginning of the third day with the final event, the SMG match, about to start. It was the consistancy of the LAD which brought them through to win first place and receive the magnificent Albingia Trophy. In addition to the known stars such as: the Adjutant, **Capt Richard Hoole,** Ops Offr **Maj Dick Drew** and Ops again in the shape of **WO2 (YofS) Dick Richardson** (what's in a name you may say), some new talent was spotted like the Champion at Arms: **Sig Taff Rideout** F Tp, **Cpl Brian Wallace** LAD and **Cpl Robbie Carroll** R Tp. The result was: 1st LAD REME; 2nd R Tp; 3rd F Tp; 4th RHQ.

RSAAM
Comd 4 Sig Gp, Col Lewis, presents the Albingia Trophy to WO2 (AQMS) Pete Brooks, Captain of the LAD team

FOOTBALL

Straight from the ranges on to the football pitch was the order of Wed evening. By the time Fri was to come somehow or other we had managed to cram three days ranges and three evenings football into just five days. Also seem to remember a day's orienteering in the middle of the same week but more about that in the winter report. Anyway, this fiercely competitive game of seven a side football laid on by **Lt Ron Collins** and his handful of officials got under way with the LAD looking like the team in form in the earlier rounds although J Tp wouldn't agree with that. The first semi-final saw J Tp dispose of R Tp with the LAD knocking out F Tp. So to the final that everyone expected. Despite the weary legs, both teams set off at a cracking pace and it was the nerve of the LAD which broke first. J Tp were good value for their one goal lead at half time and they began the second half in similar style. Midway through the second period LAD put J Tp under extreme pressure and from a corner kick levelled the score. The closing minutes were played at fever pitch of excitement when suddently the ball came to **Cfn Terry Pantrey** who let fly from 20 metres giving the goalkeeper no chance at all.

The result of this competition for which the Garton Stock Trophy is presented was: 1st LAD REME; 2nd J Tp; 3rd R Tp; 4th F Tp.

RELAY RACE

Sgt Andy Hyde is the kindly APTC man whose idea of clean simple fun is to mark off West Park as a 600 metres relay track. He then gets each troop to provide a team of 10 runners. Number one sets off and runs a lap and hands over to the next man and so on until all ten runners have been round. Not bad so far, I hear you think, except the gentle **Andy** is not satisfied with once around and so you all do it one more time, and just as number one is beginning to recover and the colour of his face is changing from a deadly ashen to a healthy puce and his lungs have ceased the confusion of breathing in the next breath before they have exhaled the last one; you are back on your legs for the third circuit. At the end of this incredible race of eighty competitors there were only eight stars. Well done everyone! The result was: 1st K Tp; 2nd A Tp; 3rd LAD REME; 4th R Tp.

SQUASH

SSgt Ted Theis not only organises and plays for the regimental team but took time out to set up this Inter Troop event. From the beginning it was clear that the enthusiasm of the Field Troops would be pushed to beat the combination of experience and youth that went to make up the RHQ side. The final was the one expected but despite a couple of close matches the result was a 4—1 victory for RHQ. Well done to **WO2 (RQMS) Marsh Davey** and **LCpl Allan Hamilton** for winning their decisive matches. The result was: 1st RHQ; 2nd J Tp; 3rd LAD REME; 4th F Tp.

ASSAULT COURSE RACE

For anyone who thinks of **Sgt Andy Hyde** as that quiet gentle giant who has the occasional lapse into frenzy which is easily satisfied by a 10 lap relay race then think again. Assault courses are nobody's favourite at the best of times but ours was one of those nice little courses, nothing too violent just enough to get mildly excited. That was until we saw the Dr Jeckyl side of **'Mr Hyde'.** He introduced an obstacle which is just like running through your own grave except that you've got seven of your mates in there with you. Then there's grovelling along the ground under barbed wire, a devilishly designed bar jump and add to that everything they have on Krypton Factor and you have some idea, except that we seem to run the course from back to front. So your team of eight sets off with the idea of timing the fastest man home and the slowest and average out the time. Pride of place for the best solo run must go to **Sig Sam Sowerby** of J Tp. The team race proved to be a thriller with LAD beating F Tp for first place. The result was: 1st LAD REME; 2nd F Tp; 3rd A Tp; 4th J Tp.

And so to the end of an exciting Leicester Trophy Summer Season. The potted sports day has fallen by the wayside—that dreaded programme of events again. It is fitting that the assault course race should be the last event for it demonstrated the total commitment from everyone in each Tp to the idea of sport. The Leicester Trophy gives those who are not regimental gladiators a chance to compete and this season showed there is a tremendous competitive spirit running through the Regt.

The final positions in the Leicester Trophy competition are: 1st LAD REME—98 points; 2nd A Tp—74 points; 3rd F Tp/R Tp—68 points; 5th K Tp—62 points; 6th RHQ/J Tp—54 points; 8th M/T Tp—30 points

FAREWELL FROM CAPTAIN P. J. J. MASON REME

This is an opportune moment for me to say farewell to everyone in 16 Sig Regt after two wonderful years at Krefeld. Thank you to all the athletes male and female, all the cross country runners male and female, the badminton players, the squash players and the tennis players.

CANOEING 1982

The season started with three members of the team **Cpl Bob Story, LCpl Kenny Primrose** and **Sig Kev Potter** travelling to UK to represent the Army Team at the Inter-Service White Water Championships, on the river Nith at Sanguhaur Scotland. The Army team came second to the RAF.

The next major event was the BAOR Sprint and Marathon Championships held on the river Weser at Hameln. In the sprints on the Sat the team won all the novice events and the majority of the open events. On the Sun in the marathon, the team were first in all the individual classes. A fortnight later the team travelled to the UK to train at Monmouth, on the river Wye, for the Army Sprint and Marathon, team and individual championships. Once again the sprints were on the Sat and the team took all the first placings in all the senior C (novice) events and were placed in all senior B (intermediate) and senior A (open) events with the team winning the team championships by a wide points margin. On the Sun in the senior C events once again went to 16 Sigs paddlers with the exception of the K1 event. In the senior B our paddlers came second in K1 and first in K2 and in senior A **Cpl Bob Story** teamed up with **Sgt Steve Jackson** (10 Sig Regt) to win the senior A K2. 16 Sig Regt also won the marathon team trophy. As a result of these placings seven members of the team were selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Service Sprint and Marathon Championships. Those selected were **Cpls Bob Story, Mick Scott, Andy Trivett, Taff Williams, LCpls Kenny Primrose, Colin Dennis** and **Sig Kev Potter.**

The Inter-Service Marathon Championships were held on 10 Sept on the river Trent at Newark; all our paddlers excelled themselves, especially those who were novices at the beginning of the season. The Army winning the team championship; unfortunately the sprint events were not as successful although the Army won all the individual events with **Cpl Story** winning all his four events (with some help from his partners). The RAF were stronger in depth and won the team championship by a narrow margin.

In the divisional events the 16 Signals team were well to the fore in all classes and winning all the team events, once again the novice paddlers, **Cpls Mick Scott, Taff Williams, Sigs John Pallister** and **Carl Carr** winning nearly all the novice events. Meanwhile, **Cpl Kev Truby** was representing the Regt in the other discipline slalom doing well in the Army Championships and being selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Service Championships.

At the BAOR White Water Championships 4/5 Nov incorporating the BAOR v RAF G Championships, 16 Sig Regt A & B teams represented the BAOR team and came first and second thus winning the championships. Two weeks later at the Army White Water Championships 16 Signals A team came second and the B team came fifth out of a field of 80 teams.

Other paddlers not mentioned: **Sig Stickland, Sig Oliver** and **Sig Bauress.**

4 SQUADRON

The Sqn has had a busy time, with the autumn exercises keeping both the switchboard and the Commcen working hard. There have been quite a few changes in personnel recently, however. The new OC, **Maj Colin Rayner,** has settled in now. We have just said goodbye to **SSM Barbara Bloomfield** who is retiring to teach prisoners to be creative instead of misguided at Broadmoor. **SSM Phil Phillips** has been posted in to bring yet another breath of fresh air to the Sqn and is hounding the girls round the BFT already. Also new arrivals to the Sqn are **LCpl Fletch Fletcher, Ptes Alison Davis, Elaine Jackson, Marie Grant, Carol Shepherd, Heather Wright, Midge Souter** and **Tracey Hopwell. Sig Jeff Platt** and **Cpl Brian Pritchard** have gone to defend the Falklands and **Pte Ann Richards** is leaving the Army to start her family.

There have been three marriages in the Sqn and with a few more to go; it seems to be catching. **LCpl Dawn Webster** married **LCpl Leslie Carr** RCT, **LCpl Julie Butterfield** married **LCpl Alan Story** REME, and **LCpl Cheryl MGovern** married **Cpl Pete Jackson** R Signals.

Promotions have been in the offing too. **LCpl Jill Webb** was promoted Cpl and **Ptes Tracy Gardham** and **Alison Hickman** have been promoted LCpl.

The Sqn has been participating in the usual rounds of Coe Cup Sport, competing in orienteering, cross country and badminton. We haven't won anything yet but hope that our over-all score will help us to retain the trophy we won last winter.

To better our already good relations with the staff at HQ 1 (BR) Corps we have invited them down on a tour of our Commcen and Exchange. The visits have been organised to take place once a week and the response from the staff has been very good. Curiosity about the face behind the voice has brought in a few to see the telephone exchange. Hopefully they will be understanding if there are problems.

Nov saw the Sqn running the annual Military Training courses for the girls. They went through NBC, assault courses, map reading, shooting and weapon drills, first aid etc. It made a welcome change from routine.

The Sqn is now preparing for the usual round of Christmas activities. On the programme are ski trips, ice-skating, walks and visits, as well as the Sqn Christmas Party, to keep everyone amused.

Canoeing
The team with their trophies from the BAOR White Water Championships. *L to R:* CO Lt Col D. Hunt, Cpl Taff Williams, Sgt Kev Truby, Cpl Andy Trivett, Sig John Pallister, Cpl Bob Story, Cpl Mick Scott, Sig Carl Carr, LCpl Kenny Primrose and Maj Tony Gibb OIC Canoeing

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

BOXING

Since the Regiment's participation in last year's Novices Championships, it was decided to promote further interest in the sport. A semi-derelict building was eventually procured by **SSgt Pat Garrehy** and with a team of 'willing' volunteers from India (Chinook) Troop set to work with the 'Wimpey' spirit. The building was soon transformed into a workable 'Pugs' palace. The Beaufighter Boxing Club (BBC) was born and officially opened on 1 July.

The Club boasts a membership of 38 boxers from Army, RAF and Youth Club and with the aid of various grants, stocks all the necessary boxing equipment. The Regiment has recently represented the Station at the RAF inter-unit novice championships held at RAF Gutersloh and were very successful.

More recently, the unit took on 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) in the semi-final of the Rhine Area Novice Boxing championships, winning eight bouts to one. The team meet 16 Sig Regt in the final at Krefeld on 14 December.

LCpl Scotty Scot (L) evades a punch from Sig Lowe

RAF BRUGGEN FITNESS CUP

H Troop, our Airfield Signal Troop based at RAF Bruggen, recently took part in, and won the RAF Bruggen Fitness Cup. The Troop achieved a 100% pass in the fitness competition, a total of 26 teams consisting of 1140 men participated.

CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

With 9 new runners from the 10-man team that won the Rhine Area Cross-Country Championships for the Regiment last year, against all the odds, we retained the championships again this year. With 16 Sig Regt and 13 Sig Regt a very close second on their own course, it was a fantastic team effort.

Captain Tony Morgan OC H Troop, receiving the RAF Bruggen Fitness Cup from Wing Commander Edwards, acting Station Commander RAF Bruggen

DINING IN AND OUT OF RSMs

On the 19 Nov the Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs dined in **RSM Geoff Northey** and dined out **RSM Dave McGurk.** After an excellent dinner, chaired by **WO1 (FofS) Dick Offord, Dave McGurk** was duly marched away from the table by **Sgt Keith Dunn** (Mr Vice) and **SSgt Wyn Gordon** (PEC) to face punishment for a crime he had committed during dinner!

After being placed in stocks by the **PMC WO2 Les Collins,** he had to endure 30 minutes of torture which was inflicted by the way of coloured missiles (at DM2 a throw) thrown by the Senior NCOs of the Regiment. The entertainment for the rest of the evening went well and a good time was had by all.

The Senior NCOs wish **WO1 McGurk** and his wife **Sonya** the best of luck in their new unit 34 Sig Regt (V) and welcome **RSM Geoff Northey** and his wife **Pat** to 21 Sig Regt (AS).

RSM Dave McGurk receiving his farewell gift from WO1 (FofS) Dick Offord

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

VARIETY

The last few months have been busy ones for the Regiment, with the exercise season drawing to a close, a variety of interesting sporting events, visits and the preparation for the festive season. The regiment has had a certain amount of 'inner-turbulence' preparing for the arrival of Commcen Echo from 2 Div Sig Regt. The Commcen, under **Capt Alan Kite** will now become a permanent part of our own regiment and will be accommodated within Churchill Barracks.

1 AND 4 SQN

The regiment congratulates **Maj Nigel Cory** on his recent promotion and wishes him luck in his new post as OC 1 Sqn. **Maj Ian Noble** now takes over as OC 4 Sqn from **Maj David Collyer** who leaves in Dec to work in AG11 (hence the reason for all the free drinks he has recently been receiving!). **Lt Mike Gillyeat** stays in 4 Sqn but leaves K Troop to become the Sqn's new 2IC. **Lt Elaine Jackson WRAC** sadly bids farewell to 3 Sqn and G Troop and takes over as acting 2IC 1 Sqn while 'fearless' **Fred Laverick** is away in the Falklands. On his return she will take over A Troop the Commhead Troop in 1 Sqn.

3 SQN

3 Sqn have also had their fair share of movements and changes. In Nov **2Lt John Dakin** arrived fresh from Sandhurst to do a six month attachment prior to his 'Q' Course at Blandford. He recently took over G Troop from **Lt Elaine Jackson** and was welcomed by the Sqn with a lively and educational visit to Amsterdam. Sadly, G Troop, 3 Sqn and the regiment bid farewell to **Sgt 'Wacky' Jackie Snaith** who leaves the Army after 22 years in Jan 83. **Sgt Snaith** will be greatly missed by all for his hard work, his sporting attributes and his great sense of humour. However the Troop are relieved that they will be far removed from **'Wacky' Jackie's** left hook and his 10 mile punishment bashes! We welcome his replacement **Sgt John Armstrong** (yet another Geordie) and wish **Sgt Snaith** all the best for the future.

A WELCOME TO THE REGIMENT

For **Maj John Radford** who recently arrived from 13 Sig Regt to take up his new post as OC HQ Sqn Sept began with a most enjoyable Anglo-German event within the Regiment.

BRITISH ARMY, BUNDESWEHR AND POLIZEI 'SHOOT IT OUT'

Every year for the past nine years Lippstadt has been the venue for the Tripartite Shoot, a shooting competition between the Officers of 22 Sig Regt, Fernmeldebataillon 7 (the local German Signal Regiment) and the Lippstadt Polizei. This year the competition was hosted by 22 Sig Regt and a closely fought contest was won by the Fernmeldebataillon. Following the shoot the team members, 18 in all, and the remaining officers from the three units were entertained in the Officers Mess. Our photograph shows one of our Polizei friends being coached by **Cpl Rab Benson** of 4 Sqn, watched by a member of the Bundeswehr team. The competition is a number of annual events involving the British and German communities which colectively reflect the excellent relations between the British station and the people of Lippstadt.

One of our Polizei friends being coached by Cpl Rab Benson of 4 Sqn, watched by a member of the Bundeswehr team

FOOTBALL

The Regimental Football Team is well and truly stuck into what looks like being an enjoyable and successful season. They played against the Queen's Own Hussars in Oct who scored the only goal of the first half, but piled on the pressure during the second half and went on to win the match 4—2. The goals were scored by **Sig Jeff Jones** (two), **Sgts Mick O'Brien** and **Jeff Smith.**

The match played against 4 Div Regt RCT followed a similar pattern with the RCT scoring first, but goals by **Lt Peter Kingston** (two) and **Sig Jeff Jones** brought the score to 3—1 in our favour at half-time. The final score in a very exciting match was 3—2 for 22 Sig Regt.

VISIT OF TREVOR HOCKEY

Once more on the theme of football, 22 Sig Regt were recently very privileged to receive a visit from ex-Welsh international player **Trevor Hockey. Trevor,** who played 16 times for Wales and captained his country on several occasions, was touring BFG under the sponsorship of an Insurance Company. He came along to Lippstadt and spent much time coaching both the Regimental soccer team and youngsters from Lippstadt Primary School.

Trevor appeared to be extremely at ease with his budding young protégés. His ability to control and hold their attention for so long rendered all their teachers speechless! Apart from his coaching sessions, he took time out to chat and joke with the children. This gave our photographer the opportunity to take a 'team-shot' of **Trevor** with the lads, who are proudly wearing **Trevor's** collection of caps and jerseys. The Children had a thoroughly enjoyable time and left each training session with visions of becoming international superstars..

Trevor Hockey and the lads in Lippstadt, proudly displaying some of Trevor's international mementoes

2 SQN

Cries of 'Two Sqn—who and where are they?'—echoed around the Regt in Sept and Oct this year. They were nowhere to be seen in Churchill Barracks, but Commcen Sierra was established and working somewhere near Bielefeld. Here they were involved in a series of five exercises, *Vengeful Merlin, Cold Fire, Hazel Flute, Keystone/Logex* and *Quarter Final.* This kept them busy for two whole months, during which time they constantly saw units packing up to leave, while they were left behind to carry on communicating! The Regiment salutes **Maj David Lowe** and his trusty sqn for their gallant performance.

The Squadron spent the month of Nov, along with the remainder of the Regt busily preparing for CO's day.

They bid farewell to the 'Q' **SSgt Norm Whaley** and welcome his successor **SSgt Brian Cottam** to the appointment. Although he is an old face within the Squadron. The Sqn were relieved to see **Sgt Lennie** 'Wheelchair' **Rowland-Jones** back at work after a period of time spent in hospital. Apparently he had been suffering from serious back trouble—(does that mean he had spent too long on it during the exercises?). He returned to the Squadron declaring that he was fit for anything!

NEWS FROM THE LAD

In Nov **Maj Gen P. H. Lee CB MBE,** DGEME paid his farewell visit to the LAD detachment. The General spent most of his visit talking to the men of the LAD, who presented him with a fountain pen as a parting gift. The General kindly offered the Officers Mess some very sound engineering advice on how to rid the lawns of moles, who appear to be taking over!

Maj Gen Lee talking to Cfn Ian West *(left)* and Cfn Alan Harman *(right)* in the LAD workshop

BOXING

The finals of the Inter Sqn Boxing competition were once again the highlight of the sporting year.

Likely and unlikely combatants stepped into the floodlit area and were cheered and jeered along by those less willing or able to participate in such acts of controlled violence.

Older men remembered their bygone days of glory (true or fabricated) and the young were full of promises for next year. Many black eyes were proudly displayed around the Regt and we congratulate all who participated. The competition was finally won by 3 Sqn whose individual winners were: **Sig Mel Allen** (Feather Weight), **LCpl 'Woodie' Power** (Light Weight) and **LCpl Kenny Sappleton** (L Middle). 3 Sqn congratulated **Lt Mike Wise** on his performance in the final of the heavy weight contest. Unfortunately he lost to **Sig 'Psycho' David Cox** of 4 Sqn, but he was the only one daring (or mad) enough to take on the formidable **'Psycho'.**

The CO, Lt Col Peter Chaddock congratulates Sig 'Psycho' Cox on his performance, while Lt Mike Wise nurses his aching jaw!

CANINE BI-ATHLON

In Oct, the international Canine Biathlon took place at Sennelager. A party of men were provided by the Regiment to assist the Army Dog Training Unit with the preparation and administration of the event.

It was an occasion for dog handlers to demonstrate their own ability to command and control their dogs, and for the animals to show off their prowess and skill. The competition involved the dogs tackling a 5½ kilometre cross-country course, which was complete with obstacles including a range firing section. Each obstacle was manned by a member of the Regiment, who ensured that the dog and handler abided by the rules and negotiated the obstacle correctly and successfully. The results at each obstacle were passed to one of the PRC 349 radios which were spaced around the course. A continuous update of penalties, timings and results were being kept at a central control point.

One of the dog handlers and his dog negotiating one of the most difficult obstacles on the course

Much fun was had by all who attended the event. It was amusing to see the dog's response (or otherwise) to the handler's commands—eat your heart out **Barbara Woodhouse!** One fearsome looking 'war dog' was released to attack a fleeing target and on contact began to nuzzle it in a very friendly manner. All in all the event was a tremendous success and we look forward to next year's event—take note all you potential dog handlers, we would appreciate you in 22 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE 'SOUSMARINE TRIANGLE'
22 SIG REGT SUB-AQUA DIVING EXPEDITION

OC Expedition:	**Lt Colin McGory**
Members:	**SSgt (FofS) Graham Chaplin**
	Sgt Alec Carmichael
	Sgt Ian McCloud
	Cpl Dave Till
	Sig 'Boris' Keilty
Attachments	**WO2 John Norman** (Dive Supervisor)
	Sgt Bill Crook

On Wed 10 Nov, the Lippstadt Diving Club left Churchill Barracks and headed south for the sun. Their destination was a small fishing village named Cavalaire on the south coast of France. On the outward journey, **Sig 'Boris' Keilty** finally discovered what the clutch was used for and **Cpl Dave Till** became a master of roadside repairs. After a memorable 28 hours driving the team finally arrived in Cavalaire ready to embark upon some dangerous and exciting deep-sea diving missions.

The first day of the expedition was spent at the local diving school where the team were given some useful hints, warned of the dangers of the local waters and told of the 'treasures' that lay below the mysterious deep. The director of the school took this opportunity to introduce the team to the delights of the local drink—Pastis—much to the regret of most of the divers and of **FofS Graham Chaplin** in particular!

The diving proved to be every bit as exciting as the team had hoped. Superb sub-aqua pinnacles and ship-wrecks. The weather was sunny and mild and the water warm and clear and just as spectacular as portrayals by Jacques Cousteau.

The night-life of Cavalaire was relatively quiet as the summer season had ended and our expedition members assure us that they retired to bed early most nights. Entertainment was generally provided by the new-found cabaret stars: **Lt Colin McGrory** and **WO2 John Norman** who invented the 'Fin-Dance' which astounded and delighted the locals. **Sgt Alec Carmichael** became master of the 'crawl' and drew

much attention and amusement as the people of Cavalaire thought they had spotted a strange sea monster. Overall the expedition was a huge success and all members gained invaluable experience in advanced diving techniques.

Lt Colin McGrory and expedition members aboard the *Espadon*, leaving the harbour of Cavalaire-Sur-Mer in preparation for a dive

ROYAL SIGNALS MARATHON

On the 27 Nov a team of runners consisting of **Capt Bryan Lawry, WO1 Eric Rose, WO2 Bill White, SSgt Gerry Hegarty, Sgts Jimmy Saveall, Chippy Wood, Cpls Wayne Ratcliffe, Gordon Whale, Paul Eyre, Tom Benson, Dave Gay, LCpl Nick Bell, Sig Paddy Morrow** and **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft** left Lippstadt to compete in the 1st R Signals marathon to be held in Verden Garrison. The race started at 1100 in near perfect conditions, the thought uppermost in the runners' minds, to complete the marathon. The result of the race was beyond our expectations in that the regiment gained success by **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** taking 2nd overall position in a time of 2hrs 30mins 48secs and by the team winning the following prizes: 1st Overall Team, 1st R Signals Team and 1st Chain of Command Team. All runners completed the course including **Richard Wood** (14 yrs) son of **Sgt Chippy Wood** who was first youth home in a time of 3hrs 4mins.

22 Signal Regiment marathon runners proudly display their medals and trophies won at the Verden Marathon

PAGE TROPHY—INTER SQN CROSS-COUNTRY

On the afternoon of Fri 5 Nov, the regiment congregated in the Eringerfeld Forest for the annual inter squadron cross-country which was the first event in this year's Winter Page Trophy Competition. A very devious course was planned by **WO2 (QMSI) 'Chalky' White** and many runners complained about lack of grip on sharp corners (advice from the paddock suggests a change of tread for next year).

The spectators were rewarded after a long, cold wait, by the refreshing sight of **LCpl Tim Edwards** of HQ Sqn 'yomping' in at a fair old pace after completing the course in an amazing time. He looked like a cross between the Bionic Man in overdrive and **Sebastian Coe** on his lap of honour. In second place closely behind **LCpl Edwards** was **Sig Shaun Hogton.** The remainder of the runners followed in hot pursuit though facial expressions varied from tough determination at the front to sheer exhaustion at the rear. One certain officer, a **Capt Alistair Harrison** was heard uttering complaints about the choice of date for the venue—only a few hours after a Regimental dinner. He eventually arrived at the finish to witness cracks from the organizers about timing his run with a calendar rather than a stop-watch and to discover that most of the spectators had left and gone home.

The CO presents the individual prize to LCpl Tim Edwards in the Page Trophy Cross-Country Competition. The RSM, Fred Bancroft *(right)* looks on enviously

4 Sqn were the victors of the day and picked up many valuable points which gave them a good lead in the competition so far. The CO **Lt Col Peter Chaddock** presented prizes to **LCpl Tim Edwards** as individual winner and to 4 Sqn as team winner.

INTER SQN ORIENTEERING COMPETITION

The Regiment met once again on 24 Nov, this time at the Barenberg feature for the next leg of the Page Trophy. **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft** laid out what he described as an 'interesting' course—which wasn't exactly how the runners described it later! The first problem was locating the car-park and despite protestations to the organizers, no bonus points were awarded for arriving on time. Since the RSM was the organizer, it seemed appropriate that the conditions were cold, windy and wet and no-one seemed particularly keen to leave their warm cars to begin the competition.

Finally, after threats of having to run the course twice were made, all runners started, with the exception of one car-load who were still touring Gütersloh at the time! The Barenberg has only two hills on it but the RSM had cleverly arranged the course so that runners were repeatedly running up and down the two hills and crossing numerous 'streams'. Some competitors complained that markers were difficult to find (was it really necessary to have to stand in a stream to stamp your card?).

Eventually all runners found their way to the finish though the deviousness of the route was obvious by the large number of competitors who were disqualified. There were also a few worried faces when some of the local German Bundeswehr never re-appeared after the start. We think that they may still be out there somewhere!

4 Sqn were again the victors of the day though the personal challenge between OCs 3 and 4 Sqns was won by OC 3 giving 3 Sqn some consolation. Again the prize for the individual winner **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** and for the winning Sqn was presented by **Lt Col Peter Chaddock.**

1982 DRAWS TO A CLOSE

We look back on a busy and successful year. We welcome Commcen Echo into our midst and bid farewell to our Regimental Skiing Teams who have left now to begin their training as the skiing season is now here. We look forward with anticipation to another exciting year ahead.

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

COMMANDER VISITS

The Annual Report of the Unit (ARU) took place on 18 Nov. The Comd Rhine Area, **Brig G. D. J. R. Russell CBE** inspected the Regt as the culmination of nineteen visits and inspections by his staff.

The Comd Rhine Area decided to test our military fitness skills on his visit and to satisfy this directive a competitive training programme was devised by our Training Major, **Maj Brian Robinson.** The whole Regt found themselves either members of 15 men squads or, the lucky few, members of the directing staff.

There's nothing in there honest Guv! The Brigadier and the Comd look on as SSgt FofS Stan Grimmitt checks a suspicious looking SSgt Barrie Pottinger's vehicle at a VCP

A COVETED PRIZE

The squads went through one of three series of tests covering, tactics, NBC, First Aid, Initiative, Skill at Arms, Basic Fitness, Kit Checks and Section Battle Drills. To prevent any cheating or possible packing the Brigadier assigned the squads to one of three streams once he had been briefed on the day's activities. Members of his own staff assessed the directing staff and the tasks so even the testers were being tested. All in all it was a hectic and rather damp day but the general concensus was that, if it was not exactly fun, it was at least enjoyable and interesting. The command tasks proved that we have one or two contenders for the Krypton Factor and, surprise, surprise, the best solution is not always that of the most senior rank present. The vehicle security stand was a great success with those who spent much of their youth playing hunt the thimble given the chance to show their talents. The photographs show just some of the day's activities. At the end of the day the points amassed by the Sqn teams showed 2 Sqn as the winners of the coveted prize—a day off.

We've got to stop meeting like this, somebody will get suspicious. NBC IA drills

This could be the last escape committee meeting! PTI Sig Taff Morgan leads a BFT squad

VISIT OF BATTLE AXE TROOP

Our affiliated troop from the Junior Regiment at Ouston came to stay at Francisca Barracks during their half term 20-25 Oct. Commanded by **Lt Bob Etherton** the thirty members of the troop enjoyed their visit enormously. Their programme included a familiarisation tour, a trip to Cologne and a visit to the Philips Museum at Eindhoven. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the day spent on a battle field tour at Arnhem including a guided tour of the Airborne Museum. **WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton** was not even a glimmer in anyone's eye in 1944 but as an airborne warrior of old he was able to pass on his thorough knowledge of this epic campaign, and a background to the Airborne Forces. The whole visit was a great success and gave meaning to the close association between Battle Axe Troop and 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG). If you believe the picture it shows members of Battleaxe Tp assisting TROPO Tp with their antenna erection.

Battle Axe Troop of the Junior Signalman Regt assist Tropospheric Scatter Tp of 28 Sig Regt with antenna errection!

ANGLO-GERMAN SEMINAR

Our photo shows **WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton** (third from left) of 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and in there somewhere. **SSgt Colin Ager** of 21 Sig Regt.

The 13th Partnership Seminar, which brought together 24 WOs and SNCOs of the British Army and RAF and Bundeswehr was held at the Centrum Junere Fülerung (Centre for Junior Leadership) at Lalusstein near Koblenz.

The joining instructions contained the information that 'The main purpose will not be the conveyance of knowledge, but a meeting

Anglo-German Seminar, WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton, third from the left and somewhere in there SSgt Colin Ager of 21 Sig Regt (AS)

between military personnel of friendly nations.' Although that sounded a bit heavy, the evening programme on day one included 'an introduction to German wines and wine-tasting', and that interesting mixture of theory and practice set the tone for the rest of the week.

The British contingent of 12 varied from an RAF Police WO to an RCT Tp Sgt and included the two Corps members shown in the photograph.

Topics of mutual interest, concerning leadership, constitutional principles, motivation of the young soldier and the Armed Forces in society today, were all discussed at much length. Simultaneous translation was of tremendous assistance in the mainly serious discussions during the day. At night the talk ranged into more relaxed and liquidly assisted field where pidgin Anglo-German was quite sufficient. The properly conducted wine-tasting improved our style, if not our capacity, for the 'cheeky little bouquets' of the Rhein wines available.

MUTUAL RESPECT

A great deal of time was spent discussing the obvious differences between the regular (British) Forces and the mainly conscript (German) Forces. We know their way of the soldier as a citizen in uniform, but they also admire much of ours.

It was an interesting and illuminating week, when many friendships were made, Anglo-German Partnershäft blossomed and a better understanding of our NATO allies was fostered. It also showed that British WOs may suffer in a similar fashion to German Feldwebels, 'cheeky little bouquets' or not.

EASY WITH PRACTICE

Ex *Grape Pick 82* took place in the Bernkastel area of the beautiful Mösel Valley in Oct, with some 150 soldiers from BAOR (including **Cpl John Leask, LCpls Geoff Lax, Marve Marvin, Sigs Stuart Keen, Paul Gillham**) helping the local population with the annual grape harvest.

As far as we were concerned the exercise title Grape Carry 82 would have been more accurate, as the actual picking of the grapes is done by the local women and children. The soldiers were used to carry the baskets of picked grapes down from the Weinbergs (mountains). Each basket weighed between 80 and 100lbs and in a normal working day we made the round trip about 30 times. As you can well imagine this proved to be very hard work but, as with all things, it became easier with practice.

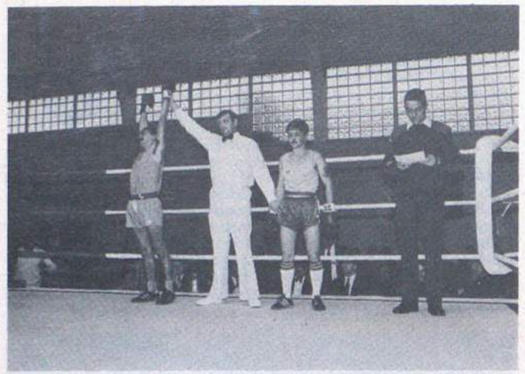
WORKING HOLIDAY

Whilst on the exercise we lived with German families and were fully accepted into the local community. This was a tremendous opportunity to sample the German way of life and to learn or improve our German speaking. During our stay, we were given the opportunity to discover how the Mösel Wine is made and some of the secrets which go into the different grading of wine. Needless to say this included a certain amount of sampling.

Everyone who took part this year thoroughly enjoyed it and it is recommended as a worthwhile working holiday to all members of the Corps in Germany.

SPIRITED CONTEST FOR NOVICES

The first leg of the Rhine Area Novices Boxing semi-finals were held at Bradbury Barracks in early Nov when we had a spirited and interesting contest with 21 Sig Regt (AS). **Sig Dave Watkins** led off the contest by winning the bantam weight bout by a unanimous decision. Unfortunately this was the only decision given in our favour and the remainder of the bouts, although contended with aggression and courage, were awarded to the boxing skills of our opponents. Congratulations to 21 Sig Regt (AS) who go forward to box 16 Sig Regt in the Rhine Area Finals.



Sig Dave Watkins, triumphant over Sig Simpson of 21 Sig Regt (AS)

THE REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING

The tradition of the Commanding Officer and the youngest soldier in the Regiment mixing the Christmas Pudding was carried out on 25 Nov. Technical assistance was given by Commander Catering HQ BAOR, **Col R. N. Maddy,** who visited the Regiment to see how well our cooks were doing.

Col Maddy, Capt Eddie Kellett, Sig Andy Hall and Lt Col Belton 'Hubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble'

Having got most of the cooks under the same roof it seemed a good opportunity to have a group photograph. The whole Regiment thanks them for excellent service during 1982 and particularly for the delicious meals prepared for the troop and squadron Christmas parties.

Left to right: Ptes George Babb, Smilie Smith (Gums), Sgt Dave Taylor, Pte Wriggly Wrigglesworth, Capt Eddie Kellett, Sgt Gordon Sinnott, Pte Lightning Reid, LCpl Chalky White, Cpls Marcel Bossier (Belgian Army), Jeff Jeffrey

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

WELCOME BACK!

We are all pleased to welcome home more members of the Regiment's contribution to the Task Force and to the CO, **Lt Col Roger Thompson** back in the driving seat after his break in the Falklands!

3 Sqn now have their OC, **Maj Nigel Fairley** back after his experiences as OC 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) and they are also giving sighs of relief now that more of their technicians have returned. **Cpls Paul John, Dave Hunt, 'Jock' McLaughlan, Dave England** and **LCpl Rick Dent** returned to find that the Sqn had saved plenty of C50s and associated kit for them to repair after their holiday waiting for TRIFFIDs to blow fuses. Rumours that they will have to do a refresher course in steam powered electronics are naturally unfounded.

Refreshed by their luxury cruise on the *QE2* are **Sigs 'Scouse' Holden, Andrew Rushton** and **Steven Burns** who, after travelling diverse routes via small grey ships, mountain tops and other obstacles, re-grouped in the Falklands Commcen before returning together in mid-Nov to swap the South Atlantic winter for the British version. **Sig Burns** enjoyed the distinction of being the youngest member of the Regt in the Task Force and the experience does not seem to have aged him too badly.

The only two to have returned with suntans, much to the envy of the rest of us, were **Sigs 'Gaz' Blight** and **Gerry 'Prof' Newsome** who provided sterling service at the 'bottle-neck' of Ascension Island where they ran the gauntlet of fork-lift trucks, busily loading the ever-increasing piles of equipment on to aircraft destined for colder climes and intent on including our sunbathing duo with them.

Two lads who must be especially glad to have returned are **LCpl Alan Newton** and **Sig 'Nobby' Clarke,** both of whom married within a week or two of heading south on the MV *St Edmund* to provide power for all and sundry. **Sig Clarke** is rumoured to have developed a habit of discovering pot-holes with his land rover and we hope that he has got it out of his system now he is back.

THE VOYAGER

Last but certainly not least is **LCpl Sid Holderness** who was originally another voyager on the *QE2* (after sampling the delights of RAF airline travel as far as Ascension). Not satisfied with the services of Cunard he elected to transfer his allegiance to P&O and embarked upon the SS *Canberra* at South Georgia only to find, after a short while, his ticket invalid and himself travelling steerage on HMS *Fearless*. Deciding to give the nautical life a rest **LCpl Holderness** set foot on 'terra firma' at the Tac HQ at Fitzroy where he remained until the 'Argies' called it a day and surrendered. Being of a contemplative disposition he then volunteered to help man the 'rebro' on Mount Bombilla until his itinerant nature re-asserted itself and he volunteered (again!) to partake of the bracing sea air en route for South Georgia (again!). Unfortunately no one thought fit to inform **LCpl Holderness** that the next boat back would be a long time coming and, unless he has hitched a lift with a passing scrap-metal dealer, he is still there. God willing and the RAF being able to find an aeroplane with all its propellers still attached, we should be seeing our wandering friend in early Dec.

1 SQN—ROUND UP

With the South Atlantic now settled down the majority of the Sqn have returned to the fold. The past few months have been spent checking out equipment for future deployments and practising for BFTs. It is with great delight that we announce the Sqn clerk **Cpl Dave Ellis** is no longer a member of the remedial squad. He can now participate with the rest of the Sqn on Fridays 'Cardiac Hour', as so kindly organised by the RSM.

What do you call three Yeoman? The Sqn is currently the proud employers of three. The formation of Yoetroop was in the offing but unfortunately **SSgt (YofS) Dave Wright** will be leaving us in the New Year on posting to 7 Sig Regt so we take this opportunity to say farewell to **Dave** and his wife **Jan** and thank him for all his hard work and effort. Good luck in Herford.

The OC **Maj Tony Sugdon** has found the answer to people rooting through his office when he is not there. By training his dog 'Nelson' to bark and growl whenever anybody knocks, ensures that the files for 'circulation' remain under the guard of 'Nelson' and Troop Commanders have plenty of spare time. Well done 'Nelson', keep up the good work.

LIGHT RADIO TROOP—EX 'NIMBLE FINGER'

It was decided by the higher authority within Light Radio Troop that we needed to do a map-reading exercise, as a kind of relaxation day, being as we seem to spend most days of the week panting for breath on the airfield (not a windsock or control tower in sight!).

OC LRT (**Capt Thomas**), said to the corporals of the troop: 'We are going to do a map-reading exercise, so get it organised!'. The corporals 'volunteered' to do this were: **LCpl Lance Thornton-Granville (T. G.), Cpl Bob Dobson** and **Cpl Gaz Burton.** We decided that the walk would take place in the beautiful?? Dorset countryside west of Blandford Camp. The total walk was about eight miles as the crow flies, but soldiers on foot don't go as the crow flies and most of the teams walked around 10-12 miles!

The start was at a small farm in Melcombe Bingham with a halfway checkpoint at Piddletrenthide (try saying that after a few beers!). The finish point was set up in the 'Smallest Pub in England', namely 'The Smiths Arms' in Godmanstone, (advertising, thanks for the free beer!). Of course the finish point went down well with the troop and provided a good incentive to get round before closing time. As I have already said the aim was to practice map-reading but surprise, surprise?! **Sgt Bill Kelly** was leaving the troop for a new posting and we had to have farewell drinks somewhere didn't we?! With all the arrangements with the proprietor of the Smith Arms complete, and clearance from the local farmers we were all set to go.

On a damp and rainy Friday morning we climbed into a Bedford, raring to go (all this enthusiasm, could it have something to do with the finish point?). After a ¾ hour drive we arrived at the start point. The troop were split up into teams of two to three men with a Signalman in charge (power!). There were five teams in all and they set off at intervals of five minutes. Full of reminders of the country code and warnings of 'Keep Out of the Pig Farm!' and 'Beware of the Cow with Horns' we set off. Thankfully the rain stopped just before the first group left.

An hour later the groups were passing through the middle checkpoint muddy but cheerful. No casualties and everyone heading for the final checkpoint with a gleam in their eyes and a dry throat.

While the troop were plodding through muddy fields and some even stopping at the local Post Office for a snack before venturing where no man has set foot for a long time. **Cpl Burton, LCpl Thornton-Granville** and **Cpl Dobson** were already at the Smiths Arms (more advertising revenue!!) preparing for the arrival of the first group!

Two hours after the first group had left the start point **Capt Thomas'** group led by **Sig Alf Kirkham** had arrived. After cleaning off their boots a well deserved drink was waiting for them. Whilst the rest of the group were arriving a phone call came in saying that **Sgt Bill Kelly** had had his windscreen smashed in Southampton! All too soon it was time to leave the Devonish beer and head back to Blandford. All in all the whole day went down well and hopefully all involved had a good day out.

HEAVY RADIO TROOP

Once again Nov has been a busy time for the troop with plenty of comings and goings, one notable happening has been the departure of **Lt George Howson.** We wish him every success in civilian life. Filling his chair now is **SSgt (YofS) Alf Thomas** fresh from his six month tour on Ascension Island.

Nov has seen the troop on Ex *Dyers Penn V* which is a Regimental practice in UKMF(L) Comms in a tactical setting. Initial deployment was shrouded in secrecy but we soon found ourselves wedged into a wood on Salisbury Plain, for any of the 'old school' who can remember Carter Barracks at Bulford, this was the venue.

Our task as a Contingency Rear Link (HF) was to establish a DCN circuit into Gibraltar and so extend an arm of the network into a tactical mobile setting. D13/RA1772 was the equipment used for the task but we are now looking forward to operating with the D13 replacement, to be known as the TRC521.

Next year promises to be as busy as this one with exercises in various parts of the world!

2 SQN REPORT

It has been a very busy year for 2 Sqn with a number deployed to the Falklands, but now almost everybody is back and the Sqn is beginning

to recover. Sadly 2 Sqn has had to say goodbye to **Maj Keith Butler,** who was posted to 5 Bde during the Falklands campaign, and we welcome in his place, **Maj Roland Ebdon,** who joined us in Dec. It is a fairly safe bet that both he and his wife **Rossamund,** can look forward to a very interesting tour with the Sqn, as we have a very full programme for next year, with several overseas exercises well into the planning stages.

SUNNY KENYA

This year Ex *Grand Prix* saw a party from 2 Sqn, expertly organised by **WO2 (YofS) Pete Baron,** leave 30 Sig Regt on a dismal Oct day bound for the sunnier climes of Kenya. The detachment joined up with the advance party of the 1 Battalion The Devon and Dorsets and together they left Brize Norton aboard a luxury VC10, Nairobi bound. It was quite a long haul to the Equator with just one short stop for fuel at Palermo but it was all worthwhile when the VC10 touched down at Nairobi International to be greeted by brilliant sunshine.

After the inevitable transport delay the party made its way to Kahawa and the British Army Training Liaison Staff, Kenya (BATLSK)—here the work really began with the daunting task of loading, checking and signing for all the stores and vehicles. A convoy eventually wound its way north to Nanyuki, less one 30 Sig Regt land rover under the command of **Sig 'Rocker' Bolan,** who was left to help with the establishing of a detachment at Kahawa.

Once at Nanyuki 'E' hour arrived quickly, and communications came in within 45 minutes, thus the effort of erecting an 80 foot mast and a marquee by the light of headlamps was rewarded and all other minor problems faded into insignificance. On the exercise the evenings were not heralded by the more traditional bugle, but by the swirl of bagpipes from **Capt Ewen Cameron (late R Signals),** the Paymaster of 1 D and D.

A LOOK AT OTHER THINGS

Once a good operating routine was established, the detachment had a chance to look at other things going on during the exercise. From the location of the Nanyuki showground, a walled stockade to the north of the town itself, we had a chance to visit the Equator (literally) and a bazaar. The detachment also had a quick 24 hour visit to 'The Ark', an hotel overlooking a waterhole right in the middle of a Game Reserve in the Aberdare Mountains. At this stage half of the party returned home (this time aboard a less comfortable Hercules), leaving the 'workers' led by **Cpl Mick Ingram,** to return with the 1 D and D at the beginning of Dec.

C TROOP

EX 'NORTHERN WEDDING'

Ex *Northern Wedding* was the first of a series of exercises which C Tp of 2 Sqn were involved in during Sept and Oct in BAOR. It was a joint NATO exercise although C Tp was the only British Signal unit involved. Commanded by **SSgt Al Franklin,** C Tp proceeded to give the American Marine Corps the runaround for a week. The exercise ended with the Tp sitting in the middle of the final battle disguised as umpires and trying to look innocent.

SPORT

Whilst in BAOR the Troop were challenged to football matches twice, the first being J Tp 14 Sig Regt who were beaten by C Tp by 9 goals to one—five of these goals being scored by **Sig Ginty.**

After seven tiring weeks (having not only been involved in *Northern Wedding* but also in Ex *Bold Guard, Keystone Logex* and *Quarter Final*), C Tp returned to a joyous reception in the UK in the form of a BFT.

HF TROOP

After very full and interesting tours with the Regiment, **Sigs Ian Crowther** and **Neil Humphreys** have left us to go and try their hand in civvy street. Between them they've managed to get to Kenya, Belize, Rhodesia, Norway and, of course, the Falklands. They both did an excellent job wherever they were and will be sadly missed by all who knew and worked with them. Another flobe-trotter to leave this month is **Cpl Geordie Thompson,** who leaves us to go to 602 Signal Troop. On the welcming side, we say hello to **LCpl Neil Coatsworth** and his wife, **Deborah,** and can promise them an interesting tour here.

Congratulations to **Sig Paul Williams** on passing his APTI course, and achieving a very high grade. He is now working in the Gym and taking great pleasure in beating us all round our BFTs.

On the exercise front, all has been relatively quiet since our return from *Dyers Penn* last month. We only have one detachment deployed at the moment, they are in Kenya. We are looking forward to next year, with the prospect of more work in Kenya, a three month job in Norway with the Royal Marines, an exercise in Belize, plus one or two other little oddities which keep cropping up from time to time.

Ex *Dyers Penn*—'One more criticism and I'll shoot you!' OC 3 Sqn Capt Jane Stockdale discussing the exercise with Ops Officer Maj Dick Hood

Sig Robert McCombe hard at work communicating with Gibraltar from a wood on Salisbury Plain

Sig Peter Wareing 'Ready for Anything'

34 Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

LOOKING NORTH

Report by Capt Ted Ault Royal Signals (V) 50th (N) Signal Squadron (V)

Since it is some two years now since the Regiment permitted its most northerly based Squadron to appear in print, and allowing for the fact that I have only recently transferred back to the Corps, I feel honoured (or at least I think that's what the CO said I would feel) to be able to prepare the Regiments contribution to the Wire. As I stumble for suitable words I trust that regular readers will not compare my humble efforts with those of our usual scribe, the **Rev Alan Hughes,** (His followers will be pleased to learn that he will be back early in the New Year) and will forgive me if I slant my jottings sometimes towards 50 Sig Sqn.

AT THE TOP

OC	**Capt Charles Bland** TD R Signals (V)
2IC	**Capt Ted Ault** TD R Signals (V)
Admin Officer:	**Maj Andy Bell** R Signals (V)
OC E Troop	**Lt Mary Corbett** WRAC (V)
OC F Troop	**Capt Caroline Thwaites** WRAC (V)
OC G Troop	**Capt Peter Woodhead** R Signals (V)
SSM	**WO2 Tony Gallagher**
SQMS	**Sgt Mick McMain**

In June **Capt Charles Bland** assumed command of 50 Sig Sqn replacing **Maj John Douglas** who is spending 12 months on the unposted list working for his firm in South Africa (some people will do anything to get out of Annual Camp!). **Maj Andy Bell** has settled in well as the Sqn's Admin Officer; his predecessor **Maj Ted Tunstall** still calls in to offer friendly advice. **Lt William Brown** (until recently OC H Tp) has now completed his university studies and defected to 36 Sig Regt and **Capt Caroline Catcheside** has married **Lt Paul Thwaites** (a regular Royal Signals' officer) and moved to Ouston (you lucky Junior Leaders!). Some things remain constant, happily, and **Capt Peter Woodhead** continues to hold Gateshead in check, as does **SSM Tony Gallagher** the whole of the Sqn. During the year **Lt Mary Corbett** joined us on loan from Leeds and has made such a success of her stay that we have decided to keep her (sorry 49 Sqn).

ANNUAL CAMP

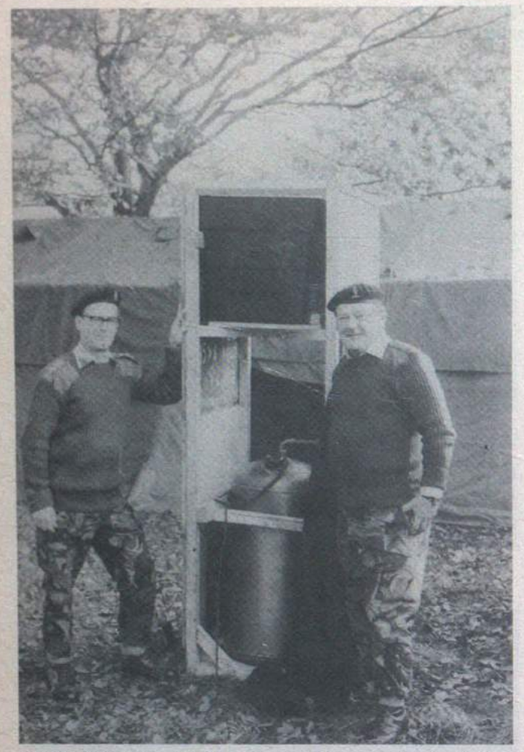
The highlight of any TA Regiment's year has got to be annual camp, especially when Germany is the selected venue. This year proved to be no exception although the last week in Oct and first in Nov are curious dates to select for what is universally known as 'Summer Camp'. This year, however, and despite PSI **Ray Back's** predictions to the contrary, West Germany enjoyed splendid autumn weather which proved that the CO, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker** and the outgoing Training Major, **Maj Peter Todd,** had done their homework (the padre can't take the credit for everything). The Regiment moved from its respective TA Centres on 23 Oct and, after uneventful journeys, some 439 officers and soldiers concentrated their collective minds on establishing communications in the RCZ in support of Exercise *Jog Trot.* The exercise went well, so much so that **Sgt Charlie Gardiner** found time to climb a 60-foot chimney to adjust his TV aerial. What goes up, as they say, must come down and sadly his efforts came to nought when he discovered that the BFBS programmes he so eagerly sought had all been shown in the two weeks prior to his departure from the UK. The end of *Jog Trot* (and our first week in BAOR) saw the start of a Regimental FTX, Exercise *Fast Gallop.* In the time it took the Regiment to redeploy to new locations **Capts Phillip** and **Paddy Walker** took time off for a half hour flight over Krefeld. The pilot of the aircraft has asked not to be mentioned in case he has to leave the Chaplains' Department but suffice to say that the **Walker** brothers upon landing asked to be moved to the sea party for the journey home.

VISITORS

During camp we had visits from Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Hild,** our Bde Comd and his Deputy, **Brig John Burrows** and **Col Bill Foster,** and our Hon Col, **Col Michael Stewart.** It was a great pleasure to see them during their respective visits.

SSM Dick Grainge 'Germany Calling'

Cpl Ken Johnson and Sgt Ronnie Nelson cooking chips in Suchteln Woods. They have shared 20 Annual Camps and Ken has now attended 29 Camps



Col Mike Stewart and Maj David Lycett-Gregson admiring 49 Sqn hot water system at the height of Ex *Fast Gallop*—in the words, indeed name of the OC, things were really Ruff

Group of 8 members of 49 Sqn from Leeds with Capt Angus Turner

Top to bottom: Sgt Gaynor Vance Ruthven, Pte Janet Clarkson, LCpl Suzanne Winters on steps of their mobile radio station

BACK TO THE UK

On the 5 Nov the Regiment moved back to the UK. The air party managed to spend 10 hours waiting for fog to lift at Wildenrath and thus enjoyed an overnight stay at Brize Norton when they eventually landed. **RSM Peter Skinner** led the road party back aided by our TA MTWO **WO2 Dave Sparks.** Both parties were reunited with their families by the evening of the 6 Nov and despite commendable attempts to miss the boat at Europort **Maj Dia Rees** led the rear party home a week later. The photographs of our happenings in BAOR, hopefully, faithfully record the pleasant and successful camp we had.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome to the Regt **Maj Sid Falla** as Training Major, **WO1 Dave McGurk** as MTWO, **SSgt (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** and **Cpl Michael McConaghy.** Sadly we say farewell and thank you to **Maj Peter Todd, WO1 Brian Davies** (who we wish success in a second career), **Foreman Ken Perry** and **Sgt Harry Ridley.**

One In one Out—Trg Major before and after. Maj Peter Todd and Maj Sid Falla

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

45 SIG SQN (V)—BAOR CAMP 1982

Confucious says 'a picture tells a thousand words' so our photos of 45 Sig Sqn (V) say it all!

Pte Karen Chamberlain (DTG), Sig Gary Oliver—'Sampling our culinary delights'

LCpl Kevin Groves—'Getting through yet again'

Sig Dave Treadwell and Sig Dave Sayer on *Fast Gallop*

Radio Det moving from Munster

2Lt Colin Dyball

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CHANGES AT RHQ

We were very sorry to say goodbye to **Maj Nick Bradley** in December. He had served in the Regiment and its predecessors for 23 years, most recently as second-in-command. He is succeeded by **Maj Nick Henwood. Maj David Smith** has taken command of 93 Sig Sqn.

VISIT OF COMMANDER, NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Maj Gen W. M. E. Hicks CB, OBE presented a record number of Territorial Efficiency Medals (for one squadron) when he visited 93 Sqn at Blackburn on 16 Nov. With over 72 years of service being rewarded, the recipients were: **Mr** (formerly **SSgt**) **John Wilson,** who retired in April, having qualified for both the previous and current medals, and **Sgts George Mortimer, Stephen Holgate, Glynnis Mann WRAC, Eric Noden** and **Alan Murphy.** The presentation marked the recognition of the founders of the Squadron who have now completed twelve years of service.

The picture shows some were happier about the occasion than others!

Awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal: *(left to right)* Mr John Wilson, Sgts George Mortimer, Stephen Holgate, Glynnis Mann, Eric Noden and Alan Murphy

VERDEN MARATHON, NOVEMBER

We have 'done' marathon before—but not on a weekend trip to Germany. The Colonel said it could be done— and he was right! Led by **Maj Terry Lea** (with administrative coaching from **Maj Stuart Cottage**) our team was: **Capt Ruth Dorries, Cpls Sam Abdulhussein,** and **Mick Hinchcliffe (ACC), LCpl Mark Gardner** and **Sigs Neil Vertue** and **Tony Hindmarsh.**

They went the long way (via Harwich) but arrived in time to undertake essential shopping for the MTWO (lambswool paint roller!) and for 64 Sqn Administrative Officer **Capt Johnny Johnson** (fishing platform—whatever that is!).

Thoughts of Hamburg put on one side, the team had an early night before the start in the Berliner Ring Stadium on the Saturday morning. **Cpl Mick Hinchcliffe** injured himself during the boat crossing (while sober, he says) but started nevertheless.

The Regiment claims a first by virtue of the results. We were the only TA Regiment to enter a full team; all runners finished the marathon and achieved much personal satisfaction. **Capt Ruth Dorries** came in 2nd Individual Lady Runner (it is said she fancied the jogging suit prize or would have been first!). **Cpl Sam Abdulhussein** finished his first marathon and **Maj Terry Lea** chalked up a personal best time.

To mark their success, **Lt Col Mike Vann** was presented with a knitted Busby (BT type)—a strange gift but sufficiently popular for its hat to go AWOL immediately (seen anyone with a size 4¾ head?).

Checking the shortest route from Sheffield to Verden *(l to r)* Maj Stuart Cottage, Cpl Sam Abdulhussein, Sig Tony Hindmarsh, Capt Ruth Dorries and Cpl Mick Hinchcliffe. Lt Col Mike Vann wonders why they are not running all the way

POSTSCRIPT

Apparently undeterred by Verden, **Maj Terry Lea** and **Capt Ruth Dorries** chose the next weekend to be married. We wish them every happiness for the future.

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40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

WREATH LAYING AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE YPRES, BELGIUM 5 NOVEMBER

During annual camp in Belgium a party of 43 members of the Regt, men and women, paid a visit to Ypres (Wipers), so well remembered by Ulster soldiers who served in France and Belgium in the Great War 1914-1918.

At the now famous Menin Gate, upon the walls of which are inscribed the names of nearly 55,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, including many who served with the Irish Regts who have no known graves, a wreath laying ceremony took place. The Padre of the Regt, **Maj E. R. Lavery** made a short address and prayer, Belgian buglers who by tradition sound the last post every night of the year at eight pm at the Menin Gate, sounded the last post and reveille, after which a wreath was laid on behalf of the CO and all ranks of 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) by the 2IC of the Regt, **Maj J. A. H. Scott.** Wreaths were also laid by **Maj F. C. McMahon,** on behalf of **Maj Gen H. E. N. Bredin,** Colonel of the Regiment and all ranks of the Royal Irish Rangers in remembrance of the fallen of all the Irish Regts, by **SSgt C. Spence,** WRAC(V) on behalf of the R Signals Association (N Ireland), and by **SSM W. Woodrow** on behalf of the Parachute Regiment Association, N Ireland. After the ceremony the Regimental party marched from the Menin Gate to St George's Memorial Church for a service of remembrance.

The salute on march past was taken by the Deputy Burgomaster of Ypres, **Mr Gerald Sercu,** who later attended the remembrance service escorted by the 2IC. The service was conducted by Regimental Padre. St George's Memorial Church was built originally as a memorial to those who fell in the 1914-1918 war and is now recognised also as a memorial to those of the British and Commonwealth Forces who fell in the 1939-1945 war. The Regimental party were entertained to lunch as guests of the Belgian Army at a nearby Belgian Military Barracks, during which the Deputy Burgomaster of Ypres made a short speech welcoming the Regt to Ypres and presented a crest of the city coat of arms to the 2IC who in turn, presented regimental plaques to the Deputy Burgomaster and to **Maj Moris,** Belgian Army, Commandant of the local Belgian Army garrison, thanking them on behalf of the CO of the Regt. **Lt Col A. P. deBretton Gordon** who was unable to be present, for the hospitality and friendship received during the visit to Ypres.

Members of the Regiment in march past commanded by Maj Brian Darrah after the wreath laying ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres. The salute was taken by the Deputy Burgomaster of Ypres, Mr Gerald Sercu, escorted by Maj Adrian Scott, 2nd in Command of 40th

The visit concluded with a visit to Sanctuary Wood Military Cemetery, a 1914-1918 War Museum which included a section of trenches and shell-pocked ground, the tour ending with a visit to hill 62 and the Canadian Memorial.

TRAINING SQUADRON REMEMBRANCE DAY KILLYLEAGH

The parade assembled at the quay, headed by Killyleagh silver band and members from the Royal British Legion. Other organisations which took part in the parade included 3 Bn UDR, Scouts, Guides, Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade.

We marched from the quay to the Cenotaph which is at Killyleagh Castle. After a short service, Reveille and the Last Post, wreaths were laid by the participating organisations. 40(U) Sig Regt (V)'s wreath was laid by **Lt G. Fleming,** Signals (V), escorted by **WO2 Cameron** WRAC (V) and **Sgt J. Worthington,** R Signals (V). The parade then marched past the Cenotaph and through the town, terminating at Killyleagh Presbyterian Church where the Service of Remembrance was conducted by the local minister.

Following the service, the parade again marched through the town, the chairman of the British Legion taking the salute outside the British Legion Headquarters, where the parade halted. The National Anthem was played before falling out. Representatives were then invited by the members of Killyleagh branch of the British Legion to a very welcome cup of tea and sandwiches.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE—14 NOVEMBER

40 (U) Sig Regt marched from Clonaver TA Centre, Clonaver Park, to their Parish Church, St Mark's Holywood Road, Belfast, on 14 Nov for a Service of Remembrance. The Regimental pipes and drums led the parade of volunteers of both sexes and the NI branch of the R Signals Association and Old Comrades Association The Parachute Regiment were, also, on parade. The service was conducted by the rector, **The Rev J. E. Moore MA** and the lesson was read by the 2IC of the Regt, **Maj A. Scott.**

During the service there was a wreath laying ceremony. After the service the Regt 'marched past' and the salute was taken by the Honorary Colonel, **Col J. E. Wilson,** escorted by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. P. deBretton Gordon.**

Afterwards, friends and relatives of the members of the Regt and members of the Old Comrades Association were entertained to lunch.

IN BELGIUM—HQ SQN REPORT

With annual camp in Belgium this year occuring on the last week in Oct and the first week in Nov it might almost be nicknamed the 'Late-Late' Show. One very pleasant surprise was the weather, little or no rain and the sun shining on most days. Naturally the CO, **Lt Col deBretton Gordon** assured all and sundry the weather had been arranged by his goodself on one of his recce visits.

Departure arrangements for camp were such that Chalk 1 had to bed down in Clonaver Park on Thurs evening because of the early flight time on Fri morning. Someone remarked that the padre had started to advertise early, for on being roused at 0400 he was seen to glance at his wrist watch and exclaim 'heavens above'! Many thanks to movements for a pleasant and trouble-free journey. The second and third chalks arrived on schedule on the Sat.

HQ Sqn quickly settled into the routine of manning near Echelon, based at Olen Camp and set about the task of 'ministering' to the needs of the Communicating Squadrons. The job was greatly simplified by the hard work put in by the QM, **Eric Webster,** and his team on the advance party, ably assisted by the lads in 608 Sig Tp. With the **SSM** and the **SQMS Messrs Woodrow** and **Carey,** both ex marines manning Echelon, some amusement was caused when off-duty personnel were asked to show their passes before being allowed 'ashore'. The few (fortunately) miscreants were slightly bemused when threatened they would be put to work in the 'main galley'. All in all the administration went smoothly and judging by the lack of complaints, we obviously managed to keep the 'ship' afloat!

It is rumoured that the efforts of the OC **Maj Jimmy Chambers** to visit Commcen Nov did not go quite so smoothly. He was accompanied on his trip by our new Adjutant, **Capt Tony Hewett** and the impression he must have given him can only be guessed at, for we are told the OC is now more familiar with the area around Varsenare than with his home town of Enniskillen.

With the exercise over and kit returned, the Regt got together for a 'Disco' organised by **Cpl Barry Skinner** and the JRC Committee under the watchful eye of the supervising Officer, **WO1 Dodson.**

A NOTABLE PRESENTATION

Another notable event at camp was the presentation of the TD to **Maj Robyn Wymbs,** OC WRAC. Well done **Robyn,** our only serving WRAC Officer with this decoration. The last Thursday of camp was spent by the majority of the Regt on a day trip to sample the delights offered by that lovely city, Amsterdam. I am assured most of the time was spent on seeking out suitable presents to take home.

On reflection, a worthwhile 15 days in which a lot was achieved, come 1983 and Belgium will be back.

A COMMUNICATION PROBLEM

Ex *Jog Trot?*—what's that?—what is 66 Sqn? Never heard of it! At least this was what the CO's fervent denials were at the end of Oct when cornered by the staff at HQ British Forces Antwerp!

We were there—we really were—as OC **Maj Ian Henderson** deeply regrets—not that 66 Sqn gave him any problems—it was the staff at HQ BFA who caused the problems—they actually wanted Comms! Did they not realise that this was our Summer (Summer??) Camp?

However, having been pushed into this corner—the fact that we were in Emblem at all points east, we had to provide something. So after a lot of discussion with 34 Regiment we ended up with them at Commcen Oscar—C Tp being given this honour. The only problem was that 34 had some difficulty in understanding our 'Irish' English. However, **Lt Anne Dodds** WRAC came to the rescue as, interpreter from her hide-out at Rottgen. The most popular member of C Tp this camp was **LCpl ('Boysie') Boyce** who ingratiated himself with the OC and **SSM (WO2) John Loveday** in so many ways and on so many occasions that this name became the inspiration for us all!

Having linked up with 34, we had to do something at the Emblem end—so A1 Tp, ie **Capt Jenny Wilson** WRAC, **SSgt Harry Lee** and their merry men, not to mention 'Clarkies' Commandos, those brave and intrepid layers of line, went into action. We gave them lots of telepower and set up a couple of Commcens for them to play with—what more could they want? We even gave them an HF back-up (grateful thanks to B Tp) in case, horrors upon horrors, the shot 'dropped out' or, as did happen, the civilian staff decided to mow the lawn and mowed the quad cables too!! But more they did want—they wanted someone to operate the printers.

So A2 Tp was then briefed to invade the inner sanctums of the HQ and the TRC—sealed orders were given to **WO2 Carol Cameron** WRAC, (only to be opened in the case of a dire emergency) and she clutched these to her 'Jimmy', in and out of 'Noddy' suit, during the whole of the exercise. But luckily the envelope never had to be used and was destroyed unopened at the end of the exercise—I wonder what those orders were? Well, we'll never know now! Suddenly it was Fri and the staff packed up and went home—we were just about to do the same but the CO wouldn't let us—he made us play Ex *Song Bird* for a few days more—it was very unfair—we needed the rest to prepare for our R&R day in Amsterdam the next week. But he is a very unfeeling man our CO and he would have none of it. So what else could we do but work! The story of our Squadron!!!

Seriously, a word of thanks to 16 Signal Regiment for putting up with us and to the Regt who must remain anonymous who provided that wonderful auto 40 that gave our switchboard operators a sleepless night. New horizons were reached on *Song Bird* as 'B' Tp went Dutch. Surprisingly they went, were successful and came back even though the crew bears no thinking about.

85 SQUADRON REPORT

We approach this year's camp and Ex *Song Bird* with some trepidation. The thought of spending ten days in the field during Nov was a sobering thought. However, the weather was kind to us and although warm clothing was the order of the day, it was at best sunny and mainly dry.

Communications-wise we were kept on the go—non stop. The exercise had been planned in four phases to stretch our capabilities to the utmost. Every detachment moved location at least once, including for the first time ever a move for Commcen Nov. Apart from some minor initial teething problems, the exercise was a success with valuable lessons learned and experience gained. In true 85 tradition some considerable effort was also directed toward playing hard as well as working hard. After all, PR is an essential part of every Ulsterman's military experience! Most off duty personnel were able to savour the local beer at some stage during the exercise. A trip to the local swimming pool was also arranged—more for a clean up than a swim! Undoubtedly, the high spot of the exercise was a Halloween Bar-B-Que Nov style with fun for all apple dunking. The locally purchased sausages and hamburgers went down a treat.

Finally, despite exhaustive enquiries the following questions remain unanswered: Was the furtive figure seen chasing sheep across a field near Commcen November really **Sig P. G. Totten?** Did **SSM Cairns** sit on OC's cream cake by accident? What is the secret of the black plastic bag. Is it something to do with 'craptographic' material?

Maj Harry Squance receives the bar to his territorial decoration, presented by the Commanding Officer 40th, Lt Col Alan deBretton Gordon

'Happy at his work' Capt Bill Malone communicates, during *Ex Jog Trot*

Visit Olen Camp Hon Colonel and Colonel TA N Ireland
L to R: Capt Jimmy Chambers OC HQ Sqn, Col Elliot Wilson, Hon Col 40th, Col Robin Sadlier, Col TA NI, Lt Col Alan deBretton Gordon, CO 40th and WO1 David Smith, RSM

SSgt Jackie Donaldson, LCpl David Gillespie and Sig Steve Browne, discuss the finer points of the exercise

The Ops Officer, Maj Harry Squance and his latest toy

HAIL AND FAREWELL

PERMANENT STAFF

Welcome to '40th', **Capt A. D. Hewett, SSgt J. F. Smart, Sgts B. Nesbitt-Clarke, D. Arnott** and **Cpl D. G. Hedley.**

'40th' Adjutants Past and Present
L to R: (Past) Capt A. M. Jones, Maj C. P. Donaghy and Maj I. M. G. Strong; (Present) Capt A. D. Hewett

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO:

Capt A. M. Jones, SSgt R. F. Hennrie, Sgt M. J. Hendley, Sgt J. E. Pearson and **Cpl D. W. Forbes** on departure from '40th'.

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The availability of good jobs varies from day to day. It is still worthwhile contacting either the London Headquarters or one of the nine Divisions throughout the UK and recording your interest in a traditional Corps job.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9.50. Cheques to:-

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1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

DENMARK AND CYPRUS

The period from July to November has been characterised by frantic activity. The Sqn has taken part in two major FTX's one in UK one in Denmark followed by five weeks training in Cyprus. During the period we have welcomed many new arrivals who are quite literally too numerous to mention. We wish them all a very happy tour with the Sqn. To those who have left we extend our very best wishes and can guarantee a warm welcome in Tidworth whenever they wish to return. The future holds yet another busy year with individual training taking precedence initially and no less than three FTX's scheduled for the summer and autumn. In the sporting field we look forward to success at cross-country running and in the 1983 Army minor units boxing championships which we last won in 1979. Regimental activities too have their place in the calendar with Lanyard Day currently scheduled for 17 June 83 and the Lanyard Trophy in Jul but more of that later.

AND ITALY

With the coming of summer it was once again time for a few members of the Sqn to pack their bags and move to the sunnier climes of Northern Italy. Each year the Squadron provides the administrative support for Ex *Monte Bianco*, which is a mountaineering exercise open to anyone in UKLF with or without previous climbing experience. Unfortunately no members of the Corps were involved in the exercise as climbers for the second year running. (COs and OCs please note). The exercise started with three weeks in glorious Snowdonia. Actually it wasn't very glorious as it seemed to rain non-stop for 21 days. This didn't deter the climbers but depressed the admin party so much that they took to spending entire days in Cobdens, the nearest pub!

At the beginning of Jul the exercise moved to the Val Veny, Italy. The journey through France was uneventful apart from the evening when **Lt 'Brains' Hargreaves** tried to obtain accommodation for the convoy in a convent. ('Well, it looked like a barracks to me.') Was it entirely coincidental that **Sig Dave Lang** spent that night on the town and only returned to the barracks with the assistance of the gendarmerie?

Whilst the climbers took quite some time to acclimatise to the altitude and the very different conditions of the Alps, the admin party adapted much more rapidly. After all, sinking a pint is very similar wherever you do it. (Not so sunbathing as a few people discovered when they acquired very bad sunburn!) It may sound as if no one did any work during the whole two month period but that would not be true. All the members of the Sqn who were involved (including the lads on the rear link in Tidworth) worked extremely hard whenever it was required and helped to make 1982 one of the best *Monte Biancos* yet. Any volunteers for 1983?

Climbing the lower slope of Mont Blanc

Sig Dave Lang explaining(!) the 320 to Max, our interpreter

Monte Bianco
Left to Right: Sig 'Fred' Bissett, Sgt John McKenzie, Sig Dave Lang, Max our interpreter, LCpl Alec Kemp, Lt 'Brains' Hargreaves

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

August and September were once again dedicated to the UKMF extravaganzas. This time the venue was Schleswig-Holstein. In preparation the force worked up on Salisbury Plain and had to overcome the difficulties of having its administrative elements in two places at once. The QM's advance party deployed to Germany before the Salisbury Plain exercise leaving the administration of control HQ (some 400 souls or perhaps lost souls) to **Capt Iain Brownlee** and the stalwart **SSgt (Trev) Lloyd** with **SSgt Larry Formosa** lending tone to the Officers Mess. This exercise proved a good dress rehearsal for the formation self-inflicted chaos to come! Half way through the exercise we changed sides (is this part of a few deception plan one might ask!)

The formation was redeployed by air from numerous HLS's designated all the colours of the rainbow and through all the numbers from 1 to 100! or so it seemed to those attempting to get to the right place at the right time.

On 9 Sept the main body moved to Germany where it spent the first week supplying egg cups and brown rolls to those who must be obeyed. Spare time was found however, to practise communication skills and carry out detailed recces.

The FTX passed with no small amount of incidents. Our thirteen linesmen under **Sgt Jock Selkirk** laid and maintained over 120 miles of field cable and the despatch riders handled over 1600 messages in four days. The 2IC was determined to establish a Forward Field Exchange Area and act as the Comm officer just so that he could be called coffee (He can't spell area). However, our most impressive and sadly most dangerous incident was the total destruction of an C/S 98B by fire. Fortunately the crew were only slightly injured but it is hoped that the photographs demonstrate the dangers of fire and the care which must be taken in the disposal of rubbish, for that is how the fire started!

Ex *Bold Guard*
C/S 98B—After the fire with Sgt Dennis Wiseman REME looking on

SUNNY CYPRUS

For several years the Sqn has intended to exercise in Cyprus. On two occasions recce parties have actually got there but the exercises have been cancelled due to operational commitments and defence cuts. This year, however, was our lucky year.

A few days after returning from Germany the advance party left for sunny Cyprus. They had one working day to prepare for the arrival of the main body whose flights were brought forward by three days. Immediately on arrival the Sqn got down to serious training. The unit was organised on an infantry company with a HQ and three platoons. The company was commanded by **Capt Andy Ward;** The Yeoman got a new hat as CSM and the Chief Clerk was prised from his chair to act as CQMS. In addition there was a camp admin staff, under **SSgt Frank Lunness** and an enemy/training section run by the Traffic Officer.

NIGHT FIRING

Individual training was first on the menu with a programme of ranges including night firing with and without illumination. This was followed by platoon training under company arrangements. It was at this stage that the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Chalky White** found that he couldn't live without orderly room coffee and arranged for himself to be casevaced to the UK with an injured foot. He has kept up the act well so far, even keeping a plaster on his leg till mid December.

Meanwhile back in Cyprus the platoons moved to Akamus each for a 24 hr live firing exercise complete with mortar and artillery fire simulations. The delights of sangar building were sampled by all and the fire effects demonstration persuaded the doubters that should the 'real thing' happen then 'three feet thick with overhead protection' would be the only desirable detached residence to be in.

2 Platoon at work!
L to R Back Row: Dvr 'Brains' Stevens, Sig Kevins, Sgt Stu Huntington, LCpl Barclay, Sig Davidson
Middle: Cpl 'Scouse' Gerdes, Cfn Joseph, Sick Rideout, Pte Andrews, LCpl Westall, Sig Webster
Front: Cpl Colbeck, Lt 'Red Rum' Hargreaves

A FIRST

After Akamus we moved immediately on to the escape and evasion exercise masterminded by **Sgt Stuart Huntington, SSgt Duncan Henderson** and **SSgt (YofS) Dave Turner.** Here we must record a first: **RSM Andy Evans** must be the only RSM in the Corps to have jailed his entire unit within 14 days of taking over! Pursued by dogs, helicopters and 259 Sig Sqn, most of the escapees finally made it back to safety. Some however, preferred to stay in caves, secure but hungry and some sought the supposed safety of Episkopi Garrison and were much chagrined to find the open arms of the RMP and the Argyle and Sutherland Highlander's nick awaiting them!

The Escape and Evasion Dog Handlers—LCpl Smith, Sgt Stu Huntington, SSgt Owens

THE FINALE

The finale to the serious training period was a four day IS exercise with the company up against the combined forces of Pufffter led by **Capt George Lile** the traffic officer and the Ruritanian Special Forces (RSF) led by JR himself! After suffering heavy losses from the bombs and booby traps of Pufffter, realistically placed by **LCpl Rick Peck** of 1 AMF(L) Troop, RE and the almost successful destruction of the missile site, by the RSF, 'goodies' cornered the 'baddies' in a deserted village and once again the 'Union flag flew freely'.

The Ruritanian Special Forces (after their almost successful raid) *Left to Right:* 'JR', Cpl John Carpanini, Pte Steve Patterson ACC, Cpl 'Rich' Carey, Pte Taff Pugh RAMC, LCpl Rick Peck RE, LCpl John Fellows ACC.

The success of this last exercise was due in no small measure to the help we received from many sources. Particularly, from within the Bde, **LCpl Rick Peck** of the Engineers, **Cpl Charlie Jones, Pte Taff Pugh** and **Pte Allan** of 16 Fd Amb and from outside the formation **Lt 'Burt' Lancaster** of 11 Sig Regt, 259 Sig Sqn, 3 ADTU, 16 Flt AAC, 227 Pro Coy RMP and of course all the Staff of HQLFC and many other individuals.

The final week of our sojourn in the sun was devoted to relaxation. All took part in water sports, visits and reacclimatisation for UK training in the mist and drizzle of Troodos. **Capt Iain Brownlee** took a party rock climbing to Cape Creco and the Sqn took part in a carefully staged sporting humiliation laid on by 259 Sig Sgn! The exercise was a great success. Whilst not everyone can be said to have enjoyed every minute, it has provided substantial material for bar room stories for at least the next six months.

Left to Right: LCpl John Fellows ACC, Cpl John Carpanini, Sig Jock Hogan (259 Sig Sqn)

RETURN TO TIDWORTH

After various delays caused by aeroplanes breaking down in Naples the unit returned to Tidworth to the excitement of unit stock taking boards. In order that the Squadron did not go soft (huh!) it was decided to hold the Lanyard Trophy at the end of November. For those who are not initiated into this particular Squadron mystery the Lanyard Trophy is a 40 mile tab in 24 hrs (or as fast as possible) carrying a bergan and rifle. The trophy is presented by the Sqn and is open to any unit who wishes to take part. All members of this Sqn took part and this year we were pleased to welcome 249 AMF(L) Sig Sqn and 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (205). Now we come to the tragic bit! We lost. For the first time the trophy went out of the Sqn. 249 were the winners with **Cpl Griff Griffen** coming 1st overall in a time of 9 hours and 28 mins. **Sig Brian Wellard** of A Tp was second. We congratulate 249 on a well deserved win and commiserate with 5 Bde who did well to come third. Watch out for next year!

VALE

Whilst there have been many changes in the last few months several of these have been amongst the 'hierarchy'. **WO1 (RSM) Gordon Philbrook** has left us to join 11 Sig Regt. **Capt George Lile** liked the sun so much he stayed in Cyprus and finally the end has come for JR (or has it?), after three years seven months **Capt Cedric Burton** has gone to RMCS, but wait, JR is not dead, his successor is none other than **Capt 'JR' Rollins!** We wish those who have gone and those who have come and their families the very best in the future.

5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

SAXON HORSE CHANGES HANDS

The last few months have seen the Squadron shaking out and settling down after the trials and tribulations of the previous year. In early Nov **Maj Keith Butler,** our combat commander, moved on to the School of Signals to take up the long awaited desk job. We wish him well and in his place welcome our fifth OC of 1982, **Maj J. R. (no—the other guy is slightly taller) Stuart MBE,** his wife **Val** and the children. We hope they enjoy their stay in Aldershot. The unit management has changed somewhat since our last report and is due to change still further in the New Year. The present state of play is:

OC	**Maj John Stuart**
2IC	**Capt Peter Day**
Comms Offr	**Capt Graham Leach**
Admin Offr	**Capt Dennis** (don't spend my PRI) **Cox**
QM	**Capt Colin** (go away) **Meredith**
OC A Tp	**Lt Mark 'Animal' Edwards**
OC B Tp	**Lt Trevor Bradley**
RSM	**WO1(RSM) Bill Hunt**
FOS	**WO1FOS) Joe Smith**
YOF	**WO2 (YOF) 'Yorkie' Corcoran**
Chief Clk	**SSgt Jim Fowler**

EXERCISE 'SAXON HORSE'

During Oct/Nov the Squadron has been deploying on numerous 2-3 day exercises. After many days deliberations a new concept was worked out and off we went to trail it around the Aldershot area. After a lot of work throwing up and knocking down tents etc we are now well versed in the new procedures. One such deployment was for a visit of the Royal Naval Staff College on 11 Nov. The visit went very well except that **LCpl 'Borris' Ford ACC** found to his horror that the loaves and fishes trick does not work with all-in stew. The net result was that the Brigadier went hungry—better luck next time **Borris!**

Exercise *Saxon Horse II* involved two moves a day for the Bde Main HQ and outstations. The exercise, organised by the Comms Offr, **Capt Graham Leach,** went very well. It was rumoured that the success was due to the fact that the QC and RSM were only allowed to visit at night and the 2IC was always away 'on recce'. It has been good to get out on exercise again and particularly good to see the new arrivals fit in so well.

A NEW IMAGE

Alfa Troop has been brought back up to strength after the tragic loss of **SSgt Joe Baker** in the Falklands. First to arrive was **Sgt Ralph Smith** who soon disappeared to Brunei on his Jungle Warfare course (very useful in Aldershot that!). He hasn't been seen since and the Tp await his return with some nervous anticipation. Next on the scene was **SSgt Alan de la Haye** from 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn. He was thrown right in the deep end as a few weeks after his arrival the Tp OC, **Lt 'Animal' Edwards,** retired to Hereford to do a Combat Survival Instructors' course. With the arrival of the new Sqn OC coinciding with all these survival courses **SSgt de la Haye** had to survive on his own for a while. Alfa Tp can look forward to some slightly different exercises next year as, in addition to the survival specialists, **Cpl Phil Stokes** and **LCpl Tony Bently** came joint top of their boat handling and watermanship course—what a mix!

THE OUTWARD BOUND FLAVOUR

While all this was going on Bravo Tp decided to escape the humdrum of survival and retired to the tranquility of Devon for a week of Outward Bound training. Outward Bound encompasses many activities and in this case the term included a visit to Ilfracombe to sample the delights of the local hostelries. **Sig 'Fritz' Davies,** who lost his right leg on *Op Corporate,* commented that he wasn't the only legless person there on that particular trip! In keeping with the Troops' Outward Bound image **LCpl** (be at one with yourself) **Newman** went off with 2 Para for a fortnight to teach them how to canoe. On return, spurred on by his previous successes, he took the Tp to Mychett lake for two days to share some of his experience (at this time of year?!). **Lt Bradley,** not renowned for his canoeing skill, was seen to be trying to paddle his canoe upsidedown in an attempt to pioneer the sport of scuba-canoeing. This proved to be a disastrous failure due to a severe lack of oxygen and the request for a repeat performance from a bemused troop was forcefully declined by their gallant leader.

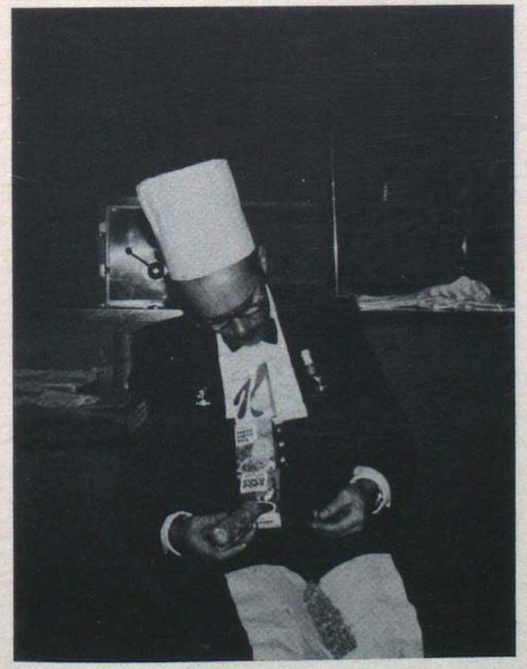
AIRBORNE ACTIVITIES

On the last day of September on a cold and foggy morning some 60 members of the Sqn were standing on the tarmac at Farnborough airfield waiting for a Hercules to take them on a Sqn water jump. However, because of the fog, the RAF landed at Odiham so the first part of the flight was in the back of an army bus. The fog eventually lifted to produce a crystal clear blue sky and before long the Hercules was on station over Studland Bay. Using the Commander, **Brig Tony Wilson,** as a wind drift indicator to test the winds, the C130 was soon disgorging its passengers in sticks of six from 1000ft. To the surprise of all, the water was very warm and all were soon rescued from their watery grave by the prompt arrival of the Royal Marines. A leisurely cruise on the recovery boat supping glu-wine followed and a generous helping of **LCpl 'Borris' Ford's** renowned curry on the quayside at Poole was a fitting end to a marvellous day.

Closer to home Airborne Tp manage to get plenty of jumps with the battalions and have no problems keeping 'current'. Congratulations are due to **LCpl George** and **Sig Jackson** who are the latest 'recruits' to successfully pass Parachute selection and training. They now join the Red Berets of Airborne Troop and help to make up for the large shortage of qualified parachutists from which we are currently suffering.

SGTS MESS

Maj Matt Helm, our long time 2IC and part time OC was dined out by the Sqn Officers and SNCOs but appeared to have enjoyed his tour so much that he refuses to go. He still makes regular appearances in the Sqn in between his global jaunts on **Gen Moore's** *Op Corporate* presentation team. At the end of Dec he takes up his new post in HQ Training Gp Catterick. Our fondest wishes go with him, his wife **Rusty** and the children. This dining out was followed on 1 Dec by that of the Commander, **Brig Tony Wilson.** As the PMC **WO2 Colin Walker** (9 Para Sqn RE) was absent on duty his place was taken by **WO2 (RQMS) Stu Gray-Cowan** who must be congratulated on putting on a splendid 'doo' for all concerned. Apart from the RSM having problems with his spurs (kindly pointed out by **Sgt Rog Key**) and **Sgt Alex Turner** needing an early breakfast, the night went well and was enjoyed by all.



Early breakfast for Sgt Alex Turner

SQUADRON SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our much heralded squash championships took place during 29 Nov to 7 Dec. The event was organised by **WO1 (FOS) 'Joe' Smith** who, as he confidently expected to be runner-up, had ordered a runners-up trophy that dwarfed the winners prize. In the event there were several surprises! **WO2 (RQMS) 'Stu' Gray-Cowen** carved his way through all opposition. After he demolished **SSgt 'Todd' O'Brien** (who has since sold his racquet) the RQMS paused only briefly as he sent the FOS packing in the semi-finals. (Note: The FOS promptly retaliated by buying a runners' up Trophy that was all but invisible). Man-of-the-match was, as expected, **WO1 (RSM) Bill Hunt** who gave everybody squash lessons as he moved relentlessly through to the final. In the final the RSM did his usual hatchet-job and although the RQMS fought hard he eventually lost 3—0 in a match that was much better than the score-line suggests.

Many promising new players emerged from the 54 entrants: **Cpl 'Scouse' Robinson** who got through to the semi-finals and was stopped by the RSM; **Cpl Ross Millar** and **Sig 'Ginge' Willimont** who are now candidates for the Sqn squash team. After the finals everybody retired to the bar where all the matches were replayed in great detail—the revised results will be published next issue!

SPORTS

On 8 Dec the Sqn played Field Force REME in the quarter-final of the SE District Minor Units Cup, beating them 10—0 in an action packed game. **Sig Bob Dunn,** making his debut for the Sqn, scored the first goal after only two minutes. Not content with this he rattled home a further three goals in the first half. **Sig 'Ginge' Willimont,** having 'narrowly' missed a penalty by five feet soon made amends by scoring the fifth goal in the first half. The second half saw **Sig Dunn** score another four goals bringing his match total to eight. **LCpl George Murray** completed the total by scoring the last goal in what was a first class match.

The Rugby team is also having much success and has just qualified for the semi-final of the SE District Cup by beating 16 Field Ambulance 7—0 in the quarter-final. The cross country team is going from strength to strength under the expert guidance of **Cpl Clive Smith. Cpls Archer** and **Taylor,** two new arrivals in the Squadron, add yet more talent to an already strong team.

CHANGE OF COMMANDER

On 3 Dec **Brig Tony Wilson,** our veteran wartime commander, was lunched out of the Officers Mess. After two years service to the Brigade and many more to the Army he retires to 'complete his six books, trek in the Himalayas and build a long boat in New Zealand'. We all wish him and his wife **Janet** a long and happy retirement. In their place we welcome **Brig Tony Jeapes** and his wife **Jenny** and hope they enjoy their stay with the Bde.

FOOTNOTE:

On Thurs 9 Dec **LCpl Clive Border** of 565 Para RLD fell from the back of a four ton vehicle breaking his thigh and wrist, thus proving that falling off the back of a stationary vehicle is more dangerous than parachuting. We wish him a speedy recovery which we hope is in time for Christmas (for the nurses sake!).

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

COMMANDER VISITS

After being postponed from earlier in the year, due to operational commitments, the Bde Commd, **Brig R. L. Peck** finally made his formal visit to the Sqn on 13 Sept, accompanied by the DCOS, **Maj Doug Candey.** The day was planned by the 2IC, **Capt Gordon Shipley** such that there were to be five stands, with five teams rotating through them, the Commander visiting each one before lunch. This was also the day for the Squadron photograph, however, so everyone appeared first thing in No 2s, said cheese, dashed off to change and then reappeared to meet the Brigadier. Each troop put in a team (with Alfa troop providing two because of its size) and all events were awarded points to provide an overall score. The Commander was impressed with the jumping over assault courses, running, and other goings on and took the opportunity to have a word with some of the participants.

The Commander speaks to Cpl Geoff Backhouse after the BFT

Eventually lunchtime came around and everyone thankfully staggered off to eat (and rest). The Brigadier was entertained to lunch in the officers mess by the OC, **Maj Mike Collins** and his officers. In the afternoon the troops were off again round the circuit, finishing late in the afternoon. On the totting up of the scores, it was found to be a resounding success for Alfa troop, with A2 placed first and A1 joint second with J/Q troop.

FALLABILITY

Oct saw the arrival of the new **RSM, WO1 Gallagher** from 2 Armd Div Sig Regt. He arrived early which should have shown everyone what was in store for the future. One of his first acts was to put his framed III to II course report on the wall next to his office. It stated that he had poor diligence, little application and no potential at all. It just goes to show that even RSMs were fallible once!

EX 'PANTHER SAIL'

This was a week long trip on the Corps Yacht, *Skywave* from 11 Oct to 17 Oct. The yacht was skippered by **Sgt Alan Morgan,** with **Maj Phil Bennett RAPC, WO2 (AQMS) Alan Jack REME, Sgt Gus Graham, Sigs Knight** and **'Wilkie' Wilkinson.** The trip was from Gosport to Shamrock Key (Southampton) via Gosport, Lymington, Poole, Cowes and Yarmouth. On the first day out the yacht passed by the lifting of the *Mary Rose.* In fact they go so close that they were told in no uncertain terms by a police launch to 'move along there'. The weather throughout the whole week was terrible, with rain every day, so it was a case of oilskins and wellies as the standard dress. In fact on the last day a force 8 gale was encountered, which did, however, make for a fast trip. All in all a very enjoyable week apart from the weather and perhaps the compo, which was the staple diet.

'MOON BASE 6'

This exercise which lasted from 27 Oct until 17 Nov was very similar to the earlier *Lion Sun 8,* but the Sqn participation was much less, as only one platoon of the four was provided. This was yet another exercise where the 2IC, **Capt Gordon Shipley** didn't quite make it. The Signals platoon was ably commanded by the Foreman, **WO2 Graham Atkinson,** who was aiming to get a tan this time, with **SSgt Henry Banks** as his Tp Sgt.

The one section was: **Cpl Geoff Robson RAOC** (nobody's perfect), **LCpl 'Geordie' Gorman, LCpl Mark Gray RMP** (he asked us not to mention the word Monkey, so we won't), **Sigs 'Farah' Fawcett, Danny Acres, 'Wack' Leitch, 'Rocky' Howell** and **'Mash' Beales** the Medic.

Cpl Robson's section gained recognition was the intrepid testers of the latest 'self-dismantling' raft which is designed to fold up into a heap of scrap when immersed in sea water. It was a huge success! They were also renowned for their evening studies in the 'choggies' shop which took the form of a quiz to try to find answers to popular university questions which are found attached to bottles of Cypriot Carlsberg beer. The answers are only revealed by consuming the contents of the bottle. Each person has to purchase ten bottles; the winner being the one able to stand up at the end of the quiz, unaided, for twenty seconds.

Two Section was led by **Cpl Almond** from Bde HQ with: **LCpl Heaman,** the king of all knowledge, without whom the section would have been a little less brainwashed on needless info. **Sig Garry Warn,** whose most notable feats were at the beach camp, in showing his snorkelling skills. **Sig Andy Walker,** the next best thing to action man. **Sig Neil Martin,** who unaided, managed to keep up the platoon's spirit. **Sig Pete Knight,** who managed to make all those around him feel fit, and avoided the rock climbing without being noticed. **Sig Gary Thrumble,** incredibly Arfa Daley, this fella, he definitely made the exercise for two sections. Overall, two section were a good team, able to put their all into a job, yet never quite managing it.

Cpl Martin Drake and Sig Dave Sloane on Moon Base 6

Section three was **Cpl Martin Drake, LCpl Brian Hogg, Sigs Tony Long, Simon Somerville, 'Dinger' Bell** (now **ACpl**), **'Lucky' Luck** and **Dave Sloane.**

THE BOULDER

The exercise began with four days at Troodos. On the second day whilst trying to negotiate a scree slope **Sig Tony Long** managed to dislodge a very large boulder. Remembering his initial briefing about 'not causing damage' he immediately sprang into action and tried to stop the boulder by wedging his foot underneath it. The boulder, however, took no notice of his DMS boot and departed off down the slope, narrowly missing **Sig Simon Somerville** and leaving **Sig Tony Long** with a somewhat flattened foot.

Sig 'Farah' Fawcett covers other members of his section in Paramali village.

THE PULL

The end of the exercise also provided a 'daring act' by **Sig Simon Somerville.** During house clearing **LCpl Brian Hogg** noticed a booby trap wire stretched across an opening. **Sig Somerville** then joined him to give the rest of the section cover whilst they crossed it. Using his wide experience of booby traps **Sig Somerville** decided to try to defuse it. After several seconds deep thought he decided that the easiest way to make a booby trap safe was to grab hold of the wire and pull it. Bang! Exit **Sig Simple Simon Somerville** and **LCpl Hogg.**

THE END

The end of the exercise also provided an example of good leadership by the FOS. A beach withdrawal was planned as the finale to the exercise so the whole company fought their way down to the beach, leapt on to the RPL; the engines went into full reverse and . . . nothing! There was so much weight on the RPL that it was stuck on the sand. The easy answer was, last platoon off. This was unfortunately the Signals Platoon who leapt off and then waded aboard after the RPL had got itself unstuck. All except the FofS, that is, who kept dry and regally watched his platoon wading into the sea, from the safety of the stern of the RPL.

When the RPL landed **SSgt Henry Banks** forgot that the exercise was over and so the platoon rushed out into all round defence. The other platoons marched past grinning while the Foreman tried to look as if it had nothing to do with him.

SPONSORED MARCH PROVIDES KIDNEY MACHINE FOR GREAT ORMOND STREET

The Sqn marching team has successfully completed another march with flying colours. The team managed to raise a grand total of £1,048 enabling the Great Ormond Street Hospital to buy a kidney machine for their children's kidney wing. The march was planned in three stages, each stage being 35 miles, starting on Fri 8 Oct at Goojerat Barracks Colchester and finishing at Great Ormond Street Hospital on Sun 10 Oct. The march was organised by **Cpl Steve Allsopp** the team's founder and Captain. The march was originally thought of and discussed at great length over a crate of lager on a beach in Cyprus during Ex *Lion Sun 8.* Some of the characters in the team were: **Cpl** (I've got a marching stick) **Allsopp, Kim** (I'm not dying on the march) **Living, LCpl** (Emu and his side-kick) **Hymas, Dvr** (watch the birdy) **Benham, Dvr** (Snoopy and pal) **Pennery, Sgt** (I'm out in front) **Sanderson, Sgt** (I'll drive the ambulance) **Taylor, LCpl** (Traction) **Lanigan, Sig** (Show us your chest) **Travis, Cpl** (These boots aren't made for marching) **Roberts, Sgt** (Toots) **Wilson, Sig** (Soccer Star) **Howe, LCpl** (Where's my brandy) **Bainbridge, Pte** (Breaker Breaker) **Henderson, LCpl** (Pitch the tents) **Ray, Cpl** (I've found a pub again) **Glossop, LCpl** (Mexican Smile) **Brown, Cpl** (Quick change) **Conlan, Cpl** (I like ice-cream) **Groves, Sig** (How is your bum for spots) **Harris, Dvr** (I stop wrong traffic) **McFee.**

Some of the high spots of the march were receiving two £50 notes from a generous unknown motorist in a Rolls Royce; also participating in an Italian wedding march in London. The reception from the children lining the balconies of the hospital as the team marched in to the hospital grounds was overwhelming and brought tears to some of these tough soldiers' eyes. Well done to all.

The Marching Team

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required by the WELFARE SECTION

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
B.F.P.O. 18

THE MANAGEMENT

Since our last Wire Notes, major changes have taken place within the management. The list now reads:

OC	**Maj P. J. Bonser**
2IC	**Capt E. Butterworth**
Ops Offr	**Capt I. N. Greig**
(designate **Capt P. S. Holden**)	
TOTs	**Capt B. W. Maltby**
(designate **Capt G. Yule BEM**)	
	Capt T. Kay
RSM (MCS)	**WO1 J. A. Allen**
(designate **WO1 J. A. Woolley**)	
FofS	**WO1 A. J. Hall MBE**
YofS	**WO1 C. G. Stubbings**
SSM	**WO2 D. G. Edmond**
(designate **WO2 N. G. Brown**)	
SQMS	**SSgt B. G. Watson**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt R. Yallop**

BFT MARATHON

The annual BFT Marathon took place on the 28 Sept. A total of DG 1320.00 was raised by the 19 participants for donation to the R Signals BAOR SSAFA appeal. Competitors were required to wear the standard BFT clothing and the maximum possible attempts were restricted to eight—one run every 30 minutes. The highest donation pledged was for the three runs completed by **WO2 (SSM) D. Edmond** with a total of DG 348.00 collected from sponsors. The overall winner was **WO1 (RSM) C. Owen** of UKDSU AFCENT, who completed all eight BFTs collecting DG 224.00 from sponsors. **Sgt Bill Fryer** who did not compete but set up a refreshment tent contributed DG 25.00 profit to the runners total. A trophy for each age group was kindly donated by **Mr H. Bartels,** our local insurance agent, and they were presented by **Mrs Clay,** wife of **Brig R. A. Clay CBE,** Commander British Army Element AFCENT.

Cpl Evans puts on a burst of speed in his fifth and last run

WO2 Edmond receiving his well earned prize from Mrs Clay

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS IN TAPIJN KASERNE

On the 13 Oct, **Brig R. A. Clay CBE,** Comd British Army Element, AFCENT presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **WO1 (YofS) C. G. Stubbings,** R Signals and **Sgt R. J. Byrne,** REME. The ceremony, which took place in the Sgts Mess, 227 Sig Sqn, was witnessed by members of the recipients' families, together with the mess members and invited guests.

SPORT

During the year, the Sqn have had two notable successes. We won the BOAR Minor Units Basketball Championships and retained the R Signals Minor Units Morrison Cup for the third successive year. Corps Colours were awarded to **WO1 (YofS) Stubbings** and **Sig Steve Robinson** (now **LCpl,** 233 Sig Sqn) for their performance in athletics during the 1982 season.

MARCHING TEAM

The marching team entered for Nijmegen was once more truly international with the United States, Germany and Britain forming the 227 Sig Sqn/Mobile Comms Sqn (MCS) Tapijn Kaserne team.

CONGRATULATORY

Our congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) J. A. Allen** on being appointed to a Special Regular Commission in May 1983. Once he has completed his visits to Blandford and Reading he is posted to 16 Sig Regt.

Our congratulations also to **WO1 (FofS) A. J. Hall** on the recent announcement of the award of the **MBE.**

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

During his round of farewell visits **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO,** visited the Squadron in October. He saw a display of arctic equipment and talked to soldiers during the inter-troop rugby XV's, which was won by Main Troop.

Maj Gen Bradley talks to Sgt Willy Riding and Cpl Andy Dawson at the arctic display

SUMMER BIATHALON

In September the Squadron held its annual summer biathalon, an individual 10 mile march across Salisbury Plain finishing with a timed SLR shoot. The event was won by **Sgt Frank McAleer,** who was presented with the Kiwi Trophy by **Col E. J. Torrence OBE,** the New Zealand Military Attache.

THE LT JAMES BARRY MEMORIAL TROPHY

The summer biathalon was the final event in the competition for the **Lt James Barry** Memorial Trophy. As readers of the Wire will know, **Lt James Barry** had served for four years in the Squadron before joining 2 Para on an attachment. He died in action whilst serving with that battalion in the Falklands. The memorial trophy was presented to the Squadron by his parents. The competition is based on three events, a 10km ski race, a winter biathalon, and the summer biathalon, together with a grading for individual performance during the year. On 30 September **Lt Col D. A. Barry (Retd)** presented the trophy to the first recipient, **Cpl Peter Griffin.**

Cpl Griffin enjoys a welcome 'cuppa'

SALISBURY PLAIN

Ex *Active Elbow* was a radio exercise conducted on Salisbury Plain during October. It was designed as a run-up exercise to Ex *Apex Express:* an AMF(L) exercise in Greece.

During the first phase detachment commanders put into practice the theory of HF techniques and PPAs which they had been taught the previous week. The aim was to work back to Bulford over the longest possible distance. Some det comds worked out their PPAs correctly and managed to work in excess of 160km: others like **Cpl Andy Dawson** spent two happy days on the beach at Minehead—but not on the radio!

The second phase was combat operations on the Plain. Whilst one troop provided communications the other played 'the staff'. They then changed roles so that everyone got a chance to 'presswise' the communicators. During this period **Col Mike Marples, OBE,** Commander 1 Signal Group visited the squadron and carried out the ARU.

On the last evening of combat ops, the OC Designate Support Troop, **2Lt Peter Holliday** visited various detachments. Whilst being shown round a very busy RADCON by **SSgt (YofS) Bob Waller,** he spotted a square fan heater. Hearing radio type noises coming from somewhere he put his ear to the heater, stood back and proclaimed, 'Ah Yeoman! An HF speaker?' Welcome to the Squadron **Mr Holliday.** On completion of the exercise we discovered that the Greek government had cancelled Ex *Apex Express* and that we would spend November in wet, cold, Bulford.

FAREWELLS

This month we say farewell to **Maj Mike Shaw** and his wife **Barbara.** He leaves us on promotion to Shrivenham as an instructor. We welcome the new OC, **Maj Peter Innocent** and his wife **Ann,** who come to us from Blandford. We also say farewell to **Capt Ian Foxley** and to **Cpls Ian Philo** and **Dave Catchpole.**

STOP PRESS: THE LANYARD TROPHY

On the 27 November the Squadron entered a team in the 1 Inf Bde Lanyard Trophy competition, a 40 mile march across Salisbury Plain carrying a 30lb load. Everyone who took part produced commendable results, especially **Cpl Peter Griffin** who was the overall winner in a time of 9hrs 28mins. The Squadron also won the overall team competition; the team being **Cpls Griffin, Fitzpatrick, Iverson** and **LCpl Dean.** A notable performance was given by **Cpl Grant Yeomans** who completed the last 20 miles with torn shoulder ligaments and carried his bergen on one arm. The support team of **Sgt Barney Barnard** and **Sgt George Cook** deserve a mention for the hard work they put in keeping morale high and ensuring there was a hot brew at each rest stop.

The Lanyard Trophy contingent from the Squadron

259 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 53

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 10 Dec, the Squadron bade a sad farewell to OC Squadron **Maj Cliff Walters,** wife **Judith** and family. He was dined out in style by WOs and SNCOs of the Sqn; an excellent function in the Sgts Mess on 29 Nov. Among the presentations made was a 259 Baseball Cap ('it's all right, sir, the QM's signed for it'), and a briefcase (MOD, serving in, for the use of). **SSM Ian McSherry** also donated the infamous Hodgson Shield Inter-Troop sports trophy to the outgoing OC. Unfortunately, he didn't take the hint, or the shield! Seriously Sir, farewell and many thanks for your contribution to, and work for the Sqn. We wish you well in your new posting.

We welcome our new OC, **Maj Alan Wallace,** and wife **Susan. Maj Wallace** is already knee deep in Handover certificates, Troop Christmas party invitations and snow (yes, he's visiting Mountain Troop this morning, if they can get there). It isn't like this all year, honestly, Sir! We hope you and your wife will enjoy your time with 259.

QUINQUANGULAR SPORTS MEETING

Following the Sqn's outstanding successes in this field (reported on in an earlier issue of the Wire) 259 held another Quinquangular Sports Meeting on 5 Nov. This time the participating units were 259, 262 Sig Sqns, 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt, and contingents from 1 and 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqns, both of whom were on exercise on the island. The sports contested in bright sunshine were football, rugby, hockey, tug of war and the obstacle race. An excellent afternoon's sport was enjoyed by all, although 259 ran away with the beer again! Thanks go to **Sgt Minnie Minton** who did the organising, paperwork, programme stapling, . . . and to all members of Episkopi Tp who supplied the muscle power for tents, bar and cleaning up! **Col Mike Marples, OBE,** visiting from UK, kindly presented the liquid prizes.

HODGSON SHIELD EVENTS

Only four weeks now remain to decide the victor in this annual inter-troop sports marathon. The three events contested since the last Wire Notes were tug of war, cross-country and basketball.

The tug of war, held on 13 Oct, was convincingly won by Episkopi Tp who did not drop a single pull. Winning team members were anchor man **LCpl Hannibal Heyes, Cpl Marty Fielding** (now on route to 21 Sig Regt), **Cpl Jed (Arnold Guthne) Bridgeford, LCpl Steve Frampton, LCpl Arthur Nicols** (now in the Falklands), and **Sig Toosh (mighty mouse) Hadfield.** The magnificent achievement was largely due to the vociferous coaching and encouragement of **Sgt Roly Thompson.** The Sqn tug of war team went on to come a very creditable second in the Heavyweight division of the island-wide competition.

The Hodgson Shield cross-country was held at Airfield Tp 19 Nov, over a four mile (ish) course. OC Episkopi Tp came a valiant last (again—ah well, maybe one day!) and the winner by a convincing margin was **Sig Jock Tierney.** Could this be something to do with the OC's secret agreement? Quote 'I'll buy a pint for everyone who beats **Cpl Tierney'** unquote. The overall winners were Mountain Tp—must be all that high attitude training.

The Basketball was held in Episkopi on 29 Nov and was won by Tech Tp captained by **Sgt Steve Green.**

The overall competition is now very close, with positions as follows: Mountain Tp 33; Episkopi Tp 32; Tech Tp 29, Airfield Tp and HQ Tp 25 points.

MILSKILLS

Squadron Military training reached its zenith with preparation for the all-island Milskills held on 29 Nov. This was preceded by inter-troop Milskills competition for which 19 Bde Sig Sqn kindly presented a very handsome trophy. Teams from each troop, plus a composite team (which performed very creditably under the leadership of **Cpl Trev Potter**) competed over stands testing knowledge of NBC, First Aid, IS, TOETS, and, after a five mile bash, SLR on the range. The scores were very close throughout. Despite cold (very for Cyprus) and windy conditions, all the teams put in good performance.

The Chief of Staff, **Col W. T. Dodd OBE,** presented the trophies to the eventual winners, who for the second year running, were Episkopi Tp, led by new troop **SSgt Chris Biddlecombe. Staff Biddlecombe** is now wondering where to hide. Since his arrival in the troop in Oct he has acquired two trophies (one for Milskills and one for Tug of War) and has broken the habit of a lifetime. Nothing like setting an example, Staff!

Following the selection of the Sqn team for the island-wide competition from a nominated 50% of held strength the Sqn training team swung into top gear. Team Captain, **Lt Colin Lawrence,** and manager **SSgt Iain Urquhart,** coached and coaxed through three days intensive work, ably assisted by **Sgt Bob** (NBC) **Archer** and **SSgt** (Training NCO) **Pete Wilson** among others. On the day the team performed excellently and were just pipped into second place. Congratulations on a well-deserved result to all team members.

A FESTIVE TALE

On a lighter note, in between M1 projects, vehicle PRES, stock-taking boards and sports, a festive tale, of sorts. Among the surprises Santa had in store for the Sqn Radio Techs was that they were to organise the Sqn children's Christmas party. Radio Tech Workshop now sports a festive sign introducing 'Santa's Grotto' and the Seven Dwarfs Christmas Committee: **SSgt 'Grumpy' Davis; SSgt 'Dozy' Urquhart; SSgt 'Sneezy' Dullaghan; Sgt 'Dopey' Moren; Sgt 'Red Nose' Minton** (Chief Dwarf), **Sgt 'Happy',** (ever so much, really) **Payne** and **Cpl 'Doc' Davis.** A special mention must go to **Chief Pixie George (Stelios) Cairns!** and the unseen sprites who decorated the TOT's office with festive streamers . . . All the above can be heard practising their 'Ho, ho, ho's' and rumours that the 3rd Line callout Landrover now answers to the name of Rudolf has been giving the MTO serious cause for concern.

Best wishes for the New Year to all Squadron members, past and present.

262 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O.

NEW ARRIVALS

The Squadron has had several new arrivals over the last few months, namely, **Capt (TOT) Dave Potter, SSgt Charlie Peach** and his wife **Mary, Ptes Heather Stokes** and **Sue Dyer.**

CRICKET

(Report by Sgt N. Varley)

Now that we have had our End of Season Dinner, I can declare our 'innings' for the Cricket season. It has been a good one for the Sqn, finishing runners-up in the league to 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt, and knocked out of the Cup by a UN side in the semi-final. Trophies were awarded to the following personnel: **Sgt Jim Scoular**—Player of the season and best bowling figures, **Sgt Dave Gunn**—Best batting average and highest score, **Sgt Nige Varley**—Best bowling average.

Other 'Stars' in the team were as follows: **Maj L. G. French, WO2 Geoff Marshall, SSgt Pete Underwood, Sgts Dave Critchlow, Mal Geer, Al Roberts, John Nicol, Cpls Alf Garnett, Sammy Simcox, Sigs Mick Mottram** and **Pete Rendell.**

Cpl Ken Jones had to leave us half-way through the season on posting to Blandford. **Ken** had been a very useful player and was badly missed in the latter half of the season. Finally congratulations went to **Dave Gunn** and **Jimmy Scoular** on their selection for the Army Cyprus side.

CYPRUS WALKABOUT 1982

Report by WO2 (FofS) J. G. Turvey

It says on our certificates 'Completed a British Combined Services Senior cross-country orienteering competition course of more than sixty miles over rugged, hilly terrain within twenty-four hours, on the 7 and 8 October 1982', which is a very quick way of describing a two day 'Ultra Marathon' event. The course requires a high degree of orienteering skills and the ability to run/walk for at least 30 miles per day, carrying a prescribed amount of kit in a small rucksack.

This year 262 Sig Sqn entered two teams. The 'A' team consisting of myself, **Cpl Terry Crosby** and **Cpl Dud Maher** and the 'B' team of **Sigs Jim Burgess, Paul Cutts** and **Pete Rendell. Cpl Terry Crosby** was the overall co-ordinator of training and administration for the competition.

The course started at Episkopi, (550ft) on the first day, and finished for the overnight stop at Troodos, (5,700ft) the teams having to pass through five checkpoints. The following day the runners returned back down the mountain to Episkopi by a different route (down being the operative word as there were lots of ups!) passing through another five checkpoints. In fact this year we had the pleasure of being 'piped' across the finishing line by 1 Bn A and SH. Seventy-seven teams started the competition and after the odd tactical error and occasional 'sense of humour failure' our A and B teams finished 20th and 47th respectively.

Cyprus Walkabout 'A' team
Cpl Dud Maher, WO2 (FofS) John Turvey and Cpl Terry Crosby

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Dud Maher** and **Joanne** on the birth of **Victoria, Cpl Chris Pugh** and **Iris** on the birth of a daughter and **Sig Taff Treeby** and **Jacqueline** also on the birth of a daughter.

BATTLE CAMP 82

After the scurrilous remarks about the 2IC in the last edition of 262 Wire notes, he thought that he should set the record straight with a report on Battle Camp 82.

Planning was left to **Lt David Tiffin** who came to stay with the Sqn from Shrivenham. He perhaps thought that a month in Cyprus would be a nice easy build-up to his marriage but how wrong can you be? He had to beg, borrow, sell his soul—you name it and he had to do it to get space on training areas. The success of the Camp owes much to his detailed planning (and devious mind).

Assistance also came from **OCdt Steven Rawcliffe** from Oxford University Officer Training Corps. He also thought that a short tour in Cyprus would be an easy way to spend his summer vacation. He took part in the first week as a student but enjoyed the second week more as a terrorist/DS/Instructor etc.

Someone else who probably thought that he was going to have an easy time with us was **Johnny Silvo.** He was visiting Cyprus with a CSE sponsored 'Folk Show' and was persuaded to join us on Evdhimou beach for a sing-song. I don't know if **Johnny** needs any free publicity, but he was superb! He wanted to stay, but the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were due to watch him in the show some 15 minutes later. He started off a most enjoyable barbecue evening—the only one when alcohol was allowed—and put us all in the right mood to forget our feet, our aches, and the exercise which lay ahead. To sum up, Battle Camp 82 was not easy—everyone who came to assist put in much hard work. The Sqn members worked hard too—but that's another story.

266 Sig Sqn
(South Atlantic)

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

'Build something from nothing quickly' was to have been the topic for the Nov issue of the Wire but as so much building was going on, unfortunately, the deadline passed. The opportune arrival of **Capt Fred Laverick,** Admin Officer, NAAFI Manager and lately Squadron scribe has enabled us to make it an edition late . . .

EVOLVED RAPIDLY

Since the formation of the Sqn on 28 July we have—two satellite links to the UK carrying 10 channels—long range HF circuits to South Georgia and Cyprus—a multitude of HF and VHF radio nets including Navy RATT circuits—Radio Relay straddling the Islands—over 80 miles of 10 pr and as much lightweight cable laid in Stanley and RAF Stanley—three automatic exchanges installed—and a Commcen averaging 600 signals a day in the tibutary and 2000 transactions in the tape relay centre. The communications have evolved rapidly reacting to the need for reliable communications and are a credit to the dedication, resourcefulness and determination of all the soldiers deployed to the Falklands.

THE MANAGEMENT

During the past few weeks, now that roulement is in full swing, the men of 30 Sig Regt have been relieved to 'swan' back to Blandford. The management now looks something like this:

Sqn Comd	**Maj W. R. Clare**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Bowering**
Admin Offr	**Capt F. Laverick**
QM	**Capt (QM) C. E. M. Widdowson**
OC Line Troop	**Capt (TOT) B. A. Meachin**
OC Radio Troop	**Lt D. W. Larkham**
OC RR Troop	**Lt S. J. May**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. W. Boag**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) H. A. Huey**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) M. Freedman**
QRSQMS	**SSgt (ORSQMS) K. Yarker**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) G. Forbes**
Ascension Island Troop	**SSgt A. P. McLean**

The Sqn is based mainly in Stanley with numerous detachments scattered on the East and West Falkland Islands with a 19 man detachment on Ascension Island and a four man detachment on South Georgia.

RR TROOP REPORT

The majority of the troop came down aboard the MV *Norland,* docking at Port Stanley on 15 Sept, after a ten day cruise from Ascension Island. During the voyage there were various activities organised to keep the troops entertained. The main one was, of course, fatigues. Also on the agenda was a programme of sporting events organised by **Lt Stephen May.** The choices on offer were five-a-side football, volleyball and tug-of-war, all contested on a car-deck on makeshift playing areas. We enjoyed most success in the football competition winning the plate final 6—0 with **LCpl 'Alec' Alexander** scoring five of the goals. In the tug-of-war our fairly small team pulled extremely well before losing in the final to a professional-looking Royal Artillery side.

When we arrived we were able to release those members of 30 Sig Regt who pioneered Radio Relay communications in the Islands. At first there was little for us to do so we renovated a tin shack just outside the headquarters building under the guidance of **SSgt 'Scouse-Silver Fox' Thompson.** It now serves as the Troop Office. With more detachments now deployed, however, so is most of the manpower.

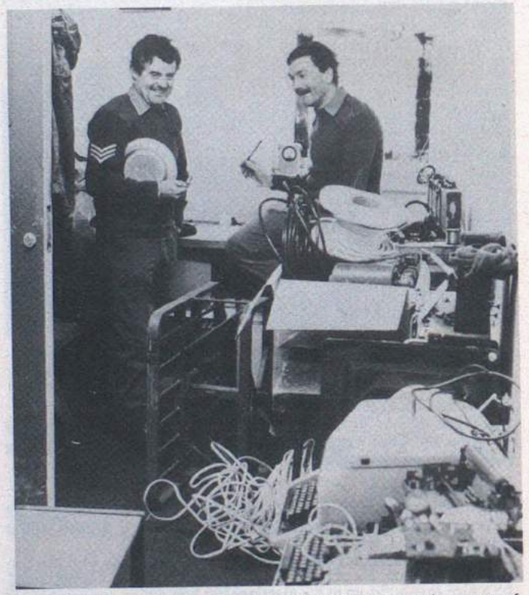
The detachments have been made as comfortable as is possible in these weather conditions, but a fortnight stint on one of the hilltops is by no means a holiday, especially as resupply helicopters are dependent upon the weather.

When not actually deployed there is time to partake of a little sport and several members of the Tp have represented the Sqn at football including **Cpl Calvin Lambert, LCpl Mick** 'You won't get me on the Falkland Islands' **Shirley, LCpl Martyn 'Chuck' Davies, Sig Alan 'Luigi' Higgins** and **Cpl Cass** 'They'll ask me to play in goal again' **Cassidy.**

Comd UKMF, Brig E. H. A. Beckett hot from Ex *Bold Guard* looking for his signallers and equipment.
L to R: Cpl Trev Sparshott, OC Maj Nigel Fairley, Brig Beckett, SSgt (FofS) Frank Cashen

The Gypsy Encampment—Tech cabins beside HQ BFFI

Sig 'Griff' Griffiths saying Thank You for the safe arrival of the Auto



Sgt Frank Coleman and Sgt Keith Hibbert discussing the move of Tech Wksps on the way to lunch

LCpl Al Newton, LCpl Ian Price, LCpl Frank Cooney with the HQ BFFI TRIFFID before cam

Cpl Geordie Baker and Sig Willie Rushton waiting for the CBF at Tac HQ

Ssgt Glen Harwood—'Through?'

RUGBY

After an even shakier start the rugby team continues to shake! Lt **Stephen May's** 'Marauders' continue to give as good as they get but never seem to get over the try line as often as the opposition. However the signs are there and with a little more co-ordination fortunes will turn.

STANLEY HALF MARATHON

The Sqn organised the first Stanley Half Marathon on Sun 10 Oct. The run over a specially selected unmined but uneven course took place in atrocious weather in front of the TV cameras. Over 500 runners took part including 30 runners from the Sqn, the CBF and the Civil Commissioner. **Sgt Rick Livsey** finished fifth in a creditable time of 1hr 15½mins with two other Sqn runners, **LCpl Jimmy Hayes** and **Sig 'Luigi' Higgins,** finishing in the first 25.

SPORTS DAY FALKLANDS STYLE

The Royal Navy ships on patrol around these islands usually manage a 36 hour break to enjoy the 'sights' of Stanley and to take part in any sporting activities that can be arranged. On 2/3 Nov it was the Sqn's trun to host HMS *Sirius* at rugby, football and volleyball, the latter being played on the frigate's fan-tail with, much to our amusement, the ball on a piece of string. The Sqn eventually won the goodwill and entertaining series 2—1 after narrowly being beaten at rugby. Next we take on HMS *Glasgow.*

ASCENSION ISLAND SPORT

Our Ascension Island detachment seems to be taking full advantage of the sunnier climes that it enjoys and participates in a variety of sports ranging from mini-mini marathons mostly uphill, cross country running, tug-of-war (not in bare feet like the 'locals'!), six-a-side football, sub-aqua diving and the dreamiest of sports, fishing. This small detachment of 19 men have met with success in most sporting activities, notably with **Cpl Mark Toner** being placed second in both the Island marathon and cross country races and breaking the Island's records in the process.

SOCIAL EVENT

On 29 Oct the **RSM, WO1 'Gus' Boag,** arranged a dinner on board the *St Edmund* to enable the officers and seniors of the Sqn to say goodbye to those from 30 Sig Regt who were returning to UK. Among those leaving were the Head of JFSS, **Lt Col Roger Thompson,** and the Sqn Cmdr, **Maj Nigel Fairley.** The evening was a great success and although improvisation was the key word (the centre piece was a Jimmy made of bread!), this did not in any way detract from the evening. From the number of sore heads around the following morning it would appear that everyone enjoyed themselves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The majority of the 'warriors' from 30 Sig Regt have now returned to Blandford and with a changeover of fifty men a month it is impossible to list all the comings and goings. However, we in '266' would wish to express our thanks and appreciation for all their endeavours, in the most difficult circumstances, for doing a magnificent job in laying the foundations for the re-birth of the Sqn. Any time you wish to return you will be most welcome!!

SPORT

Despite the various Falklands Factors the Sqn has managed to put together both rugby and football teams; the former game could only be played on a make-shift pitch, since the beginning of Nov, due to the non-accustomed hazard of mines being laid on the old rugby pitch by the 'previous temporary occupants' of the Islands. **SSgt** 'Kenny the Cat Yashin' **Yarker** is doing a magnificent job in organising all fixtures and has proved the original utility player filling any vacant slot anywhere in any team.

FOOTBALL

The football team has won six out of the seven matches losing to RAF Stanley in the early days when our team played in DMS and skins against a team with a complete strip and football boots. The team is captained by **LCpl Jimmy Hayes** and goes from strength to strength due to many of the stars taking enforced fortnight rests at some of our luxury hilltop sites!

News from Troops

633 Sig Tp B.F.P.O. 12

SIGEX TRINIDAD

Recently a rumour spread through the Troop with alarming speed. The Tp was to send a detachment to Trinidad & Tobago. Well for once the rumour was true! A list of appointments was drawn up:

OC	**Maj John Graham**
LO	**Maj Ian Bingham**
Tech Adviser	**WO2 (FofS) Les Lightfoot**
Admin NCO	**SSgt Taff Elliott**
Clerk	**Cpl Michael O'Crowley**
1st Communicator	**WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson**
2nd Communicator	**Sgt Wilf Wedge**
3rd Communicator **Cpl Dai Jones**	
1st Tech	**Sgt Gerry Lilley**
2nd Tech	**Sgt Mick Scull**
3rd Tech	**Sgt Mick Jones**
Bottle Washer	**Cpl Paul Barrett**
Goffer	**Cpl Pete Hewitt**
Baggage Man	**Sgt Dennis Morgan**
Dvr	**Cpl Mick Hellewell**
Navigator	**LCpl Adey Garner**

THE REALITY

Plans were drawn up and questions asked. Perhaps we could charter a yacht? Would the hotel be up to standard? Would we have to work very hard? Would we have to work? How long could the jolly (I mean detachment) be spun out? With the management in a state of euphoria (I mean, **Sig Ian Hodgson** could run the show in our absence, couldn't he) the word came down—only two men would be allowed to go. That was it, the knives were out. Everybody put forward a case about why he was best suited to fill one of the two places. However, after careful deliberation it was decided that **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson** and **LCpl Mick Luckes** should go. What follows is an account of the detachment by **LCpl Mick Luckes.**

A GOOD START

'We left Belize on Fri 10 Sept on a TACA (Take a Chance Anywhere?) flight to Miami. No sooner had we stepped on board than a bottle of champagne was pressed on to each of us. Not a bad start eh? The aircraft took off and we were just settling back to enjoy ourselves when the oxygen masks fell from the hidey holes in the cabin roof! Luckily the cabin depressurisation wasn't as drastic as we first thought because no oxygen came through the masks. YOS thought it was all a joke at first, but I tell you the wind was taken right out of our sails. The second part of our journey from Miami to Port of Spain Trinidad was by Eastern Airways. The time there was no depressurisation of the cabin, but there was also no free bottles of champagne. Ah well, you can't win every time.

OLD NAVAL BASE

On our arrival at Port of Spain we were met by three members of the Trinidad and Tobago Regt, our hosts for the next 13 days. After a hairy trip through the roads of Trinidad we arrived unscathed (if shaken) at Tetron Barracks. The Barracks is an old American naval base which had been handed over to the Regt. There is a beach just 100 yards from the Cpls Mess, and the Sigs Centre is situated on a headland overlooking two bays. From the headland, on a clear day, you can also see Venezuela. What an improvement on Airport Camp, Belize.

The weekend was spent getting to know the layout of the camp and generally getting ready for the job we had to undertake. Namely, to advise and coach the Signal Platoon of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment. However, it wasn't all work. We did manage some sightseeing and a visit to a family fair whose attractions included a display of period dress worn in Trinidad since it was discovered, and a steel band.

EARLY START AND LINK ESTABLISHED

Mon morning dawned bright and early. Well you don't get an opportunity to sleep on after reveille is sounded by bugle at 0500 am. We spent the next day and a half getting ready to establish a rear link to the Tp in Belize. There were lectures to prepare and give and masts and antennae to erect. However, by the day of the first schedule, Wed, we were ready. Unfortunately the site we had been given was not ideal.

We could hear Belize calling us clearly, but they weren't hearing us. So we packed up everything and moved to a site the Yeoman felt would be much better. He wasn't wrong. On Thurs we established the link both ways. Then we handed it over to our hosts to practice their newly taught skills.

TOBAGO

Thurs and Fri went so well that the Yeoman asked the OC over the link for permission to slip off to Tobago for a few days. I don't know what bribe the Yeoman offered, but Sat morning saw us boarding a plane for the short ride to Tobago. The remainder of Sat and all day Sun were spent resting and recouperating, for our hosts in Trinidad had made sure that we didn't get to bed until midnight, such was the extent of their generous hospitality.

In our absence our hosts continued to operate the link, and so when we returned to Trinidad on Mon we found everything running smoothly. The link continued to work well until Wed when it was time to close down.

BEAUTIFUL BARBADOS

Thurs saw us saying farewell to our hosts and climbing aboard a flight for Barbados (I don't know how he managed it, but the Yeoman had persuaded the OC to let us take a stopover in Barbados before reporting back for work the following Mon!). Now Barbados is exactly as the brochures depict it—and a bit more besides. What the Travel agents don't mention is that the island tends to fill up with British tourists and that you can pick up fish and chips from a genuine 'chippy'!! However, we thoroughly enjoyed our stay and it was with a heavy heart that we arrived back in Belize on Sun 25 Sept.

THE KIT

A few technical details about the rear link follow. The link operated mainly on voice over a path some 2977 km long. Belize used a Clansman VRC 321 with a dipole. Trinidad used a Plessey PRC 320 manpack and a Plessey RT 320/2 base station, both on dipole. The latter set has a 100w output. The Clansman and Plessey sets were both compatible with the major exception that the sets in Trinidad don't have a CW(N) facility, but both sets do have both upper and lower side band facilities. On the occasions when communications were under considerable strain due to heavy interference caused by tropical storms at both ends of the links it must be said that a narrow band facility would have been invaluable.

THANK YOU

Finally may I again express both the Yeoman's and my own gratitude to **WO2 George Alexander, SSgt Everard Braffit, Cpl Steve Hewitt, Cpl Rupert Alexander** and all other members of the regiment who showed us such outstanding hospitality during our all too short stay.'

SPORTS ROUND UP

The Troop has continued to rule the roost as undisputed cricket champions. 53 Fd Sqn RE and DOE are other teams that have recently been put to the sword, or is it the bat? We've lost valuable team members such as **Sgt Frank McCormick, Cpl Dai Jones** and **LCpl Scouse Matthews,** but **Sgt Wilf Wedge, Cpl's Paul Barrett** and **Mick Hellewell** and **Sig Pete Foley** have all forced their way into the team. Our only defeat in recent months has been against the Sgts Mess, but as 633 provided 18 of the 22 players involved, the Tp claims a moral victory. I mean we've only lost to ourselves!!

The seniors in the Tp are proving to be budding John Lowe's and Eric Bristow's (Darts players to the uninitiated). Men such as **Sgts Dennis** 'Compo' **Morgan, Mick Jones, Mick Scull** and **Gerry Lilley** have helped us beat REME and 3 R Anglian in the last month. Is their success based on hard training or Belikin or a misspent youth. Read the next exciting issue for the answer.

DEPARTUES/ARRIVALS

The Troop has once again had to bid farewell to brown guys such as **Sgt's Phil Newman** and **Keith Essam, Cpl's Bob Dobson, Reg Whitehead, Steve Beverly, Nigel Metcalfe, Jed Keegan** and **Dai Jones, LCpl's Scouse Matthews, Pops Ashley, Steve Philpott, Mitch Mitchell** and **Bob Bastow, Sig's Shane Leigh, Walter** 'Driver' **Jones** and **Roy Hallam.** Try not to forget us, as if you ever could.

The Troop would like to welcome white guys such as **SSgt Dave Nixon, Sgt Gerry Lilley, Cpl's Billy Bright, Steve Purdy, Steve Smith, Bob Crossley, Robbie Reid, Ian Rushmer, Mick Hellewell, Kenny Kendall, Mick Rhodes, Geoff Glover** and **Kev Cunningham, LCpl's Adey Garner, Dai Williams, Les Linnett, Andy Turner** and **Steve Feeney, Sig's 'Geordie' Green, Glen Belfit, Adrian Moody, Colin Gardner, Neil Belcher, Neil Hayden, Nigel Dix, Sid Perks, Joe Flood** and **Stu Townsend.** Welcome, and may I take this opportunity to wish you 'Happy Christmas'.

STOP PRESS

The Troop would like to congratulate **LCpl** and **Mrs Ashley** on the addition to their family. Well done to you both. Pops, please forward 68 cigars and eight bottles of champagne soonest.

PRESENTATION

On a recent inspection of the Transmitter site CBF Belize, **Brig A. G. Pollard** took the opportunity to present **Sig Ned Kelly** with his well deserved BAOR cross country running colours for 1982. **Ned** is no stranger to awards, for he already has in his collection Army Championship winners and runners up team medals won whilst with 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. He has now got his sights on a place in the full Army Team, and judging by the amount of training he's putting in, he might just do it.

Queen's University OTC B.F.P.O. 801

EXERCISE 'HIGHLAND WAY'

Without doubt, one of the most eagerly awaited weekends in the autumn term's training was Ex *Highland Way.* The attraction here being a trip to join some Celtic colleagues in Scotland for a competition organised by a small band of dedicated Sassenachs from Blandford.

On Fri, 5 Nov, the Cairnryan ferry had spewed its cargo out into a wet and inhospitable night. The Signal Troop from Queen's OTC knew they faced a long and tedious journey to Cultybraggan Training Camp, and all but the drivers had been doing their battle preparations during the crossing in a traditional Irish manner—at the bar. Consequently, it was a slightly roughened, but deadly keen Tp that arrived in Camp at a most unsociable hour of the early morning.

The long journey of torrential rain and high winds was, however, not to have any detrimental effect on the activities which followed. They even coped with a briefing by **Yeoman Palmer,** given at speed such that Norris McWhirter should have been informed. The exercise itself was of a kind the Tp does not often get the chance to participate in. Being a non-operational unit, they rarely have the opportunity to drive about in military vehicles in order to hunt down oblique clues. At the end of the day, though, all efforts proved worthwhile when **Maj L. G. Fraser** announced that Queen's had won, what had been a very enjoyable competition. The clock, which was very kindly presented to the Tp, as their prize, now hangs with pride in their classroom and has been known to have been manipulated in order to give the Instructors the impression that they should have finished 20 minutes ago.

The Officer Cadets had a good excuse to enjoy themselves. Not that one was required. They are known to mix well with their Scottish counterparts, in and out of the battle. Now that the battle was over, there was also a chance to meet the ORLO team socially, now that **Maj Fraser** was outside his riding boots (this year's fashion!). Even here the spirit of competition had not yet been laid to rest, and was to continue in the form of the proverbial 'boat race'.

All in all, the long haul to Cultybraggan was well worthwhile, enjoyable, and most of all, instructive. Our thanks to ORLO and Edinburgh OTC for providing the training and administrative support. We look forward to a return visit.

JUO Stephen Twibble providing on-the-job training

University of London Contingent OTC

LOOKING BACK

This is the first article from the Troop for some time (if ever), and covering a whole year's activities in one fell swoop is a tall order; the twenty-eight strong troop is a hive of industry and to relate everything would fill the whole journal. Here, then, are some of the highlights.

INTEREST HIGH

Interest in the Troop is high and the standard of recruits reflects this; of the eight cadets who joined us from the last recruits' course, four were among the top eight recruits, including **WO/Cdts Julia Martin** and **Karen Timms** who were best recruit and runner-up respectively. As a compliment to this, we are also burdened with a large contingent of Army Bursars; **O/Cdts Julian Bunce** (R Signals), **Andy Moore** (R Signals), **Jim Bashall** (3 RTR), **John Sims** (RAOC), **Steve Ward** (RAPC) and **Jud Leah Dougherty,** WRAC (RAEC). The phrase 'when I'm in the *real* Army . . .' seems to arise with monotonous frequency!

EX 'PADDLE' IN APRIL

This is the largest Troop Ex we do, and consists of providing part of the communications support for the Devises to Westminster Canoe Marathon. Our task was to provide seven detachments from Newbury to Aldermaston.

O/Cdt Moore was in charge of organisation, and under his direction we moved into position on the Fri and established comms on both the VHF and HF nets, which were maintained unbroken throughout the competition. When the race began the volume of traffic caused a certain degree of shock to the uninitiated but radio discipline and VP won out, and both nets operated smoothly to capacity. The organisers announced themselves well pleased with our efforts, so much so that for next year we have been asked to provide coverage for the whole race!

Endex was followed by a short tactical exercise in Aldershot Orange under **O/Cdt Clint Knight** trying to capture Blue's whisky, guarded by **O/Cdt Andy Silk's** merry men. They failed (just) but spirits were raised at the Troop social in a local pub before returning to Handel Street.

SUMMER TERM

On our return to University, we discovered that our Clansmen sets had softly and silently vanished away, to *Op Corporate.* The return to grace of our Larkspur equipment brought back happy memories for **WO2 (SSM) Jim Lycett** ('When I was in Aden . . .') but for those cadets weaned on PRC 351's the A41 was an eyeopener ('Are you sure these things are manportable, Sir?').

Fortunately radios were not needed for the Troop annual dinner, choreographed by **O/Cdts Nick Hilyer** and **Dickie Boyd,** on 8 May. A rescheduled 12 Sig Bde exercise caused some old friends to cancel but we were happy to have the company of **Brig P. D. Alexander MBE,** as the guest of honour, and **Col D. P. Robinson OBE,** TD, an ex-CO ULOTC. At the other end of the scale, two more recent additions to the Corps **Lt Martin Hoskins** and **2Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** (who are they?) returned to show what membership of the troop can lead to. The Keleher (Blackleg) trophy for the cadet contributing most to the troop, was awarded to **WO/Cdts Leah Dougherty** and **Tania Henson.** A magnificent evening only ended at 0230 when **Sgt Ron Franklin** (ex-36 Sig Regt (V)) closed the bar!

The one exercise of the term was to provide comms for the Guinness sponsored Grand Union Canal Medical Meander. In beautiful weather we watched the medical students slog past and acted as quality control for the barrels of eponymous stout along the route. All exercises should be this way!

ANNUAL CAMP IN JULY

This year's Camp was at Westdown South on the SPTA. We arrived to find the Signal Office and Store was directly opposite the Orderly Room, so the powers-that-be **(Maj Mike Coker,** D&D) could keep an eye on us.

The first week was allocated to Troop training, a welcome innovation by the unit CO, **Lt Col David Wood,** WG. A visit to 249 Sig Sqn at Bulford gave us an insight into the role of the AMF(L) and 249's role within it; a very interesting and informative trip. Two exercises occupied the rest of the week. The first required us to produce eight O/Cdts over four days to man the umpires' net for the AAC Helimeet '82. **O/Cdt Andy Lee** presided over this, and the AAC very kindly gave the whole troop complimentary tickets to the Air Show on Sun. The rest of the troop went out on a C41 and C50 Radio Relay exercise, with **O/Cdt Julian Bunce** as Troop OC, opposed by an EW threat. The exercise was a useful introduction into the problems of relay work, and, after the return of the Helimeet team to provide enemy patrols, the difficulties of site security. Mention should be made of **Cpl Allan, LCpl Watson** and **Sig Edwards** of 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, who brought two C50 vehicles down and found themselves pitched, sans kit, into our exercise.

Next came the Inter-sub-unit Skill-at-Arms competition. Troop training was in the tender hands of **Andy** 'Porker' **Moore,** and the Troop teams under **Andy Moore, JUO Mike** 'Action Man' **Watts** and **O/Cdt Nick Hilyer** came second, third and sixth respectively, giving the Troop second place overall, just behind the RE Troop.

Camp culminated in a three day contingent exercise, Ex *Plain Sailing,* in which the unit was organised as an infantry company, clearing East Larkland Island of Latinians (ho, hum). As well as providing communicators down to platoon level, the Troop provided two of the three Pl **Sgts JUO Watts** and **O/Cdt Moore** (again!) and some cannon fodder. The exercise produced few 'signal problems' but the weather was unrelentingly hot, and some basic infantry lessons were learned the hard way. The CO was not completely satisfied—he wanted hail, sleet and snow!

A REVUE

The exercise was followed by the unit social, including a revue. The troop effort, concocted by **O/Cdt Niall Creed,** introduced a new range of anti-terrorist weapons, including the Dougherty Bomb **(Leah** 'Babyface' **Dougherty);** Codename SUSIE **(Susie 'Gosh' Elcomb);** and Supergrunts MK1 & 11 **(Jim Body** and **Andy Moore),** products of the Royal Ordanance Factory, Welbeck.

The end of camp Honours List promoted **JUO Watts** to B Wing JUO **O/Cdt Hilyer** to Troop JUO and **WO/Cdt Dougherty** to JUO WRAC, thus continuing our tradition of filing two non-troop JUO posts. **J. U. O. Dougherty,** in the absence of a WRAC subaltern, also became acting OC WRAC Platoon, a post she continues to fill admirably.

EX 'SIGNAL MEETING' IN OCT

Organised by ORLO, this was a UOTC national HF competition, based on solving crossword clues by radio. **WO/Cdt Karen Timms** organised our two detachments, at Handel Street and Blackheath, and at least one was in touch with the clue-passing station of the moment throughout the exercise. Handel Street had one delightful moment when faced with a 122m dipole to raise on a 100m roof. We await the results with interest.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

CONTINGENT COCKTAIL PARTY—VISIT OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

This year's cocktail party, on 17 Nov, was honoured by a visit from ULOTC's **Honorary Colonel, Her Majesty The Queen Mother.** About 150 O/Cdts gathered in Senate House, with members of the Bakers' Company and other guests. Before the arrival of the **Queen Mother, Mr Frank Taylor,** Master of the Bakers' Company, presented **Lt Col Wood** with a set of silver cutlery for the Mess.

A lot of signallers seemed to be acting as waiters, but **Capt Vivian Dunn,** OC Troop presented most of the rest to **Her Majesty,** who was heard to ask in surprised tones 'Are they all signallers?'. **Her Majesty** made a tremendous impression. As she left, she was presented with a bouquet by **J. U. O. Dougherty.**

Members of the Royal Signals Troop OTC speaking to The Queen Mother.
Left to right: Officer Cadets Creed, Foster-Knight, Junior under Officer Hilyer and Woman Officer Cadet Elcomb

UOTC WEEKEND NOV

ORLO strikes again! The Royal Signals Troop from Southampton, Cardiff and London OTC's gathered at New Zealand Farm Camp to do battle with each other. We were last in, due to convoy problems in the Staines Triangle.

Sat dawned, and with it Ex *Signal Snooper.* The three teams bombed round the combat zone looking for clues and engaging enemy Land Rovers. London (Red) was controlled by **O/Cdt John** 'Stripper' **Sims** from his CP and a sterling SIGINT effort by **O/Cdt Boyd** meant that by the afternoon a fairly complete tactical picture had been built up. When the results were announced, we found we had just scraped home with 269 points to Southampton's 265.

The exercise for Sun was for us a defensive one against the combined might of Southampton and Cardiff. This time we deployed under **O/Cdt Jim** 'Tankie' **Bashall** and waited. This was the first time this exercise had been tried out, and there was some confusion over the rules. However, when the fog of war had receded, we had won again, this time by 515 points to 405.

All in all, we had a very enjoyable time, and our thanks go to ORLO **Maj L. G. Fraser,** R Signals, **WO2 (YofS) Palmer** and their team ('Llewellyn, what are you doing here?'). London was responsible for admin, and tremendous work was put in by **Sgt Ted Petts** in the kitchen, and **Sgt Doug** 'Dougie' **Smith,** RMP(V) at the Mess Bar.

MISCELLANY

Outside of the troop, members have contributed to other unit activities. **O/Cdts Moore** and **Forster-Knight** and **WO/Cdts Timms** and **Sue Leeson** are members of the Shooting Team, which has done tremendously well this season. **O/Cdts Sims** and **Moore** were also part of our Courage Trophy Team which came fifth. **O/Cdt Creed** and **WO/Cdt Leeson** feature on the cover of the new UOTC pamphlet as the two 'students' in the top left hand corner (the book, incidentally, is 'The Third World War—The Untold Story' by You-Know-Who) while inside **WO/Cdt Susie Elcomb** peeps from a Land Rover.

Four cadets were part of the twelve strong OTC memorial parade at Senate House on 11 Nov, and three provided the OTC representation at St Pauls on 14 Nov.

VALETE

It is with regret that we say goodbye to **Capt Vivian Dunn.** During his four terms as OC Royal Signals Tp he has brought the troop on a great deal. His intelligent instruction and encouragement have helped every member, and we shall miss him. He returns to 39 Sig Regt (V), and his place will be taken by **2Lt Mark Bretton,** late of Cardiff OTC, who joined us in Oct. **Capt Dunn** will not be completely free of us, however, for **Juo Rod Mansell, O/Cdts Jim** '98 Golf' **Body** and **Jerry Appleyard** have all recently joined the same regiment (just a coincidence?).

Association News

FORMER PENSIONERS

Our thanks are due to our Regimental Pay Office, Taunton, who have reported the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

02315956	**SSgt M. W. Pope**
02306662	**WO2 S. G. Palmer**
02317408	**WO1 (RSM) W. Booth**
02306214	**Sgt Conner**
05887892	**Cpl J. W. Houghton**
02322260	**WO2 M. P. Haydon**
05568703	**WO2 Futcher/Smith**
02318421	**WO2 N. H. Howard**

BEDFORD BRANCH

RESULT OF CHRISTMAS DRAW

1st	£50.00	8038	C. Spence, c/o 40 Signal Regt, Northern Ireland
2nd	£25.00	8279	W. A. Yates, Reading Branch
3rd	£15.00	9029	P. Large, Bromham Hospital, Bedford
4th	£10.00	5869	J. Evans, 20 Fairy Avenue, Godmanchester, Hunts.

And other winners have been notified. Many thanks to those who gave their support.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

Report by L. M. Parrack, Esq.

This branch was honoured by the presence of the new Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock, CB MBE, DL** and **Mrs Badcock** at the annual Dinner and Dance, held at the Dudley Hotel, Hove, on 27 Nov. The General took office as Master only on the previous day, so it was the first social event that he attended in that capacity. Among other distinguished guests who joined us was **Brig P. A. Dally CBE,** and **Mrs Dally.**

The loyal toast was proposed by Chairman **R. J. Bailey,** and that to our Colonel-in-Chief, **The Princess Anne,** by **Cpl P. A. Stocks, Mr W. Edwards** then followed to toast the Royal Corps of Signals and The Association.

Replying in a 'walk-about' speech, **Gen Badcock** referred to the global responsibilities of the Corps, and of its participation in the Falklands campaign, during which eight of our soldiers lost their lives.

On a lighter note, he mentioned that the Branch President, **Col T. Boileau, OBE,** was at one time his CO, and related a hilarious occasion in the Officers Mess one night, in which they were both involved.

In conclusion, the General expressed his pleasure at the large attendance at dinner, and the continuing interest of past serving members and present TA personnel, in the affairs of the Corps. This reflected great credit on all concerned in the running of Brighton Branch, and the organisation and presentation of such happy social event as this highly successful Dinner.

The last toast, to 'Our Guests' was proposed by the President, and in reply **Brig Dally** gave a brief but witty speech.

After dinner, the greatly popular Grand Draw, organised meticulously as always by **Derry Powell,** took place. **Mrs Badcock** drew the tickets for the many valuable prizes. The evening continued with dancing to a very lively band until the early hours.

I am glad to report that Brighton Branch continues to increase in numbers of membership, due mostly to the energetic and enthusiastic efforts of the Hon Secretary, **Dave Tupper,** his faithful aide **Janet** and other hardworking helpers.

Thank you all!

CHESTERFIELD BRANCH

Report by Col L. W. Wright TD

The death of Ex **WO2 'Reg' Charlesworth,** Chairman of the Chesterfield Branch occurred on 13 Nov after a long incapacitating illness borne with his customary calm, at the age of 71.

A veteran of Dunkirk, Burma and Ceylon, **Reg** had devoted the greater part of his life to the Corps and the Association. He will be remembered for the thoroughness with which he trained soldiers, both as a Volunteer and later a PSI, in the 46 Sig Regt TA, later reconstituted as the 38 Sig Regt (Volunteers).

He was a natural gentleman of great virtue in whom his comrades and friends took a great pride. To his devoted widow, **Mabel,** and his children and grandchildren we extend our deepest sympathy.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Report by J. D. Anderson

This branch has been established for many years, and has faithfully carried on with its monthly meetings in spite of all the strife and unrest in the Province during the past 13 years, and is in good heart.

We have strong ties with 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers), and we are indebted to the CO of that regiment—**Lt Col A. P. de Bretton Gordon,** Royal Signals, for his kindness in permitting the use of the splendid facilities at Clonaver Park, Belfast, for our monthly meetings, and for his sympathetic regard for the association. We are in the unique position that the majority of our active members are currently serving with the 40 (U) Sig Regt (V). This augurs well for the future of the branch and will achieve continuity as the number of our Second World War veterans sadly dimishes through the passage of time.

Our branch President is **Brig E. McK. Erskine,** whilst our Chairman is **J. W. 'Bill' Douglas,** who both give great support to the branch. We are fortunate in having **SSgt. Christine Spence** of 40 Sig Regt, as our secretary. **Jim Anderson** is our long serving and cautious Treasurer who works closely with **Noel Johnston** who has been our Auditor and Welfare Officer for many years.

SSgt 'Jackie' Donaldson aided by **Brian Chambers** and young **Henry Blackwood** work hard to promote our annual dinner dance and other fund-raising activities, and when there is a collection for funds we can rely on **Mrs Peggy Portis** and **Jack Johnstone** to do some profitable arm-twisting. Amongst the Boys of the Old Brigade we have **Harry Stanley, Gerry McCullough, Stan Oliver,** and that keen radio enthusiast **Walter Caughey.**

The highlight of recent years has been the annual dinner dance, and we were delighted to obtain the services of the Corps Band and Dance Band Section, to provide an ideal background to the function. These were memorable occasions and did much to foster esprit de corps.

Association members paraded for the annual Armistice service with 40 (U) Sig Regt (V), where the branch Standard was borne by **Harry Stanley,** and the salute at the March-Past was taken by our President. This was an excellent parade and service.

During the Annual Camp of 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) which was held in Belgium, members of the association who are also members of the regiment, paraded at the Menin Gate in Ypres on 5 Nov and laid a wreath in tribute to the fallen on behalf of the branch. This was a poignant and moving ceremony.

We are pleased to announce that two members of the regiment and the association **SSgt J. Donaldson** (Vice-Chairman) and **SSgt C. Spence** (Secretary) received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate in April.

This is perhaps our first appearance in 'The Wire', but it will not be our last, and we wish association members everywhere all the best of good fortune in 1983.

READING BRANCH

Report by Maj T. G. Robinson, ERD

The Reading branch held its 12th annual dinner in the autumn. The branch was favoured by the presence of the Deputy Signal Officer in Chief, **Brig Gen P. J. Evans CBE ADC** and **Mrs Evans.** The guests, including **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** (General Secretary of the Association) and **Mrs Murray** together with three branch secretaries from West London, Aldershot and Brighton were welcomed by the branch President, **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE.**

Brig Evans, in an after dinner speech, gave a graphic description of the role of the Corps in the South Atlantic episode.

Sport

BASKETBALL

UK TOUR 19-28 NOVEMBER 1982
Report by Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett

THE 1982 CORPS BASKETBALL SQUAD

Standing, rear, Left to Right (4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt): Sig Stu Fell, LCpl Jimmy Peat, Sgt Les Bennett, SSgt Steve May, Sgt Colin Elstob and LCpl Rab Mulholland
Standing, middle, Left to Right: WO2 (RQMS) Doug Poultney—HQ 4 Sig Gp (Official), LCpl Blue Lloyd—21 Sig Regt, WO2 Geoff Back—55 Sig Sqn (V), Sgt Dave Smith—233 Sig Sqn, SSgt Pete Sutherland—1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, Capt (TOT) Terry Everett—School of Signals (Secretary)
Sitting Left to Right: Sgt Micky Bohanan—Army Apprentices College, Cpl Nev Smikle—School of Signals, SSgt Matty Matthews—4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt (Coach), Sig Sas Aziz—244 Sig Sqn, Sgt John Smith—13 Sig Regt
Not in Picture: Sgt Bob Mahoney—School of Signals, Sgt Stu Price—32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)

The annual Corps UK Basketball Tour took place during the last week in Nov. On Sat 20 **SSgt Matty Matthews** set about the task of creating a team from the assembled talent. On Sun 21 two matches were scheduled so success or failure was to be put to the immediate test.

Sun morning and a match versus Weymouth Cats Whiskers, a useful side who have dominated the Dorset League for some years. Unfortunately on this occasion several of the Cats players were out through injury so it was a weaker side that the Corps beat quite comfortably with a score of 62 to 33. **SSgt Pete Sutherland** and **Sgt Mick Bohanan** shooting well, ably assisted by **Sgt Colin Elstob, WO2 Geoff Back** and **LCpl Rab Mulholland.**

The afternoon match was a friendly versus the Blandford Garrison Side which included three of the Corps Squad—**Sgts Bob Mahoney** and **Stu Price** and **Cpl Nev Smikle.** The garrison also played the tour official, **WO2 Doug Poultney,** as a guest leaving coach **Matthews** to provide game officials and a Corps team. It was an enjoyable contest, the Corps just managing a win at 66 to 59.

Mon 22, more training during the day and a match versus the Royal Navy, in the evening. The Corps got off to a good start with the plays and shots succeeding and the defensive trio checking out many of the Navy's attempts at basket. They led at 54 to 27 at halftime. The second half was much more evenly contested and the Corps ran out winners at 102 to 79. This was a good match for Signals who maintained their rhythm and shooting accuracy while playing most of the squad. Good set shooting spells by **SSgt Pete Sutherland** and **Sgt Mick Bohanan** and some good interplay inside between **WO2 Geoff Back, SSgt Steve May** and **LCpl Jimmy Peat** in offence. **Sgt Colin Estob, LCpl Rab Mulholland** and **Sig Stu Fell** checking out well in defence. **Sgts Dave Smith** and **Les Bennett** fitting in well when substituted.

Tues and a match against one of the leading contenders in the Solent Area, Hythe and Applemore. This was an excellent match very much enjoyed by all the spectators. Hythe steadily took command as the game progressed with subtle penetrating play and devastatingly accurate shooting against a Corps side looking a little lack lustre following their tussle on the previous evening. Final scoreline Hythe 93—Corps 68.

Wed, more practice and another game, this time the Bournemouth Bears. A good steady side who play in the Solent League. Not such stern opposition for the Corps who ran out winners at 71 to 59. Good performances again from **WO2 Geoff Back** and **SSgt Pete Sutherland** with **Sgt Les Bennett** beginning to show as a force to be reckoned with.

Thurs morning and the Squad travelled to Aldershot to participate in the H. Samuel Inter Corps Basketball Tournament. This Tournament has grown from the annual R Signals versus REME fixture and this year had six teams participating, namely R Signals, REME, APTC, RCT, ACC and the RA. The Corps first two matches being in the afternoon and evening of Thurs.

The afternoon match was versus the ACC and proved to be very closely fought to end with a tie at full time 77-77. In the extra period the score was still tied after three minutes but with a couple of expensive losses of possession by Signals in the last two minutes ACC took their opportunity and ran out winners (ACC 93—Signals 87). A match in which Signals missed their opportunities to take command. Revenge for the ACC who we beat in an equally close match last year.

The evening match was against the RCT. Tiredness and the unexpected defeat in the afternoon led to a dismal performance by the Corps who allowed a much less skilful side to overcome them with a scoreline of RCT 47—Signals 43.

Fri morning and the next match against APTC. The Signals squad had received a pep talk of some proportion and were looking to restore their pride against the stronger sides in the tournament. APTC came out fast and sharp and went to 22-6 ahead before Signals woke up. They had no more of the game but their finishing was far superior. Signals kept going and made successive attempts to get back into the match with **Sgt Stu Price, LCpl Rab Mulholland** and **Sig Stu Fell** producing good work. APTC were much too well coached to allow a cushion of 16 points to be frittered and ran out comfortable winners at APTC 87 to Signals 58.

Fri afternoon and the arch rivals REME. Another well contested match, **SSgt Pete Sutherland** and **Sgt Mick Bohanan** still plugging away and good performances from **Sig Stu Fell, Sgt Les Bennett** and **LCpl Rab Mulholland,** with **LCpl Jimmy Peat** outstanding, playing his best match of the week. On a couple of occasions Signals looked as though they were going to take command but could not sustain the run. Great efforts were made by REME to get back into the driver's seat and finally they managed it, winning on a scoreline of REME 90—Signals 75.

Sat and our final match versus the RA. A good sporting match with an outstanding performance from **Sgt Les Bennett** and good support from **LCpls Jimmy Peat** and **Rab Mulholland** and **Sig Stu Fell.** The same problem unfortunately, opportunities created were not taken and the RA ran out winners at RA 78—Signals 67.

Quite a lot of lessons have been learned this year, not least by the management, your author **Maj Terry Everett.** At the end of the tournament the other teams were beginning to show the evidence of tiredness that had been apparent in the Signals squad on arrival at Aldershot. With the increase in participation in the Inter Corps Tournament, which looks like increasing still further next year, the Signals build up of four full days training and five matches at Blandford is far too intensive. This must be severely, but constructively, reduced for next year, to allow a well practiced but properly rested side to commence competition at the Inter Corps Tournament. We have the talent in the Signals squad to give any of the other Corps teams a run for their money and are determined to do better next year—you might notice I say this from the relative safety of not being able to do any worse.

My congratulations to all those who took part in the 1982 tour including those who through lack of match practice, injury or inexperience did not see much of the bench. Everyone learned from the experience and those that competed did so with good sportsmanship giving all they had to offer in good spirits.

Our Tour official was **WO2 RQMS Doug Poultney** who on this occasion was on his swansong, he should be just about into his terminal leave this time next year. **Doug Poultney** has been giving service to R Signals Corps Basketball virtually since it started, first as a player, subsequently as Corps Coach and finally as tour official. His enthusiasm for, and dedication to, the sport has been, and still is, an example to us all. At the squad get together on Fri evening in Aldershot **SSgt Matty Matthews** presented him with an appropriately engraved silver tray as a memento of our appreciation of his years of association with Corps Basketball. Thanks for everything **Doug,** all best wishes for the future, for yourself, **Gail** and the children.

Finally we look forward to greater success in 1983—The year of the ?

GOLF

NEWSLETTER NO 8

Report by Maj Harry Meekings, 39 Signal Regt (V)

LOCAL NEWS
1983 HANDICAPS

It is the responsibility of all golfers to ensure that they are fully conversant with the R & A new handicap system which starts on 1 Jan 1983. If you have any problems please go to your club secretary and ask. The Corps Fixture list will be sent to all registered players and whether or not you wish to be considered for Corps golf, the personal details, which indicates your new handicaps must be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible.

If anyone has any problems which cannot be answered locally then contact the Secretary direct

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ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY
AUTUMN MEETING 1982

After a week of rain, Thurs 30 Sept broke sunny and warm over Tidworth for the first day of the Royal Signals Autumn Golf Meeting. Over fifty Corps golfers came to Tidworth for this meeting; a most encouraging attendance from serving and retired members alike.

The first competition, on Thursday morning, was a warm up comprising a Stableford competition for the Royal Signals Foursomes Cup. Pairs were drawn for this round so it was 'pot luck' so to speak. The winning pair was **Col (Retd) J. E. Wilson** and **WO1 (RSM) J. Campbell** with a total of 32 points. By the time everyone had partaken of a beer and a good ploughman's lunch the golf, together with the weather, hotted with the afternoon Stableford singles competition which was won by **WO2 (YofS) Coles** with a total of 36 points. The keenness of competition is shown by the fact that no less than three competitors came in with 33 points fighting for second place which eventually went to **Lt Col H. R. Williams** on a countback.

The veterans competition was won for the second year running by **Lt Col (Retd) G. Lowe.**

The major autumn competitions were held on the second day when the Royal Signals Scratch Trophy, the Royal Signals Handicap Cup, the Royal Signals Officers' Cup and the Autumn inter-unit team trophy were all contested over a gruelling 36 holes. Everyone was grateful that it was not as hot as it had been on Thursday; it was overcast and windy but luckily not wet or cold. The golf improved generally over this second day and **Sgt C. Carveth** once again proved to be the best golfer when he played his two rounds in a consistent 145 strokes. This won him the scratch trophy and gave him the runner up position in the handicap competition. **Maj R. Windmill,** the Corps Golf Captain, reversed the achievement by winning the handicap cup and taking second place in the open scratch competition. **Maj Windmill** returned a score of 161 (net 143) which was also good enough to win him the Officers' Cup. **Lt Col Williams** was the runner up in the Officers' competition. The inter-unit team prize was handsomely carried off by 30 Sig Regt.

As the competitions came to an end a lot of tired golfers gathered in the clubhouse and as our President, **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson,** presented the prizes it started to rain; and so it did all weekend. Our thanks goes to the Tidworth Garrison Golf Club for their kind and efficient hospitality and they must be congratulated on the excellent condition of their course which was a pleasure to play on. The next Royal Signals Golfing Society meeting is at Catterick on 28/29 April 1983.

ARMY GOLF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

I would like to remind all Corps golf players that they are strongly advised, and recommended by the Corps Golf Committee, to join the Army Golf Association. The AGA has two types of Membership.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Full membership is open to all permanent and short service regular officers and warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Regular Army.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate Membership is open to:

• All permanent and short service regular officers and warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers on their retirement from the regular Army.

• Civilians during their period they are employed by the Ministry of Defence (Army).

This memo to all golfers is to ensure that everyone has had the opportunity to join and if any players require any further information about the AGA and its membership please write to the Secretary NOW!

CORPS v RAOC

The Corps always appear to visit Hankley Common when the course is in good condition. At the annual match against the Ordnance on the 8 Sept the course excelled itself, both teams were delighted at the outstanding condition of the course and in particular the greens.

In the morning the teams played greensomes. Our first pair of **Gen Jimmy Jackson** and **Maj Harry Meekings** came up against a formidable pair, of which one, **WO2 George Young** had a magic putter. After seven one putt greens the **General** was about to burst into tears. However the **General** overcame all his grief by sinking a twenty-five foot putt on the eighteenth green to win the hole and half the game. Another half came from **Lt Col Derek Hall** and **Maj Robbie Burns** and our only win was from **Lt Col Stan Schofield** and **WO2 George Coles.** That result gave us two-two in games, leaving the afternoon all to play for.

In the afternoon **Maj Harry Meekings** took on the man with the magic putter and a very good game took place with four birdies coming from the players in the round. Unfortunately **Harry Meekings** lost 2-1 with his opponent two under for his round. Our only winners of the afternoon were **Lt Col Stan Schofield** and **Lt Col Derek Hall** and two halves from **WO2 George Cole** and **Maj Mike Galloway.** The Ordnance were much the better team on the day but we all have next year to look forward to.

RESULTS

Maj H. Meekings	0—1	2/1	**WO2 G. Young**
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	0—1	1up	**Maj J. McLachlan**
Lt Col S. Schofield	1—0		**Lt Col M. Watts**
WO2 G. Coles	½—½		**Maj D. Helling**
Maj E. S. Gill	0—1		**Lt Col A. Clark**
Maj M. Galloway	½—½		**Col O. Logan**
Lt Col D. Hall	1—0		**Lt Col N. Stone**
Maj R. Burns	0—1		**Maj A. Butterworth**
	3—5		

GREENSOMES

Jackson/Meekings	½—½	**Young/McLachlan**
Schofield/Coles	1—0	**Watts/Helling**
Gill/Galloway	0—1	**Clark/Logan**
Hall/Burns	½—½	**Stone/Butterworth**
	2—2	
Win for RAOC	5—7	

CORPS v IRONSIDES

It is always a great pleasure to play the members of the Ironsides Golfing Society and the games at Liphook golf course on 8 Oct proved to be no exception. However, the day started off very badly with pouring rain and high winds. It was decided, by the team Captains, that St Andrew foursomes should be played in the morning and afternoon games. The Corps had a very good start by winning all four morning games, but all matches were reported as being hard fought. Lunch was an enjoyable interlude, if only to put on some dry clothes.

In the afternoon both teams changed their order of play to enable all the players to be matched against different opponents. This worked very well for the Corps with a further three wins and one half to our credit. Although the weather was very bad the company of the Ironsides, as always, far outshone the vagaries of the climate.

RESULTS

Morning

Jackson/Meekings	(1up)	1—0	**Ahoe/Roberts**
Williams/Hill	(3/1)	1—0	**Newmam/Perrie**
Schofield/Fairman	(2/1)	1—0	**Foote/Howard-Jones**
Peck/Burt	(5/4)	1—0	**Williams/Ricketson**
		4—0	

Afternoon

Jackson/Schofield	(3/2)	1—0	**Ahoe/Newmam**
Meekings/Burt		½—½	**Perrie/Roberts**
Hill/Fairman	(3/2)	1—0	**Foote/Howard-Jones**
Peck/Williams	(2/1)	1—0	**Williams/Ricketson**
		3½—½	
Win for CORPS		7½—½	

CORPS v RAMC

The Corps last golf matches were played against the RAMC on 13 Oct at North Hants Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and although it rained twice throughout the day the course was not troubled at all, the fairways must surely be the best in the south of England.

In the morning greensomes were played and some very good golf was produced by both sides. Our first pair of **Gen Jimmy Jackson** and **Sgt Roger Key** had a very good round and came in after sixteen holes with a grass two under par for a fine win. The second pair of **Lt Col Bill Kennedy** and **Maj Harry Meekings** had a much harder fight and were four down with six to play. They managed to pull the last holes back and **Bill Kennedy** was left with a thirty foot putt on the last green to win the match. With a lot of concentration and a little bit of luck he sunk the putt, needless to say, the Medics pair were not amused.

The other side of the coin produced a win for the Medics by holing a putt on the last green, and last pair of **Col Ron Murray** and **Col Don Fairman** had made a good fight of it but replying to a birdie was just a bit too much.

The Corps went into lunch three games to one up, which was very nice.

The afternoon gave both teams some bad weather to play in but some very good scores still came in. The Corps team were assured of a good win by having five wins from **Maj Jim Potts** (5/3), **Lt Col Roy Williams** (6/5), **Lt Col Bill Kennedy** 2/1, **Col Don Fairman** 3/2 and **Maj Harry Meetings** (6/5).

A very good match was enjoyed by all and an excellent way to finish the season.

RESULTS

Sgt R. Key		0—1	(2/1)	**WO1 J. Greaves**
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson		½—½		**Lt Col P. Lutter**
Maj H. Meekings	(6/5)	1—0		**Maj N. Fairbrother**
Maj J. Potts	(5/3)	1—0		**Capt J. Alexander**
Lt Col H. R. Williams	(6/5)	1—0		**Lt Col J. Anderson**
Lt Col W. Kennedy	(2/1)	1—0		**WO1 R. Dodman**
Col D. D. Fairman	(3/2)	1—0		**Lt Col C. Howells**
Lt Col R. L. Murray		0—1	(2/1)	**Lt Col P. Crawford**
		5½—2½		

GREENSOMES

Key/Jackson	(3/2)	1—0	**Alexander/Lutter**
Meekings/Kennedy	(1up)	1—0	**Fairbrother/Greaves**
Potts/Williams	(2up)	1—0	**Anderson/Dobman**
Fairman/Murray		0—1	**Howells/Crawford**
		3—1	
Win for CORPS		8½—3½	

As Secretary I would like to thank all Corps golfers for the help they have given me and their area Secretaries in 1982.

The Corps has had a very good season finishing with the undermentioned results.

PLAYED 12; WON 6; DRAWN 1; LOST 5.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

KEEP NOTES SHORT AND TO

THE POINT PLEASE

LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

ABERDEEN: (SA/AB/1)
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ABERDEEN

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BATH: (SA/AB/3)
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BEDFORD: (SA/AB/57)
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Last Thursday in every month (except December) at Stoney Lane Barracks (Sgts Mess), Stoney Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

BOURNEMOUTH: (SA/AB/5)
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CHESTER: (SA/AB/11)
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EAST ANGLIA: (SA/AB/18)
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Last Friday of every month at The Royal British Legion Club, Chesterfield Rd, Ashford, Middlesex.

LONDON (EAST): (SA/AB/29)
K. W. C. Kirby Esq.
92 Dorset Avenue
ROMFORD
Essex RM1 4JB
3rd Friday of each month at OR's Canteen, 45th Sig Sqn, 36 Sig Regt (V), TA Centre Gordon Rd, Greem Lane, Ilford.

LONDON (NORTH): (SA/AB/30)
D. E. Fisher Esq.
43 Monastery Gardens
ENFIELD
Middx EN2 0AE
2nd Thursday of each month at TA Centre, St Albans Rd, High Barnet.

LOUGHBOROUGH: (SA/AB/31)
H. G. Banyard Esq.
61 Priory Road
LOUGHBOROUGH
Leics

MANCHESTER: (SA/AB/32)
M. Holder Esq.
6 Dumchurch Road
Sale
MANCHESTER M33 5FD

NEWARK: (SA/AB/33)
J. J. Dixon Esq.
34 Fair Fax Avenue
NEWARK
Notts NG24 4PQ
On 2nd Wednesday of each month at the British Railway Club, Newark.

NEWCASTLE upon TYNE: (SA/AB/34)
Miss Chris Meikle
54 Deckham Terr
Deckham
GATESHEAD NE8 3UY
2nd Thursday of each month at The F.E.P.O.W. Club, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NORTHAMPTON: (SA/AB/35)
L. W. Knowles Esq.
6 Watery Lane
NETHER HEYFORD
Northants NN7 3LN

NORTHERN IRELAND: (SA/AB/36)
SSgt C. Spence (WRAC)
40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V)
Clonaver Park
BFPO 806

OLDHAM: (SA/AB/37)
F. Dyson Esq.
'Red Roofs'
13 Kiln Hill Close
CHADDERTON
Lancs OL1 2RF

PETERBOROUGH: (SA/AB/38)
Major A. V. K. Ward
86 Gladstone Street
BOURNE
Lincs PE10 9AX
1st Wednesday of each month (except August) at Axiom Housing Association Ltd, 107 Lincoln Rd, Peterborough.

PLYMOUTH: (SA/AB/49)
S. R. Newcombe Esq.
'Colne' 16 Priory Close
Whitchurch
TAVISTOCK PL19 9DH
3rd Thursday of each month at the RE Club, Crownhill Fort, Plymouth.

POOLE: (SA/AB/60)
J. J. F. Loggan Esq.
Parkstone Grammar School
Sopers Lane
POOLE Dorset BH17 7EP
1st Wednesday of each month at the Central Hotel, 81 Commercial Rd, Parkstone, Poole.

PRESTON: (SA/AB/39)
Maj A. A. Hudson
52 Garstone Croft
Fulwood
PRESTON Lancs PR2 3WY

READING: (SA/AB/40)
A. E. Foot Esq.
96 Chiltern Crescent
Earley READING
Berkshire RG6 1AN

SALISBURY: (SA/AB/41)
A. J. Creed Esq.
'Marston' Mount Pleasant
Stoford SALISBURY
Wilts
3rd Wednesday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club, Salisbury.

SCARBOROUGH: (SA/AB/42)
W. Grandsome Esq.
20 Osborne Park
SCARBOROUGH
N. Yorkshire YO12 5QF
1st Saturday of each month at The 'Jimmy' Club, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough.

SHEFFIELD: (SA/AB/43)
F. Stockdale Esq. BEM
21 Blackstock Close
SHEFFIELD
South Yorkshire S14 1AE
1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at WO's & Sgts Mess, 38 Sig Regt (V) Manor TA Centre, Sheffield.

SHREWSBURY: (SA/AB/44)
Major R. G. Aitken
76 Boscobel Drive
Mount Pleasant
SHREWSBURY Salop

SOUTHAMPTON: (SA/AB/45)
W. F. Green Esq.
2 Pirrie Close
Shirley
SOUTHAMPTON
Hampshire SO1 2QA
1st Wednesday of each month at Blightmont Barracks TA Centre, Millbrook Rd, Southampton.

SOUTHPORT: (SA/AB/58)
E. Amor Esq.
23 Virginia St
SOUTHPORT
Merseyside

TORBAY: (SA/AB/46)
H. G. Vennall Esq.
4 Hill Park Road
Upton
TORQUAY
Devon

YORK: (SA/AB/47)
E. A. Leavesley Esq.
14 East Way
Huntington Road
YORK YO3 9ES
Last Wednesday of each month at Central Conservative Club, St Leonard's Pl, York.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

	Overseas	UK
	£	£
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	35.30	40.50
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. 9 carat gold with spring safety stud.	39.70	45.15
Sterling silver with spring safety stud. Complete in presentation case.	6.50	7.50
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.90
Corps table mats (set of six)	23.10	26.30
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.50	7.40
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	7.40	8.50
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	3.40	3.75
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" x 4½"	1.65	1.80
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.35	1.55
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	2.30	2.60
Car badge—square, acrylic	3.40	3.75
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.70	0.75
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	2.70	3.00
Corps transfers—large (10" x 7½")	0.85	0.90
medium (7½" x 5½")	0.80	0.85
small (3" x 2¾")	0.75	0.80
Identity card holder	0.25	0.30
Blazer buttons—large	0.50	0.55
small	0.45	0.50
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
Calf leather comb case complete with comb	0.45	0.50
Playing cards embossed with the Corps Badge. Red or Blue	1.60	1.80

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If you are leaving the Services shortly and would like to apply for this post please write or telephone for an application form quoting reference WI/P/413 to:-

Kathy Devitt, Personnel Administration Manager,
Plessey Assessment Services Limited,
Abbey Works, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 4QA.
Telephone: Fareham (0329) 43031, extension 2563.

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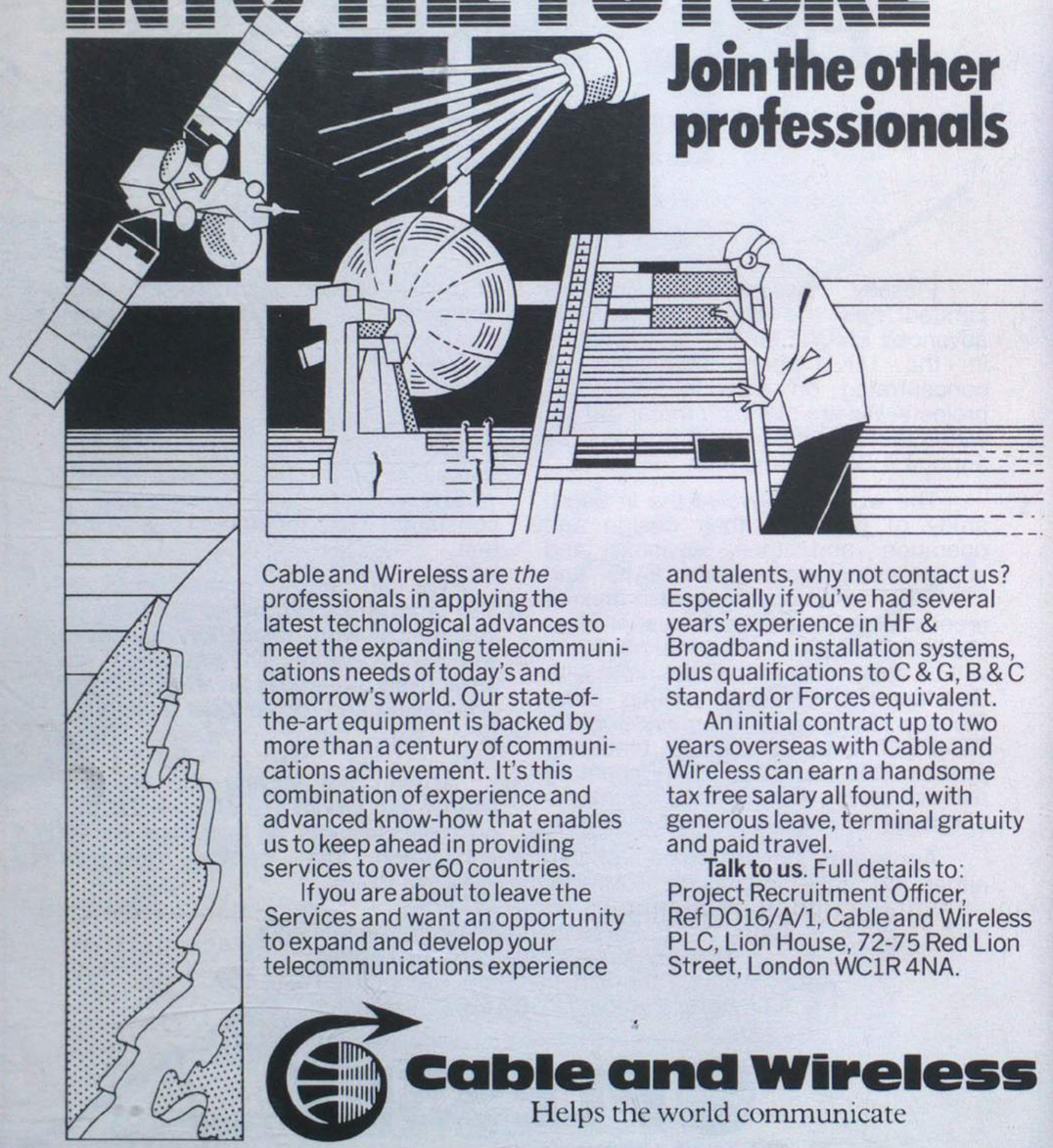

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in conjunction with COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)

March 1983

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

Marconi GR 083. First off the mark, fast into action.

Introducing a radio relay system that runs rings around the competition.

Marconi GR 083.

Designed, developed and produced especially for speed and reliability under gruelling combat conditions, this no-frills unit has been stripped for action to comprise just two units – RF and Baseband. The RF unit features 400 duplex channels which may be situated anywhere between 225 and 1250 MHz.

Underneath the GR 083's simplicity, however, lies a sophisticated heart. A microprocessor control that handles frequency and mode selection and continuously monitors its own performance.

We think you'll find it difficult to fault the GR 083. If any problem should occur, GR 083's continuous microprocessor monitor will find it – and inform you via audio alarm and LED display.

The ability to keep your head down on the battlefield is vital to survival. The GR 083 does it superbly, thanks to antennas that are smaller, lighter and simpler than usual. And therefore less liable to be observed by helicopter or low-flying aircraft.

You can add a modern multiplexer, digital bulk encryption and line termination units to give all the facilities you need, in a very small space.

GR 083 radio relay system is an integral part of an extensive pattern of military communications equipment from Marconi Space and Defence Systems, including multiplexers, Marcryp digital encryption equipment and Clansman VRC 353 vehicle radio.

For more information, contact MSDS.

And tune into GR 083 for yourself.

Marconi
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Marconi Space and Defence Systems Limited
Marketing Department, The Grove, Warren Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LY, England
Telephone: 01-954 2311 Telex: 22616 Telegrams: SPADEF Stanmore · A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

March 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No 2

Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE

Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
Remittances should be made payable to:
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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Few could know—or have guessed—that, early in the New Year, the Corps would be actively involved in the Lebanon. Our cover picture features Lt Mark Campbell and Sgt Jack Dempsey who are responsible, with their small Detachment, for communications, as a key component of the British Contingent of the Multi National Force in Beirut. Full report on page 172.

OUR ASSOCIATION

The financial year of our Association coincides with the calendar year and we are now able to look back objectively at our activities in 1982.

Our income from voluntary subscriptions to the One Day's Pay Scheme alone amounted to some **£151,000** and All Ranks should know how deeply indebted we are to them. In expressing our sincere thanks, they should, also, have in mind that little of what follows would be possible without their generosity.

Some 900 Benevolent grants were made to individuals whose distress merited financial assistance. The expenditure involved was some **£66,000.** Additionally, the Association acted on behalf of the Trustees of the South Atlantic Fund in making payments to the Next of Kin of those of the Corps who were killed in the South Atlantic—and to those injured. These were to meet immediate needs and amounted to some **£53,500.**

The total expenditure of the Royal Signals Games Club and Yacht Club was met—some **£20,000.**

Our Corps magazine received a subsidy of some **£20,000,** subscription rates for 'The Wire' having been held at their present levels since January 1978.

During 1982, some **£11,500** was spent in creating the new War Memorial Chapel at Catterick and a Memorial Porch as an adjunct to the Blandford Chapel.

£10,400 was spent in staging the 'Falklands Reception' and the Association Reunions at Blandford and Catterick.

To fulfil its functions, it is essential for the Association to employ staff additional to those established as civil servants. These salaries, together with pensions paid to former Association employees involved an expenditure of some **£17,400.**

Administrative expenses at some **£24,800** were exceptionally high, including a contribution of **£15,000** towards the capital cost of a mini-computer to serve all elements of Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals.

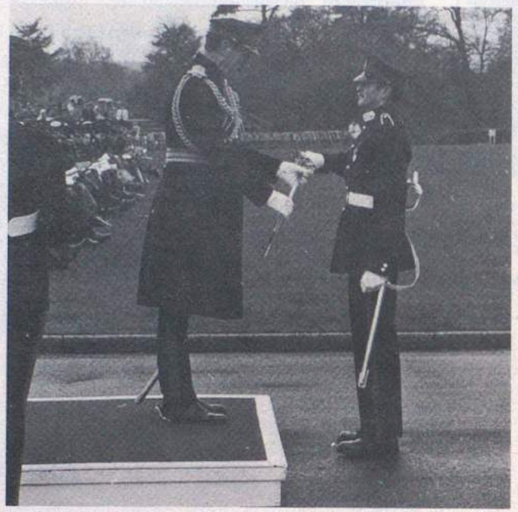
—From our "In" Tray—

SWORD OF HONOUR WON BY EX HARROGATE APPRENTICE

At approximately midday on 10 Dec 1982 **JUO A. N. Rock** marched forward to collect the Sword of Honour from the Queen's representative at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade. The Sword of Honour is awarded to the officer cadet considered by the Commandant to be the best of his intake and is a much coveted honour.

Attending the parade and representing the Corps were both the SOinC and the Master, the latter carrying out his first official function in this capacity. Also in attendance, having flown across from BAOR was **JUO Rock's** ex CO, **Lt Col M. P. Walker** and his wife **Pauline.**

The last Sword of Honour winner to be commissioned into the Corps was the then **JUO J. W. Cornforth** in 1973 who like **Rock,** was also a graduate of the AAC Harrogate. A separate article on the background to the now **Lt Rock's** arrival at Sandhurst appears elsewhere in this issue.



Her Majesty's representative, Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen presenting the Sword of Honour to Junior Under Officer A. N. Rock on the Sovereign's Parade held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 10 December 1982

The parade over, a relieved JUO A. N. Rock relaxes with from *L-R:* His ex CO, Lt Col M. P. Walker, the SOinC, the Master, Maj H. G. S. Thomas, Maj J. E. Neeve

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTIES, JULY 1983

Those who may apply through normal military channels for Garden Party tickets are asked to note that our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne** will attend the Garden Party on 19 July.

As in previous years, those members of the Corps who are fortunate enough to receive tickets for this date will be invited to assemble at RHQ Chelsea on 19 July before the Garden Party. There will then be a briefing, and cars will be provided for the drive to and from Buckingham Palace. They will then be presented to **HRH The Princess Anne.**

Those who receive tickets are asked to notify **Col Francis** so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS AND THE REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL COMMANDANT

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** is not planning any programme of visits to the Corps in 1983, but if any Commanding Officer should wish to invite him to a formal or social occasion, you are asked to send your request to the Regimental Secretary, **Col J. A. D. Francis,** at RHQ.

The Representative Colonel Commandant for 1983 is **Maj Gen E. J. Hellier, CBE.** He is also delighted to consider requests for visits, again passed through the Regimental Secretary please.

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS 1983

We are very proud to announce that our Colonel-in-Chief is to attend the Catterick Reunion on Sunday 26 June, when our new Memorial Chapel will be dedicated.

Reunions this year are planned for—

BLANDFORD — 15 May
CATTERICK — 25/26 June

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place, exceptionally, on Saturday 25 June at 6 pm in the North Hall. Administrative instructions covering these superbly organised events have been issued to Branches of the Association—and are available to individuals on application to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

All past and present members of the Corps who made some form of subscription to Corps, Association or Institution funds, or had ordered The Wire, should have received new subscription forms during October/November 1982. These new forms asked them to increase certain rates, and for the first time, to make all subscriptions to one account only, 'Royal Signals Corps Funds'.

Although this change may be considered a nuisance to those of you who had to complete the forms it should help you because now,

— you only make one consolidated Bankers Order, for whatever different subscriptions you wish to make. (In the past you may have made several Bankers Orders, to different parts of RHQ).
— you only make one consolidated covenant. (Previously, many of you had made two),
— the central, coordinated management of all subscriptions by one clerk should improve efficiency, and provide you with a better and less confusing service.

If you have *not* yet received a new subscriptions form and want one, please phone or write to RHQ.

OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB—DATES FOR SOCIAL EVENTS 1983

11 May (Wednesday) Corps Dinner at the London Press Centre.
11 June (Saturday) Corps Luncheon at the HQ Mess Blandford.

Ticket invitations will be sent to all retired officers who subscribe to Corps Funds, and to interested widows (for the Corps Luncheon) in March.

SOinC VISITS HQ 4 SIGNAL GROUP

During his visit to BAOR, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, CB CBE called on HQ 4 Signal Group. He is seen here with the Comd Comms BAOR, Maj Gen J. H. Hild, and Comd 4 Sig Gp, Col M. J. Hales

DEPUTY SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF PRESENTS WHISTLER TROPHY

Brig Evans on his last day in uniform presents the Whistler Trophy to Capt John Thomas of 30 Sig Regt

In May 1963, having relinquished the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief, Maj Gen A. M. W. Whistler CB CBE presented the Georgian silver tankard which is awarded annually to the junior officer who is judged to have done most for his unit; with particular emphasis to what he has done for his men; to his enterprise and to his contribution to the Corps. We warmly congratulate Capt John Thomas on his award.

THE 'WHITE HELMETS'
SELECTION FOR THE MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM

THE CHALLENGE

Have you got what it takes to be a rider with the White Helmets? If you want a change and a chance to travel then why not volunteer for a tour with the team but don't expect it to be easy, you'll work long hours and many weekends to qualify as a member of the oldest and most professional motorcycle display team in the world.

Interested? Why not volunteer for the next selection course in Nov this year, we don't expect you to be a first class rider when you arrive, in fact over half the team had never ridden a motorbike before attending the selection course. We will teach you how to ride and perform the daring acts in our show, you'll learn how to maintain your own bike and of course travel throughout the UK and the rest of the world.

THE TRAINING

The selection course is 14 days long and non stop graft, you'll get little time off because we want to see if you can take the pace. It doesn't get any easier even if you are selected, because as a member of the team you will take part in four months intensive training before the summer season of shows even begins. Still interested? **Sig Geordie Carrick** a DTG from 4 Armd Div attended the 1982 Selection Course and is now undergoing show training, this is what he had to say about it . . .

'Physical training started the day, every day up at 0515hrs while most of the camp were snug in bed, endurance runs and circuit training provided you with the sharp shock that you were not back in the UK for an easy time.

The motorcycles used to train the course are B40's, not the best looking bikes in the world but they certainly go anywhere. After basic training on how to ride and stop we were up on the Yorkshire Moors cross country riding, the aim was to give us confidence in the bikes and in ourselves, the instructors always seemed to find plenty of deep water filled ditches for us to ride through.

The second week was spent show training, getting ready for the CO's display on the last day, falling off a bike on tarmac is a little more painful than falling on the moors, but it is all part of the course.

To appreciate how demanding these two weeks are you would have to be on one of the selection courses yourself. Only eight members of the course were accepted into the team and I'm now a blue helmet, a bluey, I was glad that the two weeks of effort had paid off.

We are now into full team training on the airfield at RAF Catterick, this is to get ready for the summer shows. We have to learn which bikes are needed for the different rides and tricks and keep an eye on the events board to make sure that things get done on time.

THE REWARD

During the first show of the season at the Internation Motorcycle Show at Birmingham we will be presented with our White Helmets and become full team members'.

Sig Andy Whitmore aged 19 was at 21 Sig Regt and decided to have a go at the selection course. **Sig Whitmore's** father had been a team member back in the 1940's.

'We were issued jodpurs, boots, tool kits and numbers, I was Number eight for the next two weeks. Having never ridden before didn't matter to the instructors. I was put straight on a bike and shown what to do. When we'd got the hang of it we were put through tests of skill and nerve from early morning until it got dark, then it was back to the garage to clean and maintain the bikes. At the weekend we had an evening off for a drink with the instructors before we really started working. During the second week we were shown tricks and then we tried them ourselves, 9 times out of 10 they collapsed, its OK laughing until you come off yourself'.

Life is not all hard work, as a member of the team you'll see plenty of the world, in recent years Canada, Holland and Germany; we are always looking for new places to perform. You'll work with other display teams not only from the three services but from a multitude of civilian organisations as well, team members renew old acquaintenances whilst on tour every year.

Volunteers can be of any trade and we'll make sure that you don't miss out on your leave or upgrading, our only stipulation is that you are Class 2 Tradesman before you come to the team.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Why not give it a go, if you think that you are up to the job and the lifestyle appeals to you apply now to your OC and write to OC White Helmets, Royal Signals Demonstration Team, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire for details.

Sig Ruby Matthews and a 'Wheelie'

Six bikes, one car and Sig Kim Jones in the air

Capt Tony Roberts and Sig Clarkson look on as two members of the selection course attempt the trials course

NEW PIPES AND DRUMS

Many readers of The Wire will be aware that in April last year the Corps introduced an Area Recruiting Scheme. The Fourth Regiment in Herford took on responsibility for Scotland and are, accordingly, the Corps' regular 'Scottish Regiment'.

A number of useful contacts have already been made, a KAPE tour was mounted last year and we also welcomed a party of schoolboys to the Regiment. Indeed if any retired or aspiring members of the Corps in Scotland would like help from the Corps then we hope that they will look on the Fourth as the other natural home with 32nd Sig Regt (V).

The Regiment is keen to form Pipes and Drums from within the established strength. As a Corps we are particularly well placed to succeed in this venture because of the excellent outflow of trained musicians from our Apprentice College. This is already being tapped and the last pipe-major at the College recently joined the Regiment on graduation—**Sig 'Brucie' Bruce.**

Members of the Pipes and Drums would be found from tradesmen serving a normal tour in the Regiment. Some would return on second and third tours but there is no intention that any soldier would stay permanently in the Regiment. In addition to their normal work and Regimental commitments they would be available for Anglo-German engagements and to help other units of the Corps throughout BAOR at parades and dinner nights.

Instruments and equipment are a major problem! An appeal was recently made over BBC Scotland radio by **Sgt Jimmy Cullen** and **LCpl Rab Mulholland** for suitable items and we await the response with interest.

HELP!

If you think that you can help the Fourth Regiment in this unusual venture then please write to:

The Pipe President
4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

The assistance could be in many forms: donations or loans of equipment (bagpipes through to a silver quaich), details of serving members of the Corps interested in planning pipes and drums and advice on forming Pipes and Drums. Any help or assistance, no matter how slight, will be gratefully received and all letters acknowledged.

JOINT SERVICE HANG GLIDING CENTRE, SENNYBRIDGE COURSE PROGRAMME—APRIL TO OCTOBER

The Joint Service Hang Gliding Centre trains servicemen to hang glide from basic to instructor level, using the British Hang Gliding Association (BHGA) Pilot Rating Scheme and offers, in addition to 'free flight' hang gliding, powered hang gliding courses, as well. The programme is below.

Members of all three Services, including the Women's Services, the TA and OTC can be accepted on all courses.

Depending on the weather, a good student on a basic hang gliding course should get his BHGA Pilot One Certificate (P1) during the five-day syllabus, the other days being used for continuation flying—or making allowance for poor weather. The course costs £110 for the five days, any less will be charged pro rata.

Microlight courses cost £26.45 per flying hour, ground tuition and theory are free. You should leave the course with your 'A' Certificate, able to fly solo, and five hours logged.

Qualifications required are noted after the programme.

The following arrangements may also be made, subject to prior consultation:

(a) Units may block book courses.
(b) Individuals may attend part time for continuation flying.
(c) Instructors can be provided for unit expeditions.
(d) The Centre and Staff may be used to observe and certify:
FAI Bronze, Silver and Gold Delta Badge tasks.
Any record attempts anywhere.
BHGA Pilot Rating Scheme tasks.

EQUIPMENT

A full range of instruments and hang gliders is now available from the Centre for short periods, for suitably qualified service hang glider pilots.

DISPLAYS

The Centres microlight and static display stand may be booked for unit Open Days etc.

APPLICATIONS FOR COURSES

Applications should include the course dates required **and an alternative**, and should be sent together with £25 deposit to: Joint Service Hang Gliding Centre, Sennybridge Training Area, BRECON, Powys LD3 8PN.

		Assembler	Disperser
B1	Basic	17 Apr	29 Apr
C2	Continuation	22 Apr	29 Apr
M2	Microlight	22 Apr	29 Apr
A2	Advanced	29 Apr	6 May
RAF Championships		May	(note 3)
B3	Basic	1 May	13 May
C4	Continuation	6 May	13 May
F Aid 5	First Aid Certificate	13 May	16 May (note 4)
B5	Basic	15 May	27 May
C6	Continuation	20 May	27 May
A3	Advanced	20 May	27 May
M3	Microlight	20 May	27 May
B7	Basic	29 May	10 Jun
Expedition to Owens Valley		3 Weeks in June	(note 3)
Expedition to Cyprus Drachen Locksmith		3 Jun	15 Jun (note 2)
C8	Continuation	3 Jun	10 Jun
M4	Microlight	3 Jun	10 Jun
B9	Basic	12 Jun	24 Jun
C10	Continuation	17 Jun	24 Jun
M5	Microlight	17 Jun	24 Jun
B11	Basic	26 Jun	8 Jul
Expedition to Owens Valley		3 Weeks in July	(note 3)
C12	Continuation	1 Jul	8 Jul
A4	Advanced	1 Jul	8 Jul
M6	Microlight	1 Jul	8 Jul
Display at REME Corps Weekend, Aborfield		1 Jul	2 Jul
B13	Basic	10 Jul	22 Jul
Army Championships		20 Jul	24 Jul (note 5)
C14	Continuation	15 Jul	22 Jul
A5	Advanced	15 Jul	22 Jul
M7	Microlight	15 Jul	22 Jul
B15	Basic	24 Jul	5 Aug
C16	Continuation	29 Jul	5 Aug
Summer Recess		6 Aug	3 Sep
B151	Basic	7 Aug	19 Aug (note 1)
B152	Basic	21 Aug	1 Sep (note 1)
RN Championships		Sep	(note 6)
Display at Open Day, Claro Bks, Ripon		3 Sep	
B17	Basic	4 Sep	16 Sep
Exercise *Hard Log*		9 Sep	26 Sep (note 7)
C18	Continuation	9 Sep	16 Sep
M8	Microlight	9 Sep	16 Sep
B19	Basic	18 Sep	30 Sep
C20	Continuation	23 Sep	30 Sep
M9	Microlight	23 Sep	30 Sep
B21	Basic	2 Oct	14 Oct
A6	Advanced	7 Oct	14 Oct
C22	Continuation	7 Oct	14 Oct
F Aid 6	First Aid Certificate	14 Oct	17 Oct (note 4)
B23	Basic	16 Oct	28 Oct
C24	Continuation	21 Oct	28 Oct
A7	Advanced	21 Oct	28 Oct
M10	Microlight	21 Oct	28 Oct

NOTES

1. This course will run during our recess, so students will have to provide their own accommodation and messing. Lists of B&B will be sent to prospective students and the course costs will reflect the different arrangements.
2. For P1 pilots. See 'Qualifications Required' below. BAOR pilots must book places through Secretary BRIFORGE HGA.
3. For more details contact **Flt Lt R. Hurst** RAF Binbrook, Lincs.
4. For St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate, although aimed at potential hang gliding instructors, anyone may enrol.
5. To be held in the Yorkshire Dales.
6. For more details contact MEA(P) **A. Smith**, FMG, HMS *Osprey*, Portland, Dorset.
7. For more details contact Secretary BRIFORGE HGA.

Qualifications Required

Basic:	No previous experience necessary.
Microlight:	No previous experience necessary.
Continuation:	Students will have received some instructions and may have their BHGA P1. They will have done little or no flying since. They probably do not have their own glider.
Advanced:	They have BHGA P1 at least and have their own glider.
Instructor:	Students must have: BHGA P2 Two years hang gliding experience First Aid Certificate Recommendation of their club
Expeditions:	As for Advanced courses.

ROYAL SIGNAL YACHT CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will take place on Tuesday 19 April 1983 at 1415 hours at Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea. All Corps sailors are welcome to attend.

The 1983 Edition of the Royal Signals Yacht Club Rules will be set before the Meeting for formal approval. Copies of these rules may be obtained in advance from the Secretary at the following address:

Maj R. A. Wright
Hon Secretary, Royal Signals Yacht Club
STANOC Centre
Larkhill
Salisbury
Wilts

INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BUFFET LUNCHEON SATURDAY 25 JUNE 1983

Once again a Reunion Buffet Luncheon has been arranged for the Saturday of the Corps Weekend. As last year, it is to be held at the Fleece Hotel, Richmond and will follow a similar pattern.

It has been possible this year, to hold the price to the same as last year, at £3.50 per head.

Tickets may be obtained from **Lt Col E. Thompson,** 11 Woodvale Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 8HA, Tel: 0325 63835

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the Aldershot Branch Royal Signals Association will be held at The Alexander Dining Rooms, Alexander Road, Farnborough, Hants on Sat 7 May. Assembly, 7.15 pm for 8.00 pm.

All applications to:

SSgt G. Pickard MSM, Royal Signals, Army Youth Selection Centre (South), West Frith, Bellew Road, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6QW.

RESIDENTIAL HOME

From: The Hon Sir Clive Bossom, Bt

Dear Sir,

The Joint Committee of the Order of St John and British Red Cross Society maintains a residential Home, Mais House, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex, for which ex-servicemen, officers and other ranks are eligible to apply. In addition, ex-servicewomen and widows of ex-servicemen, are eligible. We do give first priority to the War disabled and their widows but there are presently vacancies for all eligible categories.

It is our aim at Mais House to provide a permanent home and that extra care which the disabled and the elderly and frail need when they can no longer look after themselves. Whilst we encourage our residents to maintain their independence and allow them as much privacy as possible, we also assist them as may be necessary in the ordinary course of their lives, such as by helping with dressing, bathing and mobility.

I am now writing to ask you to bring the existence of Mais House to the notice of the members of your Association so that in suitable cases reference may be made to my Director at the address below.

Yours sincerely
Clive Bossom

6, Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1X 7EH.

FROM HQ UDR LISBURN

From: Regimental Secretary

REUNION DINNER 1983

After the very successful event which was held in 1982 it was decided that there would be another Dinner in 1983. Accordingly I have booked the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich for 23 September 1983, the only available date which does not clash with other major Regimental Functions.

It is intended that the Dinner should take the same form as in 1982 and, hopefully, at much the same price.

May I ask you to sign the attached declaration of intent and return it to me by 1 April 1983. Whilst giving me an idea of possible numbers it also serves to compile an up-to-date list of addresses. May I also ask you to spread the word concerning the forthcoming event to any Officer you meet who has served with the Regiment just in case I do not have him on my list.

I believe that this year many more serving UDR officers will attend and, to that end, I am currently negotiating a less expensive mode of travel than by air.

When I have your replies and when I know definitely what the cost will be I will write again, with all the details, asking for your booking together with cheque. I do hope you can make it. It would be good to see all 134 seats full this year.

B. R. White
Regimental Secretary

Headquarters,
Ulster Defence Regiment,
Magheralave Road,
Lisburn.

REGIMENTAL SECRETARY
ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT
HQ UDR
BFPO 825

I plan/do not plan to attend the Dinner at Woolwich on 23 September 1983. My address for further correspondence will be:

_____

_____

_____

_____

I served with _____ UDR in the post of _____

Name (in blocks) _____

_____ Date _____ Signature

LOOKING BACK

From: Mr J. Frewer

Dear Sir

When talking recently about some local paper correspondence concerning the Dunkirk Veterans Association, I expressed my regret at having lost contact with my World War 2 comrades; this despite several attempts on my part to make contact with individuals. It was suggested that 'Soldier' might be able to give me some help, but they in turn have written to me suggesting that you may be able to help.

The unit was 5th Divisional Signals and in particular 'M' Section. I could, of course, list names, but doubt if this would serve any useful purpose.

I am now 63 years of age and employed by Marconi Communication Systems Limited as Company Safety Manager based in Chelmsford.

I have questioned some of the present day serving soldiers—the occasion arises when they have cause to visit our works—but without any success. If any of your readers can help will they please contact me?

Yours faithfully
J. Frewer

'Homestead',
Butts Green,
Sandon,
Essex CM2 7RN.

From: Mr E. G. Phillips

Dear Sir

I am enclosing a photograph taken at Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot in Nov 1958. I thought it could be used as part of a nostalgia page.

I am, by the way, seventh from the left back row. It would be interesting to know how many are still serving. One who springs to mind is **WO1 Tom MacDonald** of 7 Sig Regt. He is seventh from the left of the middle row.

I would be glad to hear of any.

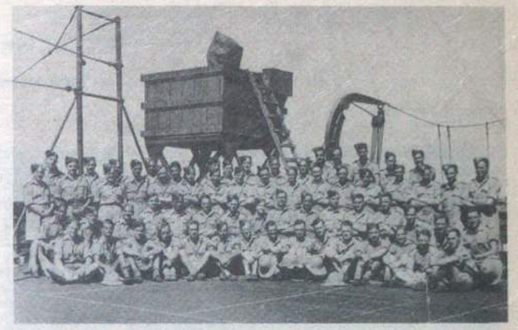
Yours faithfully
E. G. Phillips

112 Albion Road
Bacham
Port Talbot
W. Glamorgan

From: Ex Cpl 'Toc' Williams

Dear Sir,

I am trying to effect a reunion of some of the old members of my war time section. Although it is many years ago I know the 'Wire' is still read by many of the old chums. We were formed at Cavalry barracks, Canterbury early in 1940 and disbanded at Minden, Germany in 1946 serving in the UK, N Ireland, Palestine, North Africa, Malta, Sicily, Italy and NW Europe until the cessation of hostilities. The publication, I feel sure, would prompt old members to contact me. The formation concerned is 110 Special Wireless Section,



Royal Signals. The photograph was taken aboard the Royal Mail liner *Highland Monarch* at sea early 1941.

I can be reached at the address below or by telephone: 061-368 0114.

Yours faithfully,
'Toc' Williams

1 Collier Close,
Hattersley, Hyde,
Cheshire, SK14 3QH.
Tel: 061-368 0114

'AOS '39-'61—NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS

Report by Ex WO2 Bert Howell

Today, being New Year's Day, my thoughts go back over many years, and reflecting on the comment made to my wife and I, by **Maj L. J. Taylor MBE,** during a recent visit to Blandford Camp Royal Signals Museum, when I wondered about the kind of chaps we had these days in Signals. I was immediately answered by **Maj Taylor,** 'They are the same stuff we were made of.' From an old soldier that was praise indeed, especially as I suspected he bristled somewhat that anyone would even dare the question. Of course I should not have asked such a darn silly question and I felt chastised, jealous and very proud all at the same time.

During the visit we were very impressed with all that **Maj Harfield** and **Maj Taylor** had achieved in putting together a very fine museum and how really dedicated they were to this immense task.

During a recent visit to northern Norway, my wife and I visited several war museums including the one in Narvick, well inside the circle. We were surprised that so many people, and mostly German tourists, visited, yet none gave any sign of resentment or bitterness, but, like myself and to a lesser degree my wife, I had no doubt they felt only a sense of recognising the courage of those involved during the war—be they civilian or servicemen, on both sides.

If it were not for those who dedicate their lives to restoring history there would be nothing to remind us and our present generation of what went before.

Which brings me to the fact that our Falkland Island achievement now being recorded by the curators and staff serve to remind us all that the chaps of today are every bit as courageous, efficient and serve with the same spirit in the Corps as those who went before.

Probably I was no great shakes as a Signaller, though reasonably efficient, got up some noses, and at times taken down several pegs, silently cursed my superiors, or swore undying loyalty to others, I really have never ever regretted my 22 yrs with the Corps—the service taught me many lessons of which the one I best learned—that I was the one who was wrong and not those I cursed silently!

I am very proud to have been a member of our very fine Corps and to be associated with those remarks made by **Maj Taylor** 'They are the same stuff we were made of'.

It is comfortable to bask in the reflected fine spirit of our present day Corps—as I did when one young Signaller chose to direct us around Blandford Camp—he was myself all over again!

See you at Blandford 15 May 1983—but definitely!

EXERCISE *LONG LOOK 82*

Report by SSgt (YofS) Atkinson, 3 Sqn 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Exercise *Long Look* takes place every year between August and December and involves the exchange of about 100 British Army personnel, from All Arms, with their counterparts from Australia. This year I was fortunate enough to be selected and was detached to 1st Signal Regiment in Brisbane, Queensland. What follows is an account of some of the more interesting activities in which I participated.

The journey itself is quite an experience; we all know that Australia is a long way away but just how far can only be appreciated by one who has had to sit in an aircraft for the best part of 30 hours. Our party set off from RAF Gutersloh on a rather bleak and overcast Saturday morning and after refuelling at Bahrain, Colombo and Singapore, eventually touched down at RAAF Richmond on the outskirts of Sydney at midnight on Sunday. Any thoughts of warm Australian weather were quickly dispelled as the temperature was almost freezing point. The following morning saw us disperse to our respective destinations around the country and it was Monday evening, after a further flight in a RAAF Caribou that I finally arrived at Enoggera Camp, Brisbane.

I must admit to having been a little apprehensive at the thought of being a new 'pommie' alone in an Australian Regiment but as it turned out my fears were totally unfounded. Australian hospitality is quite overwhelming (as I was soon to find out, is their capacity for drinking large quantities of cold beer) and nothing was too much trouble to ensure that my settling in phase went smoothly. Indeed, within quite a short space of time I had adjusted myself to the Aussie way of life, the glorious Queensland sunshine and my new duties as a Supervisor Communications Centre (SCC) in Comms Sqn. As for the large quantities of cold beer—well, there was plenty of time yet.

August/September time is normally a rather quiet period in the Australian Army calendar but 1982 was a notable exception as the 12th Commonwealth Games were to open in Brisbane on 1 October with the Armed Forces playing a vital role. It would be quite fair to say that without the enormous contribution in terms of manpower and equipment from the Army, the Games could not have taken place; almost everything from organising and choreographing the opening ceremony to manning and supplying the Games Village seemed to involve significant Army support.

Among 1st Signal Regiment's tasks was the provision of VHF Radio communications for two cycle road races and the Marathon, each event required the setting up of a radio chain along the route which provided official results back to the crew of ABC Television; the host broadcasting agency for the Games. In addition, links had to be established to the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Games Foundation in the heart of the City. All three events required careful planning and many rehearsals. Of particular importance was the siting of the radio dets (some twenty were involved in the Marathon) as the respective routes often went through heavily built up areas. The only feasible time to carry out these rehearsals was in the early hours of the morning when traffic was at a minimum and as the Games loomed nearer 0200hrs starts became all too common.

Thankfully, the many days of practise went well rewarded as all three events went off without a hitch. The Poms even managed to win the two cycle races, much to the indignation of my Aussie colleagues who threatened to disown me if we won the Marathon, a race in which the Australian **Robert de Castella** was the hot favourite. The Marathon was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the Games and easily the most exciting part of our involvement in them. The race was to start at 0600hrs due to the excessive heat and humidity at that time of year so of course our vehicles had to be in position and working well beforehand. The Marathon Organising Committee headquarters was in a specially converted warehouse opposite the start/finish line and it was here in the media section that the Squadron OC, FofS, and myself were based. By the time the first Athletes arrived at 0430hrs the huge press room was already full of journalists and TV men who began to take up positions in front of the bank of colour TV sets with which they were to monitor the race (it was broadcast live all across Australia).

Thousands of people turned out to line the routes and as the race got under way the only Comms problems experienced was the number of girls 'chatting up' our radio operators and distracting them from their duties! The atmosphere in the closing stages of the race both in the media centre and outside where a huge crowd had gathered was electric. Everyone was hoping for an Australian victory (well almost) and they were not disappointed as **Robert de Castella** won a thrilling

Commonwealth Games—Robert de Castella wins the Marathon

race in record time. Whilst the last runners were in before 0900hrs it was not until well into the afternoon that the last of our tired crews had safely locked away their vehicles back in camp, although they understandably had enough energy left to take part in some vigorous celebrations that went on well into the night. Later, as a token of thanks from the Games organisers, each soldier taking part in the three events was given a commemorative bronze medal, exactly similar to those won by the athletes.

But it was not all work by any means. Brisbane was a good place to be during the ten days of the Games week and a carnival atmosphere pervaded the whole city. The many foreign visitors were entertained daily by numerous galas, parades and festivals, and to the delight of the local inhabitants, the licensing hours of the pubs were extended from a rather conservative 2200hrs to as long as 0600hrs in some cases needless to say, the venture was an unqualified success.

When all too quickly, the games were over, my Regiment saw to it that I 'got around a bit' and for the next two hectic months I was to visit some of the more far flung out posts of this vast country. It is hard to imagine driving over one thousand miles and still being in the same state but such was the case when I visited Cooktown in N Queensland. In the days of the great gold rush it boasted a population of over 100,000 but was soon reduced to 300! It is such a difficult place to get to (involving over two hundred miles of bush tracks) that reputedly only wanted criminals and tax exiles live there, but whoever they were their hospitality was marvellous.

They say time flies when you are enjoying yourself and after visits to Melbourne and Sydney, a trip to 'Surfers Paradise' on the Gold Coast and many other enjoyable interludes, it was quite a surprise to realise that the trip was nearly over and it was time to prepare for the comparative rigours of BAOR. In the first week of December our party of one hundred reassembled in Sydney for the return journey—all looking very much browner and all with a wealth of experiences to compare, without exception, everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and quite a few were reluctant to leave! However before arriving back in chilly Germany we were allowed a 'last fling'. The return journey involved a most welcome two-day stopover in Singapore and apart from enjoying the splendid shopping facilities just about everyone made it down to the infamous 'Bugis Street' on the last night where a good time was definitely had by all.

Recce in 'the bush'

'Crocodile'—a homestead in N Queensland

The Falklands Tie

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Movements

Officers

FEBRUARY 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. L. Anderson	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Capt R. W. Blum	244 Sig Regt (AS)
Lt Col P. J. Brown	11 Sig Regt
Col T. A. Byrne	DEQD
Capt R. A. Clague	School of Signals
Col S. Cowan	RMCS
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	8 Sig Regt
Col T. R. Eamey	ACGS (OR)
Maj M. J. M. Emslie	262 Sig Sqn
Lt Col C. C. Fowke	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj L. G. French	Sch of Inf (Warminster) (Att BELIZE until 8.83)
Capt A. J. Grey	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. H. Griffin	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt P. S. Holden	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp International
Maj R. J. Holmes	DSS (AD)
Capt S. J. Kinder	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj (TOT) M. Langford	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp International
Maj O. M. Lewis	HQ NORTHAG (BAE)
Maj S. S. Paul	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Perkins	School of Signals
Lt Col M. A. Petheram	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Skaife	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col P. A. Spooner	HQ AFCENT (BAE)
Maj J. M. Sweetman	School of Signals
Maj C. J. Walters	DSS (AD)
Capt (QM) E. T. A. Webster	38 Sig Regt
Maj M. C. Wilkinson	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt D. J. Wills	HS RMCS Shrivenham

MARCH 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. Allen	Jnr Regt R Sigs
Lt Col M. McI. Ayrton	21 Sig Regt
2Lt J. C. R. Bertram	Forward HQ 2 Inf Div
Capt A. J. Bowering	254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
2Lt A. P. Bristow	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt A. H. Campbell-Black	Queens Gurkha Signals
2Lt L. B. Campbell-Black	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt C. M. Clark	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col D. G. Dudley	HQ BAOR
Lt P. H. Eaton	8 Sig Regt
Capt J. K. Ewbank	HS 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj L. G. French	HQ BR Forces Belize
2Lt F. J. Gibson	HS School of Signals
Maj J. Graham	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt I. N. Greig	School of Infantry
Capt (Tfc) R. H. Gurr	HQ Berlin (BR Sector)
Lt C. C. Haughie	21 Sig Regt
Lt Col B. O. Haw	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Lt P. A. Hodgkiss	28 Sig Regt
2Lt A. Humphreys	HS School of Signals
Lt G. A. James	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj A. T. B. Kimber	244 Sig Sqn
Maj D. P. J. Lavender	Misc LSP Appts
2Lt K. J. Luney	HS School of Signals
Capt W. R. Mawer	within 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
2Lt J. A. McDonnell	HS School of Signals
Capt P. T. McGann	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Capt (Tfc Offr) P. J. McLoughlin	22 Sig Regt
2Lt N. P. Metcalfe	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col W. J. M. Michie	MOD DSS (CS)
Lt D. M. Mills	HS School of Signals
2Lt G. H. A. Olding	21 Sig Regt
2Lt P. V. Pople	Forward HQ 2 Inf Div
2Lt R. J. Quinlan	HS School of Signals
Maj V. J. Reed	HS BDLS (A) Ottawa
Lt F. T. J. A. Riley	HS 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt A. P. R. Roberts	233 Sig Sqn
Capt A. Russell	36 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col K. Ryding	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Maj J. R. Selby	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Capt J. A. Shepherd	OC V Tp
Maj I. C. Shuker	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. R. Smith	School of Signals
Capt (TOT) J. M. Smith MBE	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col R. B. Smith	8 Sig Regt
2Lt D. W. Somerville	7 Sig Regt
Maj V. G. Strivens	School of Signals
Lt G. M. Taylor	22 Sig Regt
Lt V. J. Thatcher	22 Sig Regt
2Lt A. K. Trimble	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt C. Wakerley	HS School of Signals
Lt Col (TOT) K. J. West MBE	4 Sig Gp
2Lt K. Whitehead	HS School of Signals

WOs and Senior NCOs

FEBRUARY 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 J. Crannage	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 W. V. Miles	30 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) J. Hough	(Depot Troop) Royal Signals
WO1 (Supvr R) B. P. J. Claffey	9 Sig Regt
AWO1 B. T. Dearman	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 W. G. House	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 M. J. Radford	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 R. Smith	24 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
WO2 I. D. Turner	Birmingham UOTC
WO2 (YofS) D. A. Dunbar	HQ UKLF
WO2 (YofS) M. A. Thornton	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) K. A. Underwood	5 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) R. L. Waller	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) I. M. Henderson	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt (FofS) J. Mugford	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. Thompson	22 Sig Regt
SSgt R. I. Knight	30 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Witherington	21 Sig Regt
SSgt D. H. Brock	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt E. Massam	8 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Beattie	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. Stachini	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Ashwell	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. Godfrey	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Black	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. Pullan	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. L. McMillan	(Depot Troop) Royal Signals
Sgt G. A. Walter	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Baker	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Plant	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Geddes	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Scull	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Milner	10 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Richardson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. W. McMahon	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. H. Smith	School of Signals
Sgt P. E. Mallinson	School of Signals
Sgt D. L. Chalmers	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt E. Patterson	249 Sig Sqn

MARCH 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) J. A. Farndon	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO1 (FofS) T. I. Lloyd	LSP Oman
WO2 (FofS) R. L. Gibson	633 Sig Tp
WO2 (YofS) R. C. W. Chisholm	2 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. J. Tivenan	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt R. Kilpatrick	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. R. Jennings	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt S. G. Swinfield	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt N. C. Mapp	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt A. D. Buffery	22 Sig Regt
SSgt J. G. Roberts	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt R. Shelton-Smith	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt T. E. Taylor	School of Signals
Sgt H. A. McMahon	ACIO Chatham
Sgt W. A. Gibbons	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt P. Gaffney	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt G. G. Jordon	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Rodger	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Driver	641 Sig Tp
Sgt K. W. Myerslough	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Christie	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Chilton	9 Sig Regt
Sgt E. M. Clancy	24 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt I. L. Parry	522 RLD
Sgt R. M. Smith	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. McGineron	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Wright	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. R. Williams	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Gray	School of Signals
Sgt T. M. Flood	ACIO Southend
Sgt M. E. White	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt M. A. Herbison	5 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt A. D. Lindsay	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt L. J. McKenzie	321 EOD RAOC
Sgt B. Evans	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Jepson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Knight	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. J. Ewers	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. C. Evans	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Nevins	21 Sig Regt
Sgt T. P. Whittaker	22 Sig Regt
Sgt F. M. Darlon	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. R. Price	28 Sig Regt
ASgt B. R. Wheatley	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt P. M. Curley	592 RLD

Welfare

DECEMBER 1982

Number of cases assisted financially:	Ordinary grants:	57
	Christmas grants:	211
		268
Amount spent:	Ordinary grants:	£3719.68
	Christmas grants:	1225.00
		£4944.68
Number of clothing parcels sent:	26	

JANUARY 1983

Number of cases assisted financially:	50
Amount spent:	£7127.86
Number of clothing parcels sent:	25

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman, 1938-46. Far East Prisoner of War 1942-45. He has had a long period of ill health, cared for by his wife, and the Association has made him a grant of £48.44 to meet a Gas bill. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

May I, on behalf of my wife and myself, express our sincere gratitude for the help you have given us in our troubled time. This has come as a Godsend, because we have not had the best of luck since I suffered a slight heart attack. Thanking you once again.

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

Mrs J. Crowder; Mrs E. Fladgate; Miss Neilson; Lt Col & Mrs J. J. H. Swallow; Brig & Mrs P. R. Davies; Thrift Shop 13 Sig Regt; Capt Symonds; A. Walsh, Esq; Mrs E. R. Nanney-Wynn; S. Smith, Esq; Rheindahlen Thrift Shop; Brig & Mrs J. D. T. Brett; Mrs K. N. Smartt; Maj & Mrs D. M. Maxted.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1983.

Anonymous	£250.00
21 Sig Regt	£ 64.12
N. H. Chadwick Esq	£ 50.00
J. D. Simon Esq	£ 25.00
Maj H. D. V. Chappell	£ 25.00
H. R. W. Marsh Esq	£ 20.00
Mrs A. Hudson	£ 20.00
J. E. Neale Esq	£ 20.00
Capt A. D. Eraut	£ 15.00
T. W. Evans Esq	£ 12.60
Lt Col R. N. Houston	£ 10.00
Mrs L. M. Brainch	£ 10.00
Mrs F. W. P. Bradford	£ 10.00
L. C. Hall Esq	£ 10.00
A. R. Carter Esq	£ 10.00
R. T. Harris Esq	£ 8.00
B. Howell Esq	£ 5.00
Maj A. M. Lynch	£ 4.90
D. T. Harris Esq BEM	£ 3.90
Maj M. Gordon-Wilson	£ 3.00
J. Hazzard Esq	£ 2.90
E. A. L. Sinden Esq	£ 2.90
Miscellaneous	£ 16.55
	£598.87

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1983.

In memory of Maj J. F. McQuade	£ 45.00
Wives Club, 249 Sig Sqn	£ 25.00
J. B. McKissock Esq	£ 25.00
M. J. Cox Esq	£ 15.00
P. M. Sparling Esq	£ 13.00
Maj F. L. Hill	£ 10.00
AAC Harrogate	£ 10.00
O. R. Withers Esq	£ 5.00
R. A. F. Chitty Esq	£ 4.50
Col I. G. Swan	£ 4.00
Sig J. J. Puckering	£ 2.90
R. W. Moyle	£ 2.50
Maj The Earl Kitchener	£ 2.00
J. N. Burrell Esq	£ 1.75
Miscellaneous	£ 15.03
	£180.68

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Help the disabled by helping BLESMA. We promise you that not one penny of your donation will be wasted.

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

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Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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.

BIRTHS

Garner—SSgt (FofS) **Brian Gardner** and **Janet** announce the birth of their daughter **Laura Jennifer**, in BMH Rinteln on 13 January.

DEATHS

Black—Ex **WO2 (RQMS) Thomas Black** died on 29 January. **Tommy Black** as he was known to his many friends, was secretary of the Liverpool Branch from 1946 until his death.

He enlisted into the Corps with the Territorial Army in April 1931 and was called to the Colours in September 1938, serving through the war years as a radio operator until demobilization in 1946. He returned to the Territorial Army service until September 1952 when he transferred to AER, until final discharge in March 1967.

Drake—Ex **WO1 (RSM) Patrick Drake**, died suddenly on 12 February.

He will be remembered by his many friends both serving and retired as a cheerful and most popular person. During the latter part of his service, he was with 7 Sig Regt, 13 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt. On leaving the Army he joined HM Prison Service on the Isle of Wight.

Dunn—**Sig Edmund Dunn**, known to his many friends in 24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn as **'Eddie'** died in tragic circumstances on 22 January.

Sig Dunn had recently received the Astrid Trophy for 1982—a Squadron award given annually to the most promising signalman of the year. Although not a man to show his feelings openly, we understand from his father that **Sig Dunn** was immensely proud to receive this honour. **Eddie Dunn** put all his weight into everything he did, whether at work or at play.

Eddie was short of neither courage nor friends and his final, fatal, act in unflinchingly going to the assistance of a comrade was entirely characteristic. He will be greatly missed by his family, his fiancée and many friends in 24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, a representative group of whom had the honour of acting as Bearer Party at his funeral at his family home at Washington, Tyne & Wear on 8 February.

Evans—**Lt Col Kenneth Morris Evans** was born at Worcester Park, Surrey on 20 January 1916 and enlisted into the Corps in Sep 1934. He was commissioned on 28 April 1941 and for the next ten months served with 6 Divisional Signals and 1 Middlesex Yeomanry Cavalry Div Signals in the Middle East. In March 1942 he moved to Ceylon and in July to India, Joining 34 Indian Div Signals. He remained with that unit until March 1945 when he was appointed SGO 2 (Sigs) at the HQ Tactical Trg Centre, India. In October 1945 he returned to the UK and over the next three years served in the training organisation serving in turn with 4 STC, 6 Trg Regt and 4 Trg Regt. In December 1948 he was appointed SO 2 of 'B' Greek Corps and served in Greece until June 1951. On return to the UK, he was again given a Staff appointment as GSO 2 at the School of AA Artillery. He remained in that appointment until October 1953 when he joined the School of Signals. After nearly three years at the School of Signals he moved to BAOR with 1 Corps Signals. In June 1958 he was posted to Singapore and took over command of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment at Changi where he remained until December 1960.

After a short period in UK at the Depot Regiment he served with SHAPE as SO 1 (Signals) and in July 1964 returned again to the School of Signals where he served for nearly two years as Admin Commandant. His final appointment before retiring in September 1969 was as an SO 2 at the Ministry of Defence. **Ken** was an outstanding all-round sportsman who contributed greatly to Regimental and Corps activity wherever he served. He was Secretary of Tandridge Golf Club when he died on 30 November 1982.

Goodeve-Docker—On 29 November, unexpectedly and peacefully at Kealkil, Bantry, Co Cork, Eire, **Betty** beloved wife of **Lt Col P. G. Goodeve-Docker.** A great help and supporter of the families of 2 Training Regiment 1948; Singapore District Signals 1949-52; Depot Regiment 1952-54; 19 Army Group Signal Regiment 1954-57. She gave her body for medical research.

Richardson—**Capt John Mark Noel Richardson** was born in Rozan, France on 21 Dec 1899. He enlisted into the Ox & Bucks LI on 29 July 1918 and on 1 Mar 1920 joined the Royal Engineers. Some seven months later he transferred to Royal Signals. He was appointed to a commission as a Lt (QM) on 28 Jun 1941 whilst serving with 4 BOD in Egypt. He continued to serve in Egypt until Apr 1943 when he returned to the UK and joined the training organisation and served in 1 STC. His next posting was to NW Europe where he served with 2 Corps Signals, later to become 17 L of C Signals. In Aug 1945 he became QM of Berlin Area Signals and remained in NW Europe until his retirement from active service on 5 Nov 1946.

During his early service, **John** represented the British Army at Boxing and cross country running. As a Corps boxer **'Richie'**, as he was then known, held the unique record of winning the flyweight championship in 1921, the batamweight in 1922, 23 and 24 and the featherweight in 1925, 26. It was his friendship with another Corps boxer, **Jimmy Emblem,** that led to his marriage. He married Jimmy's sister, Lillian Maud, in 1929 shortly before he moved to India where he served from December 1929 until Mar 1932.

After his service in the Corps, he returned to Jersey and in 1952 was elected Constable's officer for the Parish of St Helier. Two and half years later he became a Centenier and remained in that post until his retirement in Oct 1968. He was a founder member of the Jersey Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

Smart—**Mrs Flor de Lis Smart** (nee **Martinez**) wife of **Sgt John Smart,** presently serving with HQ 1 Signal Group, and devoted mother of **Tania** and **Jacqueline,** peacefully passed away after a long illness bravely borne, in Princess Alexandra RAF Hospital Wroughton on 12 January.

The funeral took place at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Swindon on 18 January.

Watson—**Cpl William Joseph Watson** joined the Corps in March 1973. After training as a Radio Operator he served in 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt in Bulford, including an emergency tour in Northern Ireland. He subsequently served in 7 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt (where he was promoted to Cpl), 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and joined 22 Sig Regt in October 1982. **Cpl Watson** was a single man and a good detachment commander with a quiet and naturally reserved personality. He had quickly established himself in his new unit as a mature and popular junior NCO. He died in hospital in Lippstadt on 18 February from head injuries received on 6 February. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family on his tragic and untimely death.

Wetherall—**Maj Thomas James Wetherall** was born at Camden Town, London on 19 August 1899. He enlisted in 97th Training Reserve Battery RA on 18 May 1917 and in 1918 served with the The Royal Sussex Regiment and the 7th Bn Royal Fusiliers. In 1919 he joined the 4th Bn Royal Fusiliers as a regular soldier. In 1921 he transferred to the then Army Educational Corps and served in India until November 1936. Still with the AEC he moved to France with the BEF. On 7 August 1940 he was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps and then served in a number of Cipher Officer appointments including GHQ Home Forces where he was Cipher Security Officer. On 18 April 1942 he was transferred to the Corps and was appointed Cipher Officer, HQ 2 Corps.

During April 1943 he moved to the War Office and was employed in Sigs 6 Branch where he remained until September 1945. After a brief tour of duty in BAOR he returned to Sigs 6 as a GSO 2 for a further six months and then moved to MELF for a short tour with the Army Signal School. He retired on 2 January 1947 and died on 23 Oct 1982.

White—**Cpl Stephen White** died on 6 January.

Capt M. P. Manson, RA, 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery writes as follows:-

It came as a sad and sudden shock to all members of 5 Regiment Royal Artillery to hear of the death of **Cpl Stephen White** on Thursday 6 Jan. **Stephen** was serving with 542 Rear Link Detachment in Hildesheim and was convalescing at home, following a heart attack early in December, when he died of another similar attack.

Always the conscientious professional, **Stephen** worked hard and successfully to ensure his detachment was fully integrated into Regimental life. He was a tireless worker who set himself and others high standards. He was always ready to turn his hand to any task with a cheerful and practical attitude.

Stephen gave much of his spare time to running the Hildesheim Station youth club where he was invaluable. His ability to communicate with young people; to encourage, teach and guide them coupled with his exemplary standards of morality and loyalty will be sadly missed by all, yet remains an example to those who follow.

Stephen was a sportsman of some note. On the hockey field he was currently the BAOR, No 1 goalkeeper and a regular member of his Corps and the 1 Div side. On the football field he has represented his Regiment but **Stephen** was not a man to give up a sport having gained so much from it—he entered fully into the refereeing of football and would regularly give up what little free time he had with his Youth Club activities to officiate at any match.

Throughout he was always supported by his wife **Janet** and sons **Peter** and **Matthew.** To them all we extend our deepest sympathy in their loss and our gratitude for all their combined contributions to our Regimental life.

FOR SALE

Complete range of Royal Signals officer's uniforms. Service Dress, Mess Kit, Mess boots, Blue Patrols. Would suit average build, 5'9", 38" chest.

Contact: **Maj** (Ret'd) **G. C. Saunders,** 8 Oakbank, Stroud Road, Gloucester GL4 0AZ. Tel Glos (0452) 500043 for further details.

PERSONAL

For that special presentation or anniversary. The Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear is now available in 9 carat gold.

Attention Bridge and card addicts. Crested sets of playing cards are now available. These attractive items are manufactured by Waddingtons of Leeds & London. (See Association goods on page 200).

HADRIAN'S HIKE

Hadrian's Hike is an annual 60 mile trek which follows the course of Hadrian's Wall from Harlow Hill in Northumberland to Burgh Sands in Cumbria. The event is sponsored by the Junior Regiment Royal Signals (26th) and is open to teams of eight from the Armed Forces, the TA and invited teams from the Police Force. The 1983 Hike will take place from 20-22 May.

The Hike is undertaken in three sections each of twenty miles with two overnight camps within organised sites. The event is not a race but a reasonable standard of physical fitness and preparation are needed to complete each section within the specified time.

Any team wishing to enter the hike should contact the Junior Regiment for further details. The latest date for entries will be Monday 11 April 1983.

SITUATIONS VACANT

TERRITORIAL AUXILIARY AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION FOR GREATER LONDON

VACANCY FOR WORKS STAFF OFFICER

Applications are invited for the appointment of Works Staff Officer in the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London at the Duke of York's Headquarters Chelsea SW3.

The Works Staff Officer is responsible to the Association Chief Surveyor for the initiation and co-ordination of the Works Programme and monitoring of progress, the preparation of Annual Estimates and broad financial control of the Works Budget. He also produces Q Briefs and justifications, including the calculation of authorised accommodation scales.

The duties are not technical but call rather for an orderly and methodical approach, accuracy and attention to details, a common sense interpretation of standard scales and procedures and the ability to liaise firmly but sympathetically with Territorial Army Units and also the staff at District Headquarters, in the Ministry of Defence and other authorities. Applicants should be under 57, unless currently employed by a TAVR Association.

The starting salary is £7,141 per annum rising to £9,449 by 4 annual stages. The salary includes London Weighting allowance and a special addition for superannuation contributions.

The appointment will be for a probationary period of 12 months in the first instance, after which it may be confirmed up to the normal retiring age of 65.

Applications, including details of service and experience, date of birth and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:-

The Secretary,
TAVR Association for Greater london,
Duke of York's Headquarters,
Chelsea,
London SW3 4RY.
Telephone 01-730 8131

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

Alfa Troop, 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Belfast, December 1982

OPERATIONS

Life in the 39 Bde area has been relatively quiet over the Christmas period. The violence which did occur was mostly sectarian or directed against part-time members of the security forces in either the UDR or RUC. The bombing at Ballykelly has, however, strongly reinforced awareness in the threat to all serving in the Province, particularly when off duty.

In West Belfast The Black Watch took over from the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters just before Christmas. This handover involved a substantial change in TAORs and much of TM and A Tps' time was spent in re-siting talkthroughs, re-crystalling sets or moving Ops Room equipment to suit the new occupants.

January saw the move of the 39 Inf Bde G2 staff from Lisburn to more comfortable accommodation at Ladas Drive. This project involved both 39 Inf Bde and 233 Sig Sqn in a great deal of work. All is not quite right yet but it is only a matter of time, (we hope!)

321 EOD Section also moved during the New Year and are now safely housed in their new accommodation at Moscow Camp. **Cpls Steve Harmer** and **Brian Mackey, LCpl Dave Blight** and **Sig Chris Alger** and **Neil Inman** saw this project through and their work has pleased and impressed their customers.

This was closely followed by a second practice of the HMP Maze contingency plans. Sqn deployment drills were tested and the new plans formulated last year put into effect! All seemed to go well although due to a number of commitments the exercise had to take place in the early hours of a Sunday morning!

OFFICER TRAINING DAYS

What's this? Are not the illustrious leaders of '39' fully trained for their task? Um, well yes, but it was decided by the OC, **Maj Gareth Mann**, that the 'awareness' of the powers that be could be broadened a little!

The first such project took place in early December when **Lt Grace Harrison** of 233 Sig Sqn and **Capt Ben Lawson** instructed on everything that ought to be known about the Divis Mountain comms site. The high winds on the day made forays outside the buildings much more interesting than the series of grey boxes on the inside. The photo shows why! Not satisfied that the bosses were taking their education at all seriously, the OC managed to find an even more desolate and windy spot for the next event. Even **Grace** declined to join the class at Slieve Croob hilltop site with good reason! It was possible to lean into the wind at a 45° angle and still not fall over! Welcome sustenance was provided by **WO2 (RQMS) John Farrell** who used catering as an excuse not to leave the shelter of the buildings. Wise man!

CLF's VISIT

The last few months have seen the visits of two distinguished persons to our humble abode. On 13 December 1982 the CLF, **Maj Gen P. I. Chiswell CBE**, came to have a look at us and to see what we do. Panic broke out well before his arrival when the Heli-Tele mobile groundstation also known as 'Miss Piggy' refused to start. Within minutes the Landrover was whisked away to LAD where it was enveloped in swarms of coveralled figures. No joy! Even the ASM couldn't coax a reaction. The crew in the form of **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley, LCpl Stan Matthews** and **LCpl 'Baz' Jones** were seen deep in prayer five minutes before the CLF was due to arrive. Two things saved the day; firstly the General was delayed by a few minutes and secondly the Heli-Tele was not on display until well into the programme. Even as **General Chiswell** entered the Squadron lines 'Miss Piggy' was seen making her way towards her position, by a roundabout route of course! The rest of the visit ran smoothly and is best told in picture form.

'We've switched the lot off!' Sig Dave Old and Cpl Chris Hobday tell the CLF how they manage a quiet life in the Bde Radio Room

Combat Section on Parade
Cpl 'Fossil Raistrick' meets the CLF while Capt Terry Canham looks on. Merging into the background are Cpl 'Scouse' Davis, Sig Mike Stout, Neil Inman, Sean Ingram, 'Corkey' Corkett and (hidden) LCpl 'Taff' Jameson and Pte 'Tripe' Woodrow

WO2 (FofS) Paul Cross receiving his LS&GC medal from Maj Gen Chiswell at lunch in the Sgts Mess

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

As is traditional, Christmas festivities followed a well rehearsed and frequently practised theme. The Squadron draw was notable for the cabaret act put on by a hypnotist. He had **Sig Dave Old** searching all over for 'Peter the Rabbit' and **Cpl Norrie Small** took a turn at dancing to 'Singing in the Rain'. Quite a few discovered to their horror that their underwear had 'disappeared' and were persuaded to report their loss to their bosses.

At the soldiers Christmas Lunch the Christmas cards received from readers of the Daily Express were given out and many generous gifts of money were discovered but more interesting to most were the names and addresses of the girls who wrote in!

SOinC's VISIT

On 25 January the SOinC visited the Squadron as part of his farewell tour of Northern Ireland. He began his time with '39' in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess where he and **Mrs Birtwistle** met Officers and SNCO's of the Squadron and their wives. He also presented the LS and GC Medals to **Sgt 'Stu' Smith** whose criminal activities have even remained undetected here in the FATSO Store.

Gen Archie then visited Bde HQ where he met B Tp personnel in the Commcen and the Radio Room. This was his last chance to stay warm! From here there was a Heli-Tele demonstration and a short helicopter flight to Slieve Croob to see a number of displays set up by A Tp and TM Tp.

This third gathering of Squadron personnel at a desolate windswept site in only a few weeks has started a rumour that the OC is troop-trialling thermal underwear! Wish he'd loan some to the rest of us! At any rate all went well although the Croob venture had started with **Sig Neil Inman** finding the nearest and most convenient bog in which to park his Rover. After a quick tow he was seen making up excuses to explain how he had managed to scratch so much paint off the latest addition to A Tp's non-standard fleet.

After meeting the lads **Gen Archie** joined them in the site building for tea and sandwiches, ending with the presentation of a blackthorn stick as a farewell present from all ranks of the Squadron. Rover Group then took over and ferried our visitor back to Lisburn.

Maj Gen and Mrs Birtwistle with Sgt Stu Smith and his wife, May

Bravo Troop on parade for the SOinC, Cpl 'Bamf' Bamford, LCpl John Duckworth, Sgt Pete Jarvis and Sig Steve Epps line up for introduction. 2Lt Paul Hudson supervises closely

Maj Gareth Mann presents a blackthorn stick to Gen Birtwistle on behalf of all ranks of the Squadron

Cheers—riggers Cpl Ned Horton, Sig Tony Squirrell and Sig 'Mac' McLeish warm up after putting on a display for Gen Birtwistle

Candid Camera? Capt Ben Lawson shows off Heli-Tele to the SOinC while Sgt Clive Soutar explains how the 'bandits' come out of the sun

The new Lynx mounted Heli-Tele equipment unique to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Capt Ben Lawson, Cpl Steve Bland and Sgt Phil McGiveron show off their charge

BASKETBALL

Applause must go to the Squadron Basketball Team which won the Northern Ireland Championships on 2 February. The team, trained by **Capt Mike Jennings** ('oh my back') and **WO2 (RQMS) John Farrell**, now goes forward to Aldershot for the Army Championship.

CONGRATULATIONS

In a two month period which has been extremely busy for us by any standards, it is good to remember that life must go on as normal. Two arrivals not dependant on any visit programme were born to Squadron wives; we congratulate **LCpl Chris Belfield** and his wife **Allison** on the birth of a son and **Sig Billy Baker** and **Doreen** on the arrival of a daughter.

We also wish increasing happiness to **Pte Neil Taylor** of Rover Group who married **Miss Glynis Gibson** in St Columbs Garrison Church in January.

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

BOXING

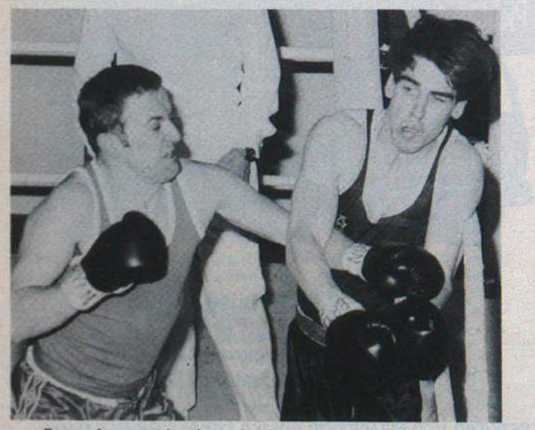
1983 began with a punch-up. In fact it was a Regimental Boxing Night which proved to be very enjoyable and entertaining for all who attended. Our guest of honour was Commander Land Forces Northern Ireland, **Maj Gen Peter Chiswell** who takes a particular interest in the sport.

It all started when the Squadron was challenged to a friendly match by a team from 5 Armoured Workshops REME who are currently serving in the Northern Ireland Roulement Workshop (NIRW). They arrived in the Province too late to enter the Northern Ireland Boxing Championships, but as they had a keen squad of novice boxers, they offered us the challenge. A great deal of work went into the preparations for the evening, with things not being made any easier by the long Christmas and New Year break. **SSgt 'S' Dave Sparkes** and **Pete Mills** took charge of training whilst **SSgt Tony Dark** coped with publicity and stage management, and **SSgt Paul O'Brien** was responsible for laying out the gymnasium, procuring the stores and putting together the ring. A seemingly major problem occurred when the band we had booked dropped out at the last minute, but we were lucky that the band of 1 Queens, newly arrived in the Province, stepped in and provided the music for the night.

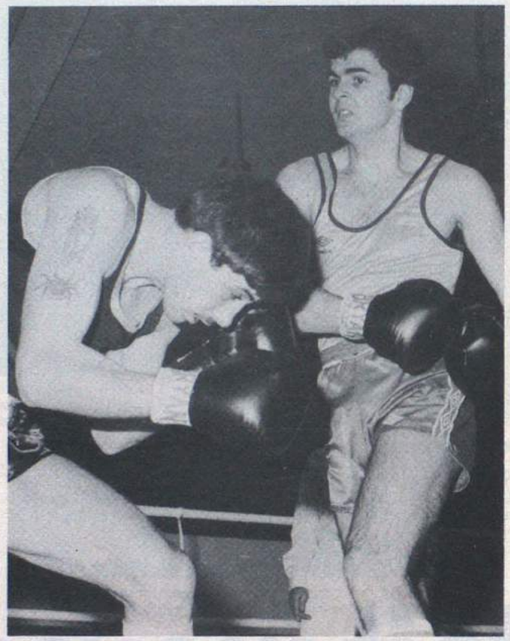
The 233 Sig Sqn team had the greater experience, most of them having travelled to Plymouth to meet the UK Minor Units champions, 59 Indep Commando Sqn RE before Christmas.

A lightweight bout started the evening but it didn't last long as 233's **Sig 'Snowie' Buckley** out-boxed his opponent producing a knockout in the second minute of the first round. The next two bouts, at light-welter and light-middle weights, both went the distance, with **LCpl Billy Chestnut** of 233, runner-up in the light-welter on the judges decision, and **LCpl Mick Jones** taking his bout on a majority decision. **LCpl Billy Chestnut** was awarded a trophy for the evening's best runner-up for his fight which many thought he should have won.

In the next bout the NIRW middleweight contender levelled the scores when he stopped 233's **Sig Geordie Neal** in the first round. The next bout was a light-heavy weight with **Cpl Dave Leyland** representing 233. **Dave** was on top right from the start with some hard, skilful boxing but after a blow from his opponent broke one of **Dave's** front teeth, the referee stopped the bout and declared NIRW the winner. Next came the heavyweight bout, but the NIRW boxer having failed to make the weight this went to 233 on a walkover. This result put both teams level with only the welterweight to go. **Sig Ted Palmer** took some punishment at the hands of a very strong and skilful REME boxer, and recovered from two counts in round one. However he failed to make a third count and NIRW took the match by four bouts to three. As the CLF congratulated all the boxers, he commented that the evening had been in the best tradition of Army boxing.



Bags of aggression from Cpl Dave Leyland of 233 (*left*)



Regimental Boxing Night. Cpl Bob Duncan (*left*) of NIRW on the defensive with LCpl Mick Jones of 233 in the light-middle weight bout

LCpl Billy Chestnut receives his trophy for best runner-up from CLF Northern Ireland, Maj Gen Peter Chiswell. MC for the evening, WO1 (YofS) Joe Farndon in the background

ORIENTEERING

Continuing their successful season the Squadron Orienteering team navigated their way to victory in the Royal Signals Northern Ireland Championships. Seventeen Royal Signals and guest teams assembled on a lonely Co Londonderry mountainside in January and, fighting off a bitter wind sweeping in from the Foyle estuary, competed in this score event. 233's cunning runners won not only the Royal Signals Trophy but were placed first overall. The first individual was **WO2 Brian 'Ybbil' Libby,** 233's latest signing for an undisclosed fee. The team's veteran, **Capt Matt Campbell,** also had a good run, coming in just two places behind last year's Northern Ireland champion. The girls team consisting of **2Lt Val Grimmett, Cpl Angie Irving, LCpls Kate Whitehouse, Chris Edwards** and **Marina Alliss** and **Pte Debbie Horton** also had a good day although as they were the only female team to turn up they had to run as individuals.

Royal Signals Northern Ireland Orienteering Comd Commrs NI, Lt Col Andrew Martin (*right*) sets off in one of the mini-mass starts

VISIT OF THE SOinC (A)

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE and his wife **Sylvia** paid a farewell visit to the Royal Signals in the Province in January. During his visit to the Squadron it was decided to show him something a bit different. We started off with a demonstration of the anti-ambush drills which are taught to the Squadron drivers. One of those taking part in the demo was **LCpl Dave McKinnel** who had acted as the SOinC's bodyguard on a previous visit. We're not sure if this made the SOinC feel more, or less, safe! The morning's activities were rounded off as the SOinC went to watch the Mercury Cup Pistol Competition, held annually between the Regular Royal Signals units in Northern Ireland. The event was won by the 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn team, with 233 Sig Sqn coming second. Following a lunch in the Peake Inn which we were pleased that **Mrs Birtwistle** was able to attend, the SOinC sat in on some current affairs presentations prepared by JNCOs of the Squadron. The first subject concerned the extension of the battlefield into outer space, whilst other subjects included the state of British soccer, WRAC on the battlefield, and the impact of information technology on the home of the future.

The SOinC watches as LCpl Dave McKinnel and Sig Geordie Neal sort out a baddie played by Sig Ted Palmer, during a demonstration of anti-hijack drills

LS AND GC PRESENTATIONS

The next day we were visited by the new ACOS G1/G4 from HQ Northern Ireland, **Col David Eking**. As well as a brief look at the work of the Squadron **Col Eking** presented LS and GCs to **WO2 (FofS) Brian Billsberry, WO2 (FofS) Fred Gardner MBE** and **SSgt Trev Mortlock**.

In return **LCpl Gilly Walker** presented **Col Eking** with two cheques totalling £450 for the Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund, which is part of the Army Benevolent Fund. The money was raised by a sponsored trampoline bounce and a levy on all drinks bought in the Peake Inn during a month in Autumn 1982. This presentation brought the total amount donated to various charities by the Squadron to £1,882 in the nine month period since June 1982. **Gilly** received her just rewards the following day when she was promoted to Cpl.

LS and GC recipients and families
L to R back row: Mrs Doreen Billsberry, WO2 (FofS) Brian Billsberry, WO2 (FofS) Fred Gardner, Valerie Gardner and SSgt Trev Mortlock. *Front row:* Mark and Simon Billsberry, Craig and Helen Gardner

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

The 40th Birthday of our AO, **Capt Len Jeffery** took place on 1 February, and various members of the Squadron thought that this milestone should not go unmarked. An Officers and SNCOs training evening was arranged and **SSgt Ginge Gibbons BEM** and the talented thespians of Victor Troop (Entertainments) Ltd sprang into action to provide a 'This is Your Life' for the AO. With his family in Scotland and most of his career only fully documented by the SIB we reckoned we might have to make it all up, but risking divorce, **Len's** wife **Heather** supplied us with all the details and some priceless photographs to help us out.

The evening arrived and to everyone's consternation the AO reported that he was off to bed for an early night as he had flu. Plan B was brought into action and he was cajoled to the bar with promises of a wee dram or two. When the fateful words **'Len Jeffery . . . this is your life'** were uttered he had probably killed all the germs in his body with that golden medicine and thus was in no position to run away. The evening was a great success and a marvellous opportunity for us to express our gratitude for all that **Len** has done for us in his three years (and still counting) with the Squadron.

McKELVIE VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball part of the **McKelvie** Trophy Competition was held on 20 January and the day was characterised by some fine play, some luck and lots of energy on everyone's part. Once again the final was between the Admin/Echo Troops and Tech Troop teams which have dominated the whole competition this year. But some good Volleyball was also played by Comms Troop who took third place and Victor Troop who were fourth.

Tech Troop took first place after a disappointing performance by the Admin/Echo team in the final. With three sports yet to be played and only one point between the leaders, it's still a very close run thing, with another battle developing between Comms, Whiskey and Victor Troops for the 3rd, 4th and 5th positions.

EX 'SPRING SLIDE'

Under the watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) Tony Hand**, 24 members of the Squadron have been off to Sonthofen skiing with the Northag Air Support Radio Squadron, on their Ex *Spring Slide*. Most participants were complete novices and have come back thoroughly converted to skiing, and looking forward to next year's exercise already. A full report with photographs will appear in the next edition of the WIRE.

COMMS TROOP

The month of January seems to have been a good one for promotions in the Troop: **Bob Grigg** became a Corporal, and **Neil Gigg** and **Jake Lowe** gained their first step on the promotion ladder. Further good news comes in the form of two engagement announcements: **LCpls 'Taff' Huzzey** and **Trish Stokes**, and **Sig Nick Barker** and **Lorraine Reid**.

On the 20 January the Troop held a 'Tarts and Vicars' party which showed that several members of the Troop don't quite know what they are! However the evening was well attended, with some very good costumes. The 'Pope' favoured us with a visit and consented to perform the marriage of **Nick Barker** and **Lorraine Reid.** Our Troop Commander **Lt Grace Harrison** obviously put in some practice as her tart performance was very convincing. Finally a warm welcome to **Cpl Brian Smallman** and his wife **Audette,** recently arrived from 7 Sig Regt and a sad farewell to **Cpl Gordon Muir** and **Margaret** who have been loyal members of the Troop. We wish them well in BAOR.

ADMIN TROOP

SSgt Dave Sparkes started promoting the Institute of Advanced Motorists in October 1982 and has been very successful to date in getting his candidates through their IAM Test. In doing this he hopes to raise the overall driving standard in the Squadron as well as interest people in more careful and courteous driving. Successful candidates to date are: **Capt Andy Johnstone, WO2 (FofS) Brian Billsberry, Sgts Mo Harkin, Brian Hair, Cpl Chippy Wood** and **Sig Dave Johnson.**

We welcome **Joanne Sparkes** and the little Sparklers to Lisburn, after **SSgt Dave Sparkes** ran out of clean socks he persuaded his wife to join him here.

Cpl Terry Males has recently been in hospital but we hear they had to discharge him as there is no known cure for old age.

TECH TROOP

Amongst our many comings and goings we welcome to the Troop **Sgt Mal Metcalfe, Cpls 'BJ' Johnston, George MacKenzie, 'Skid' Forteath, 'Ripples' Hartley** and **'Edge' Sharpe.** And we bid farewell to **Sgt Al Geddes, Cpls 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick, Steve Johnston** and **Simon Welby.** Congratulations to **Sgt Paul Leighton** and **Linda** on the birth of their daughter **Nicola,** to **Stu Allen** on his first stripe, and to **Cpl 'Buck' Rogers** and **Fiona (Fifi) Gibbons** on their engagement.

We, too, had a party in January, but our theme was fairy tale characters. Some thought that the OC, **Capt Matt Campbell** would come as a TOT but alas he came as a dwarf instead. **Sgt Ian Bemrose** was voted the ugliest rabbit anyone had ever seen.

WHISKEY TROOP

Very little has happened in this corner of 233 of late. We are happy to congratulate **LCpls Martin Littlewood** and **Jan Spencer** on their promotion to full Cpl, and **Sig Dave Merricks** on gaining his first tape along with **Pte Trish Stokes** who also got engaged to **LCpl 'Taff' Huzzey.** A sad farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Roger Childs, Sgt John Bishop, Cpls Dave Metcalfe, Jimmy McRoberts** and **Nigel Kirkby.** In their place we welcome **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson, Sgts Bob Cunnion, Dave Kirkpatrick** and **Joe Harris** and **Cpl Alan Dixon.**

Sgt Brian Hair (who normally gets his name in somewhere) asks for a mention but he didn't say what for. Try looking under Admin Troop, **Brian.** Finally, if anyone knows the part number for aircraft wheel chocks, please let **Sgt Bill Henvey** know as he needs to put in a priority three!

LAST WORD

A quick congratulations to the Squadron Cross Country team who starred in the last edition of the WIRE. They've now won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships too.

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—News from Headquarters—

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

INTRODUCTION

With the cold grip of winter still upon us, and the ever increasing wind trying to blow away the memories of a busy but successful 1982 and an alcoholic Christmas and New Year, we returned suitably refreshed to tackle the new year's activities with a vengeance and await the day when both sunshine and no wind coincide (the eternal optimists).

Apart from the Sergeants and Officers Messes, the festive season has been active in many other areas—squash, hockey, football and rugby, community service, skiing, Wives' Club and even in the MT section.

ROYAL SIGNALS INDIVIDUAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1982/83

For the first time the Corps Squash Championships were held at Harrogate in the week preceeding the Inter Corps Championships. This was to enable the selectors to choose a current 'in form' team to compete in Division 1 of the Inter Corps Championships. This aim was achieved with a good even standard entry of 32 in the open and eight in the veterans. A number of potential Corps players came to light which was an added bonus.

OPEN COMPETITION

All the four seeded players made it to the semi-final stage, with **Capt Paul Robershaw** the No 1 seed and **LCpl Nick Ranier** the No 3 seed eventually meeting in the final. This hard fought final was a pleasure to watch with many long and interesting rallies. It became noticeable in the second game that **Capt Robertshaw's** experience was going to be the deciding factor. In the later stages of the match **Capt Robertshaw** began to dominate with an increase in pressure and control which finally won him the match 3-1.

PLATE COMPETITION

This competition for first round losers turned out to be a very closely fought and competitive competition, culminating in a good final between **Sgt Alex Hamilton** of the Army Apprentices College and **Sig Paul Slater** of 602 Signal Troop. **Sig Slater** capitalised on his opponent's mistakes to gain control and win the match 3-0.

VETERANS FINAL

The veterans turned out to be an epic marathon lasting well over an hour with **Col Noel Moss** competing against **Lt Col Ernie Webb** the holder. It was a most competitive and interesting encounter with the varying styles of both players. Everyone was held in suspense to the last minute when **Lt Col Webb** won in the fifth game 10-9.

HOCKEY

The College Hockey Squad are enjoying a very successful season. Four members of the current team were selected to participate in the North Yorkshire U19 County Trial on 19 Sep held at Harrogate. It was a very competitive trial attended by approximately thirty boys. **Apprentices Andrew Baughan, Steven Swain** and **'Caz' Mamos** were picked at the trial to represent North Yorkshire in the Henry Cup—an annual fixture between the Yorkshire Counties.

The majority of fixtures are arranged against Yorkshire schools in the County and the standard of hockey at U19 level is remarkably high. Success in the majority of these games has developed a confidence that has been reflected in the results of the Army Junior Cup Competition. The College have progressed to the semi-final stage after a 7-0 victory over the Jnr Ldrs RCT and an 8-0 victory over the Army Apprentices College ACC. They are scheduled to play Princess Marina College Arborfield on 9 Feb at Harrogate.

CORPS COLTS HOCKEY

Established last year, the Corps U19 players drawn from Harrogate, Ouston and Catterick have been entered as a team to participate in the Annual Northumberland Hockey Festival during Mar. Other teams involved include Durham, Cumberland, Denbyshire, Hertfordshire, East Scotland, Cheshire and N Ireland.

Hockey Team

Back row L-R: WO2 (FofS) Alan Eames (OIC Hockey), AT Johnathon Saxelby, AT Andy Goodwin, AT LCpl Caz Mamos, AT LCpl Andy Baughan, AT LCpl Bob Howes, AT LCpl 'CT' Crabtree, AT Adrian Maul, Sgt Steve Farrar (Coach)

Front row L-R: AT LCpl Neil Starkey, AT David Collinge, AT Sgt Steve Swain, AT LCpl Frank McGoldrick, AT Ian Wade, AT Mark Brown, AT Snowy Smith

As a warm-up the Colts will first play Northumberland in a fixture to be played on 27 Feb at Washington. The Corps U19 players are: Apprentice Tradesmen **LCpl Andrew Baughan, LCpl David Howes, Sgt Steve Swain, Adrian Maul, LCpl Andrew Crabtree, LCpl David Collinge, Mark Brown, Caz Mamos, Ian Wade, Frank McGoldrick, Neil Starkey, LCpl Snowy Smith, Sig Baker** 8 Sig Regt and **Jnr Sig Jenner** Jnr Regt Royal Signals.

SOCCER

The PS Soccer Team, under the coaching of **RQMS Tug Wilson** have won the NE/NW District final of the Minor Units Cup and at the time of writing are on their way to Scotland to play the Bridge of Don in the next round leading to the UK Final. The College also has two teams playing in the Yorkshire Services Association Football League. The PS play in the Premier Division coached by the RQMS and the Apprentice Tradesmen play in Division One coached by **Mr Ken Purnell** and **FofS MacDonald.** The staff are holding their own in the league but the Apprentice Tradesmen are fighting hard to avoid relegation.

The Apprentice Squadrons also enter squadron sides for the Army Apprentices Cup and the Army Youth Challenge Cup. Penney Squadron were beaten in the final 1-0 by the Pay Corps in the Apprentices Cup and are enjoying a good run in the Army Youth Cup. Scott Squadron still have to play the first round tie of this Competition.

Although this is a Royal Signals unit the PS side contains several non Royal Signals players including three RAEC Corps or ex Corps players led by **Lt Col Bernard McMahon.** It is hoped that a more detailed and up to date report can be given in the next issue.

Afternote: The PS beat Bridge of Don 3-2 and now travel to Derry to meet 176 Pro Coy RMP in the UK Quarter Final.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

During their time at the College, the Apprentices are encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Enthusiasm for the scheme is high and the majority of the Apprentices participate to at least the Bronze level. For part of the scheme the participant is required to give service to the community. In one of the many schemes organised from the College, Apprentices from Rawson Squadron are building a 'Trimpark' in Harrogate for the local Sports Council.

Under the eagle eyes of **Lt John Armitage** and **Sgt Ted Hannibal,** the obstacles are being built in the College and installed in the ground at the site. Half of the obstacles were installed by the Recruits of the Squadron in Nov last year. In any Community Service, it is the response to the work by the community that is important. This response can clearly be shown by an article in the local newspaper where the Sports Council Chairman said: 'We needed an organised body to carry out the work and they have done it magnificently'.

Apprentices from Scott Squadron are about to embark on a restoration programme of the Nidd Gorge, restoring paths, planting trees and building picnic areas.

Rawson Recruit Troop Construction Company at work

'Round objects do fit into square holes'

RCT Smethem (*right*) being himself again

As per normal—too many chiefs, very few Indians!

SKIING

Skiing at the College is an every growing activity. The attraction of the high level excellent all year snow, miles of pisted and unpisted runs with many lifts and tows. Gorgeous instructors and brilliant après ski, keep many apprentices, like Apprentice Tradesmen **Cpl David James, LCpl Ian Evans, LCpl Frank McGoldrick** and **Jeff Land** captivated—and all on the Harrogate dry ski slope!

With the difficulty of getting away from the College during term time, the majority of our skiing is done at the Harrogate resort. Once or twice a year trips are organised overseas to ski real snow. This year, 45 lucky people are going to Tignes in France at half term.

Once a week, a group of apprentices from the College go to the dry slope for ski instruction. The instruction is based on the junior Alpine ski test syllabus, which provides progressive instruction to the students. The College also participates in the County Junior Racing League. After the first round, the A team is in fourth place and the B team is in eighth place. It is hoped that in Mar this year, the College will be able to field a team for the Army Ski Association Race meeting in Scotland.

Jeff Land tries to fly again

Class attention?—No problems!—AT LCpls Frank McGoldrick, Ian Evans, AT Jeff Land with Sonia

WIVES' CLUB

On Mon 13 Dec 1982 the Penny Pot Wives Club held their Christmas Dinner in the new Bate Centre. During the day much hard work was put in by members of the committee and a few willing husbands to decorate the room for the evening's festivities.

The Wives' Club members started to arrive about 8pm and were given a glass of sherry. We were very pleased to welcome our guest of honour **Mrs Ian Sprackling** on this her first visit to our Wives' Club.

We sat down to dinner at 8.30pm and were promptly and ably served by a number of our husbands. During dinner we were pleased to have **Pipe Maj Willie Gordon** play for us.

The highlight of the evening was a visit by Father Christmas who distributed gifts to all the ladies. The evening was voted a great success and we would like to thank all of those willing helpers who made the evening such a hit.

MT

Life in the College MT has not changed significantly over the past few months and the period is marked more for the personnel turnover than any other single event.

Jul to Dec 1982 saw the departure of **LCpl Steve Priestly** and **Sig Gary Stockwell** to try their luck in Civvy Street. **LCpl Sid Chew** to Blandford, **LCpl Dave Boustead** to 14 Sig Regt (EW), **Cpl Ginge Turnbull** to Bradley Squadron within the College and, finally, we saw **Sgt Dave Cowin REME** volunterring to serve in BAOR with the Coldstream Guards!

As with most things in Service life losses usually involve eventual gains and posted into the MT troop during this period were **Cpl Mac McCutcheon, Sigs Bob Johnson, Paul Chitty, Shaun Bowes, West Rutter** and **John Watkinson.** The turnover being completed with the arrival of **Sgt Robby Robinson REME,** who did not volunteer for the Coldstream Guards, to takeover the LAD.

The other marked event in the troop happened in the wake of the Falklands crisis and involved the detachment of personnel to the Falklands for the almost standard six months unaccompanied tour. **Cpl Tous Cameron** being the first, since returned, followed by **Cpl Mac McCutcheon, Sig Pete Wilding** and **Bob Johnson.** We have maintained contact with our detached comrades who, although revelling in the delights of the South Atlantic, assure us that they pine for the College and Harrogate nightlife.

A busy and generally eventful period for all concerned within the College MT and everyone managed to smile at the end of the term.

RUGBY

The College Rugby teams are having an eventful season, mixed fortunes for the First XV beset by injuries, an unbeaten Junior XV while the PS XV have a tendency to let through cricket scores or win by a squeak. Five players, **Sigs Norris, Tiny Philips, Charlie Matthews, Doc Halliday** and **Pils Bilsborough** are in the Army Colts Squad. **Sigs Norris, Tiny Phillips** and **Charlie Matthews** also play for the Combined Services. The Inter Squadron XVs competition produced some excellent rugby and was deservedly won by the fast, skilful Bradley team. But the high, if most bruising point, for the College Squad was the Army U19 Cup final at Deepcut. In a depleted competition a couple of byes and withdrawals saw Harrogate straight through against our fellow apprentices from Chepstow. First blood went to Harrogate as Chepstow, de-busing, thought the DWR team training on the next pitch were the 'Gators'. Therefore no quarter was shown in a typical frenetic head-banging Cup final with plenty of skill but even more commitment. 'Gate' led at half time by a penalty despite being besieged in their own 22 for long periods. The second half followed a similar pattern and a Chepstow drop goal in the 65th minute could have been the turning point. But five minutes later, **Tiny Phillips** put all his 78 inches behind a 45 yard penalty to set 'Gate' back on course. **Mark** (I hate losing) **Neighbour** led a tremendous last ditch defence particular by the pack and 'Gate' had won the Cup for the third successive time. 'Gate' won the post match singing more decisively particularly after **Maj Graham** had taken his wallet out of hibernation!

College Rugby Team

Back Row: AT LCpl Bilsborough, AT Cpl Convery, AT LCpl Macpherson, AT Barnett, AT LCpl Thompson, AT Aitchison, AT Pope, AT Pattison, AT Forbes, AT Perkins

Front Row: AT Halliday, AT Cooper, AT Cpl May, AT Sgt Markham Vice Captain, AT SSM Neighbour Captain, AT Sgt Phillips, AT RSM Longley, AT Sgt Norris, AT Cpl Horan

Missing: AT LCpl Matthews, Sgts Jewell and Uttley (Coaches)

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DINING OUT OF THE RSM

Friday 28 Jan saw the Sgts Mess dressed out in its best style for the Dining Out of the RSM, **WO1 Jim Crannage.** At the same time, at the RSM's request, the Mess said farewell to **Sgt Eddie Rees** on completion of 22 years service. The Sgts Mess also presented one of our Honorary Members, **Mr Mac McAdam,** with a retirement present. After a splendid meal, followed by equally splendid speeches, all Sgts Mess members settled down whilst **Sgt** 'Jim'll Fix It' **Cruickshank** respendent in his kilt and Jim'll Fix It T Shirt made two of the RSM's wishes come true. Firstly, he was reminded of how as the day of his departure drew closer he could be heard singing 'I'm saying goodbye to my horse'. A Shetland pony was duly paraded into the Sgts Mess for the RSM to lead around. The pony obligingly repaid the compliment by ensuring that the RSM's roses would not lack for nourishment, after it had been collected off the floor . . .

The RSM had also been heard to say that it would be nice if one day some of his civilian neighbours could see how good everyone looked in their mess kit. This wish was also to be granted. A coach was leaving the Sgts Mess that morning at 0830hrs and on it would be about 30 SNCO's in Mess Kit who would accompany the RSM to his home address in Huddersfield (also known, according to the RSM as God's Country). There they would embark from the bus and make their way to **Jim Crannage's** local pub to partake of the local beverage. It still hasn't been reported how the locals took to the sight of 30 or so immaculately dressed SNCO's, but one local wag was heard to ask them if they were the 'turn' for the day.

A splendid night (and day for some of the mess members) was had by all; the occasion only marred by the fact that we were saying goodbye not only to a very popular RSM, but in many cases a friend.

The RSM's first farewell speech

SGTS MESS CHRISTMAS DRAW

After eight months of intensive sales drives by **WO2 Tony Orrell** and his draw committee the total money available for prizes was in excess of £3,000, of which it was rumoured that **Sgt Eddie Rees** had won, or bought, a tenth of all tickets.

The Group restaurant was decorated and all was set for Sat 11 Dec, or so it was thought. One hour before the start of the function the PMC **WO2 Pete Dorans** was hauled from his bath for urgent talks with the entertainments agency. The group were unable to come and the Disco back up had broken down on route. The Disco eventually arrived five minutes before the CO and were still in the process of setting up their equipment. Half an hour later a replacement group arrived and the evening started to go with a swing.

WO2 Tony Orrell continued, throughout the night, to draw the prize winners and it seemed as if everyone was getting a prize, well—almost. **Maurice Underwood** one of our local policemen did best of all by winning a weekend for two in Paris, and a video recorder, not to mention a couple of other useful prizes. It was, without a doubt, one of those nights to remember.

JUNIOR RANKS CLUB—CHRISTMAS DINNER

Having almost completed one year's service in the Corps I experienced my first Christmas dinner in the Army. As a civilian I remember having seen on television troops in far flung outposts of the Empire being served by their officers, and I wondered if the custom took place throughout the Army.

On entering the Group restaurant we were ushered to our seats and silenced with a few cans of beer. The ritual had begun.

I thoroughly enjoyed the festive fare and the smartly dressed if not always swift service was appreciated, although not enough to warrant a tip. Amid the joviality the members of Ops Troop took the opportunity to 'tie' **WO1 D. D. Smith** in knots, a victim to 'spray string'. Meanwhile some of the ever resourceful members of 2 Sqn had managed to 'acquire', by sleight of hand, some extra cans of beer. It was initiative at its best from **Sig Walker, Dando, Smith** and **Greene.** Having ended the meal the CO, **Lt Col A. J. Dobson** thanked both officers and men for their contribution to work, and to the social aspect of life in the Group.

Having cut and eaten the Christmas cake, which was in itself a work of art, all retired to the NAAFI for further consumption of drink and to see a cabaret. Once those officially booked to perform had finished their acts, the dulcet tones of **SSgt Dave Foley** rapidly followed by **Sgt Dave** 'Tug O'War' **Dolling, Pete 'Clubber' Lang** and **Dave 'Smerf' Kent** resounded through the building. Many interesting lyrical variations of some well known tunes were heard, no doubt due to an excess of enthusiasm, and a thoroughly good time was enjoyed by all.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Jim Crannage, WO2 John Clark, WO2 Dougie Kempster, SSgt Robin Spence, Sgt Tommy Wright, Cpls Dave Carvell, 'Mitch' Lock, Rich Arundel, LCpls Jock Montieth, Al Harper** and **Sig Paul Gardner.**

At the same time we welcome to the Group **WO1 (RSM) Bill House, SSgts Dave Poole, Willie Willmott, Sgt Bob Bunten, Dave McNulty, Cpl Bernie Healy, Sig Ian Sands** and **Kev Doyle.** May your tour with the Group be a happy one.

FOOTBALL NEWS

During the closed season the Group said farewell to the following members of the football team—**SSgt Bobby Hales, Sgt Ian Anderson** and **Eddie London, Cpl 'Zooney' Clarke, LCpl 'Jez' Jezzard,** and our own two Senior Service members **LROs Jimmy English** and **Lenny Brett,** all transfer listed by the football officers number one enemy, the respective OIC's records.

The aim at the start of the season was to maintain the Group's 100% record in the District and Area cups en route to the Army Minor Units Cup. The undoubted skills of recent arrivals, **LCpl 'Ash' Hornsby,** a regular attender with the Army Squad, **LCpls 'Scouse' Wallace** and **Andy Worsley, Sig 'Scouse' Wright** and **Bon Fanning,** made the aim a distinct possibility.

After defeating PEE Shoeburyness and 1 Sqn RCT the Group reached the Eastern District Final and beat a strong MCTC side at Northampton. Regrettably the run ended at Burton Court, London, in the Area Final when we were defeated in a hard but enjoyable game, by our old adversaries, PCDRE, London District Cup Winners.

HOCKEY

After a tremendous start to the 82/83 season, having won the Stafford sixes and more recently the East Midland sixes, the Group team have progressively grown in confidence throughout the season. The Group is now top of the West Midlands (Services) League, and are now primarily concerned with the Army (UK) Minor Units cup competition.

The first round match which was played in the latter stages of 82 was against 19 Inf Bde (HQ & Sig Sqn) with the Group team winning 6-1.

Our second round match drew us against our old adversaries, 8 Fld Wksp (REME), who in last seasons cup match managed to defeat us 3-2. This year was to be a different matter, with much more confidence and determination, we met at Comms & Sy Gp (UK) on 1 Dec 1982 and from the outset the Group were the winners. Our stick play and overall ability was superior to our opponents and the final result was 5-0.

The team we were destined to meet, in the quarter final, was Postal & Courier Depot (RE), from all accounts a fine team.

The match was arranged for 26 Jan, again at Comms & Sy Gp (UK). The pitch (a matter of much concern over the season) was as good as it would ever be and much credit must go to the ground staff.

The Group played from the start like men possessed and managed to score through **Sig Andy Williams** within the first three minutes, but some ten minutes later, 8 Fld equalised from a short corner. The midfield play, from **SSgt Brian Inglis, Sig Pete Willett** and **Gary Payne,** was excellent. Our wingers **Sgt Dave Kent** and **LCpl Digger Dignam** penetrated the oppositions defence, with ease, to provide **Sgt Tommy Wright** and **Sig Andy Williams** with hat-tricks apiece. Credit must be given to our defence led by **WO1 Dave Smith.** A final result of 7-1 ensures that the Group can look forward to the semi-final, and possibly, the final.

EDIST REGULAR CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983

On the 20 Jan the Group sent eight men to compete, over a six mile course, in the Edist cross country championships. After a gruelling course, the Group achieved a creditable third place out of the seventeen minor units competing. The following runners with their final placings represented the Group: **LCpl McGaughey** 25th, **LCpl Worsley** 29th, **LCpl O'Brian** 42nd, **Sig Fanning,** 51st, **Cpl Yeoman** 75th, **Cpl Wordsworth** 82nd, **Cpl Weldon** 90th, **Cpl Hughes** 117th.

SHAPE
B.F.P.O. 26

1983 AND ALL THAT

It may come as a surprise to some if we say that SHAPE works through Christmas; once it is revealed that the SHAPE Christmas starts at about 7 December annually, then perhaps all will be understood! Each national element celebrates in its own particular way, and, sampling the various approaches is but one of the pleasanter distractions of life at SHAPE. We had scarcely had time to absorb the lessons of Exercise *Able Archer* before the festive season descended, and all this in the midst of a considerable SHAPE internal reorganisation. Needless to say, the Telephone Switchboard and Wire Sections had to fit in their festivities with some round-the-clock efforts to keep pace, and **2nd Officer Trina Moore** and **WO2 (FofS) John McKay** heaved sighs of relief when 1983 finally arrived and all was (more or less) back to normal. Hey-ho for WINTEX!

OTHER CHANGES

Former SHAPE personnel will be interested to know that as of 1 Jan, the old Communications and Electronics Division (CANDE) emerged with Information Services Division (ISD) to form Communications and Information Services Division, (CISD) and that the senior Royal Signals Officer at SHAPE, formerly DACOS CANDE moves to become head of a new Systems Operations Branch in CISD. SHAPE Signal Group remains unaffected, except perhaps for **SSgt Vic Hoyle** and his gallant band of clerks who have to get used to a whole new set of procedures! The only significant movement in this area has been the departure of **SSgt John Roberts,** after a bare two years at SHAPE, on his final service posting in UK. In his short time he made many firm friends, and he contributed significantly to the porting and professional life at SHAPE. Our best wishes go with him to his new posting in Liverpool.

SHAPESPEAK

By popular request, a further selection of a few apt aphorisms from our local dialect:

Of critical importance:	Probably worth taking a look at.
Requirement:	Something very much wanted; used only in passive constructions, such as 'there is a requirement for 50 new tanks'. Translation: 'We want 50 new tanks'.
Validated Requirement:	Same as above but wanted more desperately. 'There is a validated requirement for 50 new tanks' translates as, 'We want 50 new tanks, and we have studies and charts to show why we need them'.
Sign off on:	Sign. Why use one word when three will do?
Micromanagement:	The people above you telling you what to do.
Broad Policy Guidance:	You telling the people below you what to do.
Burn it:	Please get me a photocopy.
Indians:	1. Staff 2. Officers who work for a person important enough to have a staff.
Gnomes:	Another term for Indians (usually used disparagingly to refer to someone else's).

POWER CHANGE!

As befits his position, the last word goes to the RSM—**WO1 (RSM) Alex Nicoll** has just departed SHAPE for UK and retirement, taking with him the best wishes for the future from all his contemporaries at the United Kingdom Support Unit. He is replaced by **WO1 (RSM) Radford** from 22 Sig Regt. Welcome to SHAPE!

Catch it, Lad!
Sgt Terry Inman receives his SACEUR Trophy Sportsman of the Year Award from Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry

STOP PRESS
SHAPE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Sgt Terry Inman of M&S Squadron capped a busy few weeks recently by being voted SHAPE Sportsman of the Year for his performances in the SACEUR Trophy competition. **Terry** competed in five out of nine sports, and was presented with his Trophy at the Annual SACEUR Trophy Banquet by the Guest of Honour, DSACEUR **Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry. Terry** still found time to swot for his FofS entrance exam and get himself married to **Miss Rita Mathews,** all before WINTEX and posting!

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

FROM THE JUNIOR REGIMENT OUSTON

With the new term now in full swing the Regiment is fragmented with troops deployed out to training areas. Two troops are in the frozen North, one at Cultybraggen learning the joys of adventure training under the experienced eyes of External Leadership instructors **Capt John Gale** and **QMSI Alf Hilton APTC,** the other at Granton-on-Spey enjoying a rather more comfortable existence learning downhill skiing. Kohima troop who leave the Regiment after their pass off on the 3 March are up to their waists in snow on Otterburn, doing their Battle Camp. The stories in our next notes will reflect the exasperation of the adventure trainers at lack of snow and some epithets from Kohima as to what you can do with it.

On the sporting front the major cup competitions are in their early stages and both the junior and cadre hockey teams have won through the early rounds. The juniors now face the RAC Junior Leaders at Bovington and the cadre are faced with the annual almost inevitable clash with the Apprentices College cadre at Harrogate. A shame that we cannot avoid one another until the final stages. The boxing team, under the expert and enthusiastic coaching of **Cpls Sammy Lee** and **Jim McIntosh,** prepare to defend their championship against the JLR RA at Bramcote on the 22 Feb. We wish them well.

At Ouston itself life continues in much the normal pattern, but there have been some highlights. The CO **Lt Col K. G. Turner** had the honour to present the South Atlantic Medals to **Cpl Bob Graham ACC, LCpl Andy Brayshaw RAMC** and **Pte 'Kiwi' Hocking RAMC.** The wives had a tremendously successful dinner in the juniors' dining room. **Carol Turner** must feel that all is well with their morale, as few left until the early hours of the morning having had a great time! Some did not look quite so enthusiastic the next day. The RSM who acted as Major Domo has little to say of the occasion. I wonder why?

SPOTLIGHT ON QUADRANT TROOP
QUADRANT VIEW

Quadrant troop is a part of 2 Sqn. It is, as its name suggests, affiliated to the 4th Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Troop consists of 30 junior soldiers, now in their twentieth week of training and five members of cadre. These are **Lt Tony Morphet, Sgt Chris Taylor** and **Cpls Scottie McLay, Dusty Miller,** and **Hughie Hughes.** The troop is at approximately its mid point in the training programme and is due to pass off on the 29 Jun.

As well as having its supervisory cadre the troop also has a certain number of junior soldier NCO's. These are at present **JCpls Glynn Whittick** and **Colin Whiteway** and **JLCpls Stitch Freak** and **Mark Appleby.**

One of the highlights of the programme so far was a CO's Exercise held on Otterburn Training Area in the second week of Dec 82. The troop deployed into the field for a week long advance to contact and clearance exercise. The exercise was enjoyed by all, not least because of the kindness of the weather, and provided some valuable training. The photographs illustrate the point very well.

Looking into the future we have a second CO's Exercise coming up, when it is hoped to go skiing in Scotland and of course the Pass Off Parade in June.

The final assault

JSig McDonald searching the enemy dead

JLCpls Whiteway and Whittick and JSig Porter Endeavour to prepare for an 'O' group

ARMY JUNIOR INTER SQUADRON BOXING

The final of the Army Junior Inter Squadron boxing championships was held at Albemarle Barracks, Ouston, on 9 Dec 82.

1 Sqn reached the final by beating Salamanca Company of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion (IJLB) in the quarter finals and then got a bye to the final. Our opponents in the final were Waterloo Company of IJLB, who had earlier beaten 2 Sqn in the quarter finals.

Due to 'weigh in' problems 1 Sqn had to concede two bouts before the contest started. **JSig Sean Martin** got 1 Sqn off to a good start with a win at Bantam weight over **JLdr Brown.** This was followed by another three successive wins by **JSig Chris Mellors, Stephen Adamson** and **Ian Cleaver,** so by the interval, 1 Sqn were leading by four bouts to two. One more bout would have clinched the match. However Waterloo Company had a few surprises left in store for us, taking the last three bouts by first round knock-outs. This was hardly surprising as these three boxers had nearly 60 previous bouts experience to call upon. Ironically 1 Sqn lost, but won more bouts in the ring.

The results were:

Weight	Waterloo Coy IJLB	Pts	1 Sqn JRRS	Pts
Fly	JLdr Russell R.	1	WALKOVER	—
Bantam	JLdr Brown	—	JSig Martin	1
Feather	JLdr Russell W.	—	JSig Mellors	1
Light	JLdr Welsh	—	JSig Adamson	1
Lightwelter	JLdr Melford	—	JSig Cleaver	1
Welter	JLCpl Waterhouse	1	JSig Douglas	—
Lightmiddle	JLCpl Sullivan	1	JSig Feeney	—
Middle	JLdr Graham	1	JSig McKillop	—
Lightheavy	JLCpl Dowds	1	WALKOVER	—

The CO Lt Col K. G. Turner MBE presenting JLCpl Sullivan of Waterloo Coys team with his prize. Maj N. Lewis the Secretary of Army Boxing looks on

JSig Cleaver declared winner over JLdr Melford

JSig Adamson declared winner over JLdr Welsh

JSig Martin declared winner over JLdr Brown. WO1 (RSM) T. H. C. Cartwright the MC on the right

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →		4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →		11	11 →		3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →		18	16 →		1	22 →		7	7 →		23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose? To make electronics technicians who already have a C&G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

The courses last an average of seven weeks and by the end, you'll be ready to fly straight out to Saudi Arabia to take up a challenging two-year assignment.

If that's a prospect that appeals to you and you're leaving the forces soon, contact your Resettlement Officer or fill in the coupon.

TO: The Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ.
Please send me full details of careers with Lockheed.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

RANK _____ SKILL _____

AVAILABILITY _____

REF. L192

Lockheed IAL

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

FROM 1 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT

The last few months have seen some significant changes and developments in the life of the Regiment.

In November we started to receive the first of a new batch of AFV 432 vehicles for the new hardened and reduced headquarters. This will not only change the way the Regiment works in the field but also introduces a whole new set of equipment which has to be mastered. We are all looking forward to the challenge.

December as always brought the usual round of functions which developed into a very hectic social programme. At the end of the month everyone breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed over the stand down, whilst the lucky ones went on leave.

January 1st saw the Regiment expand when we took on 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn from UK bound 2 Armd Div. The Regiment now has seven Squadrons and currently about 1150 men. We welcome 212 Sig Sqn and congratulate them on joining the First Signal Regiment; we look forward to getting to know them during 1983.

1 SQN

December-January has seen the consolidation of Wavell Tp within 1 Sqn, Christmas activities and the Squadron build up to the ARU.

Although sometimes detached from the Regiment to assist or train staff of neighbouring formations. Wavell Tp is very much part of 1 Sqn. Twenty-four strong, the members of Wavell Tp have participated in numerous Squadron activities as well as giving Squadron personnel a guided tour of their facilities. Recent Wavell necessitated modifications to Squadron vehicles have made Wavell Tp's garages a well frequented area (or is it really because they are the only heated garages in the Regiment!).

Goodbye and good luck to: **SSgt Hunter, SSgt Mullender, Cpl Williams, Cpl Parkinson, Sig Holland, Sig Wohler, LCpl Taylor, Cpl Gregory, SSgt Loates, LCpl Walpole, Cpl Lindsay, Sig McAndrew** and **Cpl Reynolds.**

Hello and welcome to: **Lt Rock, 2Lt Workman, Sgt Ireland, Cpl McWhirter, LCpl Brooks, LCpl Hill, Sig Birch, Eastwood, Fisher, Robinson, Hamilton** and **Greene.**

Congratulations on promotion to: **Cpl Banham** and **Cpl Crawley.**

THE FERGUSON CUP

Sig Ferguson was a member of 1 Sqn and 207 Sig Sqn until his death in 1982. The Ferguson Cup was presented to the unit by 1 Sqn in his memory (to be awarded to the most courageous boxer). He had won the unit light/heavyweight title in 1981 by winning all his fights within the distance.

The 1982 Novice Boxing was a very good event with all competitors showing a great deal of skill as well as courage. **Sig Morley** of 1 Sqn, who lost his final bout following the full three rounds, was this year's winner of the Ferguson Cup. Without a doubt he demonstrated tremendous courage and is a most worthy recipient of the award. Well done.

L-R: Trainer SSgt Taylor, Sigs Greenwood, Morley, Kershaw, Jones, Rose, LCpl Finch, Sig Campbell, Trainer Cpl Parkinson

1 SQN FOOTBALL

23! . . . 42! . . . HUT! What was that sound? 1 Sqn at it again. During the past year 1 Sqn has enjoyed an informal sports partnership with the American Artillery Detachment located at BARME Bundeswehr Camp. A challenge softball game last September resulted in a 1 Sqn victory by one (how appropriate) run. A return match was organised, only this time the sport was football . . . American style. This time the Yanks beat the Brits, but a good game was had by all.

ARU

The Squadron went all out for the ARU with participants in the parade, NBC tests, BFT and March and Shoot. Our three teams in the March and Shoot finished a very respectable 1st, 5th and 7th. Well done to all participants.

Comd Verden Garrison, Brig P. R. Duchesne, inspects the Barrack Guard on arriving for the ARU

2 SQN

So much is the word 'turbulence' bandied about the Army that your author consulted the dictionary in the hope of finding a definition for this catch-all term. The noun itself was not defined, however, the adjective means 'riotous', well that could be used to describe some of our Squadron activities; 'in commotion' sounds like a dance at the Christmas party and finally 'swirling', well we have been doing swimming tests recently. However apt these descriptions might be, none convey the accepted meaning of turbulence which can best be illustrated by our lists of farewells and welcomes below.

Over the last two months we have bid farewell to: **Capt Bates, WO2 (SSM) Turner, Cpls Boscoe, Hedicker, Mulligan, Verdon, LCpls Brooks, Russell Hunter, Wilding, Hawkins, Sig Johnson, Farrar Calder, Jones, Webb, Baker** and we say welcome to: **Cpls Jones, Stack, LCpl Pilcher, Sig Farmer, Neville, Tvson, Dixon, Bolton, Guy, Perry** and **Torrible.**

Also congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Sutherland** on his recent promotion and extension with 2 Sqn.

THE HARINGTON CUP

All members of the Corps will wish to join us in congratulating **SSgt Bill Venus** on being awarded the Harington Cup this year. This trophy was awarded to him by the Army Athletics Association for outstanding service to army athletics and cross-country in the last 16 years during which **Bill** has been the army cross-country champion five times and in 1982 was the second veteran (aged 40-44) in the New York Marathon in a time of 2 hours 22 minutes and 44 seconds. Since the award of the trophy, he has also won the Verden Garrison/Royal Signals Marathon and been selected to run for the BAOR cross-country team. Not bad for a young 'un.

FALKLANDS MEDALS

During the regimental parade on our ARU visit on 24 January two members of the Squadron, **LCpl Matthews** and **Sig Main** were presented with their Falklands Medals by the Inspecting Officer **Brig P. R. Duchesne OBE** Comd Verden Garrison. Both of them were serving with 30 Sig Regt during the South Atlantic campaign.

RIDING

Sig 'Jock' Burns recently did an attachment with the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. His description of the trip follows:

'For 11 days in the New Year I had an interesting attachment to the King's Troop in London. I was supposed to be on an equitation course but it felt more like para training as I never stayed on the horse for very long. The daily routine was:

0500 hours mucking out and feeding (the horses)
0800 hours morning ride followed by a lecture
1400 hours afternoon ride followed by a film and then grooming and feeding

Apart from the bruises the course was most interesting and enjoyable.

201 (22 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Squadron Christmas Draw was held on 26 Nov 82 in the Hohne Roundhouse which normally accommodates in excess of 400, but due to snappy work by the committee the 200 attending did not appear out of place. We would like to congratulate **Sig (Steve) Johnson** on winning the 'Carmen Hair Dryer'.

SPORT
SKIING

In mid-December a team was sent to Berthesgaden to train for the 1 Div Cross-Country meeting held in Axaimes in Austria. The training went well under **Lt Bob Cousins** and although the team lacked last year's experience a good result was achieved.

HOCKEY

The hockey team under the guidance of team Captain, **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan** reached the semi-final of the 1 Div Minor Units Cup where they were beaten 3—2 by 2 Armd Fd Amb.

FOOTBALL

Our football team travelled to Osnabruck to play in the 1 Div Minor Units Cup against 2 Armd Fd Amb and we were again beaten by them. Although we have now lost two cup matches to them we have every confidence in our Basketball team who will play them in the 1 Div Minor Units Cup Final.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team recently ran in the BAOR team championships held in Viersen and performed very creditably with **Sig Peter Swailes** coming 69th out of a field of 200.

VOLLEYBALL

Much to the chagrin of the author the volleyball team is still searching hard for its first win, hopes of being 1 Div Minor Units Champions again this year are somewhat remote.

GENERAL

The final day before the Christmas leave period started saw the officers and SNCOs versus the JNCOs in what could loosely be termed as 'footby' (a cross between football and rugby). Due to the overwhelming size of the JNCOs team the Sqn Comd **Maj Jack Amberton** was seen to promote **Cpls Phil Jones, Sammy Shiels** and **John Owen** 'in the field'. No one is quite sure of the result as opinions vary, none more so than **SSgt John Topping** who refereed with much vigour and a steel helmet.

The Christmas period went quietly and in a haze for many of the Squadron.

Shortly after our return saw the Squadron review masterminded by **WO2 (YofS) Dave Weston.** The 'Mickey' was removed from many characters in the Squadron especially **Cpl Geordie 'ET' Hume.** 'This is not your life' was sprung successfully on our Sqn Comd with **Sgt (Topper) Brown** (our resident Fred Dread) playing his brother.

OP *CORPORATE*

Lt Bob Cousins should now be residing somewhere in the South Atlantic, Penguin spotting, soon to be followed by **Sig (Nig) Allen** and **LCpl (Scouse) Wright;** we wish them a long and happy tour!!

SAIL HOME TO ENGLAND.

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ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We wish the following a happy stay with us in Hohne:
2Lt Lt Johnathan Perks, Cpl Dave Foster, LCpl Tiny Carr, Sig Jimmy McNabb, Scouse Watkinson, Dvrs John Dowding, Steve Modest, Ptes John Homer and **Linda Pawson.**

To write about all our departures would require a special edition of the Wire; suffice to say that we wish you all a happy and prosperous tour with your new units:

Sgt Pete Aitken and his wife **Anne** and children—Cyprus Support Sqn UNFICYP, on promotion to **SSgt.**

Cpl Chris Rogan and wife **LCpl Liz Rogan**—30 Sig Regt and 10 Sig Regt respectively.

Cpl M. O. Cullen and wife **Mavis** and children—16 Sig Regt.

Cpl Mac McDonald RPC and wife **Rosemary** and children—to 522 Coy RPC.

Sig Taff Greenway—244 Sig Sqn

Sig Dave Argust—Inf and Sy Cp NI

LCpl Mick Ralph—7 Sig Regt

Sig Kev Doyle—Comms and Sy Gp UK

207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

EXERCISE *BRASS JERBOA*—A DS-EYE VIEW

'Our Winter survival exercise will start at 0300hrs on 17 Jan', the OC, **Maj Stokoe**, said. Everyone chuckled—another of the OC's jokes. The OC was not joking. At 0300hrs and bleary-eyed everyone is packing 24-hour ration packs, spare blankets and medical packs into what little space is available in their large packs. On to the transport and off to the drop-off point. **SSM Jim Preston** briefed the sections on their first task. 'I know where we are going', said **Cpl Jenkins.** 'How?' asked the SSM, 'it was supposed to be a secret!' **(Cpl Jenkins** had seen the marked map carelessly displayed by the Yeoman). Eventually all six sections were on their way, loaded with full webbing, weapons and large packs, with 40 miles of hostile territory to cross. The snow that **SQMS Ernie Feasey** had indented for had not arrived (nothing unusual in that) but it was raining, windy and very cold!

40 miles to cover and will they all make it? Then came the first telephone call 'Pick up compo **(SSgt McKnight)'** said the voice. 'We will need a Grid.' 'No you won't, you can't miss him, he is only 5km from the start.' Not only was the weather against them but also **Sgt Ian Parry, LCpl Dougie Hassell** and **Sig Jock Primrose,** carrying out hit and run ambushes to keep sections lively.

By mid-afternoon most sections had reached the RV point and were looking forward to making a base for the night. They were out of luck, the OC had decided to send them all to another RV. (The Yeoman had not marked that on his briefing map!) Darkness was now closing in and five sections had reached their second RV; but where was **Sgt Ian Livesey,** our Pay Sgt? His section was yet to reach its first RV. 'Probably waiting for 10 hours to elapse so he can put a claim in' said Yeoman **John Floyd.** All was well however and by 2000hrs they came in, foot sore and weary.

Following a few hours' sleep and a struggle with a SLIDEX message giving orders for the next day, the rising winter's sun saw sections well on their way, a cold wind and approaching snow storms. All sections made it to the final RV by mid-day where they were grouped into two platoons. They were then given the Grid of a PW camp where they would find casualties. 'Don't know why we have got our NBC suits with us, we haven't used them yet' said **SSgt Gary Middleton** (the only SSgt still surviving). He spoke too soon, another of the OC's jokes and everybody was in full suits and respirators.

Off went the first platoon to rescue the casualties. 2km up the track it happened—ambush! Muffled shouts, crackle of rifle fire and the ambush was overrun. On seeing **Lt Simon Hawkes** lying on the ground with his legs in the air **Cpl Neil Ardern** grunted 'I supppose I'm in charge again!' and off they went. Meanwhile after the enemy had reset the ambush, along came the second platoon and although we, as enemy, had respirators on, I am sure that **Jock Primrose** was smiling. Number 2 Platoon was made of sterner stuff and put in a suicidal frontal attack!

The next and final stage was the evacuation of casualties. **Cpl Charlie Hunter's** platoon arrived and watched by the Brigade Commander got on with their tasks. Who is doing all the shouting? thought **Sig Turner.** 'Don't just lie there' yelled the Yeoman, posing as a shell-shock victim, 'Help my mates'. 'But I'm securing the area,' said a bewildered **Sig Turner.** 'Well give me your rifle and I'll do it', said the Yeoman. Young **Turner** obeyed, to become yet another candidate for the famous 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn 'Missing Link' Trophy. The OC's final joke, carry one casualty 2km on a stretcher! Hot curry and track bash stew beckoning at the finish point.

STOP PRESS

The 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn Langlauf ski team won the Divisional Minor Units Nordic Trophy. Story and photographs next time.

212 (12 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The period since our last entry has been a notable one for 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. On the broader front we have seen the transition on 1 January from being one of the two Brigade Squadrons within 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to being one of the three in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our home remains in Osnabruck, but our guidance moves North. We look forward to the future with anticipation of a lively time to come.

On the domestic front we have seen many changes. We saw the departure shortly before Christmas of **Brig Charles Ramsay** to MOD. As a final gesture before leaving Osnabruck he visited the Squadron. We decided that he should be driven away in style; the armchair giving a new look to the top of the Commander's Hard Rover!

The new Commander is **Brig Peter Davies,** late Royal Signals, so the Squadron is now working under his watchful eye.

FAREWELLS

In terms of old faces leaving, we have had a swift spate of departures. First to go was OC Comms Tp **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown,** who has departed for the sunny climes of Yorkshire where he is no doubt enjoying life in the AAC Harrogate. Recently we said farewell to **Sgt Jim Smiley** (he of the 'orange handbag' fame) on promotion to SSgt to 14 Sig Regt; **Sgt Mick Brady** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in York; **Sgt Mick Banks** returns to the RPC in UK; **Sgt Eddie Clancy** has popped over to 24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn leaving a gap amply filled by the figure of **LCpl 'Dusty' Binns. Sgt Keith Marrion** returns to the RAOC. We have also said farewell to **Cpl** (now **Sgt) Geordie Bincliffe** who has moved 'over the road' to 1 Kings RLD. **Sig John Foster** has departed for 8 Bde in Londonderry. Also departed, the stalwarts of the LAD, **LCpls Barley** and **Rodgers** plus **Cfn Hughes,** plus from the RPC element **Pte 'Jacko' Jackson** to Civvy Street.

NEW FACES

To fill the gaps left by those departed we have a host of new faces. **Lt Dave Crawford** arrived from the many wonders of Blandford; **Sgt Dave Frost** is finding out just how complex a Complex Sgt has to be. **Sgt George Watson** joins us, plus, **Cpls Ogburn, Hedicker** and **Warren; Sig Barlow, Calder** and **Webb** plus in the LAD: **Sgt Dave Inman, LCpl Collins, Cfn Fear** and **Hayward**—welcome to Osnabruck and brace yourself for the Spring exercises.

Now we begin to get used to our mass of new equipment and start the run-up to the 1983 Exercise Season. The end of 1982 was a busy one for us all, with the Major FTX, Quarter Final, which tested us all. However, all was well and we now wait with bated breath for the many wonders of 1983.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on promotion to **Cpl: Bob Hayhurst, 'Paddy' McCrum** and **Ken Turley;** to **LCpl: 'Dusty' Binns.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Alf Davie** on the presentation of his LS and GC from **Brig Davies** when he first visited the Squadron.

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations too, to **Capt John Ewbank** and **Denise** on the birth of their sons, **Richard** and **Thomas.** Also to **Sig Simon Comben** and **Pauline** on the birth of their son **Alexander** and **LCpl Kevin Bell** and **Margaret** on the birth of their son **Richard.**

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 46

NEWS FROM RHQ

Late Jan not only saw a massive build up for the fast approaching move to York but also the departure of **Lt Col Sam Cowan** as the Commanding Officer and the arrival of his successor **Lt Col Mike Taylor.** Always one to keep the Regiment on its toes **Lt Col Sam Cowan** ordered a Regimental BFT after giving a farewell speech as CO. The first 1½ miles went without a hitch. The Asst Adjt, **2Lt Jeannette Cox,** when quizzed as to why she was running in the over 35s group replied, 'well I am . . . around the chest'. Offers have been flooding in to confirm that there is some truth in the matter! **Capt John MacDonald (Totty)** was full of beans, **Capt Ray Carter** not so keen and the CO kept a low profile. But, not low enough since at the start of the second mile and a half a snatch squad descended upon him—led by boy wonder **Lt Peter Gillespie** and his band of merry men. Clutching **Lt Dick Sparshatt's** 'teddy' the Colonel was carried around the BFT circuit on a stretcher. What he said as he was carried around cannot be printed.

Determined to see his rugby team play before he left, **Col Cowan** watched with great glee as the Regiment outplayed (quite considerably!) our neighbours, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt. A special mention to 'Capt' (no, it's not a printing error!) **Adam Ewell** who was a guest player, having recently departed from the Regiment.

As we have now lost our APCs **Col Cowan** was 'chaired' out of the Regiment on a custom built sedan deluxe chair. There were a few anxious faces as the bearers changed over—the Adjt, **Capt David Proctor,** recently arrived from the School, was briefed to catch should someone rock the chair! **Lt Col Sam Cowan** leaves the Regiment on promotion to an appointment at RMCS Shrivenham and we wish him and **Anne** the very best of luck for the future. At the same time we welcome **Lt Col Mike Taylor** and his family to the Regiment.

Lt Col Cowan looks on as Lt Col Mike Taylor signs for the Regiment

Borne by members of RHQ the CO tries to look at ease as he is carried out of the camp gates to his awaiting staff car

OTHER FAREWELLS

We say farewell to the Superintending Clerk, **WO1 Clive Mason** who after 4½ years in the Regiment leaves on commissioning. He will be taking up an appointment at the Army Youth Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield. We wish him and his wife **Christine** the best of luck in their new posting.

Best wishes also to those girls who add a bit of colour and life to the corridors of RHQ: The Asst Adjt, **2Lt Jeannette Cox** is posted to the WRAC Centre. **Cpl Tracey Moger** soon to be married to **Cpl Philemmon** is posted to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (the latter thinks he's going skiing next year!) and **Cpl Elaine Watson** also taking the plunge is going to HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

The TOT, Capt John MacDonald proving that even technicians can add up whilst the MTO (to his right) Capt Ray Carter illustrates the theory that one can sleep when standing upright

The snatch squad giving support to Col Sam Cowan as he clutches onto Aloisius

Capt Adam Ewell fighting his way out of a rather nasty looking tackle

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NEWS FROM 1 SQN:

VISIT OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

On Mon 25 Oct the Adjutant General, **Gen Sir George Cooper KCB MC**, visited the Regiment. Despite a full programme he spent some considerable time talking to members of Commcen Foxtrot whilst being shown around by the OC, **Maj John Reed** and the 2IC/Commcen Comd **Capt Mike Dent.**

REGIMENTAL BOXING

The evening of 1 Dec brought the finals of the Regimental Novice Boxing and Inter Squadron Boxing Championships. A great deal of effort had been put into the training of the team by **Sig Wally Niven** and **Cpl Fred Topp.** It paid off, and on the night the team cleaned the Board;

Sig Phil Maddocks	winner	**Light-Weight**
Sig 'Scouse' O'Gorman	winner	**Light Middle**
Sig 'Jock' Brown	winner	**Bantam Weight**
Cpl 'Dobbs' O'Brien	winner	**Light Heavy Weight**

Unfortunately **Sig Rivers** could not make the weight on the night; nevertheless the Squadron still won the Inter Squadron Championship, without problems.

CO's TRAINING PERIOD

The annual CO's Training Period took place during the week commencing 22 Nov; a quick resume of the results follows:

Mon 22—Regt Orienteering Competition—Winner of Team Event
Tues23—Inter Sqn Assault Course Competition—Winners
Inter Sqn BFT Competition—Winners
Wed 24—Regt Cross Country—Winners of Team Event
Thurs 25—Inter Sqn March and Shoot Competition—Winners and Runners Up
Fri 26—CO's Competition—Runners Up

Throughout the week everybody in the Squadron was called upon to produce their best efforts and, as can be seen, they did. Well done 1 Sqn—Champion Squadron of 1982.

FAREWELL TO COMMCEN ECHO

On Mon 10 Jan COMMCEN ECHO, led by **Lt Malcolm Coupar**, left Birdwood Barracks, Bunde for the last time en route for Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt. Now under command of 22 Sig Regt and re-roled as Comd Comms, 1 (BR) Corps Special Task COMMCEN since 1 Jan. The remaining members of the Squadron led by the OC, **Maj John Reed** and the 2IC of the Regt, **Maj Maurice Davies**, bid a fond farewell to the COMMCEN which along with COMMCEN FOXTROT has provided BRUIN communications to the 2 Armoured Division for the past 14 years. We in 1 Squadron wish everybody in COMMCEN ECHO the very best for the future and hope they have as successful time in Lippstadt as they have had in Bunde.

Final message from COMMCEN FOXTROT to COMMCEN ECHO:- 'Before we leave for York can we have our kit back please??'.

Commcen Echo leaves Birdwood Barracks for the last time

FAREWELL TO OC 1 SQUADRON

Maj John Reed, OC since Jan 81, leaves Bunde in Feb for a tour in Canada. During his time in the Squadron he has seen the transition from the Armoured role to the Infantry role, he has flitted from ECHO to FOXTROT, from BMIS and from Yoghurt to Yoghurt.

As Athletics Officer he has led (or thrown!) the Regimental Team to two consecutive victories in the Morrison Cup; no mean feat especially after the pronunciations of certain other Div Signal Regiments! More importantly he has led the Squadron through a period of change, culminating in our move back to York later this year. As a final gesture he led the Squadron to a resounding victory during the CO's Training Period and leaves the Regiment as OC 'The Champion Squadron'.

Maj John and **Mrs Jean Reed** were dined out by the Officers and SNCO's of the Squadron on the 8 Jan and after some well earned leave depart for Canada. All members of the Squadron wish **Maj John** and **Jean** every success for the future and thank them for their kindness and friendship during their time in Bunde.

SGTS MESS WIRE NOTES

The night of 10 Dec marked the end of an era in Mess functions when we held our last Christmas Draw in Germany. For the first, and sadly the last time, we shared the evening with our Birdwood Barracks partners, the RCT Regt, now re-titled 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT.

Apart from the fact that shared costs made the per capita expense less, both Regiments slotted so well together that after the first twenty minutes or so there was no distinguishing one from another. The actual draw itself was well timed, and as usual organised to a 'tee' so as to be a minimal interruption of the entertainments whilst still achieving its aim of being the highlight of the evening. Although many people continued the movement and attended Champagne breakfast at 5 o'clock the next morning, it can be said that for all concerned the evening was over all too soon.

New Year's Eve proved to be another occasion for joint Mess festivities with the RCT, and what could have been two distinct minor functions ended being yet another rather splendid evening for all concerned.

WO2(AQMS) 'Les' Soper REME, the prime mover and driving force behind the Signals element of the Christmas Draw, sadly missed the latter event due to the fact that he joined the advance party at York shortly before Christmas. Gradually other Mess members are filtering their families home in preparation for the move, and are moving into the rather limited mess accommodation. Despite the fact that a very busy two months lies before us organising personal and unit movement we continue to functions as a mess right up to 12 Feb.

On Fri 21 Jan we dined out the CO with what was unquestionably the best meal partaken in the mess for many a long month, many thanks to **Sgt Syd Willis ACC** for taking such a personal interest.

Following the meal, the mess did its utmost to send the CO to Shrivenham with a hazy recollection of the evening's events, but he thwarted us at every turn. No amount of cajoling, penalities or brow beating could persuade the Colonel to do or drink, other than what he wished. Indeed on one extreme test devised by **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** the Colonel turned the tables and had **Bernie** performing the trick, which was to blow 'reveille' on the Regimental Silver trumpet. The RSM puffed, panted and wheezed and eventually the Colonel overcame his 'temporary' cold sore and showed him how to do it.

Other tests included a Mastermind Quiz, organised by **SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe;** a fairground dexterity test, organised by **SSgt Pete Haywood;** and the recognition of bugle calls by **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison.** Despite the fact all tests were rigged the Colonel absolutely did his own thing, to the delight of the Mess.

Throughout the course of events **Sgt Ron Taylor BEM** acted as a pro-tem spot light by standing beside the Colonel holding a five-branch candelabra. We all decided that since the Honours Lists **Ron** was the only bloke to hold a candle to the CO. If any wax dripped on to the Colonel's epaulettes it didn't matter, as he will get new ones soon.

Members heartily congratulate the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Sam Cowan** on the award of the **OBE,** and **Sgt Ron Taylor** on the award of the **BEM,** in the New Years Honours List; and wish them well in the future.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 106

THE FESTIVE SEASON

The 1982/83 festive season, like every other, saw the usual round of parties and celebrations. Notable amongst them was the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess Draw held in a local school hall; the RSM, **WO1 Steve Marshall** has obviously learnt a thing or two because it was a great success especially for **SSgt Pete Whitbread** who walked on to the boat on posting a few days later the proud owner of the major prize, DM6000 worth of furniture. Pity about the excess baggage charges. In the Officers Mess smoked mince pies and gluhwein seemed to be the order of things on a very windy night after an Anglo German Carol Service. We are assured that the chimney draught has now been seen to and we will be able to see across the bar even when the wind is from the north.

Meanwhile in far off parts of Germany, Father Christmas was going about his business with more zeal and managed to get round all those who spent the festive season on Exercise *Snow Queen*. Among them were the Commanding Officer and the Superintendent Clerk **WO1 Andy Russell** who are both still looking for their copies of any book that explains ski orienteering in easy steps. All will come clear at Christmas 1984.

The festive season always brings with it lots of extra inches around the waist. 204 Sig Sqn have a very special way of dealing with those unwanted pounds and their report covers their 46-mile march from Munster to Korbecke, on joining the Regiment. A fitting gift for the twelfth day of Christmas—welcome to you all.

SKIING

Both the Regiment and 206 Sig Sqn entered teams in the Divisional Ski Meeting at Zwiesel in January this year. Results were mixed but some are worth recording:

REGIMENTAL TEAM

The Nordic team came second in the Divisional Competition in the events qualifying it for the Army Ski Meeting. At the Army meeting they won no prizes for skiing but lifted the prize for the best team on the range in the Patrol Race. **LCpl Abbott** also managed to qualify for the Army Ski Championships in the Alpine section.

The Nordic Ski Team before the Patrol Race
L-R: Lt Duncan McAllister, Cpl Kevin Randall, LCpl Howard Richardson and Sig Andrew Bain

WO1 (RSM) Steve Marshall shows that even during the Divisional Ski Meeting an RSM can find a way to 'bend the knee'

206 SIG SQN

The Alpine team won the Divisional Minor Units Competition and **LCpl 'Brains' Brian** qualified for the Army Championships where he was awarded the trophies for the Best Army Alpine Novice and the most promising Royal Signals skier.

Cpl 'Brains' Brian at speed

In more detail, the team captain of the Regimental Nordic Team, **Lt Duncan McAllister,** reports:

After a month of dry training in October and November the team of six attempted to reach Norway in one move. With a Rover donated from MT (we soon found out why they were so keen to lend it to us) we departed from St Sebastian on 20 Nov. At this stage it was a very happy six who ventured into the unknown. However, after several incidents involving insurance, NATO travel orders and a ferry timetable, it was a very sober bunch that boarded *Peter Wessel* two days later.

Once across we knew nothing could go wrong and with 40Km to our destination 'nothing' raised its ugly head. We found a pile of snow in the road, quite a big pile actually—which extended for the next 20Km—'about turn'. The blocked road meant a 250Km detour and many hours extra driving but we managed to reach our hotel in Lom only a day and a half behind our original timetable.

The first of the four weeks on snow was purely instructional, only two of the six having been on langlauf skis before. **Cpl Kevin Randall** taught us well, so things progressed rapidly and by the third week with some experience and distance behind us, 40-50Kms was not unusual in a day's training. A couple of bouts of flu caused some disruption but on the whole Norway was a great success and indispensable training.

The next question was would we make it back without any hiccoughs? No chance!! Fuel problems with the landrover meant that we were able to continue fitness training en route by having to regularly jump out and push. Having put up with this problem for most of the journey across Norway it was finally solved 30Km from Larvik and we spent a very restful last 45 minutes to the port. We boarded the *Peter Wessel* again and sailed at about 2000hrs and by 2030hrs it was obvious that it was going to be rough, as tables and chairs began to slither across the boat. Three hours later we saw lights on the shore; not Denmark as we thought: 'Sorry gentlemen, you're wrong—Larvik again, we had to turn back'!! The ship incidentally had lost its steering, radar and radios during the storm. Back into 'Blue Flash' and a couple of hours drive saw us in Oslo and a safe passage home, arriving back at St Sebastian on 22 December.

On 27 December we left again and made our way to Zweisel for two weeks training before the Divisional Ski Meeting. Well, we thought we would ski, but from the time we arrived until after the Div Meeting, Zweisel saw little new snow and it was a case of ski when, and if, you found snow. At this stage the team was reduced to four by illness and injury but performed fairly well gaining 3rd, 3rd and 4th in the qualifying races thus finishing 2nd overall and gaining entry to the Army Championships.

The competition at Army level was slightly better, so the team decided to settle for gaining experience rather than prizes. Yet, we did not leave the Army Championships empty handed; the team was nominated as 'The Best Patrol on the Range' in the Military patrol race.

206 Sig Sqn notes contain the report on their ski team's fortunes.

RUGBY

With all the talk of skiing and with all the snow that has fallen on St Sebastian Barracks over the last few weeks, mention of rugby might appear surprising. However the Regimental team has won its first game in the Divisional Inter Unit Competition against 19 Field Regiment RA. Mind you it was a struggle and led to **LCpl Bill Pritchard,** hooker, becoming a casualty when he tried to protect his namesake and scrum half, **Capt Keith Pritchard** from the attentions of the opposition's flankers. Never mind **Bill,** there are easier ways to get your name in lights—perhaps tiddly winks.

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

The Regiment entered the inter unit Service Rifle competition for the first time and without bothering the reader with the full results it should be recorded that we beat one infantry battalion. The sport is making progress but is slightly hampered by having to travel to get to a range although we are working on that one. The power behind the throne here is exerted by **Lt Geoff Lumley** energetically assisted by **Cpl George Hardstaff** who sometimes remembers to bring all the kit at once.

BOXING

The Regimental boxing team continued to train over the festive season and benefited enormously from good contacts made at the Bundeswehr Sportschule at Warendorf last year when the Regiment ran the Morrison Cup administration. The residential training period resulted in 50 Missile Regiment RA complimenting all our boxers on their courage and determination in a very hard fought contest. Two notable wins were recorded by **LCpl Alan Deary** and **Sig Derek Donnelly** who both exhibited sufficient skill and determination to outpoint more experienced opposition.

Sig Derek Donnelly showing a talent for facials during the match versus 50 Msl Regt RA

ORIENTEERING

The Regimental team continues to thrive in the Divisional League events although it is surely competition for the more hardy as the last three events have been run in the snow in some pretty steep woodland areas. Lovely in summer, I expect. Whilst the CO was away running the Nordic Skiing at the Divisional Championships and being ably assisted by the RSM, **WO1 Steve Marshall,** who suddenly found himself with the job of running the ranges, the 'ranch' got a bit quiet.

So as **LCpl Norman Finnegan,** the CO's driver, was looking lost he was invited by the 2IC to join the team on one of their league outings. The result was nearly a selection board for a new CO's driver but we are pleased to report that young **Norman** has not been put off by the hills and the snow and now cuts a fine dash on the ski slopes.

THE DAILY ROUND

'What do you do for a living then?' 'Well we support the Divisional HQ.' 'Oh really, are you very busy?' 'No, not much going on, just a Study Period, NBC Study Period, Intelligence Study Period, Indoor Exercise, Arduous Training for those who missed the last one, a Winter Comms exercise, oh and yes the Panzers are here.'

Planning 1983 started in earnest way back last year and at that stage it looked like being a quiet year. How wrong can you be? Hardening and Reducing will turn the screw further—lest the author become maudlin and upset the reader let us move on quickly to a fairy story:

'Once upon a time, the good Foreman, **Pete Martin** decided to run a squadron orienteering event in the woods south of the picturesque Mohnesee. A score event was chosen as being the ideal type to test map reading to the level of capability of each pair. However dark spirits were abroad and **LCpl Charlie George** was tempted to spend time admiring the beautiful snow flakes as they fell from the leaden sky. His partner, **Cpl 'Fez' Newell** meanwhile was not so interested in the beauties of nature, more in the practical considerations of getting home for a bath. You've guessed it, they were lost and got separated. **LCpl George** went to ground and used his survival training to safely pass the next 14 hours of darkness. Having called in the Regiment, (I don't care if you are not liable for *Active Edge*), the AAC, the Dog Training Unit from Sennelager, the RMP, the GCP and organised a full search of the area, who should be dropped at the Incident Control Point radio vehicle by a Forestry worker but **LCpl Charlie George.** Little Red Riding Hood had no reception like it as we learned that the wicked wolf had been cheated of his prey. However the residual message is "beware of the woods" but if you stop the night **LCpl Charlie George** knows a good hole to go to. Just remember to cover yourself with bracken and you will probably live at least some time thereafter.'

THE BEST OF THE REST

So far the more persistent of our readers will have noticed a certain levity to these notes. That's finished! The heavy stuff this period has been Mero stands in pallets in the snow which were converted into smart seats in the gymnasium for the Divisional Study Period.

As anticipated it was a success, no room for failure in this ALL INFORMED, ACE (agile, committed, educated) Division to quote the words of the GOC. However like all successes it was not bought cheaply and all the workers deserve a special 'thank you'. Quote of the Study Period must be 'You know, **Cpl Taylor** really is a lovely NCO', made by QM(A) to the 2IC. On further questioning it transpired that **Cpl Alan Taylor** turns out to be a pretty dab hand at decorating gymnasiums in company with fellow linemen engaged on more electrifying tasks, to mention but one, **LCpl Steve Nickerson.**

January did not end there however for the Indoor Exercise quickly came along and with borrowed Panzers from 206 Sig Sqn, 2 Sqn managed to create a good working environment for the HQ staff. Lots to be learnt yet was the conclusion of all that and won't April be fun chaps.

Meanwhile on the snow-covered slopes of the Sauerland an intrepid bunch of soldiers could be seen negotiating icy hills and finding out a bit about the rigours of communicating, administering and fighting in the cold. And you all thought we only went there to ski. **Capt Richard Evans** led the exercise and many old lessons were learnt yet again as they struggled with frozen equipment, vehicles and camouflag. Whatever happened to the old Flying Falcon in the snow? And just so that those who missed the Arduous Training in November, reported on in the last issue of The Wire, another 200 or so souls from the Regiment and HQ took part in a repeat performance in January. Repeat that is except the weather was much worse and so we all consoled ourselves with the thought that it increased the value of the training. Maybe more will volunteer for the first session next time.

This pixie was found abandoned near the admin area during Arduous Training. Anyone who can name him can claim him

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE SOinC

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE visited us on 3 February as part of his farewell tour. It was a very enjoyable few hours as the General went from potted sports in Salamanca to the Indoor Exercise at St Sebastian Bks. The accent was on meeting people although the main topic of discussion at the dinner in the evening was whether a good score on the target was more valuable than a better group off the target. Perhaps it was just bad briefing, General. Like the rest of the Corps, General, we wish you and **Sylvia** all the best in retirement but can't believe you will be inactive for long and look forward to seeing you again.

FAREWELL TO A SUPERCLERK

We wish **WO1 (Supt Clk) Andy Russell** well on his departure for 36 Sig Regt (V) at Wanstead, on commissioning. Remember **Andy,** start from the outside and work inwards and don't lick your knife either before or after you have eaten peas off it. It has to be a record, 64,000 miles travelled to and from work in his tour, well he did live at Mons while **Jane** worked for SHAPE and kept the house in order. We wish him well as he embarks on his second career, noting that the commuting urge is still strong and hope that he emptied the petrol out of his spare cans and remembered to fill them with fresh water before he got on the boat.

Like all good drill, we'll start by naming the parts
WO1 (RSM) Dave Marshall presents WO1 (Supt Clk) Andy Russell with his sword. Sgt Dave Meredith can hardly bear to watch

IN MEMORY

On a sadder note we send out sincere sympathy to the parents and family of **Sig Victor Kerwick** who was tragically killed in a car crash just after Christmas. He will be missed by his friends as one of the most helpful men around, never reluctant to lend a helping hand whatever the request.

206 (6 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Friday 21 January was very much a good news/bad news day for the Squadron, the ski team arrived back from the Divisional meeting at Zweisel as the proud owners of various trophies. **Lt Jim McKee** led his team to victory in the Alpine Combination, the Giant Slalom and the Slalom competitions; this was an excellent achievement as the team has basically trained and financed itself. **Cpl Stan Hardie,** ably supported by his wife **Shiela** and young daughter **Nicki, LCpls Jimmy Latimer, Nigel Lidster** and finally **LCpl 'Brains' Brian** made up the team with **'Brains'** qualifying for the Army Championships and bringing home the award for the most promising Royal Signals Skier and the crowning glory of the First Army Alpine Novice trophy. Well done to them all.

In addition the Squadron Club came into being for the first time that day, and thanks to a great deal of hard work it was ready for the Comd 6 Armd Bde, **Brig Jones,** to ceremonially pull the first pint. Special mention must go to **Sig Andy Wright** who spent much of his spare time in building the bar; rumour has it that he will be staying in the Army just to lean on his own work. **SSgt Bob Rylance** will not be able to put in an MMA claim for all the extra miles he has driven to obtain all the materials he managed to scrounge.

The bad/sad news was that in amongst the celebrations we said farewell to **Brig Jones** who has now given up his command. We had a very good relationship with the Brigadier but it was heartening to see that for a change he was stuck for words when **Sig 'Tweeds' Tweedie** presented him with a silver Rhino which was a gift from the Squadron and his Headquarters.

The 206 Sig Sqn Ski team
L-R: Cpl 'Brains' Brian, LCpl Jim Latimer, LCpl Nigel Lidster, Lt Jim McKee, Nicki, Cpl Stan Hardie

Brig Jones pulling the first pint in the Rhinos Rest. Ski trophies proudly displayed
(Sixth Sense Photo by Peter Griffiths)

Sig 'Tweeds' Tweedie presents Brig Jones with the silver rhino
(Sixth Sense Photo by Peter Griffiths)

204 (4th ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The last time that the Squadron appeared in the Wire it was as Task Force Charlie Signal Squadron. Since that time both our title and our amalgamation has changed. We will attempt, in the following few paragraphs, to bring the reader up to date with Squadron activities over the past two years.

Firstly, the Squadron hierarchy:

OC	**Maj I. C. Shuker**
	Maj J. H. Giffin (from Mar 83)
2IC	**Capt A. Field**
Admin Offr	**Capt K. A. Childs**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt C. H. Turner**
SSM	**WO2 J. O'Rourke**
YofS	**WO2 B. Greenwood**
FofS	**SSgt A. J. Brend**
SQMS	**SSgt A. Spray**

REFORMATION

In January 1981 4 Armd Bde was reformed from Task Force Charlie—and so the Squadron title changed. The reformation was marked by the visit of **Field Marshall Lord Carver** to the brigade and to the Squadron.

EX *RED CLAYMORE 1981*

1981 contained its normal share of exercises for the Squadron although track mileage and fuel restrictions tended to limit their scope. The most demanding, and perhaps unique, exercise for us was the 3 Armd Div FTX Ex *Red Claymore* to which 4 Armd Bde provided the enemy, or Orange forces. The particular challenge for the Signal Squadron was to communicate to five widely dispersed Battle Groups over an area as wide as the 1 (BR) Corps TAOR and not in the normal defensive posture but in the advance. We discovered that there is a big difference between falling back on to pre-recced, secure positions and moving forward into an area held by BLUE forces. Close co-operation between leading forces and communications reconnaissance elements was essential.

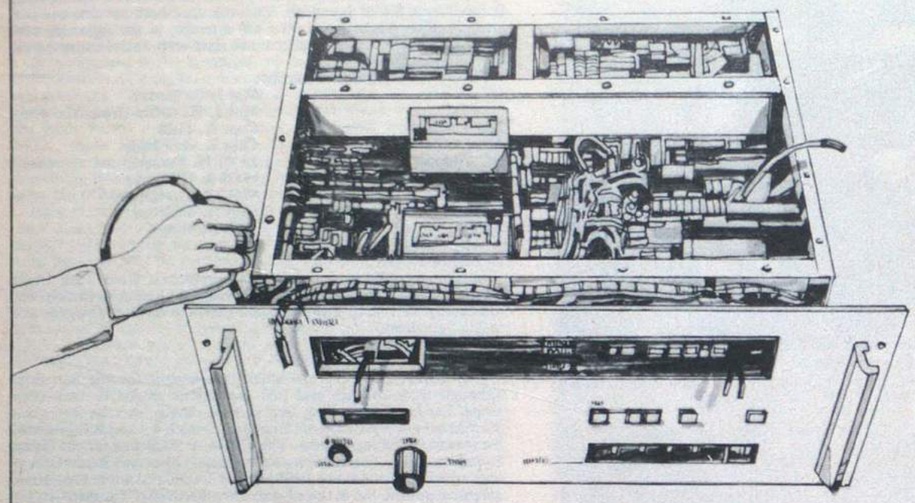
SIMBING 1981

Just when we thought that it was safe to go back into the water we were given a communications commitment which promised to be, and was, far more of an ordeal than FTX. Radio-controlled simultaneous Bingo (or Simbing), covering the city of Munster, was required. Profits of the Bingo session were to go to SSAFA funds. By linking the three community centres of this large garrison a giant snowball was possible. The Bingo calls had to be broadcast simultaneously from the central community centre to the two others. The net had to be amplified and speakered within each of the three centres. The three centres also had to be able to pass back immediately, calls for 'lines' or a 'house'.

Munster is a notoriously difficult area for communications. Add to this the burden of transmitting the cry of an excited housewife when several thousand deutschemarks are at stake and you have the recipe for ulcers, at best, or blighted career prospects. The Squadron 'deployed' 24 hours early, and having established an unavoidably tenuous Simbing network, could only wait and hope for the best. Well, to cut a long story short, despite a technical hitch which delayed proceedings for 15 minutes and another which was covered by our HF guard net (and a 'prompter' with a HF remote behind the stage curtains) the Simbing was a success. It is not however an experience we would wish to repeat on the basis that it is 'liable to cause unnecessary suffering to prontos'.

SQUADRON CAMP ON NORDERNEY

After pressures such as those induced by Simbing the Squadron needs somewhere to recover, to relax and to concentrate on the more physical aspects of life such as canoeing, windsurfing, orienteering and bivouaccing. The place we chose to go is off the North Coast of Germany. The island is approximately 10 miles by 1½ miles, decreasing considerably when the tide is in. It is mostly sand-dunes except for the town (and harbour) of Norderney. A typical day at the camp consists of an early morning run and swim, before breakfast, water sports through the day and an evening hike to the end of the island for an overnight bivouac and back in time for breakfast the following day. Of course we also take the opportunity to visit the town of Norderney during the camp. For a town so small it has a lot to offer. After a week of such intensive physical activity the Squadron was able to produce a BFT result which put it in 3rd place amongst the minor units in the BAOR Tickle Fitness Competition.



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EXERCISE *RAT TRAP*

Exercise *Rat Trap* is a Squadron initiative exercise of which there have so far been two in a, hopefully, continuing series.

The first exercise found five bewildered soldiers standing in a field at RAF Odiham having been delivered from Munster by a Luftwaffe 'Jolly Green Giant' helicopter. They had been given minimum warning of such an exercise. Having established voice communications on a PRC 320, they were given their orders from Munster. 'Locate and photograph the Pope'. Within 36 hours they had found the Pope in Cardiff and had photographed him from a distance of no more than 12 feet (despite a supporting cast of thousands).

The second exercise found six bewildered soldiers standing in a field somewhere in the middle of Belgium having been delivered from Munster by a lynx helicopter of 662 Sqn AAC. They then opened their sealed orders to read their orders. 'To raise the 4 Armd Bde flag over Dover Castle'. Within 36 hours the 'Black Rat' was flying over Dover Castle and the team was carving out a lump of the White Cliffs as a souvenir. The team hitched their way back into Germany with four in a Sea King helicopter and two in a Chinook. We look forward to Ex *Rat Trap 3*.

OTHER EXERCISES

Perhaps one should not lump the 1 (BR) Corps CPX and the 4 Armd Div FTX together as 'other exercises' but there is inevitably less of wide interest to recount of such exercises. on Ex *Summer Sales 1982* we provided the radio communications for Control HQ. Seldom does an Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron have eight radio rebroadcast stations under command. We had, of course, over-insured. On Ex *Quarter Final* we provided umpire communications to cover 4 Armd Div and the two Orange Brigades. For the first time we were working with the Clansman VRC 353—and what a difference it made. Increased ranges and reliability mean less ulcers for pronto. We happily converted to CSSH in November 1982 and look forward to our first exercises of 1983.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 1 January, 4 Armd Bde transferred from 2 Armd Div to 3 Armd Div. With it of course went the Signal Squadron. To mark the event, the Squadron marched the 46 miles from its barracks in Munster to the 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt barracks in Korbecke.

The march was not undertaken without training—six months of it—nor without hardship. The overnight march lasted 14 hours and was completed despite considerable pain, for many, from blisters and swollen joints. We received terrific moral support from marching behind our Squadron pennant and from BFBS Radio who 'covered the march' with live phone-ins during the night.

We were welcomed, on arrival, by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Tim Waugh** and shortly afterwards, at a Regimental Parade, were presented with a new Squadron pennant. In return we presented our own lance and pennant to the Commanding Officer. We now look forward to a happy relationship with our new Regiment and, at the same time, wish 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt all the best for the future as they return, without us, to England.

The Exchange of Pennants after the 204 Sig Sqn march from Munster to Korbecke
L-R: Maj Chris Shuker, Cpl Dos Martyres, Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

Crieff, Perthshire

Situated in spacious grounds in beautiful Perthshire, Morrison's Academy is an independent school for boys and girls which, since 1860, has been equipping young people for life all over the world. The reputation of Morrison's is based on sound Scottish formal education, along with a wide range of sports and activities. 'O' grade, Higher grade and Sixth Year examinations are taken while Oxford and Cambridge A-levels can be added if desired.

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REORGANISATION AND EXPANSION

Another chapter in BAOR was started on 1 January with the withdrawal of the 2nd Armd Div and the reorganisation of the 1st (British) Corps into three armoured divisions. The 4th Armd Div was fortunate to retain 20 Armd Bde (The Mailed Fist) and 11 Armd Bde (The Halberd) in Detmold and Minden respectively. At the same time we took under command 33 Armd Bde (The Bull) based at Paderborn.

The Regiment was delighted to take over command of 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn from the 3rd Armd Div. Details of the Change of Command Parade held in Paderborn are contained in the Squadron notes below and we take this opportunity to welcome all members of the Squadron and their families into the Regiment.

GENERAL BIRTWISTLE FAREWELL VISIT

An SOinCs farewell visit is always tinged with sadness but, despite appalling weather, **Gen Birtwistle** managed, in his usual manner, to turn his morning with us into a happy one. We were delighted to hear that General Birtwistle had been asked to become a Colonel Commandant and that this was not the last we would see of him.

Even our orderly room sergeant, **Sgt Ray Stone** allowed himself a small smile despite the nearness of the Regimental Documents Inspection. From RHQ the SOinC went to Training Wing where **Lt Peter Robinson** introduced his team of six foot high, graffiti writers; **Cpl Tom Moran** (shown pointing in our photo), **Sgt Mick Eady** (in the background and **Sgt Brian Innis**.

In TM Troop, **Capt Dickie Dyer** and **WO1 (FoS) Challenger** were embarrassed when the SOinC told **Cpl Les Heather** of 2 Sqn to move aside and asked why only the manufacturer was allowed access to the new intercom. **Capt Dyer**, always a fast talker, was able to advise the SOinC, in reply, on the future communications equipment programme. Also in TM Troop, **Sig George Henry** and the SOinC discussed the relative merits of working for British Leyland.

In 2 Sqn football was the topic of conversation, as usual. **Sig Phil Lord** is a Grimsby man:

'See they lost on Saturday' says the SOinC.

Sig Lord is a true supporter and optimist.

'Yes, but only just' he replied.

(Footnote: SOinC please note Grimsby's record at the time of writing is: played 26—won 10—lost 11—drawn 5).

Both the SOinC and **Mrs Birtwistle** were shown around The Bradley Centre and, in the Craft Shop, they saw what they had come all the way to Germany to see.

The visit was rounded off by a photograph and drinks in the WOs and Sgts Mess and a promenade lunch in the Officers Mess. Right to the end of his visit **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Birtwistle** talked to everyone and gave us, their hosts, a most enjoyable day.

Sgt Ray Stone our Orderly Room Sergeant shares a joke with the SOinC

Cpl Tom Moran pointing out the Regimental course results to the SOinC with Sgt Mick Eady looking on

The SOinC asking Capt Dickie Dyer about the plate on the intercom which states 'only to be opened by the manufacturers' or was it 'Yes, but where do I put my 10p?

The SOinC asking Cpl Les Heather to move aside so that he could have a look at the insides of the new intercom

Sig George Henry and the SOinC discussing the merits of working for British Leyland!

The SOinC wondering why, in the light of the current reduction in establishments, this 'man' is lazing around

The hierarchy talking to the hierarchy
From *left to right:* WO1 Bryan Selkirk BEM, WO1 Dave Hornsby, SOinC, WO1 (RSM) M. V. Ledwards

BADMINTON

Because we have **Capt Stan Hargreaves** in the Regiment, that stalwart in the world of badminton who is Secretary BAOR and Royal Signals badminton, the Regiment has been host to many competitions in the past 2½ years. This time it was, for the second year running, the WRAC and BAOR Championships in January.

Many members of the Regiment entered this competition but the one who met with the most success was **Cfn Steve Hardie REME**. He fought his way through to four finals; Singles, Open, Unit and Mixed Doubles.

On the finals day he managed to win convincingly the Singles and Open Doubles and lost the Unit Doubles by the narrowest of margins, 17-16, 18-17. He was partnered in this most exciting game by **Capt Stan Hargreaves** who is not content to just organise the competition but has to pay in it as well! He got through to the Veteran's Doubles final with his partner **Sgt Om Chhetri** and after an interesting match they won quite convincingly. It has been pointed out that at 44, **Stan** is by far the oldest badminton player playing at Corps level in BAOR and possibly UK. Long may he continue.

Capt Stan Hargreaves in action during the Veteran's Doubles final

BASKETBALL

The 1982/83 season is well underway and to date the Regiment are unbeaten in the Divisional league; but we were beaten 71-59 by our old rivals, 25 Fd Regt RA, in the final of the Divisional Knock Out Championships. However all is not lost as we go forward to the next stage of the BAOR Championships and if all goes to form we should have the opportunity of taking our revenge on 25 Fd Regt RA.

This seasons squad consists of the following:

Capt Henry Jennings (Coach)
WO1 (SC) Dave Hornsby
WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Smith (APTC)
SSgt Mat Mathews (Asst Coach and Corps Coach)
SSgt Stevie May (BAOR/Corps)
Sgt Colin Elstob (Corps)
Sgt Less Bennett (BAOR/Corps)
Cpl Mickey Brolan
LCpl Jimmy Peat (BAOR/Corps/Army Junior)
LCpl Rab Mulholland (BAOR/Corps/Army Junior)
LCpl John Fradley
Sig Stu Fell (BAOR/Corps)
Cfn Pete Duffin (REME)
LCpl Taff Morris

Although we are halfway through the season we must say farewell sadly to **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Sgt Colin Elstob** who are posted; we would like to thank them for everything they have done for basketball in the Regiment. With our coach posted, it is time for our assistant coach to take the reins. He will have the support of all the team in a year to remember.

INTER UNIT NOVICES BOXING

During November the Regimental Novice Boxing Team advanced into the Quarter Finals of the Divisional Championships. The draw took us to Lippstadt and we were full of confidence and looking forward to pitching our skills against 27 Field Regiment RA. The whole evening was a tremendous success; even, keenly fought contests throughout and although we came up against a very strong side, great credit must go to our boys who fought until the final bell. The final score was 6-3 to the gunners and we congratulate them on a fine win.

The final round which took place in the bar later in the evening, went down well and many stories were exchanged. We are pleased to say there were no more contests. Well done to our team:

Sig Swanny Schwalm
Sig Jock Wood
LCpl Geordie Tierney
LCpl Spassy Lat Jones
Sig Gypsy Brown
Sig Davies Clarke
Dvr Awol Poke
Cpl Stevie E. T. Stevenson
LCpl Andy Campbell
LCpl Andy Young
Sig Jimmy Parkin

Special thanks to our trainers: **Cpl Gary Major, Cpl Duncan Hall, Cpl Ian Taylor.**

AFTER NOTE: We were delighted to hear that 27 Field Regt RA went on to become the Divisional Champions.

211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
CANOEING

The Squadron Team consisting of **Cpl Steve Hartley, LCpls Keith Walker** and **Mark Yates** entered the Army White Water Championships which were held on the River Swale, Richmond, Yorks, in Nov '82. Although starting 2¾ hours after Team 1, and experiencing a fall in the water level of 2 to 3 feet, which made the going more difficult, a very good time of 41 mins 22 seconds was achieved and we came 14th; one minute behind the eventual winners.

JUDO

Sig Taff Lee was runner up in the BAOR Championships Featherweight Division held in Sennelager in Dec '82 despite an injured shoulder and very little preparation for the event. He qualified for the UKLF Championships held at Bulford, Wilts, in January where he was beaten by the BAOR Champion in the semi-finals. At 19 years of age **Lee** has a great future in judo and we hopefully look forward to seeing him emerge as a judo champion of the future.

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
OC — Maj S. M. Siddall
2IC — Capt G. D. Corbet
OC A — Lt R. L. Harnden
OC B — Lt K. J. Durward
SSM — WO2 (SSM) Bawden
YofS — WO2 (YofS) R. L. Holt

CHANGES

Since our last report there have been four major changes in the squadron front line. **Maj Stephen Siddall** has recently assumed command and banished **Maj Richard Holmes** to the obscure corridors of MOD.

Capt Gerry Corbet and **Lt Keith Durward** are now established in their respective jobs and **WO2 (SSM) Bawden** is clumping around in his hobnail boots in place of **WO2 (now WO1) Bonnett** who has left us to be RSM of 16 Sig Regt.

EXERCISES

The Squadron has completed a hectic exercise season and seems to be on the verge of an even busier one next year.

Exercise *Gauntlet Shield* in December was our first exercise with fully Clansmanised 432's and the Hardening and Reducing Team equipment was well tested. The next step is to test our Triffid 439s on Ex *Gauntlet Forge.*

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The temporary closing of the Gauntlet club a few weeks before Christmas (to enable us to comply with new fire regulations) did not deter the committee; they simply arranged for functions to be held elsewhere and it was 'business as usual'. **Sig Steve Franklin** won the top prize of a video at an excellent Squadron Christmas Party.

MARATHON MANIA

Sgt John Thomson is still leading his band of marathon runners in an extensive training programme. At the Verden marathon in November **LCpl Steve Sadler** did a personal best time of 2 hrs 51 mins. The other 7 squadron member running were **Sgt John Thomson, LCpl Craig Tunstall, Tom Hornby, Sigs Shaun Pyrah, Steve Brown, Eddie Wright** and **John Connolly.**

SQUASH

SSgt (FofS) Doug Rackham, the squadron's only squash gladiator ably assisted the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron team to lose the first round of the minor units league. He was unable to take the glory of the team winning the major units league.

202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
Change of command parade

On a very cold and foggy December day, 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn held a parade at Alanbrooke Barracks, Paderborn to mark the change of command from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The parade, commanded by the OC, **Maj C. V. Nind** was inspected by **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh MBE** CO 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Soest. After **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh MBE** had addressed the parade his place on the dais was taken by **Lt Col A. F. Eastburn,** CO 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **Lt Col Eastburn** gave permission for his new Brigade Signal Squadron to march off as the fog of Paderborn closed in. The parade was watched by many spectators including **Brig** and **Mrs P. G. Brooking,** Commd 33 Armd Bde, and **Brig** and **Mrs C. N. Last,** Commd Comms 1 (BR) Corps. Afterwards members of the Squadron, their families and guests were invited to an all ranks lunch.

The Band of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) appeared by kind permission of their Commanding Officer.

Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh accompanied by OC 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, Maj C. V. Nind and the Adjt, Capt G. Le Gallais, review the front rank of SHQ Troop which was commanded by WO2 (YofS) S. G. Watson
From *left to right:* Capt Green, Cpl Charge, Sig Lewis, Cpls Clark and Blair

FAMILIES VISIT DURING EXERCISE

During Exercise *Toreadors Training* in October 1982 the wives and families of the Squadron were invited to see how their other halves live under field conditions.

Our wives and families arrived on a pleasant Sunday morning and before disbursing were briefed on the days activities by **Maj Chris Nind, Capt Ted Banham** and **WO2 (SSM) John Walker**. The day was spent visiting the complexes and defence positions and the visitors were given the opportunity to command and operate various radios, vehicles and equipments. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the 'Compo' lunch prepared by **Cpl Jimmy Nelson ACC.**An enjoyable day was had by all.

'Can I have another go?' Commanding and travelling in a 432 was very popular. Mrs Thora Mayson debusing, Sig Sid Hawkey, Master Stuart Mayson, Master Mark Watson, Mrs Linda Watson, SSgt (FofS) John Mayson holding his son John

Cpl (Dodger) Green with son Jason. Note Jason's two finger trigger grip for double tapping!

ORIENTEERING

It was a brisk November morning when our four intrepid heroes, **Lt Simon Renfrey, WO2 (SSM) John Walker, Cpl George Young** and **Sig Taff Davies-Williams** set out on the BAOR Royal Signals Orienteering Competition. Having successfully survived the course they decided that they would 'slope off' for a bratwurst. Two days later they discovered that they had won the Minor Units Competition and, in their absence, had missed the announcement and prizegiving.

EX *FROZEN MEMBERS* NOVEMBER 82

'It was on a fair and pleasant day . . . ', well, the words of the song were not quite apt; in fact it was freezing cold. Echo Two Troop—redesignated Echo Two 'Platoon' for the day (lean, mean, fighting machines)—set off on the regimental annual arduous training exercise. To be fair, we'd all seen worse weather, although no-one could remember when. From the point of academic interest alone it was interesting to see how much water could find its way through carefully constructed poncho shelters, inside sleeping bags and down the back of the occupants neck. Various suggestions as to the actual quantity were made (in the most eloquent of terms) by **SSgt Archie Hambling**—in his new role as Echo Two Staff Sergeant and meteorlogical adviser to the Troop OC. However, **Lt David Baxter** thought the matter would have to remain sub judice as the rainfall measuring kit had been left behind in Paderborn. However, despite this, all who participated had a great time and thought they were better members of the Corps and society in general, for it.

THE VERDEN MARATHON

'Let's enter the Verden Marathon' said **Lt David Baxter**—and off he went recruiting like mad. The training started—the names flooded in (both of them) with the resigned comment 'If Mr B can do it so can I'. In the end, seven intrepid volunteers set off from Paderborn to take part in the Royal Signals/1 Armd Div Marathon. However, even those with an elementary command of arithmetic were a little confused when only six arrived at the start.

Who was missing? The mystery deepened. Of the six — five finished; **Lt Simon Renfrey, LCpl Pat Coleman, Sig Dave Ferreday, 'Jock' Hughes,** and **Stan Tivey**. Congratulations are certainly due to the lads, as for most, this was their first marathon. Best of all was **LCpl Coleman** who came 7th overall. He was dissappointed to find out that had he come 6th he would have won himself a rather smooth umbrella. Just what every up and coming young NCO should have. And finally—who chickened out? Would you believe?—**Lt Dave** 'my shoulder is killing me' **Baxter**.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

ROYAL SIGNALS MARATHON—VERDEN

22 runners from the Regiment took part in this first Royal Signals marathon. No one really expected great things of our team but they surprised a lot of people when our first team was placed second overall and second amongst Royal Signals teams.

The team consisted of:

LCpl Paul Sexby	placed 6th in a time of 2hrs 46.10secs
Lt John Kirkman	placed 18th in a time of 2hrs 57.19secs
Lt Nick Bateson	placed 22nd in a time of 3hrs

All our runners were very impressed with the excellent organisation by 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and they left Verden with a great sense of achievement.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
THE BATCHELORS IN THE SPEARHEAD CLUB

The Batchelors show was booked for the Spearhead Club on Wed 15 Dec and what a night it was. The club was packed to capacity with junior ranks, their wives and girlfriends. **Charlie Daze** (of The Comedians fame) set the scene and had everyone rolling in their seats. The Batchelors then came on and quickly proved that they can entertain all age groups. It was indeed an excellent nights entertainment and one of the most successful parties of the festive season.

NEW YEARS EVE

The Spearhead club was put to good use again with a junior ranks New Years Eve party. The ingredients were a group, a disco and a room full of happy people. The night went exceptionally well with dancing into the small hours. When the club was finally vacated it was left ankle deep in streamers, paper hats and balloons, a sure sign of a superb New Years Eve party.

SOLDIERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The traditional festive lunch was held in the cookhouse on the 14 Dec. This year the Officers and SNCOs were faced with the awesome task of having to serve 500 junior ranks their Christmas fare. The biggest problem for the waiters was running the gauntlet up and down the narrow gaps between the rows of tables. Some of them quickly realised that they are not as thin waisted as they thought. Despite these problems an excellent meal was served with great expertise and efficiency. After the meal the CO climbed on the tables in the middle of the hall and delivered his Christmas message to the well fed and watered (kegged type) throng. Then followed the now traditional raffle, very ably organised by the provost **Cpl John Donachie.** After that it was the turn of the waiters to do cookhouse fatigues and return the hall back to normal.

The CO, Lt Col Peter Burke giving his Christmas message to the regiment

NAAFI CLUB THE TOPS

The Regiment is very proud of the fact that this year we won the NAAFI Best Club of the Year Award. Profit, cleanliness, service, standard of management and quality of food are all taken into consideration when juding and its thanks to the good management of **Mr Peter Stubbs,** manager, and service of his happy staff that the award has come to 7 Sig Regt. The award was presented by the NAAFI European Service Manager, **Mr Ron Day.**

The staff with their trophies. Mr Ron Day (*centre*) and the Manager Mr Peter Stubbs (*far left*)
(Sixth Sense Photo by Peter Griffiths)

EX *NAPOLEAN QUADRANT*

In Nov of last year an intrepid band of 12 divers from the Regimental diving club, departed from the wintry climate of Herford, for the more sunny climes of the island of Elba in the Mediterranean Sea. A red four ton truck, (yes, we really did paint it red!) driven by **Sgt Roelf Bruinsma** and **Sig Jim Rice** was loaded down with diving and other equipment and then taken across the Alps by way of Austria and the Bremmer Pass. Our journey down was uneventful apart from the bureaucratic ministrations of the German and Italian customs men, who found it hard to believe that our truck and its contents were privately owned and not a clandestine commercial undertaking.

Eventually we arrived in sunny Elba and set about the business of diving. **Capt Pete Smith** the expedition leader found a suitable beach and we all got on with unloading and checking the equipment. **Sigs Nipper Hazelgrove** and **Skinny Quinn** were told to check out our two inflatable boats and that was the last we saw of them that day! Meanwhile **Cpl Alan Sharak Owen** and **Sig Andy** (these are the right transits) **Strudwick** checked the remainder of the equipment.

The diving proved to be excellent, with warm clear waters and plenty of marine life. **Sig Jimmy Walker** and **Skinny Quinn** were introduced to octupus wrestling and **Cpl Cliff** (world's greatest diver) **Williams** and **Sig Jim Rice** discovered the wreck of a coastal steamer.

But the culmination of the expedition was the introduction to eating lunch underwater, which in our case, was a banana. This task requires skill and co-ordination and is much more pleasant than its dry land equivalent of eating compo biscuits in the CS gas chamber.

After two weeks, alas, we had to return to Herford. The journey proved to be not without incident and should **Sig Jimmy Walker** ever leave the army he feels certain he can get a job with the French Customs Service!

Underwater Lunch
Left Sig Andy Strudwick, *Centre* Sig Nipper Hazelgrove and *Right* Sig Jimmy Walker

Posers on the beach
L to R: Maj David Stubbs, Sig Nipper Hazelgrove, Skinny Quinn, Jimmy Walker, Jim Rice, Cpl Alan Sharak Owen and Sig Andy Strudwick

BISMARK RELAY 13 NOV 82

The relay is an annual race which over the years has become a well established event for the BAOR sport calendar. For the uninitiated the event is open for teams of six runners from any unit in BAOR; this year we even had a team from the UK. Each runner has to run a fast 3½ loop around the Bismark Turm in the woods at Herford carrying a baton which is passed from runner to runner. The individual times of the team are then added together and the team with the overall fastest time is the winner. This year a total of 37 teams competed in the race which started in ideal running conditions but ended in heavy rain. Prizes were presented by Comd Comms 1 BR Corps **Brig C. N. Last OBE** and the meeting was extremely well organised by **WO2 (SSM) John Peacock. Spr Lassetter** of 3 PC Regt RE was the fastest individual in 15 mins; the first Royal Signals individual was the well known veteran **SSgt Bill Venus** in a time of 15mins 53secs. The winning team was 3 PC Regt RE in a time of 96mins 47secs and the first Royal Signals team was 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt in a time of 100mins 26secs.

Within the main event a Regimental inter squadron competition was run. 1 Sqn came second with a total time of 114mins 14secs but the honours went to 3 Sqn A team, with a total time of 112mins 35secs.

Sig Kevin Bausor 3 Sqn handing over the baton to his OC Maj Phil Cooper

BOXING

The inter squadron competition was held on Fri 12 Nov. No fewer than 26 boxers took part in what proved to be an excellent evenings sport, which was very well organised by **QSMI Gordon Young.** With so much courage and spirit shown by all the contestants it was difficult to pick out the best bout. The honour went to the featherweight bout in which **LCpl Tom Currie** of 3 Sqn was awarded the best loser to **Sig Scouse Cunningham** of 6 Sqn. The best boxing style was shown by **Sig Hutchinson** of 1 Sqn. The team trophy was carried away by 6 Sqn who retain the cup for a second year; well done!

Left Sig Scouse Cunningham and *Right* LCpl Tom Currie battling away

LAD REME
GRUNAU KINDERHEIM CHRISTMAS PARTY 1982

On the wet and windy afternoon of the 15 Dec the 14th annual Weinachten party, sponsored by the LAD REME 7 Sig Regt, was held for the children of the Grünau Kinderheim Bad Salzuflen at Maresfield Barracks, Herford.

The afternoon started with 432 rides and a game of skill utilising the AEC recovery vehicles. From the outside activities the children headed to the dry and warmth of the Spearhead Club, where after a disco and party games children and staff sat down to tea consiting of sticky buns, trifles and gallons of orange juice. At 4pm St Nicholas **(SSgt John Hodges)** arrived, via a window, to distribute presents and good cheer to the obvious delight of the children.

Whilst **Capt Mick O'Rourke** OC LAD consumed the remaining sherry, **Sgt Paul Campbell** and his merry band of helpers cleared the debris from the meal, whilst the children danced to the disco. The time to leave came far too quickly for all concerned and we all look forward to next year.

L-R: WO2 (AQMS) Trev Mills, WO1 (ASM) Bill Logue, 'Father Christmas', SSgt John Hodges, Capt Mick O'Rourke
Kneeling: Sgt Paul Campbell

If you live anywhere north of Watford Gap, driving home from the Channel Ports can be a shattering experience.

Especially with a family in tow. Which is why we suggest you take the easy way out: Sail with North Sea Ferries from Rotterdam (Europoort) or Zeebrugge to Hull.

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IF YOU'RE GOING HOME ON LEAVE, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ARMY.

NORTH SEA FERRIES

A P&O / Nedlloyd Joint Venture.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

FROM 8 SIG REGT

As the New Year starts with very little snow and temperatures resembling summer, the inhabitants of Catterick detect a wind of change. At RHQ the wind is of a technical nature and already the clerks and typists are fighting to save their jobs.

Microchips have arrived as again 8 Sig Regt try out a new idea. (Our nominal roll is now 16ft long.)

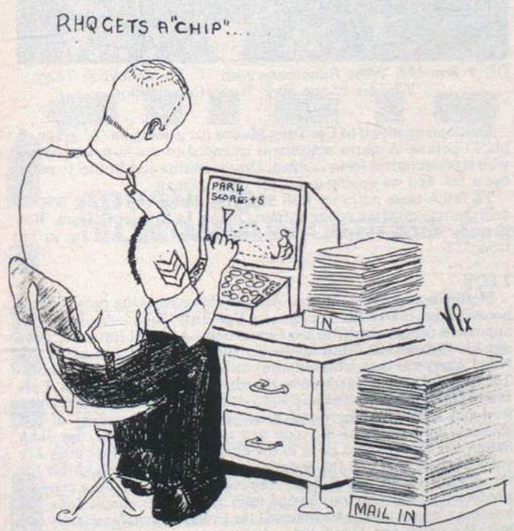
CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING!!

BIRTHS

On Friday 12 November 1982, to 8 Sig Regt Documentation Office, a son, PAMPAS, was successfully brought into the world, with all his peripherals complete!

So Project PAMPAS (Personnel Administrative Microcomputer Pilot ADP System) at 8 Sig Regt pioneers the trail to the future on the administrative documentation front in the Royal Corps of Signals.

The microcomputer system is designed to cover almost all aspects of a unit's personnel documentation (including Part 2 Orders) and can retrieve any specified items of information from any individual or group of individuals' service record at any time (in theory).



So what's new about computers in the Signals?—It is probably well known (especially to the clerks amongst us) that there exists, somewhere in the bowels of the Pay Corps Computer Centre, The Central Computer which houses all our individual service records. Extracts of which we see as the AF B2672 (ADP)—or 'ADP Card' and as the AF 09537 (ADP)—commonly called a pay statement. Project PAMPAS' equipment works on the same principle and shall eventually be linked directly to the Central computer, and to Manning and Record Offices, so eliminating most of the tedious paperwork produced at present in corresponding with these offices.

In the not too distant future inter-unit postings will be completed at the touch of a button, leaving only the soldier himself and his kit to be despatched.

Returns shall become a mere formality, and as for those who wish to know 'How many people in the unit are single, live in Ava Road, are in 2 Sqn, passed their BFT yesterday, have two children and have no driving licence but speak Swahili, the computer is able to sift through all that and produce the answer in practically no time at all!

Can it do anything else?—you may well ask! Read on . . . The model which 8 Sig Regt has on trial also has a word processor facility on which standard and non-standard layout letters and proformae can be created, stored and retrieved, so doing away with vast amounts of extra typing every time a 'skin' is lost or torn, and also does away with all that messy duplicating stuff. Any document which can be created on a standard typewriter keyboard can be created on this word processor. It also has an address label facility which will provide as many sticky backed labels as you require with your preferred despatch address!

And finally, here's the bit you've all been waiting for—yes it can even be programmed to play space invaders (but only if you've got the right equipment!).

CROSS COUNTRY

The Regiment sponsored the Northern Area stage of the Army Cross Country Championships on 16 January. Three courses for ladies, juniors and seniors, were laid by **WO2 Gavin Escott** on the Gandale training area. **WO2 (QMSI) Chris Brown** assisted by **LCpl John Williams** saw fair play as the Clerk of the Course and **Capt Norman Ladds** co-ordinated the administrative effort. Almost 300 runners experienced a cold windy day and **WO2 Gavin Escott** ran extremely well in the difficult conditions to finish second overall in the regular units race. The two Regimental ladies' team also put up a very good show to take first and second places in their race and **Pte Natalie Abrahams** showed lots of latent talent and enthusiasm finishing second overall. The men's team worked hard but was unable to get a place in the finals, finishing third behind 1 R Irish and 1 DWR.

WHAT IS RED AND RATTLES?

If the heading has attracted you to read this article you may be surprised to discover that it is all about skiing. The answer to the question is of course ICE CREAM. Did you get it right? The incident involves a certain Signalman who was sent to the German supermarket to buy ice cream and he came back with a box of frozen strawberries.

Never mind **Chris**, you know now to shake the box before you buy???

Well the skiing team set off from UK to spend a week training in Oberjoch in Bavaria with every confidence that there would be snow . . . first mistake. **Cpl Manny Hesselden** (famed for his downhill abilities so he says) thought he could handle langlaufing . . . second mistake, and **Cpl Les Bostock** was convinced that one day he would be able to stand up on skis.

So with no snow the OIC **Lt Steve Herniman** send out search parties up every cable car, chairlift and hill in the area to find snow. 'Time in recce is never wasted' and the weary five visited many a hilltop rasthaus before almost 1km of ice was found to practice on. Training began in earnest but falling proved very painful due to the proximity of the rocks. None the less it was skiing and we were after all in training for the UKLF meeting. All too soon it was time to say

goodbye to Hindelang and head for the 3 Armd Div/UKLF meet at Zwiesel. Munich provided a convenient overnight stop and the programmed cultural visit took place.

On arrival at Zwiesel the town had no snow at all but the organisers were convinced there was a track 10 miles away. So off we set at 0630hrs to take part in the 10km race. The course was hard but enjoyable although the last 1500m was all downhill and very very fast. There was no fresh snow, so the next day the 4 x 10km relay was run on the same course at the same unearthly time. We had this cracked as we now knew where to take the skis off and walk?? To cap the race season for the team the third day's race was the 15km individual and it snowed the whole time we were racing. Tracks freshly cut were snowed over and visibility was reduced to nothing. Again though, the team scored success and all found the finish.

As the racing had finished the team began training for the all-comers downhill slalom. The arguments then started as to which skier poses more, langlauf or downhill. No final decision was made but all agreed that **Manny Hesselden** was a poser, and the other four were just skiers. On the final day **Cpl Les Bostock** finally made it to the top of the slope and took pictures of the 'Downhill' team consisting of **Cpls Stew Jones, Manny Hesselden, Lt Steve Herniman** and **Sig Chris Hurford.** All completed the course with no serious wipe-outs. **Manny Hesselden** claims the finish came too soon!!

And so to the final event, the prize-giving. The team turned out for a few quiet celebration drinks not realising the amount of glasswear that would be needing a lift home. The team won a set of cut crystal wine glasses each as runners up in the UKLF Nordic combination. **Sig Chris Hurford** was presented with the best UKLF Novice award.

The trip home was very long, but not without incident. Needless to say, as we left the hills the snow was falling, making driving difficult. If that was not frustrating enough the German Police decided to stop the OIC Party 3kms from the border and relieve him of some of his loose change for having a faulty headlamp.

No exercise would be complete without a word of thanks for the cook. **Les Bostock** played mother and who knows one day his boiled eggs may come out right???

PRESENTATION OF AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The recipients of Amateur Swimming Association Awards are shown here, along with the Testing Officials, **Sgt Ivor Williams** and **Mrs Donna Josephson** (wife of the US Army Exchange Officer).

Student members of the Regiment, along with military and civilian cadre, have been participating in this individual awards programme. While testing and recognising current swimming ability the scheme is progressive in nature and affords Regiment members the opportunity to earn Bronze, Silver, Gold and further Honours Awards.

The Regiment's support of this programme has been particularly designed to encourage an interest in swimming and, hopefully, cause students to seek out and become involved in swimming activities of their eventual units.

Back row: Sgt Williams, Sig Callaghan (Bronze), Sig Robinson (Bronze), Sig Soward, SSgt Barton (Silver), LCpl Thornton (Bronze), Cpl Whitwood (Bronze), Sig Rothwell (Silver), Sig McConnell (Bronze), and Mrs Josephson
Front row: Sig Gorton (Bronze), Sig Watson (Silver), Mr Miners (Honours), Sig Smith (Silver), Sig Warren (Bronze) and Sig Bird (Bronze)

1 SQN

The Squadron Christmas party proved to be a great success and rounded off the year with a bang. The cadre all left the party in high spirits and **Lesley Filmer** our Chief Clerk was on the dance floor for most of the evening. OC 1 Sqn **Maj Willie Robotham** went home clutching the B & W portable television he won in the raffle. (Is this a fix?) There is only one thing outstanding from this party and our SSM, **Barry Williams,** is offering a reward for the return of the 9ft Christmas tree that 'went missing'.

Success again on the sports scene, this time at volleyball.

1 Sqn dominated the final with 'T' Tp being defeated by the 'O' Tp Gurkhas. Our photo shows the OC and **Sgt Shrives** with the team and trophies.

OC 1 Sqn Maj Willie Robotham with 'T' Tp Volleyball Team—Winners of the Inter Troop Competition

Quick mentions go to **Cpl Tony Mullen** for gaining an 'A' grade on his T1 course. A warm welcome is extended to our overseas course with representatives from Zambia, Oman, Burma and Brunei to name but a few and we apologise for the chilly climate.

To finish these notes we wish **SSgt Roy Smith** well on his WRAC drill course, courtesy of the Admin Officer **Lt Bridget O'Hara. Roy** is really looking forward to the first female techs arriving in his troop???

2 SQN

Flexibility is our watchword. With all this continuing turbulence it needs to be. Farewells are due to **Cpl Taff John** who has been appointed deputy sheriff in the Guardroom. After all too short stays **Sgt Vic Chivers** has taken his basketball stories to 3 Sqn and **LCpl Nikki Amey** has been whipped away to help out in Northern Ireland. The scales have been balanced by the arrival of **Sgt Jim Simpson, Cpls Harry Duncan** and **Les Beatson** which should ensure our success in the next old soldiers' race. Good luck to them all. Speaking of old soldiers, the scourge of B Troop and the RSM's toecaps, **Sgt John Salter,** has finally faded away in the direction of Harrogate after 2½ years sterling service in the Squadron. **John** has been responsible for the welfare of all our WRAC trainees as well as finding time to produce the odd victorious boxing team and quarter guard. **John** has become a legend in his own time and the College's gain is certainly our loss. We thank him for all his endeavours.

It's not all bad news however as on the sporting scene our girl's teams took first and second places in the Northern Area stage of the Army Cross Country Championships recently and **Sig Mick Halligan** is playing soccer up to Combined Services standard.

3 SQN

It is with deep and sincere regret that we have to announce the passing on of 'Chief Deltroid'. **SSgt Tommy Witherington,** known to possibly every combat tradesman who has passed through training in the last 18 months, has 'gone to grass' for a well-deserved rest.

'Staff' arrived in the hot seat when the then D Troop was around 250 strong. The queues for driving instructors meant soldiers had to wait at Catterick for a few weeks and D Troop had to employ gainfully this glut in manpower. With the accommodation blocks bursting at the seams this was no easy task and 3 Sqn were soon branded as the 'bad lads'. Into the breach stepped **Tommy** and the

name Deltroid was invented complete with a specially designed sweatshirt. All of a sudden Deltroids were requested for all forms of work. Bus stops were demolished legally, trees were painted, tennis courts were ripped apart and turned into football pitches and the whole camp began to respect the Deltroid name. 'Staff', as Chief Deltroid, became a household name at Catterick.

Sadly, the end of an era has come, as **Tommy Witherington** prepares to move on to 21 Sig Regt, the Deltroids have all gone. No more waiting lists for driving courses and very few recruits coming through. On Mon 31 Jan the original Deltroid sweatshirt will be passed on to **SSgt Trev Johnson.** We wish old **Witherington** all the best for his new job and hope that the RAF are ready for this man who intends arriving at Wildenrath wearing a tin helmet 'in case a jaguar aircraft falls on his head'.

News from the Squadron has been limited due to the Christmas rush and a very good Christmas stag party. All the Squadron had a good time and some of the up-graders have tried to extend their courses to be here next year as well.

At troop level we say welcome to **Sgt Vic Chivers** and D Troop are pleased to announce that **Sgt John Bell** is now officially recognised as a Deltroid again after three months hard labour in the bedding store. Welcome back to **Lt Steve Herniman** who spent a whole month on exercise in Germany skiing insisting, it WAS AN EXERCISE.

Ex *Stainton Chase*
3 Sqn 'pose' with the trophy presented for NEDIST March and Shoot competition held in November
Back Row Left to Right: Sig Wallis, Staniford, Sgt Smyth, Lt Herniman, Sig Passfield, Hannah, Phee
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Cleavin, Lewendon, Phipps, Hart, Baker, Eyer

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1 SQN CHRISTMAS PARTY—WAS THE RAFFLE FIXED?

Our Christmas party was well attended and much enjoyed by all. There were, however, cries of disbelief when one of the organisers won first prize in the raffle and then the OC **Maj Dick Houghton**, won second prize; all their suspicions were confirmed.

SKIING/CROSS COUNTRY/BADMINTON/GOLF

After Christmas our thoughts once more turned to sport. The second two weeks of January saw several members of 1 Sqn taking part in the Regimental Skiing trip to Aviemore. Luckily there were no broken limbs and (almost) everybody mastered the basics in spite of icy and sometimes blizzard conditions.

Our cross country team finished a close third in the Western Area Ladies Cross Country Championships behind strong teams from Donnington and Bovington. Good individual performances come from **Cpl 'TC' Rees** and **Pte Burrow** in fifth and sixth place overall.

The girls (as part of HQ UKLF Team) also competed in the Western Area Badminton Championships. **LCpl Anne Mcquilter** and **LCpl Walker** won the Ladies Doubles and **Cpl TC Rees** won the plate.

Sgt Jim Lander and **Lt Annabel Stiff** travelled to Hounslow to take part in a Regimental Golf Match vs Brent Valley Golf Club. Unfortunately even with their valuable help the members of 1 Sqn were unable to prevent a 5-0 defeat for the Regiment. We still maintain that the Brent Valley handicaps were rather suspect!

CINC's CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

We are pleased to announce that **Mr G. A. King**, Telephonist at RPO Taunton, has been awarded the CinC's Certificate of Commendation, in recognition of his long and loyal service. The award will be presented by the Paymaster in Chief on 25 Feb at Taunton. Further details and photographs will appear in the next edition of the 'Wire'.

MRS NORA MAXFIELD

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death of **Mrs Nora Maxfield** on 2 Feb. **Nora** was employed as Government Telephonist since 1972, and was at Old Sarum from Nov 81. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, and we extend our deepest condolences to her family in their bereavement.

2 SQN—FAREWELL VISIT MAJ GEN LANGLEY

On Fri 7 Jan 2 Sqn and RHQ received a visit from Comd (see photograph) London District, **Maj Gen Langley MBE.** This was part of the Commd's whistle stop farewell tour of his 'Patch' before assuming his new appointment as Comd British Forces, Cyprus, and Administrator to SBAs.

Commander London District inspecting the Quarter Guard at Beavers Lane Camp. *Left to Right:* WO2 (SSM) M. Davis, Lt J. K. Spence, Lt Col P. B. Webster, Maj Gen H. D. A. Langley, Sgt Jackson, LCpl Fragola, Pte Cooper, LCpl Shergold, LCpl Raja, Sig Bishop, Pte O'Rourke

FAREWELL VISITS BRIG J.P. HART OBE

On Tue 1 Feb **Brig Hart,** Comd 2 Sig Bde, commenced his round of farewell visits to all the 2 Sqn COMMCENS. Three days later the Comd and OC 2 Sqn, **Maj David Podevin**, had visited COMMCENS & Exchanges in nine locations spread over an area from Pirbright to Woolwich. Much excellent hospitality was enjoyed on the tour and whilst in Woolwich the Comd presented the COMMCEN with a Bronze Comstar.

After the Comstar Presentation to Woolwich COMMCEN. *Left to Right:* LCpl Bole, Maj D. C. Podevin, Mr B. Howe, Brig Hart, Mr J. Linskey, Lt Col P. B. Webster

EXERCISE *SNOWGALE*

Over two somewhat chilly weeks personnel from 2 Sqn braved the Arctic conditions and took to the slopes at Aviemore, with varying degrees of success. After seven days of skating, skiing and striding up and down the track to the Rothiemurchus Lodge most people were glad to get back to work for a rest. Unfortunately no photographs record this epic. None of our intrepid skiers were confident that they could get from top to bottom without falling on the camera!

3 SQN

After the extremely hectic and social three weeks before Christmas, the members of 3 Sqn enjoyed their festive leave and returned full of enthusiasm, if a little reserved at first, to begin the new working year on 4 Jan. By the second day 3 Sqn was back in full swing rushing around sorting out numerous problems, with telephones and teleprinters going none stop and the Orderly Room back to its usual chaotic self—1983 had well and truly arrived! Talking of the DisOrderly Room, our Chief Clerk, **Sgt Karen Latham** took the plunge on 22 Dec and married **Sgt Chris Bell** Royal Signals. We wish them every happiness for their future and hope he manages to control her infectious giggle better than we have done.

The Squadron Shooting Team, which includes **Cpl** (Bullseye) **Brown**, and **Ptes** (Annie Oakley) **Clegg**, (Calamity Jane) **Grubb** and (Quick on the Draw) **Rogers**, has completed the final round of the 2 Sig Bde Small Bore Shooting Competition and now anxiously awaits the results. We hope these will be published in the next edition of The Wire.

Our Netball and Hockey Teams have managed to maintain their high standards and are competing well against the other members of the SEDIST League.

SPONSORED FUN RUN

Report by Pte Pauline Chilcott

3 Sqn entered a team in the Frensham Ponds Fun Run which was organised to raise money for the Phyliss Tuckwell Memorial Hospice in Farnham and was held on Sat 4 Dec 1982. Our team consisted of six runners; **Maj Andrew Briggs** (OC 3 Sqn) and **Ptes Pauline Chilcott, Debora Farrar, Susan Raycraft, Julie Spilsbury** and **Iola Rogers.**

On our arrival at the Common we were all quite surprised to see so many people there, especially the number of budding competitors! Many of the teams were made up from families including the family dog, and many were from other Army Units. Local firms and Banks had also entered into the spirit of things, and all in all the Fun Run was very well supported.

The Run itself was made up of a two mile course of sandy, hilly countryside which did at first make it hard going, but we gritted our teeth and everyone made the finish line. As it turned out our team finished up with some good times and overall we came near the top of the list.

Our team effort raised a total of £27.50 to the overall figure of £1,000. We would like to thank all those who sponsored our team especially as the Squadron has had a 'run' on sponsored events over the last year!

GLIDING

Report by Private Desiree Martin

Gliding has never been something I thought I would ever have the opportunity to do, but as I stood on Bicester Station at the RAF Gliding Centre looking at the black rain clouds overhead I thought with some excitement, not to mention a little trepidation, that some time within the next week I would be up there in the clouds with little more than wood between me and the ground.

The following Monday I was transported to RAF Bicester where I met the other (equally apprehensive) members of my course. This day also set the precedent for the remainder of the week, beginning with a briefing on basic glider details and techniques which we applied in a short time, in the best possible way, by flying. So out to the airfield we went, physically pushing the dual-control gliders we would be using for our flights. When all the gliders were in position and the Two Plane was ready the bravest of us volunteered for their first 'Airborne Experience' (needless to say being the coward I am I hovered in the background!). Eventually it was my turn so with a look of confidence (I've also mastered the art of deception) I strapped on my parachute (just in case!) and I got into the glider. My instructor and I went through the basic flight checks used in the Take Off, the 'Tug' Pilot was given the OK to take off and away he went towing us into the air behind him. When we had reached around 2,000 ft the tug ahead was detached and our glider veered off to the left and we began our first lesson in flight.

My instructor talked me through some basic positions of control for the plane and handed over control to me which I akcnowledged, promptly panicked and handed back control. Eventually I mastered straight and level flying and we returned to the airfield. With each flight we progressed through the lesson plan, some days and some flights being better than others and the end of the week approached rapidly without serious incident (apart from my instructor turning grey of course).

Unfortunately nobody on the course managed to fly solo, which is the main aim but I am sure we all gained a great deal of flying experience, not to mention an even greater sense of achievement. All in all a most enjoyable week and one I would highly recommend to any potential 'Biggles' characters willing to try a sport with a difference.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND RECEPTION

On 7 Dec 1982 at St James' Palace, eight girls from 3 Sqn, **Cpl Sue Payne, LCpls April Bartlett, Claire Raja, Ptes Pauline Chilcott, Carole Clinton, Anne Cooper, Iola Rogers** and **Donna Russell-King**, volunteered to 'wait on' at the Save The Children's Fund Reception being held in London.

Having arrived at the Palace, we were kindly shown around by **Rosamond Wyne-Pope** (Head of Special Events) and got ourselves ready before visitors began arriving at about 1800 hrs. Our duty was to make sure that everyone had enough to eat and drink (including ourselves!) whilst awaiting the arrival of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.** At approximately 1915 hrs **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** arrived, and was greeted by several of the Fund organisers and a few anxious photographers.

At the end of a very enjoyable evening we were extremely honoured to find that Her Royal Highness had time to say a few words to all of us who had been waitresses for the evening. It was a very proud moment and one that none of us will forget.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL AWARD

After many years of loyal service as a Government Telephonist, **Mr Alfred Paice** was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by **Brig J. P. Hart, OBE** Comd of 2 Sig Bde on Tue 30 Nov 82. **Mr Paice** began his service in 1942 with the Royal Engineers in Bramley and has since operated many military telephone exchanges. He is currently working at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot where he has been for 11 years.

Mr Alfred Paice and Brig Hart (Comd 2 Sig Bde), after the presentation of the Imperial Service Medal

Lt Col P. B. Webster raising his glass to Cpl (Tank) Fairbairn at the grand opening of the new Bruno Club bar in Hounslow

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PROUD DAY

Commanding Officer recalls:

Friday 10 December was a very proud day for the Corps and for **JUO Nigel Rock.** As reported elsewhere, he received the Sword of Honour as the best Cadet of his intake on the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst. It was also a proud day for the Regiment where he had served before joining the Academy in May 1982. His professional skill, physical stamina, prowess at sport, nice manners, good humour and a genuine interest in all those amongst whom he served made him most popular.

Bearing the good wishes of all the Regiment and the families, accompanied by my wife, I took a brief break from the Christmas activities and sped to the UK for the occasion. It was a splendid parade and an extremely memorable occasion. I was delighted to meet his charming family and we were very proud to be his special guests and join them at the high table for lunch.

The Regiment joins me in congratulating him on bringing such credit to Royal Signals and sending him best wishes for his posting to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and his future in the Corps.

1 SQN

LCpl Chris Proctor joined the British Army in 1972 and having completed his training in 1975 he joined the Devon and Dorset Regiment and served with them until August 1982, during which time he saw service in Cyprus, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

His leanings towards the Royal Corps of Signals began in 1980 when he attended and passed his RSI's Course at the School of Infantry, Warminster. Then, as if to seal his ambitions, when his Battalion were on a tour of duty in Bessbrook, Northern Ireland, he was attached to 564 Rear Link Detachment to help him find his feet in the communications world. During his Battalion's tour in Northern Ireland, he was whisked away to start his telegraphist training and then consequently joined 13 Sig Regt.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col M. P. Walker presenting LCpl Proctor with his new beret and badge. LCpl Proctor's OC, Maj J. T. Smith looks on

H TROOP

Exercise *October Outing*

Life in a static unit often seems to be idyllic, especially to those suffering all year round exercise stress, but life in H Troop could never be described as such. We are BAOR's most Easterly unit, and quite some distance from our nearest British unit, which means that we rely heavily on local Anglo-German relationships. The locals are used to 'die Britische Einheit' always staying in barracks and were startled to see sections of men with camouflaged faces, rifles and heavy packs marching in a Westerly direction . . .

Has the world gone mad? What's happening? These and a score more questions must have been asked. But panic over—it was just our new training officer flexing his (and everybody else's) muscles. The 'Outing' consisted of a ten mile march, from the barracks to a training area borrowed from the local German Luftwaffe. During the exercise, most aspects of basic military training were covered. They included defence at section and platoon level, ambush drills, living rough—(you carried everything considered essential for survival), NBC and weapon training. **WO1 Pete Westwell** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hooks** and **WO2 (FofS) Downie** provided continuous DS coverage with occasional DS visits by the OC **Maj Bob Axton** and **Capt George Cox** the Ops Offr.

The final part of the exercise was given a definite NATO edge when a SNCO of the Regular Federal German forces came and gave instruction on the German G3 rifle, UZI Machine Pistol and Walther PI Pistol.

WO2 Hooks looking proudly at a 'live wire'

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

The march—Sgt Clark—Morale rapidly rising to zero!

RUGBY

As a troop of less than 50 men, we find participation in certain sports extremely difficult. Rugby is no exception—especially considering the distances one has to travel in order to play, but **Sgt 'Farmer' Vaughan's** grim determination and **WO2 Mick Green's** badgering has achieved the almost impossible. They arranged a match between living-in personnel and the pads. **Sgt Vaughan** as Captain of the 'beanies' and **SSgt Tom Lorrigan**—of the 'Pads'. Even the OC managed to get himself coerced as temper-placator (sic) adjudicator. Not bad eh? 31 bodies from a grand total of less than 50! What with shift! Op *Banner!* leave, courses etc!—the final score was 18-12 to 'the pads'.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Finally we say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Pete** and **Mrs Iris Downie**—whilst at the same time welcoming **WO2 (FofS) Ray West** and family, and **Sgt Charlie Hebden** and family.

MT TROOP NOTES

It is a while since MT Troop have had any notes for the Wire.

In the last six months we have seen a near complete changeover of Management: Gone are **SSgt Bob Davies, Cpls Dennis Downie, Chris Holden, 'Banger' Leigh, 'Jock' Semple** and **LCpl Jim 'The Cob' St John.** Leaving shortly are **LCpls Eddie Callaghan** and **'Taff'**—I'll never do my Det Commander's Course' **Stewart.**

We welcome into the troop **WO2 Tony Halliwell** (MTO), **Sgt 'Taff' Rees, Cpl Dave Forbes, LCPl Tim Ward, Sig Geordie Simpson** and lastly **Cpl Terry Northedge** (who has already been posted yet again on promotion).

The rest of the troop consists of **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** on details desk, when not doing the Telegraph crossword (under the supervision of the MTO, **Sig 'Scouse' Kenny** (Liverpool forever), **Sig 'Boris' O'Donnell** who sometimes answers to the call of 'Bowser' and **Sig Eddie Edwards** (we'll say no more about Spurs).

We still have the same REME personnel:—NCO i/c **Sgt Pete Goddard** and **Cpl John Slater** (who is also due promotion to Sergeant and posted shortly).

Whilst the troop is not actively involved in regular exercises we do supply two drivers to assist Cadre when the RSDCC visit Grobbendonk for their weeks holiday. This gives the drivers a chance to improve their own military skills whilst playing as enemy for the course.

Until recently Ex *Wintex* was considered dirty language but the troop now has to supply drivers for this exercise. We've had a word with the Regiment about Compo and they reckon it is something to do with 'The Last of the Summer Wine'.

SPORT

This is a side of life in which the troop excels itself. With **WO2 Tony Halliwell** called on regularly by the Regiment for Squash and Golf, **Sgt 'Taff' Rees** and **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** Regimental Rugby, **Cpl Dave Forbes** Regimental Cross Country and Running, **Sig Eddie Edwards** Regimental Football and **Sig 'Scourse' Kenny** a border line case for the Squash team—This troop of thirteen personnel does quite well.

Last of all we have to mention the retirement of our civilian clerk **Adrian Schmitz** who sadly left us after being part of the troop for 28 years.

HELP

Is there anyone within the Army that holds a parts list, Workshop Manual, Servicing Schedule, Spare parts or anything for a Van Post Medium 4 x 2 British Leyland? If not, please do not blame the Royal Engineers/GPO for any late delivery of mail.

HOCKEY

13 Sig Regt 'A' Team. After a hesitant start the 'A' team has improved with every game during the first half of the season. Although placed seventh out of the 10 teams in the league, the return of a couple of players from roulement tours should enable them to produce a few shocks to those teams who they are due to meet in return fixtures during the second half of the season. At any rate, there will be no easy win to be had.

The 'A' team Division I results so far are: Lost 5 Drawn 2 Won 1 and one match claimed by default.

13 Sig Regt 'B' Team. Playing in Division II, more in hope than in anger, the 'B' team is entered to provide a regular game of Hockey to a larger number of players. It is not always easy to scrounge up a team in competition with other Wednesday afternoon Sports teams and the team is often a mixed one, with a number of WRAC players. Despite this, they have won one game, and have a second walkover win credited, and have not lost a game by any bigger margin than two clear goals. Well done 'Stiffs'.

In the Cup competition the Regiment has faired better, having knocked out 28 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt in progressing to the Rhine Area Final, which is due to be played on 12 February. The opposition is the Rheindahlen Garrison team and the venue is JHQ. As the Garrison are the tearaway Division I league leaders, the outcome should be a good pointer towards our likely success in the second half of the league season.

Three players deserve special mention, having played in representative matches during the season:

Cpl 'Foz' Foster	— Rhine Area and Royal Signals BAOR
LCpl Marshall	— Royal Signals BAOR
Cpl Greenwood	Rhine Area

BASKETBALL

On 20 January the Rhine Area Stage of the BAOR Major Units Basketball Championships took place at Caernarvon Barracks Dusseldorf. Teams from 13, 16 and 28 Sig Regts and Rheindahlen Garrison competed to go forward to the next Elimination Pools. The Regiment was represented by **Capt Maunder, WO2 Bird, WO2** (out of retirement) **Gibson, SSgts Metcalfe, Kirk, Sgt J. Smith, Cpls Wheater, Gilbert, Facer, LCpl Whitehouse,** Scorer: **SSgt Clarke.** By the late afternoon both 13 Sig Regt and Rheindahlen Garrison had beaten 16 and 28 Sig Regts and were to play each other to decide the Winners and Runners Up. In an exciting game, 13 Sig Regt went ahead by 11 points but the Garrison, thanks to some accurate outside shooting by Trenham, gradually fought back to win a close game by 37-30. In the final game 28 Sig Regt beat 16 Sig Regt to make third place. 13 Sig Regt and Rheindahlen Garrison now go forward to the next stage of the Championships.

SQUASH

Petronius Arbiter once said 'when we are organised and working well as a team, so then are we changed'. How apt that statement is with regard to the Regimental Squash Team. After a successful season in the last campaign, the team was decimated by the Royal Signals M & RO which managed to post away four of our star players.

New talent developed within our own confine, plus one or two judicious postings in, have, however, helped to redress the balance. The only survivor from last year, **Sgt Terry Buckley,** still manages to make the No 1 spot safe (when he is not away on courses) and has not really been tested yet. One smart move was to get the MTO, **WO2 Tony Halliwell,** out of retirement and back into the court—so at least we should have no problems getting to the away fixtures. In between work and social commitments (to say nothing of pulled muscles), the CO **Lt Col Mike Walker** continues to prove his ability against the youngsters whenever possible. The rest of the team pool is really a permutation of **WO2 (ORQMS) Pete Campbell** (age permitting), **Sgt Graham Manning** (babies permiting), **Sgt Steve Ible** (in between his other sports) and **WO1 (YofS) Nick Naylor,** hot foot from Oman—which is a long way to come for a game of squash.

By mid-season a respectable top half of the table position has been achieved in Div 3 of the Rhine Area League, which we hope to improve in the coming weeks. This task would be greatly aided by posting **LCpl Nick Ranier** back from Berlin—but the Adjutant doesn't seem to be co-operating . . . yet.

The Regimental Squash League continues to flourish, with a present total of some 66 players, servicemen/women and wives all taking part each month. This really is something of an achievement when one considers the personnel strength here at Birgelen, and long may it last.

PHOENIX PLAYERS

The Regiment's Drama Group is known as the Phoenix Players. As most readers will know the Phoenix was a fabled bird that was purported to live for 500 years, burn itself and then rise from its own ashes.

Well, the history of the Regiment does not go back 500 years, although that statement could well have been disputed looking at **WO2 Bill Hogg's** makeup in the October Production of 'The Caretaker' by Harold Pinter.

This production, however, certainly saw the Players rise and take flight. A three-man cast, self directed and, to most, rather ambitious, received well deserved praise from all those fortunate enough to get a seat on one of the three production evenings. **WO2 Bill Hogg** as the despicable tramp, **Davies,** never allowed to leave stage, would have put many a well-known, past-portrayer of the part to shame with his performance, while **Capt Vern Merrick** as the simple befriender **Aston** once again proved that he can turn his hand to any part. Both these experienced actors were ably supported by **WO1 Pete Derrick** as the domineering brother **Mick.**

Having 'taken off', the players then rose to cruising height with the Christmas production of the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty'. Ably directed by **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Besant** and professionally stage-managed by **SSgt Bob Hodges,** the production revealed much hitherto untapped talent within the group. Apart from the 'old stagers' such as **WO1 Pete Derrick, WO2 Bill Hogg, Mrs Marilyn Brown** and **Mrs Joy White,** it showed that new faces such as **Cpl 'Foz' Foster, Miss Tracy Smith** and **Mrs Lyn Thompson** to name but three, will ensure that height and longlevity are maintained.

Sleeping Beauty
L-R: WO1 Pete Derrick, Mr Allen Brookes, Mrs Eileen Smith, W/LCpl Sarah Glover, Mrs Sue Derrick, W/LCpl Angie Kingshott, Cpl Simon Pinkney

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REPORT FROM 1 SQN

O TP

On 12 Nov 1982, **Col A. D. Lewis** Comd 4 Sig Gp—presented LS&GC medals to two of our stalwart technicians, **Sgts Charlie Fleming** and **Chas Greig. Col Lewis** was on his farewell visit of 1 Sqn. Needless to say both medals were suitably 'wetted' in the JHQ Exchange and afterwards in the Garrison Sgts Mess.

Sgt Charlie Fleming receives his LS and GC from Col A. D. Lewis

Sgt Chas Greig receives his LS and GC

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES

SHORT AND TO THE

POINT PLEASE

X TP

The year began with a notable event at the JHQ Telephone Exchange. **Miss Patsy Bird** was presented with the 'Operator of the Quarter' award by **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE. Patsy** is the first girl to have received the award and was selected from amongst 55 other operators.

Patsy Bird, being presented with her certificate by Gen Hild

Our congratulations to **LCpl Sue Hough** on her recent marriage to **Mal,** we wish them both best wishes for the future.

FOX NOTES FROM KREFELD

There have been a few changes in the troop since our last contribution to the Wire. **Capt Marty Studdert** of the 2 Royal Australian Signal Regiment came over on Exercise *Long Look* and was in the chair while our own OC, **Lt Tony Johnson,** was sunning himself in Brisbane at the Commonwealth games.

Postings out were numerous and we said farewell to: **Cpl Jim Gooch; Cpl Tony Neal; LCpl Roger Bradley; LCpl Tony Axten.**

We greet the following: **Cpl Chris Barlow; Cpl Howie Barlow; Pte Uni Boulder; Pte Kath Martini; Pte 'Binge' Barnard; Pte Julie Millard.**

Congratulations to **Colin Ward** on his promotion to **Lance Corporal.**

The Troop Christmas Party was held in the Village Hall with a sit down Christmas dinner, a raffle and the sounds of Nick's disco. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thanks go to **Cpl Trev Smith** for his excellent organisation.

4 SQN NOTES FROM BIELEFELD

The Squadron celebrated Christmas with an excellent Christmas Draw which all ranks thoroughly enjoyed. There were lots of prizes on offer but sadly all of the officers were unlucky! On Christmas Day the Commcen received greetings from the Falklands where two of the Squadron are presently detached.

At the New Year the Squadron was able to take great pride in the award of the BEM to **SSgt 'Willie' Henderson.** He has served four years with 4 Squadron and the climax of the tour occurred when the Bielefeld Commcen and 1 (BR) Corps HQ moved into new accommodation in Ripon Barracks. An enormous installation workload fell on his shoulders. The move was an unqualified success from the technical point of view for which **SSgt Henderson** must take most of the credit. This good news gives the Squadron an excellent start to the year and we look forward to 1983 being the best year yet.

FAREWELL ALL

At a recent Regimental lunch the officers said farewell to **Capt Peter Thompson** who retired from the Army to a fish and chip van somewhere in Pompey. **Peter** was presented with a silver egg timer which reflects his culinary prowess in the Mess kitchens. Even the ACC cooks have now learnt how to make curry without powder.

Also departing from the Regiment at that time was **Capt Marty Studdert,** R Australian Signals, who had spent the previous four months with Foxtrot Troop as part of Exercise *Long Look.* Before he left he presented the Regiment with his Dress Hat which he wore when

Time has finally run out as Maj David Strong presents Capt Peter Thompson with an egg timer

Capt Marty Studdert presents his 'slouch' hat to Maj David Strong at the end of his attachment on Ex *Long Look*. Could it be a native peace offering?

he participated in the Krefeld Freedom Parade. Both **Marty** and his wife **Helena,** who had joined him for two months in Krefeld, were glad to return to the sunny climes of Melbourne if only to get away from the German chills. They left behind at least one troop of cobbers who now only drink from 'tubes'.

EX *LONG LOOK*

Report by Lt A. M. Johnson Royal Signals

Having previously experienced the question—'What are you doing for the next few weeks' some months earlier, I was again apprehensive. Mainly because it was now worded 'the next few months'. Thoughts of Christmas on the Falklands raced through my mind (even though I like sheep, (I used to live on a farm, that's why) hill walking wasn't one of my strong points).

'Fancy Australia' grinned the Squadron OC.

'Not half' replied the subaltern 'Has my Christmas leave been approved?'

'Sort of—you leave next week' came the amazing reply.

So it was, on 14 Aug I found myself at RAF Gutersloh with a herd of happy fellow long lookers. The outward flight was noneventful so I shall not dwell on it except to say, I wish the RAF would buy 707's like the Aussies use!

I arrived totally unexpected at 2 Sig Regt in Melbourne. This was to be home base for the duration of my tour. Its role in life for any Signals minded people still reading is that of Comms Z Regiment—similar to 16 Sig Regt role as an RCZ unit.

The introduction to any mess in Australia seems to be the same—you get given a can of beer in one hand and a meat pie in the other. Having consumed both, amidst utterances that could only be in a foreign unintelligible language, there is much back slapping and yet more drinking. If you survive this phase, you become an adopted Australian and so in due course, get treated like one.

The Regiment comprised of two working squadrons with an admin and a support squadron. The field squadrons were about the size of a decent troop ie 60-80 men. I was made 2IC of 145 Sig Sqn—a radio squadron. I did manage one exercise with the squadron which I thoroughly enjoyed—mainly because of the wildlife one finds 'in the bush'.

Snow Queen had eluded me for a couple of years over here but in Australia there was no such problem. I managed 10 days skiing and even got time to visit a couple of excellent vine yards. The Australian wine is actually not too bad. On one occasion whilst skiing I fell over (again) and stumbled across two ski sticks, a camera and one ski. I still have visions of a human snowdrift somewhere because we never found the owner. Whilst down in Melbourne I was introduced to a highly amusing game called appropriately 'Aussie Rules' (in truth no rules would be fairer). It was a cross between rugby, football, boxing and wrestling. If you have an affinity for hospitals this is definitely your game, for a copy of the rules please send stamped addressed postcard to me (2" by 2" should suffice).

After five weeks around Victoria it was time to move north. Brisbane was host city for this year's Commonwealth Games and so that was an ideal place to stop. I was in charge of a special comms unit that, worst luck, never actually had to be deployed!! This left me with a government car, a pass to all the games arenas and lots of time. This time was put to good use by visiting the games and large areas of Queensland. Surfing was a sport that had to be tried even if unsuccessfully. I think an unco-ordinated cat would have done better than I managed but at least it amused the locals.

The spectacle of the games was superb and well worth seeing. What you may not have seen on the TV when watching it was the amount of work the 4000 Army support teams put in. They did everything from security to catering, drilling to signalling, and very impressive they were too.

All good things come to an end, and, even if only for a short time. Next stop was Perth in West Australia, the home of SASR (R for Regiment not reserve). I was attached to 2 Sqn and sent away on exercise. To get to the ex location we had to drive 2.600kms. Not a bad convoy especially considering we towed a four tonner over 1300kms. The roads were amazing—40 miles of straight red dust road, it made the film 'convoy' look like a Sunday afternoon drive.

Once up in the North West I was then given a task that shall remain nameless, but did allow me to take 10 days travelling around looking for a brother I hadn't seen for six years. Having tracked him down I embarked on a six day family reunion which eventually encompassed most of the population of the town he lived in.

The return journey back to Perth from where I had been working was done in a huge truck which carried 70 tons of load. It took 56 hours to cover the 3.400kms back south and some amazing sights were seen—such as a 1.6km iron ore train that carried over 150,000 tons of ore!

From Perth to Sydney and of course the Opera House. Any good tourist needs three photos from Australia, a Kangaroo, a Koala Bear and Sydney Opera House. After that, a few hours on Bondii Beach, to refresh the suntan, and so I could say I'd been there and done that. Sydney was our embarkation point and on 3 Dec, 80 saddened British soldiers left Australia bound for a three day stopover in Singapore, then back to their respective Regiments. The exercise was a marvellous experience and well worth getting on. If there is an advance Long Look I wouldn't mind going!!

One person who deserves a mention is **Lt Steve May** from 7 Sig Regt who at the last moment was taken off the exercise and sent down to the South Atlantic. Thanks for the card and hope your tour was as much fun as mine!

DINING OUT OF WO1 (RSM) W. V. MILES

On 7 Jan the WOs & Sgts Mess 16 Sig Regt held a Regimental dinner out **WO1 (RSM) W. V. Miles** on posting and commissioning. The evening was conducted by **WO1 (YofS) Chas Birchall** temporary president of the mess for the occasion, and **WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Edmunds** (PMC), not forgetting **Sgt Charlie O'Neil** our mess manager. During the course of the evening music was played most excellently by the band of the 17/21 Lancers.

After the dinner the RSM was duly Court Martialled and taken from the mess to be put into an assault boat fitted with an AEC 10 ton outboard motor and towed by the mess members through the barracks for the last time. After returning to the mess the evening recommenced with fun and games, only arising in one casualty in the form of Command **SM 'Gene' Carpenter (US Army)** who required two stitches in his head, and on repair immediately returned back into action.

Finally the evening ended at 0430hrs with a superb champagne breakfast attended by over 70 mess members, this figure shows the popularity of the RSM as only 98 attended the dinner! On behalf of all mess members of 16 Sig Regt, we wish **WO1 (RSM) W. V. Miles** and his good lady **Kay** all the best for the future and thank them for all they did for the mess and 16 Sig Regt.

RSM Bill Miles is presented with a plaque of appreciation by Command SM Jean Carpenter watched by Capt Pat Mason and WO1 Chas Birchall

WO1 (RSM) Bill Miles sets sail for the Falklands assisted by the members of the Mess

PRESENTATION BY SOinC

Maj Gen Birtwistle presents the South Atlantic Medal to LCpl Pete Gillespie during the SOinC's farewell visit to the Regiment. LCpl Gillespie served with one of the merchant ships in the Task Force as a rear link operator

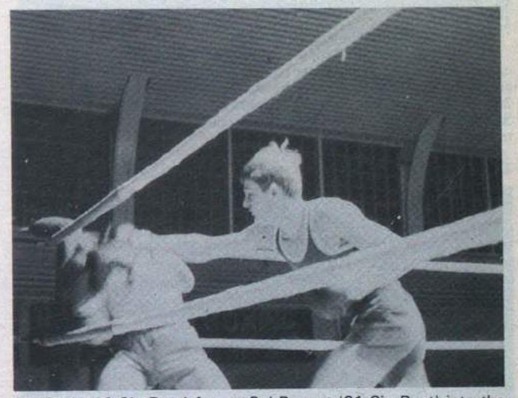
BOXING

On 14 Dec 82, the finals of the Rhine Area Inter-Unit Novice Team Boxing Competition took place between 21 Sig Regt (AS) and 16 Sig Regt. The finals were boxed, in front of a full house, between the two local rival Signal Regiments in 4 Sig Gp, 16 Sig Regt won, 7-2 to retain the trophy, the individual winners being: **Sigs Brummey Wilson, Nick Colins, LCpl Taff Dale, Sigs Joey Hall, Phil Gash, LCpl Chalky Meek** and **Sig Taff Jones.**

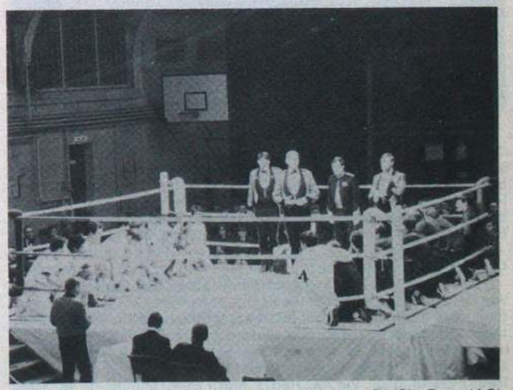
Sig Horace Mills of this Regiment was awarded the best losers medal and **LCpl Shanahan** of 21 Sig Regt (AS) was judged to be the most stylish boxer.

The only boxer in the 16 Sig Regt team not yet mentioned was **Sig Olley Oliver** who stood in only ten minutes before the weighing when the first choice middle weight could not get down to the required weight. Although out classed by **LCpl Shanahan, Sig Oliver** gave a very determined exhibition of courage, stamina and boxing skill. He was given a standing ovation by both regiments when he left the ring. Congratulations to the training team: **SSgt Fred Payet, Sgt Andy Hyde.**

The prizes were presented by **Col M. J. Hales** the Commander 4 Signal Group.



Sig Gash (16 Sig Regt) forces Cpl Bennet (21 Sig Regt) into the red corner



Comd 4 Sig Gp congratulates the boxers from 21 Sig Regt (AS) and 16 Sig Regt at the end of the Rhine Area Championships which was won by 16 Sig Regt by seven bouts to two

CONGRATULATIONS

The Regiment congratulates the following on their awards in the New Year honours list: **WO1 (YofS) Jim Doherty MBE, SSgt Willie Henderson BEM, Cpl Bob Story BEM.**

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

LIPPSTADT MARCHES

The Lippstadt Ramblers March first held in 1979, is now a well established International event, with participants from many Allied Nations.

The event is organised as a German civilian style walking weekend under the guidance of the DVV and IVV. The walking weekends are for people from all walks of life to enable individuals and families to go out in the fresh air and take part in a little relaxing exercise. The weekends also afford the chance to meet people of other nationalities and make friends, as well as seeing and enjoying the German countryside.

1983

New Dates, New Routes, New Medal.

The 5th International Lippstadt walking weekend will be held on 16 and 17 July. The original dates in April were cancelled due to exercise commitments. The distances to be walked remain the same, 12km and 25km, after completion of which participants received a Bronze or Silver medal respectively. Pre-booked teams of over 15 people also receive a team award.

THE MEDAL

The medal shows the insignia of the Corps on the top half. On the lower half is depicted the river Lippe with the town name in the big bend of the River. The ribbon this year is in the Corps colours. We look forward to seeing as many members of the Corps that can make it. For further details contact **WO2 (YofS) John Haycock**, 22 Sig Regt, BFPO 107.

CO'S DAY

The last really testing event before the Christmas festivities began was the annual inspection of the Regiment by the CO. The inspections took place during the latter weeks of November and the beginning of December. Each Squadron was allocated a specific day, and formed up on the square in full fighting order and with vehicles and equipment (hopefully) in perfect condition. The awesome inspecting team consisting of the CO, 2IC, Adjt, RSM and heads of each department, checked all kit, equipment, vehicles and SOPs for any faults and deficiencies—and the standards expected were high. Nothing slipped through the net of escaped the beady eyes of the inspecting team. Accommodation was rigorously searched by the QM (A) **Maj 'Mac' McGilvray** who didn't even overlook the occasional missing wash-basin plug or 'borrowed' cutlery from the JRC!

CO Inspects 2 Sqn—OC 2 Sqn Maj David Lowe looks supremely confident

Squadron Clerks were awoken from their slumbers and asked to explain their filing systems (or lack of them). No-one was spared, officers and soldiers alike all came in for the wrath of the team and the vigour of their inspection. When it was all over and the team were spotted retreating to the conference room muttering and cursing, we all breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Generally results were good with the odd exception and we all discovered a few weaknesses and deficiencies which were eventually put right. The inspection certainly achieved the aim which was to ensure that we were one hundred per cent operational. We all learned lessons for the future—to have an eye for detail, to aim for all round perfection and never to accept second best.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas was almost upon us by the time the CO's inspections were over and again frantic preparations of a different and more enjoyable nature were being made: Troop and Squadron parties, childrens parties, departmental celebrations, Sgt's and Cpl's mess draws and the Officers' Mess Ladies dinner night were but a few of the annual festivities.

The Catering department as usual did a fine job and turned up trumps yet again by producing superb Christmas 'fayre' on each occasion and everyone's waistlines were to suffer as a result. The food was appreciated by all at each function, though generally speaking the children preferred to throw it at the seniors and each other rather than down their throats! Most Squadron bars are now the worse for wear after the assault!

A joint Carol Service for 22 Sig Regt and 27 Field Regt (who share our barracks) was held at the Marienkirche in Lippstadt on 22 Dec 1982. At least the day began with feelings of sobriety. However, those were not to last for long, as the service was followed by the Soldiers' Christmas dinner and the Sgt's to Officers' Mess for Christmas drinks. The Soldiers' Christmas dinner was a riotous affair with high spirits in abundance and luckily most of the officers and seniors left unharmed.

In the usual tradition all members of the Sgts' Mess were marched round to the Officers' Mess for their Christmas drinks (who said the RSM was out of step?!) and a very jovial afternoon was had by all. Most people left in the late afternoon to begin the Christmas grant though the Regiment's 'hardcore' stayed to carry the celebrations into the evening.

BFBS RADIO LINK TO W YORKSHIRE

On Sunday 9 January, the Regiment was invited to take part in a live radio link-up between BFBS radio and Radio Bradford. Radio Bradford broadcasts through the Leeds, Harrogate, Bradford and Keighley area. This part of England is 22 Sig Regt's specific recruiting area and hence our live 'appearance' on the air.

Representatives from the Regiment were **WO2 Pete Bradley, LCpls 'Woodie' Power, Steve Temple** and **Alan Bailey**—all were chosen because of their unique and necessary attributes—good healthy Yorkshire accents! They all took part in the show which was hosted by the colourful Disc Jockey, **Andrew Pastouna**.

The show went well despite the early difficulty in establishing the link between Bradford and Bielefeld (what do you think we sent the FOS for?) and requests were passed to families and friends all over Yorkshire. An apology is sent to all non-Yorkshire signallers by **FOS Bradley** who implied that all Royal Signals personnel must be Yorkshire 'born and bred'!

The representatives from the Regiment are still walking around with their heads in the clouds in an alarmingly aloof manner. Apparently rumour has it that they have delusions of grandeur and are awaiting invites to **Terry Wogan's** chat show! Autographs on request eh boys?

MIKE TROOP OFFICIAL OPENING

After a week of intensive training the hour drew near, as **Brig C. N. Last OBE**, Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps cut the tape, the words of command opening doors by numbers, 'open doors one' rang out. At which one SSgt (RAOC) three Sgts and four Cpls sprang into action, eight single section garage doors slammed open, simultaneously, **SSgt 'Graham' Reynolds** pushed the start button for 'Colonel Bogey' to blast out of the PA System, which caused **Tp SSgt 'Mick' Tankard** to go into a fit of hysterics. On the word of command 'open doors two' the eight struck again to push open the remaining three sections of garage doors. Having not briefed the CO, on the musical side of the opening, the OC M Tp, **Capt (TOT) Hope** was seen to be reflecting on an early posting (preferably back to Hong Kong).

The Brigadier and CO then went on to complete a tour of the new workshop complex.

Cpl Robertson discusses Forward with the Comd Comms 'That is why I lost my hair sir'

VISIT OF SOINC

On the 3 Feb the SOinC made his farewell visit to the Regiment starting at a well known exercise location, one the General used many times as CO of 7 Sig Regt. The SOinC saw 3 Sqn who were taking part in Ex *Silver Sabre*. His visit was short and swift but he did manage time to say a brief hello to the SNCO's and at the same time welcome a newcomer to the Sgts' Mess by promoting **Cpl 'Guss' Marchat** to **Sgt.**

After a quick drive to Churchill Bks Lippstadt the SOinC, visited 1 Sqn who were also taking part in Ex *Silver Sabre*. From 1 Sqn it was straight to the Cpls Mess where **Cpl Brian Hobbs REME** was presented with his LS&GC and **LCpl 'Willie' McPhee** with his Corps Colours for football. He hardly had time to sit down and have a brief

The SOinC helps Sgt 'Guss' Marchant on with his jacket after just being promoted, SSgt 'Bonner' Law looks on

chat with the JNCO's before he had to move off again, this time to the Sgts' Mess. Once more the SOinC carried out presentations; this was to be a working visit, presenting **Sgt 'Ray' Haydock** with his LS&GC and **SSgt 'Bob' Atkinson** with the GOC Cyprus Commendation. Not forgetting the wives, he then presented bouquets of flowers to **Mrs Haydock** and **Mrs Atkinson**.

The SOinC presenting SSgt 'Bob' Atkinson with his GOC Commendation Cyprus. Sgt 'Ray' Haydock looks on after being presented with his LS & GC

With the work out of the way the SOinC found time to relax and meet many old acquaintances as well as new, but alas time passes quickly and once again it was time to move on, but before he left the CO presented the SOinC with an historical print of the oldet building in Lippstadt from all ranks of the Regiment.

VISIT OF DACOS G1/4 HQ 1 (BR) CORPS

We recently enjoyed a visit from **Col Denis Williams** the new DACOS G1/4 at Corps Rear. He was briefed on the Regiment's role and shown a 'cellar' layout where he posed some penetrating questions to the 2IC **Maj Craig Treeby**, 1 Sqn YofS **WO2 'Dave' Watson** and **Sgt 'Jeff' Smith**.

THE BRIGHTEST GIRLS OF LIPPSTADT STATION

After the Wives Club Inter Squadron Quiz for the 'Brightest Girls of 22 Sig Regt', the winners, 4 Sqn, went forward to represent us in the 'Brightest Girls of Lippstadt Station'. This contest is between the Wives Clubs of 22 Sig Regt and 27 Field Regt RA. The questions were fast and furious and sometimes the degree of difficulty would have had even Bamber Gasgoine guessing—but the girls of 4 Sqn won through in the end to retain the trophy for the Regimental Wives Club.

Mrs Jean Thirkettle, Mrs Rae White, Mrs Carol Richardson, Mrs Maggie Gilyeat and Mrs Jane Appleyard

ARRIVAL OF COMMCEN ECHO

10 Jan saw the arrival in Lippstadt of Commcen Echo, to begin its new role as 1 BR Corps Comd Comms Special tasks Commcen.

The Commcen was originally part of 1 Sqn, 2nd Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, but on the formation of the 2nd Inf Div on the 1 Jan, Echo was re-tasked as the Special tasks Commcen and we were to join 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt.

The move was the culmination of several months hard work and it was some relief that on the morning of the 10 January the Commcen vehicles lines up on the main square in Bünde ready to move. At precisely 1000 hours the farewell speeches were finished and the first vehicle rolled out of the gate. The move did not go completely according to plan, as the first vehicle in the second packet refused to start and had to be left behind in Bünde for recovery later!

The first few weeks with 22 Sig Regt were abslutely hectic as we prepared for a very full exercise season. All our vehicles in the first two weeks had been into Mike Troop and LAD to ensure that any faults on equipment and vehicles were rectified prior to deployment on our firt exercise of the year.

The Troop has now settled in with the Regiment and we are looking forward to an interesting and hopefully rewarding exercise year in our new role.

EX *SNOWQUEEN*

22 Sig Regt ski hut is situated in the charming hamlet district some fifteen minutes from Oberstdorf. The Regiment is very lucky having such a good location for its hut and everybody with anything to do with Ex *Snow Queen* anticipated another good year's skiing set in such beautiful surroundings.

As usual the season started off with the 'Families Course' over Christmas and New Year. From all accounts both an extremely Merry Christmas and a loud New Year was enjoyed by all. Soon after New Year 4 Sqn descended upon the hut bringing with them those intrepid long distance, night time mountaineers **SSM Bill White, WO1 (FofS) 'Band 7' Farrow, SQMS Richardson ('The Little Q')** and **Sgt 'Whacky' Snaith**. According to **SSM White, WO1 Farrow** failed his winter UEL pre-selection course.

Unfortunately in common with most European resorts this year, the snow was not very good in December and early January. Drastic action was called for and permanent staff of the hut carried our regular snow dances. Towards the end of January this appeared to have the desired affect—the snow arrived! As we go to press conditions are very good.

REGIMENTAL COMPETITIVE SKIING 82-83

Once again the Regiment set out to do well and carry the flag for the Corps. Summer training camps had successfully spotted new talent and reminded the old hands of the aims and commitment required. The two teams set about their tasks with enthusiasm. A great deal of training was carried out before and after work. Training on snow started in mid November. The Langlauf Team going to Gol in Norway, the Downhill Team going to Zermatt in Switzerland.

Much very hard training followed in preparation for the Divisional Competition. We now come under 4 Div, so after a long journey to Austria, we were ready to meet the opposition. Unfortunately the greatest opposition proved to be the weather with some races having to be abandoned due initially to lack of snow and subsequently too much of it.

The best results from the Div Ski Meet:

Sig Oggy Hogton	—	2nd in 15km
Cpl Phil Philemon	—	1st in Downhill

Both teams did well and qualified for the Army Championships. Here the opposition was even stronger and again the weather provided some problems.

Team results were:

	Nordic
15km Open	5th
Patrol Race	4th
10km Relay	7th
	Alpine
Team Downhill	2nd
Team Giant Slalom	1st
Team Slalom	7th

Final placings in the overall Championship—The Princess Marina Cup—were as follows:

1st	29 Hy Regt RA	18 points
2nd	94 Loc Regt RA	22 points
3rd	22 Sig Regt	23 points
4th	1 Div Tpt Regt	23 points
5th	35 Engr Regt	24 points

In the last three years the Regiment has been placed:
1981 2nd, 1982 3rd, 1983 3rd.

Training/selection starts soon for 1984 and we are confident that with some old blood and some new, 1984 will be the Corps year to win the Marina.

Our Alpine team, **SSgt 'GRramps' Townsley, Cpl 'Phil' Philemon, LCpl 'Andy' Brown, Sig 'Babs' Henshaw** and **Sgt 'Sam' Major** were well supported by **LCpl's 'Allan' Ball** and **'Robo' Roberts**. The latter two dropped out after the Divisional Championships. **Cpl Philemon** was overall Army Alpine Champion—a superb result against very stiff competition. Our photograph shows him in action at speed!

The Nordic team was a combination of youth and experience. The 'A' team of **Cpl's 'Syko' Sykes** and **'Ding' Percival, Sigs 'Oggy' Hogton** and **'Scotty' Scott** were run very close by the 'B' Squad of **Cpl Stan Sudron, LCpl Danny Kowalczuk, Sig 'Rhangi' Toughey** and **Carl Davies. Lt Desmond McLoney** worked hard to train the Nordic team and take his natural place as leader of the patrol race team and **Sig Craig Preece** who trained right up to the Div Meeting was unlucky to injure his ankle before this competition.

The Nordic 'find' of the season was **Sig Carl Davies** who won five Army Novice trophies. His tally was 1st Novice in the 10km and 30km Cross Country races and 2nd Novice in the 15km race. In the Biathlon, where skiing and shooting are combined, he was 2nd Novice in both 10km and 15km events.

The Military Patrol Race at the Army Championships
L to R—Lt Moloney, Cpl Percival, Sig Scott and Hogton

Cpl Phil Philemon—Army Alpine Champion 1983

Sig Carl Davies receives from Maj Gen Watkins a pair of Skis as top Novice in the Army 10km Cross Country

Lt Desmond Moloney at the finish of the 30km Cross Country. Hot orange squash never tasted so good!

GREAT REGRET

We regret greatly to record the death of **Cpl William Watson** on 18 February; he died in hospital from head injuries received on 6 February. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

28 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

STORMING OF FRANCISCA BARRACKS TONISVORST

Once again the tradition of the Carnival Prince and Princess of Tönisvorst storming the barracks of 28 (BR) Sig Regt (Northag) took place on 4 February.

Prince Nico 1 and Princess Gisela 1 arrived with their Prinzengarde at lunchtime. Overcoming the 'resistance' of the 'Franciscan Cowboys', badly led by **SSM Ken Clark** in disguise, they were presented with the Ceremonial Key to the barracks by **Maj Bob Brewis.**

The procession enters camp led by Prince Nico I

Prince Nico I being presented with the key to Francisca Barracks by Maj (Bob) Brewis; looking on Maj R. Van Caenenberghe (BE Army)

EXERCISE *FRANSKI*—COURSE NO 1

The 10 January arrived at last and at 0630 hours the course left Francisca Barracks and headed South, arriving at Wertach some 10 hours later, anxiously enquiring where the snow was! Fortunately the advance party had scoured Bavaria over the weekend and luckily found some at Grasgehren. It meant an hour's drive in each direction but it was to prove well worth it. **Capt John Smith REME** takes up the story:

'The following day we were up bright and early for breakfast and off to the slopes where we raw beginners were to learn that there is nothing more slippery than skis on snow—especially when they're connected to your feet! It's quite an amazing fact that most of us are perfectly happy to drive on the roads at 70/80 mph but become absolutely terrified at 5 mph on skis. However, once the first fall is behind you (so to speak) it becomes less and less terrifying—but still very tiring at first, so to rest the aching leg muscles, out would come the toboggan and plastic bags!

After three days we all graduated to the dreaded 'T' bar. For the uninitiated, this is a mechanical contraption that pulls you to the top of the mountain (supposedly without much effort on your part). It is basically a series of inverted 'T's on the end of long wire ropes which move continuously up the mountain. We all fell off at various stages of the trip up the slope, but eventually arrived at the top, and bravely looked down from where we had come. Oh dear, what a mistake, it must have turned some of us white with fear, for out comes the make-up, mirror and comb (couldn't resist that dig).

We really thought we were skiers now—we were going to ski from top to bottom, just like the experts—didn't we get a shock! Within seconds of starting off there were bodies littered all over the snow—legs akimbo and skis all over the place, with the ever-patient **Steve Gallimore, 'Jonah' Jones** and **'Happy' Hopkins,** guiding us up and showing us the way down.

And so we managed to get down the mountain in one style or another. Come the weekend and a rest for aching limbs and for those who had the energy, a visit to the 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' Castles. For the rest it was an opportunity to sleep.'

REGIMENTAL WOOL SHOP SUPPORTS SCOUTS

The service knitters of Krefeld and St Tönis who buy their wool from the shop run by **Mrs Anne Belton, Mrs Anne Stokes** and many other volunteer wives of the Regiment have raised DM 2,000 in profits. The money has been generously donated to the Krefeld Scouts and Cubs.

The Scouts intend to use the money to buy tents and equipment to allow the boys to go off camping in 1983.

Mrs Anne Belton handed over a cheque to **Maj Tom Cran,** District Commissioner for Nieder-rhein. Also present were **Mrs Norma Mathers, Mrs Anne Stokes** and **Lt Stewart Hodges,** Scout Leader for 1st Krefeld Scouts.

INTER TROOP SPORTS SHIELD

With the close of the year 1982 the Inter Troop Sports Shield was presented to the Winning Troop, which was Oscar of 2 Squadron. This competition covers most sports and was the source of much enjoyment and contention throughout the year. Commiserations to the MT/LAD Troop, who supported the remainder of the troops during the year by gaining the coveted wooden spoon.

Our thanks too to all those fearless and fair minded members of the Regiment who inspired and refereed their way through a highly competitive season. Deserving a particular mention is **Capt Dennis Rimmer** RPC who not only held sway over many of the cricket and football matches, but who saw fair play in the annual 'It's a Knockout Competition.

FOOTBALL

Having lost several of last year's Army Cup winning squad, **Capt Colin McLoughlin** and **WO2 Ricky Garrod** (The Clough and Taylor of the Regiment), were faced with a large rebuilding problem if we were even going to approach last season's successes.

With stalwarts of last season's squad such as **Sgts Dave Taylor, Paul Gaffney, Cpl John Thompson, LCpls 'Scouse' Dunleavy, Andy Edwards, Sig Gary Maloney** and **Ian Holmes** all available it was a case of finding suitable talent to fill the gaps. Not least of the problems was that we were without a recognised goalkeeper (**Sgt Roger Humphreys** having hung up his boots). Fortunately **Sgt Mick Pickersgill,** who volunteered his services, has gone from strength to strength this season and has recently been selected for the BAOR Corps squad. Other newcomers have quickly settled in, including **Sig 'Yorky' Richards, Jock Allen, LCpls Billy Grierson, Terry Smith** and **Sig Steve Maloney.** The evergreen **Sgt Roy Pickersgill** has taken his boots off the hook again (complete with leather studs!) and is playing as well as ever.

An early test of the team's potential came in the BAOR Inter-Divisional competition when the Regimental side represented Rhine Area against the cream of all the other divisions in BAOR and emerged as victors.

At the time of writing this, the Regiment are riding high at the top of the North Rhine Inter-Service Football League, having played eight matches, won seven and drawn one. We have reached the third round of the NRISFL Cup, the final of the Rhine Area Cup (in which we meet 21 Sig Regt on 27 April) and the semi-final of the Army FA Challenge Cup (BAOR section) which will be a repeat of last year's BAOR final against 28 Amph Regt RE. This game is due to be played on 17 February. Mention of last year's BAOR final brings me to **Sig Terry Colley** who must surely rate as the unluckiest player in the Army. Last year **Terry,** who was a regular member of the Regimental team, had the misfortune to break his leg in the BAOR final and had to sit on the sideline at Aldershot and watch his team-mates win the Army Cup. This year he struggled back to fitness and won back his place in the team only to break his leg yet again, in the semi-finals of the Rhine Area Cup. However with **Terry's** determination and enthusiasm he refuses to be written off and is counting the days to getting back into training. Good Luck **Terry.**

STOP PRESS

We unfortunately lost 2-1 to 28 Amph Eng Regt, RE, in the semi-final of the BAOR Cup. Oh well, next year . . .

The photograph shows some of the major trophies which the Regiment are fighting to retain, including the Rhine Area Trophy (*bottom right*), the BAOR Cup (*top centre*) and the Army FA Challenge Cup (*front centre*)

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

THE SWAN HAS LANDED

In June 1982 **LCpl Mick Hearn,** attached to the Scots Guards, was blown off his feet by an Argentine shell during the attack on Mount Tumbledown. As he picked himself up spitting out mud and snow he knew that he had plenty of problems in the present but he had no idea that within eight months he would be facing much more formidable artillery in the Lebanon. Nor for that matter did **Cpl Chris Aslett** as he tried to find cover from the heavy shelling on Mount Harriet while he waited for the final assault on Port Stanley with 1/7 Gurkha Rifles. The same applied to **Sgt Jack Dempsey, Sigs Ginge Donnelly** and **Tony Rathmel** as they sheltered from air attack in **Gen Moore's** Headquarters.

If on 14 June, they thought they had seen their last active service with 30 Sig Regt, they were mistaken. They had hardly removed the last of the Falklands mud from their uniforms before they were warned for service in the Lebanon.

The warning order came the day the Regiment started Christmas leave and by 7 January the plans were complete. Ten members of the Regiment were to join C Sqn QDG to make up the British Contingent of the Multi National Force (MNF) on peace keeping duties in Beirut, Lebanon. The detachment selected was to be: **Lt Mark Campbell, Sgt Jack Dempsey, Cpl Chris Aslett, LCpls Graham Wilson, Mick Hearn, Sig George Anderson, Alan Buckmaster, Ginge Donnelly, Brian Moore** and **Tony Rathmel.**

Until that time the MNF consisted of contingents from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the Italian and French Armies. These groups, totalling 4,500 troops, were now to be joined by a 100-man British contingent commanded by **Lt Col J. Cochrane R. Irish** and a small staff. Under command are C Sqn QDG and the RLD from 30 Sig Regt. This contingent was to be known as the British Force in Lebanon or BRITFORLEB. This is their report from Beirut.

NEWS FROM NOT-SO-SUNNY BEIRUT

After the initial warning off, a week of intense preparatory work followed as all equipment had to sail on MV *Fenchurch* departing Heysham for Limassol, Cyprus on 14 January. All equipment for the duplex HF DCN link, a VHF Comd Net and LO Comms were prepared on time and sailed on the set date. The following 10 days were spent on sorting personal equipment, attending briefings and receiving some rather painful vaccinations. Finally, just prior to departure, we were all given a long weekend leave.

FROM LIMASSOL TO BEIRUT

30 Sig Regt Det departed for Cyprus on 24 January and on arrival were accommodated at Hanger L3 at RAF Akrotiri. At this stage all members of the British contingent met up for the first time: this was the birth of BRITFORLEB. This birth was followed by two weeks of 'post birth pains' as the new-born baby sorted itself out. During this time QDG vehicles were clansmanised, all procedures and equipment were established, tested, tested again, and finally prepared for the move to Beirut. During this stage 30 Sig Regt det was joined by **(YofS) Merv Finch** from 262 Sig Sqn who was to be attached to BRITFORLEB for the first two weeks after deployment. Eventually, after all preparatory work was complete, BRITFORLEB set sail from Limassol to Beirut on the *Sol Phyrni* on 7 February. By coincidence this ship was also used to withdraw some of the PLO fighters from Beirut several months earlier. The *Sol Phyrni* docked at Beirut at 8am on 8 February and the message that BRITFORLEB had arrived was transmitted from Beirut Docks to Cyprus flight watched by **Sgt Jack Dempsey** using a PRC = 20 — not bad for a TE Tech.

516

PRIORITY

TASS CENTRE BLANDFORD 08 FEB1983 30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

VZCZC UU
PP RBDTST
DE RBQPSE 012 0390731
ZNR UUUUU
P 0807002 FEB 83
FM BRITFORLEB
TO RBDTST/30 SIGREGT
RBDWC/MODUK ARMY
BT
UNCLAS
SIC I9E
OP HYPERION. FM 30 SIGREGT DET. THIS SIGNAL WAS ACTIVATED BY MEMBERS OF 30 SIGREGT DET, BRITFORLEB, FROM BEIRUT DOCKS. EQUIPMENT USED WAS A PRC 320 WORKING TO CYPRUS FLIGHT WATCH. THE SWAN HAS LANDED. PRO REGE ET PATRIA
BT

NNNN

A NEW HOME

After a small parade on the dockside during which time the Force was presented to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Beirut, **Sir David Roberts,** and the CinC of the Lebanese Army, the Force deployed to its new home in the south-east Beirut suburb of Hadath. This base location is a wrecked block of flats which was previously occupied by Syrian, Lebanese and Israeli troops, and had all the waste, debris and graffiti to prove it. However, thanks to the earlier deployment of a group of Royal Engineers with the advance party, the basic essentials of life, such as running water and two toilets (for 100 men) had been prepared.

INTENSE ACTIVITY

The arrival was immediately followed by a period of intense activity and it is a credit to the detachment that all equipment was ground mounted and initial comms established to the DCN Anchor station in Cyprus within two hours of their arrival. All other equipment was offloaded and established and 'ARMY COMMCEN BEIRUT' was a going concern within seven hours of the dets arrival. 30 Sig Regt det also supply two LO personnel for comms duties. Initially **Sigs Vivian Donnelly** and **Tony Rathmell** accompanied by **Lt Campbell** and **(YofS) Finch** began a series of comms recces of the city, including comms tests from the Lebanese Presidential Palace, the British Embassy and the British Ambassador's Residence. Few problems were encountered and most of the city can be covered by the VRC 353 on 15W. However a 12m Clark mast now adorns the roof of the British Embassy.

Other detachment personnel including **Sigs Buck Buckmaster** and **Brian Moore** began the COMMCEN shifts supervised by **Cpl Chris Aslett** and assisted by **LCpl Mick Hearn** who also produces signal instructions for all BRITFORLEB comms—at present five VHF and one HF net, as well as the DCN link to Cyprus. COMMCEN

Sig Brian Moore of 30 Sig Regt, a member of the Multi National Force in the Lebanon on OP duty looking out over Beirut. In the background is the Israeli Headquarters with an OP on the roof

Cpl Chris Aslett of 30 Sig Regt making up the English element in this multi national quartet within the Multi National Force in the Lebanon

BRITFORLEB scout cars on patrol in Beirut as part of the Multi National Force in the Lebanon

An American soldier with the Multi National Force in the Lebanon photographs Sig Tony Rathmell (*left*) and LCpl Graham Wilson out on patrol in Beirut with BRITFORLEB

personnel rotate with the LO operators to ensure that everyone does see as much of the city as possible. All technical repairs are effected by **Sgt Jack Dempsey** and **Cpl Graham Wilson,** whose responsibility includes first line repair for QDG equipment. Lebanese power is not as stable as it might be and all mains power is supplied to the base by 2 x 6 KVAs 2 x 3.5 KVAs and 1 x 1500W lovingly maintained by **Sig George Anderson.**

WELL ESTABLISHED

At the time of writing, two weeks after arrival, the base is reasonably well established and we are finding some spare time. We are not allowed out of base when off duty so videos and newspapers have been obtained to help pass the time. Some cross training has been arranged with the USMC unit, with detachment members being instructed on the finer points of talking-in gunfire, being shown USMC equipment and unexploded ordnance found by members of the USMC, and firing the M16 and the USMC snipers rifle. Future training, it is hoped, will include more cross weapons training including firing some of the many Kalashnikovs seen, helicopter training, a visit to a USMC comms unit and, if possible, a trip to the USS NIMITZ, at present off the Lebanese coast.

BASIC

Sports facilities are basic, although a half mile running circuit has been approved around a tobacco factory next to the base. Football matches are also planned against other MNF teams.

IN DEMAND

Departures: **(YofS) Merv Finch** has now returned to Cyprus after two weeks in Beirut. His assistance was much appreciated, with both his comms and artistic ability much in demand. He even had his photograph published, painting a mural at the base location, in the Daily Telegraph of 21 February.

STOP PRESS

At present BRITFORLEB is confined to the area of Beirut City which is fairly quiet. There is now talk of QDG patrols deploying into the mountains to the east of the City. To date several members of 30 Sig Regt det have been involved in comms recces into this area. Watch this Space.

THE REST OF THE WORLD

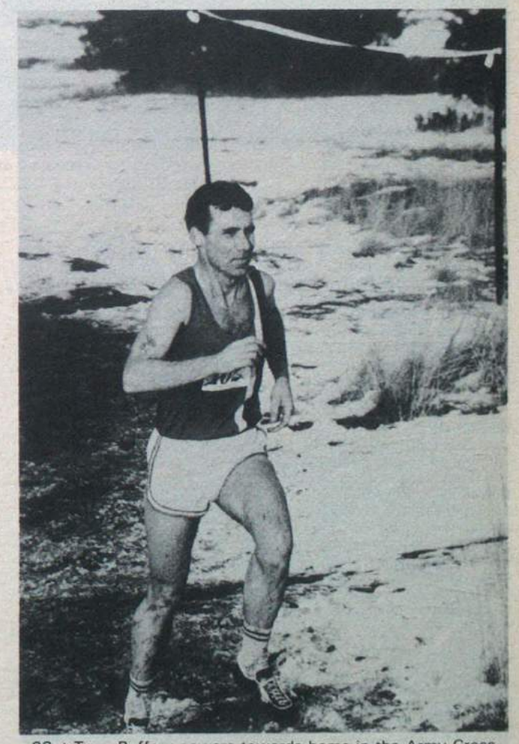
The rest of the Regiment has not stopped at home. We have visited Belize, Cyprus, Ascension Island, Falklands, Kenya, Norway, USA and countless countries in the Mediterranean and Middle East. One of the most travelled is **SSgt (YofS) 'Alf' Thomas** who has been back to Ascension for a week and also had to recce a forthcoming exercise in Kenya; no doubt picking up duty-free en route. More satisfied customers are **Sigs Mick Winning** and **Brian Vaughan** off on a Defence Sales cruising tour of the Mediterranean and Middle East. **2Lt Nick Borrill** and **Sig Tony Dixon** are both out in Norway. **Cpl John O'Connell** went at short notice for a three-month 'luxury' cruise on SS *Uganda* plying the well-known trade routes of the South Atlantic. The new year has also brought further roulement tours for the 'old hands'; in Cyprus **Cpls 'TG' Thornton-Granville, 'Gaz' Burton** and **'Dinger' Bell,** to mention a few. TM Troop has also travelled, **Cpls Gordon Stoneley, 'Jasper' Garratt** and **'Phil' Skerritt** are spending four months with SANGCOM.

Looking forward, we will be offering trips to Cyprus, Jutland, Kenya and (we hope!) the Caribbean as venues for the Regimental exercises. Let's hope **SSgt (FofS) Colin Mitchell** and **WO2 (YofS) Derek McClelland** can find time to enjoy the exercises in between moving the office furniture again.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Under the watchful eyes of the CO and RSM, the Regiment has increased its overall level of fitness-training occurring at regular and

At a parade in Blandford Col Marples, Comd of 1 Sig Gp, presents South Atlantic medals to members of 30 Sig Regt. Col Marples is seen presenting the medal to YofS Pete Baron, in the background are Maj Nigel Fairley and Lt Andy Kendall



SSgt Tony Buffery powers towards home in the Army Cross-County Championships

Mrs Gemma Ireland surrounded by other revellers at the farewell knees-up

ungodly intervals. Those fit enough to do well at these forced events have been cajoled into training for cross-country races as well. Our mentor, **SSgt Tony Buffery,** has continually encouraged younger, and older, runners to do more and, lo and behold, whilst he was away on a course the Regimental team, by coming second in the West Area Championships at Bulford, qualified for the Army finals.

On a cold, clear, crisp day with snow underfoot the championship at Twezeldown was run in a very fast time. The photograph shows **SSgt Tony Buffery,** recalled from his course, in full flight at Twezeldown in his final race for the Regiment, before posting.

KNEES UP

After a total of seven years in Blandford, the Regiment has sadly said farewell to **Mrs Gemma Ireland** who has moved with her husband **Sgt Wully Ireland** (and five children—so far) to Verden. **Gemma Ireland** has been a tower of strength in making welcome all wives of the Regiment both in the Campbell Centre on Sunday afternoons and also at Wednesday coffee mornings. In a very unsubtle mixture of drinks and eats, we said our farewells with a party in the Campbell Centre where she had gladly given so much of her own time to provide a meeting place, particularly for wives whose husbands were on overseas duties. We will all miss **Gemma Ireland,** and her gentle turn of phrase very much, and we wish her, **Wully** and the family every success.

GOLF

The '82 season proved very successful for our underpaid golfers. The **RSM (WO1 Jimmy Campbell)** planned the campaign very well. Firstly sending the Regiment's best golfers—**WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin, Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson** and the Captain, **WO1 (YofS) 'Rupert' Sleightholm**—on a cruise to the South Atlantic. Secondly he taught **WO1 (SMI) Len Crawford** and **Sgt Max Paterson** to play during two NAAFI breaks, and drafted in **WO1 (FofS) Graham Rothwell** (all WOIs play) to make up the team. During August and September we managed to win almost every trophy in the hemisphere, including the Royal Signals (Autumn) Team Trophy.

A great season as a warm up, however, the first team have returned and two more (6 and 13) have arrived so LOOK OUT FOR 30!!

'The Golfers of 82'
L to R: (RSM) Jimmy Campbell, Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson (the CO), WO (YofS) Ian Sleightholm, WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin, Absent/Posted WO1 (SMI) Len Crawford, WO1 (FofS) Graham Rothwell, Sgt Maxie Paterson

THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE

The Regiment's winning team in the Barmouth to Fort Williams Three Peaks Yacht Race have spent the last few weeks collecting trophies. First of all the Daily Telegraph Plate and the Barmouth Tourist Association Cup for being overall winners were presented in Barmouth. Next the Team were presented with the Jim Barry Trophy

Some of the Three Peak Yacht Race Trophies with Lt Col Thompson, LCpl Gibney, Maj Rowe. The rest of the team are: Capt Wells—South America, SSgt MacGlip—QATAR, SSgt Gibney—BAOR

by the Army Sailing Association for the best feat of seamanship in 1983. The trophy was donated to the Army Sailing Association by **Lt Col Desmond Barry** ex Royal Signals in memory of his son **Lt Jim Barry** Royal Signals who was sadly killed while commanding a platoon of 2 Para in the Battle of Goose Green. It was appropriate that the first winners should be Royal Signals and the trophy was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Army Sailing Association to **Maj Barry Rowe** the team Captain by **Lt Col Barry.** Then at the annual dinner of the Royal Signals Yacht Club the Regiment were presented with 'The Bell' which hangs in the Princess Mary Hall at Blandford. Finally all members of the team were presented with Royal Signals Corps colours.

ALDERNEY DAY

The Alderney Day celebrations postponed in November because of the Falklands Operations at last took place in January. The States of Alderney were represented by the President, **Mr J. Kay-Mouat** and the Chairman of the Tourist Board, **Mr G. Redfern.** A great deal had happened since they had visited and a very full day was spent telling of our recent triumphs in the South Atlantic and in the sporting arena. The President was particularly interested in the captured Argentine equipment on display and in our men and equipment who contributed so much to eventual victory.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

The President of the States of Alderney, Mr J. Kay-Mouat tries on a Falkland 'tabbing' pack for size. *L to R:* Sig Steve Mairs, Capt Nick Denning

The President of the States of Alderney and Mr G. Redfern examine the equipment and other trophies captured by the regiment in the Falklands

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

INTRODUCTION

After some months of absence from The Wire, we humbly apologise to our thousands of ardent supporters and readers. We give them our assurance that in future contributions will be submitted on a regular basis.

Since the publication of our last Wire Notes there have been numerous changes in Regimental Senior Appointments. An up to date list is as follows:

CO	**Lt Col P. R. H. Thompson TD**
2IC	**Maj C. P. Stenning TD**
Trg Maj	**Maj P. A. Treseder**
Adjt	**Capt I. K. Ryder**
Tfc Offr	**Maj R. D. Hughes**
TOT	**Maj J. T. Fowler**
Pmr	**Maj J. M. Whipp-Goode TD**
Ops Offr	**Capt C. C. Mote**
QM	**Maj E. J. Mann MBE**
QM	**Capt J. Robson**
MO	**Capt R. M. Ellice**
RSM	**WO1 C. G. Francis**
MTWO	**WO1 H. Lund**
RQMS	**WO2 D. J. Simpson**
FofS	**SSgt C. E. Napier**
YofS	**SSgt R. A. Childs**
ORSQMS	**SSgt F. Mackender**

Squadron Commanders:

OC HQ Sqn	**Maj J. C. Allan TD**
OC 41 Sqn	**Maj J. D. G. Mill TD**
OC 47 Sqn	**Maj W. G. Morris**
OC 83 Sqn	**Maj P. D. Whittle TD**

MAJ GEN J. M. W. BADCOCK CB MBE DL

The news of our Honorary Colonel's appointment as Master of Signals gives all of us immense pleasure. **Maj Gen Badcock** will be remembered with great affection by all ranks for his frequent visits to TACs, Exercises and Annual Camps. We thank him for the time, effort and enthusiasm which he has devoted to our interests and activities. We will miss his ever probing video camera turning up when least expected and his 'moriarty' after mess dinners which was an education to all.

Congratulations General on your new appointment and we wish you every success as Master of Signals.

ARU

Our ARU took place on 17 Nov 82 and the Inspecting Officer was **Brig P. G. S. Tower,** Chief of Staff, Headquarters London District. The Brigadier, accompanied by **Lt Col C. A. Brown** Comd Comms, arrived at 41 Sqn, Coulsdon at 1000 hours where they were met by the CO, Trg Maj, Adjt and RSM. During the course of the day the Brigadier visited the LAD, M Tp, the QM's Dept and 83 Sqn. After a short afternoon break, the Brigadier arrived at RHQ in Hammersmith where he presented medals to the following:

WO1 (FofS) Reg Thurbon	**—Efficiency Medal**
SSgt Frank Smith	**—Bar to his Efficiency Medal**
SSgt John Donaghey	**—Efficiency Medal**
Cpl John Hickey	**—Efficiency Medal**
Cpl Chris Mills WRAC	**—Efficiency Medal**

After a celebration drink **Brig Tower** and Officers of the Regiment retired to the Mess for supper. The inspection then continued with the Brigadier visiting all elements of RHQ, HQ Sqn and K Tp 41 Sqn. He finally left the unit at approximately 2230 hours after what had proved to be a most successful day.

SSgt Frank Smith receiving the Bar to his Efficiency Medal from Brig Tower

Brig Tower discussing Staff Problems with the Chief Clerk (The CO looks on)

During the ARU WO1 (RSM) Cas Francis thinking 'Will I ever get my picture in The Wire?'

CADRE

Previous courses have been held over six separate weekends. It was decided that to obtain maximum benefit we would run a nine day continuous course. The 27 Cadre students (male and female) assembled at Crowborough Training Camp on 1 Oct 82 where they were met by **WO1 (RSM) Cas Francis,** his team of Instructors and Admin Staff.

Although the students were a little apprehensive they were soon made at home with a one hour session of PE followed by even more PE!

The comprehensive programme included Drill, Wpn Trg, M of I, Fieldcraft, NBC, First Aid, Mil Law, Leadership and yes, PE daily at 0630 hours.

Although the weather was sometimes unkind due to torrential rain, fortunately it was bright and sunny for the Pass Off Parade. Families and friends travelled from all over the London area to watch the parade which was inspected by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Thompson.** Prizes were awarded to **Sig Andy Raynsford** the second best student, and to **Pte Sue Healy** the overall best student, who, after the CO's address, was given permission to drill the Squad and march them off.

Cadre—Admin Staff

Cadre—Instructors and students

Cadre Course—Has anyone seen Aunt Sally!

Cadre—The CO inspects the Course

The course was indeed a great success and rumour has it that even the CO said 'Well Done!'. Thanks must be given to the Instructors and Admin Staff.

OFFICERS MESS DINNER NIGHT

The Officers Mess dinner night held on 20 Nov 82 was a unique occasion. Since the formation of the Regiment in 1967 there have been seven COs all of whom were invited and attended the dinner. It was indeed quite extraordinary to see so many ex 31 Sig Regt COs (as well as the present one) and after a superb meal with plenty of wine etc, the CO made an excellent speech and welcomed all our guests. In his speech he said farewell to three of our ardent Mess Members, **Maj (QM) Colin Stevens, Capt (Adjt) Fred Lee** and **Lt Janet Harper.** Gifts were exchanged and then an adjournment to the bar was decreed where talk and liquid refreshments were indulged in until the early hours.

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock in discussion with Capt (QM) John Robson

Left to right—Capt (Adjt) Fred Lee, Maj (QM) Ron Miller and Maj (QM) Colin Stevens

APPOINTMENTS

Since our last contribution of Wire Notes, postings in and out are just too numerous to mention. However, we welcome all recent arrivals and wish all those who have left us successful futures. Under threat of extermination, we have had to publish a photograph of RSM's past and present—sorry!

WO1 (RSM) Cas Francis and WO1 (RSM) Gus Boag during handover/takeover

CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere congratulations to **Maj (QM) John Mann** on his award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours List, and to **Sgt Mick Cordingly** on his award of the Efficiency Medal.

Maj Gen Lee DGEME with Sgt Mick Cordingley and family after presentation of the Efficiency Medal

41 SQN

'All Change' is the order of the day in 41 Sqn management. **Maj** (write it off) **Jim Mill** has assumed command and his newly appointed 2IC is **Capt** (can I spell it?) **Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki (ZT).** Well done **WO2 (SSM) John Mackins** on your recent promotion.

47 SQN

Similarly new appointments have arisen in 47 Sqn. **Maj Bill Morris** has now taken over command and **Capt Susan Fenney** becomes the first WRAC Sqn 2IC in the Regiment. Could there be romance in the air!?

THE FESTIVE SEASON

Christmas brought with it numerous social activities. The WOs and Sgts Mess Draw especially appealed to the CO who, having won so many prizes has now applied for planning permission for a home extension. Well done to all the Squadrons for the organisation of such superb and memorable events. Just one small point of criticism, on numerous occasions the Trg Maj complained that he could not hear the music well enough to dance!

ADMIN OFFICERS

Before we close, it would be unforgivable not to mention our three reliable and dedicated Admin Officers who have done much for the benefit of the Regiment. They are: **Maj** (Jim'll fix it) **Tom Knight MBE, Capt** (It's too difficult) **Tony Daly TD** and **Capt** (not available for Exercises) **Eileen Carter TD.**

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

ARU INSPECTION

Brig J. P. Hart, OBE sped through the Regiment like a whirlwind between the 10-14 Jan. The CO hung on grimly to his coat tails all the way!

The inspection started in Aberdeen, followed by visits to HQ Highland Bde, Lowland Bde, HQ Scotland and our squadrons in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Londonderry. The pace was hectic, the CO **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen** was heard to remark 'If its 1500 hrs on Wednesday I must be in Perth!'. The Brigadier's searching questions and attention to detail were meticulous, as expected. Our photgraph shows the Brigadier grilling the staff of 52 (L) Sig Sqn in Glasgow.

Left to Right: SSgt (SQMS) Rab Campbell (Note the sleek profile!), Sgt Jim Hutchinson (PSI of the Sqn), SSgt David Moore 'Honest Sir, I only arrived last week!', Brig Hart and Capt Alan Lapsley

Our next photograph shows the Brigadier being mesmerised by OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Jimmy Jamieson. 'Q' David Fraser** is assuring the Brigadier that the Regimental cat accidently fell into the soup and was not being used as a basis for his stock.

OFFICERS SYMPOSIUM—CRIEFF HYDRO

The officers of the Regiment traditionally get away from it all at Crieff Hydro once a year for an intensive 'brain bashing' weekend combined with the opportunity to hold a Regimental Ladies Night. The Adjut, **Capt Brian Jackson,** spends the preceding week doing workouts in the gymnasium and perfecting his latest array of sneaky tricks to be deployed during the RHQ V The Rest water polo match. The Training Major, **Maj Bob Drake,** practises breathing under water, since walking on top of it has become second nature.

This year the Regiment was pleased to have the Bde Cmd, **Brig J. P. Hart, OBE,** as our guest and his many penetrating questions to guest speaker and 'lurking in the background' TA officers alike became feared throughout the weekend.

Mr Peter Foot, Research Fellow from the Defence Studies Centre Aberdeen University, opened the proceedings with an absorbing and thought provoking lecture on the need for Home Defence. His style and manner of presentation invoked waves of nostalgia in the eyes of our graduate TA officers reminding them of halcyon days spent at Glasgow or Edinburgh University. (I believe we have one red brick graduate but the 52 Mafia has plans to remove him!). Our thanks go to **Lt Col Tony Holland** from 2 Bde who updated us on Mould (yet again!) and **Lt Col** (Retd) **Hamish Logan** from HQ Scotland who spoke on the reorganisation of HD tasks and comms in Scotland.

The Regimental Ladies Night was a great success, masterminded by the 2IC **Maj Alec Ramsay** and **Maj 'BFK' Sutherland.**The GOC Scotland **Maj Gen Sir A. Boswell, KCB CBE** and **Lady Boswell** were guests of honour and the Regiment was delighted to be able to host the 'King of Scotland' in traditional Regimental style.

Brig Hart dined with us for the last time and it was with regret that we took this early opportunity to dine the **Brigadier** and his wife **Diana** out of the 'furthest flung' Regiment in his Brigade. It is rumoured that shoes Highland Brogue and Glengarry MK 2 Officer's pattern are now being sported at Bde HQ in Aldershot and 'thrusting' staff officers have already ordered duplicates to keep in the fashion and in line with the Brigadier!

The evening traditionally ended in the swimming pool with the expected result: Adjt 7—Christians and subalterns: Nil.

PIPE BANNER PRESENTATION

The Regiment currently has a fine array of pipe banners. However, the opportunity to cunningly suggest to a city that it is part of its civic

duty to present another is not to be missed. The target city was Aberdeen and **Maj Ken Sutherland,** OC 51 Sig Sqn, has worked with stealth and dedication towards this end. Our photograph shows the presentation being made to **Pipe Maj John Langan** by **Lord Provost Collier, MBE JP,** Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen. The CO can also be observed wondering how **Ken** managed to pull the whole thing off.

52 (L) SIG SQN (V)

The '52 Mafia' have been absent from the Wire for many months and the Wire scribe thought it only fair that they should have their share of the limelight. The Squadron is based in Glasgow and is affectionately known as the 'Maryhill Commandos'. **Capt Alan Lapsley** is currently 'minding the shop' whilst the OC, **Maj Jimmy Rhynas** is convalescing after open heart surgery. He claims this state of affairs was not brought about by post camp revelry!

Capt Ruth Maltman ('she who must be obeyed!) keeps an eagle on the WRAC, within Glasgow, assisted by **Sgt Marlene Niblock** of UV bed frame. **Ruth** is currently on her TA Sqn Comds course at Blandford and firmly believes that this is an indication that her talents have been recognised and a quantum leap in promotion is just in the offing.

HQ SQN

HQ Sqn is also based in Glasgow and is sagely commanded by **Maj Jimmy Jamieson. Jimmy** eats soldiers for breakfast and not just with his boiled egg! He has a new 2IC in **Lt Tom Logue** and is moulding him in his inimitable fashion. **Tom** has the distinction of being one of the fastest men in Glasgow, finishing 141st out of 8000 in the Glasgow Marathon. If his OC had been chasing him he claims he would have done better!

HQ Sqn is slowly encroaching on 52 Sqn and the outright military coup is expected any day now.

69 (NIH) SIG SQN (V)

The little man behind the throne in our Londonderry Squadron is **Capt David Roy. David** is the PSAO of the Squadron and should not be crossed during Squadron training, at weekends or drill nights. Why not? Simple . . . **David** holds a blue belt in judo and has recently competed in the Army Judo Championships held at Bulford on 26 Jan. Having crushed and mauled three competitiors during the preliminary rounds **David** was eventually narrowly defeated in the semi-final. I will not embarrass his fit Regular Army opponents by revealing **David's** age, but suffice it to say that he completed a 22 year engagement as an Argyll before joining the Regiment. Definitely a lot of life left in the old dog yet! On his return from the championships the local 'Derry radio, Radio Foyle, interviewed him about his sporting prowess but he remained modest to the end and insisted that his semi-final opponent was the better man . . . till next year when he would get his come uppance!

RECRUIT WEEKEND 22/23 JAN

I finish with a short paragraph on the recruits weekend held at Drip Camp. The recruits who hope to remain in the Regiment are put through the mill in a make or break process. The final highlight of the weekend is the assault course competition and our photograph shows **WO1 (RSM) Pete Clarke** 'assisting' a young female recruit over the wall. Positioned like this it is assumed that he got her address and telephone number not to mention her inside leg measurement at the same time!

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

EX *COLD BED*

On 15/16 Jan during one of the North West's famous blizzards, the Regiment took part in aptly named Exercise *'Cold Bed'* in the Burtonwood and Delamere Forest areas of Cheshire. The exercise was highly successful and particular emphasis was placed on the handling of large quantities of traffic. 42 Sig Sqn (V) was to be seen competing with the LAD in vehicle recovery and are to be congratulated on their initiative in co-opting a bulldozer to extricate their vehicles, whilst HQ Sqn (V) personnel at Echelon proved themselves highly resourceful in recapturing their 24′ x 24′ admin tent from the elements after the blizzard had lifted and flung it, and its horrified occupants, some 50 yds into the trees of Delamere Forest!

EX *SNOW GOOSE 1983*

On Sun 30 Jan some thirty members of the Regiment departed from Regimental Headquarters to take part in the Annual Regimental Skiing exercise in the Cairngorms. After a somewhat harrowing drive

Sig George Carmen (80 Sqn) and Cfn Unsworth LAD REME getting ready to leave for the slopes at Aviemore

through the cold winter weather the party arrived at Rothiemurchus Lodge and were kitted out with skis, boots and ski sticks ready for training on the slopes the following morning, under the direction of **Sgt Tom Carberry** and **WO2 (FofS) Chris Vanparys.**

It wasn't long before we had our first casualty when **Capt Brian Heathfield** took a tumble and dislocated his shoulder. By mid week the weather had deteriorated and gale force winds made visability too bad to venture on to the slopes, but alternative facilities were found at Aviemore where the party were able to continue with their fitness training by skating and swimming.

The highlight of the social activities during time off in the evening was the impromptu fancy dress party held at the Base Camp hut; some of the costumes had to be seen to be believed!

2Lt Lynette Earborn playing the part of a Japanese Geisha Girl at the fancy dress party during time off from Ex *Snow Goose 83*

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

Squadrons are once again training teams to take part in the annual Nijmegen Marches in Holland. This preparatory training is taken very seriously by all concerned in being finally selected for the Squadron teams.

Liverpool 59 Sig Sqn (V), even go to the lengths of using Red Rum's training venue on Ainsdale beach in preparation for this famous 'Inter-National' event. Do **SSgt Steve Donoghue** and **Sgt John Taggart** know something more than the experiences gained from previous Nijmegen Marches!!?

The interest being shown by the younger members of the Regiment in these marches does them much credit, and makes the hard work involved in the organisation and preparation of teams for this event so worthwhile.

The type of well-worn-in boots required by personnel participating in the Nijmegen Marches!

59 SIG SQN (V)

During the recent winter months some well known characters of 59 Sig Sqn (V) completed their TA Service and left the Squadron.'

Capt (Tfc) Len Addison, who will long be remembered at HQ AFCENT, stated that his employers are delighted that he can now devote more time to his civilian job!

SSgt Bob Jones, Sgt Ron Price and **Sgt Alan Heritage,** all members of the technical side of SWITCH 'Y', will also be missed on Continental exercises.

We also say farewell to **Cpl Edward Graham** a staunch member of the PUP. Not only did he fulfill his duties as Driver/Linesman but his prowess as a cook will be sadly missed by all Troops of the Squadron—who from time to time tried to poach his talents. The Squadron send best wishes for good luck in their future adventures.

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34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON 90 SQN

Report by Capt Peter Arkless and 2Lt Gillian Cable

OC	**Capt Peter Arkless**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Gillian Cable**
OC K Tp	**Capt Peter Forster**
OC L Tp	**WO2 (YofS) Alan Tibbett**
OC O Tp	**Capt David Kerr**
SSM	**WO2 Dick Grainge**
FofS	**WO2 John Latham**
SQMS	**SSgt Ray Fox**
PSO	**Maj Peter Taylor**
PSI	**SSgt Eddie Pridmore**

Since our last report, the Squadron has seen many changes. **Maj Fergus MacKenzie** left owing to business pressures; **Capt John Mainwaring-Taylor** transferred to 81 Sqn; **SSm David Sparks** moved to HQ Sqn as MTWO; **SSgt Ron Garrett** also moved to HQ Sqn on promotion to WO2 and appointed RQMS; **SSgt Bill Goodman** left to work abroad; **SSgt (PSI) Pete Dorans** was promoted and posted; **Sgt Margaret Dadson** was transferred to HQ Sqn as Watchkeeper; and **Sgt Laura Nesbitt** left to have a baby. We would like to offer our best wishes to those who have left and welcome all new members of the Squadron.

ONE YEAR ENDS . . .

Our last Wire Notes dealt with our activities during Annual Camp in Germany; the weekend after our return to the UK, 90 and HQ Sqns were heavily involved in the Middlesbrough Armistice Day Service, and the next weekend saw us fielding teams in both Exercise *Stainton Chase* and *Maiden Scurry* which are North East Districts' Shooting and Marching Competitions.

The girls of 34 Sig Regt enjoying Ex *Maiden Scurry* (despite the rain) (from *left to right*): Ptes Louse Howcroft, Dawn Widdrington, LCpl Ena Hall, Pte Jackie Flaherty, Cpl Pam Farrell, Ptes Trish Barker, Maxine Barker

The final event of the year was the annual Christmas Weekend when the Regiment descended on Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. Squadrons deployed on the Fri evening ready for an early start on Sat training. During training a Christmas dinner was prepared under the watchful eyes of **Maj (QM) Dai Rees** and our Messing Officer **Capt Judy Walker WRAC** with the normally bare cookhouse being transformed into a Santa's Grotto with individual Squadrons decorating different areas of the room.

By 5.30pm the soldiers were seated and the tension mounted. Perhaps the greatest tension was felt by the serving 'wenches' drawn from the Officers, WOs and SNCOs. This is usually a time for bickering and pulling rank (well it has to happen at least once in the year!) as the servers fight over jobs deciding who is to serve, wash up, dry dishes or sweep up the crumbs afterwards. Eventually the labour of love begins and after much gnashing of teeth and spilling of gravy the meal is pronounced a success. The occasion ends with the CO awarding a prize to the Squadron with the best decorated table. He does this after much thought, realising that he will have to spend the remainder of the weekend looking over his shoulder.

Another event worth recording is the annual 345 Club Dinner always held at 8 Sig Regt HQ Mess in November. This is the evening on which serving officers dine with former mess members, affectionately known as the 'Old and Bold'. The air is full of 'when I commanded the Regiment' 'when I had your Squadron' and 'do you remember when . . .'. A great deal of support is given to the Regiment by members of the 345 Club and perhaps I could take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support.

ANOTHER BEGINS . . .

Early in Jan the CO presented medals to three long serving members of the Regiment, all from HQ Squadron. **Sgt Ronnie Nelson** received his first clasp to the TA Efficiency Medal, **Cpl Ken Johnson** his TA Efficiency Medal and **Cpl George Poulter** his TA Efficiency Medal. All three are members of the **Army Catering Corps.** Addressing the recipients and assembled company **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker** expressed his amazement that they had served a combined total of 60 years with the TA.

CO congratulating Sgt Ronnie Nelson, Cpl Ken Johnson and Cpl George Poulter after presenting them with medals. All members of the ACC they have chalked up over 60 years with the TA

On Tues 25 Jan the Commd Comms UKLF, **Brig A. W. McKinnon OBE ADC** visited Brambles Farm TAC, home of RHQ 34, 90 Sqn, HQ Sqn and the LAD. His visit was timed to coincide with our normal Tues evening training in order that the Brigadier could meet as wide a cross section of Territorials as possible. It was quite amazing how much ground he was able to cover in a two hour tour of our superb new garage and stores block. From there he went on to inspect the newly extended and refurnished HQ 90 Sqn premises which also contain four new lecture rooms and purpose built accommodation for the affiliated ACF detachment. The Brigadier covered most departments talking with Sergeants and Signalmen, Craftsmen and Cooks, hearing their views and expressing some of his own. When the time came for training to cease our visitor was entertained first in the Sergeants Mess and then in the Officers Mess where, it being Burns Night and he being a McKinnon, he was welcomed by a Piper specially imported from the excellent Pipe Band of 72 Engineer Regiment.

The visit was most welcome; we are always eager to hear the latest news from those in the know and to express a few ideas of our own. Both these were achieved on this occasion.

OFFICERS/SNCOs STUDY PERIOD—22 JAN

Was there to be a new Pay award announcement? Never have so many officers and NCOs been known to turn up from all quarters of the globe for so short a study period. Perhaps it was simply lack of O days or the hint of 'NEW' visual aids? To be serious, the Regiment met in the North Hall at Catterick for a Study Period opened by the CO. In his address he defined the period as 'things of interest and mutual benefit for the senior management of the Regiment'. The agenda was varied and topical and people seemed well absorbed with the presenters brought in for the day.

The Sub-Divisional Commander for Richmond, **Chief Inspector Christine Gowland** of the North Yorkshire Police, talked on police and military liaison. She outlined the need for there to be an awareness of military establishments within her division, especially as possible terrorist targets, apart from the usual domestic problems associated with military garrisons. Not only did she provide an excellent foil for the anti-feminists but, in her rather controversial role, her willingness to foster good relations between civil and military communities showed an astute command of the situation.

2IC Maj Peter Sutherland offering to carry Chief Insp Christine Gowland's handbag. Study Period, Catterick. Also *L to R* Maj Graham Mitchell, 2LT Gillian Cable and the CO

Officers and NCOs Study Period—Catterick

Maj Keith Butler, Royal Signals, gave a Falklands presentation, having recently returned from that topical place. As a Commander of 5 Sig Sqn with 30 Sig Regt, he was a Staff Officer and in the move to the Falklands became a Commander on the ground. Having touched on deployment and hostilities he talked mainly on the Comms facilities and resources, mentioning the help of the TA in preparing the necessary gear and expertise. He made us painfully aware of the uselessness of paper codes in time of war and the serious and urgent need for alternatives—especially after all the crypto kit has been sunk. **Maj Keith** gave us all plenty to think about.

Summing up at the end of the day, the CO encouraged us all to look ahead, to study our systems, equipment and the fitness of every soldier.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Birmingham

CHANGE OF COMMAND

January was the Commanding Officer's handover month when we said a sad farewell to **Lt Col John Billingham** and his wife **Shirley,** both of whom will be missed. We wish them well in their new home at Catterick. Many in the Regiment actually wondered when **Lt Col Billingham** was departing; each Squadron held a party in his honour starting back in November and he was dined out of both the Officers and the WOs/Sgts messes in January. The final day came and the actual departure was achieved using a home-made sedan chair (courtesy of the LAD) and a golf brolly. This latter item was to ward off the rain that **Lt Col Billingham** managed to bring to every exercise—so Catterick be warned!

We welcome **Lt Col Mike Louden** and his wife **Mary** to the Regiment and wish them a very happy tour with us in the Midlands.

SSgt Ted Howarth, Lt Col J. G. Billingham, Cpl Harry Wright, Legs—LCpl Sandy Ross

COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

On 3 December the now 'traditional' Officers Dinner took place in the magnificent Birmingham Council House. Some 120 officers and their guests attended the event. Amongst our guests we were fortunate to have the SOinC **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE,** and the Lord Mayor of Birmingham **Councillor Hollinsworth.** Other friends of the Regiment attended and some, members of our well-known luncheon club, returned to the Officers Mess in Stoney Lane after the dinner to continue the party until dawn. Our thanks and appreciation to **Mr Norman Tame** who produced an excellent breakfast shortly after dawn! We are also most grateful to the Corps Band who entertained us so royally.

TRADE TRAINING WEEKEND

The last weekend in January was the centralised trade training weekend. Tradesmen from our out-Squadrons at Newcastle under Lyme, Shrewsbury and Rugby travelled to the appropriate TA Centre to be given a day and a half of common training.

This kept the PSIs busy and was the culmination of several months planning by **SSgt (YofS) Lou Stevens.** The Officers also got together for a useful training weekend including presentations on EW, security and an interest presentation on Afghanistan by **Mr Tim Cooper.**

ORIENTEERING

On the 6 February, a brave bunch of runners turned up at Cannock Chase on a freezing cold and windy day to compete in the Regimental Orienteering Competition. The 6.5 Km course was difficult and the fastest orienteer was **Capt John Hodges** of 95 Sig Sqn with **2Lt Jean McKenzie** winning the ladies' prize. The fitness and advanced years of the RHQ team of the Training Major, **Maj Rollo Rumford,** the FofS, **SSgt Tony Jacklin** and two PSIs, **SSgt Ken Jones REME** and **Sgt Mick Underwood,** were no match for 89 Sig Sqn's youthful team, who had a convincing victory. The event was well organised by **Capt Sandy Livingstone** and the CO's wife **Mary Louden** kindly presented the prizes.

DEPARTURES

In March we say farewell to our incorrigible Scottish MTWO **WO1 Gordon Haughie** who departs on commissioning to 21 Sig Regt. We wish him and his wife **Angela** every success and happiness. We will all be sad to lose them, especially the CO and RSM, both of whom are fellow Scots!

89 (WARWICKS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)—RUGBY
PERSONALITIES

OC	**—Maj D. G. Hardy TD**
2IC	**—Capt R. A. Hawkes**
OC B Tp	**—Lt P. A. Bannigan**
OC U Tp	**—Capt P. Stafford**
IC J Tp	**—Cpl A. Allard WRAC**
PSAO	**—Maj R. E. Smithard,** Retd
SSM	**—WO2 B. Moore**
PSI	**—Sgt M. B. Roxburgh**

Must get the Colonel's photograph in the Wire, how?, where to start? A lovely late summers day, your scribe is recuperating from the rigours of training in BAOR, when the telephone rings, the **Adjutant George Clark** announces that we can now establish our part of the Recruit Reception and Training Team. No need to look further for a leader than **SSgt Ted Howarth,** a stalwart with 26 years service; his assistant a lad with only 15 years in, **Sgt George Pettit.** Their first job, a recruiting display at the Town and County Fair at the Royal Agricultural Centre Stoneleigh, during the August Bank Holiday, which is where the photograph was taken of **Lt Col John Billingham** greeting **Staff Howarth, Cpl Harry Wright** is looking on and the legs belong to **LCpl Sandy Ross.** We didn't get any recruits then but we now have 15 young men looking forward to their various recruits courses at Catterick which start in January, and all are hoping to emulate **Sig Fisher's** achievement of the 'best recruit' award. Our Junior NCOs recently spent an interesting weekend at Bramcote developing their military skills and absorbing the wisdom of **RSM Gordon Scott** and his regular henchmen from Stoney Lane. 'We enjoyed it' they said, afterwards! Not all new members are recruits, we welcome **2Lts Glen Morrison** and **Kelvin Rice** from UOTC and **LCpl Stephen Bovill** from 48 Sqn. We have lost Foreman **Ivan Thomas** to HQ Squadron, no doubt he is training to be a Tired Old Technician.

We have recently moved into temporary portakabin accommodation while wise councils debate the future of our permanent accommodation. This has not interfered too much with our trade training but has restricted our social activities. Our Christmas dinner and dance, held in a Coventry hotel, was a most enjoyable evening saddened only by having to say farewell to the CO, **Lt Col John Billingham** and OC, **Maj Terry Phillips.** We wish them and **Shirley** and **Sue** every success and happiness in their new appointments.

We welcome the new OC **Maj David Harty TD** and look forward to a happy and successful 1983.

95 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
EXERCISE *CHRISTMAS SPIRIT*

First snow and then thick glutinous mud brought a fitting end of year for 95 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) as Exercise *Christmas Spirit,* and inter detachment competition took place in December. Teams of four battled throughout Saturday with tests of Drill, Shooting, Camouflage and NBC to name but a few. Saturday evening saw the General knowledge Quiz in the bar, a somewhat raucous affair despite the efforts of the Quizmasters, **Capts John** 'Bamber Gascoigne' **James** and **John** 'Magnus Magnusson' **Hodges.** Even the Squadron Commander, **Maj Bob Heath** played a part, though strong rumour has it that this was mainly confirmed to mouthing the answers from behind the Question-master. A well aimed elbow was sufficient to discourage him, however.

The Squadron enjoyed the company of the CO, **Lt Col John Billingham** who joined in the Quiz as a late entrant and whose team successfully took on the winners. He did seem to have rather a problem in accepting the referee's decision as final, however, and we understand he has been watching rather a lot of John McEnroe recently! **Lt Col Billingham** was presented with an engraved silver tray from the Squadron and a suitably inscribed cider barrel from the cider drinking Yankee—Troop in memory of many happy hours vaguely recalled. Sunday heralded the final and deciding event of the competition; the assault course. A sea of mud and driving rain added to the fun as the teams struggled to blow up balloons whilst dragging a dummy over the obstacles. At the end of the morning, there was little to judge between the contestants and the dummy as far as mud was concerned, but since this was not the aim of the course the dummy was disqualified and the overall winners were declared to be 'The Beagles'.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

43 SIG SQN (V)
Report by Lt A. J. Cornish (V)

CAMP 1982

Following the usual alternation of Regimental Camp with 'Exercise' Camp, this year has once again been the year of the 'Exercise', involving the whole of 2 Sig Bde. The emphasis of training through the year has been very much our role of HF communications, the climax of which was due to be the Home Defence Exercise, *Hard Rock,* at Camp. Presumably, to sweeten the tough-sounding name of this exercise, several weekend communications exercises took place with names such as *Quality Street, Soft Centre* and *Milk Tray!*

However, as many of you know, Exercise *Hard Rock* was postponed by the Home Secretary, and HQ 2 Sig Bde has to dream up another live exercise at only a few weeks notice. The solution adopted was to pass live unclassified traffic over our system, working from static COMMCENs all over the country.

Thus it was that, at the end of September, 43 Sig Sqn (V) dispatched Troops to Bulford, Warminster and Bovington, working inside their static Commcens, with the radio vehicles remoted. This proved to be most successful and worthwhile, not least due to the friendliness and assistance of the civilian staff at all of our locations. It was during this phase that 899 Sig Tp acquired the nickname 'APE' Troop, after the last three letters of a well-known routing indicator (sorry, no prizes!).

The CMHQ (County Military Headquarters) Troop, who are based at Exeter, were not required for this phase of the exercise, and had, instead, an interesting exercise of their own on Salisbury Plain Training Area, involving both communication and military skills, cooked up by their Troop OC, **Capt Mick Back.** Indeed, 'cooked' seemed to be the operative word on one occasion—many of us will not forget the night attack involving the flour bags and compo pilchards in a hurry! What made things even more interesting for them was that a number of other units were also taking part in unrelated exercises in the area, adding a touch of the unexpected to the occasion, such as the smoke grenade hurled by a passing land-rover at one of the 'dets', which turned the inside of their land-rover into a delicate shade of

Three well-armed ladies, Ptes Eva Hunt and Anne Cook and LCpl Gaynor Avery pose on Exercise *Red Shoes VIII*

blue! On another occasion, a detachment of WRAC, **LCpl Gaynor Avery, Ptes Anne Cook** and **Eva Hunt** were taken prisoner by an infantry patrol and held for nearly an hour before being released!

In the second phase of the exercise, during the second week of camp, we said goodbye to the Commcens and went into an engineering phase with a more familiar format, which did involve the CMHQ Troop as well, and added RAF St Mawgan, RAF Locking and Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth ('don't forget to salute the quarter-deck, boys and girls!') to our list of locations used during camp.

Radio Tech SSgt Dave Meade and Cbt Rmn Sig Paul Hamer monitoring the latest football results?

LCpls Vince Mann and Garry Watson make a menacing sight as they prepare for a night attack

Finally, the exercises over, there were a few days left at the end of camp for the whole Squadron to get together at Bulford to debrief, check equipment and vehicles, exchange stories and so on. Why, some of us wondered, were the members of 867 Troop exchanging greetings using Chinese accents and bowing to one another? Was this an awful consequence of being too near to the Navy? (they were at Dartmouth) or perhaps it had something to do with the only oriental officer in the Royal Signals (known to us), **Jimmy Ong**, who was attached to them!

Of the several visitors to the Squadron during the exercise, the most important was undoubtedly that of the **SOinC, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle**, who visited the Squadron at the Bulford location. Other important visitors included the Commander 2 Sig Bde, **Brig J. P. Hart**, the DWRAC, **Brig Meechie** WRAC, the Deputy Commander SWDIST, **Brig Walker**, and the Regiment's Honorary Colonel, **Col Sir John Wills**, Bt.

A spot of generator maintenance is performed by Cbt Pmn LCpl Trevor Bailey

The SOinC, with the CO, Lt Col Jean Blackwood and OC 43 Sqn Maj John Bosley

SHOOTING

On top of all of the activities leading up to camp, the Squadron entered a team for the South West District Skill at Arms Meeting (SWDIST SAM), and thus helped the Regiment to qualify once again to take part in the TASAM at Bisley in July. **LCpl Garry Watson, Sig (now LCpl) Steve Anstey** and **Sig Ross Akerman** went to Bisley from 43 Sqn, and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Well done, lads!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to **Sig Mark Bass** of 866 Tp and **Sig Paul Richardson** of CMHQ Troop, who achieved best recruit on courses 177 and 117A respectively at Catterick.

To **Cpl Brian Parker** of 899 Troop on getting married to a former officer of the Squadron, **Sue Thomas.** Our best wishes and good luck to you both!

To CMHQ Troop, for winning the Exeter Assault Course Competition sponsored by LEPRA and involving civilian and military teams from all over the South West. They even succeeded in beating the record set the previous year by the Royal Marines, and have a nice cup to show for it! Well done!

Also to the team from CMHQ Troop which took part in the RMP & City of Chichester March in August, which involved a 40km trek around the countryside of Chichester. Taking part were **OCdt** (now **2Lt**) **Ian Hendy, LCpls Garry Watson, Bob Preece, Rolf Savill, Sig Barry Kennings, Paul Richardson, Andy 'Compo' Hemens, Alan 'Chalky' Carter**, and **Pte Eva Hunt WRAC.**

Finally, our congratulations to **2Lt Ian Hendy** of CMHQ Troop, on gaining his TA Commission.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

This year, the Squadron has welcomed two new officers to the 'fold'—**2Lt Vicki Davies WRAC,** who has joined us from 245 Sqn RCT (V) and **2Lt Gill Brown WRAC,** who has come to CMHQ Troop from 3 Worcester Foresters (V). Our new SQMS, **Sgt 'Jack' Frost,** who has joined us from the Regular Army Reserve. We welcome back **Capt Rosemary Tuhey,** who is taking over command of 867 Troop. Finally, our SSM, **WO2 Sid Lang,** will shortly be handing over that awesome responsibility to **SSgt Brian Aldridge,** and assuming the slightly less demanding (?) task of WO IC Recruit selection and training.

REGIMENTAL SGTS MESS NEWS

Report by WO1 (YofS) H. M. Cooke

Following an extremely successful two-week exercise based at Rollestone Camp on Salisbury Plain and other remote locations situated away from civilisation, it was decided by the Training Team headed by the Training Major, **Ray Etheridge** and **WO2** (The Real Yeoman) **Tony Lomax** to give the WOs and SNCOs a comfortable training weekend at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp.

The staff at the School very kindly provided all their superb facilities—thanks are particularly due to **Maj Eileen Tye** who was, (we believe), entirely responsible for searching Dorset high and low in order to find accommodation suitable for Senior NCOs and Warrant Officers of the Territorial Army. Well if you've ever been to Piddlehinton Camp in the past—forget it! It's changed. Our regular RQMS, **WO2 Bill Wilson** soon had the camp organised but, no sooner had he opened all the doors to let in some very fresh air, when the **RSM WO1 Gordon Blood** caused disruption by dispersing the herd of cows which the RQ had positioned on guard to prevent anyone sneaking off to the local pub for food or drink or warmth or some other creature comfort which is normally available to human beings! The good news was that a bar had been provided in the camp for those of us who could pass the initiative test of finding Piddlehinton in the dark and it was not too long before bedraggled faces appeared at the door, having travelled from such exotic places as Stourbridge, Stratford, Cardiff, Brecon, Cheltenham, Bristol, Exeter and Bridgwater, to sample the delights of Piddlehinton. Unfortunately, the camp beds were the last thing to arrive so we all had to stay in the bar until the early hours, awaiting this arrival. Mutiny wasn't really as close as people say. Once the RSM had spoken to **WO2 Derek Smart** who was leading the Escape Committee, and **SSgt Keith Allen** had taken down the bodies from the perimeter wire, things quietened down somewhat.

Saturday morning eventually arrived and out into the cold crisp frosty air formed 80 male and female WOs and SNCOs all full of fun shouting for **RQMS Bill Wilson's** head. Luxury coaches kindly provided by 30 Sig Regt then took us all to civilisation and an excellent breakfast in the Blandford Sgts Mess. Training then began in earnest and we had two days of extremely interesting and useful lecture and demonstration which gave everyone present an insight into the equipments of the future in our Corps. A particularly interesting period was spent in the Corps Museum during which time we had great difficulty in ensuring that our two comrades **WOs, Chick** (I won't be in tomorrow) **Cheetham** and **Geoff** (Oh! I don't know about that) **Silcox** were not hi-jacked by the Curator to sit on display in Monty's Command vehicle. It was bad enough having D11 stations in the Museum without trying to take our operators as well! It should also be pointed out that there is no truth in the rumour that our Foreman **WO2 Jim Cook** had his two techs **Sgts Brian Resoun** and **Ian McNaughton** attached to the School so that they could swop bits and pieces of the displayed D11 with some of their more used spares.

The social highlight of the weekend was the occasion of the Dining-in of our Commanding Officer **Lt Col Jean Blackwood,** and we were extremely thankful to the Mess President **WO1 Jimmy Campbell** and his PMC **WO2 Mick Nevill** for allowing us to use their beautiful mess for this.

All in all a very successful weekend thanks to all those involved in the organisation from the School and 30 Sig Regt who really could not have been more helpful.

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

QUARTERMASTER'S PROGRESS

Report by Capt (QM) Mal Smart

Downtown Hereford-Maresfield barracks — Late 1982.

The telephone rang shattering the silence of my lonely office. The hand set rocked angrily on its cradle as if demanding me to pick it up and answer the call. The impatient high pitched ringing vibrated around my office like a million squash balls hitting a wall.

I stared at the noisy intruder in almost idle curiosity as I flicked my Zippo lighter into life and lit yet another Marlborough. Emptying the dregs of my tepid coffee cup with one hand and grasping the phone with the other, I swivelled around in my seat so as to face the window. Pulling on my cigarette, I looked out into the cold new day. An icy drizzle had frosted the glass distorting vision and making it difficult to recognise the many hooded figures scurrying to and fro in the cold dark early morning.

Pushing my hat to the back of my head I spoke in slow satin tones known only to New York cops.

'Hi blue eyes—Marlow here'.

'Who the hell is Marlow,' said the caller, blank—blank—'is that you Smart?', he continued. Immediately I gained my sense and reason and quickly responded. 'I think we had a cross line Sir, but everything seems to be OK, what can I do for you?'. I answered as I dropped the coffee cup and burnt my trousers with my cigarette.

'Nothing, came the somewhat cynical reply, it's what I can do for you old boy, you're posted'.

'Where and when?' I quickly replied.

With tremendous fortitude my morning caller smothered his obvious amusement and choking down a titter he rasped out—40, Jan 1983 and clang, down went the phone as he no doubt rocked around in his seat in uncontrollable revelry. Rushing into the corridor in understandable near panic I collided with three of my staff.

'Good morning Sir', greeted the trio in near perfect harmony, 'where's the fire?', they added. 'Oh no fire, just had a spot of news', retorted I excitedly. 'Anybody know where 40 is?', I said. The three men looked at me in total disbelief as if I had spent all my service as a Catterick cowboy, and never been south of the Humber. The fountain of knowledge shone from their eyes as the answer ricocheted from one to the next. In almost rehearsed precision back came the reply. 'Lisburn, no Hollywood, well it's one or the other Sir, but I do know that some quarters are in Beverley Hills', spoke the so-called experts.

Returning to the sanctuary of my office I sank into a chair and seriously contemplaced by military future.

As shock began to take its effect those two place names echoed around my mind. Lisburn, Hollywood, that's Portugal and America, my dampened spirits began to rise. Visions of surfboards, Bermuda shorts, dusky maidens and long ice-cool drinks on sun-drenched beaches brought the colour back to my cheeks. Within a month I was on the Stranraer to Larne ferry, Belfast bound trying desperately to conceal the surfboard adorning my ear and wondering what ever induced me to buy 14 pairs of Bermuda shorts, 16 pairs of sunglasses and a sharkstooth necklaced.

I had of course by that stage discovered where 40 Sig Regt was, in fact, located. Other than that, I knew little about my new regiment apart from the fact that I was to relieve **Capt (QM) Eric Webster,** an old pal, and that the officers sported strange headgear and carried knobbley walking sticks.

The step-down QM greeted me at Larne with the following reassuring words—'you'll enjoy 40, excellent team, great job and how's your sense of humour?' Almost as an afterthought he added, 'Oh, your quarter's in Beverley Hills!' A bayonet of cold steel jabbed at my heart, if only he knew I sadly thought. So a bemused but ever-adventurous yours truly meekly followed the outgoing QM to Clonaver Park as a lamb to the slaughter.

As part of the handover, takeover programme, a whistle stop tour of camp had been arranged for my education and benefit. The camp had obviously enjoyed a history of minor works services hatched by a succession of Quartermasters for the buildings are literally sewn with dozens of doors opening into layers of partitioned offices. Initially the veritable maze was so confusing that I spent more than one embarrassing moment retreating red-faced from the ladies loo.

Soon, however, with the aid of a ball of string, compass and interpreter, I eventually found my way about. Having finally achieved that no mean feat I was horrified to discover that an extension is about to be built with yet more doors, corridors and offices. A bigger ball of string is on demand!

My introduction period over, **Capt (QM) Eric Webster** departed to sunnier climes (Sheffield) in an alcoholic haze, bravely astride his motor cycle. He rightly was given a fine farewell (several actually), in true Irish fashion and hospitality accompanied by much quaffing of many a dram of the hard stuff lovingly poured out by the wide-eyed bar staff. Only we Irish should be able to drink the stuff like that, they informed me. So I now rest my pen alone and frightened to leave my office in case I get lost until the next Wire Issue.

Readers should wait with bated breath locked in gripping anticipation for me to continue the action-packed drama of life in and around 40 Sig Regt. There's more characters to the yard out here than anywhere I've served.

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF

Late January saw the final visit of **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** to Clonaver Park. A full and interesting programme had been arranged with the SOinC touring the training rooms where members of the regiment were being put through the paces in subjects ranging from .22 shooting to principles of telephony. As always he found time for a friendly chat with many instructors and students taking great interest in the training aspects and the general welfare of everyone introduced to him.

The highlight of the visit came with a regimental indoor games competition held in the JRC. Needless to say the victors were the Sgts Mess team ably organised by **Sgt Rosie Auld** who proudly received the trophy presented by the Major General. The SOinC departed from the Officers' Mess but not before remarking on the affection he holds for the regiment and true Irish warmth and hospitality with which he is treated on his visits to us. May we, of the regiment, extend a fond farewell to the Major General and wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

HALLOS AND FAREWELLS

Recent regular arrivals to the regiment from the far flung corners of the globe are **Capt Tony** 'it was never like this in MOD' **Hewett, Capt (QM) Mal** '10%' **Smart, SSgt (YOS) Clive Coperstake** and **Sig Grant** 'No brottie and chips here' **Johnson.** We extend a warm welcome to our new additions and their families and trust they will enjoy their tours with Ulster's Own Volunteer Signallers.

Sig Johnson arrived unmarried but rumour has it he will not stay that way for long. Many a new face can be seen around Clonaver Park as our new recruits become familiar with the ways of the military. We therefore take the opportunity to publicly welcome them all to the regiment.

FAREWELLS

A fond farewell to **Capt (QM) Eric Webster** and **WO2 (YOS) Joe Hadlane. Capt Webster** is off to British South Sheffield, his friendly and approachable personality, not to say his Display team like motorcycle acrobatics, will be missed around the centre. **YOS Haldane,** on the other hand, has really come up trumps with a posting to Cyprus. See the QM, he'll sell you a surfboard and a complete beach comber outfit. Best of luck to them both and thanks for the memories.

40 Signal Regt (V)
85 SQN

A sad note of farewell to two of 85 Sqn's Officers—**Capts Steve Majury** and **Chris Spragg** Royal Signals (otherwise known as Pinky and Perky!).

Steve has decided he needs some peace and quiet at the weekends and has sadly resigned from the Regiment. He will be missed by all his friends in the Regiment, 85 Sqn, but mostly his troop members. We wish you luck **Steve** and send our best wishes to you and your family—we give you six months before you're hammering on the gates to re-join!

Capt Chris Spragg, Royal Signals has been lost to the Squadron but not to the Regiment; **Chris** moves over to 66 Sqn as 2IC. The Squadron will also miss **Chris,** but we know that all good things must come to an end and we wish **Chris** all the best in his new command—give 66 Sqn hell, boy!

And now the good news—for some members of the Squadron at least! Postings to the Squadron include **Capt Tricia Riley WRAC** who takes over as OC 'F' Troop with **OCDT Peter Alexander,** Royal Signals. As 2IC **2Lt Peter Harty** Royal Signals—late of Queen's OTC—takes over as 'D' Troop with the help (?) of **OCDT Robert Kelly,** Royal Signals as his 2IC.

Watch this space carefully over the next few editions of the 'Wire' for the future adventures of this dynamic quartet—it should be amusing if nothing else—CFO's here we come!!!

Christmas with 40th
Maj Warren Armstrong and Capt Tony Hewett in Christmas celebration with the fairer members of the Regiment

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News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

CHRISTMAS

After the rigours of the Lanyard Trophy, the Squadron settled down to a quiet December. By that I mean that we didn't have any exercises, not that there was nothing happening. To start with there seemed to be a never-ending series of parties varying in size from a dozen people to the full squadron event held in the Garrison Theatre. How the OC and RSM had the stamina to attend the whole lot is a wonder to us all.

On 11 December, 60 children aged from 0 (!) to 9 years were assembled in the Bradley Club for the annual children's party. The undoubted highlight of the event was the arrival of Santa Claus in the guise of **Cpl Ray Sant** (who else?), who presented a gift to each child.

Cpl Ray Sant-a-Claus

The Christmas festivities continued well into the New Year with the Wives' Club holding their dinner on 6 January. For this special occasion Jellalabad Officers' Mess was opened up, dusted and prepared for a magnificent three-course meal. The meal was served by husbands and the cabaret provided by the RSM, **WO1 Andy Evans** and **SSgt Taff Maybank, Sgt Dave Vince's** Disco was dragged out for the fifteenth time in a month and provided non-stop music late into the night.

Officers v Seniors Rugby Match

Sport was not forgotten with the usual Officers v Seniors rugby match. As the late lamented Quartermaster, **Maj Frank Rogers,** had donated a splendid trophy for the winning team, interest in the result was greater than usual. After last year's trouncing (the Officers won by some 40 points), the Seniors had obviously re-thought their tactics and managed to obtain a nil draw. Both sides had their scoring opportunities but failed to take advantage of them. For example, **Capt Doug Doherty RAOC** of Bde HQ managed to touch the ball down behind the Senior's goal post—unfortunately no one had told him of the existence of the dead-ball line! (The try was disallowed.)

The Roger's Trophy was therefore held over for presentation after the Officers v Seniors football match. (Rugby isn't exactly the OC's game—football is!) Ten minutes from the final whistle the Seniors were leading by two goals to nil, but the Officers pulled back magnificently making the final scoreline two all. (The trophy now awaits the outcome of the cricket match!)

CROSS COUNTRY

For the first time the Squadron entered a team in the SW District Cross Country League. The team improved throughout the season thanks to the arrival of **Cpl Bill Bailey** and **LCpl Jim Brebner** from 1 Div and **LCpl Earl Wigglesworth** from 8 Sig Regt.

Although they won eight out of the eleven races, the team was beaten into second place by 58 Ord Sqn RM who started the season extremely well. The best individual places in the league were **LCpl Jim Brebner** (4th) and **SSgt (FofS) Mick Stocks** (7th).

On 2 February the team entered the SW District Championships, which was held over 6½ mile course at Bulford. Despite an injury to **LCpl Brebner,** we had high hopes of winning the competition. Egged on by many members of the Squadron including almost all the 'hierarchy', the team did us proud coming 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in minor unit runners, respectively **Cpl Bill Bailey, LCpl Earl Wigglesworth, LCpl Taff Roberts** and **SSgt Mick Stocks.** Not surprisingly the Squadron won the minor unit title, beating 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn by an amazing 40 points, sweet revenge following the results of last year's District and Army Championships.

FAREWELL PARADE

There was, however, a slightly more serious side to life. On 17 December the Squadron held a parade to say farewell to the Brigade Commander, **Brig Edwin Beckett, MBE,** who has now taken up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence. During the course of the parade, he presented LS & GC medals to **WO2 Rick Dunston ACC** and **Cpl Vic Thompson.** However, the star of the parade was without a doubt **Sgt Denis Simpson,** who fainted magnificently whilst holding one of the pikes! At the end of the ceremony the Brigade staff pulled the Brigadier out of the barracks in his rover. (Is it true that they were unable to move it until it was switched on and put in gear?)

Brig Beckett presents Cpl Thompson with his LS & GC medal

MT/LAD Tp marches past

AND FINALLY, IS IT TRUE THAT . . .?

Lt Simon Lunn's final words before parting for Norway were: 'I've entered the Squadron for 2 March'. A prize is now offered for anyone who can explain this cryptic comment. Answers on a postcard to the RSM.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The last couple of months has been a busy time for the orderly room with many postings in and out, not least of which was the departure of **Cpl Baz Glossop** to Hong Kong and his replacement by **Cpl Alan Fiddes.** The squadron also said farewell to **Capt Gordon Shipley,** who had been 2IC since 1980 and was one of the longest running members of the squadron. The best wishes of all personnel follow **Capt Shipley** and his wife **Margaret** to Shrivenham and Staff College. His replacement, **Capt Tim Rimell** has already admitted that he means to carry on where **Capt Shipley** left off, and will not be on exercise with the squadron for some months.

On an attachment to the squadron for a few months is **Lt Chris Wakerley** who, after a short stay in Alfa Tp, moved to J Tp to deputise for **Lt Paul Eaton** while he took over the chair as Ops Offr. **Lt Wakerley** soon had the troop out running and shooting and has many more delights in the pipeline. People seem unable to stop him organising things.

ALFA TROOP

It has been quite a shake-up in Alfa Troop of late. The Troop OC is still **Lt Andy Tuson,** but **Sgt Gus Graham** has now taken over as Troop Staff Sergeant with **Sgts Dave Southworth** and **Pete Whitfield** as the A1 and A2 Troop Sergeants. Departures from the Troop include **Sgt 'Dixie' Dean, LCpls 'Slugger' Preece, Jim Harvey** and **Sig Terry Stevens.** Newcomers in the last few months are too numerous to mention. **LCpl Lubbock** deserves a note though, if only because he was in the troop for a whole nine days before departing on attachment to the Falklands. **Sig 'Dozy' Martin** has already gained recognition as the most accident prone person in the troop. **Cpl Shane Tiffin** still claims that **Sig Martin** was directing him when he hit that tree in Friday Woods . . .

In spite of a nominal strength of 84, Alfa Army, as it is becoming colloquially known, is rather thin on the ground with people in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Norway and the Falklands. Even **Sgt Whitfield** is trying to go to the Falklands for four months, much to the 2ICs amusement.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

0630 hours found 10 shivering bodies waiting for the 'off'. A quick five minute jog and we were on the beach ready for our early morning swim. This was the introduction to our week's adventure training at JSMTC Morfa Camp, Wales.

After a quick shower and breakfast it was back to the beach for rock climbing and abseiling, however, the DS allowed us to wear clothes this time. Due to the very bad weather, the normal face used for climbing was being constantly buffeted by the waves, so an alternative was found about 100 mtrs inland. After the first descent, confidence grew and the remainder of the morning passed fairly uneventfully. Again the weather restricted, to an extent, the afternoons activities, so concentration was put on scaling the 14' wall.

Front Row, L to R: Cpl Tony Conlan, WO2 (AQMS) Alan Jack REME, Sig Rick Gill, 'Spic' Collins
Back Row, L to R: LCpl Dave Newton, Sig 'Libby' Lidbetter, Dvr 'Shughie' McFee, Sig Dave Sloane, Duncan, Dvr Roy Benham

Although only two foot higher than the 12' wall, a totally different approach was called for; it was then the whole course discovered **Sig Duncan's** hidden talents, all 13 stone of them. Day one finished with 'Merlins magic moments' of which I will say nothing so as not to spoil it for future courses, suffice to say that your author discovered all of Merlins delights. Day two started off in a more civilised fashion at 0830 hours with the morning occupied with building and racing a raft within the estuary. The race was against a team from the RAMC who allowed us to win after constantly battering themselves against the jetty in an approximately five knot tidal stream; however credit must go to **Sig 'Libby' Lidbetter's** raft design and building supervision.

The afternoon was occupied with an orienterring competition and the winner from our group being **Tony Conlan** with the majority deciding on coming in together, proving that the herd instinct of safety in numbers does work sometimes.

A break in the weather on the third day was a very welcome start to our days expedition, all the way along the Cader Idris in glorious sunshine. A camp site was set up in a quarry for that night.

Friday the last day proved to be most exciting of the week with one of the stars being **LCpl Dave Newton** who, after throwing himself off the death slide (about 100 mtrs long at an angle of 45° into a bottomless freezing blue lagoon) came to an abrupt halt some 20 mtrs down the slide because he failed to release his safety rope. From the way **LCpl Newton** was gesticalating it is fairly easy to imagine our forefathers descending from the trees.

Next was a visit down a mine shaft, a 90 ft abseil in pitch blackness with an ascent of 70 ft up an electron ladder with inummerable 'bladder bats' doing their thing from above. Two more abseils followed by a traverse some 80 ft up completed the course, it was this last event which proved to be the best spectator sport of them all with **Sigs Dave Sloane** and **'Spick' Collins** competing against each other for entry into the black and white minstrels with their rolling eyeballs routine. The course ended that night with the customary get together and each course putting on a cabaret routine. Even though adverse weather conditions were experienced, all participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves and credit must go to the staff of JSMTC and especially **Sgt Bob Wood APTC** who made the week for us so enjoyable and interesting.

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THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj Ashley Truluck**
2IC	**Capt Jo Fletcher**
QM	**Maj Phil Noble**
Comms	**Capt Richard Good**
AO	**Capt Mick Flynn QUEENS**
TCO	**Capt Harry Carter RCT**
Tp Comd	**2Lt Mark Alexander**
RSM	**WO1 Barry Minter**

LEAN AND MEAN

As the Squadron thins down to its new lean and mean establishment many familiar faces are beginning to disappear and their loss sorely felt. The list is too great to mention all departures in these pages but three have been singled out for a special 'farewell':

Capt Mick Flynn QUEENs was the last of a long line of ERE Adjutants serving with the Squadron. During his last six months in the unit **Mick** worked indefatigably to produce a workable plan for the run down of the Squadron and most of the credit for the smooth transition (so far!) to our new establishment is due to him. We wish **Mick** and his wife **Elsa** the very best of luck in his new post as QM 2 RRF.

Capt Harry Carter RCT leaves the Squadron to become MTO of our future parent Regiment, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. That being the case we shall still look upon **Harry** as our MTO but will miss his ready sense of humour and fatherly eye here in Osnabruck.

WO1 (RSM) Barry Minter is off to the TA in Bristol. He and his wife **Carol** have naturally been at the forefront of unit activity. **Barry's** contribution was wide ranging extending as it did from Offshore Sailing to a keen interest in Military Training, whilst **Carol's** role in the Squadron's social and welfare activities was well known. We wish the **Minters,** and all other old friends leaving the Squadron, the very best of luck in the future.

EX *EAGLES PROGRESS*

Any hopes of a quiet time leading up to our move to UK were dashed when the OC staged one of his periodic Squadron Commanders Exercises—this one called Ex *Eagles progress.* Day One was spent sharpening up movement drills, vehicle anti ambush drills and defence of Bde HQ. On Day Two the squadron deployed to the Dorbaum Training Area near Munster where a series of tactical scenarios were fed to Sig Ops to solve. Problems ranged from dealing with a SOXMIS intrusion to reconstituting a decimated Bde HQ after attack. **Sgt Alf Ramsey** proved himself a fitting successor to John Wayne in the effective way he extracted PAPA Group under fire to fight another day, whilst the sight of the simultaneous night attacks on main and Step Up HQs put Guy Fawkes night to shame!

ANNUAL AWARDS

The Turnbull Trophy, awarded annually to the Best Troop based on its overall performance and internal administration has gone to TM Troop for 1982.

The 1982 Astrid Trophy, awarded to the Signalman who has made the most progress during the year was awarded to **Sig 'Eddie' Dunn.** Tragically, **Sig Dunn** was killed a month after receiving his award—his obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

CLOTHING is still required by the WELFARE SECTION

'0F MARATHONS AND MEN'

A large team from the Squadron entered the Royal Signals Verden Marathon and acquitted themselves well. Led by our ageless Foreman, **WO2 (FofS) Larry Proctor** all team members completed the course but the star of the day was **LCpl Ian Cowan** who came in 3rd out of some 500 runners. Marathon fever is now reaching epidemic proportions and an even stronger team, led by the OC and 2IC, is currently training for the 'James Herriot Half Marathon' which takes place in North Yorkshire shortly after our arrival there in April.

LCpl Ian Cowan looking remarkably relaxed as he completes the Verden Marathon in 3rd place

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229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN) BFPO 45

The autumn has again seen the Squadron successfully managing to fit that awful subject (ie work) into our busy sports and social calender. We were given the chance to show the Brigade Commander that work does, from time to time, feature in our daily life during our recent ARU.

Sgt George Myerscough, LCpl Ron Lucas, LCpl Tony Mellett and Sig 'Dog' Humphreys study a question paper during the ARU patrol competition

A team competition, devised to test brains as well as brawn consisted of a series of tests in basic signalling and trade skills, military skills, shooting and the famous assault course. It was a close run event, and tension mounted afterwards at the presentation ceremony in the Comms Inn. Only one point separated **Sgt Steve Roberts'** winning team from the runner up, **Sgt Billy Haslam.** Winning team members were **Cpls Tony Brine** and **Scouse Goater, LCpls Dave Cawkwell** and **Ken Jones** and **Sigs 'Ginge' Hunt, 'Edgar' Egan** and **'Compo' Meehan.** The Commander kindly presented Corps Swimming and Water Polo Colours to our more acquatic members, who for once will remain nameless.

Brig Makepeace-Warne presenting prizes to the winning section commander Sgt Steve Roberts. Cpl Scouse Goater looks suitably impressed by the occasion while other contestants dance in the background

SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT

Despite there being no Tattoo this year we still couldn't keep the chaps away from working in the Deutschlandhalle. Our activities, this year, were somewhat different, however. The International Horse Jumping Competition allowed several of the lads to get a very close insight into this slightly 'different' sport, whilst they acted as members of the arena party. **LCpl Kev Martin** got the closest insight when he decided to inspect a set of horses hooves. The trouble was the horse was jumping over a six foot fence at the time. The OC was most impressed with **Kev's** agility and speed of reaction and he muttered something about not realising that **LCpl Martin** could move that fast!

SPORTS FOCUS

The annoying constant stream of exercises and other interuptions have not managed to disrupt the sports calender too much though. The OC, **Lt Simon Green, SSM Brian Wilson, RQMS Dave Brown, Sgt John Boyd** and **Cpls Chris Cousins** and **Al Jarwood** make up the Squadron's badminton team. Their success is most pleasing as they've bagged 11 of a possible 15 points so far this season. The slightly stronger basketball team has had success too. The friendly matches against BGAU and 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt produced wins for 229.

Bowling seems to be becoming a Squadron forte too. It also allows our ladies to grab some of the limelight. End of season awards included **Denise Barkworth** as most improved bowler and **Carmen Richmond** as winner of the high game and high series sections of the ladies division. The Squadron team came 3rd overall in the B Division competition and the 'Crafty Comic' **Scouse Jenkins** picked up a couple of trophies for the Squadron mixed team. On a less strenuous note, our new pool table has provided good sporting entertainment recently. **Sig Alan Chalmers** pipped **Sig John Butler** at the post in the Final of the individual knockout competition; it was a good competition to follow, from start to finish.

You may have gathered that our sport timetable is rather full again this winter. That's the real reason behind why we let the RMP go through to the next round of the Army Cup Football Competition. Our star players, **Sgt John Boyd, Cpl Scouse Goater** and 'Six foot' **Alan Chalmers** have been a bit tied up, having been selected for the Combined Services Squad against Herts and RAF Germany, and so we were not sure if we could fit the Army cup in this year. Sadly the RMP match is the only match we've lost this season.

Pre-Xmas elation prompted someone to suggest a Seniors v Juniors rugby match (it was more like Codgers v Dodgers!). The said match took place on 14 December with the not too surprising result of a win for the Juniors. It was a respectable win (ie not too much of a hiding for the Seniors, 24-0). Players of note in the Junior side were **Ian Taft** and **Scouse Gopsill** in the threequarters and **'Mac' MacMillan** in the Forwards. For the Seniors we're grateful to **Sgt Alan Gold** who didn't put a foot wrong in his first ever game as a full back. **WO1 Pat Clash** made a guest appearance and did a great job maintaining the morale of the Senior pack. The Senior front row of **SM Brian Wilson, RQMS Dave Brown** and **Sgt Taff Lewis** played a very sturdy game giving the seniors a strong base to work on in the pack. Good ball was gained by good pushing in the sets, but it was the faster flowing play of the Junior threequarters that gave them their well deserved win.

The Officers/WOs/SNCOs Line-up

The JNCO's Line-up

Sgt Lewis at the Line-out

The enthusiasm for the above game was born out of the recent success of our Squadron rugby team. The season started slowly but the team seems to be growing from strength to strength with team spirit rising in step all the way. We have a number of useful players and plenty of promise so we're hoping for a few good games in the rest of the season and, the Sevens competition later in the year. A 'well done' goes to **Sig 'Stef' Newton** who is named as most improved player since the season began.

Other Xmas 'funnies' included a Wives Club Football Match v the B Team, but that will be covered in a separate article.

So we approach 1983 determined to continue life as we left off in 1982. With a bit of luck there won't be too much work to get in the way. See you soon. Best wishes from 229.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

FROM 249 SIG SQN (AMF(L))

Since last going to press the squadron has had a full and busy programme including the Christmas leave period where for once the squadron lines were deserted and peace and tranquillity reigned for ten days or so.

Back in November the squadron saw a change of CO with **Maj M. P. S. Shaw** leaving for Shrivenham on promotion to Lt Col and **Maj P. T. Innocent** taking over the squadron.

EX *CLOSE ENCOUNTER* 22/23 NOV

Due to the requirement to practise the military skills learnt in the summer months the two communicating troops, main and support, with admin troop under command of **SSM Ian Campbell** took part in Exercise *Close Encounter* on SPTA.

The communicating troops set up platoon bases on the plain and sent out recce and fighting patrols in an attempt to locate the well-hidden enemy provided by admin troop. Patrol techniques and night navigation were the aim but the two troops spent the night of the 22 Nov trying to locate the enemy without too much success! By first light on the 23 Nov the enemy position had at least been located and dawn attacks were put in by the troops. The exercise was considered to be good training and as always each side claimed to have out-manoeuvred the other.

Cpl (Tech) Wright and Sig 'Trib' Slaney under basher cover somewhere on Salisbury Plain during Ex *Close Encounter*

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

Military skills having been practised it was now time to turn our attention to communication skills and to this end the OC held a communications exercise once again on SPTA. With so many recent new arrivals the exercise was designed to introduce new members of the squadron to the format of the AMF(L) exercise and to the communications provided by the squadron for the AMF. The exercise proved successful with good communications and interesting tactics resulting from over inventive minds moving 60 T64's into a single grid square at the drop of a hat!

SNCOs DINING OUT OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT BATTALION SGTS MESS

After a long and close association with the Logistic Support Bn (during which we successfully organised the WO's and Sgts Mess Christmas Draw) we bade farewell to our fellow mess members of Log Sp Bn on Fri 7 Jan, and after a delicious meal retired to the bar to drown our sorrows. The WOs and SNCOs of the squadron are now members of 1 PWO Mess and we join them in earnest after our annual training in Norway. We also say farewell to the following SNCOs in the mess and wish them and their families well for the future.

SSgt (YofS) Bob Waller (now **WO2**) posted to BAOR
Sgt Brian Austin (RAPC) posted to BAOR
Sgt John Wright posted to Belize
Sgt Dave Rodgers posted to Hong Kong
Sgt Frank McAleer posted to Cyprus
and lastly **Sgt Pete Mallinson** posted to the School of Signals.

DRYSHOD TRAINING 1983

The evil minds of the 2IC **Capt Scott Ewing** and **SSM Ian Campbell** devised this year's Dryshod training which was held in January in Sennybridge with the aim of preparing both hearts and minds for the rigours of *Hardfall* in Norway.

NIGHT NAVIGATION AND RANGES

The initial two days were devoted to ranges taking advantage of the CQB and Section in Defence facilities with a night navigation exercise on the first night. All sections completed the course within the time limit and returned soaked and windswept but more trusting in the use of the Silva compass and not their instinct for direction.

EX *MILD WINTER*

With the words 'Pen-y-Fan' ringing in the ears, the squadron including Alfa Troop 244 Sig Sqn left the relative comfort of the Sennybridge Camp mid-week to carry out a foot tour of the Brecon Beacons. Ten-man patrols, with packs loaded, maps and compasses at the ready, sallied forth from the SP to various check points. The weather on the first day was kind and by 9pm all patrols were in the 1st base camp at the foot of Pen-y-Fan tasting the delights of the 24-hour ration pack and living in self constructed bashers.

Day two heralded the first snows of Winter 83 falling on the base camp but after a reassuring word from the weatherman: 'snow showers and sunny periods'; the gallant patrols set off for day two by scaling Pen-y-Fan. The weather forecast was unfortunately not entirely accurate and the patrols appearing at the second night's base camp looked as if they had passed through the ice age en route. Snow and bad visibility had considerably slowed the pace.

Once again bashers were constructed and all prepared for a good night's sleep. The snow had ceased and all looked set fair for a good night. The Welsh weather still had some cards to deal however and by 3am some of the well established bashers were no more as howling winds and driving rain had plucked the accommodation from the ground. The safety vehicles (FFRs) were rapidly filled with evicted residents and when the 2IC appeared at 6am seeking refuge from the gale, he was hard pushed to find space.

As first light dawned on the bivouc sight it was apparent by the soaked but cheerfully resilient campers that they had experienced probably one of the worst nights weather for a long time.

The last leg of the exercise was an 8km walk back to the transport and then to the comforts of Sennybridge. Many stories of daring and intrigue were discussed over a pint in the Red Lion that night! We are now in the throes of preparing for and deploying to Ex *Hardfall* in Southern Norway and our next report will no doubt contain tales of daring skiing expertise.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

SHQ

SHQ has been the usual hive of activity throughout the past year. At the time of writing the Sqn Comdr **Maj Lionel French** is in the throes of a rather hectic period of farewell parties as he prepares to hand over the reins to **Maj Malcolm Emslie. Maj Emslie** is taking over on posting from Lympstone where he has been teaching the Marines to communicate whilst they have been teaching him to 'yomp'. Hopefully he won't have been too retentive of some of the lessons he learned with them! We also welcome his wife **Gail** and hope they both have an enjoyable tour in Cyprus.

The New Year has started with a further phase in 'do it yourself' improvements in the Bitsa (Squadron Club), with a complete decoration and the laying of a new carpet. **SSgt (YofS) Merv Finch** knocked up a new disco console in the few minutes he had to spare when he wasn't building theatre seats and backdrops for the Sgts Mess Ball. **Sgt Martin Leighfield** finally finished the light unit for the Squadron disco which is now the envy of all in Dhekelia.

MAINT TP

Maint Tp 262 Sig Sqn consists of Technicians of all three varieties and Telemechs. Although acknowledging all the hard work and play contributed by the Telemechs, this time I shall focus on the Technicians. Before I do, a welcome to **SSgt Charlie Peach,** who now heads the Telemech section, and his family.

The Radio Techs are the busiest people at the moment, slowly but surely replacing the Pye commercial radio with the new Storno, assisting with the fitting of Clansmen to the Armoured Cars going to the Lebanon and of course keeping up with all the routine work. There are only three radio techs who work together with three REME Tele Techs in a joint workshop. **Sgt Roy Isbell** heads the team with **Sgt Terry Hayes** and **Cpl Steve Jordan** all looking set to enjoy the Cyprus weather for quite a while. The TE Techs meanwhile, back at the Squadron take care of our 650 PABX and the Comcen **SSgt John Chambers,** when not folk singing, is our head of section and even he managed to get away on a Gliding course. **Sgt Jimmy Acklaw** is always playing Rugby, or so it seems, and **Cpl Kev Dean** spends much of his time desperately trying to keep out of trouble and not always succeeding! **Kev** is waiting on a posting order so perhaps a dose of the real Army will do something for him! That's the Comcen trio; now the others.

Well, first, we must congratulate **Sgt Dave Gunn** who is off to the School on his FofS course starting in the summer, **Sgt Pete Warhurst** meanwhile is studying hard as he is about to sit the FofS entrance exam along with **Sgt Roy Isbell** from the Radio Section. We wish them both the very best of luck. Last but not least **Sgt Martin Leighfield** who, when he is not adjusting two motion selectors, is running the entertainments for the Squadron Club, the Bitsa. Also his wife, **Margaret,** contributes to the Cyprus entertainment scene, frequently being heard on BFBS.

So to the Radio Relay Techs who always seem to be just going somewhere or just arriving back, even at two or three o'clock in the morning sometimes! With all this 'new' Radio Relay equipment the fault incidence is now quite low but always at the most unsociable hours. Quite a few of our RR techs will be leaving us soon, **Sgt Bob Peel** leaves us in February on completing 22 years service in the RAF and Army. To **Bob,** wife **Jenny** and family we wish good health and fortune—thanks for all you have done for us. Next to go will be **Sgt Phil Mosley** who leaves us in March, again on completion of 22 years service in Royal Signals. To **Phil,** wife **Lesley** and family we wish all the best in the future and thanks for all you have done.

Departures continue with **Sgt Steve Hooton** leaving us and the service; **Sgt Mal Geer** to 264 Sig Sqn. **Sgt Mick Wenham** expecting a posting order soon. Replacements for all these are beginning to appear with the arrival of **Cpl Mayne** and family to whom we offer a warm welcome.

Overseeing all these is the TOT, **Capt Dave Potter,** who is enjoying life on the Golf courses of Cyprus and Ski slopes of both Cyprus and Bavaria, ably supported by, probably, the one and only Morris dancing FofS, **WO2 Alan Mockford.** The FofS is also awaiting a posting order, hopefully, he says, back to the tall ships so that he can get some real sailing again. **SSgt Pete Underwood** is our Troop Staff Sergeant and another of our stalwart rugby players who completes the team, and, believe it or not, is also waiting for his posting order. There must be a moral for Royal Signals Records here somewhere!

COMMS TP

Comms Tp headed by **Lt Nicky Thomas** assisted by **SSgt Steve Bailes** the Tp SSgt, is made up of three sections, radio section, MT section and the commcen. This month we are focusing on the MT section. In charge is **Sgt Keith Bridger** who recently was presented with his LS&GC medal by **Col P. Forshaw,** the deputy Chief of Staff from HQ LFC. LS&GC medals were also presented to **SSgt Steve Bailes** and **Sgt Sandy Sanderson** who has recently arrived in the Squadron from 233 Sig Sqn.

Presentation of LS and GC Medals
From *L to R:* Sgt Sandy Sanderson and wife Kim, Sgt Keith Bridger and wife Jenny and SSgt Steve Bailes and wife Chris

Getting back to the Squadron MT, who have also had some new arrivals namely, **Cpl Pete Latham** and wife **Bethan** from 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl Daniel Joyce** and wife **Marilyn** from the Shetlands, one extreme to another! Also, we welcome **Sig Ian Richardson** from the School of Signals. Sadly we say farewell to **LCpl Bob** (I'm a born leader) **Stanton** and his wife **Ann** who are off to 14 Sig Regt. Just recently driver training has taken the form of bondu bashing! **Cpl Pete Latham** and **Sig Dave** (Jock) **Gillespie** mapped out a vehicle cross country course in the local training area. Members of the MT and Radio sections then had a morning's training with several lessons being learnt. The most notable one by **LCpl Fred Steel** whose transmission jammed whilst he was negotiating a fairly steep slope (sounds painful); anyway thanks to REME assistance supplied by Dhekelia Workshops he was able to carry on and complete the course.

Congratulations go to **Sig Dave Gillespie** on passing his Class 1 course and good luck to **Sig Steve** (Wurz) **Corner** and **Simon** (Lightning) **Peters** who go on their upgrading courses in the near future.

From *L to R:* Sig Boris Cadwallader, Sgt Keith Bridger, Sig Wurz Corner, Lt Nicky Thomas, Cpl Pete Latham, Sig Ian Richardson, Sig 'Lightning' Peters and Sig Dave Gillespie

Sig 'Lightning' Peters and Sig Gary Price taking the 'coffin' fence in fine style!

265 (KSY) Sig Sqn (V)
Bexley Heath

FROM 265 (KSY) SIG SQN (V)
KSY?

The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry of course! We were originally raised as volunteer troops of horse in 1794, and since then we have fought with distinction as cavalry, as artillery, as infantry and as armour. We joined the Royal Corps in 1969 and now have three troops—884 Tp at Brighton and 890 and 905 Tps at Bexleyheath with SHQ. Our Orbat is:-

OC	**Maj Ian Cobbold**
2IC	**Capt Paul Acda**
PSO	**Capt Jim Esson**
OC 884 Tp	**Capt Graham Payne**
OC 890 Tp	**2Lt Dave Hewer**
OC 905 Tp	**Lt Mandy Dunn WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 Tony Allibone**
TSI (884 Tp)	**WO2 Brian Eason**
PSI	**SSgt Eddie Marsh**
PSI Tech	**Sgt Dave Tungate**

WORKING . . .

1982 has been one of our most successful years. Four of our recruits passed out top of their course—two at Catterick and two at Guildford—and four of our DTGs successfully completed the Class 1 course at Deepcut, **Sgt Lyn Heyne** getting an 'A' pass. As part of 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt (V) we took part in the annual series of regimental training weekends at Crowborough and gained more, and higher, passes in the trade tests there than any other squadron.

AND PLAYING

We went back to Crowborough in June to do battle for the inter-squadron championship confident in the knowledge that

'What do points make?
'Prizes!'
'What do prizes make?'
'Pints!!'
'What do pints make?'
'HEADACHES!!!'

We won a decisive victory, finishing first and second in the men's military skills, first and second in the WRAC military skills, first in the men's drill and second in the WRAC drill. Certain highlights stand out: 884 Troop WRAC (Appleby's Amazons) thundering round Crowborough in the two and a half mile stretcher race—*in step* the whole way; 905 Tp men (Wright's Rangers) in the same event—*out of step* the whole way; 905 Tp WRAC (Tickner's Trotters) urging the assault course to go forth and multiply—the wall had no father, the water jump should acquire some brothers and sisters, and the wall (second time round) could provide the equipment; and the men of 890 Tp (Hewer's Heroes) *tangoing* across a stream in the command task (They wore boots, lightweights and blue tracksuit tops, but no sequins).

CROSS COUNTRY

The season started off well, with the Squadron winning the first of the Cyprus Combined Services league races, and coming second in the next. However after eight races the larger Garrisons and RAF sides proved the stronger and the Squadron 'A' team finished a creditable fourth overall, from more than thirty teams. The squad was larger this year with the following running in the A and B teams:- **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey, Sgts Mal Geer, Mick Wenham, Cpls Terry Crosby, Chris Pugh, LCpls Matt Helm, Spike Hughes, Sigs Jim Burgess, Andy Wagner, Paul Cutts.** With **Turvey**, **Geer** and **Crosby** all representing the Garrison.

Individual honours went to **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** who finished second overall in the league behind another Royal Signals runner, **Cpl Chris Laycock** of 9 Sig Regt. The tables were turned though when, this year, **WO2 Turvey** beat **Cpl Laycock** to become the All Island X-Country Champion (thanks to all the cheering and urging on from the Squadron members scattered around the bondu of course!).

WO2 (FofS) John Turvey receiving his award from Col D. McCord for winning the All Island Cyprus Cross Country Championship

The ladies of the Squadron have been represented by OC Comms **Lt Nicky Thomas** who was a member of the Dhekelia Ladies side which won the X-Country league. She has now taken over the running of the team after the departure of **Mrs Sue Catterall** (ex 262 Sig Sqn).

Both men's and ladies' teams are now preparing for the annual road races, finishing the winter season with the Cyprus marathon on 20 March.

BADMINTON

The Squadron annual badminton competition held in Dec was organised by **Cpl Eddie Grattidge.** Several new stars appeared out of the woodwork giving some of the old stars a bit of a shock in the early rounds. The mens singles was won by **Cpl Eddie Grattidge** from **Sgt Martin Leighfield** after a hard fought final. The ladies singles was won by **Mrs Terry Chambers.** Other winners were **Sgt Dave Critchlow, Cpl Terry Crosby** and **Pte Sally Harbour.**

'Never mind who's listening, catch this . . . log!' 905 Tp, WRAC on the assault course

'How far's the home straight, Staff?' 905 Tp on the stretcher race

CHICHESTER MARCH

Over a third of the squadron took part in the Chichester March in August, most opting for the 40km route. The 890 Troop team sang over most of those hot and dusty kilometres, bursting into 'We're singing in the rain' after a welcome shower from the Mayor of Chichester's garden hose. We had hoped to raise £500 from sponsors, but thanks to generous support and the hard sell we actually managed £1000. **LCpl Mary Dunsdon** alone raised £200, and in November she presented **Brig J. P. Hart OBE,** Commander 2 Sig Bde, with £900 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and £100 for the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

Brig J. P. Hart with some of the Chichester marchers at Bexleyheath

ANNUAL CAMP

Despite the postponement of Exercise *Hard Rock* we had an active and rewarding fortnight communicating from locations scattered throughout the south-east before regrouping at Dibgate for a day off in Boulogne—duty-free, thanks to our tame Customs Officers. After the calm, the storm—an escape and evasion exercise, with bound, gagged and blind-folded prisoners of both sexes undergoing interrogation in depth. Where did our PSO learn the techniques?

SOCCER CHAMPIONS—AGAIN

'We are the champions!' 890 Tp pose for a victory photo

In December the squadron soccer team captained by **Cpl Adrian Rabot** beat 55 Ord Co 5—0 to win the London District Championship—for the third time running! **Cpl Rabot** and **Sig Michael Esson** have since been selected to represent the TA, and the KSY team is looking forward to visiting 22 Sig Regt at the end of May.

DIXIE D11

Finally, signaller-songwriter Sgt Dave Hannam of 890 Tp has set the D11 tuning drill to music and claims the last word in this month's 'Wire'—

Now listen chaps,
I've got a way,
To tune our sets a musical way,
Listen in, listen in, listen in,
n' I'll recount it

You earth your set the well known way,
Now you really earn your pay,
Here we go, here we go, here we go,
Let's tune up

I put dummy load in the D11 hole,
And set it up as I'd been told,
Turn it up, turn it up, turn it up,
To full power

I pressed my key and all was fine,
The SWR was right in line,
Relax, relax, relax,
Get coax

I put my coax in the D11's hole,
And sent a tape to the north pole,
INT? INT? INT?
ZBZ!

The answer back we got was fives,
The OC really came alive,
Put it through! Put it through! Put it through!
Remote it

To remote a set is really fine,
You flick a switch and it's on line,
Bed time, bed time, bed time,
'Change frequency'

The process now begins again,
Ain't it all a b---- shame,
Turn it down, turn it down, turn it down,
Retune it

I retuned my set at a quarter to three,
Some rotten b---- drunk my tea,
What a life, what a life, what a life,
I love it

The Army has a valiant band,
the best Signals Troop in the land,
Yes we are, yes we are, yes we are,
'890'

STOP PRESS! OPERATION *BLAZING SADDLES* HAS BEGUN!

Two KSY officers, **Lt Mandy Dunn** (WRAC) and **2Lt Paul Wright,** set off from Bexleyheath TAC on 16 November to pedal 4000 miles—on a tandem—towing a trailer—across the Sahara!!! Their first dispatch, dated 15 December, is reproduced in full:-

'Here we are in Algiers about to begin our desert crossing. No problems—had a good trip across France through snow, rain and fog. Lots of good old vin rouge en route and a touch of Calvados. All went down well with compo curry! Have a good Christmas. Think of us out here in some desert oasis! Love, Mandy and Paul.'

Their Christmas present from the squadron is a survival manual called 'No need to die'. But will they, anyhow? Find out in the next issue of 'Wire'!

Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Richard Smith** (UK Army)
2IC	**Kapt Jan Vanherle** (NL Army)
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** (UK Army)
OC Comms Troop	**WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford** (UK Army)
OC Admin Troop	**HFW Rick v Ess** (GE Army)
IC Wksps	**Adjt Maurice Engelen** BE Army)
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Graham Pollard** (UK Army)
Typist	**Mrs Dee Smith** (UK)

IN AND OUT

We welcome to the Squadron **SSgt John Tope** and **Janet, SSgt Paul Smith** and **Jennifer.**

We say farewell to SSgt Graham Campbell and **Peggy, SSgt Richard Davis** and **Janet;** good luck to them in their new postings.

CHARITY YEAR

Early in 1982 the OC **Maj Richard Smith** decided it would be a good idea to have a Squadron 'Year for Charity'. Our aim was to raise BF 250,000 to be divided equally between four National Charities. To raise the money the Squadron decided to hold its first ever Open Day, which combined with a Grand Charity Draw raised BF 217,000.

As the Corps Band were on tour in September it was also decided to hold a Tattoo within Ambiorix Kaserne. After many weeks planning and a lot of hard work by all members of the Squadron we were rewarded with perfect weather conditions and on the night of 8 September over 800 people watched a really professional show. The music was provided by The Band of 1st Belgian Corps, The Harmonie Wilhemina, The Royal Corps of Signals Band and Pipers of the 32 Sig Regt (V). To support the music of the bands there was display provided by The Reyvenhof Dressage Display Team. As a finale to the evening all spectators were invited to attend a Cheese and Wine Reception, with a further performance by the Pipers.

BERLIN MARATHON

To complete the year three members of the Squadron, namely, the **SSM Mick Gue, SSgt Graham Campbell,** and **Cpl Graham Scott** ran in the Berlin Marathon. All three finished the course with creditable times and for their efforts managed to raise BF 20,000.

FINAL TOTAL

With the year of Charity over, and our target achieved on 2 December, we were able to present four cheques for BF 90,000 each to the nominated Charities. These were:

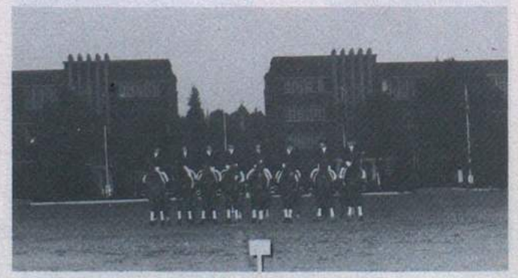
Belgium	: WIRIC—Education and Reception Centre in St-Truiden for handicapped children
Germany	: SOLDATENHILFSERK—For Soldiers in Need
The Netherlands	: The Netherlands Association for guide dogs for the blind
The United Kingdom	: SSAFA—The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families' Association

LCpl Hill presenting a cheque for BF 90,000 to Mrs Hild, wife of Gen Hild who represented SSAFA at the presentation of 2 Dec

Band of the 1st Belgian Corps

Pipes of the 32nd (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)

The Harmonie Wilhemina



The Reyvenhof Dressage Display Team

Association News

FORMER PENSIONERS

Our thanks are due to our Regimental Pay Office, Taunton, who have reported the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

03386160	**Cpl S. Reddy**
02313012	**Sig J. H. H. Willis**
23783712	**Cpl P. G. Sale**
02549747	**SSgt G. H. Young-Johns**
02316504	**Cpl L. A. Toop**
02315475	**WO2 E. F. Pearce**
02315913	**Cpl J. C. Teague**
01850423	**SSgt W. Paskins**
06394637	**Sig G. A. Smith**
02310357	**SSgt W. J. Gavins**
22522279	**Sgt J. T. Murphy**
02317970	**WO2 R. Nash**
04260264	**WO2 H. A. Hayward**
23473917	**Sig B. Morgan**
02323056	**SSgt A. J. Randle**

LINCOLN BRANCH

Report by I. Durrant Esq BEM
Chairman: **Jack Hircoe**
Secretary: **Frank Robinson**

The branch meets the first Monday of every month at the Royal British Legion Club, Bailgate, Lincoln. Membership is quite strong but we are always on the lookout for new blood. Our most recent member being **Mr Paul Morgan BEM**, ex Cpl EW Operator. At the last AGM, members decided that the monthly meeting was over too soon and that it should be followed by some form of entertainment. We have been very fortunate in being so close to 12 Air Defence Regiment RA who provided the Rapier air defence for the Falklands conflict. A team from the Regiment led by **WO2 (BSM) Brown** gave us a talk and slide presentation on their part in the operations which was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Having got the Army's viewpoint the RAF were asked if they could spare the time to give a presentation and again we were fortunate in being surrounded in Lincoln by airfields one of which provided the Vulcans that carried out the bombing sorties on the airstrip at Port Stanley. **Sqn Ldr John Reeves** turned up on the night and proved to be one of the pilots who carried out one of the sorties. Once more it was a great success with the Sqn Ldr impressing us all with his great enthusiasm.

The next presentation will be on crime prevention by the Divisional Crime Prevention Officer showing us how to safeguard our homes. A curry buffet and disco is planned shortly so the entertainments secretary, **Jack Roome**, is being kept busy.

The photograph shows our chairman and secretary (centre) with members of 12 AD Regt.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by E. W. Vigurs Esq

It is with deep sorrow and regret that this Branch reports the death of our greatly respected comrade and very good friend **Maj J. F. McQuade. Mac,** as he was so very well and widely known had been our guide and mentor and will be sorely missed.

The Funeral Services at the Church and at the Cemetery were very well attended and very impressive, mainly due to the part undertaken by representatives from 10 Sig Regt who provided the pall bearers and escort. The deepest sympathy of the Branch members goes to **Barbara** in her sad loss; the spirit of **Mac** will continue to sustain the Branch.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impression in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appear to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

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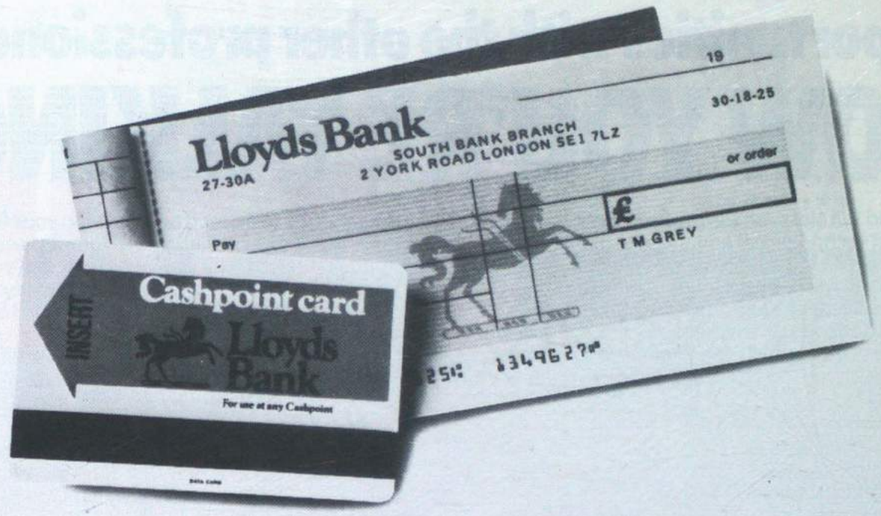

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in conjunction with COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)

May 1983

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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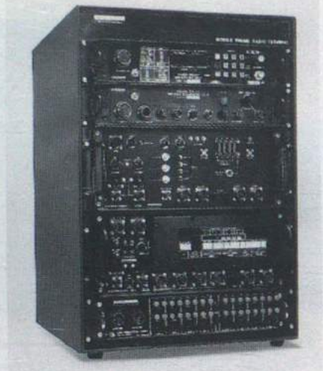

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RADIO AND TV GUIDE Page 15
OUR PET E.T. IS HERE! Page 3
ELSIE TANNER SPEAKS Page 6

TOP AWARD FOR BAOR CH

NEARLY 60 BFG personnel past and present have been named in the New Year's Honours list. Commander-in-Chief General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen is honoured as Knight Grand Cross. Colonel Colin Carrington late Royal Corps of Transport is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Group Captain Kenneth Hunter OBE, RAF at HQ RAF Germany is appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Honours list for Germany is as follows but does not include awards to civilian members of BFG as these are not notified through a central agency.

New Year's Honours List BAOR

Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath as Knight Grand Cross: General Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC Gen, late Scots Guards, Commander-in-Chief.

Appointments to the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as Commander: Colonel Colin Edward George Carrington, late Royal Corps of Transport, formerly Deputy Chief Headquarters 1st Division.

Six Ap... Empire ... Sergeant David Ale... Arbon, Irish Guards, now ... Guards Depot; Sergeant Robert Charles Barfield, RPC, 4th Armoured Division Headquarters & Signals Regiment; Sergeant Martin Joseph Brown, RAOC, HQ 11 Armoured Brigade; Staff Sergeant George William Burroughs, RE, 35 Engineer Regiment; Sergeant Anthony Clegg, REME, 71 Aircraft Workshops Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Corporal Malcolm Adrian Connop, The Royal Green Jackets, 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets; Staff Sergeant Peter Mark Cook, REME, 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire & Wiltshire); Local Warrant Officer Class 2 Peter John Cosgrove, The Parachute Regiment, Headquarters Dunsedorf Station; Corporal Paul Desmond Fairhurst, RE, formerly Headquarters 4th Armoured Division, now 42 Survey Engineer Regiment; Sergeant Michael John Hadsley, REME, formerly ... Force in 1961, and has since become ... attack role. ...ying himself, and to ...mination" the citation

Cont'd Page 2

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

Printed in Great Britain

THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
May 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No 3
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
Remittances should be made payable to:
Royal Signals Association

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE
Our cover picture was taken in Mar, at the 'Farewell to Hounslow' Parade on the relocation of 10th Sig Regt to Erskine Barracks, Wilton. It shows the Commanding Officer Lt Col Peter Webster, the 2IC Maj Ray Windmill and OC 2 Sqn Maj David Podevin escorting the Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Brian Price. The Adjt, Capt Lynn Relph, holds the Certificate of Adoption of the Regiment by the Borough in 1969. Full report on page 248.

THE DEPUTY SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF REVIEWS CORPS AFFAIRS

Brigadier J. Westlake, Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief, spoke to Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on 16 April. We are pleased to publish the substance of his address, with the knowledge that it will be of interest to our readers.

INTRODUCTION

This gathering of Royal Signals Association Representatives has traditionally provided the opportunity to review the achievements of the Corps and the problems it has faced during the past year. Since General Birtwistle spoke last year, just two weeks after Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, a great deal has happened with the major event being the part Royal Signals played in the successful recapture of those islands. It is therefore appropriate that I start by saying a few words about the South Atlantic.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Most of you will have read the lively account of the operation that appeared in the Wire and therefore I do not propose to chronicle the events that led up to the liberation of Port Stanley. Rather I will aim to highlight a number of significant facts so that you will appreciate the degree of Corps involvement in the operations. Over 600 members of the Corps deployed with the Task Force and roughly half this number provided support from the UK Base. The wide range of communications activities in which our soldiers were involved covered:

The provision of rear link detachments with Infantry, Gurkha and Parachute Battalions.

The manning of radio rooms in merchant ships supporting the Task Force.

The hasty formation of ship Signal Troops for HMS Fearless and Intrepid.

Covert communcations in support of Special Forces.

Tactical communications for General Moore's HQ once it was ashore.

Strategic communications, using satellites and HF radio from the area of operations back to the UK.

The communications typically found at Brigade HQ for 5 Infantry Brigade and some manpower support for similar communications for HQ 3 Commando Brigade.

Communications to the UK, and within Ascension Island as this Island was developed as the staging post to support operations.

Some electronic warfare and SIGINT support.

Finally, in the UK our soldiers, both regular and TA were used to bring Army Commcens to a 24hr manning basis, to help out in Naval Commcens and to activate communication links to ports and airfields.

You will agree that this is a very wide range of activities. Throughout the operation our soldiers displayed the professionalism, initiative and resourcefulness that was needed to communicate in the very difficult circumstances in which they found themselves. They were superb and we can all be very proud of them and their achievements. Sadly I must remind you that eight of our Corps lost their lives during the operation. Four young NCOs, serving with 264 Signal Squadron who support the SAS and an NCO from 19 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron died when their helicopter crashed into the sea whilst being transferred from ship to ship; Lieutenant Jim Barry, serving as a platoon commander with 2 PARA, died at Goose Green and Major Mike Forge and SSgt Baker of 5 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron perished when their helicopter was shot down while on a resupply mission to an isolated rebroadcast station. Proudly I can inform you that the following honours were awarded to officers and soldiers of the Corps who took part in the operation:

Military Medal	*Sergeant Mather*
	Corporal Brookes
Member of the British Empire	*Major Gale*
	Major Stuart
	Major Taylor
	WO2 Yeomans
British Empire Medal	*SSgt Griffiths*
Mention in Despatches	*Major Butler*

You will want to know what is happening now in the Falklands, nearly a year after the war was won. From the men sent south from many different units we formed 266 Signal Squadron in Port Stanley early in August of last year; I am sure many of you will recall that the title '266 Signal Squadron' was last used in Borneo. The squadron is presently 220 strong and provides tactical communications for the land forces, radio relay circuits between the garrison locations and helps to operate the joint message centre which two months ago handled its half millionth message since the end of hostilities. Communications to the UK are currently being routed by satellite and are terminated on the satellite ground stations that left the UK with the Task Force over a year ago. By the end of this year we expect to have replaced these equipments with a permanent satellite station and by late next year the radio relay system, which is labour-intensive, will be replaced by a commercial microwave system with digital telephone exchanges at all locations. These are busy times for those who are serving in the Falklands and they achieve a great deal during their five month tours.

OTHER OPERATIONS

This has been a busy year for operations and as you will know when the British Army deploys we are intimately involved in providings its communications. Firstly let me turn to Northern Ireland. Our task there is not an easy one and men from our 3 squadrons are always busy, we were delighted to see their efforts rewarded with 2 MBEs, 1 BEM, 7 Mention in Despatches and 2 Commander Northern Ireland Commendations in the last two Northern Ireland Honours Lists.

Last year the Signal Officer-in-Chief mentioned that a small British Force had deployed to the Sinai and that they were using civil communications. It was recently decided to give the commander a rear link into Cyprus in case of difficulty with the civilian communications. Accordingly Cpl Armstrong has been sent to the Sinai with a manpack HF radio and he operates a regular schedule into Cyprus to test the communications. He is the smallest rear link detachment in the Army.

You will have read in your papers that Britain has sent a contribution to the Multi-national Force in the Lebanon. This is a very different situation to our contribution in the Sinai and efficient rear link communications are essential. Lieutenant Mark Campbell, and nine men from 30 Signal Regiment, deployed with C Squadron the Queen's Dragoon Guards to Beruit. Their primary task is to provide rear link communications which are terminated in Cyprus. Their first message on landing in Beirut was transmitted using a manpack radio and announced that 'The Swan had landed', the swan being the Regimental insignia of their regiment. One of the more interesting tasks tackled by Lieutenant Campbell was to negotiate details of a liaison radio net to link the British headquarters with that of a local Israeli unit so that any misunderstanding involving the movement of Israeli forces could rapidly be resolved. Although the deployment was initially for 3 months it now seems likely that this will be extended which will give our soldiers experience of serving in such an unusual operation.

Despite all this activity we are still ready to send a squadron to Namibia should the United Nations Training and Advisory Group be sent to supervise the independence of that unhappy country.

BFG TV

Turning now to an interesting aspect of peacetime communications, Royal Signals have been intimately involved in the provision of television for the British Forces stationed in Germany. On 17 December 1982 the then pre-recorded service went live and it is now possible for programmes from any of the four United Kingdom television channels to be broadcast direct to British servicemen and their families in Germany. Credit for this achievement lies with Major General Hild, Commander Communications in BAOR, and his staff notably Major Bernard Strange who has been involved with the project since its inception. Everyone in BAOR, including the families, now have the opportunity to see the ITV news at 6.45pm and the BBC news at 10pm (Germany time) and there is no doubt that this communciation achievement has brought everyone in the forces in Germany, including Berlin, much closer to home.

ROYAL EVENTS

Our Colonel in Chief, HRH The Princess Anne, has continued to display a lively interest in her Corps. She dined with her officers at the International Press Centre last May and this was the first time that our Colonel in Chief had attended such a function since 1954. She attended a reception at Blandford where she was briefed on our involvement in the Falkland Islands operation and met many of those who took part. She also had a busy and successful visit to the units of 1(BR) Corps during June. More recent engagements have included attending the Corps Committee farewell dinner for General Peter Bradley when he retired as Master of Signals and a visit to 33 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in Liverpool.

During the next few months Princess Anne will visit the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong and will join your Association at Catterick for their reunion weekend in June and I am sure that she will receive a warm welcome from you all.

CORPS ORGANISATION AND MANNING

I do not intend to review our deployment throughout the world which, except for the creation of 266 Signal Squadron in the Falkland Islands, has not changed greatly. There have been some adjustments to our organisation which may interest you and I will summarise them as briefly as possible.

In order to make room for the manpower required for enhancements armour, artillery and EW support in BAOR it was decided to return 2 Division and 24 Brigade to the United Kingdom. On 2 March, Brigadier Claude Fairweather, who commanded 2 Division Signal Regiment when they left the United Kingdom for India in 1942, greeted Lt Col Mike Taylor at Hull docks as the first vehicles of the regiment disembarked on their way to their new home in Imphal Barracks, York. 2 Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment will leave a small forward troop, 656 Signal Troop, in BAOR to support the small planning headquarters which will remain in Lubbecke. 24 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron has moved to Catterick and ceases to exist as an independent squadron, bring absorbed by 2 Division Signal Regiment.

In the United Kingdom we have also had some change. Regimental Headquarters of 10 Signal Regiment has moved from Hounslow to Wilton and amalgamated with the UKLF Support Regiment. The regiment's new title is 10 Signal Regiment (UKLF Support) and in addition to its new responsibilities in Wilton the Regiment retains its squadrons in Hounslow and Adlershot.

In Hong Kong the two independent squadrons of the Queen's Gurkha Signals are shortly to be formed into a regiment consisting of an RHQ and 3 squadrons. This will improve the operational flexibility of our communications in the colony.

Now to turn to manning. In his last address to you the Signal Officer-in-Chief gave you the good news that the Corps was fully up to strength for the first time since National Service. He also mentioned that there were some imbalances in our trade structure. Since last year we have formed 266 Signal Squadron which has increased the number of posts that we must fill. Our manning situation is still good, but we must view the future with concern. Our Corps will need yet more soldiers to man our PTARMIGAN trunk communication system to be introduced in 1985 and we are increasing our EW capability as well. During the next few years there will be fewer young men in the 16-20 age group from which we recruit and as the economy comes out of recession, the competition, with the UK electronics industry for the high grade young men that we seek will increase.

This is where I must ask for your help. You will know that each regular regiment has a geographical area of the United Kingdom in which it will recruit and last year the Signal Officer-in-Chief asked for your support for this scheme. This year I would again seek your support. I have arranged for a selection of our information literature to be made available to you today and in it you will find how further information may be obtained. Please make sure that young men who could benefit from a career in our Corps get pointed in the right direction, by doing this you will be helping the Corps to maintain high levels of manning during the next decade.

Finally, before I move on to Domestic Matters, a word about the Territorial Army. We are indeed fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and professional body of men and women serving in our Territorial Army units and without their support in voluntarily coming forward to help man commcens during the Falklands War messages would have been seriously delayed with consequences that we can all appreciate. We in the Corps fully identify with the One Army Concept and our Territorial Army units are the best possible advertisement for this concept.

DOMESTIC MATTERS

You will know that General John Badcock has taken over from General Peter Bradley as the Master of Signals. The Corps said an emotional farewell to General Peter and Peggy during November last year: his contribution to the Corps during his 12 years as Master was enormous. We look forward to the guidance that General John will give us and wish him a long and happy tour as Master.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief is due to change as well. General Archie Birtwistle is not yet sure which second career he will pursue but I am sure you will join me in wishing him well—under his leadership the Corps has gained tremedous standing in the Army during the past 2½ years. His successor, General Bob Benbow takes over on 11 June and you will see him at your Catterick reunion.

Our success on the sportsfield has continued; I will only highlight some of our major achievements:

Ski-ing. 22 Signal Regiment have once again come third in the Princess Marina Cup. One of their outstanding skiers is Corporal Philemon who came first in the Combined Individual Competition, winning the India Sports Board Cup and becoming the Overall Champion winning the Royal Greenjackets Cup.

Golf. The Corps team beat the Royal Engineers, the REME and the Royal Navy Communicators during the season. Major Harry Meekings has taken over from Staff Sergeant Carveth as Captain of Army Golf.

Swimming. 229 Signal Squadron won the Army Minor Units Swimming Cup for the 6th successive year.

Rugby. The Corps team has had a good season only being beaten once, by the REME. The team's captain, SSgt Johnson, has now played for 13 seasons and we have a number of young players to support our long serving stalwarts.

Soccer. 8 Signal Regiment won the Army six-a-side Soccer Championship.

Army Apprentice College. Finally our Apprentice College has had a most successful year on the sporting front. They are Junior Champions at Cross Country Running, White Water Canoeing, Rugby and Roller Cycling.

CONCLUSION

I hope from what I have said that you will have gained the impression that the Corps is in good order. We continue to adjust to the changes that occur in the Army and have gained confidence from our experiences in the Falkland Islands. It has been an honour for me to represent the Signal Officer-in-Chief today and address you, the branch representatives of the Association. We in the serving Corps greatly value the sense of family provided by our Association and thank you for your interest in our affairs and your generous financial assistance.

—From our "In" Tray—

VALE
MAJ GEN A. C. BIRTWISTLE CB CBE

On 10 Jun 1983, the regular Corps loses one of its best known and most popular figures. On that day, **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle** hands over after 2½ years as Signal Officer-in-Chief and will retire formally on 5 Aug on completion of 36 years service.

A straight, North-country man and down-to-earth soldier, **Gen Archie** has always been happiest among his soliders—as the many photographs in 'The Wire' testify. His career statistics are impressive by any standards. Apart from a year in Korea, where he was **Mentioned in Despatches**, he has served mainly in Germany and UK. As a young trials officer, he took BRUIN to BAOR, subsequently commanded 7 Sig Regt, and was appointed **OBE.** Thereafter, he filled the three most important posts in Royal Signals—being successively CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps, CSO BAOR and SOinC. In the process, he was promoted **CBE** and appointed a **CB.**

He has had 2½ turbulent years as SOinC, when the Army has gone through a period of self-examination and change. Who would have thought that the Corps could come out of this process as well as it has? Command and control is stronger than it was and electronic warfare is more in demand than ever. By **Gen Archie's** staunch leadership and sound, practical guidance, there is a growing awareness of where the Corps stands and the way ahead. What is more, through his constant travels around the Corps, he has brought the personal link between policies and people. He is a natural morale raiser who has given encouragement wherever he has gone. All of this has been possible by the support of his wife **Sylvia,** a much-loved person in her own right, and by his efficient and devoted staff.

No appreciation of **Gen Archie** would be complete without a few words about rugby. Throughout his career, he has devoted much of his time to the sport, as a player, trainer and latterly as an administrator. He captained the Corps side in its heyday from 1949 to 51. At Cambridge, he gave up the chance of a 'Blue', to captain the XL Club (the University Second XV). It is little wonder that under his leadership, 7 Sig Regt prospered as the rugby regiment of the Corps. But he has never lost his love for the game, while Deputy Commandant at Shrivenham he helped to train the College side and became Chairman of the Army Rugby Union. Finally, he finishes at the top of Army rugby, as he does in his career, as Deputy President of the ARU.

To **Gen Archie** and **Sylvia** we wish a long and happy retirement. He continues to serve the Corps as a Colonel Commandant and plans to live in his home at Romanby, near Northallerton. Those of us who know him well count ourselves fortunate to have had him as a leader and a friend.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during April, for service in Northern Ireland between August and October 1982.

BEM
Cpl G. R. Burrows

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Cpl G. Thursfield

PRISCILLA WELCH—MARATHON RUNNER

In our Corps magazine we regularly read of the feats of our Corps long distance runners. However, we believe that we have in NATO FSS, Shetland a champion, to lead the lot. She is RSMs wife, 38 year old **Priscilla Welch. Priscilla** took up jogging in Oslo at the age of 35 under the watchful eye of marathon runner, BAAB coach and husband **RSM David Welch.** After training on Oslo's icy roads, **Priscillas** London Marathon debut was in 1980. In this race **Priscilla** returned a time of 2hrs 59mins and that was the start of a career that seems destined to take her to the top in this gruelling sport.

Although **Priscilla** has never had the opportunity to be a member of a big club with all the attendant facilities and competition, her will to succeed has overcome horrendous weather conditions and very high travelling expenses to mainland events. The highlights of the 1982 season were gaining 12th place in the Scottish open cross country championship after only one weeks training, and winning the veteran title. **Priscilla** then went on to win the Caithness Marathon, runner up in the British Pony Marathon having pulled a muscle whilst in the lead, and culminating the season with a great win in the 'Scotts' Glasgow Marathon gaining revenge on her early defeat by **Lesley Watson,** in a time of 2hrs 46mins 40secs. This was achieved on a hilly course with a strong wind blowing.

Priscilla ended 1982 by taking all the Ladies awards of the British Marathoners Runners Club, for marathon and 25km, both overall and veteran age groups. Unfortunately she just missed the British squad for 1983 by one place but in the words of coach and husband, **'Priscilla** now has the base and potential to get right to the top in this sport. However, a more scientific approach to speed training is necessary rather than the hit and miss tactics made necessary by Shetland conditions'.

Photograph shows Priscella displaying a few of the trophies won in 1982

STOP PRESS London Marathon - 2 hours 39 mins 29 secs
Priscilla has now improved on these performances with a tenth place in the London Marathon and fourth British woman in the Championship. We now await to hear of her selection for the British team for the World Championships in Helsinki in August or the European Championships in Laredo Spain in June. Husband **David** finished in 2 hrs. 49 mins on his 40th birthday.

It has now been confirmed that **Priscilla** has been selected to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the European Marathon Championships on 19 June in Laredo, Spain.

JIMMY IS A MUCH TRAVELLED FELLOW . . .

Report by Lt Col G. W. Young
Formerly British Exchange Officer
USA Signal Center, Fort Gordon

WITH THE BEST PEOPLE

'Jimmy is a much travelled fellow—he mixes with the best of people.' These were the opening words on a discarded video tape that came into my possession for re-use during the first week of my Exchange tour in America. I was delighted to find that the tape was a copy of a film that recorded two ceremonies that took place in 1945.

PRESENTED BY THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The film continued that 'Jimmy' was an extremely fine bronze, 'liberated' by Royal Signals soldiers, under the command of **Maj Gen Nalder,** near Bologna during the Italian Campaign and subsequently shipped to England. The first part of the film covered the presentation of 'Signalman Jimmy' to the United States Army Signal Corps on behalf of Royal Signals by **HRH The Princess Royal.**

A parade was held on Vimy Square, Catterick Camp on 27 Sep 1945, attended by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen Phillips, Brig Carey** the Commander of Catterick Garrison and senior officers of the Corps and senior officers of the US Signal Corps, led by **Maj Gen F. H. Lanerhan Jnr,** Chief Signal Officer, European Theatre. The ceremonial parade included platoons of officer cadets from 150 Royal Signals OCTU, one platoon of NCOs and men with long war service and a platoon of recruits. The photograph shows the platoon of recruits with their platoon commander, **Officer Cadet** (later **Maj Gen) Jimmy Jackson.**

Officer Cadet (later Maj Gen) A. J. Jackson commanding a platoon of recruits and saluting HRH The Princess Royal at the presentation of 'Jimmy' to the US Army Signal Corps at Catterick 27 September 1945

Photo courtesy of Northern Echo

In her speech the **Princess Royal** said that the presentation was being made as a mark of admiration of the work of the US Signal Corps and of appreciation of their wholehearted co-operation during the war. She hoped that the figure of Mercury, being the badge of Royal Signals, would always help to keep afresh the memory of the many close associations and friendships that had been formed during the previous four years. In accepting the statue, **Gen Lanerhan** said that it would occupy a most honoured place in the halls of the Signal School at Fort Monmouth.

FORT MONMOUTH CEREMONY IN 1945

The second part of the film covered the ceremony at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey on 14 Nov 1945 in the rotunda of the US Army Eastern Signal School when **Brig A. C. Sykes,** who was then serving on the staff of the Chief Signal Officer, unveiled 'Jimmy' in the presence of **Maj Gen H. C. Ingles,** Chief Signal Officer, US Army. In his speech **Gen Ingles** said that he hoped that 'Jimmy' would continuously be a reminder of the brilliant co-operation that existed between the British Corps of Signals and the US Army Signal Corps during the war so that the spirit of co-operation might continue in peace. He hoped that every officer at the Signal School and every enlisted man at the Enlisted Speciality School would be reminded of that spirit when they saw the statue as they passed through the rotunda each day.

MOVE TO FORT GORDON

During the early seventies, the centre for signals training moved from Fort Monmouth to a camp that had been built near Augusta at the beginning of the war, Fort Gordon in Georgia. In 1974 this was given the joint title of the US Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. A silver 'Jimmy' table centre-piece that had been presented on the occasion of the US Army Signal centenary in 1960 was moved to the officers club at Fort Gordon. In 1976 one of the buildings in the Officers Department was converted into the Officers School main presentation hall and named as the Royal Signals Hall by **Maj Gen Tighe** when he visited as SOinC.

During the 37 years that 'Jimmy' sat in the rotunda he was seen by countless thousands of Signal Corps personnel, firstly when Fort Monmouth proudly bore the title 'Home of the Signal Corps' and after, by those employed on research, development and material readiness under the new title of the Communications-Electronics Center of the US Army. However for some ten years the officers and soldiers under training, for whom **Gen Ingles** had said he hoped 'Jimmy' would be an inspiration, had been unaware of the existence of this very fine and symbolic memento. Having resurrected the film record, the scene was set during 1982 to generate a mood and a willingness between the old and the new 'Homes of the Corps' to remedy this situation. **Maj Gen D. M. Babers,** the Commanding General of the Communications-Electronics Command, when agreeing to the move to Fort Gordon, said that he was sure that the rededication of 'Jimmy' to the spirt of Anglo-American solidarity would begin a fruitful association with Fort Gordon.

Allied Staff at the US Army Signal Centre Fort Gordon Nov 1982

Rear Standing: Maj Chuck Hooker (Canadian Liaison Officer), Lt Col Paulo Ehl (German Liaison Officer), WO2 (Foreman) Chip Canning (British Exchange Warrant Officer), Lt Col Gordon Young (British Exchange Officer), SM Helmut Rolle (German Liaison Staff).
Front: Lt Patrick Henry (French Liaison Officer), SSgt Juergen Barthelme (German Liaison Staff), WO2 (Yeoman) Trevor Evans (British Exchange Warrant Officer)

Photo courtesy of The Semaphore

RE-DEDICATION

The move and rededication were arranged to coincide with the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief to America at the beginning of Nov 1982. While at Fort Gordon, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle** gave an address on 'Royal Signals' to an audience of some 800 staff of the Signal Centre and student officers and NCO's of the Officer School. In thanking him for his talk, **Maj Gen Henry J. Schumacher,** the Commanding General of Fort Gordon and Head of the Signal Corps, invited the audience and **Gen Birtwistle** to watch and partake in a bit of history. An edited version of the 1945 film was then shown on video monitor screens around the auditorium and, as this ended, the stage curtains opened to reveal 'Jimmy' in all his glory and brilliantly illuminated standing within a colourful crescent of the flags of the 50 states and flanked by the flags of USA, Union Jack, US Army Signal Corps, Royal Signals and the General's pennant. The US Army Signal Corps Band played their Signal Corps march and a superb rendering of 'Begone Dull Care' which was all the more amazing considering that during the preceding 30 hours the music parts had been transcribed from the record of our band.

Maj Gen Henry J. Schumacher and Maj Gen Birtwistle at the ceremony to mark the move of 'Jimmy' from Fort Monmouth to Fort Gordon on 4 November 1982

AFTER THIS MOVING SHORT CEREMONY, SOinC SPOKE AS FOLLOWS:-

Maj Gen Schumacher, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have just seen extracts from the speeches and ceremonies associated with the presentation of a bronze statue of 'Jimmy'—or more properly Mercury—to the officers of the United States Army Signal Corps by the officers of the Royal Corps of Signals in 1945.

It is relevant that this presentation was made shortly after the end of World War Two while memories of the total co-operation and comradeship between our two Corps during that war were still fresh.

It was appropriate that the statue's first home should have been Fort Monmouth, the then home of the Signal School and equally appropriate, through the co-operation of the Commanding General at Fort Monmouth, that the statue should now come to Fort Gordon.

Close co-operation and comradeship between nations fighting as Allies is perhaps a natural outcome of hardships and victories shared. However in time of peace, it is easy for this spirit to become muted in the course of time, as national self-interest tends to grow more dominant. And yet, we remain at peace because the NATO Alliance has been successful in deterring aggression in Europe. If we are to keep this peace, co-operation between us as Allies is as important now as ever before.

Although the size of our two Corps are different, our responsibilities are broadly similar and our resources of manpower and equipment are both constrained. Paradoxically, advances in Technology only increase the demands placed on communications and we both have a constant struggle to meet our respective armies' requirements within the resources allocated to us. In such circumstances it is common-sense for us to co-operate wherever and whenever this is to our mutual advantage.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be invited to rededicate Mercury here in his new home at Fort Gordon and I am sure that he will be regarded as a symbol not only of past co-operation and comradeship between our two Corps of Signals but also of the close links both professional and personal that are so important to us now and in the future.'

VIDEO TAPE

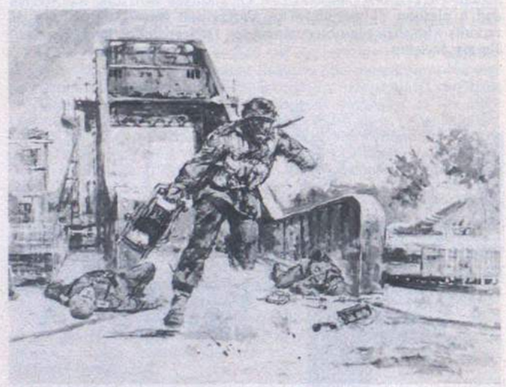
A video tape covering the 1945 and 1982 presentations of 'Jimmy' and covering some of his travels has been presented to the SOinC and is to be placed in the Corps museum at Blandford.

'GO TO IT' A NEW CORPS PAINTING

When the Corps formed in 1920, the Sappers most generously donated to the Corps a group of oil paintings depicting RE Signallers during the 1914-18 War. The most significant and best known canvas of this group is undoubtedly 'Through' by **Sgt Franc Martin.** The Corps Committee, 1979, decided that the future need and policy for Corps historical paintings should be identified. As a result, a Pictures Committee was formed in early 1980 to recommend suitable subjects for paintings and suitable artists to undertake the commissions.

In January 1982, the Pictures Committee agreed that the subject for the 1982 painting should be on a theme similar to 'Through' but in a World War 2 setting. It was to be an act of gallantry by a Royal Signals soldier, for which he won an award. It was, also, to be an act which was performed during a well known battle in which the Corps played a significant part; finally, it was required to have a communications theme. From a short list of suggestions, it was decided that **Cpl Waters** laying line under enemy fire across the Caen Canal Bridge at Benouville on 6 June 1944 should be the subject chosen.

The selected artist, **Peter Archer,** enjoys an international reputation and is considered to be amongst the most eminent painters of military subjects. His paintings hang in countries as far afield as Canada and South Africa as well as with Regiments and Corps in UK and Germany. In June 1982, **Peter Archer** visited Blandford and accepted the commission.



Preliminary watercolour study by Peter Archer

This painting depicts **Cpl Thomas Water** in June 1944 on the Caen Canal bridge breaking from the cover of the bridge parapet and, under accurate sniper fire, dashing towards 7 Parachute Battalion's location. In his right hand is the line layer which had been dropped on the bridge by the wounded lineman. On the ground lies a Telephone Set L left by a lineman, when wounded. The two dead Germans were killed during the original attack. At the far side of the bridge in the background are two of the four gliders which delivered the coup de main party with pin point accuracy. The painting also depicts sniper fire striking the ground. This was coming from the maternity hospital building at Benouville a few hundred yards on **Cpl Waters'** left. The building on the far left of the painting housed a German bunker which was overrun in the initial attack. The clouds of smoke in the distance come from shell fire on DZ'N' near Ranville which was used as the dropping zone for 5 Parachute Brigade. Common to all Airborne soldiers is the toggle rope around his waist and on his right thigh is a sheathed fighting knife. His airborne wings and badge of rank are clearly visible on the right sleeve of his parachute smock.

5 Parachute Brigade Signal Section, in the vanguard of the assault on Europe, claim with great pride that the line laid by **Cpl Waters** to 7 Parachute Battalion on the morning of D Day was the first laid on the Continent following the invasion. **Capt Radmore** recalls that, 'the outstanding features of this action were not only the extreme gallantry of **Cpl Water** but his initiative without orders from me, to appreciate the importance of this line link and take it on his own responsibility to get the line through at mortal risk to himself. **Cpl Waters'** action that day set the highest standards for myself and the rest of the Section which I had the privilege of commanding on an historic, thrilling and successful airborne operation in the biggest amphibious landing in history.' **Cpl Waters** fulfilled in every respect those immortal words of his Divisional Commander—'GO TO IT'. His courage, dash and determination in the face of considerable odds were in the finest traditions of Royal Signals. For this action, **Cpl Thomas Waters** was awarded the Military Medal. He died in 1965.

A more comprehensive statement covering this historic action will be included in the Summer Issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

500 prints of this magnificent painting are available for sale, including 100 signed by the artist, **Peter Archer**. Selling prices will be as follows:-

	Despatched	*Collected from The Museum Blandford without packing & postage*
Signed:	£15	£14
Unsigned	£ 8	£ 7

TELEPHONE HOUSE - OPERATOR OF THE QUARTER

Pt Sue Leitch, has been nominated 'Operator of the Quarter', at 'Telephone House', JHQ, Rheindahlen. This scheme was introduced last year, to promote efficiency on the telephone exchange, Sue is the second 'Operator of the Quarter' to be chosen. She was presented with her citation by **Col Mike Hales,** the Commander of 4 Signal Group.

For the past three months, not only has **Sue** produced a high and consistent standard of work, but she has also been extremely reliable and conscientious, ensuring that her subscribers receive a fast and efficient service at all times. A responsible and proficient tradeswoman, **Sue** has shown on a number of occasions that she is well able to cope with difficult and unusual situations, always remaining calm and polite, even under extreme pressure.

Sue mixes well with both her military and civilian contemporaries, and is a popular member of the JHQ, telephone exchange. She takes a pride in her appearance and bearing, and is a credit to her Corps.

'Col Mike Hales, Commander 4 Signal Group, presenting Pte Sue Leitch, with her 'Operator of the Quarter' citation'

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Corps Finance Committee met on 14 April 1983. The serving Corps was represented by,

— The DSOinC, **Brig Westlake**
— The Commander Training Group, **Brig Sprackling**
— The Commander, School of Signals, **Brig Willcox**
— RSM 11th Signal Regiment, **WO1 Friend**
— RSM 71st Signal Regiment, **WO1 Lavery**
— Staff Assistant to Comd Comms, HQ BAOR, **WO1 Long**

The Territorial Army was represented by,

— **Col Crawford**

The main items on the Finance Committee were to,

— approve the audited accounts of all Corps Funds for 1982.
— the provision of band uniforms for 34th Signal Regiment (V),
— increases in Games Club grants for travel from BAOR,
— accounting for Corps property,
— Corps subscriptions—a review of the new system of collecting and accounting for your Days Pay and Wire subs, and of covenanting these subscriptions.

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTIES JULY 1983

Those of you who may have applied for Garden Party tickets through normal military channels are asked to note that our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Anne** will attend the Garden Party on 19 July. As in previous years, those members of the Corps who are fortunate enought to receive tickets for this date are invited to assemble at RHQ, Chelsea on 19 July before the Garden Party. There will be a briefing to enable those attending to get the maximum benefit out of this unique social occasion. Cars will be provided for the drive to and from Buckingham Palace. Those who receive tickets are asked to notify **Col Francis** so that suitable arrangements can be made.

DRA VISITS BENBECULA

DRAs Visit to 632 Sig Tp Benbecula
During his Annual Inspection of the RA Range Hebrides, The Director Royal Artillery, Maj Gen M. J. Tomlinson CB OBE visited 632 Sig Tp who provide communications for the Range
The DRA is seen talking to Sgt Tony Harrigan and his wife June

JOINT SERVICES MOUNTAIN TRAINING CENTRE (SCOTLAND)

Report by Maj John Cornforth Royal Signals

STRONG REPRESENTATION

It may have happened before but the chances of it happening again are pretty remote—that is of having two serving members of the Corps on the staff of a Joint Services Mountain Training Centre.

With myself as Chief Instructor and **Capt Bob Kinnaird** as the officer i/c ski-ing, you might be forgiven for thinking that Royal Signals are about to make a take over bid for Adventurous Training in the Services (actually we are but don't tell the APTC!).

As **Bob** is quick to point out, that we are both here at the same time is pure coincidence, but it's a fact which should be of interest to units in the Corps who are trying to get instructors qualified for the coming season of summer camps and expeditions. We do get surprisingly few bids for courses from Royal Signals units and would welcome anyone who can spare the time, generally only ten days or so, to come and learn some new Adventurous Training skills, or to have their ability and potential as leaders in Adventurous Training officially recognised.

THE FORM

We are organised as a Headquarters (Fort George) with **Maj** (Retd) **Ian Leigh MBE** (late **RE**) as Commandant, and three Outstations as follows:

BALLACHULISH (Mountaineering)
OIC Lt Ken Carter APTC
Instrs Mr Paul Moores
Sgt Dave Orange APTC
(ex Royal Signals)
Sgt Jim Morning RAF
PO Pete Johnson RN
Cpl Chris Butler RM

TULLOCH (Mountaineering)
OIC Flt Lt Dave Gibbons RAF
Instrs Mr Chris Crystal
Sgt Taff Holman APTC
Sgt Ray Treadwell RAF
Sgt Paul Rodgers APTC

KINGUSSIE (Ski-ing and Canoeing)
OIC Capt Bob Kinnaird Royal Signals
Instrs Sgt Steve Jones RWF
Cpl Jed Stone RM
LWPT Karen Sharp WRNS
Cpl Dave Thomas RM

We run courses throughout the year, from Jan to Nov and train:
Mountain Expedition Leaders (summer and winter)
Basic Rock Climbers (summer)
Basic Canoeists (summer)
Rock Climbing Leaders and Instructors
Canoeing Instructors
Sea Canoeing Expedition Leaders
Downhill Ski-ing)
Snow & Ice Climbing) (winter only)
Ski Touring)

The rapid increase in demand for sea canoeing courses has prompted us to run sea expedition training courses throughout the summer months. These courses are held on the beautiful west coast of Scotland and combine the excitement of overfalls, tide races and surfing with breathtaking scenery and wildlife. Apart from hoping to attract Royal Signals canoeists as students on these courses (applicants must be holders of the Inland Proficiency Certificate) we are also on the lookout for Inland Instructors who have sufficient sea canoeing experience to be assessed as Sea Expedition Leaders.

TO APPLY

Any 'Wire' readers who would like to apply for our courses should consult DCI J13 of 83 for dates etc. Applicants for Sea Expedition Training should contact me direct on Fort George Military ext 2, or write to:

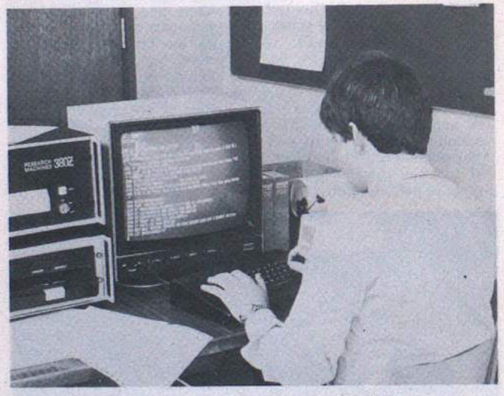
Chief Instructor
JSMTC (Scotland)
Fort George, Inverness

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL?

The Duke of York's Royal Military School, founded by Royal Charter at Chelsea in 1801 by Frederick Duke of York is now situated in 150 acres of downland about two miles east of Dover, Kent. The School, although still unique in certain respects, has changed a very great deal from those early days when it operated as an orphanage for children of soldiers killed in battle. It compares very favourably with most independent boarding schools. The 470 boys, aged 11 to 18, are comfortably provided for in every respect and enjoy a very high standard of academic, sporting and social facilities which include a science block, computer room, language laboratory, theatre, workshops, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, athletic track, rifle ranges and playing fields which are the envy of many other schools.

The Headmaster is a RAEC Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel and is assisted by a civilian Deputy Headmaster, Bursar, C of E Chaplain, eight civilian Housemasters, twenty-seven Assistant Schoolmasters, four instructors, ten Housematrons and Administrative Staff. There is a resident Medical Officer, a visiting dentist and two Nursing Sisters. The School is a member of both the Governing Bodies Association and the Boarding Schools Association and is inspected from time to time by HM Inspectors of Schools.

Although it is financed by the Ministry of Defence the School is not a military unit. It is an ordinary boys' boarding school providing an education up to GCE Advanced and Scholarship levels which fits young men to proceed to University or to enter the Services, professions, commerce and industry direct. This is done in a sensible disciplined environment which retains only what is best of the School's military tradition. About 15% of the boys enter the Services and over half of the boys in the Upper Sixth proceed to Universities and Polytechnics.



Pupil using school's computer facilities

For a boy to be eligible for consideration one parent must have served as an Officer or Soldier for a minimum of four years on a regular engagement. Parents may be serving or retired.

Boys normally enter the school at the age of 11 years, though there are a few vacancies for boys of 13 years of age. Parents who wish their sons to be considered for entry to the school may register their boys from the age of eight years onwards. Prospective parents may visit the school at any time but preferably by appointment.

Applications for admission in Sep 1984 are now invited from parents of boys whose dates of birth fall between 1 Sep 1972 and 31 Aug 1973. Applications for boys whose birthdays fall after 31 Aug 1973 will be considered exceptionally, provided they have completed their primary education. The closing date for applications for admission in Sep 1984 is 1 Nov 1983. No applications can be considered after this date (except in compassionate circumstances).

Junior boys in School Post Office/Tuck Shop

Application forms and prospectuses may be obtained from the Admissions Clerk. All candidates will sit written examinations in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning. The examinations which are normally held in the candidate's current school, will take place on 15 Nov 1983. Candidates are expected to have achieved the standards of literacy and numeracy normally associated with the top half of the appropriate junior school year group. No past papers are available.

Candidates may be required to attend for interview at the school. Parents of such applicants will be notified in good time. If any overseas applicants are required for interview, arrangements will be made through the Chief Education Officer of the Command concerned.

Offers of places will be made early in 1984. Parents of candidates who have taken the examination should not initiate enquiries before 30 Mar 1984. Parents of boys already registered for the Sep 1984 entry are reminded to keep the Admissions Clerk informed of up-to-date addresses and current schools. Letters notifying entrance examination arrangements will be sent to the last recorded addresses.

Tuition is free but parents are required to purchase certain items of school uniform and sportswear from the local school outfitters and to contribute towards the cost of other items issued by the school. They are also required to provide pocket money and incidental expenses and to pay a food charge called Home Savings Contribution (HSC) at a rate not exceeding that applied to children boarding at Service children's schools overseas. This contribution represents the average net saving to a parent which arises from a boy's absence from home during the year. The rate is reviewed annually.

The HSC and certain other charges may be waived for boys admitted to the school on compassionate grounds. The waiving of charges is at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners of the school, and will depend on parental circumstances.

Since the school is financed by the Ministry of Defence, parents do not qualify for Boarding School Allowance in respect of sons at the school.

THE BRISTOL UNIGATE MARATHON IN AID OF THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Bristol Unigate Marathon is taking place 1000hrs on Sun 24 Jul 1983 at Horfield Common, Bristol.

Team and individual entries are invited for this event, which is being run in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Full details are available from:-
Mr J. Hockey
51 Briar Way
Fishponds
Bristol BS16 4EB
(Please send a stamped addressed envelope).

LANYARD DAY

This year's Lanyard Day celebrations will take place on 1 July in Tidworth. All ex-members of the squadron and its antecedent units will be welcome. The celebrations will include a parade, a families lunch, a display and sideshows. All those interested in attending are asked to contact **SSgt White** (Chief Clerk) at 1 Inf Bde HQ and Signal Sqn (216), Jellalabad Bks, Tidworth (**Tidworth Mil 2651**).

REUNION

Geoffrey Addington is arranging a reunion of former members of 47 Anti Aircraft Operations Room on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the invasion of Sicily, to be held in London on 9 Jul.

Unit members please contact him at 3 Church Street, Silverstone, Towescaster, Northants. Telephone: Silverstone 857711.

THE MAGIC RED BUS

From: The Magic Red Bus
Project Directors: Clive Dredge, Jerry Martin

Dear Sir,

We are intending to hold a six-day nostalgic look back at army life, for ex-National Servicemen, to recapture some of the joys and 'horrors' of that unforgettable period of their life. This will take place at Crowborough Trg Camp, Sussex, from Sunday 18th September 1983 — Friday 23rd September 1983.

The activities will be as diverse as cookhouse 'fatigues' through modified assault course, to abseiling and rockclimbing. Obviously, the strenuous parts of the programme will have due ragard to the age of the participants, although they may feel otherwise! Tgis camp is being organised by THE MAGIC RED BUS, a new charity whose objects are to provide holidays for handicapped children and their families, and proceeds from the camp will go to the charity.

The cost of the camp is £95.00 = per person, and this will include the following:

All food and accommodation.
Bedding.
Free uniform and coveralls — for the duration of the camp.
All equipment and instruction, by qualified personnel with military experience.

We would be most obliged if you could circulate the above information to all of your members. Due to the limited number of places, bookings will only be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Thanking you for your kind attention in this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Clive Dredge — Jerry Martin

Regt Office: High View
Broad Oak,
Heathfield,
East Sussex TN21 8ST.
Tel: Heathfield 4733.

CAMP NOSTALGIA '83
Crowborough Trg Camp, Sussex
Dates—Sun 18 Sep '83—Fri 23 Sep '83
NAME ..... ADDRESS .....
TELEPHONE No ....
UNIFORM SIZES
Chest .....
Waist .....
Head .....
Boots ..... Corps or Regt .....
Will you require transport from Tunbridge Wells Central Station .....
Closing date for bookings 18 Jun '83. Please send £25.00 deposit by closing date.
Cheques and PO's made payable to: THE MAGIC RED BUS
Send deposit to: THE MAGIC RED BUS
High View,
Broad Oak,
HEATHFIELD, East Sussex TN21 8ST.
Acknowledgement of this booking will include a helpful checklist and directions to the camp.
Spnsored by: THE MAGIC RED BUS.

FORTY YEARS ON—WHERE ARE THEY NOW

From: Maj J. N. Clark Royal Signals

Dear Sir,

I enclose a photograph which some of your readers may find of interest. It is of the Apr 1943 intake to Boys Coy, 1 Operator Training Bn, STC Catterick. This intake eventually formed 8 and 9 Squads which trained as Instrument Mechanics (IM) and Operators Wireless and Keyboard (OWK) respectively.

The names I have listed are as accurate as memory will allow but I am open to correction especially by the members themselves. Only two are known to be still serving (myself and **John Heard** of CDA, Thatcham)—most of the others having vanished into the obscurity of civilian life after having completed the mandatory eight years with the colours.

Apart from those listed in the Retired List little is known of their whereabouts but I am sure someone who reads this will be able to fill in a lot of the gaps. Any information would be gratefully received.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. Clark

HQ,
BAOR,
BFPO 40.

April 1943 Intake (8 & 9 Squads)
Boys Company
1st Operators Training Bn., Catterick
Left to right. Rear Row: Bradley, Harmon, J. Heard, V. C. Brown, David, Nanson, R. F. Kirkup, K. E. Brown, G. Ageros, I. L. Williams
Centre Row: Gallagher*, A. R. Hill, J. N. Wilkinson, J. N. Clark, D. W. Marsh, P. J. Grogan, S. T. Miller, Harrow, Nutkins, Roe, Trickett, L. R. Churchill
Front Row: K. J. Williams, Gilbert, J. Drugan*, H. J. Crow, Sgt Buller Blades*, Capt York, CSM Rayner, Sgt Galloway, Coppock, Griffin, G. A. Sharp, R. F. Pearsall.
*Deceased

AOS

From: Ex WO2 Bert Howell

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for publishing my letter calling up old comrades, Sept. page 377, 'An old Sweat'.

Immediate response to this letter was a call from Birmingham by **Mr A. W. Palmer**, ex member of 1/20 Army Sigs(TA) at Hall Green in 1947. We had a rare old natter, and recalled Barleux (**Maj Barlow**, QM) who used to write frequently in The Wire, **Tony Hands, RSM Brassfield** and others. We plan to meet up again just as soon as he is able, since he does have some problems physically—going into hospital and all that (note to our Welfare section—do check up!). He is definitely not calling for assistance, but it is up to us old Signallers to rally round and even if it is only a sympathetic letter of support, when an old comrade shrugs off his afflictions in old age. (Sorry Arthur, we just cannot let you go it alone even with a good wife to support you!).

I promised a report on my visit to Norway—it was fantastic!

My wife and I were given the red carpet treatment everywhere we visited and not more than by **Mr Wold**, Director of the Grand Hotel, Harstad, who not only gave us his first class suite of rooms, but so managed it that it was in the same location, I, as a 20 year old signaller, spent some rather hectic days on our shore to ship communications with the cruiser *Southampton*, during the initial landings there, 1940. The local press representative **Mr Burthold** not only brought out many very treasured photographs of actions around Norway during those vital months but even a copy of The Times for that year! Later, he arranged a visit to one of the only two German gun emplacement which have surived—with a 30 mile range—of over 300 the Germans had planned, to prevent our invasion. God help us if we had landed there!

Mr Wold also arranged for our reception in their hotel at Svolvaer, the scene of our first commando raids in 1940. We were made very especially welcome.

We visited many museums and toured Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Narvick and Harstad well within the Artic circle—I hope the 'Jimmy's' we presented to the hosts in Harstad and Svolvaer, do not catch cold!! (Editor: does our Jimmy qualify for the Guinness Book of Records as being the only Corps Badge to get that far into the Artic Circle?). Also we presented a British Legion plaque to **Capt Munkfold** for their club in Harstad—another record?

Well, space must restrict my account of this fantastic tour of Norway and meeting several old comrades of yesteryear.

Yours sincerely,
Bert Howell

8 Tennyson Road,
Woodley
RG5 3BH.

FORT GEORGE VOLUNTEERS

From: Ronald A. M. Ransom, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read, in January's issue of 'The Wire', the account by **LCpl Helen Cliffe** of her experiences with the 'Fort George Volunteers'.

Though I am now an old age pensioner, I was privileged to join the last of these courses in 1982, and accompanied groups on all their various activities except the ones from which I chickened out.

It would be a remarkable coincidence I know, but I wonder if **LCpl Cliffe** is the young lady with whom I seem to remember doing a slow march in a pub in the remote Highlands of Scotland?

A disgraceful display for a man of 68, but I declare before heaven that my first gin and tonic was bought by the Padre.

On a slightly more serious note, may I point out that the young unemployed lads and girls were, of course, entirely 'civilians' in every way, and could have packed up and cleared off at any moment, though none of them did. This meant that all control and discipline had to be maintained by the personality of the Instructor, and by no other means.

The ease, skill, tact and humour with which this was done filled me with admiration for the typical British Army NCO, though I admit that I did not always express such warm and friendly emotions when I was at Catterick during the last war.

Yours faithfully,
Ronald A. M. Ransom
ex—14847648
SE Asia Command

18 Rushworth House,
Rushworth Close,
Hesters Way,
Cheltenham GL51 0JR.

29 WING SIGNAL SECTION

From: Harry B. Adams Esq.

Dear Sir,

29 Wing Signal Section Air Formation Signals was formed for and did service in PAIFORCE and with DAF, MAAF and MATAF in the Middle East during the 1939-45 War. I was a member of that particular Section until the end of hostilities in Italy when I was transferred to LofC Signals at Naples prior to repatriation to the UK.

For a limited period, before going overseas, we were stationed at Hendon and then at Fyfield in Essex where we formed a very happy association with the local inhabitants. Such a strong link was created that, over 40 years later, I still regularly visit a family with whom my wife was billetted. Unfortunately I appear to be the only one with direct contact other than one of the Section who actually married a local girl. His name was **Byrne**.

My friend has recently lost her husband and she, herself, is badly crippled with arthritis to such an extent that she is only able to get about by special chair. I would like to give her a pleasant surprise by gathering together as many as possible of the old 29 Wing in the new Village Hall at Fyfield.

The majority of men came from the Post Office in Bradford and Leeds Districts and I feel certain quite a number of Linemen were from London.

My age is now 67 and perhaps it is a bit late to consider taking part in Royal Signals activities but then, who knows!

Yours faithfully,
Harry B. Adams

24 Kennedy Road,
Bracebridge Heath,
Lincoln LN4 2LQ.
Tel (0522) 28118.

BRITISH ARMY POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE - 6 JULY 1983

THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER

SPECIAL HANDSTAMP POSTMARK - 'THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SERVING TO LEAD FOR OVER 200 YEARS 6 JULY 1983 SANDHURST, CAMBERLEY, SURREY.'

The British Post Office are to issue a set of five stamps on 6 July 1983 featuring Regiments of the British Army. The Regiments to be features are: The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment); The Royal Green Jackets; The Royal Welch Fusiliers; The Irish Guards and The Parachute Regiment.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) are to produce a special first day cover and postmark (to be used at Sandhurst on 6 July 1983) in connection with the British Army stamp issue. The cover features the RMAS badge, printed in gold, and the famous ceremony see at each Sovereign's Parade where the Adjutant, mounted on horseback, climbs the steps and enters Old College.

The RMAS is the result of an amalgamation of three former military training establishments—the Royal Military Academy, Woodwich (founded 1741); The Royal Military College, Sandhurst (founded 1799); and Mons Officer Cadet School (founded 1942). Its key role in the training of officers for the British Army is summarised by its motto 'Serve to Lead'. RMAS has trained over 18,000 officer cadets since 1947, who have subsequently taken up commissions in all Regiments of the British Army. RMAS also trains officer cadets from abroad, including some now Heads of State.

For ever cover sold a donation will be made to the Royal Memorial Chapel Sandhurst. Only a limited number are being produced. There will also be four special signed editions (limited to 100 each signature and numbered).

These first day covers can be obtained by sending a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Greenburg & Porter' to:-

RMAS Cover,
Greenburg & Porter
13 Fordyke Road,
Becontree Heath,
Dagehnam,
Essex RM8 1PJ

Prices are as follows:-

- Covers with a single British Army stamp affixed £2.25
- Covers with all 5 British Army stamps affixed £3.75
- As above but signed by
  - The Commandant, RMAS
  - The Adjutant RMAS (featured on the cover)
  - The Academy Sergeant Major, RMAS
  - Inspecting Officer - Sovereign's Parade RMAS £5.00 each

All covers - 25p extra to cover post and packing.

ST BONIFACE CHURCH (Rheindahlen) ANNUAL REUNION 1983

The 7th Annual Reunion of St Boniface Church, Rheindahlen (Germany) will take place at the Chapel of Chelsea Barracks, London on Sunday 26 June 1983. It will take the usual form of Choral Evensong at 1800hrs, followed by supper. The Choir assembles in the Chapel for practice at 1400 hrs.

Anyone who has served at the JHQ, Rheindahlen is cordially invited to attend. Those who belonged to any of the JHQ Church's Choirs will be especially welcome to sing in the Choir at the Reunion Service.

Those interested, particularly intending choristers, should contact:-
Lt Col APM HOLE, OBE RA,
G1 Division,
HQ BAOR,
HFPO 40.

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ITS PURPOSE is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 35 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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Movements

Officers

APRIL 1983
Rank and Name

Maj D. F. B. Anthonisz	242 Sig Sqn
2Lt J. A. Appleby	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col (Tfc) D. V. Boddington	DSS(A)
Maj E. F. Carrel	Short Term Admin Estab (STAE)
Maj P. A. Cooper	DGGWL(PE) (AE)
Maj A. F. Dyer	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj J. Fender	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Lt R. Fortune BEM	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj T. G. B. Fish	HS 11 Sig Regt (Language Trg)
Maj L. G. Fraser	7 Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Gale	7 Sig Regt
Capt J. J. C. Gareze	30 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. Good	2 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. Graham	CA(PE) (AE)
Capt I. W. Griffiths	10 Sig Regt
Maj G. J. H. Grist	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj G. W. Howard	JFHQ BFFI (AE)
Maj D. P. Hughes	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Maj D. J. Jessett	39 Sig Regt (V)
Capt A. J. Johnstone	2 Inf Div. HQ & Sig Regt
Capt S. W. Jones	BDLS (Army) CANBERRA (HS)
Maj M. D. McMahon	241 Sig Sqn
Maj N. C. Muir	30 Sig Regt
Brig K. H. Olds	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt J. W. Piper	5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. A. F. Reynolds	CPA School of Signals
Maj J. C. B. Simpson	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. Steed	Junior Regt R Sigs
Capt M. K. Stretch	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj R. C. A. Thwaites	DGGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Capt R. T. Weston	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col M. G. H. Wise	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)

MAY 1983

Maj H. M. Adams	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt J. A. Allen	16 Sig Regt
Maj N. H. G. Beard MBE	MS
Lt A. W. Boag	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) A. G. A. Brittenden	School of Signals
2Lt L. B. Campbell—Black	HS RMAS
2Lt C. M. Clark	HS RMAS
Maj D. L. Copeland	DSS(A)
Capt C. M. Cox	HS School of Signals
Capt (QM) R. L. Danells	5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj D. W. Dobson	DSS(A)
Maj R. A. Dodman	4 Sig Gp
Capt I. R. Fielder	HS School of Signals
Maj (TOT) R. E. Jenkins	CPA
Maj P. J. Kington	233 Sig Sqn
Lt Col P. B. Leonard	HQ 1 Sig Gp
2Lt C. M. R. Lewis	HS School of Signals
Capt M. A. Little	HS School of Signals
Maj P. H. MacCulloch	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt C. S. Mason	Army Pers Selection Gp
Capt D. McConnell	HS School of Signals
Maj C. D. Melhuish	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Nicholl	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Capt J. P. Moreland	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) R. D. Price	7 Sig Regt
Capt L. A. Relph WRAC	BDLS(Army) CANBERRA(HS)
Lt A. J. Rock	HS RMAS
Maj B. H. Rowe	DSS(A)
Maj B. F. Strange MBE	HQ DAAC
Lt Col D. J. Walden	36 Sig Regt
Maj M. S. Wilson-Brown	HS 11 Sig Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

MARCH 1983
Rank and Name

SSgt P. W. Haywood	14 Sig Regt (EW)

APRIL 1983

WO1 (YofS) R. C. Papworth	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
WO1 (FofS) L. J. R. Nicholas	R School of Artillery
WO1 B. J. Minter	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) B. Smith	633 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) P. A. C. Bradley	LSP Brunei
WO2 (Supvr R) D. J. Luckett	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 (Supvr R) C. T. Honor	HQ BAOR
WO2 K. E. Russell	School of Signals
AWO2 R. J. Rylance	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
AWO2 M. J. Stone	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 L. D. Rowland-Jones	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 K. T. Yarker	11 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) K. P. Straw	240 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) I. Donald	BDLS Australia
SSgt (EW Op) T. A. Morrall	9 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Bienvenu	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. Cairns	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt D. D. Fox	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. P. B. McLennan	Royal Brunei Malay Regt
SSgt R. M. Chambers	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt T. R. Watson	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Price	14 Sig Regt
SSgt C. E. Taylor	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
SSgt J. O. Smiley	11 Ord Btn (EOD)
SSgt R. B. Wyllie	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. A. Thomson	38 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt F. L. P. Kerr	School of Signals
Sgt J. P. Martin	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt C. J. Turner	10 Sig Regt
Sgt P. F. Wood	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Wilkie	HQ NE Dist & 2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt C. Weir	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Nelson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. L. Huthart	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. E. Garratt	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. W. Barber	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt A. J. Churchward	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Rickard	HQ NE Dist & 2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt E. A. Gold	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt A. Arbuckle	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Gipson	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. E. Oehme	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt T. D. Walker	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Matthews	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Orchard	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Belshaw	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Mullen	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Higgins	8 Sig Regt
Sgt N. S. Round	9 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Meek	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Davey	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Walker	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. H. Millington	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. A. Langridge	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. T. Archer	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Ashworth	Army School of Mechanical Tpt
Sgt W. F. Townson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. L. Brice	School of Signals
Sgt G. E. Lilley	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Ashworth	Sig Wing 12 RSME Regt
Sgt D. W. Few	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Hibbins	8 Sig Regt
ASgt B. B. L. Mahdjoubian	ACIO Bradford

MAY 1983

WO1 (FofS) J. C. Matthews	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
WO1 T. J. Pengelley	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
AWO1 F. M. Dempster	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) L. C. Lightfoot	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) M. Banks	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
WO2 (FofS) A. S. Eames	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 I. R. Campbell	5 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
WO2 K. Johnson	28 Sig Regt
WO2 V. H. Shillingford	32 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 M. J. Davis	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) A. R. Tait	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) C. S. J. Phillips	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) P. R. Berry	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) M. R. Everett	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) P. G. Taylor	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt D. A. James	7 Sig Regt
SSgt A. G. Linton	School of Signals
SSgt B. R. Mumford	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt D. G. Adams	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt R. C. Harrild	10 Sig Regt
SSgt G. Forbes	28 Sig Regt
SSgt O. G. McArdle	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. Wilson	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt I. Dolby	School of Signals
ASSgt N. J. Clanachan	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt G. Hackett	RAC Centre
ASSgt J. J. Cullen	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASSgt C. Redman	RMAS
ASSgt F. McAleer	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Churchman	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Wilson	641 Sig Tp
Sgt P. Wilson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Mahoney	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hoyland	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. F. Thomson	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt B. M. Neil	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. Scoular	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Bragg	21 Sig Regt
Sgt W. G. Harris	608 Sig Tp
Sgt G. Waters	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. Richards	10 Sig Regt
Sgt F. Smith	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Acklaw	7 Sig Regt
Sgt W. T. Patterson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Hyndman	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Goulden	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Emmerson	HQ NE Dist & 2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Rogers	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. W. Somerville	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Hill	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. R. Pearson	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASgt M. P. Wedge	564 Sig Link Det
ASgt M. W. Blythe	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
ASgt B. R. Coombs	604 Sig Tp
ASgt P. J. O'Connor	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt W. Watkins	9 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Tempest	ACIO Acton
ASgt K. Evans	ACIO Swansea

Welfare

FEBRUARY 1983

Number of cases assisted financially:	40
Amount spent:	£3940.26
Number of clothing parcels sent:	34

MARCH 1983

Number of cases assisted financially:	81
Amount spent:	£8895.63
Number of clothing parcels sent:	21

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman, 1950-54. He lives alone in an all-electric flat and, owing to a heart condition, is unable to go out. An electricity bill of £197 was causing him great concern, and the Association made a grant to clear this. His letter is printed below.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

Thank you very much for paying my electricity bill before they came to cut the supply off. I was really amazed. It was a great worry off my mind. It was better than winning the pools. I have been sick since 1979, and, after scraping through on Sickness Benefit since then, I just couldn't manage any longer. So once again thank you and all concerned for the generosity you have shown me. It's a relief to know that someone cares.

Since the beginning of February, gifts of clothing, etc, have been gratefully received from the following:-

Mr & Mrs A. V. Ient; Mr & Mrs R. Sawkins; Lt Col A. Howard; Mr R. Miller; Mr & Mrs R. Truby; Maj Gen C. E. Page; Mrs I. G. Swan; Mrs W. G. Tucker; Mr C. Fry; Cotswold Branch, R Signals Assn; **WO1 (RSM) C. G. Francis; Mrs G. Welsford; WO2 (YofS) & Mrs T. J. Taylor; Capt (TOT) C. J. Field; Mr & Mrs H. Palmer; Maj (QM) H. A. C. Meekings;** The Executors of the late **Miss H. Eversley; Maj & Mrs R. L. Windmill; Mrs B. McQuade; Brig & Mrs J. D. T. Brett.**

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1983.

In memory of Maj J. F. McQuade	£ 91.08
Bedford Branch RSA	£ 25.00
Maj C. A. Smith	£ 8.00
G. M. Lewis Esq	£ 5.00
T. C. O'Brien Esq	£ 3.00
Maj M. Gordon-Wilson	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.91
	£136.99

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1983.

3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt	£100.00
Bath & District Branch RSA	£ 30.00
N. J. Bartlett Esq	£ 25.00
Mrs F. Stanley	£ 25.00
Maj H. D. V. Chappell	£ 25.00
'Gillespie'	£ 10.00
Mrs C. P. Metcalf	£ 10.00
B. Howell Esq	£ 5.00
In memory of Maj J. F. McQuade	£ 5.00
Sir John F Prideaux OBE	£ 5.00
H. A. Simmons Esq	£ 4.40
Miscellaneous	£ 5.30
	£249.70

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If your trade or training involves Radio Operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post.

Candidates must have had at least 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of 40 weeks specialist training, promotion will occur to the Radio Officer grade.

Registered disabled people may be considered.

Salary & Prospects

Trainee Radio Officer: £4,357 at 19 to £5,203 at 25 and over. On promotion to Radio Officer: £5,968 at 19 to £7,814 at 25 and over. Then by 4 annual increments to £10,662 inclusive of shift working and Saturday and Sunday elements.

For full details please contact Recruitment Officer on Cheltenham (0242) 2149 Ext 2269 or write to the

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 5AJ.

GCHQ

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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

Carpenter—Maj Brian Christopher Carpenter. Few Royal Signals officers who served in BAOR during the 1970s can be unaware of the work of **Maj Brian Carpenter.** During a number of tours with 1 Div, 21 and 22 Sig Regts he acquired a unique knowledge of tactical communications and of BRUIN in particular. He knew the ground intimately and there were few exercise situations which were beyond his experience. Many officers and warrant officers have benefitted from his wise and knowledgeable tutoring. As a planner and tactician he had few equals, and his talents were widely known and respected. It was a great loss to the Corps when he decided to retire in 1981 but his untimely death in Mar 1983 was an immeasurably greater one. **Brian** was never one for advertising his talents; he assiduously concealed them when he could. But of his solid worth there was never any doubt, and his brother officers will sadly mourn his passing. To his widow, **Beverley**, and his children the Corps extends sincere sympathy.

Grigsby—Mrs Nancy Grigsby wife of **Maj (TOT) J. E. Grigsby, Royal Signals**, mother of **Susan** and **Robert**, died at Poole General Hospital on 17 Mar. The funeral was held at the Garrison Church, Blandford on 23 Mar.

Married at Richmond, Yorkshire, on 12 Mar 1956, **Nancy** accompanied **John** in their many moves at home and overseas during the ensuing 27 years.

Harrison—Col Douglas Edwin Harrison OBE was born in London on 16 Jan 1910. He was commissioned into the Corps as a 2Lt on 30 Jan 1931 and in Jun of that year joined 2 Div Signals. In Jan 1932 he moved to India and served with A Corps Signals until Oct 1934, when he joined STC India for a period of two years. After his tour with the STC he remained in India and joined 1 (Ind) Div Signals and remained with that unit also for two years. After a brief attachment to the staff he moved to 4 (Ind) Div Signals and then in Aug 1940 transferred to 10 (Ind) Div Signals. After a short tour of duty with the unit in Iraq he moved and became 2IC to 8 (Ind) Div Signals in MELF and then concluded his long overseas tour by serving a short attachment with HQ PAIF. He returned to the UK in May 1943 and after a short spell as 2IC of 53 Div Signals he was appointed CO of 79 Armd Div Signals in Dec 1943. After a short tour with that unit he returned to 53 Div Signals as Commanding Officer and moved with them to Normandy. The unit remained within 21 Army Group in NW Europe and **Douglas** retained command of the regiment unit Apr 1946. In Jan 1947 he moved to GHQ MELF and held two staff posts during the next two years before returning to the UK to serve as Comdt of the Signal Wing, School of Infantry, a post he held until Oct 1952 when he moved to MT8, The War Office as GSO 1, a post he held for the next three years.

In Jan 1956 he moved back to the continent and took up a GSO 1 Signals appointment at HQ ALFCE where he remained until Apr 1958 when he moved to Germany to become CAFSO at HQ 2 ATAF. He returned to the UK in Nov 1961 for his final appointment before his retirement on 9 Mar 1962.

He was **Mentioned in Despatches** in Mar 1945 for his service in NW Europe and in Jan the following year he was appointed **OBE.**

He died suddenly on Christmas Day 1982 at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Jackman—Maj Charles Frederick Jackman was born in Brixton, London on 5 Apr 1909. He enlisted into the Corps on 24 Nov 1924 and after a short posting of one year with 2 Div Signals he moved to India on 26 Oct 1926 and served with L Coy where he remained until Nov 1931. During this tour of duty he was awarded the Indian General Service Medal with Clasp 'NWFP 1931'. He then served with D and F Companies until 12 Feb 1938 when he moved to Malaya and joined Malaya Signal Coy. He remained with that unit until he was commissioned as a Lt (QM) on 8 Nov 1940. He continued to serve in Malaya and on 8 Nov 1940 was appointed SO3 to CSO Malaya Command. In Mar 1941 he joined 'M' Corps Signals, still in Malaya, and was with that unit when he became a POW in Feb 1942 when Malaya and Singapore were captured by the Japanese.

He returned from a POW Camp in Oct 1945 and after leave was granted a commission in the rank of Capt and joined the STC in Jan 1946 where he remained until Jul 1948. He soon volunteered to return to the Far East and in Aug 1948 joined GHQ Signal Regiment in Singapore where he remained until Jul 1951. After a short inter-tour leave in the UK, **Charles** returned to GHQ Sig Regt and served a further 18 months with that unit. He then moved across the Causeway and joined the 3rd Bn, The Malay Regt for just over a year. After that he moved to the Depot The Malay Regt where he served until his retirement in Nov 1955.

After his retirement he made his home in Malaya, a country he loved, and died there.

Sherman—Lt Col Beresford Thomas Sherman OBE was born at Felixstowe on 5 Nov 1900. He was the son of **Capt T. Sherman** Royal Flying Corps (formerly RE) and enlisted as a Boy telegraphist at Bletchley in 1915. He was employed as a boy soldier with K Company in Limerick, Bristol, Manchester and Liverpool and joined man's service at the RE Depot in 1918. In 1919 he joined 4 Div Sig Coy and was promoted to Corporal. He moved to India in 1922 and served in the Waziristan campaign for which he was awarded the India General Service medal with Clasp 'Waziristan 1921-24' and it was during this operation that he was 'Mentioned in Despatches'. In 1924 he returned to the UK and served with both the School of Signals and Western Command Sig Coy. He joined Ceylon Sig Sec in 1926, remaining there until 1930 when he again returned to England and on this occasion saw service with Southern Command Sig Coy at Portsmouth and Plymouth. In 1934 he moved to Aden in the rank of QMS (FofS) and returned to the School of Signals in 1936. During 1937, he became RSM of the Training Bn STC and remained in that post until he was commissioned as a Lt (TMO) just prior to the outbreak of war in 1939. After short tours with London Dist Sig Coy and Western Comd Sig Coy, as a Lt (IPC) he moved to the War Office and served in the Signals Directorate as GSO 3. In 1943 he moved to Salisbury and became a Squadron Commander of 3 Command Signals. In 1945 he was appointed SO 2 at HQ Southern Command and remained in that post until 1946 when he went on the Mission to Portugal where he was to be employed for the next two years planning and installing static communications for the Coast Defences of the Estuaries of the Taqus and Sado. Due to varying circumstances **Tommy Sherman** had to spend the last ten months of this duty as the sole survivor of the British element, undertaking both the Artillery and Engineering liaison responsibilities as well as Signals. It was, in **Tommy's** own words 'a wonderful experience, in a delightful country with enchanting people'. For this important work he was awarded a Portuguese order and created a Commandadore Do Ordam de Avis and was, as far as can be ascertained, the only Royal Signals officer to have been given this honour.

After his return from Portugal he was posted to the School of Signals and after two years moved to Western Command Sig Regt in 1950. In 1952 he was promoted to Lt Col (TOT) and retired from that post in 1955. In 1954, a year before his retirement from active service, **Tommy's** long career in the Corps was recognised when he was appointed **OBE.**

He died on 17 Nov 1982 and the Corps extended their sympathy to his wife and to his daughter and family.

Smith—Col Richard Godfrey Smith was born in Edinburgh on 27 Apr 1898 and was granted a commission in the Royal Scots on 1 Oct 1916. In Aug 1917 he was posted to India and served there until Apr 1918 when he joined the 74 Punjabis and remained with them in Palestine and Egypt until Jan 1919 when he became a Topographical Instructor in Cairo, a job he retained for the whole of 1919. He rejoined the 74 Punjabis in Jan 1920 and remained in Egypt until Dec 1920 when he returned to India with the Regiment. In Oct 1921 he joined A Corps Signals and remained with that unit until Mar 1928. However on 27 Aug 1927 he transferred to Royal Signals. During the period Feb 1929 until Mar 1938 he served with both 1st (Ind) and 2nd (Ind) Divisional Signals.

In Mar 1938 he was appointed Staff Capt of Kohat District in the NWP and remained in that post for a year and then moved as DAAG to Bombay District. In Oct 1940 he moved north again and became OC Rawalpindi District Signals a post he only held for a short while as at the end of the year he became CO of 7 Indian Div Signals a post he held until Apr 1942. He then returned to a staff appointment at HQ 33 Indian Corps where he remained until Aug 1943 when he was appointed AAG at the Adjutant Generals Branch of GHQ India at New Delhi a post he held until he returned to the UK in Dec 1945.

Dick retired from the Corps in May 1946 after having spent all but fifteen months of his 29½ years service out of the UK and of that he had lived for 25½ years in India. He died at his home in Fleet, Hampshire on 25 Jul 1982 after a long illness. The Corps extends their sympathy to his wife and surviving daughter and grandchildren. His eldest daughter, the talented actress, **June Thorburn** had been tragically killed in an air disaster some years before.

WANTED

OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

WO1 Foreman of Signals due to complete 22 year engagement has a fervent desire to emigrate to Australia, preferably to the Brisbane area of Queensland.

Close relatives resident in Brisbane are ready to submit application for sponsorship but a firm offer of employment is necessary before submission.

A second career in any aspect of telecommunications, engineering, management, electronics, computer engineering or technical training is the objective; the availability date for employment being Sep.

If there is anyone resident in Australia, or the UK, willing and able to assist please contact:-

P. R. Wagstaff BA, T Eng(CE1),
19 Falkland Road,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire,
England, DL9 4EA.

Royal Signals WO/SNCOs Mess Kit required by ACF adult instructor. Height 6'2", chest 44", waist 38". I am also seeking photographs, documents, reminiscences etc regarding the Austin Champ in Army and especially Royal Signals service. All information photocopied and promptly returned.
WO2 (SMI) A. J. Jackson, 27 Ellesmere Drive, Sanderstead, Surrey. CR2 9EH.

Information wanted for a biography of **Douglas W. V. Main (1926-82).** Would appreciate hearing from anyone associated with **Douglas W. V. Main** during his service with the Royal Signals 'Special Communications' (1944-46). Phone 01-584 3562 or write to **Eileen Byrne,** 22 Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HD.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Vacancy for Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) TA 56th Signal Squadron (Volunteers) (Corps Reinforcement)

A vacancy will shortly arise for a PSAO in the rank of Captain, for employment with 56th Signal Squadron (Volunteers) located at Eastbourne, Sussex. Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 3.

Applications are invited for the post, the successful applicant will be below the age of 57, will have served in the Regular Army as an officer, and have sound knowledge and experience of G1 and G4 duties and of service funds accounting. Suitably qualified Warrant Officers will also be considered.

The appointment carries consolidated rates of pay; starting salary is £8,617 rising to £10,015 after six years. Applications, including brief details of experience and service, date of bith, plus the names and addresses of two referees are to be sent to:

Commanding Officer
36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)
Signals House
Selsdon Road
Wanstead E11 2QF
by 30 June 1983.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES JOB VACANCIES

Husband and wife needed for residential post Holland Park W8. First class applicants only. Initial interview a.s.a.p. at this HQ. Security experience essential. Log 64

Management Assistant. Presentable couple for luxurious residential club. SW 1. An interesting post with potential. Log 59

Husband and wife for residential post in Harley Street W1. Reception—caretaking duties. Log 62

Husband and wife to act as Butler—Houskeeper in family country house on a small estate. Approx £8000pa. First-class applicants only—preferably with experience. Log 57

Head porter luxury flats Putney. Free accommodation and approx £4000 pa. Log 63

Housekeeper (Male/Female) Some cooking. Must be dog lover. Near Newbury Berks. Log 54

Live in caretaker—security officer, occasional chauffeur duties. Warwick Sq. SW1. Log 23

Commissionaire. Dover St. W1. Mon—Fri, 7.00am—6.30pm. Wages negotiable. Full uniform Log 68

Lift—Operator Westminster Cathedral SW1. Part time basis for seven months starting April. Log 38

Doorman/security. Full uniform. Knightsbridge SW3. £5000 pa. Well presented with pleasant manner. Log 46

Security—Reception. Approx Age 55, some electrical mechanical, carpentry knowledge helpful. Approx £110 pw. EC2. Log 4

Reception. Full uniform. Shifts Approx. 37 hours pw at £80+pw. Broad St, EC2. Various perks. Log 31

Two posts available—one now one in July. Not above 50 years of age—willing cheerful applicants, able to park tenants cars. Plenty of overtime and perks. Old Park Lane. W1. Log 34A

Security—Corps Uniform. Shifts—Well paid. Havant, Hants. A waiting list is kept for vacancies so its well worth while recording your interest especially ex RN. Log 34B

The Corps of Commissionairs
3 Crane Court
Fleet Street
London EC4A 2EJ
Tel: (01) 353 1125/6/7

REPORT FROM ULSTER

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

INTRODUCTION

Regular readers of The Wire will no doubt have noticed our absence from our rightful place at the front of last month's magazine. We do not know whether this was due to the pressure of work on our 21C, **Capt Danny McConnell** or if he was hoping that no one would notice before he left the province! Either way, writing is now an OC Comms Tp rather than a 21C Squadron task. **Danny** and **Liz** leave shortly for the School of Signals and we wish them both all the best. Filling the 21C's chair is **Capt Nick Corbin** who has been elevated from a dingy cellar under the banks of the River Foyle, (those who have been here will recognise the Comms Tp Office) to the less dingy heights of the Squadron Ops Room.

OPS BRIEF

The time since Christmas has been a busy one for both the Brigade as a whole and the Signal Squadron. The early period was marked by the increasing accusations by the SDLP and the Republican press that security forces were operating a shoot to kill policy in the province. This followed the shooting of a number of terrorists by the RUC and was backed up by a revenge killing of a UDR soldier in Armagh. The week preceding the Bloody Sunday Anniversary march, coming as it did so soon after the takeover of 2 QUEENS as the city battalion, brought about an increase in violence in Londonderry. Fortunately the march itself passed off almost without incident and was followed by very limited aggro which was easily contained.

Shortly afterwards, in early February, a suspected INLA terrorist was killed in the city and the resident battalion was again stood by, this time for a funeral. This and the preceeding march were well attended and there was a much more overt terrorist presence than has been recently seen.

BRIGADE BOUNDRY CHANGE

March saw the biggest boundry change in Northern Ireland since 8 and 3 Brigades amalgamated in September last year. 39 Inf Bde have now taken over most of County Armagh and in particular those areas occupied by 2UDR and the South Armagh Roulement Battalion, currently 40 Cdo RM.

Prior to the changeover, technicians, linemen and riggers together with the QMs department were working to ensure that all Ops Rooms, hilltop sites and equipments were ready for handover. So far we have had no complaints from our counterparts in Lisburn so the effort cannot have been wasted. The changes also resulted in a move to Lisburn for technicians **Steve Carr** and **Graham Tolton** and **LCpl David Kaminski** from the MT. **Cpl Steve Carr** must be pining for his old unit as on a recent return visit he was spotted outside Mike Tp doing a car radio fit!

VISIT BY SOinC

The Squadron was delighted to welcome the SOinC, **Maj Gen Birtwistle**, and his wife to Londonderry for a farewell visit in January. On the night of his arrival a joint function was held with 69 North Irish Sig Sqn (V). During a lively night the SOinC's tireless energy and characteristic good humour were much in evidence. The following day **Maj Gen Birtwistle** visited all the Squadron's Troops and departments and showed his excellent memory by remembering many faces from previous visits. Afterwards he was invited to lunch in the Squadron club where he was presented with a farewell gift from the unit by the OC.

The SOinC meets LCpl 'Scouse' Mac Laughlin. In the background Cpl Mick Wray muses over the SOinC's words

Capt Bill Mawer introduces the Rover Group, Cpl Graham Hughes, Cpl 'Chopper' Tarr; 2Lt Mark Eaton and Sgt Bruce Payne look on

LINE SECTION

Not everyone will be aware that the Squadron actually has a small but very busy line section. Linemen **Sgt "Butch" Cassidy** and **Cpl Ron Stephenson** together with Telemechs **Sgt Dick Taylor** and **Cpl Neil Buckingham**, spend most of the time installing, moving and mending telephones and lines in the brigade area. They are constantly involved in installing, tidying up, and dismantleing Ops Rooms. The visit of the SOinC provided a rare opportunity to get them all together in uniform (which had to be taken out of mothballs for the occasion) and so we had a photograph taken.

The Line Section, uneasy in their unaccustomed uniforms, relax over a pint

FOCUS ON COMMS TROOP

One can tell that changes have been taking place by the 'Under New Management' sign on the Comms Tp office door. As much to clarify the situation for ourselves as anything else, here is the new management:-

OC Comms Tp	**Capt Bill Mawer**
21C Comms Tp	**Lt Gordon James**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Pete Ryan**
Ragio Sgt	**Sgt Bruce Payne**
Commcen Sgt	**Sgt Terry 'Marathon Man' Davies**

To list all the arrivals and departures in the rest of the troop would take a whole article by itself. This has been a busy period for the troop with PRE, brigade boundry changes and, on the more glamorous side of the troops work, Heli tele tasks in support of the marches and funerals described earlier. The principal people involved were Heli tele experts **Cpl Mick Wray** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk** with **Cpl Dave Parry**, **Sig Al Jenkins** and **2Lt Mark 'ET' Eaton**,our rent-a-subaltern on a three month attachment, under instruction. The rigging section, now under the direction of **Cpl Mick Roe**, deserve a mention for their work on the handover of County Armagh. The data telegraphists have been working round the stepladders and tins of paint recently as, for the first time in ten years, the commcen has been redecorated. At last it is starting to look more like a place of work than a storage room for off-cuts of carpet and old teleprinters.

EXERCISE 'PINE MARTEN'

This year exercise *Pine Marten*, our annual downhill skiing and recreational extravaganza, took place over four weeks in February and March at Aviemore in Scotland. We were staying in a large and very comfortable house in the village of Carrbridge a few miles north of Aviemore itself and the unparalleled catering was by the **LCpls 'Chalky' White** and **Nev Grimshaw**.

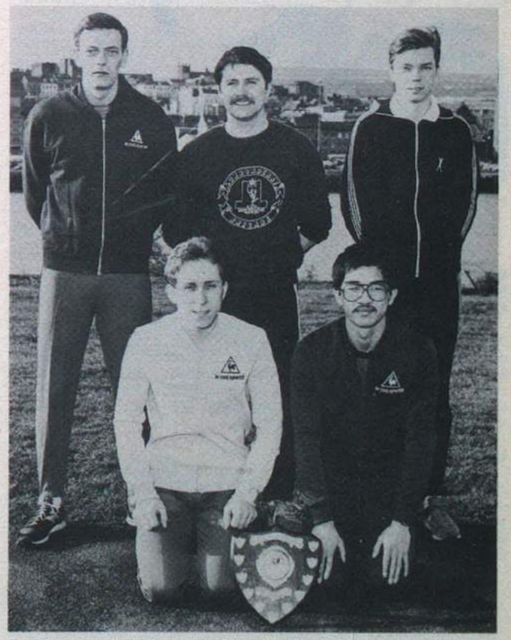
The first week of the exercise was blessed with ideal conditions and **Sigs Tom Naylor** and **Sam McLeod**, **Cpl Joe Tetley** and **Sgt Dick Taylor** amongst others, made full use of the excellent snow. During the second two weeks the warm weather managed to turn the snow into a strange substance with the consistency of damp custard powder as it slowly vanished from the hilltops. However it never quite disappeared altogether and those taking part, including **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** and family, **Sig Jock Fox**, **LCpl Bob Matthews** and **Cpl Robbo Robinson**, to name a few, managed to get plenty of skiing in. Skiing wasn't the only activity on the exercise and most people managed to shrug off the temptation to go to sleep in front of a log fire to sample the night life of Aviemore. Fortunately the local inhabitants are used to the strange activities of soldiers.

The Downhill team are from *Left to Right:* Capt Bill Mawer, SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly, LCpl Paul Harding and Sgt Neil Duncan

During the final week of the exercise we entered a team in the Army Skiing Association Scottish Meeting. The team was composed of **Capt Bill Mawer**, **SSgt Tony Crilly** when not otherwise engaged, **Sgt Neil Duncan** and **LCpl Paul Harding**. Despite the fact that our skis seemed to have a magnetic attraction for slalom gates to the extent that we wrapped our skis around several sets, we managed to come a 'solid' fourteenth place in the team event. Ah well, better to have taken part . . . !

CROSS COUNTRY

The 82/83 season saw the emergence of the cross country team as a more major power than in previous years. A novice team of hopefuls



The cross country team that went to the Northern Ireland finals: *Back row Left to Right:* Sig Al Jenkins, Capt Danny McConnell, 2Lt Mark Eaton. *Front row Left to Right:* SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly and LCpl David Cheung RAOC

competed in the weekly province league events and achieved increasingly good results. However we were delighted when **LCpl Dave Cheung** was awarded the prize for the most improved runner. The test however, was yet to come. An inspired run in the Northern Ireland finals saw us a runner up with a place in the UKLF Championships. Our creditable ninth position there made a fitting end to a successful season. The most consistent runners during the season were: **Capt Danny McConnell, 2 Lt Mark Eaton, Sgt Tony Crilly, Cpl John Archer RAMC, Cpls Stu Read** and **Dave Clark, LCpls Stuart Wood** and **David Cheung** and **Sig 'Johno' Blood** and **Al Jenkins.**

FOOTBALL

The Squadron football team has finally emerged out of the doldrums to register three consecutive wins against good opposition. Team manager **SSgt Pete Ryan** is flushed with success. The improved team is due both to the old and the new; the old in the form of **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** who older readers will remember as a useful player of some years ago; the new in the form of promising young players recently posted in. Particularly noteworthy among the many who have left the team recently is **Cpl Stu Read**. At the time of writing he has played three farewell matches.

OLD FOLKS VISIT

One of the lighter moments of the New Year Season are the visits to a local old people's home. This year **LCpl Keith Bagguley, Cpl Derek Shaw, LCpl Jimmy Atken** and **Pte Jeff Smith** spent a day with our senior citizens.

LCpl Keith Bagguley brightens up the day for some of the senior citizens of Londonderry at the local old peoples home

POST SCRIPT
NORTHERN IRELAND TEAM FIELD COOKERY COMPETITION

We are delighted to report the success of **LCpl 'Mac' McDonald ACC** and **Pte Alec MacBeth ACC** in achieving first place out of a field of six teams in this competition, which took place over the weekend 8—9 April. Working against stiff opposition the lads built and camouflaged a small field kitchen and proceeded to cook their way to victory with a three course meal for thirty. We wish them success in the later stages of the ACC competition.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Sincere congratulations from us all to **Sgt Gordon Thursfield** on receiving a much deserved **MID** and to **Cpl 'Thomo' Thompson** for an equally deserved GOC's Commendation. Both these NCO's, now posted to other units, did stirling work whilst in this unit and are sadly missed. We wish them every possible happiness and success for the future in their new locations.

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

OPERATIONS

A period of relative calm has continued into 1983. The Squadron has therefore been able to complete a number of projects in the lull before the 'silly season'. Some welcome news has been the arrival of the first Pye Pegasus sets. These VHF commercial radios are replacing some of the old Westminster range, the latter being about to qualify for a state pension! A refit programme has started with our UDR battalions but it will be some time before the project is completed.

The major task has, however, been the rebuild of the Brigade ops room. After a couple of false starts 'ripping out' began in early Feb and was followed by nearly a month of full time work. **Cpls Brian Mackey, 'Fossil' Raistrick** and **Sig Neil Inman** were the mainstays of the job but were assisted by the proverbial 'cast of thousands'. **LCpl 'Spud' Taylor** and **Sig Tony Squirrel** took the opportunity to replace all the ops room antennae and coaxes and **LCpl Danny Webb** of the **RPC** escorts was seen enthusiastically destroying the old console.

About halfway through the project the first of the Ulsternet Pegasus radios arrived so two were incorporated directly into the design to save further refitting at a later date. A few headaches resulted as the new sets proved to be more sensitive than their predecessors. Some people would have considered permanent piped Radio Three on all channels a bonus! The problem was later described by one of the watchkeepers as 'a better class of interference!'. All is now well and A Tp is justifiably proud of its achievement.

Cpl Eddie Connolly and **LCpl Dave Blight** also found themselves under pressure when two long outstanding projects came to fruition. At long last the PSA gave approval for the installation of new radio cupboards in both 9 and 10 UDR battalion ops rooms. In each case the consoles had to be completely rewired and new Pegasus sets fitted.

To complete another hectic two month period the Squadron took over responsibility for 2 UDR and the South Armagh Battalion on 24 Mar. Much work will be needed before we are fully conversant with out new patch but we are putting our backs into making our latest customers feel welcome. A composite team from Alfa Tp and TM Tp started the ball rolling on 26 Mar by rewiring and refitting the 2 UDR ops room at the RUC station in Armagh. Similar good works are planned for other locations and are being well received.

DIFFERENT TASKS

On 10 Feb we all found ourselves engaged on a few 'different' tasks during our ARU. The inspecting officers was the Brigade Commander, **Brig Mike Hobbs** and he certainly kept us on our toes throughout the day. Every department had to produce a team for a military skills competition while a few worthies were given comms tasks around the Brigade area.

TM Tp, using Pye Zulu, was sent to produce a local talkthrough in the Kilkeel area and Alfa Troop was called upon to deploy all its mobiles to (not again!) Slieve Croob. Readers of the last efforts of the squadron scribe will recall that the OC, **Maj Gareth Mann,** was rumoured to be troop trialing termal underwear. This latest venture to a windswept hilltop site has convinced us that he has bought some shares in a termal underwear company!

This time a hard frost had frozen existing snow and it was only with great difficulty that **Capt Terry Canham** managed to get all his men up the hill. In particular, **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikely** produced some inspired driving (or was it skating?) to get the heavily laden heli-tele groundstation to the top. It was then a question of setting up and keeping warm until lunch arrived. Lunch? Well, it was like this . . . The QM's four tonner was covert and therefore only had ordinary road tyres. It managed the first few hundred yards but no more. Rumour has it that **Cpl 'Mac' Macintyre** actually walked up the hill but nobody saw him due to the intermittent snowstorms! The day was saved by Rover Group who turned up to do their bit and ferried supplies to the top just in advance of the Brigadier's arrival.

ARU Day. Brig Hobbs inspects Sig Mick Stout before the Mil Skills Competition

'What, no coffee!' Brig Hobbs and LCpl 'Jamie' James discuss the more important aspects of clerical work during the ARU

PRESENTATION

Feb saw the departure of 3RRF from Holywood. We were delighted to receive a figurine from their RSO as a token of their thanks. The OC accepted the gift on behalf of the Squadron and it was with some regret that we said farewell to a battalion with which we had a particularly good liaison.

The OC receives the 3 RRF figurine from Capt Malcolm Johnson

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OTC VISIT

On 30 Jan QUOTC visited as part of a 'Royal Signals' day hosted by ourselves and 233 Sig Sqn. The cadets were given a brief on our roles and were able to see a variety of equipments that we operate. Unfortunately the weather was against us and biting winds mixed with driving snow made life uncomfortable for those manning the outside stands. '233' did, however, provide welcome relief in the form of drinks and lunch in the Peak Inn.

Cpl Alan Gay becomes serious for a moment during the QUOTC visit. Sgt Tony Moses tries to understand

MANN OVERBOARD

On 21 Feb we said a sad farewell to **Maj Gareth Mann.** In a small ceremony in front of the squadron, **Gareth** handed over the 'key to the door' to the new OC, **Maj Martin Wilkinson.** He was then towed out on a craft which he was well used to—a sail board! **Gareth's** interest in water sports was well known throughout Thiepval Barracks and many a soldier has found himself being closely introduced to a certain Irish lough by our erstwhile boss.

The Horseshoe Club being only a short tow away was the obvious site for refreshments. A buffet was laid on and **Gareth** was presented with a cartoon of himself drawn by **Sig 'Tiny' Little,** our resident artist. In return the Horseshoe Club received a clock which now hangs above the bar. This may have had something to do with a discussion which **Gareth** had with the barman, **Cpl Derek Pocock,** over opening hours!

'It's all yours'. Maj Martin Wilkinson receives the squadron keys

Steer south by south east. Maj Gareth Mann sets sail for RMAS

We wish **Gareth** and **Jenny** all the best for their tour at RMAS and thank them both for their great contribution to 39.

We also bade farewell to our AO, **Capt David Clark,** who returns to the mainland and things Ordnance. **David** spent the whole of his tour trying to persuade us that he was not **RAOC** but **RASC** on the grounds that nobody consulted him about the change! He has done a great deal for the Squadron by his skilful management of the PRI account. In particular, **David** closely supported the Horseshoe Club and has been responsible for many improvements made there. We wish him well and welcome **Maj Tom Corcoran** in his place.

SPONSORED SLIM

Cpl Ted Kewley could hardly be described as fat. Nevertheless he decided that he could do with losing a few pounds so he offered to go on a sponsored slim. **Ted** raised **£151.75** for the Northern Ireland Association for the Blind by shedding 18 pounds. Could this be a new form of hunger strike?

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

INTRODUCTION

Regular readers of the Wire will probably have noticed that contributions from this Squadron have been pretty regular over the last couple of years. This has been due to the energy of **Capt Andy Johnstone**, 2IC, who left the unit last month to take up his new appointment with 2nd Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. We all hope that **Andy** and **Fiona** enjoy their tour in York.

'If you carry one of these around, people think you're working'. Maj Nick Williams with the outgoing 2IC, Capt Andy Johnstone

TICKLE SUCCESS

We start this BFT season with a certain amount of confidence having achieved first equal place in the Tickle Fitness Competition, trying with 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, a 100% pass rate was attained by both units. The final result will be decided on passes in the Military Swimming Test.

SHOOTING

On 24 March the Squadron won the Mercury Cup Shooting Competition, held on Magilligan ranges. All three Signal Squadrons in the Province compete for the Mercury Cup, and with one more competition to go, we have a reasonably respectable lead and hope to retain our rightful place as eventful winners. All of our marksmen did remarkably well in the Shooting Competition, which was conducted in typical Northern Ireland conditions; snow, rain and strong cross-winds. **Dave Leyland** was the star of the show, winning the individual trophy.

VOLLEYBALL

Another respectable result in this sport, with the team finishing the UK Championships as runners-up and reaching the semi-finals of the Army Cup.

TRAINING EVENING

Every few weeks we try to hold a Training Evening for JNCOs. The idea is that the presentations should be interesting, of value militarily and preferably be relevant to the situation in the Province. The last such evening was scheduled to be a talk from a Bomb Disposal Team, but they could not make it, so at short notice, the WIS Team stepped in. Although this may sound like something from Beano, the letters actually stand for Weapons Intelligence Section. Their presentation, backed up by examples of many weapons used by the terrorist organisations, certainly fulfilled all the standards outlined above, and

a great deal of time was taken up after the formal presentation with individuals questions. As the evening was staged in the Peake Inn, a good time was had by all!

EX SPRING SLIDE

On the kind invitation of NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron 25 members of the Squadron travelled to Bavaria for 2 courses of ski instrution. The advance party—**WO2 (SSM) Tony Hand** and **Cpl 'Chippy' Carpenter** drove from Lisburn to Bavaria, collecting Course 1 from Gutersloh on the way—not a journey to repeat too often.

The first party of 12 commenced skiing within 12 hours of arriving, many doing away with the excess clothing—'How can it be this warm in snow?' asks **Pte Pam Smith**, 'Yeh, this is brill' replies **Pte Ellie Garland** and 'Can we have a beer now?' from Sig Herbie Herbert. **'Wolfe' Wolfendale**, after a slow start and a great number of falls, managed to master the art but his style is still questionable. **Cpl 'Albert' Switzer** managed to twist his knee ice skating but still found enjoyment for the last few days. **Sig Kev Belam** and **Pte Sue Lisle** managed to hold on to each other for the majority of the time and are now engaged! **Sig 'Dave' Woosey** to the amusement of the locals, took a friend to most parties—a cardboard box!

The weather remained fine for the course with the exceptions of 2 days of rain which were used for ice skating, bowling and trips to Linderhof and Neuschwanstein.

The final days comprised of ski races in which **Sig Dave** 'the cardboard box' **Woosey** took first place, plus a few warm-up carnival parties, at which the costumes had to be seen to be believed.

Course 2 phoned when two hours away, to say they would arrive at the Hotel at 0100hrs—and eventually arrived at 0530 hours! So to bed, breakfast, ski equipment and on the slopes within 6 hours. 'Hit them

Adopt the Instructor's position. Ptes Allison Carter, Julie Rawling and Carol Wheatley

Of course it doesn't always work out right. Pte Ellie Garland and Sig Kev Belam

while they are dozey' recalls the SSM. **LCpl Dave Fowler** helped out with ski instruction—and a very good job he did—though a couple of his falls were classics. **Sig Smithy Smith** and **Pte Carol Wheatley** returned to the shops for new ski trousers after learning 'snow ploughs' correctly, **Pte Sally Brooks** found the jacuzzi so exciting it took four guys to pull her out (still smiling) whilst **Pte Julie Rawlings** was happy only when scared to death, ie, hysterical laughter echoing over the slopes. **WO1 John Baron**, steam escaping from his suit in bellows, worked like a demon, his main wish to get his weight below 100 kilos which I feel he must have done. **Cpl Chris Davison**, who made everyone feel great due to his physical appearance in the mornings, spent many hours driving to the benefit of all, and did well in the skiing.

All had an excellent time, many new friends were made with the Germans, Dutch, Belgian and British members of NASRS. The welcome break from Northern Ireland is an ideal 'carrot' to lead us to next year (ASRS please note).

WHO SLOANES WINS

As the 80s progress it is becoming apparent that a new breed of soldier is appearing: The Sloane Soldier, taking his lead from his civilian counterpart the Sloane Ranger. This soldier stands out easily in his dress, mannerisms, vocabulary, accent and habits. In a word, he has STYLE. We have noticed that most Sloane Soldiers in the Squadron at the moment belong to Whiskey Troop, led by **Capt Dave Beach**.

In the next few editions we will attempt to give members of the Corps an insight into the secrets of Sloaneing to allow them to identify such creatures within their own units. In order to assist the understanding of the Sloane vocabulary we will print a small selection from the Sloane dictionary in each edition;

Quids In	— At an advantage.
SOHF	— Sense of humour failure (someone is not amused at Sloane Solider antics).
Wrinkly	— Middle-aged Sloane.
MTF	— Must touch flesh (female description of octopus Sloane).

The next edition will cover the dress and drinking habits of the Sloane Soldier.

TECH TROOP

First a few star performances by Troop members. **LCpl Jock Allen** tried some surgery on his finger with a scalpel, resulting in three weeks sick leave. **Sig Paul Goulding** has recently returned from a ten day residential course with the RGJ and thinks that everbody should run the BFT carrying a wombat shell. **Sgt Tim Elsey** tried to distract the opposition in the Seniors Vs Juniors Rugby Match with the brightest pair of socks anybody has ever seen. Although this ploy didn't really work, the seniors threequarters line was pretty dazzling too, consisting as it did of **Sgts Steve King, Ian Anton, Bob Hamilton** and **Mal Metcalfe** (all Tech Tp).

Next, we would like to say hello to **Cpls Skid Forteath, Cpl Brian Johnson** and **LCpl Edge Sharp** and farewell to **Sgts Brian Nevins, Al Geddes, Cpls Fitz Fitzpatrick** and **Taff Thomas** who have left for drier climes.

ADMIN TROOP

Not very much to report this time as the Troop has quietened down after the euphoria of **Capt Len Jefferys** 40th birthday. However, **Cpl Terry Males** did manage to lose his car for a while, only to have it recovered intact from a particularly lively sector of West Belfast!

Assistant Admin Officer **2Lt Val Grimmett** had a surprise in store for her when she took Squadron Parade last week. As she is so small she had been complaining that she couldn't inspect the mens berets so all ranks obligingly knelt down as she passed. We hope she doesn't get delusions of grandeur.

Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Terry Skee** and his wife on the birth of their daughter **Samantha**, welcome to **Pte Sally Leatherby** and farewell to **Sig Tex O'Sullivan** and **Dave Johnson** who are both civilians now.

COMMS TROOP

This month we thought it was about time that the unsung heroes of the Troop got a mention, so here it is.

The Power Section

Cpl Bob (The Peak? Me?) **Grigg**
LCpl Neil (Anybody borrowed my webbing?) **Gigg**
LCpl Kev (I'm just the new boy)**Roche**
Sig Nick (Did someone just get engaged?) **Barker**

Comms Troop holds a large reserve of various types of generators in addition to those fitted on the vehicles, and also all the green vehicles held by the Squadron. You may think that the routine

maintenance, servicing and repair—not to mention the odd box change—would be enough to keep any sensible ED fully occupied. But not our intrepid lads. They also run the Public Address facility for the whole Province—anywhere, anytime. Tasks here range from sports to horse shows and even an International Scout Camp. Most of the weekends in the summer are taken up with an event of some kind. However, just in case they get bored they also have a small outdoor lighting unit for Mess functions and are also eligible for Duty Crew, Duty Callout, Fatigues . . . ! In times of crisis they have been known to tune a C50.

As far as the rest of the Troop is concerned it has been a busy, if uneventful month. Rumour has it that **Sgt Lee Searle** has worn out two pairs of training shoes and still hasn't managed to catch **LCpl Bob Estridge**. A person with cause to celebrate is **LCpl Jake Lowe**, on gaining his first tape and a new son, courtesy of his wife, **Marie**.

Hellos are extended to **Sgt Kev Lodge**, **Cpl Paddy Lindsay**, **Brian Smallman** and his wife **Audette** and **Sig Pete Lee**.

Goodbyes to **Sig Bob Malvern** and **Sig Nick Oldman** on their way to the land of the setting LOA in 16 Sig Regt.

WHISKEY TROOP

By the time these notes hit the press, flaming June will have engulfed Northern Ireland. Whiskey Troop will have shrugged off the disappointment of failing to lift the McKelvie Trophy, a competition that avid Wire readers will have followed with nail-biting anticipation, and **Sgt Bob Smith** will have moved on to AFSOUTH, (thank God, the continued gloating is already wearing thin). Indeed by June one may even dare to hope that the hole in the Command Secretariat's corridor caused by a three ton, rampaging Datsun van, may have been repaired, thank you **Cpl 'Dwarf' McRoberts**. Rumour even has it that by June the long promised and dearly longed for Squadron cable television will have stretched out its all embracing web and reached the Troop Rest Room (Oh what joy to be able to see the AO live, well as close to live as possible, given his current state of health).

No Wire notes would be complete without a scattering of 'hello's', goodbyes and well dones. That being the case these notes will remain unfinished, rather like a symphony save to congratulate **Cpl Mints Cobban** on his marriage last April and a reminder to **Sgt Brian Hair** that he is getting married in August.

Finally a note of hope for the coming months. Firstly that **Sig Horsley-Wrights** fashion of mittens fails to catch on, although it may not be too late. Secondly, that **WO2 (YofS) Gibson's** telephone is repaired, and last but not least that the Troop retains its high standing as senior Sloane Soldier chapter of the Squadron. On yes, one last thing; God, please could you play for us in the McKelvie Trophy for the 1983/1984 season?

COMMCEN TROOP

OPENING OF PALACE BARRACKS COMMCEN

On Friday 25 March the re-vamped COMMCEN at Palace Barracks was opened by **Lt Col Ian Reid**, CO 1 RHF. The COMMCEN, which serves 1 RHF, the Ordnance Depot at Kinnegar and other units in East Belfast, is housed in a 10' square room in the Battalion Headquarters. It was a little cramped to say the least, so **Capt Terry Lightfoot**, **WO1 (YofS) Joe Farndon** and **SSgt Brian Robjohn** got the drawing boards out and designed furniture and benches. The new arrangements allowed the best use of the space available. A year later the work was completed and the COMMCEN is now smart and functional. It was a shame that two of the designers had been posted by the time the work was finished.

Lt Col Ian Reid, CO 1 RHF, opens the Palance Barracks COMMCEN, flanked by LCpl Eck Hardie and Sig John Smith

INTER TROOP LINK-UPS

Cupid has been at work in the Troop again. **LCpl Kate Whitehouse** married **Cpl Dai Williams** from Victor Troop, **Pte Mary Amlot** married **Cpl Mint Cobban** from Whiskey Troop and **LCpl Pete Brudenell** married **Miss Cheryl Aston** from Shipton-on-Stour. Welcome to the Province **Cheryl**, and best wishes to all the newlyweds.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to **WO1 (YofS) Mick Thornton**, **Sgt Alex Bisset** and **Margaret**, **LCpl Tony Axten** and **Margaret**, **Sig Andy Marshman** and **Nigel Stanmore** and **Pte's Heather Boyes**, **Sandy Buckle** and **Sharon Walton**.

Farewell to **WO1(YofS) Joe Farndon** and **Avril**, **Cpl Keith Rumsey**, **LCpls Chimi Chimiczewski**, **Alex (Windows) Regan** and **Eck Stewart** and **Ptes Ellie Garland**, **Ruth Jarvis** and **Jan Voak.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Inter-Troop Military Quiz Team of **Cpl Mick Brummell**, **LCpls Ted Warburton Scouse Shield** and **Sig Kev Belam** who, after convincing victories over Echo, Admin and Comms Troops lost in the final to Tech Troop.

Congratulations too, to **SSgt Pete Weedon** on gaining his Grade 3 Tug-of-War Association Judge. Some people will do anything to get out of the place for a few days.

STOP PRESS

We've just received a letter from CDCN to say that we have been awarded a Silver COMSTAR. Well done all DSOs and operators. To **WO1(YofS) Joe Farndon**, sitting in his plush office in SHAPE: 'We did it'.

AND FINALLY

W/Pte Thomis, posted from 10 Sig Regt to 233 Signal Squadron (NI) Lisburn, followed her joining instructions and air ticket instructions and ended up in Lisbon, Portugal!!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

—News from Headquarters—

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

VISIT BY CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS, SUDAN

Lt Col Kamel El Din Gadoura Mosnad from Sudan visited the School from 21 Feb to 23 Feb. He is seen here presented a commemorative plaque to the Commander **Brig A. M. Willcox.**

COMBAT NET RADIO (CNR) SIMULATOR

In late 1982, it was decided by the Whitehall 'mandarins', that a CNR Simulator should be bought for the Army and installed at the School of Signals. Radio Group was the chosen location and by 1 Feb all was prepared and a room ready. In early Feb, **Capt Alan Poppleton,** the Project Officer, and a team of engineers from the manufacturers assembled the equipment and the installation began. With valuable assistance being given by the 'resident' technicians, **WO1 (FofS) Jasiok, SSgt (FofS) Terry** and **Cpl Mabbott**, the final preparations were completed in time for the Simulator to be commissioned on 24 Feb. Happily this coincided with a visit to the School by the Director General of Army Training (DGAT), **Lt Gen Sir Richard Vickers KCB MVO OBE.** The Simulator was opened in style by DGAT formally cutting the tape, the manufacturers produced champagne and a toast was drunk to celebrate the introduction into the Army of this most modern of computer driven equipments. The Simulator has proved to be an instant success and now forms an integral part of Radio Group instruction.

Cutting the Tape
DGAT cuts the tape whilst the Managing Director of RACAL SES, Mr J. Crerar, assists

Celebration
(*L to R*): Mr Crerar communes with that great procurer in the sky, the Chief Instructor Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon wondering how it all works, Col M. R. Topple Col Engr (Late MCP) grins in satisfaction, DGAT marshalling his thoughts, Brig Willcox awaits his turn for the champagne and Maj Barrett OC Radio hoping a glassful might come his way

WE SAILED UNDER CAPT MORGAN

On Fri 11 Mar, on a very good day for sailing (or so we thought) a crew of whom Long John Silver would have been proud, set sail from Southampton on a voyage of discovery second only to that of the great Magellan. The crew consisted of the following members: **Capt Alan Davies (Sandbanker); Capt Peter Gray (Sail one way); Capt Steve Bresloff (Never again); SSgt Frank Skelly (Golden pillow); Sgt Alan Morgan (Know your knots); Cpl John Seymour (Mutinies organised); Cpl Mac Macalpine (White as a sheet); LCpl Rick Heckermann (Chainslider); LCpl Neil Baxter (Shorebound); Sig Taff Davies (Sleepy); Sig Clive Shelley (Barnacles); Sig Geordy Hughes (Capt Pugwash); Pte Paul Cheater (The Butcher).**

Lo and behold, just outside of Southampton water guess what happened, the Corps Yachting Master, no names mentioned, got us stuck on a sandbank, but with a little help from the crew, the dinghy and Jimmy Savile (he fixed it for **Alan**) we finally sailed for the Island of Guernsey.

The idea of the trip was to clean the boat, and also to allow the non-sailing members of the School MT to find out the pleasures of sailing (apparently there are some) but try convincing **Steve Bresloff.** On our arrival in Guernsey all we had to do was to tie up alongside any ship; we chose the only Panamanian Cruiser that was docked, so two intrepid members of our crew, led by **Alan Davies,** jumped aboard and attempted to tie up, to the great displeasure of the Panamanians, with cries from the crew of 'Smack him **Alan'**, the attempt to tie up was aborted.

We eventually found a place which was much more fun alongside the quay, which only entailed three of the crew staying up all night to lengthen and shorten the ropes.

BETTER THINGS

So ended our first night in Guernsey, but better things were ahead, the next day bright and early after a full compo breakfast, it was time to find out the joys of scraping barnacles off the bottom of a boat, whilst standing in three feet of silt and mud. The officer element decided that this task looked too much like hard work, and went to the local bank (apparently they sell Guinness, or so they smelt) so I'm afraid that was them for most of the day. Their return coincided with both the tea meal and the end of work that day. **Alan Morgan** and **Neil Baxter** (Sailors Army first class) seemed to me to be the only people who knew what they were doing (it was planned that way) and maybe without them we would still be on a sandbank. The next day was taken up with painting the boat with a substance known as anti-fouling paint (wonderful isn't it?) but this time a lot of the lower echelon sailors managed to swerve most of the work. On our return, we were rewarded with a night sail to Alderney, which has a very close resemblance to that of Tristan De Cuna, and our journey ashore did look a lot like the Normandy Landings, although much more successful. Straight to one of the local pubs for a quick nightcap (closing time 2400), then back to the dinghy and back on board ship (we have reason to believe that **Steve Bresloff** was accused of being drunk in charge of a dinghy) although he doesn't seem that type of chap. At the crack of dawn the next day we set sail for Cherbourg Duty Free Shop (the whole purpose of our trip) a docking which failed, I think due to language problems; we finally docked and most of the crew made their way to the local swimming pool, apart from

Sig Taff Davies gets to know his knots

The Army even 'Bull' schooners

Capt (Capt Birdseye) Bresloff with his trusty starboard watch

Sig Georgy Hughes at the 'Bow of his career'

the officer element (I wonder why), for a well deserved shower, the full story of this will appear in later Wire Notes. And so at 2200 that night we set sail for one of the most romantic parts of the world, 'Swanage' believe it or not, for a pub lunch and then to Poole where our officer element left us.

We apologise to **Lt Col Morrison** for the lack of Duty Free, but there was no money left.

THE CORPS BAND

Bearing on the history of the Corps Band, a change of Director of Music is significant. The most recent appointment was that of **Maj Gordon Turner** who succeeded **Lt Col Keith Boulding** on his retirement last Jul. Enlisting as a boy in the Royal Army Medical Corps Band, **Keith Boulding** served in Army bands for 43 years, finishing as the Senior Director of Music, Army Bands. Briefly (perhaps not a particularly apt choice of word after a career spanning 43 years!) he passed out as a Bandmaster from the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, in 1949 where he was appointed Bandmaster of the Devonshire Regiment and subsequently the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. In 1962 he was posted to the Guards Depot at Pirbright followed by promotion to Lieutenant in 1963. **Col Boulding's** next position was that of Director of Music, Band Royal Tank Regiment (Rhine) during which time he was promoted to Captain. In 1969 he joined the Royal Signals Band when they were stationed in Catterick, a position he held until last year. We wish him well in his retired officer's appointment at the Ministry of Defence.

Now of his successor. **Gordon Turner** began his military career as a cornet player in 1949 when he enlisted into the Band of the Royal Engineers. In 1957 he passed out of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, and was appointed Bandmaster of the 15/19 Royal Hussars. In 1971 he was promoted to Captain and took up the post as Director of Music, Band Royal Tank Regiment (Cambrai), a position he held until being made Director of Music of the Corps Band last year. **Maj Turner** was appointed **MBE** in the New Year Honours List in recognition of his services to Military Music in BAOR.

STILL WITH US

Whilst on the subject of personalities, mention should be made of a character many of you may recall, **Sgt 'Danny' Daniels,** who this year completed his 22 years Service with the Corps Band. Ear drums won't be the same anymore now that **'Danny'** has departed after parading up and down many squares and streets pounding out his beat and timing on his Bass Drum. He now lives locally and is employed as a coach driver for the firm that generally transports the Corps Band up and down the country.

THE REFEREE

A long time member of the Corps Band is **Sgt Peter Kitson** who qualified as a football referee five years ago. He is now on the Army Select List and was appointed this season, to officiate in Belgium for the 'Kentish Cup', Belgium v France Armed Forces.

HERE AND THERE

During the past eight years the Band has organised and taken part in the SWDIST Band Football Trophy. On four occasions we have won the Trophy but last year we had to settle for 'runners up' to the Band I PWO. Let's hope we can get our own back as we are due to play them again in this year's final.

Finally, mention should be made of the Band's efforts in the Blandford and District Darts League. This year we finished a respectable fifth but by the amount of enthusiasm shown by all Band members should be improved upon next season. Four members of the Band's dart team have won their way through to the National Finals of the NAAFI Darts Team Championships sponsored by Carlsberg Lager. They are **Cpls 'Cid' Rackstraw, 'Poser' Vincent, LCpl 'Timbo' Stankus** and **Musn Paul May.** The finals are due to take place at RAF Brize Norton sometime in May. Let's hope it's good news when next we go to print.

THE CORPS BAND WITH A DIFFERENCE

On 31 Jan the Corps Band paraded in a different uniform from their normal parade dress, this time it was in combat kit with stripped webbing, to undergo their week's annual military training. The normal SMG, SLR, NBC and First Aid training was covered and to make it more interesting this culminated in night exercise *Night Owl* with section attacks. After a quick wash and brush up exercise *Try Hard* followed with a run round camp, three miles, carrying a stretcher (no body) and over the assault course. The best time was 29 minutes, which was a very good average time for the course.

The 2IC School Regiment, **Maj Ben Bolt,** made the presentation of the Military Training Shield to **SSgt Geoff (Teddy) Taylor,** the tired but proud section leader of the winning team.

Cpl Ian (CID) Rackstraw holds LCpl Barry (you know) Cornforth's head whilst Musn Stephen (Skewsy) Skews ties the bandage helped by Musn Brian (Geordie) Thomson

Sgt Andy Cummings supervising *(L/R)* Musn Les Ramsay and Musn Stephen (Skewsy) Skews on the 30 metre range

SSgt Ian Sargent instructing Musn Trevor Bulmer-Jones on the 40/160 with *(L/R)* LCpl Keith Beasley and Musn Anthony Hind listening attentively

THE YEAR OF THE TREE

In an effort to improve the environment in the Garrison this year a plan was made to plant 200 shrubs and 150 kilos of daffodils. This completed, an ambitious plan for 500 trees was made, mainly to be planted around the married quarters areas. Fortunately, **Mr Sidney Hobson**, the District Works Officer, who controlled the contractors and **Mr Tom Penny**, the local ground maintenance Officer, agreed to support the project. The PSA would plant the trees, due to the underground services, and also buy a tree for each that the Garrison provided. Where do you get trees free? A 'volunteer' party gathered one Wednesday afternoon in Jan and collected 106 trees from the woods ready for the planting programme to start. The Dorset County Council, in conjunction with the Countryside Commission, provided 50 Beech trees and 100 saplings. Soon members of the Garrison were bringing in trees towards the project.

The Commander, **Brig A. M. Willcox,** planted the first tree, a Cedrus atlantica glanca (Blue Cedar), in Central Park. The **RSM, WO1 Spencer Evans**, had the honour of planting the 250th tree, outside the WOs and Sgts Mess, a Juglans nigra (Black Walnut). The **SOinC, Maj A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE**, showed them both the way to do it when he planted the 500th tree, a Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea' (Golden Ash), with plenty of soil on the shovel and by choosing a larger tree.

The aim has been to plant a wide variety which include such attractive aspects as leaf and bark colour and also shape. Amongst those already planted are Red and Silver Maple, Birch and Weeping Silver Birch, Beech and Copper Beech, Weeping and Golden Ash, White and Black Mulberry, Varigated and Weeping Lime, White Beam and Eucalyptus, Walnut and Black Walnut and even some Evergreen Oaks. The aim now is to continue the project, next season, by planting a further 500 trees, possibly followed by 500 fruit trees.

A 'Volunteer' Force Gathered to Collect Trees
L/R: Sgt 'Paddy' Murphy, LCpl 'Museum' Marsden, Sig 'Pick-em' Armishaw, Sig 'Half Hidden' Prosser, Sgt 'Andy' Cummings, Sig 'Taff' Stokes, Mr 'Andy' Hill, SSgt 'Tony' Desborough, 2IC, Cpl 'Mrs' Hopkinson, Cpl 'Chris' Batchelor, Mr George Martin, WO2 (SSM) 'Jock' Rodgers, Sgt 'Jock' Corsar, Sig 'Toni' Blood, WO1 Jim 'Days to do' Downie

WO1 (RSM) Spencer Evans planting the 250th tree, a black walnut, outside his Mess. Supervising were *(L/R)* Sgt Vince Wilby, Maj Ben Bolt, WO2 (SSM) Colin Miller, WO2 (SSM) Jock Rodgers, WO2 (YofS) Pete Baron

After the Garrison Commander, Brig A. M. Willcox, had planted the First tree, a blue cedar, Maj Ben Bolt outlined his tree planting project for the Garrison

QATAR Armed Forces

BACK AGAIN

It has been some time since we appeared in 'The Wire' but a number of recent events have prompted us to go to print.

The Force Communications Unit of the Qatar Armed Forces now has the following Loan Service complement:

OC FCU	**—Lt Col David Cook Royal Signals**
WO1 (YofS)	**—Alan Doane**
WO1 (Art Tels)	**—Geoff Leach REME**
AWO1 (FofS)	**—Bob Morley**

Until six months ago we were the only Army Loan Servicemen in Qatar and there was one RN officer in the Sea Arm. Over the last year we have welcomed one more Army officer and three RAF officers and will shortly see another Naval officer arrive.

FLOATER 83

Qatar was recently visited by *Floater 83*, a cross channel car ferry converted to an exhibition of products from British Defence Equipment Companies. It was a good opportunity to catch up on latest developments and to talk to the members of the Corps on board.

AN OCCASION MARKED

In Oct **WO1 (FofS) Trevor Spence** completed 22 years service with the Royal Signals. To mark the occasion he was presented with a statue of 'Jimmy' at a reception at the OC's house in January.

PRESENTATION

Jan also saw the presentation of the LS & GC medal to **WO1 (FofS) Bob Morley.** We are too small a group to organise the traditional parade—and we did not have a single item of British Army Uniform between us. **HE The British Ambassador, Mr Stephen Day,** kindly held a reception at his residence to mark the occasion and presented **Bob** with his medal. The photograph shows **Bob** giving us his thoughts immediately after the presentation.

Left to Right: Miss Lega Maxwell (PA to the British Ambassador) WO1 Bob Morley, WO1 Alan Doane, HE The British Ambassador, Mr Stephen Day, Lt Col David Cook

QATAR HALF MARATHON

Qatar has joined the recent vogue for Fun Runs and on 25 Feb over 1300 runners, encouraged by some 10,000 spectators, took part in the first Qatar half marathon. **Bob Morley** and **Geoff Leach** both entered and finished in the very creditable positions of 167 and 182 respectively out of more than 900 who completed the event. The race was run on one of the first warm days after the coldest winter here in 20 years, when the temperature dropped to a daytime low of 55°F. The competitors were running in temperatures of 80°F, so the race was a real test of endurance.

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE . . .

Fri the 24 Mar saw the farewell dinner for **Maj Fred Searle** and his wife **Ursula,** given by the Officers, SNCO's and wives of 2 Squadron. The 'Cottage in the Wood' was chosen for the venue, where a superb three course dinner was provided. After the meal, **Fred** was presented with a bronze statuette as a farewell gift from the Squadron, by **Capt Dave Thorp.** In return he presented the Squadron with a suitably inscribed plaque. The meal over, everyone retired to the bar where **Fred,** in a moment of uncharacteristic generosity, stood everyone present, to a drink. We were all assured that the fact he had just been paid some £400 in allowances for his resettlement course had nothing whatsoever to do with this gesture. This set the seal on what turned out to be a very pleasant evening.

Maj Searle had been OC 2 Squadron for 2½ years and in that time his quest for perfection became legendary. His motto of the five P's (preparation and planning precludes poor performance) became something of a byeword within the Squadron, driving many an instructor to the point of distraction. His boundless enthusiasm and leadership have been an inspiration to all of us and he will be sadly missed. Our loss is to be British Industries' gain. We wish both **Fred** and **Ursula** a fond farewell and best wishes for their future life.

Capt Dave Thorp presents Maj Fred Searle with a farewell gift

EXERCISE *'WILD CHERVIL'*

Exercise *'Wild Chervil'* was basically a fun venture aimed at getting the five members of 215 Squad out of the confines of the classroom environment. Normally Squads are allowed a long weekend during their course, for adventure training. 215 Squad went one better and used half of their interim 10 day break.

On 4 Mar, our party of six, **Sgt Dave Dolling, Sig Mark Smith, Mat Jones, Martin Greene, Scouse Wright** and **Steve Walker,** departed Garats Hay for the Calcutt boatyard just south of Rugby.

The *'Wild Chervil'* was a 46ft, six berth narrowboat, featuring full central heating, fitted galley, fridge, cooker, shower and even a television. A real home from home.

Four of the crew of the Wild Chervil

After a brief but concise demonstration on the internal and external workings of the boat, we set sail with **Sig 'Pugwash' Greene** at the helm. By midday we had reached the very picturesque village of Braunston, where we seized the opportunity of mooring up and sampling our very first draught refreshment. With reluctance we moved on and by 1900hrs had reached Watford, our first overnight stop.

The remaining days passed all too quickly. From Watford we had back paddled through Braunston and then headed north up the main Oxford canal. We passed through Rugby, Newbold on Avon, Stratton, Ansty, Hawkesbury, Bedworth and up as far as Nuneaton, stopping on the way at places of interest to sample the local brew and enjoy the hospitality that seemingly goes with canal life. A good trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all and well worth doing again. The photograph shows four members of the 'crew'. **Mark Smith, Mat Jones, Steve Walker** and **Scouse Wright,** negotiating one of the many locks.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

1982/83 has proved to be a highly successful season, for what can only be described as the best hockey team the Group has ever seen. Led by **WO1 D. D Smith,** the team has grown in strength throughout the season, winning a succession of major tournaments. The first victory came in the Stafford Six's where RAF Cosford were defeated in a closely contested final.

Hungry for further success, the Group entered two teams for the Eastern District six a side Trophy. Both teams acquitted themselves well with the stronger 'A' team romping to victory over 2 Queens Division.

In the West Midlands Services Hockey League the Group showed an unrivalled consistency. Dropping only two points throughout the season we ran out easy winners of the league.

The culmination of the entire season must surely have been our path through to the Army (UKLF) Minor Units Cup competition. Brushing aside opponents with comparative ease, we faced AAC Harrogate in the final. We were not without our share of luck. Having lost **Sgt Tommy Wright** (our most prolific goal scorer) on posting, fortune smiled on us with the timely arrival of a replacement in the form of **Cpl Pete Packwood.**

At full strength the team travelled to Aldershot on Wed 23 Mar, for the final. As expected it proved to be a hard fought game with both teams having to share the honours in a goalless first half.

Some 15 minutes into the second half the Group took the lead with a well taken goal from **Sig Gary Payne.** Unfortunately this was neutralised by Harrogate scoring from a very controversial penalty. The Group had several opportunities to clinch the match but full time saw the scores level at 1—1, with the prospect of another 30 minutes play.

Despite repeated efforts to find the back of the Harrogate net, there was no further score and it looked as though this most coveted trophy might yet slip from our grasp. The final was to be decided on penalty flicks. Two fine saves from keeper **Sgt Dave Macreath** ensured Comms & Sy Gp ran out eventual winners by 4 goals to 3. A fitting climax to a splendid season.

Worthy winners of the Army Minor Units Hockey Trophy from *left to right:* Rear; Lt Col John Dobson (CO), Sgt Tommy Wright, WO– Dave Smith (Capt), SSgt Brian Inglis, Sig Pete Willet, Sgt Dave Macreath, Cpl Pete Packwood, LCpl Digger Dignam, SSgt Mick Smart
Front; SSgt Bob Turner, Sig Andy Williams, WO2 Pete Coleman, Sig Gary Payne, Sgt Dave Dolling, Sgt Dave Kent

WO1 Dave Smith collects the Army Minor Units Hockey Trophy

ORIENTEERING

Throughout the past year Orienteering has suffered many 'hiccups' with the constant recruitment, training and shortlisting of promising hopefuls, only to lose them on completion of their trade training. However, through all the gloom a nucleus of reliable orienteers has emerged in the form of **SSgts Al Hale, Brian Lawrence** and **LCpl Ian Williamson ACC.** Between them they looked to have a possible winning combination.

The District Championships (Eastern and London combined) was to provide the first major test. Two male teams and a hastily assembled female team were despatched to Rowney Warren, Bedfordshire to 'fly the flag' for the Group.

No less than eight minor units had entered the men's event and with the ladies facing opposition from five other teams it quickly became obvious we would have to perform well if we were to get anywhere. Any doubts we may have had before the start proved to be unfounded as each of our runners in turn came in to the finish with very good times. The end of the day saw us walking away with a good percentage of the trophies. The ladies team of **W/WO2 Jo Bolland, W/Cpl Chris Meadows** and **W/Pte Sandy Goodson,** won the WRAC event for the third year in succession, with **W/WO2 Jo Bolland** finishing as individual runner up. The men fared equally well with the 'A' team easily beating the opposition and **SSgt Al Hale** collecting the individual runner up trophy. A mention must also be made of the 'B' team. **Sgt Dave Hughes, LCpls Harry Butland** and **Phil Churm** had really excelled themselves and finished in a very creditable third place. We look forward to our next major event (the UKLF Championships), unfortunately with a sadly depleted team (more postings).

News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

NEAR MISS

We thought we would start off by getting slightly more technical than telling you that we exist in the 'Frozen North'. For those of you who may wish to visit us at any time our location is, Sheet 88 grid square 0869. This may well save you the inconvenience of discovering the other two Oustons in the area. A fact to which the RAEC will give witness. After the salutary experience of 1 Sqn's defeat at Boxing by the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion (IJLB) the Regiment started hopefully in the Junior Inter Regimental Competition. With a few more Juniors to select from, once again we fought through to the finals, to find ourselves up against—guess who? Yes, that's right, IJLB; and once again I regret to announce we came second. Even more ironic, is that once again IJLB won by a single bout on a walkover, with the Junior Regiment unable to fill all weights. Well done lads, next year we will have a plastic blow-up model made, which we will be able to adjust for any weight.

VOLLEYBALL

Traditionally Easter at Ouston is spent on the Drill Square or on some equally uplifting experience. However this year we opted for a Volleyball tournament on the Saturday morning. A very enjoyable morning was had by all and we actually ended up with a winner—well done Iron Tp. Just a couple of questions though—how come RHQ didn't win?—after all they wrote the rules, and why did a certain Burnham Lecturer wear boxing gloves on the court?

THE PHOENIX CLUB OPENS

Things are certainly looking up on the social side of life within the Regiment especially for the Cadre junior ranks with the opening of their own club. Aptly named the Phoneix Club (a bird that rises from the ashes) this once-upon-a-time RAF gas chamber has been completely rebuilt and how has a disco, a bar, two lounge areas and a large games room.

Once PSA has finished the painting and decorating we were left with the difficult and time consuming task of finding a suitable dignatory to carry out the grand opening. The Commander Training Brigade was approached—and surprise, surprise, agreed to perform the ceremony. This left the RSM with four whole days warning and a near heart attack. However thanks to many willing hands, the club was ready to be formally opened by **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** on Monday 21 February. The Brigadier unveiled a plaque and received a gift of a Pewter Tankard (full) from the Club members. He then went on, together with the CO, RSM and Club PMC, **Cpl Derek Beveridge RAMC** to formally open the club areas step by step—starting with the bar and finishing with the pool tables. After a curry lunch, and what we hope was an enjoyable time, the Brigadier departed for the warmer climes of Catterick!

The club has now had various functions ranging from family lunches on Sundays, through to every form of Saturday night entertainment, and it is hoped that with the entertainment available and support of its members, it will continue to go from strength to strength.

Other events of particular note since our last contribution are the pass out of Kohima Troop and the Regimental Concert.

At last the rain has stopped and the wind has dropped from gale force and it is time to march on

The SOinC inspecting JCpl 'Spic' Millsopp with troop pennant

The SOinC sharing a joke with JSig Jimmy Barrie

The march past and even the RSM (WO1 T. H. C. Cartwright) appeared on this one

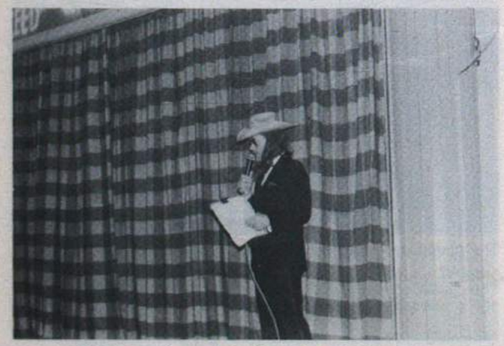
Final 'eyes right'. Sgt Taff Tudgay was seen to be smiling for the first time in 35 weeks

JSgt 'Loud' Worley receives the CO's prize from the SOinC

CONCERT

The theme of this year's Regimental Concert held on 22 and 23 February was 'The Cabaret' with the audience seated at tables and being able to enjoy a meal and a drink as the action took place on the stage. There was plenty of action too, with sketches, two sets of dancing girls, the unit's own folk group the 'Ouston Wailers' and even appearances by **Elvis Presley** and **Rene** and **Renato**.

Each troop and department put on a sketch in turn and a handful of guest artistes gave the show that extra professional polish. The Compères were **RSM Tony Cartwright** and **Lt David Meyer** assisted by **Sgts Brian Tanner** and **Sammy Stephenson**. Special mention must be made of singers **Isobel Strefford** and **Ase Tanner**. Behind the scenes the stage manager was **Lt Bob Etherton, Sgts Jim Denehy** and **Brian Redstone** and **Cpl Joe Fiteni** were the technical experts and the whole show was produced by **Maj Bryn Griffiths**.



RSM Tony Cartwright flown in from Memphis

Isobel Strefford and the Kit Kat girls

Grand Finale—including David Burn, Sister Carol, George Whyman, Brian Tanner and Nigel Austen

HOCKEY

Despite losing some valuable players from both Cadre and Junior teams last year, the season has been reasonably successful. On the Cadre front the route to the Army Cup started off well; we defeated the Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) 1—0 and then 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn came over and were beaten 2—1. This put us into the quarter finals against our old adversaries, AAC Harrogate. The game lived up to expectation in that it was an extremely close and hard fought battle. One goal up **(Lt Paul Wilkin)** in the first half, the Junior Regiment went into the second half with their tails up and eager to show Harrogate a hockey lesson or two. Sadly, a momentary relapse in our defence and Harrogate scored from a penalty flick. Snortly afterwards they scored again, this time from a penalty corner. From then on (only about 10 mins playing time left) the Junior Regiment went all out with virtually the whole side on the attack. Despite this pressure, and a number of missed chances, the final whistle went all too soon and Harrogate were through to the next round.

In the North East District League we had mixed fortunes. The Northern area produced only 4 teams and our results were somewhat disappointing.

Won 1 game and lost 1 game against 11 Sig Regt
Lost both games to 8 Sig Regt
Won both games against 4/7 RDG

JUNIORS

The juniors entered the Army Junior Cup and a Northumberland Schoolboys (U19) League. Receiving a bye in the Army Cup 1st round, we were then drawn against Apprentice College RAOC. After a lengthy journey to Blackdown, the Juniors pulled off a convincing 2—0 win. The next round, the sem-final, was against JLR RAC. After an even longer journey, this time to Bovington, the Armoured Corps proved to be much stronger and we went down 4 goals to 1.

On the League side the story is (on the face of it) even worse. Played 7 Lost 7. However, in fairness the opposition was much stronger, more experienced and more skilful than our young lads. It was a good, worthwhile experience and a number of juniors are potential Regimental players, namely **Jenner, Lanfear, Perks, Newell** and **Freeman** (goalkeeper).

Finally, the author regrets the bad news that our success at hockey has been limited.

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

1 SQN

As always at the beginning of a year we looked forward to a busy exercise season and hope the snow and ice goes away before we deploy. This time we were wrong. Our first exercise was *Saddle Blanket*—the CO's infantry battle exercise. It turned out to be more like a winter warfare course without skis or sledges with snow covered trenches in place of snowholes. But there have been other highlights this year including a recognition competition, a new squadron commander and the first staff exercise.

Delete Maj Anderson insert Maj Spencer

IN TOP TEN

A five man team from the Squadron represented the Regiment in the Divisional recognition competition held at Verden during the first week of February. The competition was designed to test the teams ability to recognise current NATO and WARSAW PACT equipments and personnel.

The team consisting of **Capt Jim McGrath, SSgt (FoS) Lew Lawton, LCpls Steve Blackwell, 'Wogger' Waugh** and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** were placed a creditable 9th in a strong field of fellow competitors. Other teams represented were from Infantry and Armour recce troops. The 'brains' of the team was undoubtedly **LCpl Waugh** who gained the highest individual score in the Division—a very creditable result.

1 SQN SKELETONS AIRED

At 1130 hrs on the 11 Feb the signature showed that the new OC 1 Sqn, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt was **Maj Chris Spencer**. The handover took place during a squadron parade following a hectic week of checks and inspections when all the 'skeletons' were taken out of the cupboards for an airing.

After the signing ceremony all ranks gave three cheers to the outgoing squadron commander, **Maj Mike Anderson**, who then led the whole squadron to the squadron club for 'refreshment'. **Maj Anderson** was presented with a decanter and crystal glasses from the soldiers, who wished him well in his new appointment in Belgium. The previous evening **Maj Mike** and **Layle** had been dined out of the squadron by the Officers, Seniors and their ladies at a formal but convivial dinner held in the Sergeants Mess. All ranks of the squadron would like to wish **Maj Anderson** and **Layle** the very best of luck in their new posting to the Low countries (a change from high spots).

HARDENED

Ex *Morning Glory* was the first Divisional Communications Exercise using the hardened and reduced staff HQs (21-25 March). The Comcens deliberately deployed to villages in order to alleviate the 'bog in' problem, but true to form, and beyond our wildest expectations, we managed to bog in four vehicles and as if that was not enough, the Recovery vehicles as well. Congratulations to all concerned. On the plus side we sorted out the two main problem areas: Range cards—just to keep the SSM happy. Keeping **Podgy Ginnell** fed throughout the morning, by providing a brunch meal from 8—12.

2 SQN

EX 'SADDLE BLANKET'
ROVER TROOP

Rover Troop had a reasonably eventful Ex *Saddle Blanket*. Their Infantry skills were demonstrated to the full. Some spectacular overhead Trench protection was erected, but after **Sig Bolton's** efforts collapsed on him while asleep, (only **LCpl Pilcher's** rapid action in dragging him out feet first saved a major disaster) the Troop tended to regard any overhead with a mildly jaundiced eye. **Cpl Sampson** and **Sig Balsdon** were seen at one stage reconstructing their overhead for the third time, just to be certain.

Cpl Allen had a brilliant clearing Patrol, but on returning to our lines was slightly perturbed to find Papa Troop opening Fire on him. It was only after composure had been regained did he realise that an enemy patrol had found him a thoroughly reliable Guide and had followed him in. However, he diligently set about capturing everyone in sight on the assumption that at the end of the day, perhaps one of the Prisoners would be the Enemy. He was right—two were.

LCpl Hay displayed a cool head whilst under attack, by head butting a Land Rover in the ensuing mêlée, surprisingly causing more damage to himself than the Land Rover. The remainder of the Attack was a throbbing haze to him.

The Troop Commander manager to get himself branded a 'Cad and a Bounder' by commandeering transport in a frustrated effort to meet up with the elusive 'Agents'. Despite all these efforts all contact with the Agents was successfully avoided.

NOT TO BE PRINTED

Meanwhile the Acting 2 Sqn SQMS, **Sgt Peters**, deployed to the Exercise Area carrying the Shovels, Picks etc. While waiting for the Squadron to arrive, he was seen to be using his newly converted coffee maker, in the vehicle, and managed to spill it all over himself. On the last day, when picking up the Stores, **Sgt** (Just Follow Me) **Peters** and **Cpl** (If You Say So) **Cambridge** managed to get both vehicles bogged in twice. The OC Squadron's comments could not be printed, and to cap it all, on the return journey **Sgt** (It's not my day) **Peters** had a puncture.

3 PLATOON

The 3rd Platoon performed many valiant feets (or is that feats?). **Sgt Bill Wilman** demonstrated how to dig a two storey Trench (but not how to cover it!) **Sig Archibald** demonstrated every disease known to Man with Athletes Foot and finished with Trench Foot. The RSM attacked us one night but was valiantly beaten off by a determined No 3 Section, and **SSgt (FofS) Hooley** was called from his Trench to be told by the Squadron Commander, that he was to be promoted. Assuming this meant from Platoon Commander to Company Commander the aforementioned Foreman threw his hat on the floor, jumped on it and shouted, 'Now I've got to do your job as well! And so ended a very spirited attempt by 3 Platoon to outshine everybody.

DARTS TEAM GETS UNDERWAY

Over the last two months (exercises permitting) the Squadron Darts Team has played a series of games against the other Squadrons in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Although not having some of our best players due to leave and courses, we have managed two wins against 1 and 3 Sqns and have been beaten by HQ Sqn and the Cpl's Mess. All our matches have been played in the 2 Sqn Club and although we have been waiting for return matches, no-one seems keen to play us now we have our best team available. Some of our throwers have been very consistent: **Sig McLaughlin** (when we can get him away from the Pig Farm), **Sig Mason** (when he is not hitting the Five's) and **Sig Sampson** who is now trying to knock Argentinians out of the sky with his 18 Gramm Darts. The next event should be the 2 Sqn Championships which we expect to be held after Ex *Flying Falcon*.

INTER SQN SWIMMING

This was a really closely contested Gala, being neck and neck between 2 Sqn, 207 Sig Sqn and HQ Sqn. Right up to the last Race there were only 3 points between the a/m Sqns, 207 Sig Sqn leading 2 Sqn by 1 point. In the final race 207 Sig Sqn just pipped 2 Sqn and took the Gala. There were some very good individual results achieved by the Squadron. **Lt Steve Hunt** was 2nd in the 50m Butterfly, **Cpl Pete Jones** and **Sig Bob Churchward** 1st in the 2 x 50m Freestyle and **LCpl Farmer (Pete)** in the 100m Freestyle came first.

FAREWELL

On Friday 18 March, the 2 Sqn Officers and SNCO's dined out one of the Regiment's characters in the form of **Sgt Joe Peters** and his wife **Judy**. The problem in the organising of such an event was not the actual function, which was held in the Sgt's Mess, but the editing of the numerous funny stories that could be told in the after dinner speeches. After due consultation between the OC Squadron and the SSM, a fine balance was met, contributing to a successful Farewell Dinner. We wish both **Joe** and **Judy Peters** the best at the 'Blunt End'.

3 SQN FOCUS

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations were in order for new fathers in the Squadron, **Sig Crossley** and **Jeffrey**, both wives had daughters. **Rachael Crossley** was born on 10 Feburary and **Charlotte Jeffrey** was born on 8 February.

Our congratulations and good wishes also to **LCpl Shouse Parry** who now has a **Mrs Trisha Parry.** Their wedding was on the 5 March in Scotland.

In March we had to say goodbye to **Sgt Kev Nicolls** and his wife, who have now gone to the TA in Staffordshire. Also goodbye and good luck to **LCpl Colin Shuse** who has joined 14 Sig Regt. The Squadron has also sent yet another DTG, **LCpl Young**,down to the Falkland Islands, OC Squadron **Maj John Grierson** is trying to get friendly faces down there for when he takes over as OC 266 Sqn in August.

EX SADDLE BLANKET

Overall the Squadron performed very well on this tough cold exercise, considering the lack of experience in cold weather survival and yomping. Quite a few men reported sick but the majority were returned to the field after treatment. **Sig Henderson** of line Troop was admitted to hospital after the exercise with frost bite of the feet, he's more used to the weather of sunny Jamaica and not frosty Soltau.

SQN RANGE DAYS

3 Sqn monthly range days for February and March were of a new style. Now the whole Squadron escaped to the peace and tranquility of Haberloh Ranges with none of the distractions of Naafi breaks, pay office and the RSM. Over the two days everyone did some shooting received instruction on first aid, wpn handling, map reading, divisional organisation, generators and safety with AFv 432s.

The second day culminated in an 11hr march from the ranges to an RV in 1hr 45mins or less. Most patrols were late and now know the importance of good map reading. The fastest team, 1hr 34mins, was the Squadron officers and SNCOs.

EX HARD START

The first Squadron deployment with AFV 432s, 'panzers', was on Ex Hard Start. Many problems were discovered and some will be overcome. The exercise also managed to bring the 'Rommel pose' out of everyone with goggles, sunglasses and silk scarfs **(Cpl Theo Caderius Van Veen)**.

SPORT

Oscar Troop rugby team captained by big **'Ivor' Stanley-Jones** (Ivor funny ear) has been busy playing line troop on 6 March losing 3—0 and the Squadron Officers and SNCOs captained by **Maj John Grierson**, again losing 4—0. Both matches were very well refereed, by **SSgt Mich Knights** and **WO1 Mick Russel, REME**, and were enjoyed by everyone. The officers and SNCOs particularly appreciated their Saturday morning match as it enabled them to be absent from shopping at the Naafi.

On the 30 March the Squadron turned out in strength for the Regimental Winter Page Trophy Competition. The Squadron came second in the Football and Hockey but won the Rugby, Tug—of—War and Volleyball giving us the same result as the previous 4 years, winners of the Winter Page Trophy.

On the 31 March the Inter sqn swimming competition was held in the local swimming pool, the Squadron performed bravely and the tactic of putting **Lt Suzy Reed** in a bikini for the chain of command race didn't distract enough teams and we finished 5th.

201 (22 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The Squadron has spent some 3 weeks on exercise and 2 weeks on completing the conversion of our command vehicles to the standardised installation during the 8 weeks under review. Coupled with leave, courses and other one-offs, the parade stats in the mornings has been very small for most of the period.

In addition to trialling the new command installations, we have also actually used TRIFFID for the first time. Initial impressions on this are mixed, but it appears that to qualify for RROP at a Brigade one should not exceed 5ft 6in in height! The new CIAT installations were coupled to WAVELL for the first time also during Ex Morning Glory. This turned out to be a game for 10 or more players to get right

but perserverence and a keen sense of humour saw us successfully through the teething problems and all should be well henceforth. Our staff were very favourably impressed with the system.

In spite of the heavy demands made by the conversions and exercises, the Squadron Basketball and Cross County Teams should be congratulated on their success. The former led by **WO2 (SSM) Jerry Whelan** won the Divisional Minor Units Championship and qualified for the ast 4 in the BAOR finals, and the latter, under the leadership of **SSgt Rick Levett** were runners up in the Divisional Championships and thus qualified to run in the BAOR competition.

It has been an intense 2 months with more on the horizon for the next 2 including another 4 weeks exercise, a storage site guard and a 432 driving course.

207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

OC	**Maj J. D. Stokoe MBE**
2IC	**Capt N. J. Thompson**
OC A1 Tp	**Lt J. W. Clark**
OC A2 Tp	**Lt S. L. Hawkes**
SSM	**WO2 J. Preston**
YofS	**WO2 J. Floyd**
FofS	**SSgt P. Waring**
SQMS	**SSgt E. D. Feasey**

The start of the year proved to be a hard and challenging time for the whole squadron. Looking forward, there was the Clansman conversion, ARU, the initiation of our new Trial Concept and several sporting events to come.

The Squadrons 432's moved to Verden for the new Clansman Staff Users fit and at the same time training began for the ARU. With the conversion complete the ARU was soon upon us. The day started with a personnel and equipment inspection. Immediately after this the teams climbed into NBC kit and began to march the three miles to the ranges. Where, having shot with respirators on and off, the NBC kit was removed, much to everyone's relief, and the march continued. After a further three miles there was a large bang and clouds of smoke as a landrover 'blew up'. The teams charged into action, pulling

Action speaking rather than words at the NBC Stand

169 Lt Simon Hawkes controls administration of First Aid to the 'injured' whilst Sig Taff O'Keefe who can't stand the sight of blood, unwraps the bandages

bodies from the wreckage and giving them immediate first aid, setting up all round defence and sending a Casrep on the radio (having fixed it first). Having finished with the First Aid stand the teams were on the home run. Only four more miles and then retire to the Jerboa Club for the Brigade Commanders presentation. The time for the March was 1 hour 50 mins and the Competition was won by **Cpl Mick Milne** and his men, **Sig Davidson, Sgt Mick 'The Para' Lumgair, Pte Malloy, YofS** (I can feel a coma coming on) **Floyd, FofS Pete Waring, Sig Tommy Smith** and **Capt** (Oh!) **Nick Thompson.**

The winning section after the first mile with the YofS and 2IC at the trail, already warm inside their NBC suits

THE SEASON

The squadron then moved into the exercise season. With the new equipment and new Trial Concept (Main and Tac) the Squadron went on Exercise *Hard Start* and Exercise *Spring Chicken*. The aim of these exercises was to practise the Squadron in moving, setting up and tearing down drills, the climax being the last 18 hours when Main HQ moved 5 times.

With these exercises under our belt the Squadron then took the Brigade Staff on Exercise *Morning Glory* where we continued the motion, and to quote the CO **Lt Col Danny Fisher** 'I knew you had been there because I could see the track marks'. This was the comment after his third attempt to visit the Squadron in the field.

Finally, to sport. The Squadron Swimming Team, under the training of **Lt Simon Hawkes**, surprised the whole Regiment, with the exception of his Team, by lifting the Inter Squadron Swimming Trophy. An excellent performance by everyone concerned with a special mention for **Sig Tommo Tomlinson** who won the Individual Medley. The Hockey team under the control of **FofS Pete Waring** are improving with every game as they showed by beating the Div B Team 2—0. And lastly football; come back **Dave, Glen, Mac** and **Keith** we need you!

207 SIG SQN AT THE DIVISONAL SKI MEETING JANUARY

The Squadron won the Divsional Minor Units Nordic Skiing championships.

The following series of photographs tell their own story:

Patrol Race.
Lt Jim Clark inspects the Patrol team prior to the start; Cpl Jock Milne, Sig Tommy Smith and Sig Nobby Clarke before 20km of Skiing

At the start. Anxious moments prior to the start, waiting to be photographed for this article before departing

4 x 10km Novice Relay.
Sig Tommy Smith hands over to Sig Nobby Clarke after his 10km leg

Sig Nobby Clarke glad to hand over his 4 x 10km leg to Sig Garth Bromily for the final leg to the finish

Downhill Events
Cpl Jim MacReady and Sig Nobby Nevill finish high up the Slalom and Giant Slalom for seeding in the final event, the Super GS

SWINGFIRE CUP

Both Nordic and Downhill events at the 1 Armd Div Skiing Championships in Axams, Austria were completed for this year, and a fine result achieved. Eleven members of the Squadron entered all the events available and returned to Soltau with the Minor Units Nordic Combination (SWINGFIRE) Cup. The Team (not in order of ability);

Lt Jim Clark
Cpl Jim MacReady
Cpl Jock Milne
LCpl Leapo Colclough
LCpl Kark Edwards
Sig Garth Bromily
Sig Nobby Clarke
Sig Nobby Nevill
Sig Tommy Smith
Sig Steve Thornley

Both teams achieving high results for a Minor Unit team, beating many Major Unit teams in both Nordic and Alpine events.

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
YORK

LAST VISITOR

Just before the Regiment finally departed BAOR we managed one last important event. This was the visit of the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE,** and his wife, **Sylvia,** on Mon 7 Feb. This was part of their goodbye visit to BAOR. Although it was a fairly cold and miserable day the SOinC managed to meet most of the Regiment who were still either waiting to be posted or were in the move to York. While this took place **Mrs Birtwistle** was shown around Bunde school and the Medical and Welfare facilities by **Mrs Christine Davies,** the wife of the 2IC.

Before lunching in the officers mess the SOinC presented **Cpl Roy Gratton** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Unfortunately there is no record of this occasion as the Regiment's stand in photographer, **Sgt Brabbins,** was changing the film in his camera.

The day, however, will be mainly remembered for its nostalgia. Firstly, the SOinC was the Regiment's last important visitor in Birdwood Barracks, Bunde. Secondly, we were lunching in the officers mess for the very last time. Even before 1700hrs that day the property member, **Lt Peter Gillespie,** had checked, removed and packed any item that could be moved from the building. Finally, but, even more important, the SOinC had served at Bunde as Adjutant and later on as a Squadron Commander. Because of the occasion, speeches were kept to the minimum, and short.

The CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor,** on behalf of the officers presented an original print of Bunde to the SOinC, while the Assistant Adjutant, the nearest we could find to a little lady, presented **Mrs Birtwistle** with a bouquet of flowers.

RETURN TO NORTH YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire Evening Press, Sixth Sense, Daily Telegraph, Yorkshire Gazette and Herald, The Times, Daily Express, Telegraph and Argus, Sheffield Morning Telegraph, Daily Mail, Northern Echo, Yorkshire Post and Soldier Magazine have all taken the opportunity of our exodus back to the north of Yorkshire to write lengthy articles and provide exciting photographs. It now falls to the recently appointed reporter from Imphal Barracks, York, to pen a few paragraphs.

As this copy of 'The Wire' rests either on your knee as you laze in an armchair, or on an untidy desk in a busy office, or even in the back of Technical Control in an overworked Communications Centre on Exercise *Summer Sales* in BAOR, you can rest assured that the 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt is finally based in its new orbat.

The Hardening and Reducing studies are now bearing fruit after our extensive trials, Wavell and Bunde are both events of previous years. The new Regiment has an RHQ, HQ Squadron and 1 and 2 Squadrons located in Imphal Barracks York. 210 Signal Squadron the old 24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, under command **Maj Ashley Truluck** is now residing in Gaza Barracks, Catterick. In the rarified atmosphere of BAOR, we left a forward element from 2 Sqn of 656 Sig Troop, commanded by **Capt Paul Ellis.** Not wishing to break totally from out past the troop is located in Tunis Barracks, Lubbecke, and co located with the HQ 2 Inf Div (Forward) staff which includes **Maj Mike Rice** as the SO 2 COMMS.

Although approximately 450 men moved on the main convoys in early Mar, a great deal of the spade work had already been done. New accommodation had been built for the men and the Squadron offices were gutted and rebuilt. Much of the credit for this must go to **Maj Jim Thornton,** the new QM Tech, who became known as a Mr Fixit. Some residents of York even got the impression that he was the only officer ever likely to work in the area! At present we await the handover of a new MT park and the associated garages. This task we understand will be completed while we enjoy Ex *Summer Sales* in BAOR. The advance parties task was made difficult as the contractors were steadily rebuilding while surrounded by packing cases, paint, cement and scaffolding. Their efforts were rewarded with the arrival of the first main convoy on Wed 2 Mar. This was one of 4 convoys which travelled from Rotterdam or Zeebrugge to Hull. The only major mishap concerned the final convoy which was delayed by a number of days after Hull dockers decided on a work to rule at weekends. However, it had been established some weeks previously from a throw away comment by the 2IC, **Maj Maurice Davies,** that all the effort would be put into providing the first convoy, under command **Capt Bob Brannigan,** with a tumultous welcome on the dockside.

Brig Claude Fairweather, Brig Aris, the GOC's representative, and the CO being interviewed by Yorkshire Television

A giraffe's eye view of the parade on Hull Docks with the Corps Band playing in the background

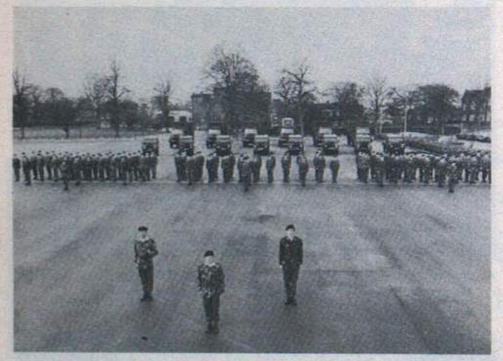
Brig Claude Fairweather showing that he thoroughly enjoyed chatting to everyone on the parade

Capt Mike Dent, who had arrived back a few days earlier, co-ordiniated the arrangements which required contacting the Corps Band, North Sea Ferries, Customs at Hull docks and the police escorts from Hull to York. This last task was made all the more amusing by the events on the day when the convoy commander realised his escort had to stop on the county boundary. In addition the press staff of HQ 2 In Div put together an impressive collection of the media to report and photograph the welcome.

The reception party at the docks included **Brig Aris,** Commander 15 Bde at Topcliffe, who acted as the GOC's representative, **Brig Claude Fairweather,** as a previous commander of the Regiment when it departed the UK some 40 years before, and the CO. In addition DCOS, **Col D. Redding,** and CRCT, **Lt Col Jones,** both of whom had been responsible for many aspects of the move, attended. Playing bit parts were the then OC 2 Sqn **Maj Tes Fish,** the Adjutant, **Capt David Proctor,** and the RSM, **WO1 Bernie Neillings.** The only unfortunate niggle was the docking time—8 o'clock on a very chilly and windy morning. For this reason all praise must go to the Corps Band who proudly played as the convoy drove on to the tarmac in front of the customs hall. Once parked the crews alighted and were paraded for inspection and welcome by **Brigs Aris** and **Fairweather.**

During this period the press took advantage of the parade to interview and film. In the case of **Cpl Higginbottom** this included a live radio interview on BBC Radio Humberside. It was noticeable that a great deal of attention was paid by the press to **Cpl Maggie Clements** WRAC who, as the Regiment's MT Corporal, had filled a last minute requirement for a driver.

The journey to York for the convoy took approximately two hours and once again the parade was repeated for the benefit of the newspapers and film crew who had failed to make the early morning call at Hull. It was at this stage that the weather decided to break and the rain came tumbling down. All the crews were guided away by Squadron representatives, to unload and find their new accommodation. Since the return, the Regiment has enjoyed a few weeks leave and we are now getting into the swing of our new role and equipment.



A token percentage of the Regiment provided for the photographer of the Yorkshire Evening Press. This was definitely the last publicity shot of the return to UK

REAR PARTY PERSONNEL

Although the Regiment's strength now lies in York a large rear party of various arms and trades was left behind in BAOR waiting for posting dates to come around to the other corners of the Corps area and the world. They have had the awesome task of the final clearing of debris from packing and throwing out that has taken place in Birdwood Barracks over the last few months. The lengths that they went to can be very well illustrated by the request of the Transport Regiment who now control the barracks asking for the leaves to be removed from the ditch which runs past the officers mess.

The responsibility for all their work fell on the shoulders of **Maj Gordan Baker** RA, ex OC RHQ Sqn and now OC Rear party. In support has been **Capt Frank Worrall,** ex QM Tech and who is now posted to Cyprus,**Capt Nick Nicoll,** who is moving to 249 Sig Sqn and **Capt Robin Price,** ex TFC Officer. These are but a few who were left behind who deserve a mention.

CONGRATULATIONS

WO1 (SC) Clive Mason was presented with an engraved salver by the officers as he departs on commissioning to the Army Selection Centre at Sutton Coalfield. There is a rumour that he will take up the appointment of Adjutant. This is a job he should feel capable of understanding and producing excellent results having served with at least three CO's, three Adjutants, Assistant Adjutants and a couple of RSMs in his time at Birdwood.

EMPTY AND FORLORN

The Sergeants Mess lies empty and forlorn as I write these the very last Mess Wire Notes from Birdwood Barracks. The last echoes of the recent merriment and conviviality are fast fading away into the walls and woodwork to join the host of other memories locked within. Memories shared by a massive slice of the Corps who have had the privilege of entering the Mess at Bunde during the last thirty years.

We closed the Mess in style having kept it going as long as was absolutely possible. On Fri 11 Feb those Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs remaining in Station gathered to dine out and pay tribute to three old lags, who having served their apprenticeships are now on their way to pastures new.

Firstly we said farewell to **WO1 (Supt Clk) Clive Mason** who leaves on commissioning, then we toasted **WO2 (FofS) Dick Allen** and **Sgt** (Wobbly) **Ron Taylor BEM,** each of whom have completed well in excess of the alloted 22 years.

Again the meal was excellent (twice in a row!!) and during the progress through the menu the Mess learned exactly how the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** manages to keep relatively sane and sober whilst the wine penetrates the remainder of the Mess to varying degrees. A waiter, who shall remain nameless, served the whole top table, carrying the customary two bottles, when twenty two diners complained that their goblets were full of water whilst the RSM was complaining bitterly that someone has 'wined his water', we all knew the jig was up. Some think it not a bad idea, as it would drastically cut the cost of the Mess Dinners in the future.

Most of the members attending the dinner were actually 'Beanies' at the time, having taken their families to York ahead of the Unit Move, in fact **SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe** returned on the Gutersloh bus twenty five minutes before the meal began having been delayed by snowstorms and rail disputes. Perhaps, because we all had no home to go to after the meal, we subconsciously decided to enjoy it all the more, because it was one of the best Mess Nights on record.

Following the repast it became speech marathon time in which the four contestants **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings, WO1 Clive Mason, WO2 Dick Allen** and **Sgt Wobbly Ron** vied with each other as to which of them could induce the most strained expressions upon the faces of those who had imbibed rather liberally. Despite the self induced agony we all appreciated the speeches especially **Dick's,** who being the gentleman he is, took pity on us and kept it short.

Following a natural break the Mess invited the potential Rodney to try on his new jacket and launched into a series of games in the course of which **Dick Allen** somehow managed to immerse his head in a dish of syrup whilst playing Crackerjack and **Clive** failed dismally on the Mess version of Space Invaders as depicted by 2 Sqn hierarchy, wobbling from side to side chanting and grunting. Somehow **Sgt Don Chester** found his way into the roll of Space Invader and holds the dubious honour of being the only one hit by **Clive.**

Somehow or other those more boisterous amongst us got around to the subject of Mess Rugby, they still bear the scars. It was during that episode that we discovered that **Sgt 'Dobs' O'Brien** has a penchant for biting odd parts of the anatomy when he is deprived of the ball, ably played by **SSgt (YofS) Nick Hammett.** The revelry gradually came to an end as members drifted off to their beds to get some rest in preparation for the Saturday's task of packing every item of property.

At 1030 am Sat 12 Feb, all Members descended on to the Mess, formed parties and commenced putting everything into boxes. Mountains of stuff which we never knew existed we had unearthed and packed at high speed. **Sgt Jed Nuttall** got hold of a forklift truck and rapidly moved mountains of boxes to the Regimental freight bay. Amazingly the Mess was packed, batched and despatched by about 1230 pm, when most of us removed to the bar to help **Sgt Barry Lewis** to shift the last of his bar stock, a fitting reward for such hard work.

On Fri 18 Feb the RCT formally took over the Mess building which they have earmarked for continuing use as a Sergeants Mess. At a small ceremony **WO1 (RSM) Ron Clark** presented **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings** with a cheque for slightly over **DM 13000** as payment for all of the fittings we left behind, and also gave us a beautiful pair of silverport bells and a plaque. On our behalf the RSM presented the Transport Mess with one of the highly coveted 2 Armoured Division Headquarter and Signal Regiment wall plaque clocks, a potential collector's item following the retitling of the Division.

So, there it is, we are all counting the hours until the first of the four major convoys pulls out of camp at about midnight on 28 Feb. Meanwhile, this 2 Infantry Division Regiment sits in what is now a 1

Armoured Division Transport Regiment Camp grateful for all the help and hospitality which the RCT have extended to us, but anxious to be on our way back to our families waiting in the United Kingdom.

A hard time is in prospect for us all in York with moving in, **Her Majesty's** visit, and the exercise move back to BAOR all awaiting our attention, but there is no doubt in the mind of any of the Mess Members that, as usual, this Regiment will overcome any problems it may face.

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →	→	4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →	→	11	11 →	→	3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →	→	18		16 →	→	1	22 →	→	7	7 →	23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose! To make electronics technicians who already have a C & G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

The courses last an average of seven weeks and by the end, you'll be ready to fly straight out to Saudi Arabia to take up a challenging two-year assignment.

If that's a prospect that appeals to you and you're leaving the forces soon, contact your Resettlement Officer or fill in the coupon.

TO: The Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ.
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ADDRESS _____
RANK _____ SKILL _____
AVAILABILITY _____
REF. L192

Lockheed IAL

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
B.F.P.O. 106

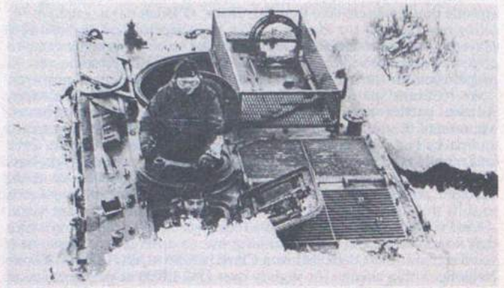
ACTIVE

Looking back over the last 2 months for things to tell you all, the author has difficulty finding words to express his incredulity at the amount that has been crammed in, and all that without any high ranking visitors to impress. The work, of course, we can forget because that is always there, so the answer must be to look at the slightly lighter side and the more unusual activities. That these activities should have happened at all is credit to those persistant planners who know that if you don't ski now in the Sauerland you'll only have to organise inter squadron sailing on the Mohnesee instead.

DRIVING TRAINING

The team of **SSgt Bill Snee, Sgt Rob Moore, Cpl Ian Scrivin** and **LCpl Norman Middlecoate** continued to push recruits through their APC driving courses. Some had it easier than others as the weather was at first good but the last course saw heavy snow and temperatures well below zero on the cross country training area. All credit to the instructors and pupils that they achieved such an impressive pass rate and thanks to 1 WFR and 1 BW for the loan of the vehicles.

Integration at work! Sgt Mac Wilkinson RAOC driver, LCpl Norman Middlecoate Royal Signals commands, whilst WO2 Tony Deauville ACC and Sgt Taff Gregory ACC marvel over it all. As easy as frying eggs!



Cpl Ian Scrivin wonders whether he will ever see his driver again. Sig Dave Jelbert wonders if he will every recover from the shock of all that ice in his lap

SPORTS ROUND UP

Orienteering

The 'cunning runners' had their sports day in the Arnsberger Wald recently. Inter squadron orienteering resulted in a clean sweep for HQ Sqn, members of which won all the prizes, which included the inter squadron trophy, the Inter Troop trophy for RHQ, whilst the 21C, **Maj Bill Bowen**, won the 'A' Course prize and **Sgt Ron Allen** won the 'B' Course prize. So all that RHQ PT was not wasted after all! 1 Sqn also ran (or was it walked?)

CROSS COUNTRY

Meanwhile the not so cunning runners, the ones who don't use a map or compass, were away competing in the Army Cross Country Finals. On a bitterly cold and windy day **Sig 'Higgy' Higgins** and **WO2 (QMSI) Pete Brierley** put in good performances to help the team to 6th position.

SKIING

One of the many benefits of living near the Sauerland is the ease with which skiing can be practised. With a Regimental Snow Queen hut turning out experts (well nearly) in 2 weeks and so much snow around an Inter Squadron Competition had to be held again. As before the Divisional Staff joined in and this year 206 Sig Sqn won both the Alpine and Nordic team prizes with 3 Sqn coming second in both. The

Cpl Joe Cox does his CR no good at all as he sets off faster than the CO. In the background the later starters just admire the fine styles being demonstrated. QM (Tech) Maj Jack Simpson keeps a close eye on the time whilst RQMS WO2 Vic Shillingford wonders about his cold toes

individual Alpine winner was **Cpl Stan Hardie**, whilst **Lt Duncan McAllister** just managed to beat **Cpl Kevin Randall** in the Nordic event. ('Only 10km' he said at the briefing, I'll never believe another word he says.) The result was especially pleasant for '**Duncie**' who had spent the past 4 months being bullied into training hard with the Regimental ski team by their mentor, **Cpl Kevin Randall**.

FENCING

A surprise result was achieved by the Regiment in the Inter Unit Fencing recently when, with some hastily coached team members, they won the Divisional competition and came Runners Up in the BAOR competition. Congratulations, particularly are due to **Capt Max Springer** and **WO2 (QMSI) Pete Brierley** for their good individual performances and obviously excellent coaching.

BOXING

After some personal success in the team novice competition, three of our gladiators are off to the individual competition in Berlin. We wish **LCpls Alan Deary, Chris Martin** and **Sig Derek Donnolly** well in their search for gold (fillings for the teeth of course).

THE SOCIAL SCENE

The 3rd Divisonal Signals Reunion Club held its annual dinner in London at the end of March. The CO and the RSM were in attendance together with our recently departed Super Clerk, newly commissioned **Capt Andy Russell** and rather earlier former regimental members. A good night was had by this, unique to the Corps, Reunion Club and it was rounded off by the presentation to the regiment of a bust of the officer who formed the 3rd Division, Wellington, by **Mr Ernest Bailey**, the Reunion Club Secretary. The bust was made in 1832 by Benedetto Pistrucci and provided the RSM with excellent ballast for the return journey; it now resides proudly in the Divisional HQ.

KOLN WEEKEND

LCpl Gary Dodds, Sig Stephen Lynch and **Paul Roper** recently went to Cologne with a party of five lads to stay at the Holiday Inn. Yes, seriously, they did and they could afford it and they came back and they can even remember having a good time. A bargain treat in anybody's estimation and they and others hope to repeat this fur lined, gold plated experience of luxury later this year. It's so nice to come home for a rest though even if the sauna does have a bar. See you on exercise boys! but seriously . . .

FIRST AID COMPETIONS

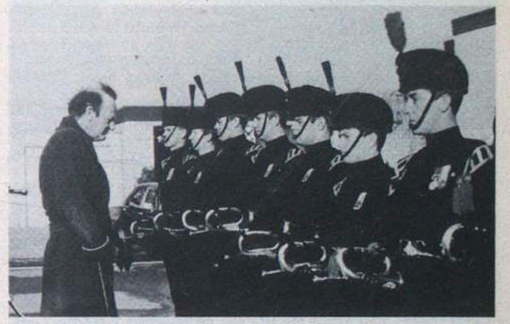
Lt David Baxter recently led a gallant band of aspiring Dr Kildaires in the Divisional First Aid Competition. **Cpl Terry Holmes** now knows how to handle burns when your nose is assailed by the smell of a nearby cess pit, **LCpl Chris Martin** is an ace on treating flesh wounds in an NBC environment whilst the team leader showed why he is soon leaving—he got high marks in the written test and forgot to wear his newly pressed NBC suit. Well done all on a very creditable result.

TICKEL SHOOTING COMPETITION

1 Sqn organised it and as usual the sparks flew. This time rather more than usual as the tracer set fire to the countryside, yes in March, I repeat March, and had most of the non firers reminding themselves of those good old days when they were stood by in Catterick for fire fighting duties. As for the shooting and the Tickel prizes, well **WO2 (SSM) 'Illy' Illingworth** had the answer when he was asked how much we stood to win and replied 'Not a lot, not a lot'. Still it kept 1 Sqn out of mischief and at least we knew where they were that day!

AND A FINAL FAREWELL

The more observant of you will have noticed that we had, until recently, an infanteer as QM(A), **Lt Col John Lane.** At least he is a Lt Col now and the occasion of his elevation to the near peerage was marked recently in a carefully stage managed reveille ceremony outside his quarter. Well a chap might expect to get a lie in on such a day but the Adjt, **Capt Charlie Le Gallais,** decided to do it his way and arranged for the buglers from 3 RGJ to mark the occasion. Local German and military press caught the flavour of the occasion and published the event widely. **John's** only comment that can be repeated in this family magazine was 'Thank goodness I remembered to put my teeth in before I answered the door'. Goodbye **John** and we hope that at your depot you have many more happy awakenings and look back on your integrated experience with total joy.



The QM (A), Lt Col (8¼ hours) John Lane inspects the buglers from his very own 3 RGJ

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

PRINCESS ANNE SHOVEL

Avid readers of these columns will recall that in June 1982 **Princess Anne** planted a magnolia tree at the entrance to Hammersmith Barracks. For the ceremony she used an inscribed shovel which 'Wilkinson Sword' had been specially commissioned to make for the occasion. With its Royal connections it was truly an object to covet and needed suitable employment. What do you do with a unique digging implement with gleaming metal work and a highly polished handle?

The CO decided that it would be appropriate to present it to the squadron achieving the best overall results in mandatory military tests each year coupled with a special competition on a theme of his choice. It was christened, the 'Princess Anne Shovel' and the theme for the year was to be first aid.

As expected, all squadrons achieved a high score in the mandatory military tests and the first aid competition looked like being the deciding factor. 4 Armd Div Fd Amb sent a team of experts, led by **Capt David Morris,** who decided to test out ability to handle casulties from a bomb explosion within the barracks. Teams of ten were chosen from the seven squadron morning parade states; HQ Sqn were first on at 0830hrs and an explosion in 2 Sqn cellers signalled the start of the competition.

Like the US 5th Cavalry the HQ Sqn team, led by **WO2 Jim Lewis RCT,** doubled towards the sound of strife. Brushing aside the embrace of a hysterical casualty (had he seen the sickening mock wounds or did he fear our first aid?) **Jim Lewis** hastened to the scene, a bomb damaged squadron bar and, ignoring the cries of the injured destroyed a perfectly good coffee table belonging to 2 Sqn with his boots. The intention was to use its legs as splints, but were there any broken bones? It must be said that under his guidance, the team did exceptionally well in coming second in this part of the competition.

HQ Sqn were unlucky to lose to 2 Sqn who, in addition to having the advantage of a home tie, were fortunate that their medical expert and resident 'brain surgeon' **Sgt Paddy Flanagan,** was selected by **Capt Morris** for their team. There is no truth in the rumour that 2 Sqn celebrated their victory by converting an MT low loader into a stretcher. A hard mornings first aid culminated in a victory for 2 Sqn and **Mrs Anthea Eastburn** kindly presented the 'Princess Anne Shovel' to **LCpl Andy Campbell.**

VISIT OF THE MONTON LADYBIRD MORRIS DANCERS

It was in November of last year that the CO informed the RSM that the Regiment were negotiating to bring a troupe of Morris Dancers from Manchester to visit and perform for the Regiment. **Mrs Pam Cox,** the wife of **Cpl Cox**, 2 Sqn, being a close friend of the troupe, was only too pleased to make the arrangements and several phone calls to and from UK finalized the details.

Accommodation could have been a problem for the girls (ages 13—16) but kind volunteers soon stepped forward and each child had a good home to go to.

The day of arrival was Thursday 10 March, there were no hiccups and all apprehension about 'what have I let myself in for' soon disappeared as our visitors settled into the temporary homes.

The two performances in the Officers' Mess on Friday night and the Sergeants' Mess on Saturday were so well received that encores were called for on both occasions. It was a very tired bunch of girls that ended each performance to rapturous applause. For the remainder of their 5 day visits to Hameln, Rinteln and the Mohnesee combined with local shopping trips filled their time.

It was with sadness that on Tuesday 15 March after small presentations had been exchanged, that our new found friends boarded their coach home. Many kind letters later received confirmed our belief that all who had taken part had thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Many people from the Regiment assisted but special thanks must go to the following:

Capt D J T Poole MBE—OC PRI
Capt I W Elrick ACC
WO2(SQMS) Preston ACC
Cpl & Mrs Cox
Mrs Watts
Mrs Ledwards
Mrs Selkirk
Mrs Welch
Mrs Hardie
Mrs Kemal
Mrs Minter
Cpl Kershaw
Sig Campbell

CPL 'JENKS' JENKINSON—ARMY CHESS CHAMPION

The Army Chess Championships were held over the weekend 8—11 April in Reading. The reigning champion, **Cpl 'Jenks' Jenkinson,** successfully defended his title in a Swiss match against strong competition. Nine of the top ten Army players were competing and two civilians, a former combined services player and a county standard player, competed as guests.

Cpl Jenkinson took up chess as a schoolboy but gave it up when he joined the Army as an Apprentice. Five years ago his interest was rekindled and we are all delighted with his success in winning such a prestigious competition.

SUCCESS FOR BADMINTON PLAYERS AND GOLFERS

On 9 April the Regiment defended the BAOR Inter Unit Knock Out Competition title for the third year running and narrowly beat 21 Sig Regt by 5 games to 4 games. Worthy of note was the match between **Sgt Brian Innes** of this unit and **Cpl Paul Lamplough** of 21 Sig Regt. It was a tremendous game lasting some 45 minutes and had the spectators on the edges of their seats. **Sgt Innes** looked dead at 12—4 down in the final game but came back to 16 all but could not make that final point and lost 16-17. In the doubles the best match was between **LCpls Jim Moore** and **LCpl Gerry Stronach** of 21 Sig Regt and **Capt Stan Hargreaves** and **LCpl George Dudley** of this Regiment with the final result going to this Regiment by 2 games to 1 after an exciting and nail biting contest. I know the finger nails of the CO and his wife will never be the same again.

On 7-8 April our golfers attended the Royal Signals Spring Meeting at Bruggen and **Sgt Nigel Scott** came 1st in the 18 hole medal and **WO2(SSM) Mick Raybould** won the scratch prize in the same competition. It just goes to show that practise does help, so keep swinging golfers and look out for the next game.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

A VERY SPECIAL DINING OUT

On Fri 4 Feb the regiment said a sad farewell to an ex Commanding Officer, the SOinC. After a marvellous dinner, which included several songs from the regimental rugby team, everybody retired to the ante room for the 'Subbies Show'. The first act saw **Capt Andy Forster** narrate his way through a violent and messy sketch, where **Lt Jinny Edwards, Lt Peter Grogan, Lt John Hogan** and **Lt Mike Hancock** proceeded to cover themselves and over half the audience, with custard pies. **John Hogan** had planks smashed on his head, and **Peter Grogan** managed to get a whole large banana into his mouth in one movement.

The second sketch saw **Lt Nick Bateson, Lt Kevin Thornber** and **2Lt John Lukins** perform their corrupt rendering of the day in a life of a subaltern. **Nick Bateson's** caustic comments being uncannily true to life. The evening was rounded off with mess games including an all WRAC piggy back team of **Jinny Edwards** and **Fiona Grundy** (ADC to SOinC).

EXERCISE *SNOW QUEEN*

On a green and wet 1 Jan the advance party set out for the long drive (a mere 20 hours) down to Bavaria. This year although in the same village, we are in a new hut. It is the Gastehaus R Zengerle, slightly smaller than the previous hut, but just as comfortable. The party consisted of **Lt Nannette Pretsell, SSgt Pete Shepherd, Cpl Dave Greaves** (instructor), **LCpls Kev Jarvis** (instructor), **'JB' Grey** (the cook, **Cfn Mark Rowlands** (the spanner, **Dvr 'Walley' Addey** (the driver).

Two days of hectic organisation culminated in the arrival of the first 18 students. The skiing conditions were not good, to say the least, though we were one of very few units still able to ski on our slope. The valleys were green during the first course, but the arrival of the CO for a week soon brought fresh snow and sunshine. At last we could complete the full quota of Langlauf training—though one slope on our Loipe was debatable as to whether downhill skis were needed or not (no one to date has made it down there in one and there have been many unusual and funny sights littered about). Unfortunately the action photographer, whilst attempting to catch the said sights for posterity, also fell and failed to record anything apart from the sky. By the end of the season approx 100 members of the Regiment will have passed through the exercise—most returning well bronzed and all having enjoyed themselves immensely.

JIM FIXED IT
Report by WO2 John R. Peacock

To find a date when the entire Regiment would be in barracks was hard enough but that was the task facing **Maj Jim Stabler** when the CO gave him the job of organising a Regimental Smoker. On the night (18 Mar) there were to be eleven, fifteen minute spots with that genial character **SSgt John Hodges** acting as compère. **John** is to show business what a can of beans is to the film 'Blazing Saddles'.

The evening started with the lads of 'M' Tp blowing the wind. This was followed with two very good acts. Firstly the cast from 'It Aint Half Hot Mum' or 'Up The North Camp Jungle' of 5 Sqn gave an outstanding rendering of 'Whispering Grass'. Windsor Davies would have been proud of this performance. Secondly 1 Sqn certainly had an eye for an act when they gave a good Hypnotic Performance. These first three acts were followed by good performances from 2 Sqn, LAD 3 Sqn part 1, 6 Sqn and the Officers Mess. All were good acts ranging from 'Knife Throwing' to Japing.

The two acts which really brought the house down came from 3 Sqn part 2 and 4 Sqn. **WO2 Mick Goatley** led the 'Chelsea Pensioners' of 3 Sqn in a superb demonstration of wheelchair drill. The only person who did a left about turn when the rest turned right was **Maj Phil Cooper** (OC 3 Sqn Pensioners). He actually had to be winched on to the stage.

With **WO2 Ian Cairnes** in a Regiment anything is liable to happen and this evening was to be no exception. The 4 Sqn ensemble (out of tune) played 'Save Your Love' while **Sig 'Slim Thighs' Ruck** serenaded a damsel in distress (**Sig Andy Fife** in drag). The act lurched from one disaster to another until the timely intervention of **Ian** and his dummy **Doddy** ably assisted by **Ian's** sister who just happened to be home on leave from Africa. This brought the curtain down in more ways than one.

The evening was brought to a close by **Cpl Bob Miles** of 5 Sqn singing some good singalong folk songs.

Everybody who attended had a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to **SSgt Andy Hickling** and the lads of Tango Troop for arranging it all.

L—R: SSgt Mo Harkin talking to SSM's Sister. Band leader Lt (Boy George) Swainson

L—R: SSM Ian (Social Worker) Cairns with dummy. LCpl Doddy Dodsworth watched by 4 Sqn ensemble

L—R: 3 Sqn wheel chair drill led by (SSM) Mick Goatley. Squad *L—R:* Maj Phil Cooper Sgt Bob Grant Sgt Dave Campbell. Sgt Rolf Bruinsma, SSgt Bob O'Hara

L—R: 5 Sqn's rendition of 'It ain't half hot mum'. Sig Benny Mayers, Sig Ali McKitterick, Sig Murph Murray, LCpl Nige Carr, Sig Giff Gifford, Sig Skinny McElhinney. Holding placard Sig Viv Henry

FOCUS ON 2 SQN

OC	**Maj Jim Stabler**
SSM	**WO2 John Peacock (Known as JR)**
FofS	**WO2 John Gerrard**
SQMS	**SSgt Pete Bovenizer**
OC H Tp	**Lt Nick Bateson**
OC T Tp	**Lt Kevin Thornber**

SHQ
Report by WO2 (YofS) Dave Wright

Since my last report in Jul 1982 we have had one *major* change in our management and that is the posting in of **Maj Jim Stabler** and good lady **Lyn** with the consequent movement of **Maj Geri Maddren** to the office behind bars, (sometimes known as the Ops Cell). Rumour in the Regiment said that this move took place so that **Maj Geri Maddren** could get in more time to play rugby; mind, the rumour was started by **Capt Richard Thurston** (ex 2IC of 2 Sqn), who is now Adjutant.

In this focus on 2 Sqn we would like to congratulate **WO2 (SSM) John Peacock** on being selected by that magic thing called a promotion board for WO1, and good news for 37 Sig Regt (V) who will soon be receiving **John** as **RSM.** We also offer congratulations to **LCpls Mortie Mortimer** and **'Shag' Sharrock** who at last have their feet on that first important rung of the ladder.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members of the Squadron and offer best wishes to all personnel who have left the Squadron. Now, news from the troops.

2 SQN SPORT REPORT
Report by SSgt Andy Hickling

Sport in 2 at this time of the year as throughout 7 Sig Regt takes a very low priority as anyone who has served in this unit knows. The Squadron has managed to take an active part in all inter-Squadron hockey we are well placed in the leaque table thanks to the efforts of **SSgt Paddy** (The stores) **Bovenizer** and the no holds barred goal keeping of **Sig Davros Garner.** We remain undefeated in the basketball due to the fact that all games are played in between **Sgt Paul Stevenson's** flying lessons. The inter-Squadron Tug of War was slightly disappointing as it appears that it was well planned by the organisers that all the Squadron heavyweights were unable to participate.

On the regimental front the Squadron is well represented at Football by **Cpls Pete Duffy** and **Baz Wilson,** by **SSgt Paddy Bovenizer** at hockey and **Sgt Paul Stevenson** at hockey and basketball, accompanied by **Cpl Kev Dyer.**

The Squadron also forms a large part of the Regimental Cross Country team mainly due to the presence of the **SSM J. R. Peacock** (not John Ross) who runs regularly, along with **Lt Nick** (Legs) **Bateson, LCpl 'Skinny' Quinn, Sig** (I'm posted to Berlin) **Allen** and **Geordie Reid.**

The Squadron also has its Prima Donna's who seem to do more sport than work. **SSgt Andy Hickling** who represents BAOR at Rugby and **LCpl Kev Jaris** who, in between being a Snow Queen instructor playing Basketball and Disco Roller Skating, represents BAOR at Volleyball.

BRAINS OF 7 SIGNALS COMPETITION

This was an annual competition organised by OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Phil Cooper.** The competition was held in the Regimental Spearhead Club during the month of January and proved to be very entertaining. Each Squadron and the Wives' Club produced a team of four and the teams competed against one another on a knockout basis. This year the Wives' Club swept all before them to win the shield.

The Wives Club team *L-R* Margaret Moreland, Connie Harrod, June Wood and Anne Hogben

HOTEL TROOP
Report by Lt Nick Bateson

Hotel Troop forms the complex troop of COMMCEN BRAVO and is made up of DTG's and TE Techs. These are under the guidance of **Sgt's Tony Giles, Paul** (come fly with me) **Stevenson** (shortly to take up a tour as an ACC pilot) and RSSSC top student **Gigg Plumb.**

Among the junior technicians, you could be forgiven for thinking that a marriage certificate was as necessary as a good confidential for obtaining your second tape, **Cpls 'Bas' Holland** and **Tom Davies** are well on their way to joining their contempories **Trev Bandy** and **Wally Wallace** in marital bliss and, assuming that they can both fight their way through the red tape, they should be carrying their German ladies over the threshold sometime in the summer.

Cpls Bob Foote and **Jim Collins** have both been posted rearwards and the DTG empire has had an influx of new blood to join **LCpl 'Snow Queen' Jarvis** and his merry men. **Cpl Brian Burns** has joined us to take on the TARIF responsibilities and the whole troop has been distracted by **Nick 'Disco' Hawkins** posted in completely wired for sound from 16 Sig Regt.

Troop activities have been limited because of exercise commitments and regimental training programmes. However, the opening of the Squadron bar has provided a focal point for the troop after sports matches and recently provided a stage for the amateur dramatics of 'Hawkins and Moore'.

As Troop Commander I would like to thank all those who have passed through the troop for their hard work and especially Troop **Sgt Tony Giles,** shortly to take up an appointment at the RMAS.

TANGO TROOP
Report by Lt Kevin (come dive with me) Thornber

Over the last few months Tango Troop has seen many old faces leave and some new ones arrive. **Sgt Dave Roberts** left us on retirement from the Army. He will be missed by all particularly as a sportsman. We wish him and **Gisela** a happy and prosperous civilian life. **Sgt Joe Gill** has stepped into the vacancy left and we hope he and **Eleanor** will enjoy life with the troop. Welcome also to **Sgt Bod Stonier** and his wife **Sarah.** Posted out are 'old hands' **LCpls 'Sooty' Sutcliffe** and **Dave Lloyd.** Good luck to them and their wives **Rose** and **Val. Cpl Bob Holmes** and **Patricia** leave us for 11 Sig Regt. **LCpl Taffy Howells** leaves us soon on posting to 1 Inf Bde. **Cpl Steve Marlow** and **Sig Gordon Smith** left the troop to defect to the infamous Kilo Army. We wish them and all persons posted out the best of luck with their new jobs.

We welcome LCpls Steve Blackwell, Mick Ralph and Mac MacKuch and extend our best wishes and good luck to Mick and Carol, Mac and Brenda on their forthcoming weddings.

We welcome **LCpls Steve Blackwell, Mick Ralph** and **Mac MacKuch** and extend our best wishes and good luck to **Mick** and **Carol, Mac** and **Brenda** on their forthcoming weddings.

Welcome to our new liney's **Sig Mick North, Martin** (Smiler) **LCpls Nipper Hazelgrove** and **Skinny Quinn** on their promotion.

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

SISTER AGNES'S

Beaumont House,
Beaumont Street, London W.1.

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, affectionately known as Sister Agnes's, provides the best medical and surgical facilities at the lowest possible cost to officers of all three services (including women officers) serving or retired, who have held a permanent or temporary commission in the Armed Forces. This facility also extends to officers' wives, widows and dependent children of not less than 4 years of age.

The hospital has both private rooms and small wards, and well-equipped X-Ray and Physiotherapy Departments. Medical check-ups can be arranged at a moderate price.

Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms. Retired officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room. The charge for other patients is £665. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £680 per week) this is much appreciated as it helps others. Consultant's fees are a matter for personal arrangement between patient and Consultant. There is a generously administered Benevolent Fund for those in straitened circumstances.

Subject to age BUPA gives friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions, and PPP and Western Provident a 25% reduction on their Family Masterplan and Supercover policies respectively, if payment is made by direct debit.

The hospital is currently handling over 2200 in-patients and 700 out-patients a year. It is not part of the NHS and is therefore reliant on voluntary aid via subscriptions, donations and legacies for which there is an increasing need as the demand for beds increases.

If you would like to receive information or become a subscriber please write to the Appeals Secretary, (W.3), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR, or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

GREENHAM COMES TO CATTERICK

The February Officer's Training Day took the form of a nuclear disarmament debate, with 2 Sqn providing the anti-nuclear lobby. **Capt Norman Ladds**, in undertaker's attire, spread the word of doom and gloom, with the aid of skeleton and coffin, prior to **2Lt Jane Boxell** making a plea on behalf of youth and common sense. The Church's stance was volubly presented by 'The Reverend' **(Lt) Ian Seraph** who earned himself the post of permanent squadron lesson reader in the process. 3 Sqn's case for nuclear armament was unfortunately interrupted by a chanting bevy of beauties bearing a banner, thinly disguised as liberated ladies, from the 2 Sqn sector of Greenham Common, and on balance the peacemakers appear to have won the day.

1 SQN

A warm welcome to **Capt Ian Fraser** who is now the 2IC and **Cpl Nicholls** who joins our cadre in T Troop.

Best wishes and good luck in the future to **Lt Scarlet O'Hara** who is off to join the Marines and to **Cpl Bob Dodds** who has managed to work *another* tour in Berlin.

GURKHA FAREWELL FESTIVAL

On 12 Feb, the Gurkha element of the Squadron said farewell to **Lt Col Dudley** and **Lt Col Carter** in traditional style. Both Colonels have enjoyed a good 'Bhat' (curry) in the past so it seemed only fitting to

have one more for the road. Garlands were presented and the photograph shows (left-right) **Lt Col David Dudley, Cpl Prem Bahadur Rana, Lt Col Andrew Carter** and half a **WO1 (RSM) Stevenson.** What is not depicted is the exchange of goods; on this occasion the Gurkhas needed a civvy type tent for weekends away and **Col Carter** wanted a 'Madal' (drum). After a few beers the contract was fulfilled and the Gurkhas can now go camping and the Colonel is looking for a small group requiring a bongo player.

2 SQN

SPORTS NEWS

Three members of the Squadron have been seeing a lot of Aldershot since Christmas playing representative sport, **2Lt Jane Boxell** and **Cpl Viv Lee** at hockey and **Sig Micky Halligan** at football. **Micky** even managed a short trip across to France to play in the Kentish Cup. The next inter troop competition is the rugby 7-a-side tournament in which the Squadron has entered two teams.

PRESENTATION

A presentation was held in the TTS in Mar for **Pte Jackie Woodland** of B Troop who became the fastest trainee to complete the Data Telegraphist FMVT training system.

Pte Woodland arrived in the Squadron in Jan this year and completed her trade training on 9 Mar, thus taking seven weeks compared to the normal lockstep programme of 16 weeks.

Lt Col D. G. Dudley Royal Signal presenting Pte Woodland with a picture print on the occasion of her completing Data Telegraphist training in record time

3 SQN

Despite SHQ being completely redecorated 'red sqn' continues to perform its task. After much debate on the Nuclear Weapons question at an Officers Training Day lecture the pride of the squadron has been deneted by the popular quote: 'better to be dead than RED'. All we can say in reply is that we are certainly not YELLOW, far from being GREEN and are always happy—never BLUE???

HERE AND THERE

Goodbyes from the Sqn have included the glamour of SHQ. We said a sad farewell to **Mary,** our typist, who after stirling service, decided to take an early retirement. The Sqn cadre presented her with

a leaving gift and a good lunch was had by all. We welcome our new typist **Val** and hope that she enjoys her new position. A quick mention also for **Fran** and **Jo** of the Squadron office, without them the Squadron would not function or look so pretty???

At troop level very little of note has happened. C Tp continue to complete training aims and it seems the only 'trainee' they cannot post is their 'temporary OC' **2Lt Kit Lewis. SSgt Phil Lee** cannot understand the reluctance of AG11 to send his 'boss' to Blandford.

D Tp has been very quiet due to the fact that 'Deltroids' are now a very scarce commodity. **Sgt John Bell** was finally given the task of Chief Deltroid for two weeks as the OC and the other cadre all went skiing. He enjoyed himself and when the weather prevented the use of the ranges one day—a ten mile bash was included as the background activity.

Welcome, congratulations and farewell to our new Staff Sergeant??? **SSgt Trev Johnson** was posted in as our new Staffy sat in the chair once before he was posted and promoted. Congratulations also to **Sgt Paul Smyth** who has also been selected for promotion. It seems that D Tp is really the posting to get, as so far, three SNCOs have recently been promoted from the Troop.

DRIVER/POWER/MT GROUP

GROUP PERSONALITIES	HOBBIES
Capt Gordon Park (Group Supervisor/MTO)	Motor Cycling
SSgt Mick Farrell (Driver Troop SSgt)	Archery
SSgt Benny McSherry (Power Troop SSgt	Work
Sgt Tom (Paddy) Bartlett (MT Sgt)	Photography
Sgt John Uttley (Licence Office)	Bean stealing

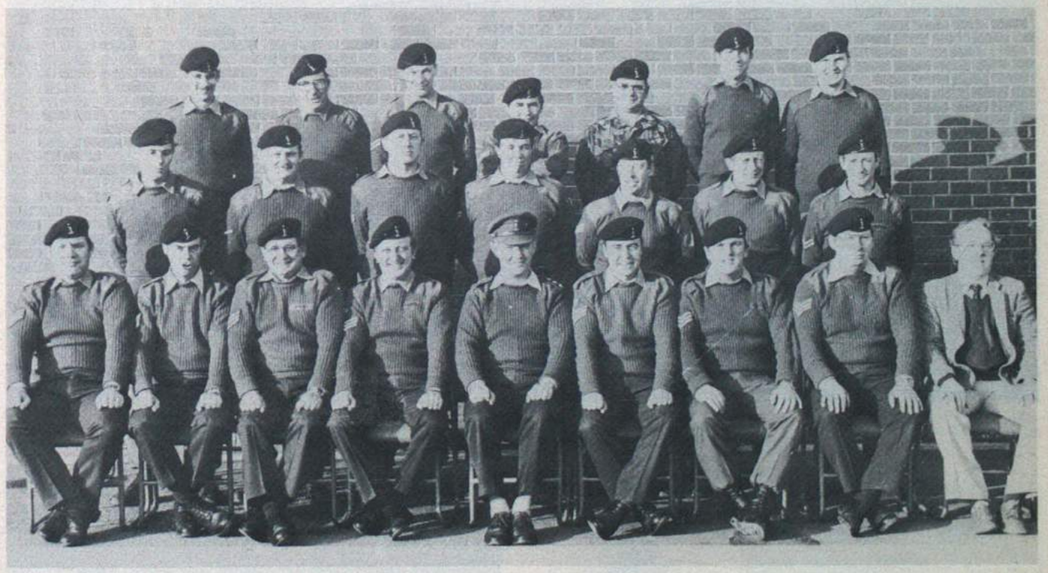
Over the last twelve months the amalgamation of Driver/Power and Regimental MT to form the one Group under the command of **Capt Gordon Park** has been completed. This has proved very satisfactory, as now all MT training and administration is within the same organisation.

A welcome return to **LCpls Boomer Smith** and **Garry Wright** after their tour in the Falklands, and good luck to their replacements **LCpls Ian Cooper** and **Dave Romans.** Congratulations to **Cpls Phil Ingram** and **Gordon Nicholls** on the recent promotions, and also **Cpl Pat Thornton** on his promotion to **Sergeant** on posting to 7 Sig Regt in April. Further congratulations to **Sgt John Uttley** and **Cpl Harry Hirst** of the Licence Office, who both reach the ripe young age of 50 years in 1983.

POWER TROOP—have just completed the year of the Upgrader. This included twelve courses of Combat Driver Class II to I for ASMT Leconfield and also 120 Combat Powermen trained to Class 1 standard. Special mention must be given to **LCpl Cahill** of 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn who was the only Combat Powerman Upgrader to achieve an 'A' grade in the last twelve months.

DRIVER TROOP—SSgt Mick Farrell would like to 'Point' out that it is a load of 'Bull' that his job revolves around 'Archery'. His answer to his 'Merry Men' who are supposed to be 'Quivering' in their boots, and 'Bowing' to his every whim, is that they are not 'Pulling' their weight. The 'Inner' side of this problem is that 'Robin', sorry! **SSgt Mick Farrell** sets a 'Target' for his 'Merry Men' that they 'Outer' be able to do, with no 'Strings' attached. We hope now that this is the end of this 'Arrowing' story.

STOP PRESS—The rumour going round that you can actually contact this Group on the GPO phone on matters outside Motor Cycling is, (completely) false.



Driver/Power/MT/Group
LCpls Geordie Brown, 'Officer' Dyble, Cpls Gordon Nicholls, Harry Hirst, LCpl Tojo Scollick, Sig (MR) Clowery, LCpl Boomer Smith LCpls Garry Wright, Ginge McDonagh, Cpls Brian Thompson, Pat Thornton, Paul Wareing, Willy Wilson, Barry Bostock
Sgts Dick Hanlon, (ET) Kearney, John Uttley, SSgt Mick Farrell, Capt Gordon Park, SSgt Benny McSherry, Sgts Paddy Bartlett, Spike Taylor, Mr Larry Green

WRAC HOCKEY

After a hard fought final between 8 Sig Regt and York Garrison in the North East District Hockey Championships, 8 Sig Regt went on to represent the District in the Army Units Final held in Aldershot.

The team played six matches over two days and it was decided that we played our best after lunchtime spent in the 'Fir Tree'! The team won three matches, drew two and lost only one to 12 Coy WRAC who went on to be the overall winners for 1983. 8 Sig Regt were the eventual runners-up after a nailbiting finish.

NE District Winners and Army Finals Runners Up
Back Row (L-R): LCpl Wendy Parker; 2Lt Jane Boxell; Cpl Viv Lee; Pte Sandra Buckle; Lt Bridget O'Hara; Cpl Karen McGrath
Front Row (L-R): WO1 Jan Hagon; Sgt Meg Barnard; Cpl Joy Von Wielligh; Pte Chris King; Cpl Moira Cooper; Pte Heather McNair
Also included in the squad and who played in the Army Finals were: Pte Anne Lindsey: Pte Elspeth Muir

WRAC NETBALL

8 Sig Regt represented NEDIST in the Army Unit Finals held in Aldershot. In the preliminary District competition held in York the team beat York Garrison and 40 Sqn RCT.

Despite a lot of hard work training the team finished fifth in the Aldershot competition having beaten a combined team from 16 and 28 Sig Regt 10—4.

The team was: **Lt Bridget O'Hara,2Lt Jane Boxall, Sgt Meg Barnard, Cpl Valerie Hutton, Cpl Karen McGrath, Cpl Joy Von Wielligh, Cpl Jan Steer, LCpl Wendy Parker, Pte Jo Antoine, Pte Rickky Longdon** and **Pte Anne Lindsey.**

VOLLEYBALL

8 Sig Regt entered two teams (the Reds and the Blues) in this year's North East District Volleyball Championships. It was run as a knockout competition and the Red team ended up playing the Blue team in the finals. The Red team was the eventual winner but the squad who went down to Aldershot for the Army Units final was selected from both.

In the Army finals, we were to be third in the UK section. 21 Regt (AS) were to be the overall winners.

Winner NE District Volleyball Championships
Back Row (L-R): LCpl Santa Pun; Cpl Prem Bdr Rana; WO2 (RQMS) George Hedge (2IC Volleyball); Cpl Bob Dodds; LCpl Ganesh Kumar Rai
Middle Row (L-R): LCpl John Williams; Cpl Krishna Gurung; Sig Pema Sherpa; LCpl Narayan Tamang; Cpl Nar Bdr Gurang (Blue Captain); Sig Neil Penniston
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Krishna Bdr Limbu; LCpl Dilraj Gurung; Sig 'Stan' Staniford (Red Captain); 2Lt Jane Boxell (OIC Volleyball); LCpl Dave Neave; Cpl Nabin Kumar Phebe

ANOTHER GEORGE PLEASE

Is it another first for 8 Sig Regt to have three established RQMS Posts? The background to the story is, in Sep 1981 an evaluation team visited the Regiment, with the result that one of the Quartermaster Posts disappeared, and recommended a third RQMS post, designated RQMS (Bks). The RQMS posts are currently filled by the three **Georges, RQMS (Gen) WO2 George Hedge, RQMS (Tech) WO2 George Bardsley BEM, RQMS (Bks) SSgt George Cairns.**

SSgt Cairns leaves us shortly on promotion and posting to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Royal Signals Manning and Records take note: Can we have another George?

WO2 (RQMS Gen) G. Hedge, WOE (RQMS Tech) G. Bardsley, SSgt (RQMS Bks) G. Cairns. George explains to George that the 1033 signed by George that the 1033 signed by George is valid!

EX *WHITEOUT '83*

Ex *Whiteout '83* followed the same format as Ex *Whiteout '82* except this year snow conditions proved ideal. The aim of the exercise is to introduce as many people to skiing as possible but with constraints made by training programmes and the apparent lack of soldiers not under training, it seemed that vacancies would be difficult to fill. However with an intense advertising campaign OIC Skiing **Lt Steve Herniman** managed to recruit the required two dozen and even had a few reserves.

THE SPEY

The exercise is based on the Spey Valley Hotel, Grantown on Spey, which is conveniently placed for both the Lecht Ski slopes and the Cairngorms. The Lecht slopes are ideal for introducing beginners to the art of snowploughing and the occasional tufts of heather constantly test the 'expert' skier travelling at speed. After two days on the Lecht slopes the Cairngorms provides the real challenges of 'The White Lady' and the 'West Wall'.

On arrival at the hotel the cadre element quickly 'liaised' with the hotel owners and the local 'bikers' who were holding their annual disco. The evening passed with breakfast parade being postponed.

NO SNOW

The first course arrived the following day and the fun began. Issue of kit completed, packed lunch loaded, the whole course went to try the slopes. At the hotel there was no sign of any snow but a recce to the Lecht had uncovered 100 per cent snow cover on the runs. The course could not wait to go fast and many managed this and quite a few 'discovered' a small pond. Our resident ski instructor, **Mr Peter Wheeler,** soon kerbed the enthusiasm for speed and concentrated on style and by the end of the first week all skiers were confidently and competently skiing on the Cairngorms.. The 'expert' on the course, **WO2 (RQ) George Bardsley** took great delight in wiping out the 'expert class' in an attempt to knock over the instructor. He failed but **Sgt Paul Smyth** ended up 100ft below the rest of the class. Après ski on the first course was led by **Sig Scott Mylchreest** on guitar with **George Bardsley** as MC.

GLAMOUR AND DRAMA

The second of the two courses provided the glamour and the drama. With only one day's training on the Lecht, due to the lack of snow, the course of boys and girls headed for the Cairngorms a day early. (The OC party joined this course having spent most of the first week in bed—ill so he said?). On the third day **Pte Jane Sheward** managed to perfect the splits and ended up somewhat doubled up and tied in knots. With the seriousness of the situation unknown the 'blood wagon' arrived and sledged the casualty away closely followed by the OC party with sticks and **Capt Dave Kirkup** with Skis. At the first aid station the verdict was severe cramp and after 30 minutes the casualty got up and walked away. (The two gallant gentlemen who rescued the skis retired to the cafe exhausted having fought their way down). Again the Après ski proved most entertaining to the local visitors to the hotel. After a good opening night the final course party was one to be remembered. The WRAC won the pool competition and the Officers mess led the cabaret.

THANKS

This sort of exercise always requires a lot of organisation. Thanks are due to the 'Cadre' whose personal finance just about held up. **Sgt Paul Smyth** and **Cpl Dave George** worked hard as SQMS and Mt NCO and **SSgt Bill Dewhurst** produced all the meals to a very high standard. (Tea in bed was an optional extra). Thanks also to **Douglas** and **Maureen Gray,** who own the Spey Valley Hotel, for their hospitality and hard work at keeping the bar stocked (and open) for so long. We hope to be back next year.

RAMILLIES HALL SCHOOL

Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle
Cheshire, SK8 7AJ

Founded 1884

IAPS Boarding and Day School for Boys and Girls 4-14.
Situated 10 miles South of Manchester near M63 and Airport.
Good Rail communications.
With around 85 pupils the school has a pleasant family atmosphere.
Children prepared for entry to Independent and State Maintained Secondary Schools.
Good games facilities with playing fields and outdoor heated swimming pool. Very active Scout and Cub troops.

10 Sig Regt (UKLF Sp) Wilton

M DAY

On 15 March (known 'fondly' as M Day) the move of RHQ from Hounslow to our new home in Erskine Barracks Wilton began. The CO **Lt Col Peter Webster** promised to be visiting out of station for the duration of the move. A wise decision! Meticulous planning by the Regimental 2IC **Maj Ray Windmill** and **WO1 (SC) Dave Brough** and his RHQ staff, made the move an extremely smooth one and by the end of 17 Mar, RHQ was functioning from its new home.

BRUNO IN PLACE

The Regimental mascot **'Fitz Bruno'** had already made the journey from Hounslow to Wilton, and on 23 Mar he took up his position outside the new RHQ aided by the RSM, **WO1 Mike Wringe,** the RSM UKLF Regiment **WO1 Reg O'Connor 5 IDG,** and **SSgt Ivor Campbell RCT,** not forgetting a little help from a mobile crane borrowed from RAF Boscome Down (Bruno weighs 2½ tons).

PARADE AND PRESENTATIONS AT HOUNSLOW

On 25 Mar, 52 officers and soldiers from the Regiment paraded at the Civic Centre Hounslow to say farewell; the Regiment having been adopted by the London Borough in 1969. The parade was inspected by the **Mayor Councillor B. W. Price** who presented the CO with a scroll, to mark the occasion. A Bronze figure of *'Jimmy'* was presented in return by the CO and this now has pride of place alongside a statue of **'Fitz Bruno'** in the Mayor's parlour.

The Mayor of Hounslow meets members of the Regiment after the farewell parade

Lt Col P. B. Webster presenting the Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor B. B. Pryce, with a bronze figure of mercury to mark the Regiment's departure

Mixed contingent from the Regiment march past the Civil Centre at Hounslow

MERGED

Thur 31 Mar, saw the handover/takeover of the merged Regiment by the CO **Lt Col Peter Webster** from **Lt Col Brian Coles RCT.** For a change the sun actually managed to shine, making the occasion unique in every sense of the word.

Lt Col Webster receives the ceremonial key to Erskine Barracks from Lt Col B. H. R. Coles during the amalgamation ceremony

Pte Shirley Wraith at work on Salisbury Mil Tel Exchange

In February this year it was the turn of the WRAC to form the HQ UKLF Quarter Guard. Four members of 1 Sqn were detailed and they can be seen in the accompanying picture wearing the Jimmy. They are *(from the left)* Sgt Allison Pengelly, Ptes Rachael North, Helen Longdon and Lynne Beech. The Inspecting Officer is Lt Gen E. Burandt, Deputy Inspector of the Army FRG

BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR 1 SQN

After years of planning, many delays and much paperwork, the Regimental Headquarters has now seen the light and moved to the quiet backwater of Wilton. The great reorganisation meant that SHQ 1 Sqn was forced to move within Erskine Barracks, into newly painted offices in Caen Block. The Ides of March was the date chosen for the move, and with the help of the Telemechs from SWS Troop, all was completed on the day. It then took a further day for the Squadron Office to sort the files out, but by 17 Mar everything was back to business as usual.

The new look SHQ has meant that we say farewell to our civil admin office under **Mrs Sandra Jenkins, Mrs Frances Skinner** and **Mrs Margaret Baird. Bryanne** has moved up to the rarefied atmosphere of the RHQ typing pool. We wish them all well in the new organisation.

Also due to the merger of 10 Sig Regt with HQ UKLF Regiment we say farewell to our drivers who, under the MT NCO **Cpl 'TC' Rees,** move to HQ Sqn, but under the control of 22 Sqn RCT. Confused yet? They have served the Squadron well as SDS drivers and we are sure they will continue to do so, despite moving to othe other end of camp.

We congratulate **LCpl Ruth Young** on her marriage on 26 Mar to **Martin Woodhouse** and wish her all the best for the future. There is no truth in the rumour that she took a typewriter on her honeymoon to practise for her B1 entrance test.

STOP PRESS

Our congratulations go to the SBC for providing a member of 1 Sqn with an inter-tour 48 hour trip to sunnier climates. **Pte Fiona Thomis** left 10 Sig Regt this week on posting to 233 Sig Sqn.

On a wet, miserable Mon morning she boarded a plane in London and found herself hours later stepping out—not in wet, miserable Northern Ireland as she expected but facing the sunshine, blue skies and sandy beaches of Portugal!

As yet we haven't heard whether **Pte Thomis** had time for a quick dip in the Atlantic before being hastily bundled on to a return flight but we wish her all the best with her posting to Lisburn and hope that the trip to Lisbon wasn't too much of an ordeal.

2 SQN—HOUNSLOW

The last few months should have been fairly uneventful as the Squadron prepared for the rigours of the summer: the Queen's Birthday Parade, various State Visits, Greenham Common Air Show, the Royal Tournament, to name but a few of the diverse delights. However, this was not to be. RHQ, having suffered from its last Jumbo jet attempting a landing on the roof, loaded all their office equipment, and, it must be added, a few bits and pieces belonging to other people, careless enough not to have nailed them to the floor, **Bruno** was then rather unceremoniously dumped on the back of a Bedford and the procession left for Wilton. We believe that the amused stares from passers-by on the M3 were directed at the large stone bear gazing serenely from his perch and not at the rather more fraught members of RHQ.

A leisurely, slow time move from the 2 Sqn accommodation into the palatial splendour of RHQ should then have occurred. Unfortunately, the arrival of a friendly British Telecom engineer who disconnected all the telephones and, the State Visit of **President Kaunda of Zambia,** complicated matters a little. However, nothing daunted, the intrepid 2 Sqn team, led by **Sgt Jeff Batt** and **Cpl Keith Whincup** and ably assisted by **LCpl Claire Raja** moved entire offices, totally ignoring all obstacles placed on their way by the OC, **Maj David Podevin,** the 2IC, **Capt Carolyn Wilding** or the Admin Officer, **Capt Don Carr.** The whole sequence of events prompted some budding poet laureate within the Squadron to produce the following poem. For fairly obvious reasons he chooses to remain anonymous.

AN ADVERT FOR HOUNSLOW

Nestled in a hollow where all aircraft seem to pass
Is a small and happy unit—nice small buildings, lots of grass
All the people know each other, and the work is all well done
All it needs now is a summer and a little bit of sun.

'Where is the prime of posting? this unit's that so good
And how do I apply now?—I know I really should'
Well, it's easy, all you do friend is complete a posting app
And ask for sunny 10 Signals, now there's a clever chap.

A footnote must be added, if you want to get it right
All you do is ask for Hounslow
Where all aircraft are in sight.

Now RHQ have moved off and we almost run ourselves
They took all they could carry, all the cups and lots of shelves
But we will manage somehow, all we need is a willing few
So get those applications in—there's girls that work here, too!

NOTES FROM 'U' TROOP
EXERCISE *WINTEX*

Feb 1983 and Exercise *Wintex* heralded a change in the working routine of 1 Sqn and HQ UKLF. One of our shifts from the COMMCEN was deployed to man Exercise Headquarters and many of the Staff Officers joined them! Meanwhile back at Wilton a three way shift was in operation with the Squadron CP manned (by high calibre watchkeepers!) around the clock. As usual the technicians seemed to work non-stop, trying to repair endless faults on ancient pieces of kit (they paid me only a small sum to say that!).

Only one person managed skilfully to wriggle his way out of part of the Exercise. Needless to say it was **SSgt Pete Day,** who was required (or so he claims) for the Inter-Service Canoeing. As a punishment he has been asked to draft some 'Wire Notes' on his participation in the event.

We received a visit from Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig Hart,** who was doing a whirlwind tour of all the COMMCENS and Exchanges involved in the Exercise. (If it's Tue, it must be Wilton!). However everything is now back to 'normal' (until next time) and everyone seems to have caught up with both their work and, of course, their sleep!

CANOEING
Report by SSgt Pete Day

LCpl Julie Maycock and myself were invited to take part in the inter-services white water race. Because she has no car and therefore no means of getting to Scotland, I was asked to do chauffeur.

The event took place in a very well known place called Sanquar (North of Dumfries, South of Kilmarnock). Arriving there at one in the morning started the first argument, who is going to put up the tents? Problems solved; I put them both up! At the first meal I really put my foot down and cooked it myself; and so the week went on, me doing the work and her exclaiming at every opportunity 'I'm an army canoeist'.

The 'army canoeist' bit suddenly changed when we got on the water, to 'but I'm only a girl'. In her defence I must say that there was a lot of rocks in the river; I should know as she counted every one with her canoe. The rocks she didn't bang into were the ones she sat on, still in her canoe, waiting for me to rescue her. I will say at this point that she is still classed as a novice paddler.

Practise and selection took us up to Sat with the team events taking place the same day and the individual events during Sun. In the mixed team event we managed to secure third place (think about it). This helped towards our placing of second behind the RAF after the team events. On Sun the river rose from 'suicidal' to 'instant death' which meant that **Julie** (Army Canoeist) **Maycock** could not handle the water, so she had another day off, meanwhile yours truly was doing safety boat on a rapid called 'The Grave Yard'. That was fine but who looks after me?

After the individual event we had the prize giving which proved that 1 Sqn had helped gain third place for the Army—the Navy beat us as well. Still it was a good week's canoeing with good company and a break from work.

A CATASTROPHE IN AVIEMORE
Report by Cpl Catton

I arrived in Aviemore for an action packed fortnight, the poor locals had better watch out when I take to the slopes.

I actually started skiing on the Mon morning, or should I say rock skiing as there was hardly any snow. By dinner time I was sore all over and covered in bruises from my daring escapades, (I must say it never happens like this in the movies). I had been skiing before but taking to the slopes again after such a long break isn't a piece of cake, you need to practise till you get the hang of things again. We spent most of the time skiing on the Coirre Ne Ciste, as that was the only place with snow. By the middle of the week I had become a dab hand at falling over, so I am now an expert at standing up on skis. My skiing improved when it was nearly time to come back. We also did a slalom race and I was the only one not to finish, as I missed the last gate out. Mind you, I wasn't the only disaster on the slopes, there were a few flash guys that were skiing along the West Wall who gave a good impression of trying to break their necks. So much for the milk tray advert; at least I didn't feel too bad then.

All in all I had an excellent time, the social life more than made up for the bruises gained during the day, and I think I must have kept the tobacco business going the whole time I was there. Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and I have one thing to say to the locals of Aviemore, 'Watch out, I'll be back!'.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

1 SQN

The majority of the Squadron have been recovering from Christmas or practising for the Colonel's Cup competition but B Tp do claim some fame at football and Cpl Coleman for receiving his South Atlantic medal just before returning for another tour there.

B TP FOOTBALL

Whilst England were battling against mediocrity in Spain, B Tp were dominating the little world cup being played out at 13 Sig Regt.

A very strong side (ably captained by **Sig Nige Watton**), was fielded in the first few games and the Troop ran out convincing winners in our first four games, including an excellent 13—2 victory over D Tp and a 6—3 win over 2 Sqn. Already, we were being hailed favourites to win the league.

Thanks to some great efforts by our forward and midfield players, **Cpl Martyn Saxton, LCpls Mark 'Budgie' Burridge, Richie Maddock, Sig Nige 'Stumpy' Watton** and **Reg Varney**, goals were easy to come by and our average was increasing steadily with every game, although as the season progressed we were not to be fortunate.

At the other end of the pitch the defence was holding together (when they weren't fighting each other) after some spirited performances by **WO1 Terry Rush, WO2 Tony Brid, SSgt Jim Leivers, Cpl Pete Gilbert, Sig Nige Crowther** and **Carl Davies** who also found time to score the odd goal.

Sig Chris Vasper was the keeper who found himself in many hectic goalmouth incidents and was called upon many times to hurl himself around the area. Standing in on several occasions was **Cpl Brian 'Weetabix' Barnes** who proved to be a more than effective last line of defence.

As the season progressed we found we were losing people and along with them the winning touch, still we found ourselves scraping through even though it may have been too close for comfort. The new arrivals were being asked the question 'can you play football?' and within the first couple of days they found themselves defending our position at the top of the table.

All deserve a mention, **LCpls Jim Mitchell, Chris Proctor** and **Sig Larry 'Bob' Newell,** for helping to finally clinch the league.

Thanks go out to all members of the troop but especially **Sgt Pete Cooper** who not only found himself being thrown on to the football pitch but spending many an hour organising the games.

2 SQN

Once again the lads of 2 Sqn 'starred' within the Regiment when at the WO's and SGT's Mess Christmas Draw, **WO1 Pete Derrick** managed to walk off with the star prize. However, it would appear that he gets sufficient holidays each year because he turned in the Canary Islands Holiday for the cash! No doubt he will put the money to good cause by buying everyone a drink or three . . . ?

Arrivals and departures have been at a minimum for once, with only **SSgt John Sands** and his wife **Carol** leaving us for the delights of Berlin and **SSgt John Sherwood** and his good lady **Gudrun** arriving to sample the joys of sunny downtown Birgelen. Mind you, if the Manning and Records Office happen to read this piece, we will probably now have to suffer excessive turbulance for our recent good fortune and stability!

During his recent visit to the Regiment **Col C J Gilbert,** Colonel GS MOD (A), made presentations to two members of 2 Sqn. The first took place during the morning when **Cpl Gary Littlewood** received his South Atlantic Medal. The second took place in the Sergeants' Mess when a surprised **WO2 (SSM) Fred Wood** received the Commander British Forces Belize Commendation.

Col C. J. Gilbert Col GS MOD (A) presenting the South Atlantic Medal to Cpl R. I. Coleman and Cpl G. Littlewood

WO2 (SSM) F. Wood receiving his CBF Belize Commendation while the CO, Lt Col M. P. Walker looks on

3 SQN

During the past few months the Squadron has had its usual crop of visitors, a belated Christmas social and our annual report on the unit by the GOC Berlin.

ARU

The General Officer Commanding Berlin **Maj J. D. F. Mostyn CBE** inspected the Squadron on 16 February. The inspection was very successful and during it the GOC presented Falklands campaign medals to **SSgt Paul Vollentine** and **Cpl Jock Cairns**. The medals were suitably christened later that evening by the recipients.

Maj Gen J. D. F. Mostyn CBE presents South Atlantic Medals to Sgt Paul Vollentine and Cpl Jock Cairns

BASKETBALL

The start of the Berlin winter Major/Minor Units Basketball League consisting of 4 Major and 5 Minor Units was due to take place just before Christmas. After losing 3 of our first 5 players from the previous season, we had virtually to build a new team. This was achieved with a lot of hard training sessions, and finally we played a couple of friendlies against good opposition to highlight any obvious problems. With these corrected we were then ready to join the fray.

Now we are halfway through the league and we have played eight matches and have won five. The three we lost were to Major units (RAF Gatow beating us twice). We are feeling quite pleased with ourselves and praying our good fortune will continue.

A few words of thanks to our non-playing coach **Cpl Tommy Arthur** our outside video unit **Cpl Phil Grodon,** and of course the team. Although we are mainly a team of defenders, we do score the occasional basket and the leaders in this field are: **Cpl Nick McGreedy, Sgt Terry Morrissey, SSgt Keith Hall, Mr Bob Coulling** and **Sgt Bob Crockart.**

I hope to be able to bring good news in our next contribution to the Wire of the final league placings and the results of the Berlin Knock-Out Competition.

SKI-ING

In spite of only one fall of snow at Birgelen this year, 25 members of the Regiment participated in the Rhine Area Snow Queen (many thanks to 16 Sig Regt) and the AMTC Ski Courses. The 21C, **Maj John Hincks**, still with snow on his boots after 3 years in Norway, entered the Koenig Ludwigs 20kms and 40kms International Ski Langlauf Races at Oberammergau. Being on leave it seemed a good idea at the time, and unlike the Norwegian 42kms Holmenkollen Marsjen it was rumoured that free beer would also be available at the refreshment stalls on route. The rumour proved true, so it is hoped to gather together a party from the Regiment next year and hopefully enter even one or two for the 90 kms race. Surprisingly enough, very few British langlaufers were competing in races that included the top Scandinavian and European racers in all age groups.

FOOTBALL

After a rather hesitant start of the season the regimental football team, now under the management of **Sgt Eric Langton**, has improved considerably. Although we were defeated by 28 Sig Regt in the Rhine Area Cup semi-final, the recent arrival of **Sig Paul Dunn** and **Bob Fanning** has strengthened the squad and we now look to the future with confidence.

MOTORCYCLING

SSgt 'Weaver' Woosey is an active member of the 16 Sig Regt Handlebar Club and acted as Clerk of the Course for Exercise Hard Ride IV at RAF Bruggen on 12 November. The event, which included 10 laps of a challenging 14km course through woods and sand pits, attracted over a hundred competitors, including fifteen German guest riders. The success of this event has encouraged the Royal Air Force to offer the course at Bruggen for two motorcycle enduros per year.

In September, **SSgt Woosey** achieved a 'first' for 13 Sig Regt when he was awarded his Army Motorcycling Colours.

PLANS FOR 1983

SSgt Woosey has already been informed that he is on the short list of potential Army riders for the 1983 World Championship Team Enduro event, to be held in the UK in October. Success in events leading up to this International Six-Day Enduro is essential if the **'Weaver'** is to be selected to represent the Army. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be available from the Army MCA (BAOR), outside sponsorship and **SSgt Woosey's** own pocket to allow him to compete in all German National Events and the Austrian round of the European Championship. It will not be possible for him to contest all six rounds of the European 2-Day Championship. Together with other Army-class riders in BAOR, **SSgt Woosey** will enter events as a member of the Army MCA (BAOR) team.

KARTING

SSgt and **WSSgt Livesley** competed in Services Karting Championships in Germany during the 1982 season as members of RAF Wildenrath Kart Club. The following events were staged at the four major RAF bases in Germany: The RAF (G) Karting Championship (RAF only); The Army (BAOR) Karting Championship (Army only); RAF/Army Germany Karting Championship; The Toyota Challenge Cup (5 races at RAF Guetersloh); The 1982 RAF/Army Enduro race.

Leave, work and exercise commitments cut the racing season somewhat short and in competition the Karts were dogged by mechanical failure. **W/SSgt Livesley's** ZIP motors were plagued by overheating and seizures, resulting in the destruction and rebuilding of both motors six times. The cause of the problem, a faulty fuel filter, was eventually traced and most mechanical defects were rectified before the Enduro race, in November. A promising start in this three hour, two driver event came to a spectacular, if abrupt, end when **W/SSgt Livesley** rolled her Kart at 50mph, wrecking the motor, bending the chassis and injuring a knee. Neither outfit nor 'pilot' was fit to continue.

Heat and race results during the season included several placings in fields of up to twenty-two. **WSSgt Livesley** is still in the novice class of International Karting but performed well in most events, recording several 'seconds' in heats of her class. The 1983 season begins in March and continues through to November with one event about every three weeks. **'Team Livesley'** will be competing on a very limited basis during the early part of the season, prior to posting back to the UK in the summer.

Two newcomers to the sport, **SSgts R Hodges** and **A Jones**, paired up for Enduro race as a formal introduction to competition. Unfortunately, **SSgt Hodges' Kart**, which is rumoured to be an integral part of a mobile disco, suffered from brake failure early in the meeting and they were unable to finish.

Plans for the 1983 season have yet to be finalised.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

14 Sig Regt (EW)
B.F.P.O. 23

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col W. Roper**
2IC	**Maj J. F. Budd**
Adjt	**Capt R. J. Turnbull**
RSM	**WO1 M. D. Fogg**
OC HQ Sqn	**Maj P. W. Todd BEM**
OC 1 Sqn	**Maj R. H. G. Elford MBE**
OC 2 Sqn	**Maj R. G. L. Hill**
OC 3 Sqn	**Maj R. A. J. Gardner**
Senior Operations Officer	**Maj A. Abbott**

The reason for starting these notes with a list of personalities within the Regiment is to inform all those who for one reason or another (eg: isolated dets or Antarctic duties) hadn't heard that the Regiment now has four Squadrons.

On 14 Feb, the Regiment suffered its own Valentine's Massacre when D Troop split from 1 Sqn, travelled to Scheuen and joined a nucleus of men and equipment to form the basis of 2 Sqn. Before long they are to be joined by N Tp and J Tp from 3 Sqn, and then a gradual build up of men and equipment will culminate in a Regimental parade on 16 Jun, which will, hopefully, feature in this column.

WELCOME

Since our last edition **Maj Peter Todd BEM** has arrived to take over as OC HQ Sqn. Of course, all the football referees knew long before anyone else. We hope you and **Jenny** enjoy your tour with us in Celle, and from what has been heard, the local referees are glad to have you around. Also recently arrived is **Maj Alan Abbott** the Senior Operations Officer. To all new arrivals, far too numerous to mention, we wish you and your families a very happy stay here in Celle.

EX *LONG LOOK*

Report by Cpl John Bellion

Though the posters say 'Join the Navy and See the World', they forgot to mention that one can do so equally as well in the Army. I never thought that I would be able to travel further than Germany until being informed about Exercise *Long Look*.

This involves approximately 100 exchanging postings for a four month period with their counterparts from Australia and New Zealand.

HOSPITALITY

After a somewhat exhausting 23 hour flight and stopover at RAF Richmond I soon found myself at 72 EW Sqn Cabarlah. Obviously at this point I wondered what the unit was like and also the people there:. 'how would they compare with us?'. I was told that they are a very forthright people, which turned out to be true. Instead of being allowed to get over any jet-lag I may have had, my presence was demanded at the bar within one hour of my arrival. All units have their extroverts and it was my luck to meet them the first night of my tour. **Messrs Danny Mooney** and **Dave Dale** soon introduced me to the delights of the States 4X beer, and every night for the first week of my stay at the Squadron. With such characters and outstanding hospitality all around me, it didn't take very long to settle into the Aussie way of life.

RAIN:

I felt somewhat subdued for the first few weeks as it did nothing but rain. What happened to the sun and bronzed Sheilas? This was soon rectified by being sent to Townsville for over a week. Staying in Townsville meant being in easy reach of Carns, a large resort area. Here at last were the sun and scantily clad girls.

THE TIME ZONE

Appreciating the size of Australia was initially quite difficult. Just after finishing what appeared to be a normal working day, we were called out to a bush fire. I was surprised that the area was some two thousand acres or so but even more surprised when told that that was a small one. Another indicator of size was having to drive for three days to reach an exercise area at Puckapunyal. Travelling through a time zone was quite novel too.

Now came a more serious side to *Long Look* as the *Premium Bond* exercise would allow me to take a good look at our 'cousins' and see how they operated. I must confess that, on more than one occasion, I was pleasantly surprised to see that we were not the only 'professionals' about.

THREE DAYS RETURN

During the exercise I was 'escorted' about Melbourne for a few days very ably by **Stevo Stephens.** He shuffled me between parties and B-B-Q's, which never seemed to end. However all good things must come to an end and we were once again back on exercise a little red-eyed. As with all endex's it was a rush to get home, but unfortunately it still took us three days to return.

VARIED AND EXCITING

An opportunity from **Sgt Mick Fidler** to go sailing was readily accepted. His friendship was tested after I managed to capsize his catamaran and the mast was in danger of being ripped off as the boat drifted towards land. After a bit of help from some fellow sailors the boat was soon righted along with **Mick's** sense of humour.

All too soon the exchange came to an end and it was time to say farewell. Though in some ways I was reluctant to return, in many ways I was happy to be going home after a varied and exciting four months.

I came away thinking, though they have their difficulties, as does any unit or Army, they are one to be highly respected. Should anyone from 72 EW see this report, may I once again extend heartfelt thanks for a terrific time.

Cpl John Bellion on lookout for flying doctors

RCP TROOP—THREE IN A ROW

For the third successive year RCP Tp have won the Scheuen Inter-Troop Football League. The team consists of a good mixture of old and young alike. We had the experience of stand to **Smith, Taff (Slim) Thomas, Big Bad Bog** and **Jeff Robinson** (who won most of the tosses as well as playing like one)—only joking.

Back Row: Left to Right: SSM Smith, LCpl Holt, Cpl Patterson, Sig Garbett, Sgt Thomas (Manager), LCpl Lumley
Front Row: Left to Right: Sig Cowdroy, Sig Stokes, Capt Ashton (PC Tp), Cpl Robinson (Capt), LCpl Campbell, Sgt Taylor, Sig Sullivan

Not to be outdone the youngsters of the Troop performed well with stalwarts **Larry Stokes, Andy** (Mouth) **Garbett** and **John (YofS) Sullivan** outstanding. The League proved to be a three horse affair with us TM and Radio Troop fighting it out. The final League positions were decided after we had played TM Tp who were strong favourites to win the League. But after a very hard but fair game we came out victorious by 3 – 2. The goals were scored by **Larry** (The Lamb) **Stokes,** two, and **Taff** (Slim) **Thomas,** one. Credit must be given to OC Troop (Maam) and **SSgt Corky Cormack** and all troop members for their support.

JAMMER TROOP NOTES

At the annual Troop dinner in the Jeremy Bear Club, this year's guest of honour was **Mr Bill Dodds,** father of **WO2 Jim Dodds,** the 2IC of Jammer Troop. **Bill** is something of an old soldier, having spent the war years in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps which was stationed in the Hanover area. **Bill** also took the opportunity to revisit some of his old haunts.

Mr Dodds (Bill) being presented with a painting of a Bromure Jammer during his recent visit

The photographs shows **Bill** being presented with a framed print of a Bromure Jammer for what is described as 'devotion to his mouth organ beyond the call of duty', during the lunch.

Any ex member of Jammer Tp who would like to purchase a troop plaque should contact **Jim Dodds** on Scheuen Mil 218 or write direct to **Jim Dodds,** 14 Sig Regt (EW), BFPO 23. The cost of the plaque is DM30 or sterling equivalent.

MEDAL TIME

During a recent visit Commd Comms HQ 1 (BR) Corps presented South Atlantic medals to **Sgt Cy Fawthrop** and **LCpl Chris Spencer.** He also took time to present LS & GC medals to **Sgt Brian Mountain** and **Sgt Al Hurdly.**

A brief report on the exploits of our men in the Falklands appears below.

Sgt Cy Fawthrop and LCpl Chris Spencer complete with South Atlantic Medals

Sgt Brian Mountain (RT) and Sgt Al Hurdley after the presentation of LS&GC medals

FALKLANDS REPORT

On 8 Apr 1982 four members of the Regiment were warned for service in the Falkland Islands as part of Operation *Corporate*. They were **Capt Gerry Corbet, Sgt Cy Fawthrop, LCpls Paul Ellis** and **Chris Spencer.** With little warning the party moved to the United Kingdon on 9 Apr, arriving at the Royal Marine Training Centre, Lymptstone. The next week was spent gathering together specialised equipments and carrying out a comprehensive military training course.

On 16 Apr **Sgt Fawthrop** and **LCpl Spencer,** as part of a specialist communications team, flew via Gibraltar and Sennegal to the Ascension Islands. On arrival and while waiting for a ship, the team continued to carry out climatisation training with 40 Commando.

A week later the team boarded the RFA LSL *Sir Geraint* for the last leg of the journey southwards. Also on board were Rapier detachments and the Satcom station from 30 Sig Regt. The trip south on RFA *Sir Geraint* took twenty four days. During that time many hours were spent training, with great emphasis placed on First Aid. On 19 May all personnel on board were given a final brief before landing on the Falkland Islands on 21 May.

Sgt Fawthrop and **LCpl Spencer** landed at San Carlos Bay at 1000hrs on 22 May. Their first night ashore was spent in the open, before moving in to the local community centre, which was soon transferred nto an operations room. The next five days were spent setting up the equipment and carrying out prescribed tasks. However the team had little success due to their poor location.

On 27 May, the party was ordered to Goose Green in support of 2 Parachute Regiment's operation. However the terrain was too severe and the team's Landrovers were soon bogged in on Sussex Mountain, and attacked by Argentinian Mirage aircraft. On their return to San Carlos the team moved into trenches near the settlement and waited for transport to the front line. The RFA LSL *Sir Percival* moved the team round the island on 2 Jun. They landed next day and dug in once more before moving up to Mount Estancia in support of the final assault on the capital, Port Stanley.

On 5 Jun the team moved by Sea King helicopter into the Parachute Regiment's area on the mountain. The ritual of digging-in was abandoned this time as they had landed in a peat bog!

The next week was spent searching for and monitoring transmissions. Unfortunately there was little traffic. Sleep became of the utmost importance, in spite of the continual artillery fire from both sides.

On 12 Jun the infantry moved out to start the attack. This gave the team opportunity to use their Jammer. It was put to good use during the final attack, which lasted for two days. Finally on 14 Jun there was great relief from all concerned when Port Stanley was captured. In typical military fashion 'Endex' was declared.

Sgt Fawthrop, LCpl Spencer and the other two member of the team finally moved into Port Stanley on 17 Jun—to a much needed and deserved beer and a welcome bath.

On 21 Jun the team boarded HMS *Fearless* for the return trip via the Ascension Islands to the United Kingdom.

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

EXERCISE 'WINTEX'

Despite the cold weather which sent temperatures rocketing below zero all elements of the Regiment deployed to their various locations for Exercise *Wintex*. Those in Krefeld saw an endless stream of visitors prior to and during the exercise. The Provost Sgt, **John Berry**, was last seen disappearing towards the main square to marshal yet another helicopter resplendent in his fighting order and sash!

Out in the sticks Commcen Juliet were treated to some different military training during the exercise. The arrival of the SSM, **WO2 Roy Coffill,** YoS, **Ssgt Bob Marshall** and **Sgt Gus Honey** brought fear and trepidation to some. The 150foot wooden firetower located nearby was the ideal platform for a spot of abseiling. Everyone thought that the first attempts would be from the lower levels but after **Sgt Honey** had tested the ropes from the top everyone else seemed to congregate there too.

Most enjoyed themselves like **Sig Spike Ashworth** and **Danny Dyche** and **LCpl Les North,** who joined the Troop during the exercise. There were others who required a little persuasion that they were in safe hands all the way down. **Cpl Bernie MacNamara** showed the girls how to do it and then retreated to the exchange with her shakes. **Ptes Mary Pedersen** and **Karen Freeman** were last seen being talked down by the OC **Maj Tony Gibb**.

Cpl Bernie McNamara shows the way to abseil down a 150ft tower

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

During his farewell visit to the Regiment the SOinC **Maj Gen AC Birtwistle CB CBE** presented the LS&GC to **Sgt Norrie Clanahan** and the MSM to **WO1 Gordon Andrews REME.** He also presented BAOR Canoeing colours to **Cpls Bob Story, Mick Scott** and **Sgt Kev Truby.**

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle presents the LS&GC to Sgt Norrie Clanahan

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle congratulates WO1 Gordon Andrews REME after presenting him with the MSM

Sgt Kev Truby receives his BAOR colours for canoeing from Maj Gen AC Birtwistle. Behind him are Cpls Mick Scott and Bob Story BEM (hidden) who had also received their colours

The Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J H Hild MBE** presented the LS&GC to **Cap Pat Mason REME** on his last day in the Regiment as OC LAD REME.

EX DIVING BACKSTOP—SARDINIA

Report by SSgt Pete Dunnings

Monday 21 March saw four members of the Krefeld Sub Aqua Club and myself leave the chill of Germany for the sun and blue seas of the Meditterranean. With **SSgt Harry Wells,** his son **William, LCpl Dave Bagshaw** and **Mr Pete Woods** of PSA Krefeld I was off to Sardinia as members of a Rhine Area expedition.

On arrival at RAF Decimomannu ('where the hell is it?' I asked) unloading the equipment was the first priority before bedding down on the base for the night. We moved out the following morning and by midday I was dehydrating fast and had to be immersed in the sea—any excuse for a wetting.

The camp site was by house on the sea shore where more work had to be done to establish the base for the exercise, but by late afternoon all the members of the club could be seen with wet suits half on, half off, dragging air bottles and equipment down to the sea.

Every day at least two or three dives were made, resulting in glazed eyes from the sheer amazement of the underwater life. Regretably it did not last as on Friday a Force 7 storm blew up which soon howled itself up to Force 10. The old house shook in the wind and our boat was last seen setting off on its own towards the North African coast having successfully launched itself.

We were now restricted to shore diving but we made the most of it. I had to leave with the first group but before flying out we wished those who arrived to take over from us a happy time. As the plane crossed the Sardinian coast we saw a lone rubber boat floating into the sunset.

BAOR BOXING SEMI—FINALS

16 Sig Regt fought 27 Field Regiment RA at Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt for a place in the finals of the BAOR Novice Competition. In an electric atmosphere the evening's boxing started with a bantamweight contest between **Sig Brummie Wilson** and **Gnr McCracken** resulting in a hard earned points win in our favour.

Unfortunately **Sig Mick Every's** featherweight contest was stopped by the referee as his opponent was too strong. **Sig Horace Mills** fought superbly at lightweight and scored a good points win over his opponent **LBdr Cook**. **LCpl Taff Dale** at Lightwelter and **Sig Tommo Thompson** at Light middle had hard fought matches which they lost on points resulting in a score of 3—2 to 27 Regt RA at the interval.

After the break **Sig Joey Hall** fought well against **Gnr Williams** but lost on points. All then depended on us winning the last three fights. **Sig Marvin Gash** was next to enter the ring and took a lot of punishment in the first round. A quick pep talk from **SSgt Fred Payet** did the trick and **Sig Gash** scored a technical KO over his opponent **Sig Brown.**

The heavyweights proved to be two tough individuals and after the closest of fights **LCpl Chalkie Meek** was narrowly defeated by **Bdr Watson.** Although the match was lost **Sig Taff Jones** ended on a high note by stopping his opponent **Gnr Carmichael.**

The team proved to many that they were certainly a force to be reckoned with thanks to the efforts of SSgt Fred Payet and **Sgt Andy Hyde APTC,** the coaches.

EASTER RUGBY TOUR

The Regimental Rugby team went on tour to Holland over the Easter break and took part in the Internation Tournament at Geleen. Ex-team members travelled from far and wide to join in including **LCpl Banner** from Aldershot, **Lt Peter Grogan** from Herdord and from courses **LCpl Peter Hudson, Sig Bomber Brown** and **Cpl Paul Goddard.**

The team played 11 matches resulting in 6 wins, 2 draws and 3 lost. The team won the Aanmoedigings Trophy.

It would be hard to name any outstanding players as everyone contributed to the high standard. However many thanks to those who suffered injuries and continued playing **(LCpl Tommo Thompson, Cpl Paul Goddard, Sig Joey Hall** and **Sgt Allan Huggins)** and to all the supporters who travelled so far to spectate and encourage.

RHINE AREA ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Up at some unearthly time in the morning just to run round a wood getting lost, wet, covered in mud and tired. What a way to spend a weekend! Well, I made it to the first check point, the guardroom. The rest of the team actually arrived as well—maybe we were in for luck. With **Fosy Bear, SSgt John Ratcliffe** at the wheel and **Major Brendon Hughes** map reading we headed off for the next check point—the start—before everyone else had gone home.

After a couple of detours we finally arrived with time to spare so we were able to decide who would run which course—11km (the long way) or 7km (just right). **Fosy Bear,** OC2 and **Cpl Sean Prior** settled for the punishment whilst **Lt Graham McNeill** (like my new shoes!?), **LCpl Andy Owen** and **LCpl Jock Young** took the shorter course. We all managed to start, if even a little late, but the fun was just beginning too. The hills were like mountains, the streams were rivers and the bogs were more like swamps. Much to our surprise we all finished so we were in with a chance. What joy when we discovered that we had won by 1 min 30 secs after nearly 10 hours of running. All we had to to was get ourselves back to Krefeld to celebrate. Funny how an incentive like that helps the navigating.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

THE FOCUS

The months of February and March were dominated by exercises. The majority being Regimental ones and some which only involved smaller units or detachements within the Regiment

We had not long returned from Ex *Winter Sales*, the Corps CPX when we once again packed our kit and prepared our equipment for Ex *Wintex*, a NORTHAG CPX. It was during this exercise that we received a visit of a rather different nature.

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF DERBY

We were delighted to hear that the **Mayor** and **Mayoress of Derby, Councillor** and **Mrs Norman Glen** were to pay a visit to army units that recruit from the Derby and Nottingham areas. As well as our own Regiment, this also included visits to the 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and 47 Fd Regt RA.

On arrival, the Mayor and Mayoress were met by **Lt Colin McGrory**, who was to act as their guide throughout the visit; he starts a KAPE tour in May and will be visiting schools and shows in the Derby and Nottingham areas, so it was an ideal opportunity for him to meet the Mayor and his Officer prior to the Kape visit.

Before visiting us, the Mayor and Mayoress had spent some time with the 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. They had seen the Infantry unit training in barracks and they had been introduced to the formalities of Army mess life. Their visit to 22 Sig Regt was to prove a stark contrast to most of their usual ceremonial visits and the Mayoral party was soon to witness the less glamourous side of Army life.

The Mayor chats with Sig Michael Ginty from Alvaston during his visit to Commhead November - 1 Sqn

The Mayors Officer *(centre)* displays his keen interest while Maj Nigel Cory and Capt Elaine Jackson welcome the Mayor and Mayoress to Commhead November.

A WET WELCOME

The visit started with a brief by the CO on the Regiment and its role within BAOR. The party then set off for the first stop of their tour at 1 Sqn, set up as Commhead November.

Here the party were met by **Maj Nigel Cory** and **Lt Elaine Jackson** who showed them around the commhead. After seeing the Radio Relay crews, the Mayor and Mayoress headed for the Message Centre where they spent some time talking to local lad **Sig Michael Ginty** of Alvaston which is in their recruiting area. A quick demonstraion of the linemens' work concluded their trip to the Commhead and the Mayor and his party prepared for the next stop: a very muddy and wet Commcen Uniform!

WELCOME TO UNIFORM

At Commcen Uniform they were met by **WO2(SSM) Maurice Nelson** and others bearing gifts of wellington boots! The location had not been specially chosen but it was a good example of a muddy commcen site and the party had to tread carefully to avoid slipping or tripping over. Here the Mayor and Mayoress were heard to express their admiration for the soldiers who 'kept their good spirits in spite of the living conditions and the severity of the weather'. After a brief tour of the Commcen with OC 3 Sqn **Maj Peter Williams**, the Mayoral party headed for the cookhouse, where they were to have their first meal in the field!

Maj Peter Williams discusses food in the field with the Mayor and Mayoress while Capt (TOT) Bob Scriven and WO2(FofS) Bonner Law ignore protocol and tuck in!

'I've asked for the claret at room temperature', quipped the Mayor's Officer **Alan Naylor** as they took their seats in the draughty tent—a beaker of tea in a plastic mug was placed before him!

The Mayor and Mayoress were delighted to be able to actually see a Unit practising its role and they showed great interest in our work throughout the length of their tour. They concluded their tour of the Regiment in the Field with a brief talk by **Lt Colin McGrory** on the KAPE tour programme. They then sped off to visit the famous Mohnesee Dam before they returned to the CO's house to warm up and dry off!

SITE GUARD

The Regiment undertook its second Site Guard of the year at the end of March. The crew thrown together for 'better or worse' was headed by **Lt** 'Night-Owl' **Thomas, SSgt** 'Wing' **Lunney** and **Sgt** 'I was selected' **Marchant.** Training began in the Medical Centre where a few attempted to discover reasons why they should not attend!

All the normal preparations for this well-known duty were

practised; early morning PT, range-work and section attacks. Light relief was provided by **Sig** (I really am ill) **Easter** who made an excellent casualty during first aid training. The training was over all too soon and before he knew it **Sig 'Johna' Jones** was in the back of a 4-tonner, leading towards the site for the 'Real Thing!

Section Commander **Cpl** (I'm a born leader) **McGonagle** enjoyed informing the whole world that his section was about to load, unload, spread out, close in, go for a shower, or eat a meal. Funny, he used to be such a nice guy. An excellent shop was established by **SSgt Lunney** with profits not going towards **Lt Thomas'** GTI, as originally thought by some.

When not on duty, the troops headed for the local swimming pool or the football pitch at 50 Msl Regt RA. The most enthusiastic of the sportsmen was **Sig** (Can I take another shower?) **Davies** who thought the guard would be much better if he could go for a swim every day.

The duty concluded without any incidents or mishaps and upon return to camp, kind donations from squadrons were added to shop profits for a few beers for the boys in the new 4 Sqn bar. Any Volunteers?

The 'A' team, still slightly numbed from their defeat by 27 Fd Regt RA were drawn to play 20 Elec Wksps in the first round of the Plate Competition. They won this game easily and went on to meet The Life Guards in the semi-final. The Life Guards scored the first try within the first minute. However, with some excellent running and chasing by **Sgt Billy Hughes, Lt Colin McGrory** and **2Lt John Dakin** and excellent solo runs by **Cpls Trev Keats** and **Cliff Hunt**, they won by 24pts, to 4pts. That win put them in the final against 35 Engr Regt. This was a hard match but thanks to fine running by **Cpl Trev Keats** and **2Lt John Dakin** we were 12pts up by half time. In the second half 35 Engr Regt came back and scored. Our team maintained their lead and eventually won by 12pts to 6pts making them the triumphant winners of the Plate Competition. Needless to say the win was celebrated in the customary Rugby team manner in the clubhouse after the game!

CLIMBING

The first General Meeting of the Regimental Climbing Club took place on Saturday 12 March. Once the team had discussed Club policy and had the ground rules explained by **Lt 'Oscar' Thomas** the first training session began. The team of six headed towards the Bruhhauser Steine area to complete seven climbs in all. Chief Instructor **Cpl 'Mac' MacKay** led most climbs, but allowed **Lcpl Newholm** to gain experience of his first lead in the Bruchhauser Steine area. The most memorable climb was Stromberer Weg (Grade V); what started off as the group trying to find a solution to the base of the climb resulted in everybody being top roped.

Amongst the lessons learned from the experience of this mild overhang was that you can trust the belayer's reactions—sometimes! All in all the team enjoyed an excellent days climbing and promise to take **'Oscar'** with them next time!

THE BRUGGEN '10'

On Saturday 12 March, almost 1,000 runners from all over Germany and beyond met at RAF Bruggen for the annual 10 mile road race. Many came to run competitively or to beat records but many more took part simply to enjoy the run, meet up with old friends and achieve a reasonable time.

Thanks to **Sgt Ray Pearman** from 2 Sqn who organised the trip, 60 runners from the Regiment were able to participate. All the runners completed the race the standard of which was very high. The Regiment gained a pleasing ninth place overall with some very good individual results: **SSgt (FofS) (Bonner) Law, SSgt Gerry Hegarty, Sgt Jimmy Saveall, LCpl Tim Edwards,** and **Sig 'Scotty' Scott** had

SSgt 'Gerr' Hegarty (064) leads the way on the first lap of the 'Brugen 10' road race

extremely good runs and were all placed within the first hundred with **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** gaining an enviable ninth individual place.

This was just another 'feather in the cap' for members of the Regimental Running Club who have achieved and set some outstanding records in the last year or so. The Club continues to grow in size and goes from strength to strength. The 'penalty' of membership is to be totally devoted to the sport as the intensity of the unit exercise programme demands the most training has to be done outside working hours. The team is presently looking forward to and training up for the Inter-Services marathon in May.

GOLF

The golfing season got off to a wet start with three of our more seasoned golfers competing in the Corps Spring Meeting on 7/8 April at RAF Bruggen.

SSgt (YofS) Charlie Rodgers and **SSgt Stu Meadows** RAPC joined clubs in a bid to win the Regimental Trophy and complete the double as they already hold the Autumn Trophy, but failed to do so due mainly to the notorious 6th and poor golf. In the other competitions **Ssgt Stu Meadows** failed in his bid to win the scratch medal for the second time running by returning an 11 on the 4th having put 3 balls out of bounds which put him into 4th place, 2 shots behind the winner.

WO2 Paddy Dickinson failed in his attempt to retain the Handicap Trophy but did however come a credible 3rd in the 2nd 18 hole stableford with 39 points. All in all a good 2 days of golf was had by everyone and we now look forward to the Autumn meeting with, hopefully, the prospect of better weather.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS

Over this period many new faces seemed to appear in the Regiment and some old (or should I say familiar ones) left us for different units. As previously mentioned, **Maj Hamish Adams** leaves us shortly and we welcome **Maj John Simpson** in his place.

In 1 Sqn we welcome **Capt Fred Laverick** back after his 6 months tour in the Falklands and congratulate **Capt Elaine Jackson,** Cpls (soon to be Sgts) **Eyre** and **Rafferty** on their recent promotions.

2 Sqn witnessed the departure of their OC **Maj David Lowe** and welcomed his replacement **Maj Bob Drake. Lt Viv Thatcher** arrived to take over SHQ Troop and **SSgt Lennie Rowland-Jones** left on promotion for 16 Sig Regt.

Changes in 3 Sqn have seen the arrival of **Lt Graham Taylor** and the departures of **WO2 (FofS) Pete Bradley** and **SSgt (SQMS) John Gadsdon.**

O/Cdt Richard Groves (QUBOTC) and **O/Cdt Alistar King** (Sheffield OTC) arrived in March and April respectively for two weeks attachment to the Regiment.

For a while, we believed we had a new Lieutenant in 4 Sqn. However, this turned out to be **Lt Des Maloney** who has actually been here for two and a half years, but has spent so much time away, that we had forgotten all about him! His latest worry is how to fit in all his leave before he departs to spend the summer months watchkeeping in Belize!

FAREWELL TO 'GUS'

We didn't think they'd to it, but they have. Yes, they have finally got round to posting that veritable pillar of society, Lord Budha of Ops and Z Troop, champion of the 24 handicap, master of the Commcen and keeper of the teleprinter paper(!), **Capt (Tfc) 'Gus' Gurr.**

Capt Gurr served for five and a half years in 22 Sig Regt and was instrumental in writing the most comprehensive set of orders and procedures that the Regiment has ever had. We shall miss the friendly advice, the rasping tones and his wealth of knowledge and experience.

We wish **Gus** and **Pat** good luck in their new posting to Berlin and welcome **Capt Peter McLoughlin** and his wife **Isobel** in their place.

WEDDING

One of the high spots of the last few months was the marriage of one of our subalterns **Lt Marian Joint** to **Capt Richard Evans** of 3 Div Sig Regt. We congratulate them and wish them all the best for the future. If **Richard** were to leave and join the ranks of the unemployed, or become 'wife and mother', we could have our own 'Holding The Fort Situation' at 22 Sig Regt!

MRS CONNIE RUSHTON

To end on a rather sad note! The Regiment would like to express its deepest sympathy to **Sig Rushton** (2Sqn) and his family. **Sig Ruston's** wife **Connie** was tragically killed in a car accident in March.

EXERCISE 'EARLY QUADRANT
4 SQN ADVENTURE TRAINING

OC Exercise	—	**Lt Rod Thomas**
Instructors	—	**WO2 (SSM) White**
Rock Leader	—	**SSgt Richardson**
Rock Leader	—	**Cpl MacKay**
Members	—	**LCpl Meaden**
		Sig Smith
		Sig Lomas
		Sig Pollitt
		Sig Williams
ATTACHMENT	—	**O/Cdt Groves**

Whilst the remainder of the Regiment enjoyed a welcome long Easter weekend, an intrepid bank of explorers from 4 Sqn decided to use their break for adventurous training. The above group set off on a beautiful Friday morning for Heimbach in the Eiffel mountains. Here they were to spend their time pursuing such lively activities as canoeing and rock-climbing.

For ease of organisation, the party was divided into four groups, which canoed one day then rock-climbed the next. The weather on the first day was excellent and much progress was made by all. However, the following day saw a drastic change in the weather and the rain came down in torrents. This did not hinder the valiant rock-climbers and abseilers but played havoc with the would-be-canoe experts! A trip down the flooded river Ruhr turned out to be more exciting than initially anticipated.

Tales of heroic exploits were later exchanged by canoeists and rock-climbers alike over a few glasses of beer. The more the beer flowed, the more exaggerated the stories became. Ordinary rock faces became sheer cliffs and reasonably fast-flowing rivers turned into treacherous rapids!

A short sightseeing trip to Heimbach was arranged on Sunday afternoon and the party returned to Lippstadt the next day. In conclusion a most enjoyable weekend was had by all, and many members of the group who had no previous experience of the activities discovered that they had either natural talent or genuine interest in their new found sports.

EXERCISE ONE DOWN AND ONE TO GO

The above exercise took place early in April and was appropriately named (and planned) by the Ops Offr **Maj Hamish Adams**, who leaves us after Ex *Flying Falcon* to go to Headquarters 4th Division.

Determined to go in never-to-be-forgotten style, the Ops Offr spent weeks planning the most imaginative and 'realistic' exercise he could devise! It was a tactical exercise designed to test the Regiments' flexibility and stamina. It was the best kept secret since the attack on Pearl Harbour and its effect was equally shattering. The Ops Offr had spared no details and showed no mercy for anyone. The exercise began with all the Squadron Commanders being 'killed off' to act as umpires or 'Major Iscariots' as they were later nicknamed! **21Cs Capts Elaine Jackson, David McDowell, Kevin Taylor** and **Lts Mike Gilyeat** and **Malcolm Coupar** were from then on 'in charge'.

The Ops Offr had wanted the exercise to be as realistic as possible. His aim was to feed into the exercise, problems and circumstances that would simulate a real war-time situation. For four days (which seemed like four months) we had to provide our normal communications as well as being exposed to a barrage of diverse problematic situations. **Maj Hamish Adams** wished to see how the Regiment would cope with depleted manpower, the continual threat of attack from both ground and air, whether we could deal with quantities of war casualties, and if individuals were flexible enough to be put into different jobs in different Squadrons.

The Exercise was completely tactical and trenches were dug furiously. (One nice thing we can say about the Ops Offr was that he dug his own trench!) Ammunition was handed out used and re-supplied by the Regimental Echelon who were also fully involved in the exercise. Ever increasing numbers of soldiers were flown out of Squadrons to act as casualties in other situations. Squadrons had to continue with reduced manpower, provide normal communications and defend their sites from the marauding enemy in the shape of **Maj Craig Treeby** (21C) and his band of covert 204 Sig Sqn operators and overt red-bereted infantry men provided by our local German Signal Batallion. With the help of the Field Ambulance, soldiers were turned into frighteningly realistic war casualties and transported to various Squadrons. Casualty evacuation was tested—both by air and road; less serious cases were treated on the spot.

RAF Helicoptors and 2ATAF Jaguars, A10's, Buccaneers and Harriers continued to play a menacing part in the ex by reccying areas, finding locations and passing the information to the enemy ground troops. As our positions were exposed to these attacks we were forced to move frequently and as often as was realistically possible though some vehicles slowed down the movement by getting bogged in or by judicious sabotage by the LAD!; the REME tasking vehicles has more work than they could cope with.

Not everything or everyone was against us. 27 Fd Regt RA had provided a Battery of Blowpipe as an attachment to the Regiment and this was split up into smaller detachments which were sited with each of our various units. They proved to be of vital importance in the operation as they disposed of landing enemy helicopters and satisfyingly destoyed many enemy Infantry who assaulted our positions in APCs.

Morale was high despite lack of sleep, continual movement and the added problem of a live enemy. The Regiment returned to barracks tired and dirty having learned many lessons for the future. In retrospect it was most enjoyable and it will certainly give us something for which to remember the Ops Offr!

THE TICKELL TEST

As part of the Regiment ARU a 20% random BFT was arranged by the APTC. There were disgruntled murmours from various notable members of the Regiment about 'randomness' of the test when the CO, Adjt and OC 3 Sqn were all selected to participate! Generally the results were good. The few exceptions are all now busy involved on extra PT!

The Tickell Test 20% Random BFT
The Co-Lt Col Pete Chaddock, modelling this years Off-the-Shoulder Running Bib

The ageing trendies of the Regiment reluctant to start the second half of their Tickell Test 20% random BFT

RUGBY—DIVISIONAL SEVENS AND PLATE COMPETITION

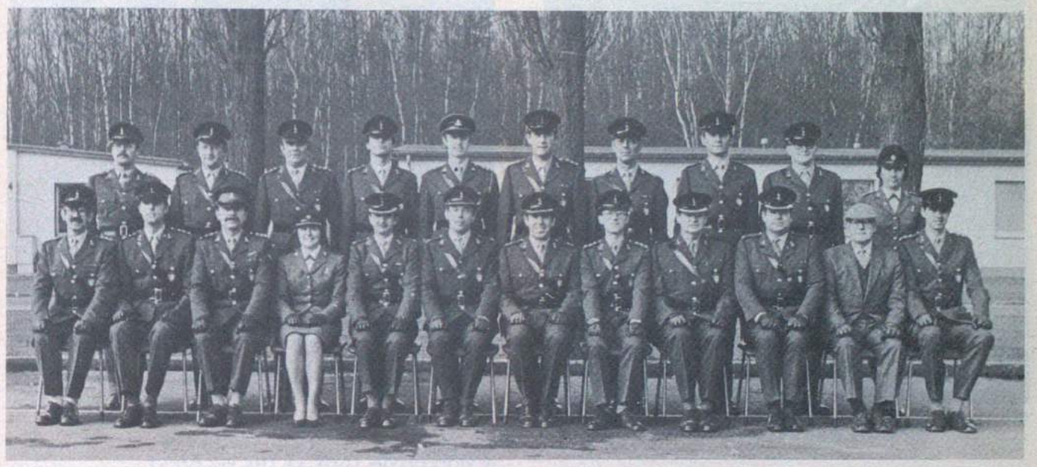
The Regimental Rugby team, having had a reasonable season but nothing to show for it except a few bruises, decided to produce two teams for the Divisonal Sevens. With the reconstruction of the Divisions in BAOR, they found themselves for the first time in the 4 Armd Div Sevens alongside such teams as IRRW, 7 Sig Regt, The Life Guards and their old rivals (with whom we share our Barracks) 27 Fd Regt RA.

Their first game was versus 27 Fd Regt RA in the prelims. The game was played on a pitch like a ploughed field! The result was a draw which meant that extra time had to be called, the first to score to win. The 'B' team, under the captaincy of **SSgt Glen McArdle**, meanwhile played their first game against 211 Sig Sqn. There were some good breaks by **Cpl Woodie Power** and some fine runs by **Sgt Peter Hunter** and **Sig 'Psycho' Cox** lived up to his name by running through (not over) anyone who got in his way. All in all the 'B' team played well and won quite easily. Unfortunately they were knocked out later in the third round.

28 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

IN ONE PLACE AT ONE TIME

Immediately before Exercise *Wintex 83* the CO tried to assemble all his officers in one place, at one time and in the same order of dress to have a photograph taken. Despite many difficulties he achieved his aim bar two, **Capt John Smith REME** was called away urgently to go skiing in Bavaria and **Lt Sue Rostron** was hard at work on a Basic German course.



Back row left to right: Capts Keith Goodfellow, Bob Kelbie, Colin McLoughlin, Lt Steve Johns, Capt's David Sharpe, Eddie Kellett, Rod Mansfield, 2Lt's Malcolm Llewellyn, Richard Wilson, Capt Mary Piers
Front row: Capt's John Morrison, Ken Hadfield, Dennis Rimmer, Maj's Judy Webb, Dick Stokes, Brian Robinson, Lt Col Brian Belton, Capt Paul Gorford, Maj's Jim Heck, Frank Rogers, John Dean, Capt John Wedgbury

EX *WINTEX 83*

Exercise ***Wintex 83*** was a hard test of the Regiment's Communicating ability not the least because it was the first time we had deployed with our staff for twelve months. Despite the lack of practise the exercise communications were pronounced to be a great success. The exercise was particularly notable for its visitors. Commander NORTHAG, **Gen Sir Michael Gow KCB ADC (GEN)** visited Switch Bravo location and met members of the NORTHAG Signal Support Group (NSSG), including members of the Regiment. His Chief of Staff **Maj Gen Schunemann (GE) made his farewell visit to the Regiment. Commander Communications BAOR Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** also found time to take a close interest in the Groups' activities and to stay for lunch in Switch Bravo Officers Mess.

Comd NORTHAG talks to Maj Judy Webb while Hauptman Claus, 840 Fmn Bn looks on

Comd NORTHAG shakes hands with WO1 RSM Dick Hamilton, the CO witnesses the deal

Comd NORTHAG talks to Cpl Gill Raistrick, Sgt Dave Taylor is next and LCpl Anita Walker can now relax

Maj Gen Schunemann COS NORTHAG greets WO2 SSM Harry Robinson, Maj Dick Stokes looks on

FAREWELLS

Maj Bob Brewis, deputy commander, in NATO parlance, took his leave of the Regiment for the second time having previously been a Squadron Commander within the Regiment. In the middle of the exercise the officers dined him out of the mess. It is of note that the next morning he was able to take a fairly long helicopter flight but it was probably just as well that he has hung up his wings and could travel as a passenger.

Col K. O. Rauchmann (GE) visited the Regiment on the 19 Mar to say farewell as Commander NSSG and our immediate NATO boss. He was entertained in both the Sergeants and Warrant Officers Mess, and in the Officers Mess to drinks and lunch. Many members of the Regiment will continue to have much contact with him in his new post as Assistant Chief of Staff Communications and Electronics Division NORTHAG. He leaves NSSG for the staff with a great deal of inside knowledge; we all hope he puts it to good use.

Col Rauchmann after signing the Officers Mess visitors book accompanied by the PMC Maj Brian Robinson and Sgt Rueben Lynch

PRESENTATIONS

On the 5 Apr a ceremony was held in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to mark 15 years exemplary service by two key figures in the Regiment. By coincidence both are presently occupying SQMS appointments. **SSgt Brian Johnson,** recently injured in a car accident, is SQMS 2 Sqn. The medals were presented by the CO **Lt Col B. L. Belton** Royal Signals. The injury to **SSgt Johnson's** neck did not prevent him creditably 'downing in one' a pint of beer to christen the medal.

As our photograph shows their wives were present for the occasion and we are sure that much of the credit for the medals must go to them for keeping their other halves on the straight and narrow path to the LS and GC.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. *Left to right* SSgt Brian Johnson with his wife Barbara and SSgt Graham Twisse with his wife Morag

A NEWCOMERS LOOK AT THE REGIMENT
By 2Lt K. J. Luney WRAC

On completion of the Short Commissioning Course 44, at the WRAC College Camberley in Nov 1982, I was posted to 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) for a three month attachment prior to CQ Course 24, at the School of Signals, Blandford commencing in March 1983. When I arrived at the Regiment, I was fortunate enough to be given the chance of doing the job of troop commander in the interim period of **Lt Guy Kenyon's** departure and **2Lt Malcolm Llewellyn's** arrival. Not being Signals qualified, but willing to learn as much as possible during my short stay my time was spent getting to know the soldiers in the troop, and learning the role of 28 (BR) Sig Regt. I found everyone extremely helpful and I quickly settled down to enjoying Regimental life.

My first month with the Regiment was pretty hectic socially, with troop parties, squadron parties, and finally the highlight of the season was undoubtedly the Sergeants Mess Christmas Draw. However I must not omit my initiation to the Sergeants Mess under the expert supervision of **RSM Dick Hamilton! Lt Sue Rostron** OC PAPA Troop, and myself were presented with garters WRAC embroidered for wearing with lightweight trousers—it was certainly an occasion to remember.

After the Christmas grant I finished with ALPHA troop and became involved with the final preparations of Exercise *Franski*, the Regimental skiing exercise. I was made OC of the ski-hut situated in Wertach Bavaria. Never having skied before it was an excellent opportunity to learn under the expert instruction of **LCpl Steve Gallimore.** Being OIC was great fun, but as a responsible job it involved a wide variety of problems, and kept me very busy.

My final month with 28 (BR) Sig Regt was spent working in Regimental Headquarters, as Assistant Adjutant, an ideal post from which to learn about what goes on in the Regiment as a whole.

Other activities included the attendance at three courts martial, invigilating officer of the EPC examinations and conducting a continuance attitude survey, which was interesting when I found out what it was.

During my short attachment with 28 (BR) Sig Regt I was most usefully employed and thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was an interesting and realistic introduction to my career in Royal Signals.

TROPO'S LAST STAND

Tropospheric Scatter Troop deployed for the very last time on Exercise *Wintex 83*. The troop has been in existence for 12 years and has played a vital role in NORTHAG communications. However all good things must come to an end, and unfortunately Tropo is one of these things. Time has caught up with Tropo and it has become obsolete in today's NORTHAG Communications System. Nobody who has served with the troop will forget the sheer grind of erecting those antennas. Indeed none more so than **WO2 (FofS) Paul McGinn** who has been part of the troop for the last five years. The picture was taken during **Gen Hild's** visit to Tropo on *Wintex 83* and was gathered around the rather apt sign, carved by **Sgt Martin Lamarsh,** are from left to right:

Lt Col B. L. Belton CO 28 (BR) Sig Regt
Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE Comd Comms BAOR
Gp Capt Harrington Comd Central Region Signal Gp
2Lt Dick Wilson OC Tropo
Maj Judy Webb OC 1 Sqn
Col K. O. Rauchmann Comd NORTHAG Signal Support Gp

Tropos last stand

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Publication available from Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

VISIT OF THE DYERS COMPANY

The Regiment has a long-standing association with the Worshipful Company of Dyers, and on 11 March we were happy to be visited by the Prime Warden, **Mr E R Avory MA,** accompanied by **Cdr (Rtd) Boyall,** the Clerk of the Dyers, and **Mrs Boyall,** along with **Mr Abnelt** who is the Assistant to the Clerk.

The Prime Warden, **Mr Avory,** is of course well known for his work in the tennis world. During the day the guests were hosted at a lunch in the Sergeants' Mess, visited all the Squadrons and were shown some captured Argentinian equipment from Op Corporate. The visit concluded with a dinner in the Officers' Mess. Among the guests were several previous Commanding Officers of the Regiment, and Mr & Mrs B Pauncefort, the Administrator of Ascension Island from August 1980—August 1982, who had hosted members of the Regiment on exercises and Op Corporate.

L - R: Cdr Boyall, Mrs Boyall, Mr Avory (Prime Warden), and Mr Abnelt

Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson shows the Dyers a captured Folding-Butt FN rifle

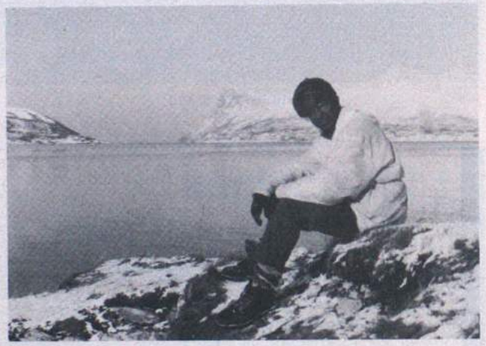
NORWAY 1983—EX COLD WINTER

A Rear Link Detachment from the Regiment was sent to Norway to provide comms for the Royal Marine Commandos, attached to 3 Cdo Bd HQ and Sig Sqn RM. In the past this has been a 1 Sqn task, but 2 Sqn provided the majority of the crew this year with 5 men; and 2 from 1 Sqn making up the detachment.

Our new home was Underfossen Camp 14km from Lillehammer, the venue for 1984's Olympic skiing. The first thing that struck us was the cold, not English, wet and cold, but dry and very cold! Perhaps we should have gone to Kenya! We settled down quickly and after a day or two familarised ourselves with some of the Marines 'jargon'. The Cookhouse was the 'galley', 'heads' are the loo, and one has a 'wet ashore and traps parties', all easily picked up so they said.

We all enjoyed ourselves on the Artic Warfare Training Course, although **Sig 'Desk Pilot' Crown** did hurt his knee skiing. Skiing was very popular with the lads, especially **LCpl 'Speedy' Ashley** who did well in every race, and even won the 10km Cross Country, much to the surprise of the Royals. The slower members of the crew were outshone by **Sig** 'Wren Shirley' **Bailey-Wood,** our resident 'Yettie', always on his backside, assuming he wasn't perming his hair. **Cpl 'Boopy' Patel** and **Sig 'Hack' Ramsey** amazed the skiing instructors with their parallel turns and agility on skis. We also mention our 1 Sqn lads, **Sig 'David Bailey' Dixon** and **'Blue' Marshall** who fitted in very well with the rest of the crew.

Thanks to the Royal Signals attached to 3 Cdo Bde who helped us a great deal. It was a very worthwhile exercise, and all involved are looking forward to it again next year.



Cpl 'Boopy' Patel overlooking a Fjord

FLOATER '83—THE MIDDLE EAST

Report by Sig Mick Winning

The planning for Floater '83 (Defence Sales Tour) started many months ago, but for **Sig Vaughan** and myself it started on 13 December 1982.

We joined the RE sales team at Bulford Camp just as the first of the vehicles were starting to arrive. Our first job was to learn how to operate the equipment for, apart from the RT/UK 353, we had not set eyes on any of the other sets.

Our return after a much appreciated Christmas break saw the arrival of the RAC and RA sales teams, and also our Hotspur command vehicle. Whilst the RAC were testing their tanks and trying to get permission to fire them on the move we were trying to find our way around the command vehicle. Fitted with a 100W HF, a UHF Messenger and two VHF (one being a frequency hopper) we managed to operate them fairly easily, even without instruction and operation manuals. The harnesses were a different story, what with a main and two secondaries, and manufacturer's faults, it took us quite a while to master them, but when we had the hang of it we were able to monitor all four sets and also broadcast one over a PA system.

The RAC failed to get permission to do live firing on the move, so they decided to move everything lock, stock and barrel to Bovington Camp. Now things started to move and after a few dummy runs, we went down to Lulworth Ranges to start live firing and to arrange things to keep our future spectators from getting bored.

Sig Vaughan and **Sgt Young** then went to Croydon to learn the Satcom, leaving **SSgt Higgerson** to liaise with the companies and myself to do the rehearsals. All seemed to fall into place, and on the final rehearsal the companies seemed quite pleased. With that, we joined the ship at Southampton.

The contractors were working around the clock but things did not look as though we would be ready for the 1600hrs deadline on 23 January, our sailing date. Right up until the last minute there was chaos all round. Then with no time to spare the contractors disappeared leaving *MV Viking Venturer* looking more like a luxury liner than a car ferry.

We set sail from Southampton and headed for Gibraltar. The Bay of Biscay was fairly rough, which put a lot of the lads in bed with sea sickness, and cut the signal staff by 50%, needless to say it was the senior ranks that were missing from the COMMCEN! We arrived at Gibraltar on 26 January to take on fuel and water. During our stay at Gib, the Marines orgainsed a rock race for ten people, nine Marines and **Sgt Young** took part, and **Sgt Young** kept the Corps flying high as he left a dust trail for the Marines to follow.

On completion of the bunkering we set sail for the Suez Canal. During this passage they decided to reorganise the Signals side of life. **Sgt Young** was to do all the up-country demos as he was the only operator with a driving licence, **SSgt Higgerson** took over the phone/telex accounts, and **Sig Vaughan** and I were left to do the COMMCEN, Rear Link and, in between, we also got 'volunteered' for security guard!

Our trip through the Canal was very interesting. On one side there is desert as far as the eye can see, while on the other side there was rich soil and greenery. Armed soldiers could be seen on each side, and anit-aircraft defence systems are manned 24hrs a day. There was also a few burnt out tanks and vehicles still around from the last war.

After a day in the Canal we had eight days sailing to Doha, our first port of call. We arrived at about 0700 on 8 February, and were immediately swamped by the company representatives. We thought we had had a hard time up until then, but were in for a shock. All the representatives wanted to telex their companies, and they all wanted their telexes off first. Needless to say some got rather upset when we told them we were doing a first come first served basis. Luckily for us **Maj Backhouse** (CO 30 Sig Regt Designate) was on hand to add much needed power, and even managed to get us a couple of hours off during the afternoon.

Our departure from Doha for Bahrain was marked by a night in the ships' bar, as Doha was one of our 'dry' ports.

Bahrain was the first of our two up-country demonstrations, and our side of life got very busy, as we had to man the Rear Link 24hrs as well as the COMMCEN, boat demos and the ships security. Our next four ports, Damman, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, were all very similar, with only quayside displays being demonstrated.

Dubai to Aqaba was a six day trip, with the company representatives flying off to sort out contracts and deals, so we had a quiet trip round, with a chance to catch up on some sun bathing. The COMMCEN was cut down to scheds and urgent calls only, although we often found ourselves being called our for 'Urgent Routines' after the bar had closed!!'

Due to bad weather and a tight schedule we were unable to bunker at Riyadh, so we found ourselves short of water and fuel, and we were down to a bar minimum when we arrived in Aqaba.

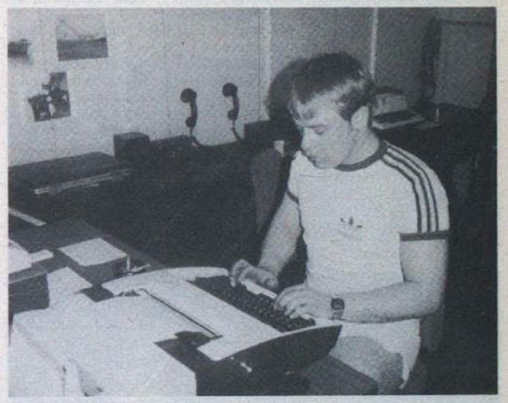
The demonstration at Aqaba took place 5km away from the dock so comms were no problem, and we were able to close the Rear Link each evening.

When we left Aqaba and reached Port Suez, a chance for a trip to Cairo was offered. Fourteen of us took it upl and we had tow days sight seeing which included the Pyramids, Mohammed Aly's Mosque, the scene of **President Sadat's** assassination and many other places of interest. Time sped past and we were soon driving up to Alexandria our last port of call.

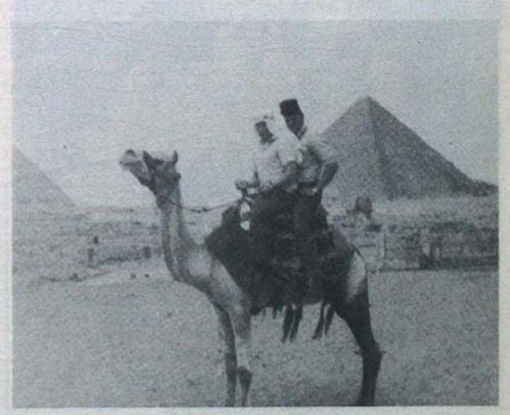
The demonstration in Alex was up-country, so yet again we were working round the clock. Finally, it was over, and were homeward bound. During the voyage the vessel sailed a total distance of 13,496 nautical miles. The highest recorded temperature was on 4 March; 43°C (109°F).

So the journey was over. The last messages of praise had come in, and the *Viking Venturer* after adjustments returned to her cross channel services, and DSO were back at the drawing board, planning Floater '85.

Quayside demonstration at Dubai



Sig Winning on Circuit



Sig Winning in front with the Royal Marines behind yet again!

ARMY JUDO CHAMPIONSHIP

My God; I thought as I woke up, on this bright and sunny day of April; the 14th to be exact. My neck and shoulders were stiff from yesterday's judo on the 13 of April. 13 being unlucky for some, but after praying to the *Jimmy* outside RHQ, my mumbles must have been overheard by the rest of the team because they were on the bus telling me to wake up.

It was a very good day at Bulford for our budding judo team, which consisted of **Cpl Dave Cluley** 4th Kyu, **Sig Martin Whelan** 7th Kyn, **Sig Pete Lamont** our over-fed and under-worked heavyweight 8th Kyu, who fought very well considering he only joined the Club last week and was put up against Black Belts. Then we have **Sig Kev German** a 4th Kym, **LCpl Neil Blair** who was our dedicated reserve and myself, **Sig** (Yet Again) **Steve Renouf** — I am the over-worked Club Coach, 3rd Kyu. Well there's the tribe and they all worked very hard on the mat.

The UK Senior inter-unit team judo championships attracted on entry of six teams, the only newcomer to the judo scene being 30 Sig Regt. The draw for the pools gave us a tough start to the competition with two of the favourites 22 Engr Regt and 1 DERR. The other pool consisted of 4 Fd Regt RA, SEME Bordon and Junior Leaders Regt RA permanent staff.

We were first on the mat against 22 Engrs with the result of 2 wins each and one drawn. The Engrs won on points 22—17. The next contest in our pool was 1 DERR v 22 Engrs which DERR won. This left us with everything to play for against DERR and we beat them 3—2 after an unexpected heavyweight victory. This resulted in us coming first in our pool with DERR second.

The result of the second pool was: 1st - JLRRA, 2nd - 4 Fd Regt RA and 3rd SEME. The bottom teams in each pool were eliminated leaving a crossover competition between each first and second place for a place in the final. After some very exciting and fast moving judo we beat 4 Fd Regt RA to get into the final against JLRRA. This opposition was superb and after some very close run fights beat us 5—0. We as the newcomers thus walked off with a hard earned and very satisfactory silver medal position. 4 Fd Regt RA won the play off for the bronze medal.

WO1 (FofS) Graeme Rothwell, our Team Manager, was on hand and gave us his full support and kept us going, and after he phoned the top floor in RHQ, the good news travelled like wildfire, not bad for the only team that hasn't got a Black Belt or Dan grade as a coach or player!

L - R Back: Lt Col Thompson (Honorary President), LCpl Blair, Sig Lamont, Sig Whelan, FofS Rothwell
Front: Sig German, Sig Renouf, Cpl Cluley

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

156 REGIMENT RCT (V) MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

This annual competition culminated at Altcar Ranges on Saturday 19 March and was open to all Units in North West District.

A total of forty teams took part over a course of some 7½ miles, starting at Ainsdale along the shore, then up through the sand dunes of Formby Nature Reserve, to the ranges at Altcar. It was fairly heavy going on a cold, windy, wet day and, not easy to complete in the bogey time of 90 minutes.

All Squadrons of the Regiment entered teams which consisted of an Officer WO, Sgt and 8 'R & F'.

One of 59 Sig Sqn (V) teams commanded by **2Lt Clive Stuart,** who recently joined the Regiment from Manchester University OTC, proved the best team from the Regiment, narrowly beating HQ Sqn (V) team commanded by **WO2 Robert Traynor RAPC,** by one point!

59 Sig Sqn (V) team commanded by 2Lt Clive Stuart being inspected after the 7½ mile approach march to Altcar Ranges

HQ Sqn (V) team commanded by WO2 Robert Traynor RAPC waiting to watch the prize giving, having competed in the March and Shoot Competition at Altcar

PLUGGED IN

Report by Maj Chris Vere TA PLO, HQ North West District

We had'nt really given the weekend one of those names like 'March Hare' or 'Spring Canter'—but we did need a name for it, so almost at the last minute, I decided that it should be Exercise 'Plug Up'! That was how the CO **Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt** of the North West's Volunteer Signal Regiment—33—described how the exercise from Friday - Sunday 25/27 March got its name!

The Regiment—whose Squadrons at Manchester (42), Liverpool (59), Chester (80) and Huyton (HQ and LAD REME)—had gathered at RAF Burtonwood, alongside the M62, on Friday evening, to practice their communication skills and the passing of considerable traffic over a closely deployed network—hence the name of the exercise.

We deliberately sited Squadrons close together, **Maj Edward Emett** of RHQ, told us 'so that faults could be found quickly and debriefings given at each stage of the exercise!'

We were, of course, fully tactical, and the Burtonwood weather on the Friday evening and Saturday made us realise just how muddy even an old airfield can become.

Superimposed over the main exercise, were two 'Specialist Events' involving movement, the radio relay detachments were working on a 'shoot and scoot' principle, sending and then moving in a rotary direction around the perimeter of the airfield, under the control of **Capt Catriona Millar.** The line troops of the Squadrons were taking part in their Annual Competition under the eagle eye of The Adjutant, **Capt Keith Derrick,** and **Sgt Keith Sandy** PSI of 80 Sig Sqn (V). Making a full day's visit to the Regiment on the Sunday, was the Hon Col, **Col Michael Stanley MBE, DL,** who, accompanied by the CO, visited all Squadron locations to meet members of the Squadrons and discuss their communicating problems.

'Notwithstanding the vile weather, the exercise has been a great success' the CO told us, and in our run up to Annual Camp—which is now only two months away, in late May—based on Burneston Barracks, Scarborough, we'll benefit from what we have learned here this weekend'.

The Hon Col, Col Michael Stanley, visiting 59 Sig Sqn (V) during Ex *Plug Up*

L to R: WO2 (SSM) Brian Worthington, the CO, Lt Col Tony de V. Hunt, The Hon Col, and WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood

Taking the Home Computer with you may be a sign of Regimental 'Oneupmanship' these days! The Regimental TOT, Maj Alan Preston inputs some exercise data to obtain the Regimental answer. Should be right, Alan, after twenty four years service!

Warm and dry inside—whatever the weather outside. That's at least one advantage of being on shift in the Commcen! Here from 80 Sig Sqn (V) are:- *L to R:* OCdt Hilary Roberts; Cpl Gillian Jones; Pte Jane Higginson and Cpl Fred Hawkins

42 Sig Sqn (V) from Manchester taking part in the Annual Regiment Line Laying Competition (which was won by 80 Sig Sqn (V) from Chester). Here the detachment is deciding how to span the road almost at the end of the 1½ miles 'lay' of line over the Burtonwood Training Area.
L to R: Cpl Brian Sharples, Sig Maurice Aarons, LCpl Francis Ulett, Sig Russel Goulding

GENUINE KIT

- DPM JACKETS
- WOOLLY PULLYS
- PARA SMOCKS
- BOOTS (U.P.B.)
- BERETS
- FACE PAINT
- PUTTEES
- PARKAS DPM
- 58 WEBBING
- DOWN S/BAGS
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34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON RHQ

CO	**Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker Royal Signals**
2IC	**Maj P. Sutherland TD Royal Signals (V)**
Trg Maj	**Maj S. Falla Royal Signals**
Adjt	**Capt J. P. McMahon Royal Signal**
QM	**Maj D. F. Rees Royal Signals**
QM Designate	**Maj R. Vasper Royal Signals**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) P. J. Skinner**
Ch Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) B. Cudd**

In good biblical fashion RHQ modestly elected to go last in the annual contribution order for Wire notes but now the last shall be first and those anxiously awaiting our news need wait no more.

The year has started quietly enough with only the faintest murmur of **Maj Graham Mitchell**, the Regimental Ops Officer, planning the first Regimental Exercise of the year. By the time these notes are read our excursions into the countryside of North Yorkshire will, however, be but a distant memory. RHQ and the Regiment has undergone several personality changes in the past year, the most significant of which was **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker** replacing **Col Bill Illingworth** as CO (we congratulate the latter upon his promotion and appointment on 1 Apr as Deputy Commander 12 Sig Bde). In Nov **Maj Peter Todd** gathered up his fishing lines and cast off for 14 Sig Regt thus leaving the Training Major's desk free for **Maj Syd Falla** to glide in from Wildenrath. The longest 'in post' Regular Army member of RHQ until last summer was the Chief Clerk but **SSgt Russel Adey** has now retired and been replaced by **SSgt Brian Cudd** who came to us fresh from the Ascension Islands and all points south. Our most recent departure was, in many ways, the saddest of all because **Sgt Christine Rooney**, our WRAC 'R' Type Date Telegraphist, has left the Army to join her husband **Dennis** on location in Saudi Arabia. Our Training Records will be the poorer but we wish her well in the land of the sheiks.

A DINNER NIGHT OF SOME NOTE

During March, the Officers Mess held a Regimental Dinner at Burniston Barracks in Scarborough to say farewell to the former Deputy Commander 12 Sig Bde, **Col Bill Foster**, and to dine out 3 Regimental Officers. **Maj Peter Taylor** was leaving to return to the infantry and his former Regiment 4th Kings Own Royal Border at Kendal. He has been a most popular PSO and 90 Sqn especially, were sorry to see him go. We wish him and his wife **Gladys** well upon their return to the North West. **Capt John Mainwaring-Taylor** was dined out on transfer to 81 Sig Sqn but happily he lives locally and therefore we will not lose touch completely. The third officer leaving was **Capt Caroline Thwaites (Catcheside** that was) who, following her recent marriage to **Paul Thwaites** of The Junior Regiment, has decided to leave the Territorial Army; all we can say is their gain is our loss.

Left to Right: Capt Thwaites, WO2 Smith, Lt Col Bonaker

Left to Right: Maj Ruff, Col Foster, Maj Sutherland, Col Stewart

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATES

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Regiment who have recently been awarded their County's Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for 1983; **SSgts Mick Johnson, George Thirlwall, Jeff Davison, Cpls Dave Gath** and **Maggie Bottom, Bandsman Harry Gray** and **LCpl Harry Young**. The certificates were presented at parades held in the North of England during February and March.

EX 'NORTHERN COMFORT I'
Report by SSgt Ron Kirkwood

This was an adventurous Training Exercise essentially for the benefit of the Regiment's PSIs. 10 members of the Regiment and one RAOC colleague went north to do battle with the ski slopes of the Cairngorms. Those involved were:

Lt Col Hugh Bonaker CO
WO2 Yvonne Swinney (WRAC)
SSgt (FofS) Ron Kirkwood
SSgt Pat Quinn
SSgt Peter Archer (RAOC)
Sgt Derek Thurley
Sgt Tony Hindle
Sgt Tony Hunt
Cpl Mick McConaghy
Sig Paul (Jiffy) Lemon
Pte Pat Cody (WRAC)

The Rothiemurchus Lodge situated between Aviemore and Cairngorm was used as accommodation for the whole period of the exercise.

As most of those involved had never skiied previously or not for some time, the CO, **Col Bonaker**, spent the first day refreshing memories and teaching basic skills. By the end of the second day everyone was a budding 'Bartelski'. The weather, sadly, was not very kind to us but there was enough snow for our needs. Towards the end of our week the CO decided that it was time we left the nursery slopes and tackled something a little more adventurous! This was the North Wall with a gradient of at least 1 in 4 (or was it 4 in 1?). Our brave team led by our bravest member, the intrepid **Sgt Tony Hindle**, set forth. Traversing across the slope proved no problem but turning to go in another direction was a different matter. 'Come on **Sgt Hindle** TURN!' the CO was heard to shout (by this time he was at the bottom) **Tony** went into a classic snow plough right hand turn then proceeded to cartwheel very athletically down the remainder of the slope, coming to rest quite near our leader.

'The next turn you are getting from me, sir, is when I blacken my face and sing Old Man River', **Tony** told the CO who by now was rolling in the snow laughing. The week was full of incidents — happily not accidents — and a great time was had by all. This article cannot be concluded without mentioning **Pte Pat Cody** who was our cook for the exercise and looked after us extremely well. We are all looking forward to Ex *Northern Comfort II*.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

NEW APPOINTMENTS

There has been many changes in Regiment appointments recently, mainly as a result of having said farewell to **Maj David Hardy** who has left us to join 35 Sig Regt (V) and **Capt Chris Laurence** who has now joined 39 Sig Regt (V) (our loss is their gain). Congratulations to **Maj Stam Cartwright** on his promotion and appointment to command 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn (V). Other new appointments are: **Capt Edward Widgery** as 2IC 67 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt Ian Thomson** as 2IC 53 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt Chris Eskell** as 2IC 57 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt John Geake** as OC Rx Tp 57 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt David McKeown** as OC Tx Tp 57 Sig Sqn (V) and **2Lt Graeme Wreford-Brown** as OC Line Tp 57 Sig Sqn (V). **Maj John Woodcock** becomes TA QM and we welcome back **Capt Rosemary Tuhey**, now OC 867 Sig Tp.

The Adjutant, **Capt Tony Manders**, ably supported by both regular and TA soldiers in the Regiment, put on his second 'Horfield Revue' at Christmas. This raised the sum of £210.50 which was donated to the Army Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this a rousing success. We now look forward to 'Horfield Revue' number three which takes place on 20-21 May.

Squadron notes this time are from our Cardiff Squadron.

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Since Wales Own Signal Squadron was last heard of in these notes in Jul, the most important occurrence must be our participation at annual camp in *Red Shoes VIII*, the cancelled remains of *Hard Rock*. The Squadron Headquarters and AFHQ Troop based itself at Brecon, sending 868 Tp to the comforts of the Pay Office at Taunton, whilst 869 Tp had only RAF luxury at Hereford. To those of us who had never seen the Pay Corps at work before, it was all something of a revelation, as everyone seemed to have a private bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. Notwithstanding all these home comforts, a great deal of live traffic from the permanent commcens was passed over our system, much experience was gained and many useful contacts made.

The CMHQ Troop was also deployed throughout the length and breadth of the principlaity, and startled many of the CMHQ commanders designate by working rather splendidly.

Annual Camp for us ended with everyone regrouping at Vauxhall Camp, Monmouth, where the weather was superb, much training of a 'useful nature' was carried out, and a good time was had by all.

Since camp, of course, things have not slowed down at all, with all the usual pre-Christmas activities, including a weekend in mid-December spent on Sennybridge ranges, practising orienteering, battle drills, NBC and finally the assault course. Nobody returned to camp dry. This was followed by an excellent Squadron party—nobody even minded that someone had forgotten to bring any glasses.

An interesting weekend was spent in Jan when we showed the role and equipment of the Squadron to a party of young gentlemen in the Wales Potential Officers Scheme. We certainly found them interesting, and hope that some of them found us stimulating too.

Meanwhile, recruiting and trade training continues apace. The squadron remains fully recruited, and is continually improving its level of expertise. We shall shortly have several more RTG's trained, including WRAC, and it must be good news that **Pte Sue Smith** WRAC scored 98% on her B2 Cooks Course.

NB The Squadron 2IC Scribe and Historian, **Capt E. F. Widgery** whose contributions to The Wire Notes over the years has stimulated readers interests in the Squadron has now taken a new appointment in the Regiment as 2IC 67 Sig Sqn (V). We thank him for the years of loyal service and offer our best wishes for the future.

WELCOME

We welcome **WO1 Barry Minter** to our regular staff. He fills the vacant post of MTO.

HORFIELD REVUE

Regular and volunteer personnel of 37 Sig Regt (V) staged the second Horfield Revue on Fri and Sat 4/5 Dec. The talents of the group had already been recognised a year earlier with a one night show and to avoid disappointment this year it was put on for two nights. Regular weekly practises were demanded by the Adjutant **Capt T. R. Manders** who was in overall charge of the show. This proved invaluable as some of the acts were quite difficult.

The show started with a 'sombre' sermon from the 'vicar' making us aware of who our friends were followed by the girls giving an excellent rendition of the Charleston.

We were then treated to 'Marvo the Ventriloquist' who used human dummies, a water pistol dual between the flower pot men, a lively tennis argument McEnroe style, a Laurel and Hardy sketch where good use of flickering lights created a realistic early movie scene and a particularly good item called the Molecatcher, a medieval song highlighting the problems of working away from home, with the ladies still maintaining their dignity.

After an excellent buffet the show continued with a pleasant country and western song, a 'gay' item, 'Take Good Care of Yourself' by the Supremes, a saucy item called 'Flasher' and a hilarious hide and seek by Andy Pandy and Loopy Loo where as usual the narrator's story does not go according to plan.

As a finale a look-a-like Bing Crosby sang White Christmas and gradually all the cast were involved to bring the show to an end, the applause signifying what a success it had been. There were many other acts each one showing the versatility of the group and the detailed sketches in the revue clearly demonstrated talent one would normally find in a music hall.

Another Revue is planned for May and already regular practises are being held to include new routines and acts.

We are all looking forward to another most enjoyable evening.

The draw raised **£210.50** which was donated to The Army Benevolent Fund.

'Steamy Whispers' *Left to Right:* Pte Kim Havvock, LCpl Barrie Pearce, Pte Rose Brooks, Cpl Debbie Nash (hidden), LCpl Paul Isaac, Pte Jean Tweedie, Pte Julia Hussey

SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING FUNCTIONS

The Regiment sponsored a Charity Dinner Night in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund on Sat 5 Mar at which musical entertainment was provided by the Corps Staff Band and the Swansea Male Voice. That it was a success is due mainly to the hard work of the RSM, **WO1 G. C. Blood.** More than **£600** was raised in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

The Army Benevolent Fund was again the beneficiary when a Royal Performance Gala Variety Show was put on at the Bristol Hippodrome in the presence of **HRH The Princess Anne.** Male and female volunteer members of the Regiment made up the lining party and sold programmes.

HRH speaking to Sig Michael White. Also in the picture Sig Jim Wainwright

Photo by courtesy SSgt D. Meade 43 Sig Sqn (V)

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

FAREWELL

Two long-serving officers left the Regiment in March. **Maj (QM) Don Stanley** must have set a record as our Regular Quartermaster after completing 7½ years!

We welcome as his replacement **Capt (QM) Eric Webster** —who has served with the TA before, he warns us. Another officer who will be much missed is **Maj John Wardley** who retired in March after 18½ years in the Regiment and its predecessors, most recently as OC of HQ Squadron.

VISITS BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

It was a pleasure to have two visits by the SOinC, **Maj-Gen A C Birtwistle CB CBE**, early this year. The first was to dine in the Sgts' Mess on 21 January at Sheffield when the Mess had the opportunity to congratulate the SOinC on his appointment in the New Year Honours List as Companion of the Order of the Bath. The Mess was also able to present the SOinC with a farewell gift.

Presentation of gift by WO1 (RSM) David Longhurst

The second was on 26/27 February when SOinC visited the Regiment during a training weekend at Scarborough. Visits were made to all training streams and the Officers' Mess was honoured to invite the SOinC to a Guest Night. On the Sunday morning there was a Regimental parade, at which the SOinC presented the **BEM** to **SSgt Ken Coatesworth** (Scarborough STC permanent staff) and medals to the following members of 38 Regiment: **Sgt Mick Kenny** (PSI with 9 Sqn): South Atlantic medal, **WO2 Derrick Wilkinson** and **Sgt Jimmy Christopher** (clasp to TEM).

Presentation of medal and clasps by SOinC to Sgt Kenny

Presentation of Medal and clasps by SOinC to Sgt Christopher

Presentation of medal and clasps by SOinC to WO2 Wilkinson

Later the same morning, SOinC took the Pass Off parade of the Detachement Commanders' Course, which had been hard at work at Scarborough for the previous ten days. The best male DC was **LCpl Bob Ward** (46 Sqn) and the best WRAC DC was **LCpl Diane Willcock** (93 Sqn).

PRESENTATION OF LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATES

Manor Training Centre, Sheffield, was the setting of the presentation of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates by **Gerard Young**, Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, on Tuesday 22 March. With an audience of COs, families and volunteers of the units concerned, the Lord Lieutenant presented certificates and met guests socially afterwards. Recipients from 38 Regiment were: **WO2 David Warburton, SSgt Phil Selkirk** and **Sgt Derek Marsden**.

Picture shows recipients and Mr Battersby who joined the TA when it was formed 75 years ago

MAJ (TOT) STUART COTTAGE MBE TD

The Regiment was proud to record that **Maj Stuart Cottage** was appointed **MBE** in the New Year Honours List. **Maj Cottage** has been very actively involved with TA sport for many years and it was well deserved. It was an occasion mixed with sadness as **Stuart's** wife, **Brenda**, who supported him throughout his 30 years of TA service and was much loved in the Regiment, died earlier in the year.

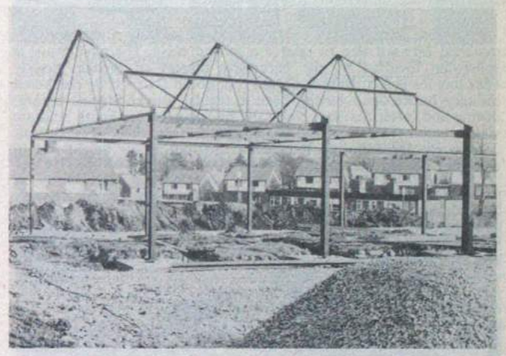
Maj Cottage after the presentation with the unmarried members of his family (*left to right* Alison, David and Jane)

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

OUT AND ABOUT CLONAVER PARK

As ever our intrepid team of news gatherers always on the lookout for snippets of the new and unusual came up with the following gems.

No, not evidence of our newly formed escape committee or a view of Port Stanley but progress on the long awaited extension to the centre. The added facility which is quite considerable in size will add a number of classrooms, stores and offices to the current somewhat cramped accommodation enjoyed at present. Providing the construction team meet with no obstacles and the famous Ulster weather is kind, the building should be completed for Christmas.



Fame at last. The Pied Piper of Clonaver, regimental Rat Catcher **Sig Ray Baxter** has been awarded a certificate qualifying him to exterminate rats, mice, creepies, crocodiles, crocodiles? and anything else he sees fit to dispatch. Watch your morning tea Foreman! **Ray** needs the practise.

A recent impressive parade marked the occasion for a number of territorial awards presented by the CO. First on the list to receive a second clasp to his territorial decoration was **WO1 (ASM) Stevie Stevenson,** REME having completed 24 years as a volunteer.

Following the REME a bemedalled **SSgt Billy Carey** smartly marched forward also to receive a second clasp. His new award is somewhat dwarfed by the impressive display of medals already adorning his jacket. **Billy** can boast (but doesn't) of a truly checkered military background having been a regular Royal Marine before, during and, after the war. Naturally he followed the South Atlantic victory with keen interest and was observed on a number of occcasions desperately darkening his hair and redistributing his weight just in case they needed him again!

Finally **Sgt Jim McMillen** also of our LAD being the 'young un' of the trio received his award for having completed 12 years.

We of the Regiment would like to take this opportunity in offering a warm congratulations to the three recipients.

A belated photograph to mark the recent change of Quartermaster proves the duo have 'signed the dotted' on a previous occasion. A much younger brace handover as RSMs in 3 Bde Portadown and again as QMs in Belfast. **Capt (QM) Eric Webster** is seen to be smiling on both occasions.

THE REGIMENT TAKES PART IN ULSTER'S FESTIVAL OF YOUTH

Jan saw the Regiment represented in Ulster's Youth 83 Festival which took place in the Kings Hall, Belfast. The huge building plays venue to many local events ranging from household displays to a variety of sporting displays. This particular event was staged over a four day period and specifically aimed at young people aged between 16 to 25. Opened by the Secretary of State, **Mr James Prior,** a large number of firms and organisations offered advice on careers, sport, entertainment and recreation. Amid the many varied and interesting display stands **Maj Crawford McMahon** and his team could be found giving sound advice and information on the Regiment. A most impressive display had been organised by **Maj McMahon** showing various communication equipments and a wide range of general regimental photographs.

The volunteers time is both interesting, active and certainly rewarding and those particular qualities were well demonstrated by the team.

A number of enquiries have proved fruitful and those who have not applied to join the volunteers will doubtless be giving the matter sound consideration.

Our photograph proves that chivalry is not gone as a young gent gives Capt Trish Riley a helpful hand as she commences to scale the climbing wall

VISITS

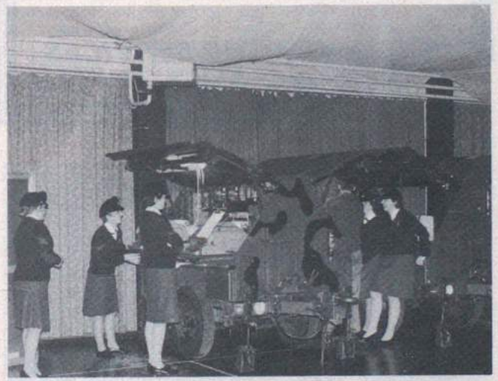
The early part of the year heralded two visits, namely of the Deputy Commander UKLF, Maj Gen Burgess and the Under Secretary of State, The Rt Hon Jerry Wiggin.

Both visitors, in fact, have special responsibility for the TA which is appropriate in the case of Mr Wiggin in that he was a former volunteer.

SSgt (FofS) Joe Long, LCpls Henry Blackwood and Ernie Cahoon are seen chatting with the Deputy Commander

The following montage in keeping with the expression, a picture is worth more than a thousand words, records the Under Secretary's visit.

SSgt Tony Cairns 85 Sqn explains to Sig Kitchen the wonders of modern communication equipment



Caught in a relaxed moment prior to the visit *(left to right)* Sgt Karen Mercer, LCpls Sandra Scott, Karen Lyons, Sgt Rosie Auld and Pte Maggie Boyd share a quiet joke

WO2 (SSM) John Loveday demonstrates his ability to do his Ted Rodgers 3-2-1 impersonation to the Under Secretary

Sgt Liz Montgomery and Pte Judith Wells appear to have everything taped as they explain the equipments in one of the training rooms

QUARTERMASTER'S PROGRESS

A waterly and hesitant sun poked a weary and lukewarm finger through the dull and menacing crust of the morning sky. The far off rumble of thunder heralded yet another cold, miserable and undoubtedly wet day. I carefully opened a sleepy bloodshot eye, focusing on a chink in my bedroom curtains, dull as ditchwater, I moaned. Would, or would I not have the willpower to eject myself from the warmth and security of my citadel like sleeping chariot? Like the timid head of a tortoise I gingerly poked a big toe out from under the covers to act as an advance party for the remainder of my prostrate body. Ice immediately formed around the digit, within seconds it was back inside caressing its brother on the other foot. Slowly I pushed my hand out from the protective warmth of the blankets and deliberately steered it towards the clock radio. With a flick of the switch Terry Wogan and Mrs Ethel Scrunge of Scunthorpe flooded into the darkened bedroom illuminating my dreary and meaningless life on the pros and cons of soused herrings and how to serve them. Stretching myself like an ancient toothless lion I grasped the top of the blankets and boldly threw them back and watched in sheer terror as my frail body began to turn a pale shade of blue. Half crazed with panic and Terry Wogan, I swung my legs from the bed and planted them firmly on the floor at the same time I dropped my dressing gown about my shoulders. Yawning, I staggered zombie-like towards the wash basin. On my way across the room I threw back the curtains and stared out onto the new day. Yuk I thought, why had I not had the good fortune to have been rich, spoilt, pampered and warm.

Placing my hands on either side of the sink, I leaned forward and peered into the cracked sepier edged mirror.

Not a pretty sight greeted me. Where were my youthful looks, gone had the fizog of the heart-throb of Catterick NAFFI club, the scourge of the teeny bopper, the rake of Richmond.

Reflected in the mirror on that damp Ulster morning was the mere shell of the man that once was. Eyes like BAOR road maps with bags as big as MFO boxes and hair that would have made Worsel Gummidge green with envy. On thrusting out my tongue, which looked more like the sole of a Nagaski ditch diggers's flip-flop, I vowed that I would never allow a glass of Tizer to pass my lips again, or had 40 Signals really done this to me!!

Torpidly I began to shave when suddenly Terry Wogan's announcement pierced my eardrums like a six inch nail, 'it's six o'clock' he said. 6 o'clock I screamed, golly and crumbs I mumbled as I, with the utmost difficulty, extracted my head from the plastered ceiling.

This temporary loss of self control was on account that I had planned to be in camp at 6.30am in order to sally forth into the unknown on my first weekend camp with the regiment.

My arrival in Clonaver Park was welcomed by the sight of my advance party fully booted and spured, trucks loaded and patiently waiting for me. This somewhat unexpected display of eagerness and efficiency astonished me. I'm the professional, I pondered arrogantly, how can they be as good at this sort of thing as I.

That smug look suddenly appeared on their faces as I was handed a cup of tea by one of the crew. Just to ensure they knew who was

in charge, I had half a mind to bellow, not good enough try again, but thought better of it. It wasn't for the last time in the next 48 hours that I would feeel a little humbled at the performance of my new charges.

After an uneventful journey we arrived at our military Shangrali and, home for the next day or two. Greeted by the Camp Commandment complete with brown felt, British warm, knobbly stick and black Labrador, standard uniform for all such stalwart gentlemen, we were all soon engrossed in the counting of spoons, blankets and a hundred other items.

In true professional style and military custom I had arranged a 5 minute 'O' group at 1200hrs in order to glean a sitrep from my 'black hand gang' on how the whole takeover business was progressing. Yet again these weekend soldiers had me at a loss for words. Right then, said I, with the air of command, you count the blankets—done Sir, OK, then you check the cookhouse stoves—done Sir. Everything I desired to be done, had been done and followed up with a snappy, Done Sir, to boot. Late afternoon and it began to rain as only it can rain in Ulster.

The main party will be pleased I contemplated as I sipped my warm tea and smoked a damp fag. Soon headlights could clearly be observed piercing the blanket of rain as the regiment head toward the reception point.

The RSM quietly suggested that the occupants of the transport should kindly debus and form up as he would like a reassuring word with them all. As if by magic they were off, fed and watered, briefed and raring to go.

All too soon a fog of quiet descended about the camp as I made my way to bed and blissful sleep muttering to myself, spoons, pillow cases and other items of a QM's food and drink. I leave our readers with a few titbits by way of snaps of camp activities until I continue with Part 2 of 'With the Volunteers' scheduled for the next issue.

OC 85 Squadron, Maj Brian Darrah witnesses the age old ceremony of handing over the fags between firing point officers. *Left to right*—WO2 (SSM) Ray Cairns, Maj Brian Darrah, WO2 (RQMS) Doc Docherty. The regular RQ WO2 John Easton ensures all the correct procedures are adopted

Noddy time with a file of wet but happy members of the WRAC

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BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd, 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and on the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9.50. Cheques to:-

Mr P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT

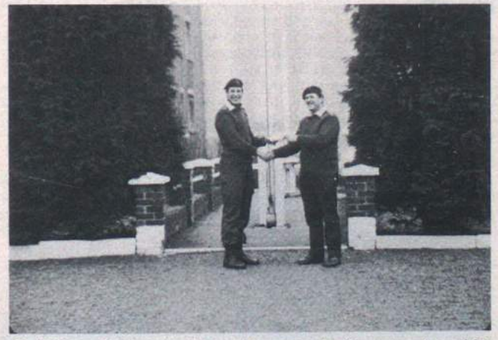
Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

SQN HQ	
OC	**Maj Michael Anderson, Royal Signals**
2IC	**Capt Jan Vanherle**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Gue**
SQMS	**Hfw Rick van Ess**
Yeoman	**WO2 Harry Beresford**
IC Comms Troop	**SSgt Paul Smith**
Chief Technician	**Adjt Maurice Engelen**
IC COMMCEN	**Sgt John Gibson**
MT	**Sgt Jeff Alexander**
CC	**Sgt Graham Pollard**

and a special mention must be made here of **Mrs Dee Smith** who keeps all our typewriters hot. We also wish her well with her expected first child.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

March has been a busy month for comings and goings. The major change has been that of the Squadron Commander **Maj Richard Smith,** who headed with his wife **Trudy,** for the shores of England and Blandford Camp. We wish both of them all the best in their new posting. In his place we welcome **Maj Michael Anderson** and his wife **Layle,** who come to us from the First Armoured Division. We also say goodbye to **Sig Ben Healy** and **Jed Kelly** who came from 7 Sig Regt; we wish them all the best in BAOR. Finally, we also say goodbye to three Dutch members of the Squadron, **Kpls Hank van Hoof, Jan Keulen** and **Sld Peter Kelleners.** Hellos are extended to their replacements **Sldrs Vissor, Toxopers** and **van de Streek.** We hope they will all enjoy their tour with the Squadron.



Maj Michael Anderson, left, taking over the Squadron from Maj Richard Smith

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

Maj Richard Smith leaves on his loo clutching a hot pork pie

EXERCISE *WINTEX*

Exercise *Wintex* saw the Squadron deployed into the field. To assist us we were joined by 50 augmentees who helped swell our strength up to 121. Both the field elements and the COMMCEN with the Joint Operations Centre in the caves near Maastricht worked at a frantic pace. In the end we were handling up to 300 messages per day.

The rumour is not true that **SQMS Rick van Ess** was 'borrowing' Battery Hens to supplement our diet of Worst and Bread. The Mattress spring marks on **Yeoman Harry Beresford** were noticed by all!

Would you recognise this soldier? Belgian Augmentee on joining unit for Exercise *Wintex*

PRESENTATION

We were delighted to receive a visit from **Brig T. N. McMicking** ACOS G3 OPS NORTHAG. He spent the morning visiting the families centre in Liege ending with a formal presentation of the LS & GC medal to **Sgt John Gibson.** Our congratulations are extended to him.

PARADE

The Squadron was invited to parade for the Chief of our Signals Group, **Col K. Rauchmann** (GE Signals), farewell/handover ceremony. Apart from a regular watering down and gusting winds, the day was enjoyed by all. We welcome **Col Stessun** (GE Signals) as our new Group Commander and look forward to a visit from him in the near future.

Sgt Gibson receiving his LS&GC

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

LIST OF SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj I. C. Shuker**
2IC	**Capt J. W. Rollins**
Adjt	**Capt D. Bentley LG**
Tfc Offr	**Capt (Tfc) J. R. Meehan**
QM	**Capt (QM) R. C. Brodie**
TCO	**Capt D. J. Jackson RCT**
OC A Tp	**Lt S. O. Lunn**
2IC A Tp	**2Lt S. J. Vickery**
OC B Tp	**Lt D. A. Hargreaves**
OC C Tp	**Capt T. G. Inshaw**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. M. Evans**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) M. Johnson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) L. R. Harvey**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) C. M. Harrison**
TCWO	**WO2 (SSM) K. G. Hawkes RCT**
Master Chef	**WO2 (SQMS) R. M. Dunston ACC**
QMSI	**WO2 (QMSI) G. Taylor APTC**

LINE COMPETITION

In mid-Feb the squadron once again organised the Brigade Line Competition. This was the first time that the competition had been held on Salisbury Plain and that it went so well reflects much credit on all those involved. The competition is designed to improve line-laying skills throughout the Brigade. Over 20 teams competed, some from as far away as North Yorkshire. The squadron itself had three teams, although for obvious reasons, the linemen were not allowed to enter.

The event was in three phases. First came the day lay which included several obstacles. These varied from metalled roads to tree crossings and from culvert crossings to railway lines. (Finding a railway track on the Plain is quite a feat in itself!). Next came a fault-finding session followed by the recovery of approximately two packs of D10. Finally, there was a night lay, which many teams found the most difficult part of the competition.

LCpl 'Taff' Baughan on the line competition

On the first day the squadron had two teams competing: A Tp's led by **Cpl Dave Abbott** and B Tp's led by **LCpl Gunther Weeks.** The B Tp team got off to a galloping start but came to grief at the the buried crossing. A Tp on the other hand were extremely slow starters, but soon got into their stride, ending the day near the top of the scoreboard.

On the second day C Tp had a go with a team consisting of **LCpls Ian Davies, Tam Bennie** and **Sig Ian Davidson.** Disaster struck near the beginning of the first phase when one of the packs of cable turned into a complete 'bird's nest' only 20 yards from the start. However nothing daunted, they quickly obtained a spare pack and eventually ended up as minor unit champions. Congratulations should also go to the Queen's Own Highlanders who came first and second in the major unit competition.

EXERCISES

The following week saw the squadron out on the first exercise of the season. There was in fact a trio of troop exercises, all with different aims, but linked by rebro and relay chains. A and B Tps concentrated on communications, whilst C Tp, which provides both Rear Headquarters support and the line section, concentrated on defence and other military skills.

The 'Linies' acted as enemy for all three exercises, a task which they thoroughly enjoyed, varying their means of attack from heliborne assault to ambush and taking in sabotage on the way. Rear also found itself of great interest to a female jogger. No, not a lineman in disguise but **Capt Tim Inshaw's** wife, **Sally.**

A week later found the squadron on Ex *Chalky's Revenge,* a deployment exercise directed by the OC. Although the practising of communication and movement drills was the main aim of the week, there was also a large NBC input preparatory to the squadron trip to the Porton Battle Run in April.

Another week flew by and it was time for Ex *Beecher's Brook,* a Brigade exercise designed to further the integration of headquarters and signal squadron. This was done through a series of joint military activities on the Aldershot Training Areas. However the squadron hardly took the shortest route to get there, as the convoy travelled via Swindon, the Severn Bridge, Cardiff, the Severn Bridge (again), Swindon (again), Oxford, Bicester, Oxford (again), Reading and Basingstoke (well, almost). The aim was to practise convoy drills; very necessary, as one driver managed to lead half of a packet (not his own) into Hook Railway Station. How this occurred will not be dwelt upon!

Amongst the events organised by the BM was the airlifting of Tac A by Chinook. This was certainly a sight not to be missed. (It had originally been planned to happen during Ex *Bold Guard* in Germany last year, but had to be postponed when the Chinooks were unexpectedly grounded). Later the squadron attempted the assault course and steeplechase at Depot Para, bringing back memories of Aldershot days. Yes, they are still as wet and muddy as they ever were!

ACCENT ON PARADES

March was also a month for parades. The OC, **Maj Paul** 'Evel Knievel' **White,** having finally decided to exchange khaki for mufti, left the squadron on the 18 April, following a somewhat unusual parade. After inspecting the troops, he handed out certificates to all the soldiers who completed the Lanyard Trophy march last November. On completion of this, **Cpl 'Scouse' Gerdes,** one of the squadron's SDS riders, appeared on his Canam bearing three large parcels. These all contained (very well wrapped) glassware and were presented to **Maj White** by representatives from the troops. He was then invited to mount a motorbike, securely fastened inside a trailer, and was pulled out of camp in style acccompanied by six motorcycle outriders.

LCpl 'Taff' Roberts receiving his Lanyard Trophy Certificate

Maj White presents a salver to the Squadron

Maj White mounted on his steed

Later **Maj White** handed over the 'keys to the Squadron' to his successor at a ceremony in the Bradley Club. We wish **Paul** and his wife **Mary,** who has done so much hard work for the Wives' Club, very good fortune and success in their new civilian life. At the same time we welcome **Maj Chris Shuker** and his wife **Audrey** to the squadron and trust that his tour will be as successful as his predecessor's.

At the end of the month the squadron was on parade once more. The occasion was the presentation of South Atlantic medals by the Brigade Commander, **Brig W. E. Rouse, OBE.** Although a dozen signallers from the squadron took part in the campaign, only five are still with the unit. Thus, **LCpls Dai Reynolds, 'Doc' White, Sig Al Floyde, 'Jock' Tolland** and **'Deano' Poole** received their medals watched by many friends and relations, who had travelled to Tidworth for the day. They were afterwards entertained to lunch in the Bradley Club by the squadron officers.

LCpl 'Doc' White receives his South Atlantic medal

CCV

5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 28 Feb the Commander, **Brig A. S. Jeapes OBE MC** presented South Atlantic Medals to 118 members of the Squadron. The simple medal ceremony was held in Arnhem Barracks and watched by our families and **Col Mike Marples** from 1 Signal Group. We were very glad to welcome back **Maj Matt Helm** and **Sgt Bob Taylor** for the day.

Almost a year after our departure on the *QE2*, the parade served as a poignant reminder that 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (205) were the only Royal Signals unit to be deployed as a unit on active service in the Falklands. **Brig Jeapes** reminded us all that, 'When a soldier joins the army, he fills a contract and in the unwritten small print it says that when called upon to do so, you will risk your life. You cannot decide that you don't want to do it because it's wet and cold—you just have to do it. That's what makes a soldier so different from a civilian.' The Brigadier went on to say that the medals presented signified that 'the Squadron had been called up under the terms of that 'small print' and had fulfilled the contract successfully'. Those on parade were, 'the lucky ones, firstly, because you are all alive and secondly, because you have had the opportunity to prove to yourselves what you are made of; you have cracked it and are better men for it'.

The day was tinged with sadness, as we remembered those of the Squadron who did not come home or who were injured, however the overwhelming feeling was one of pride shared by our families and friends.

AIRBORNE SIGNALS

The Maroon Machine grows. Congratulations to **Capt Peter Day, Cpl Bob Elliot** and **Cpl Bob Archer** on passing the course and joining the 'Bloodclots'.

Quite a few people have got their names down for Pre Para now, but anyone interested from other units are most welcome to apply for this exciting and rewarding type of signalling.

Good luck to 565 (PARA) RLD who leave for a six month tour in Belize starting in Apr. Hello again to 614 TACP on their return from Belize.

ALPHA TROOP

The troop has had a busy start to the year. First re-equipping with Clansman and then going out into the field to practise using it in conjuction with the different formats required in out of area operations.

We welcome **Sig Charman** and **'Pedro' Pintos Santos** to the Troop. **LCpl Banner** has arrived in the Troop to start the manning of Parachute trained TAC HQ and is busy looking everywhere for jumpers.

SSgt De La Haye has tried his hand at commanding the troop while OCA disappeared to Germany for a month on a Long Range Patrol course and **Sgt Smith** has temporarily taken up football coaching instead of Troop NCOing.

BRAV TROOP

After Christmas, the exercise period started in earnest, with the Brigade doing CPXs to iron out any problems with the Brigade main complex. During this period the Troop was finding manning difficult as a lot of the operators were away on courses. During the first CPX in January, **Cpl Jim Smith** found himself manning a Det alone, however with the OC **Lt 'Trev' Bradley** 'filling in' we managed to get through. The next few weeks took on roughly the same pattern but for one slight adjustment, it was decided that we were doing so well with the comms that now we should 'dig in' as well. This really cheered up the troops. So now we had the boss **Lt 'Trev' Bradley** asking were the comms there and **SSgt 'All' Jeanette** asking 'where's your trench.

During this time we also saw the arrival of **LCpl 'Billy' Bligh** who just had time to say hello before he was off, along with **Sig 'Gaz' Parr,** on a four month tour in the Falklands.

March saw the departure of a couple of old hands, **LCpl 'Stu' Cunningham** and **Sig 'John' Gibson,** both going to Civvi street. We take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck for the future.

BUSY

The first three months of '83 have continued to be excessively busy for the Squadron. No sooner had we planned a progressive training programme than it had to be changed as Clansman appeared at long last. This meant a fairly rapid rethink all round. QM had to receive, FofS and crew had to test, Troops had to fit and all had to exercise.

The Brigade HQ also needed a series of 24hr CPX's to get some of the new staff familiar with out of area operations.

The net result of all this is that we start Easter leave having done a series of comms and defence exercises, including Air Mounting Procedures at AMC South Cerney, that puts us all well on the way to achieving our training targets for 1983.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Ralph Smith** (coach) and all members of the Squadron Football team for a fine win in the finals of the SEDIST minor units cup, a complete report in the next issue.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

MOVEMENTS

Once again the Squadron has been in turmoil with many changes, both at the higher and lower echelons of the hierarchy. The MTO, **Capt Laurie Dolan** left for the land of duty frees, to be replaced by **Capt George Henderson,** who had a couple of weeks to settle in before moving the Squadron over for Flying Falcon. **Capt Nigel Moore,** the Ops Officer returned from PQS 2 to find **Lt Paul Eaton** in his chair, but **Capt Tim Rimell** the 2IC then departed to Shrivenham, so **Capt Moore** hopped into his chair to stand in as 2IC. Then **Lt Eaton** was posted at short notice to put up his third and take over Quicksilver, so the Ops Officer chair became vacant again. **Lt Chris Wakerley,** the stand-in OC J, decided at this point that enough was enough and departed to Blandord to do his CQ course. The new OC J Tp, **2Lt Andy Bristow** has now arrived and has had a quick three-day exercise at Stanford with the Squadron before taking over a Recce officer on ex Flying Falcon. All the dust has now settled and perhaps things will remain unchanged for the rest of the exercise season.

VISITS

On Sunday 13 February the squadron sponsored a Garrison Church Service in which a reredos (carved altar screen) was presented to the church by the Training Group, Royal Signals Catterick. **Brig Sprackling** visited Colchester for the day to present the reredos at the service attended by the whole squadron and to have lunch in the Officers' Mess afterwards.

Brig Sprackling at the service, with the Reredos in the background

The reredos, carved at the North Yorkshire Workshops of **Robert Thompson,** was purchased with subscriptions from the members of the Training Brigade in 1957 and was originally in St Martins Garrison Church, Catterick, before moving down to Colchester in 1980. **Robert Thompson** is famous for carving mice on his pieces, but it wasn't until the QM, **John Richardson** examined the reredos that it was found.

Incidentally this was also the day that Alfa troop proved that two 353s three hundred metres apart can't communicate, even on high power. Under the auspices of the Yeoman, **WO2 Pat Gethin,** the squadron (predominantly Alfa troop) had put on a training weekend for ACT/CCf adult instructors from the local area and it ran into problems on the radio exercise. **Sgt Ian Waugh,** who had just arrived in Alfa troop for a bit of radio familiarisation, was not overly impressed. The instructors did agree, however, that it was a constructive weekend and all benefitted.

THE SO in C

On the 22/23 February, **Maj Gen Birtwistle,** visited the squadron. On the 22nd the SOinC and his wife were guests at a dinner in the officer's mess. Also invited were the OC and 21C of 45(V) Sig Sqn, who have close ties with the squadron. The following day SOinC was met by, and inspected, a quarter guard Commanded by **Sgt Derek Brown** and then visited all the troops during their training. A medal presentation took place later in the morning in which the foreman, **WO2 Graham Atkinson, Cpls Ron Belcher** and **Mick King** received their LS and GCs. In the afternoon, after lunch in the Mess, SOinC watched the Squadron inter-troop swimming competition in the garrison pool, before leaving in the evening. The swimming was close run, any of three teams being in the running up until the final race, but M/SHQ Tp managed to clinch the trophy. Despite the change of personnel there are still some good swimmers in the squadron, and squadron team may be able to equal last year's feat of gaining the Army Minor record for freestyle relay. The star of the show, however, was undoubtely the 2IC's daughter, who presented **Mrs Birtwistle** with a bouquet of flowers after the prizegiving.

SPONSORED MARCH

On 8—10 October last year the marching team raised **£1,048** on a sponsored march from Colchester to London. The money was donated to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children and recently the team went down to present the Dinamap dialysis treatment machine. Despite the departure of **Cpl Steve Allsopp,** who was the founder and driving force behind the team, no doubt further such ventures are planned

Cpl Steve Allsopp is shown the dialysis machine by hospital senior scientific officer Tim Mossman, while members of the marching team look on

EXERCISES

The Squadron has gone through a month of exercise in preparation for Flying Falcon and the rest of the exercise season, and so we now know the way to and from Stanford very well. The first trip up there was an extended operational readiness test with a unique experience—the QM as recce officer! This was brought about by circumstances 'beyond control' and it led to an interesting exercise. All went fairly smoothly until the pack-up from the final location, however, when one of the Sig Ops Rovers caught fire. Luckily, and due to the quick reactions on the part of **Cpl Steve Rook** and **Sig John Luck** it was put out before much damage was caused, but it brought home how easily Rovers can brew up. **Cpl Wally Staines,** the Alfa troop storeman had his usual reaction on the squadron's return: 'Empty fire extinguishers?—pay!!!'. The following two exercises were uneventful—both being Bde exercises, the first a Logex and then a CPX. The Bde ALO, **Flt Lt Frank Lee** arrived on the Logex in his yellow RAF Mini which he proceeded to hide under trailer hessian and cam! His operator **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** seemed totally unmoved by it all. **Flt Lt Lee** did actually appear on the Bde Log net on a couple of occasions and his voice procedure has to be heard to be believed. The final CPX was three days in which we went, sank into the mud, and then came back. A few days after that was Easter leave, then off to Germany for Flying Falcon, of which more in the next issue.

Quotable quotes:

Capt Nigel Moore on his posting to the Falklands in July: Well that . . . up another tennis season!

What shall we do next? *L to R:* Sgt (now SSgt) Gus Graham, Cpls Duncan Gray, Shane Tiffin, Simon Rose (back to camera) and Steve Rook

24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (210 Sig Sqn) BFPO 36

24 INFANTRY BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL SQUADRON
THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj Ashley Truluck**
2IC	**Capt Jo Fletcher**
OC Sp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC A	**2Lt James Bertram**
OC B	**2Lt Mark Alexander**
SSM	**WO2 Ron Smith**

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

On Fri 22 Mar, and two weeks ahead of schedule, the squadron road convoy drove into Catterick and planted the squadron eagles wings emblem outside the Sandhurst Block in Gaza Barracks. The 300 mile drive from our old barracks in Osnabruck had been completed without breakdown. The eagle had landed.

ADVANCE PARTY

Our hardworking Advance Party under **Capt Henry Jennings** had everything laid on for the Main Party on arrival and after two days unloading the squadron was able to get away for an unexpected and welcome Easter break.

This will be the last 'Wire' Notes from 24 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn as such. By the time the next edition of Wire is produced we will have retitled as 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn and come under command of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in line with other BAOR roled brigade signal squadrons.

FAREWELLS

The process of reorganisation from our old 5 Field Force establishment is now almost complete and we are about to say farewell to the last package of the rundown. Unfortunately space precludes mentions of all the departures but we would like to say a special 'goodbye and thanks' to **Maj (QM) Phil Nobe** and his wife **Sandra** who will remain with the Rear Party in BAOR for a while yet; **Capt Richard Good** and his wife **Monica** who made a very significant contribution to the squadron, our loss being 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt's gain; **WO2 (RQMS) Keith Johnson** and his wife **Irene** and **SSgt Mick Price** and his wife **Pat.**

229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN) B.F.P.O. 45

THE SCORE SHEET

The winter for 229 has continued to be 'productive', in fact we might well be going into partnership with the BMH if we keep this rate up. The ranks of 'little signallers' are certainly swelling. How's this for a score sheet!

Girls	Boys
Hilary and Geordie Sinclair	**Bev and Garry Duffy**
Gill and John Fisher	**Gill and Tony Brine**
Grainne and Nigel Harris	**Kathy and Greg Doughty**
	Noreen and Dave Will
	Helen and Joe Bevan

The 'atmosphere' must be catching as we've now got two new recruits to play 'Happy Families', **Cpl Joe Millar** married **Frances** and returned to Berlin for his wedding present, a posting on promotion. **Sig Steph Newton** took the plunge on Saturday 9 April in St George's Church. His radiant bride was **Tracy Ellwood** daughter of ex **C/Sgt Ellwood.** The OC said he has never seen the Squadron looking smarter! We send best wishes and congratulations to all.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

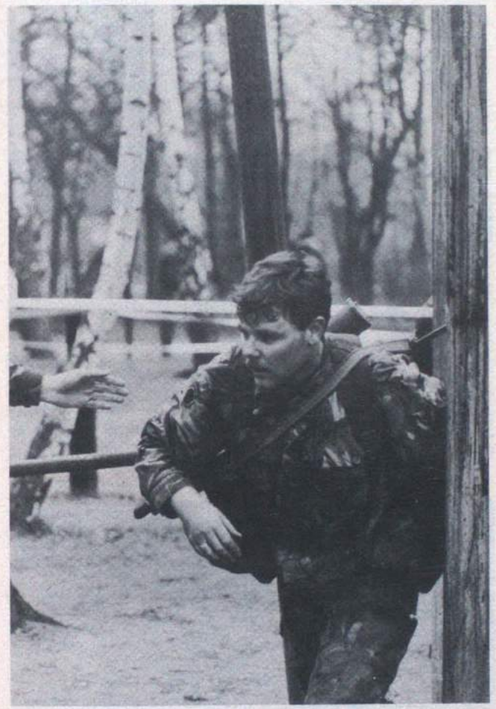
On the social scene Commcen Troop recently held a Folk Night. The guest was **Sgt Ricki Richard** of 28 Sig Regt fame. He's well known in the Krefeld and Corps area for his poems, songs and ditties. At great expense, flown all the way from SHQ, Commcen Trop managed to get two warm up artists in the shape and form of **Yeoman Jack Cowen** and **Capt Mike Spoors.** They're thinking of doing a double act next time, with **Capt Spoor** doing the translations from the **Yeoman's Geordie** tongue into something that the audience can acutally understand!

BRIGADE INTER PLATOON COMPETITION

This arduous event involving forced marches, navigation, shooting, comms, NBC and First Aid tests took place recently and caused many a sore foot all round. OC Radio Troop, **Lt Simon Green** led the team

Lt Simon Green

that took on the Infantry at their own sport! The Falklands experience set evil minds thinking and someone came up with the idea that teams should carry the equivalent weight of 1st line scales of ammunition! It was therefore an excellent training event based on realistic conditions. Our photo shows Lt Green being so carried away with the experience that he's trying to take the pole home with him!



Sig Mick Whitehead back from the Falklands. He's used to this!

A CORRUPTION

This enterprising young Lance Corporal Mac McMahan seems to be getting his nose into all sorts of different types of business and certainly making his name in 'high places'. He's finally been noticed by the Commander! Whilst driving through Tegal Forst during Ex *March Hare,* **Mac** slammed on the anchors suddenly and his passenger, the Commander nearly disappeared through the windscreen. When asked why he stopped suddenly he replied: 'You're wanted on the radio in the vehicle behind, Sir'. The puzzled Brigadier was almost impressed for a moment. **Mac** explained how the driver behind would blast his horn if someone wanted to contact the Commander. Just as the Commander was about to leave his vehicle a Berlin train rolled by blowing its hooter. Nice one **Mac!**

To be fair **Mac** has had some successes elsewhere in his activities within the Squadron. Along with **Cpl Chris Gopsill,** the OC, **Lt Simon Green** and **Sgt Billy Haslam** he has been demonstrating that at least some of the Squadron can read a map. All are strong competitors in the Brigade Orienteering league. **Mac** is also a master mind behind the Squadron 2nd XI Football team (or so he thinks). This 'social team' formed from those whose ability does not match their ambition is ready to take on all comers. They're not fussy who beats them! They have actually won their last two matches, through the help of staunch supporter **Cpl Durnall,** the only man brave enough (or thick skinned enough) to have played all matches. Special mention goes to **LCpl 'Masher' Mellett,** the team's most spectacular goal scorer. Wish he'd get 'em in the oppositions net though.

MINOR UNIT CHAMPIONS

The Hockey team beat 204 Sig Sqn in the final of the 3rd Division minor units championships. Goal scorers in our 2—0 victory were **Cpl Tony Brine** and **Sig Colin Williams.**

Recognisable left to right: The OC Maj Jim Storr in one of his more relaxed moments. SSM Brian ('When will someone forcibly retire me?) Wilson. Sgt Alan Gold and Sig 'Dog' Humphreys

BASKETBALL

On Wednesday 23 February, 229 Sig Sqn Basketball team played in the BAOR Minor Units Basketball Finals, having qualified from Group B in Fallingbostel the previous week. The day started well with a victory in the semi-finals over RAIC Viersen, winners of Group A. The opposition in the Final came from 227 Sig Sqn who qualified by beating 201 Sig Sqn in the other semi-final. Both teams were evenly matched and scored well. At the half way stage, 229 were marginally in the lead 35—33. In the second half 227 stepped up their play, and as a result of several fast breaks quickly built up a considerable lead. Try as we may, we could not pull back this lead and 227 ran out worthy winners in a hard but friendly game. The team was a good mixture of experienced hands such as **SSM Brian Wilson** (scored 24 and is desparate for a gold watch!) **RQMS Dave Brown, Sgts Steve Roberts** and **Billy Haslam.** The younger'hares' were **Cpls Al Jarwood, Gary Duffy, LCpl Chris 'Rocky' Mountain** and **Sig Ken Jones** and **'Big Nige' Harris.**

On a local level the Squadron Darts team came third in the 1001 League. **Cpl John Saunders** only lost once during the whole season and gained a certificate for himself having scored '180'.

FARWELL

To end our notes, **Sgt Alan Gold** leaves us shortly for SHAPE. Remember to put your best foot forward in Belgium, only this time make sure you wrap it up first! (he got Frostbite on his Staff Sgts course!) Best wishes to both him and **Sgt Dave Walker** who is going with him just to make sure that he does wrap up well.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

'ARCTIC TRAINING'

With over 50 new members to the Squadron who had never undergone arctic training—many having just come from basic training, this year's exercise in Norway *(Hardfall South)* was to provide hard work on the part of administrators and instructors, whilst students were to have some unique experiences. Mid January saw all the instructors completing their own courses and awaiting the arrival of the QM, **Capt R L Danells** and the remainder of the advance party. Prior to taking over the accommodation, however, the instructors decided to warm up by putting the admin wallahs through a basic arctic survival course.

The Stalheim Hotel was our home for the duration of *Hardfall*. Set amongst picturesque snow covered mountains, with each room having private bathroom, this excellent hotel normally offers 4 star treatment to the tourist trade. Unfortunately to prevent damage many minor irritating, but necessary restrictions were placed on the soldiers to ensure the best possible PR with the management. Thus the 4 star hotel rapidly became known to the soldiers as the 4 star Colditz.

This year the Squadron has managed to get sufficient of our own personnel trained as instructors and therefore both novice and refresher courses were under Squadron auspices; the former by **Lt 'Tufty' McComb**; the latter by **Sgt 'Barney' Barnard** with the 21C **Capt Scott 'JR'Ewing** acting as chief instructor. The courses ran very smoothly, though one would not get that impression when reviewing the morning sick parade. Notable casulties returned to the UK were **WO2(YofS) Mick Altham, Sgt Jimmy Jameson, LCpl Bob Mills** and **LCpl 'Mad Eddie' O'Kelly**. Happy to say that all are now rapidly recovering.

EX 'PRONTO'S SKIRMISH'

Immediately after the courses were finished the Squadron was reorganised for Ex Pronto's Skirmish. This was a Squadron military training exercise to re-enforce the points learned on the basic survival course and to practice JNCO's and Tp Comd's in leadership and minor tactics. The Squadron personnel, with Alpha Tp 244 Sig Sqn (AS), were equally divided into three forces with the aim being for each force to find and eliminate the other two.

The exercise started with each force moving into base locations previously recceed by the force commanders. **Sig 'Andy' Picton** found the move extremely difficult as trees seemed to have the habit of springing up between his skis. Midnight came, and the battle was joined, **Lt McComb** being of a generous nature, decided to assist the other 2 forces by sending all his locations in clear, (not again). **2Lt Peter Holliday's** Black Force produced the most effective O.P. under the command of **Cpl 'Steve' Martin**, but Blue Force under **Lt Neil Couch** produced the most effective patrolling.

The results of all the final attacks will never truly be known, but many valuable and exhausting lessons were learnt.

EX EAGLES RETURN

After 24hrs respite, the Squadron deployed on to the contingent FTX, providing command/control/umpire communcations plus a very effective ski borne company in the infantry role. Throughout the exercise the Squadron distinguished itself in all its different tasks and justifiably earned the praise received from the British and Norwegian Commanders.

EX NORWEGIAN WANDER

After the rigours of the FTX and the exhausting business of the 10km Ski Race; ably won by **LCpl Frazer**; the OC Squadron decided fun skiing was the order of the day, with camera's and personal hi-fi's to the fore. Alas, the weather gods had not been consulted. A rise in temperature produced 'White Out' and very poor snow conditions which made both vehicle and foot movement not only difficult but extremely dangerous in the mountains. After fighting the conditions for 48hrs the OC called in the 3 day trekking party and the 21C started to move the comms vehicles down into the valleys. The move down saw the Volvo oversnow vehicles of **LCpl Bill 'Humpty' Hesketh** and **Cpl 'Hairpiece' Charles** preferring the horizontal to the vertical position, causing much alarm to **Sig Steve Armstrong** and **LCpl Ray Pritchard** who were in the back.

The poor snow conditions caused the cancellation of the Biathlon and so a live firing day was held on the local firing ranges to teach novices the Nordic military skills.

REDEPLOYMENT

Hardfall 83 closed for the majority of the Squadron on the ides of March though the QM, **Capt Danells, SSgt (SQMS) Terry Hughes** and cook **Sgt Richardson** took an extra few days to hand back the hotel.

With everyone now back in Bulford, it's all hands to the pumps as we clean and hand in stores in preparation for a well earned Easter Block Leave, followed by an AMF(L) deployment to Turkey.

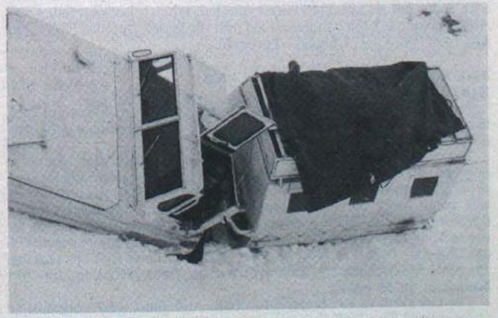
Basic survival course practise the art of shooting on ski's. Cpl Pete Griffin looks on

(L to R) Sig John Hamer, Keith Goddard and Colin Burnett 'Smiling again' at the end of the 10km Ski race

'Gone' Cpl Steve McNally reviews his handiwork while LCpl 'Legs' Talbot and Cpl Sam Simcox smile knowingly

Cpl Jimmy Johnston an instructor demonstrating the Hardfall

Volvo oversnow vehicles being put through their paces on the basic Volvo drivers course



'Nearly Gone' Sig Steve Armstrong looking pensive

259 Sig Sqn
B.F.P.O. 53

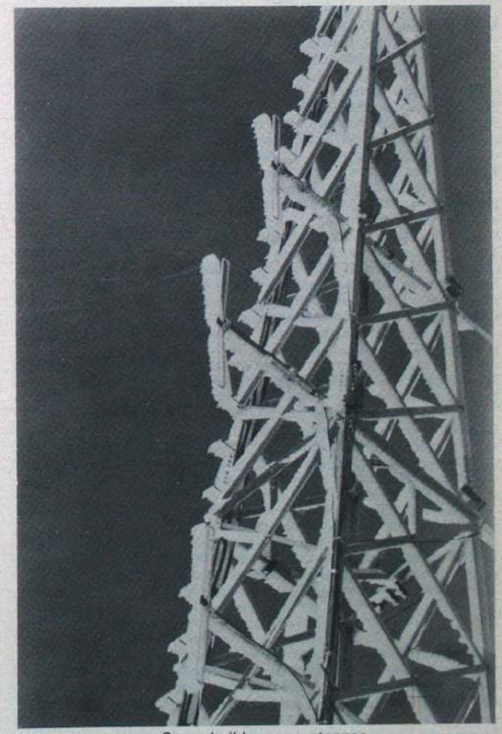
BURIED—ALMOST

For the benefit of those who think Cyprus is all sun, sea and sport, this set of notes from 259 highlights the other side of the coin. This winter Mountain Troop has been buried (almost literally) under some of the heaviest snow falls since records began. The photos speak for themselves.

REPORT FROM MOUNTAIN TROOP

OC	**— Capt C. R. Lawrence**
FofS	**— SSgt P. Higson**
Tp Sgt	**— Sgt K. O. W. Evans**
'Old' R. R. Sgt	**— Sgt C. Bough**
'New' R. R. Sgt	**— Sgt M. Jagger**
T. E. Sgt	**— Sgt E. Clark**
Tp mascot	**— Position vacant**

The Christmas festivities over, the New Year celebrated to excess and snow on Troodos. Those familiar with Cyprus will know what this means. The snow came early this year bringing jubilation and tribulation; jubilation to the skiing fraternity including **Sgt Bob** 'what's technique' **Knights, LCpl Mick** 'knees together, head down' **Rash** and **SSgt (FofS) Pete** 'Why can't we have time off?' **Higson,** with the tribulation being borne by the workers, the likes of **Sgt Owen** 'I can't type' **Evans, Sig Yorkie** 'I forgot I'm on leave' **Rawnsley** and **Sgt Chris** 'It's too cold' **Bough.** This particular time of year always ensures that the Troop works hard as well as plays hard, with PT being restricted to snowball fights (rumoured to be the next Hodgson



Snow build-up on antennas

Mountain Troop in Winter
Standing left to right: Sgts Jagger, Bough, Cpl Scrivener, Sig Copley, McFarlane, Lt Lawrence, LCpl Pallister, Cpls Drysdale, Ashworth, Sig Moffat, Sgts Knights, Clark, SSgt (FofS) Higson, Cpl Beverley, Sig Rawnsley
Seated: Sgt Evans

Shield event) whilst our Tele Mechs can be found wandering around in snowshoes. The seasonal lightning and snow storms take their toll on equipments, particularly antennas, as well as making exernal working conditions hazardous.

COMINGS AND GOINGS:

During the last couple of months we have said farewell to **Cpl Chris Hartley, Cpl Paul Samways, Cpl Bob Drysdale** and **Cpl Chris Ashworth.** We welcome to the troop **Sgt Mick Jagger, Sgt Bob Scrivener** and **Cpl Neil Parsons**.

MEANWHILE, ON THE SHORES OF THE MED . . .

Meanwhile down at RAF Akrotiri, Airfield Troop has undergone the usual round of changes in personnel. We have said farewell to **Sgts Gill Jordan, Bob Orchard, Sig Jock Tierney** and a special good-luck to **Sig Tommo Thompson,** who has left 259 to go home to South Shields. We welcome **Sgt George Pickersgill, John Godfrey, Cpls Alfie Norrie, Jack Parnell** and **'Wack' Waclawek** who have arrived to take their place in the sun. Many thanks for all the fine work the departing troops have put in, and guess what plans the Boss **(Lt Hoskins)** has in store for all you new boys!

Of course the Troop maintains its strong sporting reputation. The present crop of Army standard sportsmen include **WO2 Keith Zoing** and **Sig Mick Senior** (Rugby), **Sgt George Pickersgill** (Orienteering), **Sgt Keith Thomson** (Volleyball), **LCpls Craig Wrath** and **Willie Young** (Soccer) and **Sig Keith Bodley** and **Russ Hemingbrough** (Hockey). We defy any other troop to match that record. At the same time you ought to have heard the moans when the Boss decided that respirators would be worn during last weeks PT session — NBC and Cyprus is not a healthy combination.

The Troop singlies have just moved into 'brand new' (well, old but refurbished) living accommodation. By some glorious oversight, the rooms each designed to hold 6 men are only occupied by 2. Also **Cpl Dave Wyldes** has found enough material from around the airfield to build a brand new bar in the Troop Club. Also guess what?—the Troop Headquarters, after recently receiving a once-over from our Combat Painters, had a visit from the RAF Painting Section. 'Paint' said the order, so paint they did—replacing the old colour scheme with one exactly the same. And after cleaning up that mess none could tell the difference! The Boss is now on the prowl for some other stationary object to redecorate, so watch out!

Recent highlights of airfield humour have included the fire-fighting presentation by an RAF team whose extinguishers refused to extinguish the fire; our orienteering competition during which **LCpl Barrett** mistook the power cable signs on his map for rivers, and the time the 'mostly management' team (directed by the Boss) were beaten by the 'wretched workforce' team (captained by **Sig Sam Kelly**) in a swedish longball match. Don't ask me for a copy of the rules, I'm still trying to figure out how I played in the side which lost.

Springtime in Cyprus can get a little soggy, lots of cable pits get flooded and we all moan that the wet weather gear that was ordered last year has yet to appear on the store's shelves. 'Never mind', says our ever hopeful Boss, 'It's got to stop raining sometime'. Yes folks, by the time that this edition reaches you (probably in your slit trench somewhere in BAOR) spare a thought for those lucky lads who are holding the fort in Cyprus. It's suntan time already!!!

NEFSKI—CHAMPSIONSHIPS 1983

The coming of the winter months brought snow on Troodos and with it, various ski championships. The first of these was NEFSKI. Taking part were 22 teams including: British Forces, UN Forces and Local Cypriots. A very creditable performance was achieved by the Squadron team of **Sgt Eric Clark, Sgt Dave Pickersgill** and **LCpl Shaky Rash,** who managed to squeeze into 22nd place.

HODGSON SHIELD

With only a few sports remaining tension and inter-troop rivalry are building up. January saw the badminton taking place at Akrotiri. This was a very hard fought competition with Airfield Troop winning, SHQ Troop second and Tech Troop third. At this stage all troops were within a few points of each other.

Next came hockey in Happy Valley. Due to an impending Squadron reshuffle, **Lt Allex Jenkinson** kept swapping allegiance between SHQ, Episkopi and Airfield Troops and consequently, two of her teams ended up joint fourth! The results were: Tech Troop, first; Airfield Troop, second; and Mountain Troop, third. The positions, with two sports remaining, are as follows: Mountain and Tech Troops: 38; Episkopi and Airfield Troops; 35, and SHQ: 31.

RSSAM 83

The Royal Signals Skill at Army Meeting was held on 22 February, at Akrotiri Ranges. Six teams took part with 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt, 1st; 3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt, 2nd and 259 Sig Sqn, 3rd. Congratulations go to all who took part especially the following: **LCpl Wood** joint second individual SLR and best young soldier: **SSgt Dullaghan** second individual SMG and **Lt Jenkinson** second WRAC SMG. The Squadron gained second place in the Rifle Match and the WRAC SMG Match. We are now looking to win NESAM 83 and go on to Bisley!

THE TECH TROOP SCENE
Report by SSgt Eugene Dullagan

'Troop SSgt carries a lot of reponsibility', said the TOT. He didn't mention Wire Notes. Cheers Sir! Well, here goes . . .

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the latest troop arrival, baby **Elouise Payne.** Congratulations to **Jan** and **Sgt Derek.** We also welcome **Sgt Bob Cutler,** wife **Heather** and family, and **Cpls Steve Johnson** and **Marty Richards.** Enjoy your stay with us.

We say farewell to the **Sgt Ron Bragg,** wife **Flo** and family. Enjoy 21 Sig Regt. Also goodbye to **Sgt John Thompson** , wife **Ann** and family who are off to AAC Harrogate. Don't forget where we are; there's always Christmas Cards!

THE TECHNICAL FRONT (You mean there is one?)

Tech Tp has now taken over responsibility for the TE Techs from Episkopi Troop. Welcome boys, now we've got you where we want you! Our intrepid radio techs ('we invent masts anywhere, anytime—what Yagi?') have completed the refitting of Clansman Radio into the Ferret Scout Cars of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, for their service with the multi national peace-keeping Force in the Lebanon. **Sgts 'Minnie' Minton, 'Russ Moren,** and **Cpl Taff Davies,** aided and abetted by TE Tech **LCpl John Walton** finished the job in record time. A task, not without its mishaps—but it makes a change from paper aeroplanes!

AND FINALLY FROM US

The myth that a Foreman of Signals can stop speeding aeroplanes with a wave of his hand has been exploded. No, it's not true that **FofS Alex Taylor** has been commissioned into the Israeli Defence Force. He just likes Tel-Aviv. Unlucky, Foreman!

THE SQUADRON SPORTING SCENE
HODGSON SHIELD

The Hodgson Shield Inter-Troop sports competition is now drawing to a hectic close. Tech Troop, captained by **Sgt Derek Payne,** emerged unbeaten in the Hockey.

The most recent contest was on the Rugby field and caused a number of casualties, including **Capt Mike Podmore** (dislocated shoulder) and **WO2 (SSM) Ian McSherry** (sprung ribs). All opposition was swept aside by the Mighty Tech Tp, led by **Sgt Steve Green.** Sp/SHQ finished, as anticipated, in a worthy supporting position at the foot of the league! The current scores overall in the competition are Mtn and Tech Tps level pegging on 38; Afd and Epi Tps sharing 35 and SHQ/Support—Yes, you've guessed! Holding up the Squadron on 31 points.

The last event to be played is football. And guess who's organising the football? The TOT didn't mention that to **SSgt Dullaghan** either!

MARATHON AND LANGLAUF AND CUP SOCCER

A special mention here for the Squadron members who took part in the Cyprus Services Marathon. **WO2 (FofS) Taylor, Capt Mike Podmore, Sig 'Touche' Hadfield, Tommy Lorn** and **'Scouse' Moriarty** all completed the testing course. Well done to all.

The Squadron also did well in the NEFSKI Langlauf Race held in the snows of Troodos. Our representatives here were **Capt Mike Podmore** (yes, him again!), **Cpl Dave Ruane,** and **Sig Russ Hemingbrough.**

259 scored a famous victory over A Coy 1 A and SH in the first round of the WSBA Minor Units League Cup. After a sternly contested and gruelling game, the result was 3—2 to 259 after extra time. All credit to the determination and stamina of the 259 team, led by **Sgt Dullaghan.** The goals were scored by **LCpl Davy Harris, Willie Young** and **Sig 'Gille' McHale.**

AW NO, NO, AGEN!

Few who were priviliged to attend, will ever forget the magnificent Revue 'On no, not again!' presented by members of the Sqn, wives and girlfriends on 26 March in the Jimmy Club. This hilarious and professional performance gave great entertainment. Undoubted highlights were **Sig Joe MCalman** as the World's Butchest Floozy; **Sig Pete Atkinson** buying a handbag (oh yes?) and **Sig 'Scum' Sanderson** telling us to 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life!'

The sketches and individual star turns are far too numerous to mention but special praise must go to **LCpl 'Tam' Byrne** for his 'Sarn't—Major impressions, **Sig 'Stelios' Cairns** for his take-off of the QM, and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** as OC Afd: (I'm thick, thick, thick up to heah, of all thith militawy twaining!'). No one escaped the probing wit of compère **SSgt Pete Wilson,** and **Sgt Russ Moren** and **Cpl Ron Taylor** as the 'Two Ronnies'. **Sgt Minnie Minton** must be congratulated on his portrayal of **SSgt John Davies** . . . but don't walk down any dark alleys, **Min!**

An excellent night out was had by all. Many thanks to those, too many to name, for all their hard work in front of and behind the curtain, particularly **SSgts Chris Biddlecombe** and **Ian Urquhart** and their crews. What worries those of us who go to the Real Ones, is how the performers knew that OC's conferences are really like that!

NOTES FROM SUPPORT/SHQ TROOP

In this edition of news and views from 'those who only sit and support the Sqn', we say farewell to **Sgt** (I'm the Training NCO'). **Pete Wilson,** wife **Pam** and family. Staff who? Exactly! A measure of the man's calibre is that it's taken 3 people and a massive Squadron re-org to replace him! We wish him well for the future. 32 Sig Regt (V)'s gain is our loss.

A SALUTARY TALE

Just to prove that there is a sense of humour in SHQ, we present the following anecdote which came to light on or about 1 April.

'And lo, it came to pass that there was a Sergeant—Major, and he was sore afflicted by the demon Work. And lo, it happened that the day came when he could bear his burden no longer. In desperation he scribed upon a tablet and humbly presented it to his Master, who went by the dread name of OC. On it he begged and beseeched that he might carry forward 14 days of his leave, since his toil had been unceasing for almost a year.

OC received this plea in some perplexity. He was much moved by the plight of SSM, but he also thought long and hard upon the dangerous disease of precedents. Finally, his brow cleared, and he answered thus:

'Sarn't—Major, this story has touched my heart in a way unlike any other. Only the tale of the blind, one-legged widow and the five starving children living in a tent on £2 a week has made me more upset. Were it in my power to grant life after death for such selfless devotion to duty, I would gladly do so. As it is, I beg you to carry forward 14 days leave and hope that they will, in some small way, make you happy.'

But lo, even as he spoke, an afterthought came to OC and he pondered on the indispensible nature of the man called SSM and he continued thus, 'But do not thank me yet, O SSM, for this small favour . . . I have not yet signed the leave pass.'

The moral of this tale is simple: 'One winneth some, one loseth most!'

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

A FEW POINTS TO PONDER
Report by SSgt Charlie Peach

The glamour of Tele Mechs at work in support of an Operational Airfield in Germany has tended to overshadow the range and importance of the Tele Mech serving in Cyprus. Having recently commanded a troop of Tele Mechs in Germany I now find myself in a Cyprus Tele Mech troop, I thought it time to try in some small way to lift this shadow and cast some light on the Cyprus based trade.

Whilst it is true that there is a lot of job satisfation working on a large airfield in Germany, using modern equipments, getting involved in communcations projects costing millions of pounds, the range of employment is still somewhat limited.

Here the Tele Mech works on all aspects of his trade including U.G. PLOH, SSAC, DROP Wire Distribution and repairs his own telephones (not passing them to the DBP) and he uses many more of the basic skills than his counterpart in BAOR. How many of you remember open copper wire routes? His practical working knowledge of the overall trade is far greater than that of an airfield man, especially so if he is a tradesman recently out of trade training. The old cliche 'We teach it to you here but you will probably never see it again' is far from the truth if one is posted to Cyprus.

The much smaller number of Tele Mechs in each troop dictates that the young man here from training is destined to become a very experienced tradesman early in his career. These points coupled with the fantastic climate, the abundance of social and sporting activities as well as ample opportunities for locally held courses ensures that your Cyprus man has it hands down over his BAOR counterpart?

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We bid a warm welcome to **Cpl George Mayne,** his wife **Pam** and daughter, **Amy, Cpl Mark Bonham** and wife **Babs, Sgt Scull** and wife **Susan** and **Sgt Alan Geddes** and wife **LCpl Heather Geddes.** We say farewell to **Sgt Jimmy Acklaw** and wife **Tina** and **Sgt Jimmy Scoular** and wife **Lynne** and wish you well wherever your careers take you.

VISITS

Air Vice Marshal Davies, Commander British Forces Cyprus paid his farewell visit to the Squadron on 4 March meeting many Squadron members in the workshops and MT yard. **WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford** when asked when we could expect to be using the radio telephone system currently on trials by the Post Office, took two paces backwards and gave an explanation which convinced the AVM—but not the rest of those in earshot! (Tele Mechs beware you may soon be redundant or retrained as technicians).

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on winning the draw in the latest promotion board stakes. **WO2 (SSM) Geoff** 'where's my posting' **Marshall** on being selected for **WO1. WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford** on his **WO1** and a nice posting to BAOR and **Sgt Nick Terry** who goes up to **SSgt.** Well done all.

MILITARY SKILLS
ROYAL SIGNALS SKILL AT ARMS MEETING CYPRUS

The competition took place at RAF Akrotiri ranges on 22 February. The Squadrons team did very well with the following results:

SMG Tiles	**1st**	
SMG Highest Score	**1st**	**Sgt Graham Reith**
SMG Highest Score (WRAC)	**1st**	**Lt Nicky Thomas**

The Squadron team is now in full practice for the Near East Skill at Arms meeting, a report of our efforts will be in the next issue.

HOCKEY

At last the hockey team is realising its full potential and with only one game of the winter season remaining are well ahead in the league table. Only a major collapse against the King Richard School would prevent the cup and title from residing with the Squadron.

Table so far:

P	W	L	F	A	Pts
11	10	1	59	7	20

Special mention must go to **Sgts Dave Gunn, Dave Kingdom** and **Dave Critchlow** and **LCpl Keith Roach,** all of whom recently represented the ESBA in a well fought draw against arch rivals the WSBA. Congratulations to **Dave Gunn, Dave Kingdom** and **Keith Roach** on being selected for the Army Trials to play the RAF in a few weeks time.

ORIENTEERING

A team consisting of **Sgts Martin Leighfield, Mal Geer, Cpl George Mayne** and **LCpl Spike Hughes** took part in the orienteering competition held at RAF Akrotiri in March. The team came a very creditable 2nd behind 62 Field Support Sqn RE. Individual placings were: **Cpl Mayne 3rd, Sgt Geer 9th, LCpl Hughes 11th** and **Sgt Leighfield 12th.**

CROSS COUNTRY/ROAD RACING

The Squadron's fine results in the Cyprus cross country events has been well publicised in previous issues of The Wire. Another aspect of running in Cyprus is the series of 4 hard road races held at various venues cumulating in the All Island Cyprus Services Marathon. A brief report of the Squadron's results is given by **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey**. The winter's running season consists of a series of road races each one getting progressively longer until the very last race, the Cyprus Services Marathon.

The first race was the Waterloo 8, a course set in and around Dhekelia Garrison which incorporates two very long and steep hills. Then came the Akrotiri 10, a very fast course using part of the marathon course at RAF Akrotiri. Ayios Nikolias to Dhekelia was the route for the next race, a distance of over 15 miles with two seemingly never ending long straights, this year the runners had to contend with the dreaded 'head on' wind, something we all fear, as this race is basically all in one direction, 'into the wind'. If you survive all of these races the next logical or illogical step 'depending on your state of mind' is the Marathon, run between RAF Akrotiri and the end of the M1 not far from Episkopi. This year the Squadron finished 3rd overall with two of the four team members running in their very first Marathon. Conditions were far from ideal, although quite warm it was very windy, and after some 2½ hours the whole race was subjected to a vicious hailstorm which finished off many of the back markers. However high winds and hail storms did not stop the intrepid **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** from breaking the record that was set last year by 11 seconds, he finished a magnificent race in 2 hrs 29 mins 02 seconds. Unfortunately **LCpl Matt Helm** was forced to retire after 21 miles with a recurring knee injury, but two excellent runs by **LCpl Spike Hughes** and **Sgt Mal Geer** who returned times of 3 hrs 10 mins and 3 hrs 20 mins gave the Squadron team a low aggregate time to secure 3rd place overall. The Squadron team for the whole season consisted of the following members, all of whom did extremely well as can be seen from the table of positions shown below. Thanks in no small part to the number of spectators that turned up for every race to give their support.

	Waterloo 8	10 Mile	15 Mile	Marathon
Turvey	1	1	1	1
Helm	-	28	22	retired injured
Hughes	35	25	25	24
Crosby	34	-	-	-
Geer	52	46	36	33
Steel	80	68	-	-
Team	5th out of 29	4th out of 29	3rd out of 29	3rd
Number of Runners	163	175	108	140

These are a few of our more recent team successes, however many Squadron members play sports for Garrison teams and are as successful as those who play for the Squadron. The Squadron is now looking forward to the summer weather and preparations are well under way for Battle Camp to be held in September. The new OC promises that this one will be 'Different', smacks of the Royal Marines; lots of yomping. More on this subject in later issues.

262 Sig Sqn's marathon team: *L to R:* Sgt Mal Geer, LCpl Spike Hughes, WO2 (FofS) John Turvey and LCpl Matt Helm

Association News

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson (Chair Person)

The annual dinner/disco was held by kind permission of the OC **Maj T. Lea,** at the Kingsway Training Centre on 19 Mar. The meal was excellent, the wine palatable and the company extremely pleasant, thus making a happy evening.

It was with great pleasure we entertained **Lt Col Mike Vann,** whose stiring and witty speech made an interesting conclusion to the meal.

D Coy Kingsway Cadets loaned us five cadets who under the capable eye of the two Corporal batchelors made excellent waiters—we do hope they will be available for future events!

Several members of the 46 (HM) Division were present, on their behalf ex **Sig Eric Mathews** paid a touching tribute and toast to **Col Arthur Haslehurst,** their officer before and during the war, who was and still is, much beloved and respected by his men.

Lt Col Vann was a leading fiture afterwards in the social acitivities, where old and young joined together and made the evening go with a swing.

On behalf of the Branch, visits have to be made to our aged and sick members, some of whom we were able to give Christmas gifts; we will try to continue these visits. Also, the branch collected books and games to send to the Corps in the Falklands.

At the AGM, with the exception of two, the committee remained unchanged. **Maj T. Lea** takes the place of **Maj M. Wright** as Vice President and **Capt Treharne** replaces **Lt Sally Reading** as liaison officer.

Thanks are also due to the WOs and Sgts for allowing us the use of their mess and for the comradeship and help given us by officers, PSIs, and TA members. The numbers of our Branch are increasing!

LEEDS & DISTRICT BRANCH

Report by Maj R. O. Edwards

Members of the Branch and their ladies, supported by members of Harrogate Branch, attended a service at the Army Apprentice College Harrogate Church of St Alban on Sun 6 Mar, at the invitation of the Commandant, **Col G. C. Verdon OBE.** The Commander, Royal Signals Training Group—**Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** and **Mrs Sprackling** travelled from Catterick to attend the service—the Brigadier taking the salute at the march past of some sixty Old Comrades, supported by the College Band.

The service was conducted by **Rev John Blackburn CF** who gave an impressive and inspiring address. The Branch President, **Col N. R. Bigland TD** read the lesson.

During the service the Branch 'Roll of Honour' was carried by the Chairman **Maj Bob Edwards**—escorted by two Apprentices—from its place of rest to the altar where a page was turned by an Apprentice. At this point the 'Act of Remembrance' was recited.

Following the service and march past, members were entertained to lunch in the Messes where—again, as usual—everything was excellent. Our thanks to the Brigadier (his attendance was greatly appreciated) the Commandant, the RSM, the Band, and the Staff who made it possible, not forgetting the members of Harrogate Branch who gave their support.

YORK BRANCH

The York Branch quietly 'soldiers on' and our monthly meetings held at the Central Conservative Club at 8pm on the last Wednesday in each month are moderately well supported. With the arrival of 2 Div. the Corps cap badge is now much in evidence in the city; the turn of the wheel for one of our members, **Maj J. A. G. 'Bert' Stokoe** who recalls being in 2 Div. Signals at Mons Barracks, Aldershot in 1931!

The Branch annual Dinner was held in March at our traditional venue, the Merchant Taylors' Hall, one of the many historic gems of the city. We were delighted to welcome as Guest of Honour, **Brig J. P. Hart OBE,** Commander 2 Signal Brigade. **Brigadier John** was in splendid form and his speech, in proposing the Toast to the Association coupled with the York Branch, was much enjoyed.

The customary reminiscing session followed the repast and members appreciated the resolution of our Guest of Honour in circulating and having a personal word with everyone present. We wish him well on his impending retirement from the Corps. Our President, **LtCol G. R. 'Nat' Gould,** slowly recovering from an operation on his right ankle, was of necessity less mobile, but bravely did his stuff, albeit on crutches.

The function was once more ably organised by our Secretary, **Tony Leavesley.** All members are delighted that his sterling efforts over the years have been recognised by the award of Honour Membership of the Association.

Readers who remember the location of the Merchant Taylors' Hall in York may be interested to know that the Aldwark area is taking on a new look with the implementation of the Esher plan for residential development within the city walls.

With blossoms and daffodils now abounding on the Vale, Spring is really here and our thoughts now turn expectantly to the annual Reunion at Catterick.

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION AND DINNER CLUB

Report by E. E. Bayley, Esq, Honorary Secretary

The 31st Annual Dinner and AGM of the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club was held at the Victory Services Club on 26 Mar with 56 members and guests present. The man who also came to dinner was none other than the **Duke of Wellington,** in the form of a plastercast bust by Benedetto Pistrucci, which was presented to the Regiment by the Secretary **Mr Ernest Bayley,** and received by the Commanding Officer **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh.** On the 18 Jun 1984, the 3 Division will be 175 years old and this calls for a celebration, as it was none other than the **Duke of Wellington,** who brought Divisions in the British Army into being, as prior to this they were in Brigade Formation. It was **Gen Picton's Brigade who assumed the title of 3 Division at the time of the Peninsular War at Walcharen 1809, under the Hanovarian Gen Count Von Alten** the 5th was renumbered the 3rd at Waterloo. Looking through 'Wellington's Army in the Peninsular War 1808-1811, I also noted that our late Presidents **(Maj Gen R. F. B. Naylor)** widow, **Lady Mary Naylor's** (nee **Byng**) ancestor, **Sir John Byng,** served with the 3rd; he later became the first Earl ancestor of Stafford.

This brief history will give you the reason why I was determined to present the Division with the bust of THE BOSS. The Colonel was delighted but, as were all those present, astounded by the size of the bust! I trust that it will be honoured in its new home and looked after.

The main theme of this 31st reunion, was the strong presence of the members of D and O Sections who served during the war. **Sgt Munro** from Inverness, **Cpl Hounsell, Sgt McCulley, Lt Col Bazil Elliott** and **Mr Nelson** were the first footers. In November last year, taking advantage of the Senior Citizens £3 Away Day to anywhere, I travelled to Inverness and tracked down **Jim Munro** and linked him with his buddies of the Signal Office of 1943/1945. **Sgt Munro** presented the Commanding Officer with the original message received from 3 Canadian Division with regard to the cessation of hostilities, as he was the duty Sergeant that night, and also copies of the newsletter 'The Triange'. A copy of a Part 2 Order of May, 1945, was also displayed on the Notice Board, relating to D & O Sections and included many of those present on this occasion.

The President, **Brig C. G. Moore,** welcomed the Regiment and Guests and the Commanding Officer **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh,** gave a short speech on the present role of the Regiment, and invited members to spend a weekend in Germany, this year or next. He also remarked on the warmness of the comradeship which made itself felt, and how lucky the Division was to have this other arm. The Reunion club looks forward to new members joining us as the cell of pre-war members is shrinking, and those of us who served during the war, are ageing; so come on you post-war members of the Division, strengthen the club, as we need you to keep it going as long as the Division exists. It's a great Division, of which we as members are very proud and privileged to be a part.

Our Guest of Honour on this occasion was **Lt Col R. L. Murray,** General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association.

He reminded us of **Gen Birtwistle's** letter published in The Wire last Jul concerning the 'Corps Family' of regulars, volunteers, and the retired and the value of mutual self help between the three. The Reunion Club (although not a Branch of the Association) he saw as a spendid example of this need being met. He went on to highlight the magnificent Financial support which the Association derives from the Serving Corps and gave an outline of the commitments of the Association during 1982.

A list of those who attended follows.

GUEST OF HONOUR

Lt Col R. L. Murray—Royal Signals Association

3 ARMD DIV SIG REGT

Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh—Officer Commanding; **Capt A. Russell**—Adjutant; **WO1 (RSM) S. G. Marshall.**

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mr W. D. Antill; *Mr E. E. Bayley,**Secretary; **Col T. W. Baynes,**Former CO; ***Mr J. T. Bevans; *Mr H. B. Blackford,**LAD(REME); ***Brig J. D. T. Brett,**Former CO; **Col D. H. Briggs,**Former CO; **Mr W. M. Cotterell; *Mr S. Curry; *Mr F. G. Dukes; Mr W. T. Edwards; *Lt Col E. B. Elliott; Maj R. S. Etherington; *Brig A. F. Freeman; *Mr W. H. Holden,**Committee;Mr S. G. Hounsell; Mr G. Hounsell,**Son of Nobby Hounsell; **Mr R. Hobbs,**Guest of Bill Holden; ***Capt A. Hughes; Capt J. M. Kirkman; *Mr E. Leat,**Committee; ***Mr L. F. Martin; Col F. R. Maynard,**Former CO; ***Mr J. S. McCaul; *Mr J. McCulley; Mr G. McCulley,**Son of Jim McCulley; ***Mr A. R. Mills; Brig C. G. Moore,** President & Ex CO; ***Mr P. H. Munchin; *Mr J. E. Munro; Mr J. Nelson; Maj W. J. A. Nicks; *Mr S. H. G. O'Dell; *Mr P. Pannett; Mr H. W. Palmer; *Mr C. Parkin; Mr G. Pickard; *Lt Col M. A. Philp; *Col A. F. Pownall; Lt Col E. H. Powell; Maj D. J. Roberts,** Treasurer; ***Maj K. N. Smartt,** Chairman; ***Mr W. Spittal,** Committee; ***Mr A. W. Spratley; Mr G. J. Sweeney; Mr J. Y. Templeton,** Committee; ***Mr H. F. Timms; Capt J. A. Tonnison; Mr A. C. W. Tonnison,** Son of J. A. Tonnison; **Maj A. B. Wheeler; *Capt T. E. Williams; *Mr E. J. Wood,** Committee; **Mr R. W. Thompson.**

* 1939/1945 Members.

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES

SHORT AND TO THE

POINT PLEASE

Sport

BADMINTON

11th ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 11th Royal Signals Badminton Tournament was held in Blandford Gymnasium in November 1982.

The number of competitors for this tournament far exceeded the numbers attending in recent years. Much credit must go to the Badminton Officers of 21 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt and the Army Apprentice College Harrogate for the large entries from their respective units.

The tournament was also enhanced by the inclusion of junior soldiers, eight from Harrogate and four from Ouston. Their standard of play was very good which can only assist in the future of the Corps maintaining a very high standing in Army Badminton.

The smooth running of the tournament was due to the efficiency of both **Sgt Dick Ellis,** School of Signals and **Sgt Sid Steele** from 30 Sig Regt.

The results of the tournament were as follows:

Mens Singles		
Winner	—**Sgt Ellis**	School of Signals
Runners Up	—**LCpl Moore**	21 Sig Regt
Mens Unit Doubles		
Winners	—**Sgt Steele**	
	Cpl Wells	30 Sig Regt
Runners Up	—**LCpl Moore**	21 Sig Regt
	Sgt Chhetri	
Mens Open Doubles		
Winners	—**Sgt Ellis**	School of Signals
	Cpl Wells	30 Sig Regt
Mens Open Doubles		
Winners	—**Sgt Ellis**	School of Signals
	Cpl Wells	30 Sig Regt
Runners Up	—**LCpl Moore**	21 Sig Regt
	Sgt Chhetri	
Veterans Doubles		
Winners	—**Sgt Ellis**	School of Signals
	Sgt Steele	30 Sig Regt
Runners Up	—**Capt Hargreaves**	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
	WO1 McLoughlin	HQ UKLF
Mens Singles Plate		
Winner	—**LCpl Lamplough**	21 Sig Regt
Runner Up	—**Maj Price**	AA College Harrogate
Ladies Singles		
Winner	—**Miss Hinchliffe**	School of Signals
Runner Up	—**Mrs Symonds**	55 Sig Sqn
Ladies Doubles		
Winners	—**Mrs Symonds**	55 Sig Sqn
	Mrs Hargreaves	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Runners Up	—**Miss Manville**	
	Miss Hinchcliffe	School of Signals
Mixed Doubles		
Winners	—**LCpl Moore**	21 Sig Regt
	Mrs Symonds	55 Sig Sqn
Runners Up	—**Sgt Ellis**	
	Miss Weeks	School of Signals
Juniors		
Singles	Winner	— **AT Pearson**
Doubles	Winners	— **AT Pearson**
		AT Baughan

The prizes were kindly presented by **Mrs Hargreaves** wife of **Capt Hargreaves** 4 Div, the present BAOR Badminton Secretary.

INTER CORPS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT 1982/83

The Inter Corps Badminton Tournament 1982/83 was held in Worthy Down in November 1982.

Six Corps entered teams of which two leagues were made up as follows:

League A	*League B*
Royal Signals	RAOC
REME	ACC
RAPC	RE

The personnel selected to represent the Royal Signals were as follows:

Maj W. A. Price, Royal Signals	—AA College Harrogate
WO1 (YofS) P. J. McLoughlin	—HQ UKLF
Sgt D. Ellis	—School of Signals
Sgt S. Steele	—30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Genge	—AA College Harrogate
Sgt S. Croot	—School of Signals
Cpl I. Wells	—30 Sig Regt
Cpl C. Atherley	—244 Sig Sqn
Cpl S. Lennox	—264 Sig Sqn
Cpl T. Pollard—30 Sig Regt	

Cpls Atherley and **Pollard** were unable to take part, one through injury and the other because of course exam commitment.

The Corps first match was against the REME which we won 6 rubbers to 3.

The Corps second match against the RAPC was narrowly lost 5—4.

The RAPC won the league with Royal Signals in second place. In the other league the ACC came top with the RAOC runners up.

The semi final results were as follows:

ACC 4 v Royal Signals 5 and

RAPC 4 v RAOC 5

This set up a repeat final the same as last year:

RAOC v Royal Signals

The Royal Signals were represented by:

Pair 1	—**Sgt Dick Ellis**
	Cpl Ian Wells
pair 2	—**Sgt Bob Genge**
	Sgt Sid Steele
Pair 3	—**WO1 Peter McLoughlin**
	Cpl Scotty Lennox

After 6 rubbers the score was 3 each, then the Signals 3rd pair won their match to give us a lead of 4 rubbers to 3.

Unfortunately the last 2 rubbers were lost very narrowly in both cases to give the RAOC a 5—4 victory.

BOWLING

Report by Sgt W. P. Craig Secretary

The 5 Royal Signals BAOR Bowling championships were held at Krefeld over the weekend 12/13 Feb 1983.

Bowling commenced on Sat morning with the first doubles squad and early leaders were **SSgt Chris Martin** and **Sgt Willie Craig** of Comms Branch HQ BAOR who held on to their lead until the final doubles squad when they were pipped into third place by **SSgt Mike Dixon** and **Sgt Del Tungate** of UKSU SHAPE who finished second and the Doubles champions for 1983 were **WO2 Syd Walley** of 212 Sig Sqn and **SSgt Pete Shepherd** of 7 Sig Regt.

The other competition to be held on Saturday was the Singles and **WO1 Eddie Harriss** set everyone a target of 1015 to win. **WO2 Syd Walley** came very close with 1010 to finish second. **Jessie Harriss** the better half of **Eddie** paired off with **Mrs Trish Cavill** to win the Ladies Doubles, the latter also winning the Ladies Singles.

9am was the start time on Sunday for the first team squad and Exodus from 28 Sig Regt scored a mammoth total of 2340, the highest total ever bowled for a four man team in the history of the tournament; no other team came near them. The Ladies team event was similar with TUC Ladies running away with it, beating their closest opponents by 150 pins.

A new event was introduced into the Championships—Mixed Doubles and the husband and wife pair of **Sgt Les** and **Mrs Julie Bennet** were the first winners of this.

Immediately after the Mixed Doubles the Masters Competition took place. This is for the top six bowlers over all the events who partake in a matchplay competition to decide the top bowler for the Championships. **WO2 Syd Walley** was the early leader but **Sgt Mick Langley** of UKSU SHAPE stormed home winning his last four games to become the Masters Champion for 1983.

During the Masters, **Major General** and **Mrs Hild** arrived to watch and to present the prizes but prior to this they themselves sampled the delights of the sport with expert instructions from **Mr Peter Duster** the manager of the Krefeld Bowl and **Mr Willy Szislo** the founder of the NATO Bowling Club.

Mrs Hild presented the Ladies prizes and was then presented with a bouquet of flowers by **Miss Rena Craig** herself an up and coming young bowler of 6½.

Gen Hild was then asked to present the Gents prizes, perhaps after his introduction he may himself be partaking in next years competitions!!!

This is my last year of running tournaments as I am getting 'too old', says our new chairman **Lt Mike Cost** who has kindly volunteered to run next year's events with help.

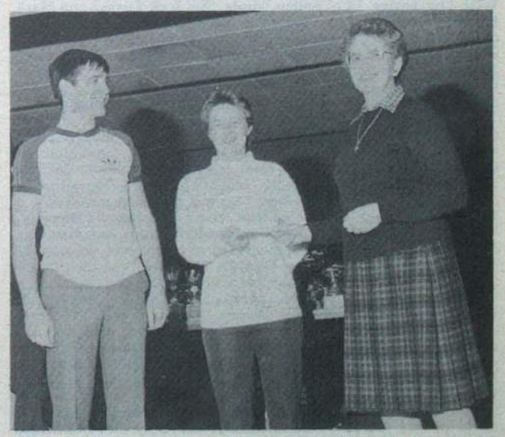
A final thank you to my able assistants, **Sgts Graham Manning** and **Dennis Pescod** without whom the competition would not have taken place, **SSgt Chris Laughlin** for selecting and collecting the trophies from ASPA SPARTA of Minden, **Mr Peter Duster** the manager of the bowl and **Mr Fred Cooke** the mechanic (Doctor) and the rest of his staff; last but not least the bowlers for making the whole thing possible.

WO1 Eddie Harris receiving the Singles Champions Trophy from Comd Comms

Comd Comms presents the Masters Prizes to Sgt Mick Langley

Comd Comms presents WO2 Syd Walley with the Masters Runner-up award

Comd Comms with the Gents Team Champions. *L-R:* Sgts Ben Nelson, Larry O'Kane, Andy Kirk and Jim Innes



L to R: Sgt Les Bennett, Mrs Julie Bennett and Mrs Hild presenting the award of Mixed Doubles Champions

FOOTBALL

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Report by Lt Col G. S. Massey, Army Football Association PRO

The following members of the Corps were in the Combined Services and Army Team Parties for the representative matches listed:

COMBINED SERVICES—KENTISH CUP
LCpl A. (Sandy) Brown, 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(played against Belgian (26 Jan 83) and French Armed Forces (23 Feb 83).
Sig M. (Mickey) Halligan, 8 Sig Regt
(was a reserve on both occasions).

ARMY—INTER SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS
LCpl A. (Sandy) Brown
(played against RAF (16 Mar 83) and RN (23 Mar 83)
Sig M. (Mickey) Halligan
(was reserve on both occasions).

ARMY—SOUTH WEST COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS
LCpl A. (Sandy) Brown
Sig M. (Mickey) Halligan
(both played against Somerset, Gloucester, Devon and Cornwall).

CYPRUS CROSS COUNTRY MARATHON

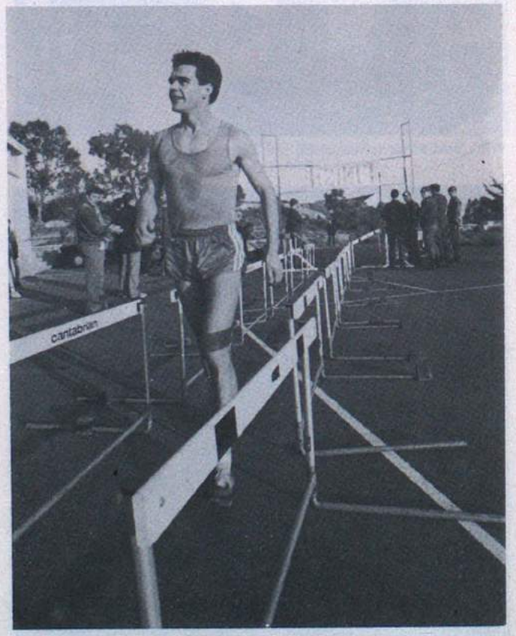
Report by Capt Mike Podmore

The 1982-83 Cross Country Running season in Cyprus has been organised by **Capt Mike Podmore** and **WO2 John Turvey** as Chairman and Secretary respectively and has once again been dominated by individuals and teams from the Corps. The season commenced in early September last year with the 12 SU Relays, 4 x 2 mile relay, in which the 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt team of **Capt Mike Podmore, Sgt Derek Lake, Cpls Chris Laycock** and **Steve Catterall** took 2nd place just 10 seconds behind the winners. The next event was the Caledonian Hill Climb over a course of 5½ miles covering an uphill climb over 2,000 feet. **Cpl Andy Majoribanks** of 3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt took individual honours whilst the team from 259 Sig Sqn—**WO2 Alex Taylor, LCpl Arthur Nicols, Sigs Jock Tierney** and **Mark Senior** achieved 3rd place. The Happy Valley Hill Climb yet again was dominated by **Cpl Chris Laycock** who successfully made it 3 in a row whilst **Cpl Andy Majoribanks** finished 4th and **WO2 John Turvey** of 262 Sig Sqn in 6th place. 9 Sig Regt completely outclassed the rest of the island in the Dhekelia Dash (15 x 1 mile relay) with 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons finishing in 1st, 2nd and 4th positions respectively.

The Cross Country league itself consisted of 8 races with the best 6 to count (over distances from 4½ to 8 miles). Individual honours went to **Cpl Chris Laycock**—1st, **WO2 John Turvey**—2nd, and **Sgt Geordie Doughty**—10th, with team positions as follows: 262 Sig Sqn—4th, 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt—5th, and 259 Sig Sqn—7th, out of 21 teams. The first event of the New Year was the Salamanca Relay, 4 x 3½ miles, and the 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt team of **Sgt Geordie Doughty, Cpls Eric Clee, Nick Vezey** and **LCpl Dave Parvin** took 2nd place. The All Island Major Unit Championships was contested between 11 teams over an 8 mile course at Dhekelia. 9 Sig Regt put their first 8 runners in the top 25 and therefore scored a very convincing win. **WO2 John Turvey** took 1st place ahead of **Cpl Chris Laycock** in 2nd, **LCpl Eric Clee** in 4th and **Sgt Geordie Doughty** in 8th. The Army Minor Unit Championships took place the following week over the same course. **Chris Laycock** reversed his position with **John Turvey** by winning this event whilst team honours went to 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt with 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt—4th, 262 Sig Sqn—7th, 259 Sig Sqn—8th, and 3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt—9th out of 15 teams. The scene was now set for the Inter Services race in which **WO2 John Turvey, Sgt Geordie Doughty, Cpls Chris Laycock** and **Eric Clee** represented the Army with **LCpl Dave Parvin** as reserve. The Army runners were placed 1-7 and 9-11 which proved to be the most decisive victory in any Inter Services match.

This ended the actual cross country events and our thoughts now turned to the road races. The Waterloo 8, Akrotiti 10, and Ay Nik—Dhekelia 15, were all won by **WO2 John Turvey** in a very convincing style. 2 Sqn 9 Sig Regt finished runners-up in the '8' and '15' whilst 262 Sig Sqn finished 5th in the '8' and 3rd in the '15'. The only remaining event in the running calendar is the Cyprus Services Marathon in late March and let us hope that **John** will continue his individual successes.

WO2 (FofS) J. Turvey in the early stages of the Cyprus Marathon which he went on to win



Cpl Chris Laycock—9 Sig Regt (Radio)
Individual Winner—Army Minor Units Championships

All Island (Cyprus) Major Unit Championships
Winners—9 Sig Regt (Radio). Cpl Catterall, LCpl Parvin, Capt Stevenson, LCpl Zanelli, Sgt Lake, Cpl Laycock, Sgt Doughty, LCpl Clee, Capt Podmore, Cpl Vezey

Army (Cyprus) Minor Unit Championships
Winners—2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt (Radio). Sgt Richmond, LCpls Parvin, Edon, Sgt Douglas, Cpl Vezey, Sgt Doughty, Cpl Clee, SSgt Friend

Lt Col A. Boyle, Commanding Officer 9 Sig Regt (Radio) presenting the Army (Cyprus) Minor Unit Cup to Sgt Doughty of 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt

RUGBY

CORPS RUGBY—1982/83 SEASON

The Corps rugby team has continued its successful run from previous seasons into the present season with six wins out of seven games, failing only against the REME yet again. The overall results were:

1982 AUTUMN TOUR		
RMCS	at Shrivenham	Won 12–7
RAPC	at Blandford	Won 38–0
RCT	at Aldershot	Won 40–6
1983 SPRING TOUR		
REME	at Blandford	Lost 4–14
RE	at Chatham	Won 29–9
Bournemouth	at Bournemouth	Won 16–3
RAOC	at Blackdown	Won 19–4

Both the Autumn and Spring Tours should have included another match respectively against the RA and the RMA Sandhurst. However, the opposition cancelled at the eleventh hour allowing insufficient time to arrange alternate fixtures.

The main disappointment of both these tours was the poor turnout for the initial two days of trial and selection games which we had to forego as only 25 players were available. Our main shortfalls were at lock and No 8 and as a result we ended up with a forward pack that included five wing-forwards. Nevertheless, this highly mobile pack proved more than its worth winning all its own scrums as well as many against the head, and in the line-outs despite lacking height, they still won the majority of their own ball as well as disrupting much of the oppositions possession.

The success of the tours was due mainly to our staunch playing members whose enthusiasm and loyalty to the Corps over the years have been of paramount importance especially in engendering an excellent team spirit both on and off the field of play. **SSgt Trevor Johnson** has led the team well, and as ever played a good solid game throughout at prop managing two crash-over tries, one against RMCS and the other against the RE. Our only concern about his captaincy is his perpetual need to tow his own 'Loo' around with him (is it the beer?).

Cpl Bill (call me 'Evergreen') **McConnell** was as ever his usual self, playing hard at hooker on the field (and some say off it as well). His only try against RMCS belies the enormous contribution he made in all our matches. Speaking of contributions it was **Cpl McConnell's** dress regulations with their inherent fines that led to a healthy kitty of £75.00 which provided the funds for a good final fling on the Spring Tour. He was also responsible for procuring (or was it 'pork-curing') **'Lucy'** the team mascot; the lady who fainted on finding a rather 'high' pig's head in the Blandford NAAFI telephone kiosk is still seeking the culprit.

Our two other 'old' stalwarts who played in both tours were **Cpl Peter Lytollis** who calked up a total of five trys and **Sgt Gordon Bennett** who improvised exceptionally well at No 8 and was our sole scorer against the REME with his one and only try. Their experieince was invaluable in settling the inexperienced younger members into the team. Apart from his five tries, the strength of **Cpl Lytollis** in the centre paved the way for other scores to be made.

2Lt John Murley played in all seven games at prop and although he didn't appear on the score sheet his contribution in both the tight and loose play enabled us to gain valuable possession. **Sig Alan Poulson** topped the score chart with a total of 32 points (8 tries) showing many opposition wingers his good turn of speed and strong running power.

Sgts 'Q' Gilder and **Steve Anderson** were our other stalwarts on the Autumn Tour with 'Q' running in two fine tries against the RCT playing in the centre rather than his customary position on the wing. In the same game **Sgt Steve Anderson** added to the scoreline with four well kicked conversions.

Regular younger team members throughout the tours included **2Lt Dave Somerville** playing at No 8 in two games who scored two tries one each against the RAPC and RCT; it was unfortunate that a leg injury stopped him playing in the Spring Tour nevertheless he was an invaluable administrative asset. **LCpl Steve Smoothy** turned in four good games despite playing out-of-position at lock rather than flanker but still managing to get on the score sheet with one try against Bournemouth. **Sig J. J. Jones** was the final member who played in both tours, turning out in four matches and scoring three tries; in addition he has played several games for the Army Colts.

1982 Autumn Tour
Back Row
SSgt Higgerson, LCpl Smoothy, Cpl Gay, Sig Cox, 2Lt Somerville, Lt Strawbridge, Sgt Bennett, Lt Nicholson, Sgt Anderson, Lt Murley, Cpls Lytollis, Rose, Williams, Fairbairn, SSgts Bicker, Harwood, Sig Cotton
Front Row
Sig Jones, Capt Bryning, Cpls Smith, McConnell, SSgt Johnson, Sig Poulson, LCpl Amos, Sgt Gilder

1983 Spring Tour
Back Row
LCpl Matthews, Sig Willcox, Sig Anderson, Cpl Stevenson, 2Lt Herstell, 2Lt Murley, 'Lucy', Cpl McConnell, SSgt Johnson, Cpls Rose, Bayly, Sgt Bennett, Sig Williams, Lt Norris, Cpl Keats, 2Lt Somerville, Maj Butler
Front Row
LCpl Smoothy, Capt Foxley, Sig Jones, LCpls Richardson, Dent, Sig Poulson, Cpl Lytollis, LCpl Lang, Sgt Arundell, LCpl George

The Spring Tour started with a disappointing result against the REME; a game in which our highly mobile pack did an excellent job in providing good possession which our backs were unable to utilize. An injury to our scrum half **Sgt Dave Arundell** meant a panic telephone call to **SSgt Todd O'Brien** at Aldershot who responded quickly and who played exceptionally well in the remaining three matches giving good service to the backs which allowed us many scoring opportunities.

Two of the many new faces for the Spring Tour belonged to **Lt Graham** (does your CO know where you are?) **Norris** and **2Lt Steve Herstell. 2Lt Herstell** turned-in four fine games despite playing out of position at lock and **Lt Norris** after overcoming initial injury problems played well at centre in the two final games. Other new faces included **Cpl Trevor Keats** who had three sound games at full back and **LCpl Ricky Dent** who played well in the centre for the first two games. **Cpl Steve Stevenson** appearing for his second Corps Tour turned-in three good solid performances on the wing where his strong tacking proved too much for some of the opposition.

Apart from the stalwarts of **Johnson, McConnell, Murley** and **Lytollis** all of whom turned-in sound performances on the Spring Tour, the accolade must be awarded to **Capt Ian** (does your CO know where you are too?) **Foxley** and **LCpl Taff George** our flankers who gave four outstanding performances and **LCpl Dean Richardson** who after a shaky start against the REME had three excellent games at fly-half. Both our flankers gave 100% at all times, harrying the opposition into mistakes as well as making many penetrating runs through the opposition which culminated in three tries by **Capt Foxley** and one by **LCpl George. LCpl Richardson** proved to be a superb fly-half making several breaks through the opposing half-backs and quickly turning defence into attack through his excellent tactical kicking; he topped the points sheet on this tour chalking up a total of 24 (one try, four conversions and four penalities).

The final mention for a successful season must go to **SSgt Glen Harwood** who has borne the brunt of the administrative load on the last three tours and without whom the Secretary could not have managed. Hopefully he will be fit enough to get himself onto the field of play before the next tour, as well as helping on administrative matters!!—otherwise as a member of the Regiment that hosts the Corps Rugby team he'd have little else to do except run the odd occasional Tac HQ (in Fitzroy).

Overall a first class season and one for which the Secretary would like to extend his thanks to all who gave their support.

'Lucy' the team mascot taking a well earned smoke break before the game against REME (Courtesy of Mr Connell)

The strain of captaincy shows on the face of SSgt Trevor Johnson at the two-man line-out against the REME. 2Lt Steve Herstell is in support

Line-out against the REME shows LCpl Steve Smoothy, 2Lt Steve Herstell and SSgt Trevor Johnson (half in picture)

The tail of our line-out against the REME shows LCpl Taff George, Sgt Gordon Bennett, Capt Ian Foxley (half hidden) 2Lt John Murky, LCpl Steve Smoothy (half hidden) and 2Lt Steve Herstell

SKIING

Report from 1 Armd: Div: HQ & Sig Regt

REGIMENTAL SKIING
Report by Novice

This year under the supervision of **Maj Michael Anderson**, we fielded, for the first time, a full ski team to enter the Princess Marina Cup Competition. To their credit both teams qualified at the Divisional Championships to go on to the Army Races. A very good overall result was obtained and the Regiment came 6th overall out of all the teams competing.

ALPINE RACING

The six man team under **Lt Steve Hunt** trained this year in Zermatt (Switzerland). The hard training programme devised by **Cpl Paul Ford**, ensure that **Cpl's Basi Jones** and **Bamber Gascoigne**, and that **LCpl's Steve Blackwell** and **Eric Farmer** had had their fair share of spills on some very fast courses, but were keen to get on and compete. The skiing supplemented by gruelling weekly runs and offers of assistance of all kinds from some of the local maidens established a suitable standard of fitness for the Divisional races in Axams.

Despite some indifferent weather and the odd rocky patch, there was some fierce competition. We finally qualified to go on to the Army races as Divisional runners-up, having won the team slalom, principally due to Bamber Gascoigne managing to keep his good eye on the right gates. From Axams, a slightly disappointed, but non-the-less determined team went off to Ischgl (Austria) for the Army races. The coveted prize of Army Alpine Champions eluded us by tenths of a second, after a long weeks racing, in which we had to race the slalom with a three man team, since **LCpl** ('Where is my ski') **Farmer** 'blew out' on the downhill race and was injured for the remainder of the meeting. We concluded the season, having come second in the slalom, as Army Alpine Runners Up. **Cpl** 'Watch my legs' **Ford** was selected for the Army team to ski in the Inter-Services races. In all, a superb first years results, and one that holds much encouragement for next years racing.

L-R: Cpl Ford; Cpl Philemon; Sig Henshaw; Cpl Cascoigne; Sgt Major; LCpl Ball; LCpl Brown; Cpl Jones; LCpl Roberts; LCpl Blackwell; Sig Farmer

The safest way to do it is with the skis held firmly in the right hand
Lower slopes of Matterhorn in the background

NORDIC

The team went to Norway on Ex Viking Loipe where our Novices **Lts Pete Smith, Jonah Jones** and 'Look at my muscles' **Balsdon** had a quick, sharp insight into the joys of Nordic racing. The full team headed by **Pete Smith** and old Dad, **SSgt 'Bernie' Temmen**, went to Seefeld for a month's training prior to the Divisional races. **LCpl Bob Anderson** and **Sig Eardley** made the squad complete. After being beasted around the hills by **Big Bernie** the team was almost ready for the races—almost, because young 'he man' **Balsdon** lost his heart to a creature from Madam Tussauds! We saved him in time.

So we arrived in Axams (Austria) for the Divisional races. The courses set by **Maj Michael Anderson** proved to have a number of interesting hills. In the 15km race (and **Big Bernie** won the Veterans Prize) we came 5 our of 40 teams and this added to our Patrol race and 10km relay positions meant that we qualified to go forward with seven other teams to the Army races at Zweisal. We were delighted to have our CO with us on the final day to see us through to the next stage.

At Zweisal we had too light a team with 3 novices. However, we did well to hold 11th position of out 28 teams. **LCpl Bob Anderson** did well in the ski orienteering, he came 3rd qualifying to go on to the pre-World Cup training races in Italy. In all we had an excellent first season as a field team and next year with the same squad plus new talent we will be chasing the Marina Cup in earnest.

1 ADSR Cross Country Ski Team 1983
Final inspection prior to start of Div Patrol Race *L to R:*Sig 'Pops' Eardl, LCpl Bob Anderson, SSgt Bernie Temmen, T Pete Smith

Well Done!
The Daily Telegraph salver was won this year by 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. It is presented annually to the winners of the divisional team Slalom event
Only three of the team were there to receive the salver from Brig P. R. Duchesne due to postings, courses etc
Left to right: Cpl Peter Jones, LCpl Eric Farmer and Lt Steve Hunt

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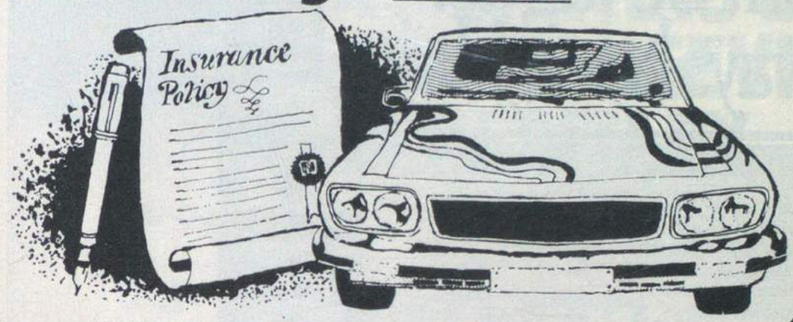

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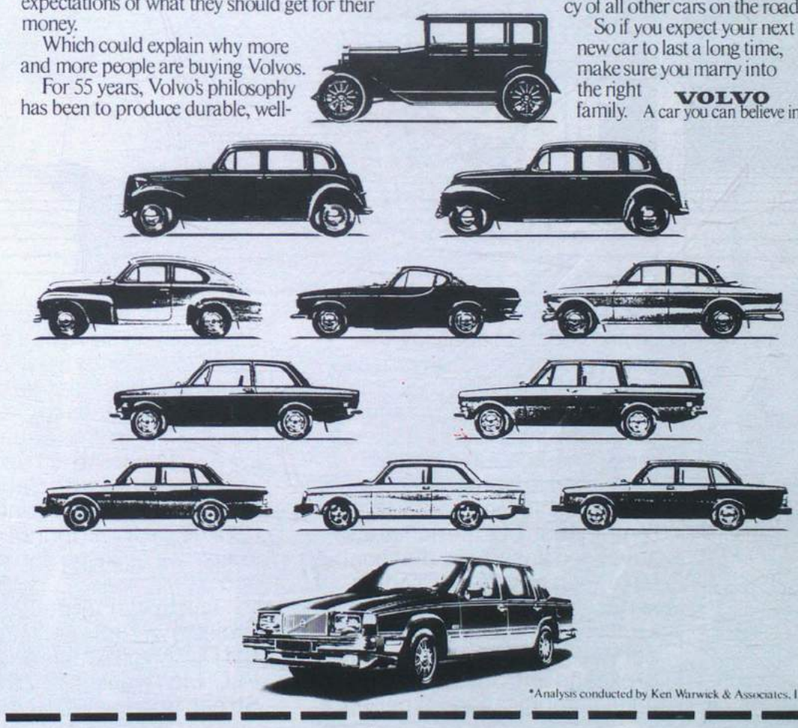

*Analysis conducted by Ken Warwick & Associates, Inc.

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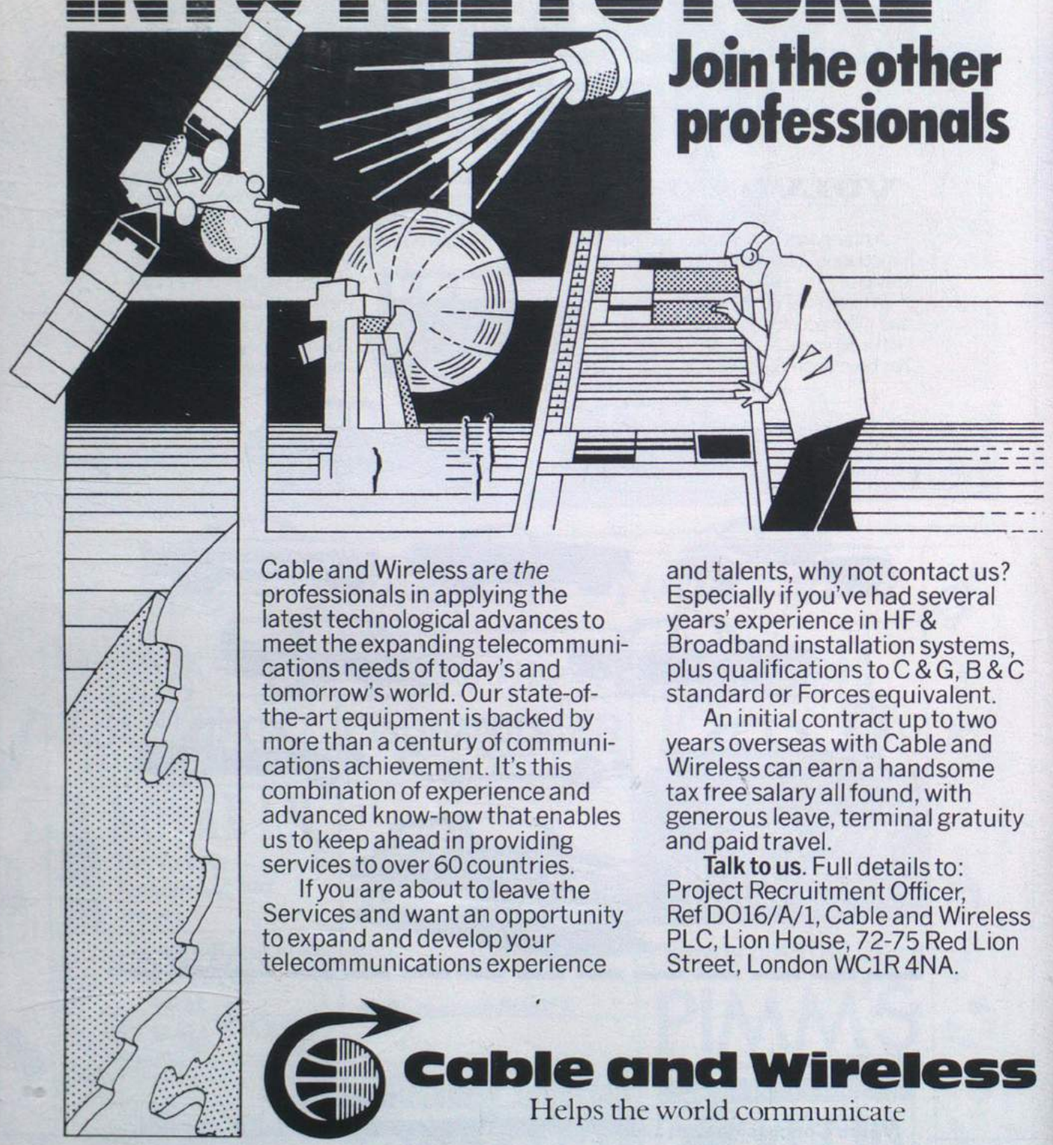

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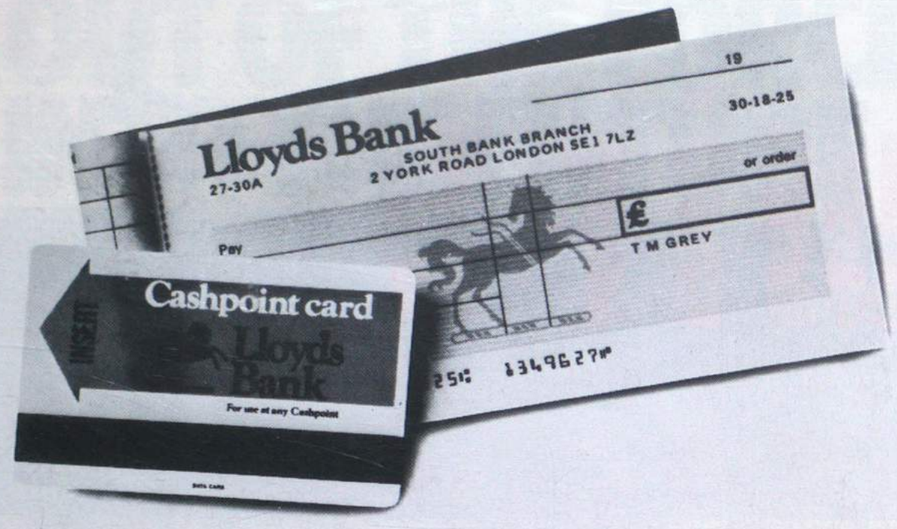
in conjunction with COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)

July 1983

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

Printed in Great Britain

THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
July 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No 4
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
Remittances should be made payable to:
Royal Signals Association

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

The Association's Membership—which, of course, includes the Serving Corps—was deeply honoured by the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief to the Catterick Reunion on Sunday 26 June. Our cover picture was taken at the traditional march past and shows a component of the Association Standards passing the saluting dais. A full report of this memorable day will be incorporated in the September issue.

(Photograph courtesy Army PR photographer Alex V. Wright)

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

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

OBE
Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson
Lt Col M. G. H. Wise

MBE
Capt (TOT) A. F. Dyer
Capt (TOT) W. A. Locke

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during June, for service in Northern Ireland between November 1982 and January 1983.

BEM

AWO2 R. Bradley
AWO2(Supvr R) J. D. Carr
AWO2(FofS) A. F. Cashen
AWO2 D. P. B. McLennan
ASSgt T. S. S. Haynes
ASSgt(FofS) C. M. Mitchell
Cpl(Local Sgt) L. R. Tulett

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN VISITS 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

THE INAUGURAL PARADE

On Monday 16 May **Her Majesty The Queen** honoured the Division by visiting Imphal Barracks, York, the home of the Regiment. Although **Her Majesty** had carried out an informal visit to the City of York after flying into Linton on Ouse, the highlight of the day was the Inaugural parade of the newly formed 2nd Infantry Division. The parade also celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Territorial Army, the latter, of course forms many of the divisional units.

PREPARATIONS

The parade itself was held on the 16th but the previous two days can only be described as the organised but hectic movements of soldiers, bands, chairs and stands and all the paraphernalia of a parade as the volumes of instructions and orders bore fruit. The initial requirement for a 20 man work party soon blossomed into a total bill for around 200! The most visible sign of all our hard work were the 12 stands placed on three sides of the square and the three covered stands for the 2nd Division Veterans and VIPs. Construction of the Royal Dais was, however left to the experts. The task of building the stands fell to **SSgt Andy Wilson** and **Cpl Joe Dunn** of COMMCEN Foxtrot. They learnt to their cost that the Royal Engineers went metric in the '70s and were seen adding 2" blocks of wood with 6" nails to the end of most of the seating planks. Their job was made very difficult by the constant heavy downpours which, as the day drew nearer and the ground grew softer, caused some worried frowns on the faces of the organising committee!

MONDAY 16 MAY

If you were not actually on the parade or involved in the many administrative and hosting duties then Imphal Barracks was a taboo area on 'the day'. The picture of the tents on the sports fields for the afternoon receptions by 15, 29 and 49 Brigades and the giant white marquees surrounded by potted plants standing rigid to attention in front of the Officers and Warrant Officers and Sergeants messes was illuminated by, thank goodness, glorious sunshine!

Already 2 Sqn, under initially the watchful eye of **Capt Dick Good** (who departed early to BAOR to greet the arrival of his new daughter—Congratulations), and then **Sgt Jock Rice**, had organised the control communications. Their job was to provide additional cover for the Military Police and organisers, and to help coordinate timings between the foot parade and drive past. In addition to the mundane but no less important tasks **Sig Mark Preece** successfully helped to deliver hundreds of pounds worth of potted plants to the Royal Stand and tents.

HER MAJESTY ARRIVES

After walking through the streets of York, with the **Lord Mayor, The Queen** drove to a Reception at the Divisional Headquarters Officers Mess at which **Gen Frank Kitson, Lt Gen Martin Farndale,** both ex-GOC's of the Division, and our current GOC—**Maj Gen Patrick Palmer** were present. **The Queen** then met other senior officers of the Division and Commanding Officers, including our own CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor** and his wife **Mary**.

Sgt Bird and the Barrack Guard present arms as Her Majesty enters the camp

THE PARADE

Just prior to 2 o'clock the Dressed bands of the Division marched on with the 12 Colour guards and, as the **Queen's** car swung through the front gate **Sgt John Leighton** unfurled the Royal Standard and the Barrack Guard, under the tutelage of **WO2 (SSM) Ray Georgeson** and command of **Sgt Dickie Bird**, presented arms. While the Colour Guards had been forming up some 30 Signallers of **2 Sqn** , under direction of **SSgt 'JJ' Thompson**, had moved to the perimeter of the square to act as groundkeepers, while **LCpls Jiff Brogan** and **Bambi Bamber** stood as saluting markers to the sides of the Royal dais.

MARCH PAST, DRIVE PAST AND FLY PAST

The parade comprised an inspection of the colour guards, followed by a march past, a drive past and, bang on time, a fly past of Gazelles, Puma's, Lynx and Chinook, plus Harriers. The drive past, which started with the Foxes of the Yeomanry, and ended with some impressive Sapper plant, also included 2 Triffids from 1 Sqn driven by **Cpl Mick Licence** and **Cpl David Smith**. The parade was one of the largest the North of England has seen for many years and attracted several thousand spectators. It featured very strongly in the local and national press, and on television.

Cpl Mick Licence and Cpl David Smith correct their dressing

A PROUD DAY

After the parade the **Queen** met many veterans of the Division and dedicated a plaque outside the Headquarters, the plaque was flanked by **Cpl Mark Alexander** and **Sig Mark Dickinson.** After reviewing the Divisions veterans **Her Majesty** went on to the various parties at which members of the Regiment attended and several had the honour to be presented; those who attended were: **Maj Maurice** and **Christine Davies, Maj Ruairidh Rutherford, Maj Ashley** and **Jenny Truluck, Maj Gen** and **Joanna Higson, Maj Jim** and **Pat Thornton, Capt John** and **Lynn MacDonald, WO2 Frank** and **Gloria Running, Sgt Gerry** and **Dawn Knight, Cpl David** and **Sandra Yates, Sig Les** and **Lorraine Robinson,** and **Sgt** and **Mrs Walker** of 210 Sig Sqn; **Her Majesty** departed, almost on time, to a rousing send off by the massed bands, the Barrack Guard and cheers of all those present in the barracks. It had been a proud day for the Regiment and a fitting celebration to mark the Divisions return to the United Kingdom after 40 years.

The CRA presenting Cpl Yates, Sgt Knight and Capt John MacDonald with their wives to Her Majesty

VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE TO QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS 30 APRIL 1983

WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM

Queen's Gurkha Signals is proud of its affiliation with The Royal Corps of Signals and so it was a double honour for the Regiment to receive the **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne,** during her four day visit to Hong Kong at the end of April 1983. Royal visits to the Regiment are few and so it was with great enthusiasm that in February the planning and preparations began. The visit was to start at the Regiment's home at Sek Kong on 30 April. With the early morning preparations and the final touches complete, an atmosphere of expectancy overcame everyone as they waited for the Wessex helicopter of the Royal Flight. The morning was rather cool with a hint of rain in the air but the Pandit's (Gurkha Priests) prayers were answered and it remained dry, becoming warmer during the day.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

A hush descended over all as the unmistakable sound of a Wessex helicopter filled the air as it made its approach to the landing site, to land promptly at 1015 hrs. **The Princess** wearing a blue and black dress, with matching hat was received by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE,** The Colonel Queen's Gurkha Signals, **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge CB,** the Regimental Secretary **Col J. A. D. Francis,** the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals **Lt Col M. J. Lance,** the Gurkha Major, **Maj(QGO) Shyamlal Gurung MVO** and HRH's ADC **Lt I. W. Mackenzie.**

HRH was escorted to the Commissioning Ceremony and here the Regimental Second in Command, **Maj R. F. Willsher** was presented. Those being commissioned were watched by their families, friends, members of the Regiment and guests. It was a proud moment for **Lt(QGO) Narain Rai, Lt(QGO) Madankumar Gurung** and **Lt(QGO) Narbahadur Gurung** as they were appointed Queen's Gurkha Officers by **Her Royal Highness** and then presented with their wives by **Maj S. M. A. Lee,** OC Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn.

Lts(QGO) Narain Rai, Madankumar Gurung and Narbahadur Gurung after being commissioned by HRH

Lt Col M. J. Lance is presented to HRH at the start of the visit with Maj Gen Badcock, Maj Gen Sturge, Col Francis and Maj (QGO) Shyamlal Gurung looking on

THE CHILDREN

After viewing a static display depicting various aspects of the Regiment's role in Hong Kong, **HRH** was presented to **Maj R. A. L. Anderson,** OC Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn and British Warrant Officers, NCOs and their wives in the No 1 Pavilion. **HRH** spoke to the majority of those present and put everyone at ease with her relaxed, charming manner. From the Pavilion schoolchildren from the Sek Kong and Gurkha High Schools lined the route as **HRH** made her way up to the Queen's Gurkha Signals Officers Mess, the children were excited and happy as **HRH** stopped to speak to them. It did not take long before **HRH** had an arm full of flowers given to her by the children.

SSgt Ray Cartwright briefs HRH on the climbing abilities of Cpl Satyanarayan Gurung one of our local antenna riggers

HRH is introduced to the recruiting methods of the Bde of Gurkhas. Sig Tikaram Limbu as he would be at home and 536 Sig Hari Rai on his first day of selection

WO1(GSM) Hannagan and his wife and WO1(RSM) Prembahadur Pun and his wife are presented to HRH prior to lunch

The Schoolchildren

Leaving the WOs and Sgts Mess after a Nepali lunch

COLOURFUL

In the Officers Mess, the PMC, **Maj F. R. Fletcher,** was presented along with other officers of the Regiment and their wives. Lunch was taken in the Queen's Gurkha Signals Sergeants Mess, and consisted of a traditional Nepali Bhat. **HRH** was received by **WO1(RSM) Prembahadur Pun** and **WO1(GSM) R. Hannagan** who were presented to **HRH** with their wives, by the Commander. The RSM then presented small groups of Gurkha and British members and their wives during pre-luncheon drinks. This was a very colourful affair with the wives in their multi coloured saris and their husbands in No 6 Dress set against the lush green backdrop of the Mess garden. On leaving the Mess for the final event of the day, **HRH** was invited to sign the visitors book.

THE MELA

A significant and attractive component of the programme was the Mela where **HRH** was shown a typical Nepalese workshop, a gold and silversmith at work, a Nepali house, and a group of Gurkha wives making traditional woven and knitted goods. The setting to all this would not have been complete without the background of Nepalese music and dancing, and children enjoying themselves on a Nepalese swing (Linge Ping) and Rote Ping specially constructed for the occasion.

Before leaving the Regiment, the Gurkha Major said a few words of farewell and presented **HRH** with a farewell gift of a Nepali Puchai, a wooden rum jar adorned with silver.

Maj R. F. Willsher accompanies HRH around the Regimental Mela. The house in the background had been built by QG Signals basic trainees

Mrs Shyamlal Gurung presents a Pul Mala (Garland) to HRH at the end of the visit

LETTERS EXCHANGED

The following is the text of letters exchanged after the most memorable visit

From the Lady-in-Waiting to HRH The Princess Anne, to the Commander, Queen's Gurkha Signals, 1st May

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne has asked me to thank you most warmly for your kindness and hospitality when she visited the Regiment at Sek Kong. Her Royal Highness wishes to say how much she enjoyed the daytime programme at Borneo Lines and the Dinner in the evening. I am also to express the Princess's warm thanks for the rum jar with which she was presented and which will remind her of a most happy occasion.

From the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals to the Lady-in-Waiting, 6th May

Thank you for your kind letter of 1st May 1983. It was a great honour for the regiment to be visited by Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne and it was an occasion which will be remembered by the regiment with great pleasure. I should be grateful if you could convey to Her Royal Highness our gratitude for visiting us.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

ITS PURPOSE is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

WE ADVISE on the use of savings from income, the investment of capital, the use of other assets where applicable, insurance against ill health and the insurance of possessions. We help clients to lay the foundations of sound plans, to develop existing plans and keep them up to date, and then to make the best use of resources when the time comes to meet commitments.

GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 35 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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– From our "In" Tray –

'DIRECTORATE FAREWELL' FOR SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF

Report by Valda Hood

Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, the retiring Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), was bade farewell by the Staff of his Directorate on Friday 10 June.

The form of the 'Directorate farewell' was an unusual one. A Thames River Boat, the MV *Naticia* had been hired for the occasion. By 12.15pm, some 150 members of the Directorate and their wives were aboard and poised to welcome **General** and **Mrs Birtwistle** who were piped aboard in Naval style, by a Seaman from HMS *President*.

MV *Naticia* proceeded on a 2½ hour voyage down the River Thames during which lunch was served and all aboard had an opportunity to say their personal farewells to **General** and **Mrs Birtwistle.** Members of the Band of the Royal Signals played suitable music and the whole occasion was recorded on video tape by a team from the School of Signals.

The party included several officers and their wives from further afield who had served with **General Birtwistle** over the years. At the conclusion of the party, **Brigadier J. Westlake,** the Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), made a formal presentation to **General** and **Mrs Birtwistle,** on behalf of the Directorate.

Finally, Charing Cross Pier, being the 'port of disembarkation', allowed a prompt return to the office, where 'In Trays' had not been idle, for all members of the Signals Directorate!

Photographs can be obtained from:

Valda Hood

3 Werston Close		c/o The Studio
Barnards Green	**or**	14 Schlosserstrasse
Malvern. Worcs.		4900 Herford
UK		W. Germany

Photo: Valda

After the presentation L—R Brig J. Westlake, Lt Col G. Mackay, Mrs Sylvia Birtwistle and Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle

HISTORY OF THE CORPS AT PARK STREET, CARDIFF

Report by Lt G. H. Jones WRAC (V)
37th (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment (V)

TRADITIONS

Cardiff, the capital City of Wales is home to many Welsh Traditions—the elegant City Hall in the Civic Centre, in which every well known male voice choir has sung, the Castle originally a Roman fort, and re-built by the Normans—to keep out the hordes of 'wild Welshmen' and of course, the mecca of all rugby players and supporters—the 'Arms Park', which has been the scene of hundreds of superb games—and where the sound of 40,000 Welshmen singing—win or lose—never fails to send shivers along your spine.

JUSTLY PROUD

There is another piece of Cardiff's history of which we are justly proud. Under the Shadow of the new South stand of the National Stadium (Arms Park) and hidden behind the Wales Empire Pool (built for the 1954 Empire Games) is the Territorial Army Centre, Park Street, which has been the home for many years of the Royal Signals. It is the base of 53 (Welsh) Signal Squadron (V), the Welsh Squadron of 37 (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment (V) who have their headquarters at Bristol.

REGULATIONS OF 1887

The Squadrons volunteers are drawn from Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, Brecon and the surrounding valleys and it is these volunteers that maintain the long tradition of the Signals at Park Street. The Volunteer Regulations of 1887 stipulated that a special Capitation grant would be paid for Officers of the Volunteer Force possessing a Certificate in Signalling. This regulation, in due course resulted in the formation of Volunteer Brigade Signal Companies commanded by Officers holding the qualification. The methods of communication in use were visual, ie, semaphore and heliograph, but when Line telegraphy and Wireless Telegraphy became more commonplace, the technical expertise emanated, not from the Volunteer Brigade Signal Companies, but from the successors to the Submarine Mining Companies of the Royal Engineers Volunteers. The main role of the Submarine Miners was the Defence of Harbours and Ports, electrical detonation of submerged mines being one of the defence methods in which they specialised.

In South Wales this task was the responsibility of the Cardiff based Severn Submarine Miners, RE (Volunteers) which in 1896 were a familiar sight in Cardiff military circles.

LINK WITH MARCONI

It is interesting to note that as a result of the 1860 Parliamentary Committee on Coastal Defence for the River Severn, forts were built at Flat Holm and Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel (approx ¾ miles off the Lavernock Point, Cardiff). The remains of the original barracks for the 50 officers and men still stand on Flat Holm, although in poor repair. It was from here on 11 May 1897 that Marconi made his first radio broacast, in morse, to Lavernock Point—an auspicious occasion for the watching volunteers!

THE ORIGINS

By 1908, this unit had progressed to an even more technical role, and was listed as the Severn Division Electrical Engineer, RE (Volunteers), which unit gave birth to two separate Engineer units upon the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908. One of these units was the Welsh Divisional Telegraph Company, Royal Engineers (TF) and it is from this unit and its Submarine Mining predecessors that the origins of the present Welsh Signal Squadron are to be found.

LONGSTANDING TITLE

In 1914, the unit was redesignated as the 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals (TF) which title, apart from the change to (TA) in 1920, remained unchanged until 1947.

NOTABLE SERVICE RECORDED

The Company saw service in Gallipoli, Salonika and Egypt during World War I. In 1920, on the formation of The Royal Corps of Signals (28th June) its links with the Engineers were severed and it became part of the new Signals Corps. Park Street was built in 1912, one mile from the docks, near the main rail head and in the middle of a heavily populated working class area—it was ideally situated for ease of access and recruitment. One of the first volunteers in 1908 who attended its first annual camp was a young trumpeter **Wiliam S. Catleugh.** The strength at that camp was 44 Offr & ORs and 8 horses. It was the first Telegraph Company in the Kingdom to be recognised by the War Office under the Territorial Force Act (1908). **Maj (QM) Catleugh** (as he eventually became) served through the Great War with the 53rd Division. He was still serving with the TA at the outbreak of the Second War in 1939. On his retirement he presented the Officers Mess at Park Street with his cabinet containing his extensive collection of cap badges. Inscribed on a small silver plaque on the cabinet is the motto of the 53rd—'Keep the flag flying'. It was on the death of **Maj Catleugh** in 1953 however that the Park Street Mess came into possession of many of his interesting collections of militaria. A photograph album of **Maj Catleugh's (the Lt)** travels during the Great War (known as the Mesopotamia Diary). His collection of military cigarette cards, medal ribbons, divisional signs—all leather bound and now collectors items, together with a bookcase containing many valuable sets of books and manuals.

ALTERED LITTLE

Park Street itself has altered very little, the outside facade remains the same. The small block on the left after you walk through the main archway (now the SQMS stores with offices and morse training room above) was originally the stables with the leather and equipment rooms on top. The tethering rings are still on the inside wall and the remains of a further 30 on the outside facade. The garage held the horse drawn line laying equipment with the haylofts above. Between the Wars the area around Park Street began to alter. Streets were cleared away and in their place the GPO sorting office was extended to house the installers of the Post Office Engineers. This was, as it is to this day, an important source of recruitment into the Signals.

EXPANSION

In 1939 the strength of the TA was doubled and a duplicate unit known as 38th Welsh Divisional Signals was formed. During World War 2, the 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals saw service in various parts of the United Kingdom, details of which are included in thr 53rd Welsh Division History. On 27 June 1944, the unit landed in Normandy and were present with the 53rd during all the major battles from Falaise to Hamburg.

REFORMED

In 1947 on the reforming of the TA the unit was redesignated as the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Signals with the HQ still at Park Street. AGRA (Newport) were absorbed into its ranks in 1949 becoming No 2 Sqn of the Regiment. The following year (1950) a third Squadron was raised at Wolverhampton which remained with the Regiment until 1957. It was probably during this period that it became a mixed unit when it absorbed the WRAC elements of 603 HAA Regiment and 88 Tp of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport.

REORGANISATION

On the reorganisation in 1961 it became 53 (Welsh) Sig Regt absorbing No 2 Sqn 58 Sig Regt which had units in Wrexham and other parts of North Wales. Two more Squadrons were raised, 344 Sqn at Newport and 345 Sqn at Swansea—thereby covering the whole of Wales. By the Succession Warrant 1967, the 53 (Welsh) Sig Regt became, by unification with its Wessex counterpart, 37th (Wessex & Welsh) Sig Regt (V) as part of the newly formed T&AVR.

In this large reorganisation and streamlining of the TA, many units were disbanded or absorbed in to newly raised formations. The Signals were fortunate to be able to remain at Park Street. Although losing the Squadrons at Newport, Swansea and the links with North Wales most of the volunteers were able to be absorbed into the newly formed Squadron.

With all the changes within Wales only the Royal Signals were able to retain the Welsh identity in their title—53. Because of this, the Officers Mess at Park Street, were fortunate to be given on permanent loan, by the late **Col Duncan,** a superb collection of rare and valuable badges (shako, helment, shoulder, lapel etc) which are mounted in 5 cases. These are to be kept by the Squadron, as long as they retain the historical—53—in their title. It is most unfortunate that the records of Park Street and the Signals were completely destroyed in floods which affected Cardiff in the 1960's and 70's. We have no record of past Commanding Officers and Honorary Colonels (prior to 1967)—except from the names on various pieces of presentation Silver and faded photographs. I am indebted to **Mr Bryn Owen,** the curator of the Welsh Regiment Museum, who is currently trying to piece together the history of the Territorial Army in Glamorgan, for much of my information.

96th ANNIVERSARY

The TA celebrates its 75th Anniversary this Year. The Royal Signals at Park Street can, however, trace their beginnings back a further 21 years to 1887. Whilst the future of Park Street itself is uncertain the Signal Squadron is gaining strength, it is better equipped and better trained to meet the present demand in military communcications than ever before. Whatever the future holds there is no doubt that, mindful of its past heritage, the present day Signal Volunteers will ensure that they will always 'Keep the Flag Flying'.

OUR PREDECESSORS OF 53 SIG SQN AT THE FIRST ANNUAL CAMP 1908

Those shown in this photograph who were present in Camp 1938—thirty years after—and who were still serving on January 1st 1939 are:-

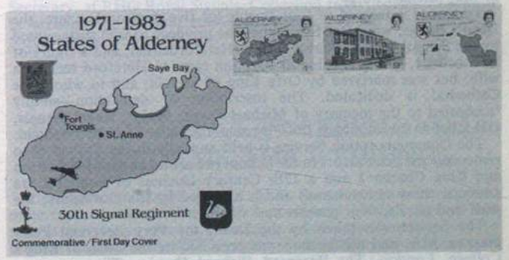
Maj (QM)WS Catleugh TD, (Trumpeter in front row)
CSM TW Forse (4th from right in back row)
RQMS F. J. Greedy who does not appear in the group, was present at the 1908 and 1938 Camps and was serving as above.

Fourteen of the group were serving at, or rejoined, immediately after outbreak of War in 1914, and seven served with the Unit overseas during the Great War, 1914-1918. The remaining seven were transferred to the 3/1st Divisional Signals R.E.(T).

The Officers were **Capt T. Austin Issac** (afterwards Major, OBE, TD), Commanding 53rd (W) Div Signals RE(T) and **2Lt. W. Arnold** (later Major, Commanding 68th (W) Div Signals RE(T) the 2/1st Welsh).

The strength in Camp in 1908 was: 44 Officers & ORs and 8 horses.

ISLAND OF ALDERNEY – POSTAGE STAMP ISSUE



We are glad to illustrate the first day cover, depicting 30 Signal Regiment's close association with the Island of Alderney.

1200 copies of the short set (1p, 9p and 15p) were produced, and are on sale for **£1.** There are 200 sets of the complete issue (4 envelopes of 3 stamps - **1p, 4p, 9p, 10p, 11p, 12p, 13p, 14p, 15p, 16p, 17p, 18p)** which are available for **£4.** Orders should be made to PRI 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RP, tel Blandford Mil 401. Cheques should be made payable to PRI 30th Signal Regiment.

THE FALKLANDS WAR MEMORIAL

The sculpture of the two eight foot Signalmen in Catterick Camp is well known to those who serve or have served in Royal Signals. This work, which was unveiled by **Her Majesty The Queen** in 1975, was carried out by the sculptor **Faith Winter** (wife of **Col F. M. S. Winter MBE (1941-73)**). Five of her works were on show at the International Centre for Contemporary Art in Paris in January this year and her recent commissions have included portrait heads of H. E. Daniel Arap Moi, the President of Kenya, and the late Kamal Jumblatt the Lebanese Political leader.

Faith was chosen to sculpt the ten by four foot relief showing the liberation of the Falkland Island by land, sea and air. This relief, together with the figure of Britannia and the plaques bearing the names of those killed in the campaign, forms the Falkland Islands War Memorial. It will be of great significance to those who served in the Falklands and to the relatives of those who gave their lives in the campaign. The wording on the plinth is 'In memory of those who liberated us 14 June 1982'.

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR MICHAEL FORGE

From: The Headmaster

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing photographs of the Mace which was dedicated to the memory of **Maj Michael Forge** at our Commemoration Service on Saturday 26 March.

The idea for a Mace for the head of School to carry in School processions in the Cathedral grew out of an anonymous benefaction made some two years ago. I commissioned **Dr Alan Johansson** a local General Practitioner, who is a silversmith in his spare time to make the mace and the design grew out of our discussions. As you can see it is fairly elaborate and entailed hours of patient work, hence the lapse of time before it was completed. By the time it was ready the Falklands conflict had come and gone and it seemed entirely appropriate and right to us that we should dedicate it to the memory of **Maj Michael Forge.**

The mace is formed of four shields (or five chevronels azure, the Dean's Badge, which the School has the privilege to use) surmounted by the School Motto (Floreat Schola Herefordensis), and a figure of St Ethelbert, who according to tradition came to Hereford seeking a wife, but was martyred by Offa King of Mercia, and to whom the Cathedral is dedicated. The inscription of dedication—simply 'dedicated to the memory of **Michael Forge, Major, Royal Signals, OH** killed in the Falklands 1982' is round the collar beneath the shield.

The Commemoration Service is held annually in the Cathedral to remember the benefactors to the School (we are an ancient foundation and King Charles I and a 17th Century Duchess of Somerset are amongst those remembered) and is attended by the Governors, the staff and pupils, their parents and visitors.

The Service was taken by the Dean, the **Very Reverend Peter Haynes, MA,** and the Sermon was preached by the Dean of King's College, London, **The Reverend Richard Harries.** The mace was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Hereford, the **Right Reverend John Eastaugh.**

Yours sincerely,
Barry Sutton

The Cathedral School,
Old College,
29 Castle Street,
Hereford HR1 2NN
Telephone (0432) 273757

PRESENTATION TO THE CORPS BY ST HELENA

Elsewhere in this issue is an interesting contribution on the St Helena telephone system recently installed by Projects Division. To mark the appreciation of the people of St Helena, **Mr Eric George JP,** Superintendent Electricity and Telephones St Helena, presented to the Corps on Friday 6 May, an inscribed marquetry cigar box.

The photograph shows SOinC accepting the gift from **Mr George—Lt Col Brian O'Connor,** OC Projects Division looks on with Colonel Engineering, **Col Micky Topple,** just discernible.

The ceremony, in the Corps Room at HQ Mess, marked a fitting climax to an unusual task, professionally carried out, and the Corps has every reason to be proud of the men who took part. They were **WO1 (FofS) Murphy, Sgts Geoff Dawson, Mark Eaton, Steve Graham, Dave Kirkpatrick, Barry Sewell, Cpl Graham Tilley** and **Sgt Steve Hilton,** the author of the St Helena article.

FORTY YEARS ON

Our photograph shows Commander Communications BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild,** taking a congratulatory drink with **Maj Noel Clark** who has just completed 40 years service.

It was in 1943 that **Noel** enlisted as an apprentice tradesman in the Boys Training Company in Catterick Camp Yorkshire. His service has taken him to Singapore, Cyprus, Malaya, Germany, Berlin and the United Kingdom. **Maj Clark** trained as an Operator Wireless and Line and in 1962 qualified as a Yeoman of Signals. He was commissioned in 1966 and currently, as a Traffic Officer, is the Staff Officer Live Oak based at Joint Headquarters Rheindahlen.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28TH JUNE

The Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** sent the following message to our Colonel-in-Chief.

'As we prepare to celebrate "Princess Royal Day" on 28th June, the Master of Signals and all ranks of Royal Signals, serving and retired send their warm and affectionate greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief, and look forward with special pleasure to her presence at their Old Comrades Reunion in Catterick.'

The following reply was received from our Colonel-in-Chief.

'I was delighted to receive your kind message of loyal greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day and would ask that you convey my best wishes to all members of my Corps wherever they are serving. I very much look forward to attending the Royal Signals Association Reunion on 26th June at Catterick.'

ANNE
COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The following telegram was received from Australia.

'The Director of Communications and all ranks serving and retired of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals extend congratulations and best wishes on your celebration of Princess Royal Day on 28th June. The co-operation and close association between our Corps continues to strengthen as we think of you.'

The Master of Signals replied,

'For Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Australian Corps of Signals and Director of Communciations from Master of Signals. Your kind congratulations and generous thoughts are received with pleasure by all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals on Princess Royal Day.'

NEW ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS COLONEL COMMANDANT

The Colonel Commandant Royal Australian Signals, appointed for 1983 is **Col J. H. Marsh MBE RL.**

The Master of Signals, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CM MBE DL has sent his personal congratulations to **Col Marsh.**

CORPS SILVER AVAILABLE ON LOAN

The headquarters Officers Mess has now made special transit boxes for several cups and centrepieces—the more robust ones—which are available on temporary loan to officers messes in the UK for special occasions.

Requests should be made to **Col J. A. D. Francis,** Regimental Secretary, at RHQ Royal Signals. Collection from the HQ Mess must be arranged by the unit concerned. Please give advanced notice of requirements.

LOAN OF OFFICERS' CEREMONIAL DRESS ITEMS, FOR WEDDINGS

The Regimental Secretary **Col J. A. D. Francis** controls a small pool of ceremonial items of dress such as cross belts, shoulder boards and swords etc. These items are available to officers who may wish to borrow them for their wedding, or for some other special occasion.

THE WHITE HELMETS—OPENING SHOW 22 APRIL

After four long hard months of training everything was ready for the start of the 1983 Season—our 56th year of display riding. The performance took place on the hallowed parade ground in Helles Barracks, 11 Sig Regt, and needless to say, the weather was typically North Yorkshire but luckily the rain held off until the end of the performance. A large crowd consisting of soldiers, their families and some local school children watched the Commander Catterick Garrison, **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE** present White Helmets to the new team members. Before inspecting the team, **Brig Sprackling** was invited to present the Luca Trophy to **Sig Andy Whitmore,** this years most promising newcomer. **Sig Whitmore** joined the team in November 1982 from 21 Sig Regt and was very proud to have his parents **Mr and Mrs Len Whitmore** watch the display. **Mr Len Whitmore** was a White Helmet himself in 1949 when serving in Egypt and was very pleased to see his son following in his footsteps.

Sig Whitmore had the following to say. 'It was a great feeling when the 3 Bike Fan went into the arena knowing that we were all going to be presented with our White Helmets at long last. I was a little scared that my dad was in the crowd, being an ex team member himself, he was watching with a very critical eye but even he was impressed! I'm now looking forward to the rest of the show season and a week in Jersey later in the year'.

Presentation of White Helmets by Commander Catterick Garrison, Brig I. O. J. Sprackling to LCpl Dave Taylor, Sig Ned Kelly, Georgie Carrick and Andy Whitmore

Sig Andy Whitmore looking a little apprehensive on top of the 'standing trick'

If you are interested in joining the White Helmets, our next selection course will be held 7—18 November, 1983, apply to your OC now and write to OC White Helmets, Helles Barracks, North Yorkshire.

ENGAGEMENTS—AUGUST—OCTOBER 1983

AUGUST
The Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo
Cromer Carnival
Amner Park Show
The Royal Jersey Agricultural Show
Expo Steam Fair

SEPTEMBER
South Norfolk Tattoo
Preston Park Leisure Fair
Telford Super Saturday
Bromsgrove Summer Fayre
HMS *Vernon* Searchlight Tattoo
Joint Services Open Day

OCTOBER
6 Day Enduro Opening Ceremony

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Royal Signals glider pilots, qualified or under training, should forward their individual claims for grants from the Corps Games Fund for the period December 1982 to November 1983 NOT later than 1 November 1983 to:

Maj R. W. Stark Royal Signals
Secretary Royal Signals Gliding
Joint Force Signal Staff
Headquarters
British Forces Falkland Islands
BFPO 666

The following details are required:-

- Flying fees paid in the period (NO other expenses) less any sum received from other sources in this respect.
- Number of launches in 1983 and total launches.
- Cross-country kms flown in 1983.
- Results of competitions or badge attempts.
- Qualifications held.
- Full address of claimant including Regimental Number.
- Details of UK bank and account where cheque is to be paid.

Do not be deterred from claiming because you have only just started gliding. All members of Royal Signals and WRAC serving with Royal Signals are eligible.

ARMY AIR CORPS DAY 1 SEPTEMBER

On 1 Sep 82 there was a 25th Anniversary reunion at the Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, attended by many ex Army aviation and aircraft engineers, including those from other regiments and corps who had served in Army Air Corps units. The event was much enjoyed and it has been decided to hold a similar 'Army Air Corps Day' on 1 Sep each year, which all will be welcome to attend.

This year we intend to:-

- Open the station to families in the morning.
- Hold a short commemorative service at our memorial, starting 1130 hrs.
- Hold reunion buffet lunches in the Officers and Sergeants Messes.

Anyone wishing to attend the buffet lunch should contact the Mess concerned.

- Officers Mess—£6.50 each.
- Sergeants Mess—£3.00 each.

CAN YOU HELP?

From: Michael J. Kelly, Esq.

Dear Sir,

George Arnold Wilkinson
No 02601945

The above-named presently holds the position of Manager at Barclays Bank International Limited, Wolverhampton, and retires from the bank's service on the 20th December, 1983.

To mark the occasion of his retirement, I am endeavouring to organise an event based on the theme of 'This is Your Life' and the purpose of my letter is to enquire whether you can assist.

I am told that **Mr Wilkinson** was a Corporal in the Royal Signals sometime between 1939 and possibly up to 1947, and during this period served in Egypt.

Through your Association is it possible to trace any of his colleagues with whom he would have served during this time, perhaps through your 'Where are you now?' column, and if it is could you request that they get in touch with me at my home address or telephone (0562) 4172 after 6.00pm.

Yours faithfully,
Michael J. Kelly

34 Ludgate Avenue,
Hillcrest
Kidderminster
Worcs DY11 6JP

AN OLD SWEAT—'39—61'—PART TWO ESCAPE FROM A PRISON CAMP '39

From: Ex.WO2 Bert Howell

Way back in '82 I went on my bended knees imploring the Editor of *The Wire* to allow me to publish a series relating to my 22yrs experience in the Corps, and in no way was it to 'blow my own trumpet' but to give encouragement to those, who, like myself, suffered the slings and arrows of misfortune—and to grin and persevere. It makes men out of boys! just being in the services.

I did promise that when I retired, I would be able to sit down and assemble my thoughts more methodically, and get my dear wife to vet my grammar, and to submit articles which did not offend the more educated, and up to the high standard of *The Wire*. Well, I have just retired—so better things to come!

I have not been impressed with my standard thus far, and that I have interpolated my series with asides about visits to Norway, and the Blandford Reunion, and of course my nostalgic recollections of New Year '82/83. Forgive me! but all in good time, there is a long way to go to Burma, Hong Kong, Singapore etc.

So, I must press on with my 22yrs—when we were in the Inniskilling huts at Le Cateau Lines in '39. Up at 0600hrs, cold water wash and shave, up to the 'punishment' block—the gymnasium! and back on to the square for another days gruelling drill. Lights out at 2130hrs and that was it. Not for nothing was it called a 'prison camp' in the nicest possible terms. Sorry! real prison camps come later in my tale—even though I was not an incumbent.

'Barney' and I decided that we would go under 'the wire' and escaped to Richmond. There we met two very friendly females who made us very welcome. Returning about midnight we crept into our Hut No 22 (?) and found our beds and bedding had been removed. We really set about all the bodies laying around pretending to be away with their dreams, which resulted in the Guard Commander bursting in upon us, to finally come across myself with my boots on in bed! He was not at all pleased when the bucket of cold water descended upon him as he entered. Next day we were all paraded in front of one **Lt Trapmore** and informed we would all be on 'iron discipline' for a week. This meant, that wherever we were between 0630hrs and 2100hrs we had to parade in front of the guard room every half hour. Without any question the whole squad took this in good stride, laughing and joking, and without any kind of recrimination against the two offenders who had gone under the wire for a night out. This is what 'espirit de corps' was all about. The first rudiments of our Corps! After the week was over we were again paraded in front of our **Lt Trapmore** and I always remember his words to us, 'well, lads, you did not let me down, I told the CO you could take it, if given chance to prove your worth—but do not do it again—next time you get the chop—and I mean it—"out of Signals" '

There was no way any of us would have contemplated that . . .

Next episode 'War breaks out'.

An old sweat
'AOS'

LOOKING BACK

From: Mr N. H. Morton

Dear Sir,

I had a copy of the 'Wire' for January passed on to me, and the article by **Ex WO2 Bert Howell** certainly stirred my memory buds. At the time he writes about arriving at Catterick, I was waiting to move to 4th DIV SIGNALS at Canterbury. The **Lt Trapmore** he writes about was TMO 5th DIV SIGNALS in Le Cateau Lines next door to the Inniskilling Fusiliers who were in Mons Lines. I used to go down to **Lt Trapmore's** house everyday, to potter about in his garden until my posting came through. I had of course completed my initial training etc.

Lt Trapmore certainly was large, with fists to match and a grand chap. He had a sideboard full of sporting trophies of every kind. I met him again during the war, about 1943 I think, he was a Lt Col, commanding Signals in Baghdad.

I wonder if **Bert Howell** remembers **Cpl Justice** in the company office? I remember one recruit thought Justice was his job, and dished the CB out. If I recall rightly the said **Cpl Justice** achieved fame by trying to climb a tree between Catterick and Darlington on a motor cycle. I met him later during the war, he was a CSM.

Another character was the Corporal of Regimental Police, who was also Gas instructor. His name I can't recall, but he was known as **'Phosgene'.**

I have one small page in my Army history which I kept very quite, at the time. Whilst at **Lt Trapmore's** house, his young daughter shanghaied me into going and picking bluebells in a small wood at the bottom of the garden; that would have caused some ribald laughter, me being supposedly a bit of a hard case.

One other point of interest, on reading of the death of Col Bassett it reminded me of a paper on regimental history we had to do for an education certificate. One question was 'Who was Cpl Bassett?' and to write an article about him.

I hope I haven't bored you, I could go on for ages. Excuse the writing but they used to tell you Radio operating ruins your handwriting.

I have just returned from the yearly pilgrimage to Dunkirk with the Veterans' Association. In the military cemetery the names are listed on tablets by Regiments. I was proud to read the list of Royal Signals personnel who are buried there. Best of good wishes to you and your staff.

PS. Please don't blackmail me about the bluebells!

Yours sincerely
N. H. Morton
ex Sgt Royal Signals

23 Collum Avenue,
Scunthorpe,
South Humberside DN16 2HE

ARMY BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY (ABWS)

Membership of the ABWS is open to any serving and ex-service member of the Army, to civilians employed by the Army, and to members of their families. Members of the TA are particularly welcome. It maintains representatives worldwide and within the counties of Britain and on most training areas where it makes a significant contribution to conservation programmes. The Society produces a quarterly bulletin and an annual journal which contains articles on a wide variety of ornithological subjects of interest to the serviceman. It also has a large selection of books, journals, slides and tapes that are available for loan to members. If you are interested write to:

The Secretary, Army Bird Watching Society, Defence Lands 3, MOD Tolworth Tower, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7DR.

— Movements —

Officers

MARCH 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj D. S. McK McLuckie	HQ Northern Ireland

JUNE 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj R. F. A. Axton	Def ADP Trg Centre
Maj M. C. Barrett	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Briggs	HQ BAOR
Maj G. G. Campbell	MOD DSS(A)
Maj M. J. Cartwright	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col (QM) B. Cleaver	Scarborough STC
Capt (Tfc Offr) A. B. Cooper	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj R. G. Drake	22 Sig Regt
ACapt K. J. Durwood	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Capt J. K. Ewbank	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj T. G. B. Fish	SANGCOM
Maj D. P. Howshall	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. B. Ingram	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. R. Lawrence	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Lowe	DEF SALES ORG(PE) (AE)
Maj R. J. Savage	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj(QM) C. E. Stephens	7 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. Strong	31 Sig Regt(V)
Maj Q. Vigurs	HQ Trg Gp & Catterick Garrison

JULY 1983

Capt (QM) J. G. P. Akehurst	8 Inf Bde Hq & Sig Regt
Lt Col W. H. Backhouse	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. R. Bailey	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt H. J. Bardell	11 Sig Regt
Capt K. P. Barrett	School of Signals
Maj J. F. Budd	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt C. N. Burtenshaw	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) D. B. Collins	AFCENT SP GP (SHETLAND)
Maj J. D. Cox	28 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Filby	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Maj G. M. Finney	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt N. F. Fisher	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc Offr) K. M. French	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
Lt A. D. Gallie	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. D. E. Gregory	HS 11 Sig Regt, pending retirement
Maj J. A. Grierson	266 Sig Sqn BFFI
Capt K. J. Hadfield	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt S. J. Harris	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj T. J. Hendren	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt A. B. Hill	30 Cdt Trg Team
Capt (QM) B. M. Hudson	HS 11 Sig Regt (Att MFO Sinai)
Capt (QM) R. A. Jones	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj (QM) T. Keany	10 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) W. P. Kent MBE	608 Sig Tp (Eqpt)
Lt C. R. King	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj J. E. F. Kirby	RMAS
Lt D. G. Longhurst	21 Sig Regt
Lt G. J. McNeill	Jnr Regt R Sigs
Maj (QM) P. A. Noble	Jnr Regt Royal Signals
Lt C. Owen	7 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Offr) M. Paddison	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt M. E. Pincott	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt G. Platts	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI Force)
Capt A. J. Poppleton	HS 11 Sig Regt (RM Staff College, Greenwich)
A/Capt P. A. Pratley	30 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Offr) R. D. Price	JFHQ BFFI(AE)
Capt (TOT) D. G. Rotherham	School of Signals
Maj M. R. Stephenson	RARDE(PE)(AE)
Lt P. C. J. Taylor	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Thorne	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Capt (Tfc Offr) D. J. Tunmore QGM	HQ 10 Sig Regt
Lt Col N. A. Vandyck	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) R. Vasper	34 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. Wannell	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Whitby	633 Sig Tp
Capt (Tfc Offr) A. J. Whydell	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Capt K. G. Wilson	School of Signals
Lt N. R. Wood	21 Sig Regt

WOs and Senior NCOs

JUNE 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1(FofS) J. Hough	11 Sig Regt (Depot Tp)
WO1 J. J. M. Campbell	7 Sig Regt
WO2 J. R. Farrell	262 Sig Sqn
WO2 R. Burnett	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
WO2 G. T. Hedge	24 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
WO2 D. G. artlett	71 Sig Regt(V)
WO2 D. C. Smedley	School of Signals
WO2 J. H. Mackenzie	32 Sig Regt(V)
WO2 D. D. Watson	7 Sig Regt
WO2 B. Smith	30 Sig Regt
WO2 Jacknell	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2(FofS) K. J. Bradley	HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO2(FofS) P. F. Johnson	28 Sig Regt
AWO2 C. W. Beston	Comms & Sy Gp UK
AWO2 E. S. Hunter	14 Sig Regt(EW)
SSgt(FofS) L. S. Lawton	31 Sig Regt(V)
SSgt(FofS) C. P. Higson	39 Sig Regt(V)
SSgt(FofS) C. J. Fielding	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. O'Brien	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt C. B. Peters	16 Sig Regt
SSgt T. E. Harrison	31 Sig Regt(V)
SSgt C. R. Dalton-Brockwell	21 Sig Regt
SSgt W. A. Starling	Junior Regt Royal Signals
SSgt P. O. Whitbread	8 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Johnson	21 Sig Regt
SSgt B. A. Robjohn	Sig Sqn UNFICYP
SSgt D. A. O. Holmes	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt S. M. Jones	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt S. A. May	Leeds Univ OTC
SSgt B. T. Wood	Glasgow Univ OTC
SSgt R. A. Licence	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt B. Gibbons	School of Signals
SSgt D. Savage	14 Sig Regt(EW)
SSgt L. J. Bird	10 Sig Regt
SSgt P. L. Coll	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt P. G. Bovenizer	School of Sigs
SSgt K. V. Hawke	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt K. Morris	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. M. Courtenay	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. J. Bell	39 Sig Regt(V)
ASSgt J. I. Harley	HQ NORIRELAND
ASSgt O. Chetri	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. M. Gaffney	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Roberts	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt G. I. Maroney	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt S. K. King	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Whitley	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Sgt R. O. Barton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Anderson	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt N. De Owenceley	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Hopper	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt J. A. Hughes	28 Sig Regt
Sgt W. B. Erskine	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Nichol	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. Kilvington	28 Sig Regt
Sgt I. A. L. Dales	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. Simpson	14 Sig Regt(EW)
Sgt D. M. Kent	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Bruce	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Sgt P. D. Rees	13 Sig Regt
Sgt H. W. Sullivan	38 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt J. S. Baker	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. L. Burns	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. Abrams	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt M. V. Phillips	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. Galbraith	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. M. Gladwin	566 RLD
Sgt G. Reynolds	38 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt N. Cavanagh	540 RLD
Sgt D. Beattie	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. W. Scott	7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. J. W. Little	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Murphy	11 Sig Regt(Depot Tp)
Sgt W. J. Haslam	546 RLD
Sgt S. Armitage	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Croft	11 Sig Regt(Depot Tp)
Sgt T. G. Morrissey	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Pollard	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt R. Watson	13 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. D. Winder	Jnr Regt Royal Signals
Sgt M. Mulhearn	16 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Waters	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Davey	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. Jolly	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Jarwood	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. W. Mills	ACIO Coventry
ASgt M. Kenny	595 RLD
ASgt G. Paterson	40 Sig Regt(V)

JULY 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1(FofS) F. C. Brown	11 Sig Regt(Depot Tp)
WO1 J. Roberts	HQ UKLF
WO2(FofS) D. L. Edwards	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2(FofS) A. G. Taylor	9 Sig Regt
WO2 I. Cairns	40 Sig Regt(V)
WO2 G. A. Firth	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 J. Hodge	HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO2 G. J. Mason	30 Sig Regt
WO2 D. A. Freudenfeld	School of Sigs
WO2 A. R. Lovell	7 Sig Regt
WO2 G. A. Firth	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 P. R. Baron	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 D. G. Weston	22 Sig Regt
WO2 D. Bowden	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
AWO2 F. Mackender	14 Sig Regt(EW)
SSgt E. S. Hunter	14 Sig Regt(EW)
SSgt J. P. Warren	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt A. J. Moody	Tayforth Univ OTC
SSgt D. Parker	9 Sig Regt
SSgt J. C. Stone	14 Sig Regt(EW)
SSgt D. Nixon	16 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Bradley	30 Sig Regt
SSgt B. P. Matthews	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt A. T. Bodimeade	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt A. M. Stokoe	30 Sig Regt
SSgt R. F. Hennrie	13 Sig Regt
SSgt J. McAllister	7 Sig Regt
SSgt B. R. Mumford	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Mills	36 Sig Regt(V)
SSgt(FofS) F. Jones	School of Sigs
SSgt(FofS) M. C. Stocks	8 Sig Regt
SSgt(FofS) K. W. Suckling	11 Sig Regt(Depot Tp)
SSgt(FofS) P. J. Roscoe	30 Sig Regt
SSgt(FofS) E. A. Harper	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt(FofS) B. P. Gardner	13 Sig Regt
SSgt(FofS) A. F. Coshen	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt W. J. Bogie	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt A. F. Peebles	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
ASSgt S. M. Taylor	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt D. F. Brown	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. L. McKechnie	229 Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. J. Reid	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. Armstrong	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. A. J. Ward	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt W. Henderson	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Z. Tarrant	31 Sig Regt(V)
ASSgt S. M. Steele	14 Sig Regt(EW)
ASSgt R. M. C. Cook	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Keenan	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Fox	School of Sigs
Sgt A. R. McCartney	School of Sigs
Sgt I. Gilbert	10 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Anton	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt G. Craggs	35 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt G. J. Baldry	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. A. A. Terry	21 Sig Regt
Sgt G. D. Myerscough	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt C. R. Bough	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. G. Laing	School of Sigs
Sgt R. M. Riddle	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Curran	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Ryall	71 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt J. N. Vincent	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt I. T. Bemrose	633 Sig Tp
Sgt N. P. Widdup	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. F. Hardy	BATU Suffield
Sgt F. A. Bennett	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. D. Stemmer	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. P. McCaffery	11 Sig Regt
Sgt J. E. Alexander	11 Sig Regt(Depot Tp)
Sgt N. Crossley	22 Sig Regt
Sgt K. M. Martin	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Tomlinson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Pearson	11 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Palmer	ACIO Luton
Sgt M. Jenkins	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt B. G. Webber	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt M. Hogben	HQ 3 Cdo Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt R. E. Smith	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt R. F. Evans	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. McDermid	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt D. W. Few	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. Heyward	523 RLD
Sgt A. E. Freeman	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Hague	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Sgt D. G. Hughes	Jnr Regt Royal SIgnals
Sgt J. C. Thompson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Wight	11 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Palmer	14 Sig Regt(EW)
Sgt S. Hilton	642 Sig Tp
ASgt J. W. Marsden	632 Sig Tp
ASgt C. M. Atherley	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Thomas	560 RLD
ASgt P. H. Grainger	584 RLD
ASgt A. Tempest	ACIO Acton

ACCOMMODATION—Small house in the country available on short let from end September 1983, suitable for retiring couple and family seeking or in employment in Banbury, Stratford-on-Avon, Coventry area.

Very low rent in exchange for small amount of garden and house work.

Details from **Brig Freeman; Telephone Brailes 251.**

Welfare

APRIL 1983

Number of cases assisted financially:	51
Amount spent:	£8076.29
Number of clothing parcels sent:	10

MAY 1983

Number of cases assisted financially:	42
Amount spent:	£5184.62
Number of clothing parcels sent:	17

ONE OF OUR CASES

Signalman 1949—55, discharged on medical grounds, now suffering from chronic slipped disc, his wife in poor health as well, receiving treatment for arthritis and ulcers. To add to his problems has now been made redundant with no further prospects of work.

The Association gave him assistance towards meeting his heating bills and purchase of coal.

ONE OF OUR LETTERS

'I wish to express my thanks to you for the most generous help from you to relieve my financial difficulties. It was most generous of your Committee to make such a wonderful gesture and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

The worry of not being able to pay had made me desperate and the weight has now been lifted from my mind. Please continue with your marvellous work.

Kind thoughts to one and all from a very grateful widow!

During April/May clothing has been received from the following:- **Brig & Mrs A. M. Willcox, Gen Cole, Maj Edwards, Gen Price, Col Francis, Mrs Bourne, Lt Col T. I. Ronald, Mrs Nanny-Wynn, Royal Signals Association Reading Branch, SSgt Gardner, Mrs J. L. Purdon** and several anonymous donors.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received in May 1983.

In memory of Maj J. F. McQuade	£42.00
Capt A. J. Poppleton Royal Signals & Capt D. Cox Royal Signals	£ 3.33
Miscellaneous	£ 1.45
	£46.78

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1983.

Anonymous	£10.00
Maj F. A. Smith Royal Signals	£ 4.00
Maj F. C. Forbes	£ 1.00
Miscellaneous	£ 1.55
	£16.55

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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 through 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

Hunter—Maj Henry Beaufort de Morigny Hunter was born at Jubbulpore, India on 26 November 1914. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Corps in January 1935 and his first appointment was OC O Troop 1 Divisional Signals where he served in the UK and Palestine. In December 1938 he was posted to India and served as OC Signal Tp of 11 Fd Regt RA. In August 1939, he moved to Malaya and after serving for 18 months as OC Signal Troop joined 11 Indian Div Signals in Malaya at the time of the Japanese attack. In February 1942 he was captured and became a Prisoner of War until the end of hostilities in 1945. After the war he was appointed GS02 at Sigs 8 in the War Office anmd remained in that post for two years. His next post was also on the staff, this time as GSO (Plans) at HQ BAOR. After a further two years on the staff he returned to regimental duties and served with HQ Army Troops Sig Sqn in BAOR for two years. In May 1953 he moved to the Middle East for three years serving with 3 Inf Div Sig Regt, 25 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, as OC, and finally with 10 Armd Div Sig Regt. On return to the UK he was again given a staff appointment and became GSO (Sigs) at HQ Eastern Command for two years. He was appointed as SO2 (SD) at HQ Aldershot District from September 1958 until August 1963. **Harry Hunter** was a highly regarded and efficient staff officer and it was his ability for this type of work that led to him holding a number of significant staff posts. His last two appointments on the Active List were again in Headquarters firstly with Tels Group HQ BAOR and secondly as SO2 ACEP. He retired in November 1969. He died in October 1982.

Impey—Lt Col Charles Victor Impey enlisted into the Corps on 13 May 1939 and the first three years of his service was with 9th (H) Div Signals, later 51st (Highland) Div Signals. He served in the Middle East with 3 GHQ Signals 10 Corps Signals and finally with 7 Armd Divisional Signals before returning to the UK in January 1944. After a short tour with 48 Divisional Signals he was posted to Italy for two years with 11 L of C Signals and AFHQ Sig Sqn, he then served for two years with 1 Trg Regt at Catterick, 18 months at the School of Signals which was followed by a short tour of duty with 4 AA (M) Sig Regt when he returned to the School of Signals for a further three years. **Charles Impey** was commissioned as a TOT on 7 January 1955 and joined 3 Inf Div Sig Regt until August 1957 when he went to the Middle East and rejoined his former unit 3 GHQ Sig Regt. In December 1960, he moved to BAOR to join 10 Sig Regt and 28 Sig Regt leaving that unit in September 1964. His next post with with 222 Sig Sqn followed by a year with 627 Sig Tp (Works) and then in March 1969 moved to HQ Land Forces Hong Kong where he served in a Staff appointment until June 1971. He served with 8 Sig Regt until his retirement in October 1975. He died in March 1983.

Jenkins—Capt John Ivor Jenkins was born on 17 January 1920. **Jack Jenkins** enlisted at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff just after the Dunkirk evacuation. His early service was as an infantryman with the Welsh Regiment. In January 1942 he moved to Prestatyn and transferred to Royal Signals, where he trained as an operator, wireless and line. He joined 78 Division soon after training and served with that formation during the North Africa, Sicily and Italian campaigns. After the war he served in Austria for a year and then, joined 1 Division in Palestine and remained there until the Palestine mandate was concluded and moved with this unit to Egypt.

In November 1949 he returned to the UK and joined the Boys Regiment at Beverley. He served with that unit for 4½ years and then went to Catterick where he served in the OTW of the School of Signals.

In January 1962 he became RSM of 4 Sig Regt in BAOR and was commissioned two years later. He was posted to 30 Sig Regt for 2½ years and after that returned to BAOR to serve in 7 Sig Regt and 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt in December 1971 and retired from active service in January 1975. **John** died on 26 April 1983 in the Royal Gwent Hopsital at Newport.

McQuade—Major Joseph Frederick McQuade, affectionately known as **'Mac'** was born on 16 November 1915, and was educated at The Duke of Yorks Royal Military School (The Dukies). He enlisted into the Corps as a Boy in 1930 and was mustered into the ranks in 1933. After training as an Operator, he was posted to 2 Wireless Company in Palestine in 1935. He saw active service in North Africa with an Armoured Division where his special skills were recognised and postings to 105 Special Wireless and 7 Special Wireless followed. With the cessation of hostilities he went to BAOR with 1 Special Wireless. In 1951 he joined 7 Armd Div Signals before a posting to Western Command.

'Mac' was commissioned in 1956 and served as QM with The Forces Broadcasting Service in Cyprus, and later with 1 Corps and 16 Sig Regt in BAOR. He was serving with 10 Sig Regt when he retired in 1968 but remained with the Regiment as RO 3 until 1975 when he moved to a similar appointment with The Mapping & Charting Establishment, RE Feltham. He retired from that post in 1980.

'Mac' was a keen sportsman and excelled at Soccer and Hockey. He was still representing his Regiment, at Hockey, when he retired in 1968. He was, also, a keen supporter of the Corps and The Royal Signals Association and carried out the duties of Hon Secretary of The London (now known as the West London) Branch of the Association. To mark his outstanding services to the Corps and the Association, over a number of years, he was awarded 'Honour Membership' of the Association in 1982. Sadly, he died within a year of receiving this Honour, on the 11 February 1983. With his death, the Corps and the Association has lost a well known and respected member. His very many friends will remember his helpful nature, cheerful outlook and the very high standards which he always set. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow, **Barbara.**

Perry—Maj William James Perry MBE was born on 12 October 1923 and joined the Corps in April 1943. He was commissioned on 13 July 1943 and joined 4 Command Signals for just over a year. He was then posted to India where he served with 14 Ind Div Signals for 4 months joining 4 Corps Signals SEAC. In November 1945 he was appointed SO3 (Sigs) HQ British Troops Siam and promoted Major and appointed SO2 in the same HQ. He returned to the UK in March 1947. His next posting was to West Africa where he again served in a staff post for 15 months. On return to the UK he became Adjut of 14 AA (M) Sig Regt TA and this was followed by a short staff posting and then a two year tour with Western Comd Sig Regt. In November 1953 he again joined the staff and served as SO3 (Sigs) at HQ Northern Army Group for two years and this was followed by a posting to Hong Kong Sig Regt where he remained until December 1958. On his return to the UK he saw service with 64 (M) Sig Regt TA, a three year tour with 8 Sig Regt and then SPSO staff. He remained with that organisation until his retirement in April 1972, his final post was OIC Army Youth Selection Centre at Harrogate. **William Perry** died at St Austell on 31 May 1983.

Sandercock—Maj Desmond Gilbert Sandercock was born in Gibraltar on 29 October 1922. He served, initially, during the war in the RAF but transferred to the RAOC on 30 July 1942. He transferred to REME in October 1942 and remained with that Corps until April 1944. On 19 April 1944 he moved to the Middle East and joined 7 Air Formation Signals and transferred to 2 Air Formation Signals in July 1945. He remained in the Middle East until February 1947 serving with L of C Signal units. He returned to the UK and after a period of five years on the reserve joined the Supplementary Reserve and served five years with 21 Army Sig Regt (SR). **Desmond Sandercock** retired in May 1957, and died suddenly on 22 March 1983.

Walsh—Mr Alexander (Alex) Walsh joined the Royal Signals Association on 1 September 1958, having served in the Royal Air Force during the second World War. Due to ill health he retired prematurely in January 1981 and died on 14 June 1983 aged 61. Visitors to the Royal Signals Association in Eccleston Square and RHQ Royal Signals in Chelsea will remember **Alex Walsh** for the cheerful and helpful welcome which he invariably extended to all visitors. He was devoted to the Association which he served loyally for more than 22 years.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and works in co-operation with the Manpower Services Commission. Our purpose is to help Servicemen and women to find suitable employment when they leave the Forces. We also take a long term interest in ex-regulars, who may use our services as often as they wish.

The Association has 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom, and its Employment Officers, who are ex-Regulars themselves, maintain close contact with local employers. Our services are free.

During the period 1 April 1982—31 March 1983 the Association assisted **9,316** men and women with their resettlement and placed **3,489** in employment. Of those placed in jobs, **1,616** were men and women from the Army and **162** were from the Corps.

Addresses and telephone numbers of Branches can be otained from Corps/Regimental Associations, Post Offices, Jobcentres or local telephone directories.

Our latest representative serving on the Council of the Association, **General Jimmy Hellier,** is the fourth successive General the Corps has provided.

All have been on the Management Committee since **General Naylor** in 1951. All have been Chairmen of the General Purposes Sub-Committee—

General Naylor 1955—64
General Wheatley 1964—73
General Price 1973—1983 (6 July)
General Hellier 1983—?

WANTED

Collector of Signal Corps militaria wishes to purchase the following items: Officers forage cap, Cap forage, blue other ranks pattern, Cap field service both officers and other ranks pattern, Sola topi with Signals coloured patch or Signals pagri, Signals slouch hat pagri, officers embroidered collar badges, old cloth Signals formation signs, Signals yeomanry collar badges, pre war Signals belt buckle, Kings Crown embroidered cap badge, Zambian Signals badges and Kenya Signals badges. British Indian Army Signals titles and collars and cap badges.

Mr C. Lord,
92, Union Rd,
Howick,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Vacancy for a Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) SSGT (TA).

Vacancies will shortly arise for NRPS SSGTS (SQMS) within 36th (Eastern) Signal regiment (Volunteers), for employment with Squadrons located at:—

Brentwood (moving to Colchester), Cambridge, Gillingham and Wanstead.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6, paragraph 4.

The post carries the rank of SSgt with an annual salary of £7,351 per annum rising to £7,460.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have experience of Q Matters.

Applications, together with brief details of experience and service are invited and should be forwarded to:—
36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment(V)
Signals House
Selsdon Road
Wanstead E11 2QF

With names and addresses of two referees, as soon as possible.

Vacancy for a Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) SSgt (TA).

A vacancy will shortly arise for a NRPS SSgt (SQMS) with 56 Signal Squadron (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne. Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6, paragraph 4.

The post carries the rank of SSgt with an annual salary of £7,351 per annum rising to £7,460.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have experience of Q Matters. Applications, together with brief details of experience and service are invited and should be forwarded to:—
Adjutant
36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)
Signals House
Selsdon Road
Wanstead E11 2QF

With names and addresses of two referees, as soon as possible.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

BUSY MONTHS

The past two months have been busy ones for 8 Brigade. Londonderry in particular has seen a continued level of terrorist activity and general violence. The period started with an IED in the Waterside area and a shooting attempt in the city. Meanwhile a bomb was placed in Omagh and, in early May there was a series of booby trapped car bombs in County Fermanagh. A potentially major incident was averted in Bellaghy, County Londonderry, when 400 marchers celebrating the second anniversary of the death of hunger striker Francis Hughes attempted to march illegally through the town centre. As it was, only minor scuffles occurred. Our heli-tele vehicle was on task to assist the RUC and UDR in monitoring the march.

The announcement of the general election brought about the expected increase in province wide violence. This included the attempted murder of a UDR soldier in South Derry, an increase in the number and violence of petrol bomb attacks in Londonderry itself and an unsuccessful shooting against a military vehicle, also in Londonderry. This was backed by a continual campaign of hoax and real IEDs which has kept the City Battalions and the ATO teams busy.

VISITS TO THE SQUADRON
ONE - MASTER OF SIGNALS

On Wednesday 13 April the **Master of Signals, Maj Gen Badcock** made his first visit to the Province since taking office. During the visit he met a large number of soldiers from all parts of the Squadron and showed a great interest in all aspects of the Squadron work. **Gen Badcock** seemed particularly interested in the work of the rigging section and recounted tales of mast climbing in Cyprus. One felt that had a climbing belt and pole strap been on hand he would have been only too keen to admire Londonderry from the top of the Brigade HQ mast, the best of all views of the city.

The Master of Signals meets Cfn Tim Eyley of the LAD. The MTWO, WO2 Bob Morley, who has since left us, looks on

TWO - SECRETARY OF STATE

On 4 May, the **Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Hesletine** called in on Londonderry to pay a brief visit to the Headquarters and to the Resident Battalion 2 QUEENS as part of a province wide visit programme.

Mr Heseltine with his clothing somewhat the worse for the wind is introduced to the RSM, with not a hair out of place, by the Brigade Commander

THREE - COMMANDER 8 BRIGADE

On 10 May, **Brig Mattingley** made his ARU visit to the Squadron. During a busy day the Commander visited all parts of the unit and met technicians, vehicle mechanics and data telegraphists to name only a few, going about their work. Most of his probing questions were fielded confidently by those concerned. The Brigadier left by helicopter to visit Mullaghcarn Radio Site where he met **Cpl Graham Hughes** and **Sig 'Fozzy' Foster** along with the site guard commanded by **LCpl Keith Bagguley.** Another helicopter ride took him on to an unmanned hilltop site where he spoke to riggers and technicians carrying out routine maintenance work. In the afternoon and evening **Brig Mattingley** spent some time at our annual military training exercise of which more will be revealed later. Altogether the day was extremely successful and the Commander saw a good sample of the wide variety of work carried out by the Squadron.

EXERCISE 'FREE WHEEL'

Our annual week long military training exercise took place at the Magilligan training centre and in the surrounding countryside during the second week in May. The aim of the exercise was to put the maximum number of soldiers through their mandatory annual training tests with other subjects such as map reading and patrolling included. Each party arrived at about 0900 hours for an initial briefing by **SSgt George Fotheringham** before starting on a concentrated programme of instruction which included patrolling skills from **SSgt Pete Ryan** and **LCpl Allan Fagg of** 2 QUEENS and markmanship principals from **Sgt 'Golden Blanket' Fred Bennett. Sgt Dick Taylor** served everyone a meal in the gas chambers after which **Cpl John Archer** was on hand to heal those with CS poisoning and teach first aid. The groups were then sent on a night exercise in the local area on which they were expected to map-read themselves over some difficult terrain, administer first aid to two 'casualties' and, perhaps most testing, to eat a pasty produced by **Pte Kev Bradley,** exercise cook. The best section on the exercise was judged to be that commanded by **Cpl Dave Clark** and his section was awarded a case of beer for their efforts.

Brig Mattingley watches Sig Ian Tolley and Cpl Clive Quantick magazine filling while Lt Gordon James and SSgt George Fotheringham look on

Cpl Ian Nelson explains his plan to the Brigade Commander

SPORT
MERCURY CUP

The mini sports day, final event of the Mercury Cup competition took place in Lisburn in April. During the course of the day, we did battle with 30 Bde Sig Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn at 7-a-side rugby, 6-a-side hockey and 6-a-side football. We managed to win the football competition, come second in the hockey but unfortunately lost the rugby. The overall result for the day had to be decided on penalties and despite some good shooting by **Sgt 'Chick' Williamson** and **LCpl Dave Nelson** and some fine saves by **LCpl Steve Chinn** we only managed second place. This left us also in second place in the Mercury Cup competition for the year. Next year 233 Sig Sqn may not be so lucky!

ORIENTEERING

Having qualified for the UKLF Orienteering Championship we were able to send a three man team for two days in Scarborough over the first weekend in May. The team, **Maj Richard Farrimond, Capt Bill Mawer** and **Cpl Dave Clark** finished eighth of sixteen teams in the minor units competition. Despite the length and arduous nature of the course the team took advantage of the chance to have a few beers in the evenings and, particularly in the case of **Cpl Clark,** to fraternise with the local population.

SWIMMING TEAM

For the first time since 1977 the Squadron had this year produced a swimming team. Not doing things by halves the team competed regularly in the weekly league events and went on to come second in the Northern Ireland Team Championships, qualifying for the Army swimming meeting. At the Northern Ireland event **LCpl Paul Noble** won both the 50m breast stroke and 100m freestyle, beating some fine opposition. **Sgt Bruce Payne** achieved a second place in the 50m backstroke. The freestyle relay team of **Maj Tim Snape** and **Sig Brian Sherman, Chris Aspinal** and **Paul Baker** achieved a third place. This left the result of the minor units championship resting on the medley relay race in which our third place secured us the runner-up position overall and a chance to race in Catterick in July. Particular credit is due to **Sgt Payne** who organised and managed the team and badgered troop commanders to release swimmers for training.

The successful swimming team: *Back Row:* Sig Paul Baker, Chris Aspinal, Ian Tolley and Maj Jim Snape
Front Row: Sig Brian Sherman and Sam MaCleod, Sgt Bruce Payne and LCpl Paul Noble

MOURNE WALL WALK

On Sunday 5 June nine members of the Squadron and one dog took part in the annual Mourne Wall Walk. The walk is described as one of the most testing one day walks in Europe, and with its 22 miles including some 10,000 feet of vertical climb that is an easy claim to believe. As serious training would have entailed a three hour drive from Londonderry we were probably not the best prepared of the 3000 people on the course. Our team consisted of **Capt Nick Corbin, Alistair McFarlane** and **Bill Mawer, SSgt Pete Ryan** accompanied by **'Brandy' Cpls Dave Clark, Neil March** and **Barry McLaughlin** and **LCpls 'Chippy' Wood** and **Martin Rowley.** Despite **Nick Corbin** being weighed down by his huge packed lunch, **Pete Ryan** having to wait for his dog (or was it the other way round?) and an excess of beer on the part of those who spent the Saturday night in Lisburn, eight of the nine taking part completed the course in good time, with only stiff legs and mild blisters to worry about afterwards.

'Before: The Mourne Walk team looking surprisingly cheerful after an 0500 start'

'22 miles later. Cpl Neil March and LCpl "Chippy" Wood finish the walk.'

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

The first week of May saw the departure of the Black Watch at the end of their four month tour in West Belfast. They had a most successful time and were particularly relieved that they had suffered no casualties. That is not to say that there were no close shaves. One 'Jock' had his ammo pouch neatly perforated by a terrorist bullet! Others were not so lucky. The death of a 1 D&D soldier in a bomb blast and the serious injury of a REME Sergeant in an RPG attack have served to remind our detachments of the need for vigilance and care.

1 LI, who took over from 1 BW really started their tour with a bang. To be precise 700 lb of homemade explosives brought as a proxy bomb to the RUC station at Andersonstown. The blast completely flattened the Army ops room and although no one was seriously injured much damage was caused over a wide area. It is understood that the van that carried the device was still under warranty! Unfortunately for us a number of our UHF talk-throughs were sited at the station. **Sgt Clive Soutar** and **Cpl Dave Murray** of TM Tp with their escort, **LCpl 'Paddy' Irwin RPC** were able to provide alternative comms through Whiterock within an hour and the next day the West Belfast maintenance crew under **Cpl Chris Hobday** began fitting out a box body vehicle as a temporary ops room. As a result within 72 hrs of the blast it was business as usual while the engineers begin an extensive rebuild programme.

Elsewhere in our area work has continued apace. The Pye Pegasus refit project is going well in spite of the odd extra 8" by 4" hole cut in 11 UDR's ops room console by **LCpl Phil Cox**. In Armagh **Cpl Dave Jennings** aided by **Sig Mick Stout** and **Smudge Smith** has refitted 2 UDR's 'Mirror' ops room at Dromaad Barracks. This has marked the end of our conversion work in our new area to suit 39 Bde's comms systems. We hope to be starting a few rebuilds shortly.

MASTER OF SIGNALS VISIT

We were delighted to welcome **Gen Badcock** on his first visit since taking up his appointment. It started at Girdwood Park in North Belfast where he was able to meet a number of soldiers and see a little of what they do. Our UHF faults crew, resident in Girdwood, were the General's first port of call. The duty crew consisting of **Cpl 'Bish' Hampton** and **LCpl Danny Webb RPC** with **LCpl Withers** from the RCT roulement squadron showed off their 'pig' and described the sort of problems that arise during their one week stag. The Master then moved on to see **Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley's** heli-tele ground station and to meet the West Belfast maintenance crew. From Girdwood **Gen John** was whisked to Lisburn by Rover Group. His route took him past Springfield Road and along the Falls Road. He was even able to see Andersonstown RUC station before its recent 'modification'.

On arrival in Lisburn the General was taken to SHQ where he had tea and sandwiches with squadron personnel. The Master spoke to everyone.

Sgt Tony Moses introduces Pte Jan Walters to General Badcock

Cpl 'Scouse' Wikeley watches while Sig Jack Turner enthuses about Northern Ireland

LCpl Withers (Roulement RCT Sqn), LCpl Danny Webb and Cpl 'Bish' Hampton meet the Master

Sig 'Tiny' Little and LCpl Pete Flanagan in serious debate with the Master while LCpl 'Baz' McDonald had his mind on other things

EXERCISE 'IRON SHOE'

This year the Bde has organised a one week paid holiday for as many as possible. The venue: Warcop. The aim: to conduct non-IS training for units giving them the opportunity of getting out of the province for a week. It was something of a shock therefore to find that we were sharing accommodation with 3 UDR on their summer camp and that the publican of the local comes from Belfast!

Much of the week was taken up with range work. All fired their APWT and there were shoots on the Individual Battle Skills and moving target ranges. On the latter **2Lt 'Humper' Hudson** earned himself his new nickname by announcing 'Move back to the 100m . . . um . . . hump' while having his first go as range officer. The Thursday morning saw us on the granade range. **Sig Smudge Smith** (who else?) threw a blind and **Sig Willie Bell** managed to get his grenade over the wall, but only just. One bay supervisor, **Capt Terry Canham,** was seen trying to escape when **LCpl 'Paddy' Irwin** entered his domain but all was well and the right bit went down the range.

A highlight was a friendly against the local Brough soccer club. The crowd had almost died of laughter by the end of the first half. Starring were **LCpl** (put it away) **Gumm** in goal, **Sig** (Weetabix) **Snape, Sig** (get up) **Ingram** and **LCpl Dave Kaminski** who netted the final goal (for the other side). The score was, however, a draw and there was much to celebrate at the Castle Arms that night. It is understood that they actually want a replay!

The last day saw the dreaded live firing section attacks. Morale was boosted by the news that each section would have its photo taken, after they had finished. The DS on the range recce were soaked to the skin before they had walked 100m so it was with some trepidation that the first section prepared for battle. There was much enthusiasm throughout the day and all enjoyed themselves, in retrospect at least. Suffice it to say that nobody has asked for a transfer to the infantry!

We did it our way. Sig Sean Ingram, LCpl 'Chewie' Gumm, Cpl Scouse Cain, Dvr John Hoyle, LCpl Dave Kaminski and (kneeling) LCpls Andy Fenton and Phil Horne

Bravo (Handbag) Section, post live firing section attacks. LCpl 'Fast Eddie' Edwards, Cpl 'Bamf' Bamford, LCpl Tim Shepherd, Sig Willie Bell, LCpls Nick Nicholson, Arthur Poole and Sig 'Snapper' Snape pose in the mud

Ready for more? LCpls Andy Hilton, Paddy Irwin, DVR 'Nobby' Clark, LCpl Bob Smith, Sig 'Smudge' Smith and (kneeling) Sig Dave Harris and Cpl 'Scotty' Steven

BRAVO TROOP ANSWERS BACK

After much pressure from the 39 Bde Wire notes editor, it has been decided to answer claims made by certain other troops that B Tp should become known as 'Handbag Troop'. B Tp handles all the Bde HQ's static comms, which include the Bde COMMCEN, Radio Room and Tac HQ at RUC Castlereagh not to mention Commcen Ladas Drive. Part of the radio room's job is the issue of portable radios to users throughout the Bde. These include the battery powered version of the new Pegasus radio, known as a 'handbag'. It is, however, quite a handful as it weights over 20 lbs!

Because of their largely static role members of the troop do not get out and about as much as their counterparts elsewhere. The troop does, however provide a nucleus to many squadron sports sides including the swimming and basketball teams. A B Tp team consisting of **2Lt 'Tufty' Hudson, Sgt 'Whimpy' Jarvis, Cpl John Dyer, 'Bamf' Bamford , LCpl 'Slick' Evans, Tim Shepherd** and **Sig Kev Newman** came fourth in the Garrison Mil Skills competition ahead of all other squadron teams costing them dearly in beer due to a certain internal wager or two!

Recent arrivals include: **LCpl 'Big Nose' Hawley, Sig Dave Richard** and **'Eeps' Epps** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Davis** on 1033 from A Tp.

SHQ NOTES

Our Orderly Room Cpl, **'Vinny' Vincent** has used every opportunity to get off the shinier parts of his anatomy to go with Combat Section into West Belfast. It was no surprise therefore when his latest Walter Mitty act was to accompany the Corps band as their bodyguard while they toured the Province in May. Our Ops clerk, **LCpl 'Chewie' Gumm,** had a shock the other day when told that he was on a court martial but fortunately (for him) he was only being employed as runner. **LCpl 'Jamie' James** continues to pound the back lanes of Lisburn. Running up to 10 miles a day, he well and truly beat all opposition in the 5000 metres at the squadron athletics but more of that in the next edition. We wonder if **Jamie** enjoys running so much because it gives him the best opportunity to talk to himself!

After landing on his head at the bottom of a local swimming pool, **Sig Andy Zuppinger** came in to work sporting deep cuts and bruises to his forehead. These were later joined by a lovely black eye. **Andy** swears that there was water in the pool when he jumped. He was lucky though, he could have landed on his brains!

The QM has given wings to the Orderly Room. The clerks now have use of a long wheel base, armoured bicycle for their errands in the garrison area. Rumour has it that **Cpl 'Vinny' 'Vincent** will stand in the basket to act as escort!

HORSESHOE CLUB PRESENTATION

In May we said farewell to our SO3 Sup (oh all right, BOO), **Capt Chris Bradley. Chris** and **Viv** were strong supporters of squadron activities and we were delighted to hear of **Chris' MID.** It has been a custom for departing personnel to present, from time to time, a horseshoe belonging to a famous horse to decorate the squadron club. **Chris** very kindly presented one belonging to **Sefton** which was mounted in a frame between a certificate of authenticity and a photo of **Sefton** himself. This has enabled us to completely fill the display cabinet allocated for this purpose. We would like to thank **Chris** for his generosity and to wish him and **Viv** all the best in their new posting. Rumour has it that someone is going to present a shoe belonging to **Shergar** soon!

The OC, Maj Martin Wilkinson, receives Sefton's shoe from Capt Chris Bradley

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

We are delighted with our swimming and water polo teams' success in recent Northern Ireland competitions. The water polo team came back from a 2—0 deficit at half time to beat 1RGJ in the NI Water Polo Championships and the swimming team beat off keen competition, particularly from our sister squadron in Londonderry to win the Minor Units Swimming Championships.

WO2 (FofS) Paul Cross receives the NI water polo trophy from the COS HQNI, Col John Wilsey

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TEMPUS FUGIT

It doesn't seem five minutes since I put together our last contribution, which goes to show how busy we've been in the past 2 months. Summer Camp (in May!) seemed to cause the most work by draining manpower from Lisburn. The other adventure training activity was Exercise *Pennine Trog*. The following report is by the expedition leader **Capt David Beach.**

EXERCISE 'PENNINE TROG'

I set out with the best intentions of recording faithfully every little amusing snippet during the Exercise so that our Notes would have that little bit extra. However some 5 weeks after the event I beg to report that I have failed! Already the 275 miles of the Pennine Way, the 14 days spent 'bogging' (that being the Royal Signals key phrase for 'Yomping', and that we certainly did not do), the driving rain and snow drifts, have started to fade into memories. To say memories have faded is not strictly true. I could never forget **Sgt Oscar Henvey** and his 'Compo Stall' and the way it appeared at the end of each day's march. Amazing how a pub was always handy and the diligent way in which the unstoppable **Oscar** carried out his Admin Party duties. Those who were there, soaked, tired and hungry will never forget **Oscar's** Roller-Bar even if it was only a Bedford MK with a flapping canopy.

Then there was **Cpl Dave Leyland,** the professional. Only he slept with his boots in his bag 'to stop them freezing up!'. Surely the greatest sacrifice must be to take in your buddies boots and warm them too, even if they have just been written off whilst drying a little bit too close to a log fire.

That has to bring me on to **Cpl John Gibson,** the boot-tester. I have never seen anyone test their boots to destruction by burning before, especially half way through a 275 mile walk. It really is amazing how welts melt—thanks for the lesson. However **Cpl Gibbo** carried on, first in my DMS boots, brought along as spares and then in the unfortunate **LCpl Stanyer's** walking boots.

The Pennine Way is a long, inhospitable walk when you are using accommmodation. When you are camping and it's the wettest April since records were started, it can be down right unpleasant. I will remember those light hearted moments supplied by ourselves. Who am I? Well I'm the one who had those Hamlet moments.

IN COMPETITION WITH THE FA CUP

'Do we have the Fête on Cup Final Day and use the Corps Band to draw in the crowds, or do we have it another day without the Band?' asked the OC. We decided that we could win both ways by showing the match in the beer tent. A large screen television was borrowed (sort of) from the NAFFI so Dad could watch the match while the kids spent his money at the sideshows. The RUC Dog Display, the Band and childrens' races kept the arena busy while the most successful sideshows were Splat the Rat and, inevitably, the Ducking Stool (see photos). **£800** was raised for the families club and Charity.

MUCH VISITED

The Corps Band paid us a highly successful visit in May, playing The Retreat, giving concerts and marching through the streets (well some of the streets) of Belfast. After the Fête they left for a well earned holiday in Cyprus.

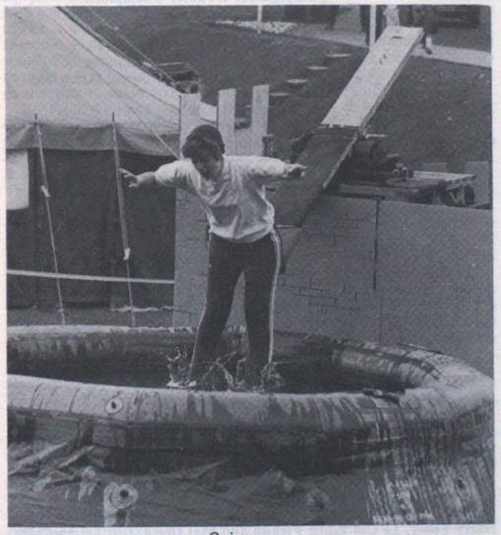
Yet another Comstar was award to the COMMCEN as we announced in the last issue. **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE,** the GOC, came to present it to us fomrally on 18 May.

The other VIP visitor was the Vice Chief of the General Staff, **Lt Gen Sir Thomas Morony, KCB OBE** who visited us when bad weather curtailed flying on 19 May.

SPORT FOR ALL

That's what the McKelvie Trophy is all about, and the final stages of our inter-troop sports competition were very exciting indeed. The Athletics Competition was won on the last race of the afternoon by Admin/Echo Tp, putting them one point ahead of Tech Tp in the overall competition. That left the swimming which was conclusively won by Victor Tp. Tech Tp were 2nd with Admin/Echo 3rd so the McKelvie points were equal. Both had the same number of first places in the competition so the winners were decided by Tech Tp having one more 2nd place than Admin/Echo. As the only impartial member of the Squadron, I hope it's just as exciting next year.

Pte Sally Leatherby; Going . . .



Going . . .

Gone!

The Mercury Cup, contested by the 3 Signal Squadrons in the Province was once again won by us, despite pressure from the Brigades in the closing stages. Three runners-up trophies were collected by the Squadron; the NI Rugby 7-a-side plate competition, the NI 560 Kg Tug of War, and the WRAC 6-a-side hockey competition in which our enthusiastic and sporting girls went down to a well drilled 181 Pro Coy team.

Other successes were the joint victory with 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in the Tickle Fitness Competition (100% record) and total victory in the Garrison Military Skills Competition for the 2nd year running.

Garrison Military Skills Competition winners: top L to R Sig Jones, Goulding, SSgt Campbell, bottom L to R Sig Belam, WO2 Hand, (Standing in for Capt Campbell) LCpl Grey. Missing Sig Frost

NI 560 Kg Tug of War Runners Up

A GAMBLE FOR CHARITY

Whiskey Tp may not be a driving force on the sporting front, but when it comes to organising something with a little style, our 'Sloane Soldiers' know what it's all about. The Casino Night which they ran in aid of the UDR Benevolent Fund was an outstanding success, dapper bow-tied croupiers and dolly money-counters being in abundance. They made **£250** in four hours, and the cheque was presented to the UDR two days later during a training evening given by 7 UDR.

OC's HANDOVER

Maj Nick Williams left us, Marconi-bound, on 19 May after one of the most alcoholic farewell periods of all time. I know the whole Squadron wish **Nick** and **Denise** all the very best for the future. Every Troop seemed to have a party to say goodbye to **Nick,** so he was well thanked for his inspired and slightly unconventional leadership. **Maj Pat Kington,** the new OC has been welcomed (and blooded), and as his MFO boxes have now arrived; I expect he feels at home already.

STOP PRESS FOR 'SLOANE SOLDIERS'

Unfortunately, due to the high level of Squadron activity over the past two months, and our reluctance to take up the whole of The Wire with our notes, your eagerly awaited notes for 'Sloane Soldiers' are being held until the next issue—sorry!

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

AT LAST

Summer is theoretically with us at last. Those who really believe that have been seen in Shirt Sleeve Order, but this defiance of the elements has had negligible effect and it continues to rain . . .

The intervening period since our last bulletin has been dominated by sporting achievements by both the apprentices and by the Permanent Staff. It became evident shortly after Christmas that the College was going for a 'clean sweep' of all the major sporting trophies.

There were also a number of less sporting events happening around the College during the period; Adventure Training in the Cairngorms and in the Lake District, Community Service Work, and the Penney Sqn Superstars Competition to name but a few. Though not precisely a sporting event, all the apprentices and no doubt many of the PS enjoyed the revival of **Miss Penny Pot** as the College pin-up.

JOHN PAGE TROPHY

Report by AT 'Johno' Johnson

Three years ago in 1980 an apprentice from Penney Sqn was tragically killed in a motor cycle accident not far from the College. His parents, wishing to prevent a similar accident occurring, gave a trophy, named after their son, to promote safety for motorcyclists in the College.

A competition is held every term where the motor cyclists from each Squadron compete in the John Page Trophy. The competition is designed not only to check the bike for roadworthiness but the rider as well. There are many stands in the competition ranging from document checks to riding ability, with the emphasis being on safety. All the rider's equipment is checked with his bike and expert advice is given to the young men by **WO2 Tim Feldon** and his team of drivers from the MT Section. A most valuable test is of the rider's knowledge of both the highway code and his machine. This term a new trophy was presented to the rider who negotiated a series of twisting bends through a course of bollards in the best way. However the **John Page** Trophy this term was won by Bradley Sq, the team consisting of **AT Cpl Paul Beattie** and myself. We were fortunate that the Mayor of Harrogate, a self confessed motor cycle enthusiast, was present to award the trophy to **AT Cpl Beattie.** Our thanks go to the Mayor for coming along to present the prizes.

SPORTING SUMMARY

To mention all the sporting highlights and events that the College have performed well in this term would surely use up the rest of this issue, but as usual it can be said without fear of contradiction that the College acquitted itself well again this season, reaching the final in almost every competition entered although sadly for our silver cabinet we did not win everything; a summary is given below. The trophies we have won however are very pleasing. For some, they were our first victories, the Army Junior Badminton Competition, eventually winning the Doubles Championship with **AT Geordie Pearson** and **AT LCpl Andy Baughan** taking the trophy, and both representing the Corps at Junior level. We also have two more potential Corps players in **AT Steve Bason** and **AT Russell Jardine,** provided they can be kept clear of the squash courts.

Our Junior and Senior Basketball teams have done very well this term reaching the finals of the Junior and Senior Championships in Aldershot. However by this stage the trend was set and we lost both matches narrowly, which was a great disappointment to coach and mentor **Capt Ian Buckley.**

Our attempt to do the double of Junior and Army Minor Units Hockey competitions so very nearly came off. The apprentices winning their final at Harrogate comfortably, beating the Junior Leaders RAC from Bovington 3 — 0. Goals by **AT Ian Wade, AT LCpl Kaz Mamos** and **AT Sgt Steve Swain** sealed a reasonably one sided game watched by an enthusiastic crowd. The staff team though, sadly, did not share the fortune of the Junior team in losing the final of the Army Minor Units Cup in Aldershot. After a very close game versus Comms and Sy Gp the score was 1 — 1 at the end of extra time and after a series of penalty flicks the College lost by 3 — 2. Better luck next time.

FOOTBALL

The Staff football team have enjoyed a successful climax to their season. Although narrowly losing to the Depot Prince of Wales in the Army Minor Units Cup Semi-Final they are through to the Final of the League Cup (Yorkshire Services Association League). They are also more than holding their own in the Premier League of the NE/NW District League. A most satisfying season.

Hockey	—	Army Junior Cup Winners Army Minor Units Cup Runners-Up
Football	—	League Cup Finalists
Rugby	—	Army U19 Cup Winners
Squash	—	Army Team U19 Runners-Up Army Minor Units Runners-Up
Badminton	—	Army Junior Doubles Champions
Cycling	—	Army Junior Road Roller Champion
Small Bore	—	3rd in UKLF Small Bore Shoot
Basketball	—	Junior and Senior Cup Runners-Up
Orienteering	—	NE Area Orienteering Champions
Skiing	—	2nd in the Junior Team Event, Army Ski Meeting
Athletics	—	PS Winners of Training Group Royal Signals Meeting
Canoeing	—	Army Champions

CONGRATULATIONS

Our sincere congratulations go to **2Lt J. G. Peck** Royal Signals on winning the Agar Memorial Prize whilst attending his Standard Military Course at Sandhurst. The Agar Memorial Prize is given for the best Royal Signals student of each intake at Sandhurst.

2Lt Peck was an apprentice Radio Relay Technician in Phillips Sqn during the period Sep 73 - Apr 76. This is another example of an ex-apprentice achieving commissioned rank comparatively early in his career. The Commandant, on behalf of all ranks, military and civilian, wishes **2Lt Peck** all success and fortune for the future.

COMMANDANT'S WALK — 11 MAY

Report by 2Lt E. R. Mollison WRAC

This term the Commandant's Walk covered approximately 11 miles of Bronte Country. Sixty members of the Permanent Staff put on their climbing boots, breeches and favourtie hats and found their trusty walking sticks.

Having left the coaches at Midgehole the party began to split up; those who wanted to get to the Old Sun Hotel first, set off at a very fast pace. Some however, had brought the bar stock with them. **Maj Harry Feber, Lt Col Eddie Pickup** and **Maj (Retd)** (extras) **Metcalfe** stopped after an hour's walking to have a can of lager and a photo session.

W/LCpl Maritta Slavin who only knew at the last moment that she was coming on the walk, made good use of **2Lt John Murley's** shoulders by letting him carry her bag. **WO2 Rod Dinsdale** also made her day a memorable one by carrying her in his arms across the mud.

Further on, the Commandant, followed closely by **Capt Jim** (Falklands) **Johnson** (who appeared to be carrying more than his fair share of the kit), could be seen tearing up the Pennine Way passing all the young Subalterns and running down the other side leaving the ruins of Whithins Farm (reputed to be the farm Emily Bronte had in mind when writing of the Earnshaw home Wuthering Heights) far behind.

Sgt John Pennington, obviously the thirstiest member of the party, arrived at the Hotel in 2hrs and 15mins. The rest of the party arrived in dribs and drabs looking very red having just climbed a large hill to get to the pub. Eventually everyone arrived, quenched their thirst, ate lunch and agreed that the walk had been a success. Then everyone staggered down to the coaches that would take us all back to sunny Harrogate. For some the day had taken its toll and they fell asleep on the coach to be woken at Harrogate where it was, you've guessed it—raining!

ATHLETICS

The Training Group Athletics Meeting was held at the College on 14 May involved teams from 8 and 11 Sig Regts the Junior Regt, the College Permanent Staff and the 4 Apprentice Tradesman Squadrons from the College. A hard fought competition resulted in a draw between the College Permanent Staff and 11 Sig Regt. Using a system based on the number of first and second places scored by each team, the College Permanent Staff team were adjudged to be the Training Group Representatives for the forthcoming Championships, the trophy would be shared by the two teams. Noteable performances and first places came from the following:

Sgt Mick Orange	—	**Long Jump**
LCpl Pete Freeman	—	**800m**
Sgt Billy Cain	—	**5000m**
Sgt Paul Gaffney	—	**High Jump**

and **AT Cpl Jim Stillie** of Bradley Sqn achieved first place in the 1500m with the highly commendable time of 4mins 26.6secs.

CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ex *High Cross III* (16-22 May) was the College Canoe Squad's participation in the Army Canoe Slalom Championships held on the River Teif at Llandysul Wales. After a six hour journey to Llandysul the party, consisting of 6 ATs and 2 instructors, arrived to start their challenge for the Army Slalom Crown. After the initial camp administration was completed it was time to view the river conditions with scepticism and a great deal of apprehension. The three days prior to the competition were spent training on the course itself. It took several runs down before we got the hang of the course and even then some of us were still swimming. One person who was determined not to swim was **AT Slim Collins** who would drift down the middle of the river trying to eskimo roll until he was eventually upright.

On Friday, the course was finally adjusted and the competition began. The first event was the novice competition (for a person who is in his first year of canoeing) in which we all took part. The first run of the day saw **AT Cpl Taff Reed** in 3rd place, myself in 4th, **AT Ballistic Sharp** 5th and the rest of the team following close behind. The second run saw a great improvement in most of us with **AT Cpl Reed** moving up to 2nd place, **AT SSM Mal Maloney** 6th , myself 7th, **AT Zippy Sharp** 8th, **AT Slim Collins** 9th and **AT Jock Anderson** 10th.

On the Saturday we were able to watch our instructors, **LCpl Andy Eaton** and **Cpl Ian Dobson,** pair up to win the Open C2 event (Canadian Canoes) and thereby become the Army Champions. We also competed in the youth competition on that day. **At Cpl Reed** who was expected to do well in this competition had a bad day and capsized on both his runs. The remainder managed to stay upright to take the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places.

On the final day it was the team competitions, the event we really wanted to do well in! Our 'A' team consisted of **Cpl Reed, Cpl Dobson, AT SSM Maloney** and our 'B' team of **AT Collins, AT Sharp** and **AT Anderson.** Our hopes and wishes were rewarded with a very pleasing result—the 'A' team came 1st and the 'B' team 2nd, both teams were well ahead of the nearest opposition. This good result was made even better by the fine performance of **LCpl Eaton** in the Open K1 competition where he was to win with relative ease to become the Army Champion for 1983.

By Sunday evening we were a very happy group of individuals who had just completed a beneficial and worthwhile exercise, our successes are shown below:

Senior K1	**LCpl Eaton—1st (Army Champion)**	
Senior C2	**LCpl Eaton/Cpl Dobson—1st (Army Champions)**	
Novice K1	**AT Cpl Reed**	**2nd**
	AT SSM Maloney	**6th**
	AT Dobson	**7th**
	AT Sharp	**8th**
	AT Collins	**9th**
	AT Anderson	**10th**
Junior K1	**At Dobson**	**2nd**
	AT SSM Maloney	**3rd**
	AT Collins	**4th**
	AT Sharp	**5th**
	AT Anderson	**6th**
Junior Team Championships	**'A' Team — 1st (Army Champions)**	
	'B' Team — 2nd	

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

BILTON CONSERVATION GROUP'S NIDD GORGE PROJECT

On Saturday 16 April **2Lt John Murley** and **Sgt Brian Caffrey** took 37 members of Scott Sqn to assist the Bilton Conservation Group in reclaiming waste land. The project is in its infancy so the work mainly involved clearing the area of rubbish, including cars, motorcycles, railway sleepers, rubble and other unprintable domestic items.

A group from 49 Fld Wksp REME came along with a wrecker and under the diligent leadership of **Sgt John Craw** managed to drag numerous wrecks and jumble from the bed of the River Nidd.

Sgt Brian Caffrey had a great time with the Harrogate Sub Aqua Club, dressed up in their rubber gear clearing the river of its haul. Unfortunately the local sewerage works drains out a 100mtrs upstream, but this didn't seem to deter our gallant band of divers.

Cpl Biff McKenna worked well but mysteriously disappeared for half an hour, when questioned about this he replied that PR is PR but she didn't have an elder sister.

The clearing of the river was assisted by the use of the REME recovery vehicle from Ripon. The job was also assisted by six divers, who had the pleasant job of swimming around in the murky water trying to catch car doors and mopeds. This was by far the most difficult job going and involved nearly everybody there. The cars were the first things to be moved followed by the mopeds. There were two and a half cars and three mopeds and a scooter. **Cpl McKenna** was trying to sell the scooter to some of the mods. Then we came to railway sleepers which were a never ending task. Humping the sleepers about was taken on by **AT Chunks Dalton** and **AT Smurf Muir** as they were the biggest amongst us. Finally the divers emerged from the river and announced it was cleared (much to our relief).

The first day of work was finished and everybody was pleased with what had been accomplished and the fact that we were going back for a rest. We were thanked by one of the men in charge saying that he was grateful for the work we had done. He apologised for the lack of civilians saying he hoped that there would be more there the next time; it looks like we'll be going back there.

Everybody enjoyed themselves at some stage of the day. Two ATs assigned themselves to the unofficial job of washing the cups in the tea hut and had a good time. This was no doubt encouraged by the presence of a young lady who was making the tea, as I'm sure that they would never wash up dishes voluntarily at any other time. Now the work has started, but there is still a lot more to do until it is finished. Perhaps if we came back in five year's time we would see the park completed.

The Scott Sqn apprentices rest from their labours whilst 2Lt John Murley shows what a good 'mug shot' he can give!

MISS PENNY POT

For those ex apprentices and staff who served in the College during 1977 a moment for nostalga, mixed possibly with other emotions. Do you remember, and its such a long time ago some of you may only now be capable of just that! **'Miss Penny Pot'.**

That year, 1977, the College adopted a Pin Up, **Miss Julie Rudsdale,** a professional model from Bradford. Julie fronted and received national press coverage involving numerous College activites. Adopting a popular press phrase—Where is she now?—we can tell—nay show you—She is back with us. Resurrected,if the lady will excuse the phrase, by the Commandant, **Col Paddy Verdon. 'Miss Penny Pot'** is back in the fold. **Julie,** looking as lovely if not more so than she did in '77, is again promoting the college. We in turn have done a little promoting. Among her many other and more obvious talents **Julie** has now added what one looks for in all good soldiers—loyalty. This quality has been justifiably rewarded by her promotion, by the Commandant with Daily Mirror in attendance, to the Rank of Sergeant.

'Miss Penny Pot' has already, as our photographs show, been involved. It is said her prescence at the College Athletics created many new records.

For the remainder of the summer her programme, and we are assured only her programme is being handled by Penney Sqn who we are further assured, know about these things.

Although we look forward with some anticipation to much national press coverage there are, in some quarters, nagging doubts. Controlling **'Miss Penny Pots'** PR is **Capt Wally Lockwood.** He is said to be a little disappointed that his first of many PR events planned has been vetoed by the Commandant. It involved **'Miss Penny Pot',** a reluctant Adjt the two openly hostile QMs, and a complacent **Col 'Johnny'.** The plan was to have all but **Col Johnny** dressed in leotards on Graduation Day in the area of the College dais. Knowing the personalities concerned will assist in the appreciation of the scene. Contrive to watch this space for future developments.

Miss Penny Pot in the arms of AT Colin Hawkesworth and appearing to enjoy every moment of it. On the right AT Adrian (Cheesy) Cheeseman finds something else to look at whilst AT LCpl Mike Leonard wonders if the use of his left hand might be misconstrued.

Miss Penny Pot, having just gained her stripes, enjoys the attention of assorted apprentices

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

2 SQN FOCUS

CONGRATULATIONS

On Wednesday 4 May 1983, the visiting officer **Brig D. J. Atkinson CBE** presented **SSgt (Supvr R) Mick Smart** and **Cpl Jeff Shaw** with their "Mention in Despatches", for distinguished service whilst serving in Northern Ireland. Our heartiest congratulations are extended to both, most deserving recipients.

MILITARY TRAINING . . . pardon me!

On Friday 13 May we welcomed our 'other arf' from the depths of rural Gloucestershire to Garats Hay for the bi-annual bout of musket training etc. After the intitial reunions and settling in, all were assembled for the opening address from the CO, **Lt Col John Dobson,** swiftly followed by two very interesting lectures on unit security and current world affairs by **Capt Tony Childs** and **Maj Donald Cameron.** The rest of the evening was given over to catching up on postings, promotions, gossip and scandal in each of the respective messes.

Saturday dawned bright and early for most. Much to their disgust some saw the sunrise from the window of a 39 seater coach on the way to Beckingham ranges! The rest were broken down into syndicates and despatched to the sports field to be put through their paces by eagerly awaiting instructors. Before too long, there were parties of coughing bodies near the pavilion as **SSgt (YofS) Brian Lawrence** went through his nauseating (quite literally in some cases) routine. Without dropping any names (cos I promised **Sgt Al Brown** I wouldn't) some soon found out that their respirators weren't quite as 'gas proof' as they had at first thought! For once the sounds issuing from the 30 metre range were those of our own weapons being fired instead of the local 'fuzz'. On the First Aid stand, the 'laid back' style of **Cpl Keith Armstrong** with his instructions to 'put yerself in a heap . . . No!, a proper heap' went down well with both victim and class alike.

Amazingly the rain held off and the weekend went well. Most of us learnt something from the efforts of the instructors but I am still left wondering why my reasons for not being able to attend the weekend were not accepted by the powers that be. Never mind, the cat has got over its bout of early morning sickness and my mother-in-law managed to paint the outside loo herself in the end.

ORIENTEERING . . . the Thought Sport

Having tasted success at District level, the Group's Orienteering teams (one ladies and two mens) departed for Scarborough and the UKLF Championships full of confidence. The Championships are a two day competition and consists of an individual event on day one followed by a relay event on day two.

On arrival at Burniston barracks, it quickly became apparent that competition for the Minor Units Trophy was going to be very fierce. 22 Locating Battery and the School of Military Survey, both very much fancied, along with 12 other teams were going to make life extremely difficult for the underdogs of the competition, such as ourselves.

The individual event proved to be not only physically demanding, with some 300 metres of climb over a 9.5km course, but also very controversial as some of the leading lights in the orienteering world hit the wrong control in the final stages of the race. (This results in the individual and therefore the team being disqualified from the competition!). Our B team of **LCpls Harry Butland, Phil Churm** and **Sig Mat Jones** were no exceptions and with two of the three mispunching they joined five other teams disqualified that day.

The A team of **WO2 John Skipper, SSgts Brian Lawrence** and **Al Hale** ran well and managed to secure third place. 22 Locating Battery were over an hour up on the rest of the teams but with Junior Leaders Regiment (RA) only eight minutes ahead of us and the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow only eleven minutes behind, a good run on day two would see us moving up to second place whilst a slip up could put us down in the 'also rans'.

Our ladies team of **WWO2 Jo Bolland, WCpl Chris Meadows** and **WPte Sandy Goodson** had also run very well and were a close second behind 3 UDR.

Day two dawned and the relay event proved to be a disaster for the girls as **Sandy** hit a wrong control and the team were disqualified. Not so for the mens A team who managed to hold on to third place and thus qualified for the Army Championships to be held in BAOR on the 11/12 June.

SPORTSTEAM 83

This competition was first introduced to the Group in the summer of 1982 and after a resounding success was fought for again over seven weeks in the early summer(?) of this year.

As the name implies it is a team competition to find the best 'all round' sporting team from within the Group at sub unit level. The eight individual events that go to make up the competition proper, are very diverse and in some cases quite unique. Some require a lot of practise and patience, others a lot of effort, but all require a great deal of forethought. Teams are comprised of seven men, with different numbers being required for each event and no one person being allowed to do more than five events.

Eight teams entered this year's competition with all of them out to beat last year's winner, HQ Tp.

As the competition progressed and the going got tough, a few teams fell by the wayside. With two events to go there was only one team that was going to win but the race for runners up medals was wide open between the next five teams. In the end it was last year's runners up, 2 Sqn Training Wing who wrested the Trophy from HQ's grasp and 2 Sqn Ops troop finished very worthy runners up.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **WO2 Bill Kelly, Sgts Chris Marshall, Steve Francis, LCpls Danny O'Brien** and **Geordie Lynn** and wish them well in their new posts.

At the same time we would like to welcome **WO1 Barry Anderson, Sgt Steve Garnett** and **Cpl Pete Packwood.** May your tour with the Group be a happy one.

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

Crieff, Perthshire

Situated in spacious grounds in beautiful Perthshire, Morrison's Academy is an independent school for boys and girls which, since 1860, has been equipping young people for life all over the world. The reputation of Morrison's is based on sound Scottish formal education, along with a wide range of sports and activities. 'O' grade, Higher grade and Sixth Year examinations are taken while Oxford and Cambridge A-levels can be added if desired.

Boarders, who form a third of the roll of 840 pupils, are accepted from eight years upwards, and are accommodated in eight comfortable houses within easy reach of the School and are under the supervision of a housemaster or housemistress who is on the Staff of the School. A few day pupils are admitted each year to Primary 1 and Primary 2.

Boarding fees for Session 1983/84 are £970 per term. The Rector will be pleased to forward further details on request.

RESTRUCTURED

On 16 May, 1983 the Queen's Gurkha Signals, restructured into a Regiment of four Squadrons:

HQ Sqn
246 (Gurkha Fd Force) Sig Sqn
247 Gurkha Sig Sqn
248 Gurkha Sig Sqn

PERSONALITIES

RHQ is located in Sek Kong and the key personalities are:

Commd	—	**Lt Col M. J. Lance**
2IC	—	**Maj R. F. Willsher**
Adjt	—	**Capt S. J. Leach**
Gurkha Maj	—	**Maj(QGO) Shyamlal Gurung MVO**
Head Clerk	—	**Lt(QGO) Chandru Rai**

We have a large Orderly Room, which administers all the Squadrons and comprises of:

Chief Clerk	—	**SSgt Chandrakumar Shakya**
Courses/Ops	—	**Sgt Barry Glossop**
WOIC Documents Team	—	**WO2 Ratambumar Chhetri**
	—	**Sgt Topbahadur Gurung (Gurkha documentation)**
	—	**Cpl Ip (Chinese documentation)**
	—	**Cpl Paul Kerr (British documentation)**
Clerks	—	**Cpl Ramkaji Gurung**
	—	**Sig Samson Rai**
	—	**LCpl Robin Gurung**
	—	**Sig Anand Limbu**
	—	**Sig Shyam Shakya**

and not forgetting **Wendy** our typist and **Cynthia** our civilian clerk.

As can be seen we are a mixed Orderly Room with only two British clerks, however the Orderly Room works well together and it is great fun working with Gurkhas.

Some of the Orderly Room staff with the Gurkha Major Maj(QCO) Balbir Thapa before his retirement.
Left to Right: Lt(QGO) Chandru Rai (Head Clerk), Sig Andy Gurung, SSgt Chandrakumar Shakya (Chief Clerk), Sig Shyam Shakya, Maj(QGO) Shyamlal Gurung MVO (des), Cynthia, Maj(QGO) Balbir Thapa, LCpl Ramesh Gurung and Sgt Barry Glossop

SPORT

On the sporting side we won the BFHK Squash Championships beating BMH Hong Kong 4—1; in football we were through to the Nepal Cup Semi Finals but unfortunately lost 3—1 to 1/2 GR.

GEN BIRTWISTLE ATTENDS REGIMENTAL DINNER

Despite a very busy social programme the SOinC kindly accepted the invitation to dine in the British WO's & Sgts Mess hosted by the Mess President **WO1(GSM) R. Hannagan** and **WO1(RSM) Prembahadur Pun.**

The evening started with the arrival of 80 British, Gurkha and Chinese WO's & Sgts of Queen's Gurkha Signals, followed shortly by the arrival of other invited guests, the Regimental 2IC **Maj R. F. Willsher,** the two Squadron Commanders, OC Gurkha Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn **Maj S. M. A. Lee** and OC Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn **Maj R. A. L. Anderson.** The arrival of the **SOinC, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE,** the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals **Lt Col M. J. Lance** and the Gurkha Major **Maj(QGO) Shyamlal Gurung MVO** was heralded by the skirl of the pipes as two pipers from the Queen's Gurkha Signals pipes and drums played the SOinC into the mess foyer, where the VIP's were met by **WO1(GSM) R. Hannagan, WO1(RSM) Prembahadur** and the joint PMC's **WO2(YofS) S. Howard** and **WO2(SSM) Jumbahadur Gurung.** The SOinC signed the visitor's book and proceeded into the lounge for pre dinner drinks, this gave him the opportunity to meet some new faces and renew old acquaintances. There then followed an excellent six course dinner under the eagle eye of the Mess Manager **SSgt W. Bailey RE.**

During the meal a superb pipe programme by three pipers of Queen's Gurkha Signals pipes and drums had many feet tapping and hands clapping. Whilst coffee and liqueurs were being enjoyed, the GSM & RSM made their welcoming speeches to the SOinC on behalf of all Queen's Gurkha Signals. SOinC replied. He was a little surprised when the PMC called for order for the GSM. To mark this unique and special occasion, the GSM and RSM requested the SOinC to accept a beautiful Kothi Mohara Kukhri inscribed 'From all WO's and SNCO's Queen's Gurkha Signals'. In expressing his sincere thanks, **General Birtwistle** said that the Kukhri would always have pride of place in his home.

There then followed a pipe display by the solo piper culminating in the traditional passing of the quaich by the Commander Queen's Gurkha Signals **Lt Col M. J. Lance.** Although this signalled the end of a superb dinner the evening was far from over as the SOinC took the opportunity to speak to every member in the mess prior to departing in the small hours.

WO1 (GSM) 'Mick' Hannagan and WO1 (RSM) Prembahadur Pun present the SOinC with a 'Kothimora Kukri' on behalf of Queen's Gurkha Signals

Lt Col Lance passing the Quaich to Cpl Lekhbahadur Gurung in the presence of WO1 (GSM) 'Mick' Hannagan, the SOinC and WO1(RSM) Prembahadur Pun

OP MERCURY

This year's Op Mercury better known as the Swiss Crossbow Shoot was held on 13 March, 1983 at the Tai Ling and San Wai Ranges in the New Territories. This is an annual shooting competition between the Swiss Association of Hong Kong and Queen's Gurkha Signals. The weapons fired ranged from the 9mm pistol through to the Swiss Crossbow.

The weather caused a lot of concern for the organizers of the event, as it had rained almost everyday since the beginning of March and on Saturday 12 the ranges looked more like the setting for a water-polo competition rather than shooting. However, by Sunday morning the weather had improved so much that even the sun came out; the day was started on a good footing.

By 1000hrs, the Swiss and Gurkha competitors, their families and other spectators had arrived, and after an opening speech by the Vice President of the Swiss Association, the shooting competition started in earnest.

The first competition was the 9mm pistol shoot on the Tai Ling Range, followed by the ladies .22 shooting competition. The .22 shoot proved to be a most popular event amongst the ladies, especially the Gurkha's, and in all 35 Swiss, Gurkha and British ladies took part. The eventual winner was a Swiss young lady with a very good score of 90 out of a possible 100, closely followed by two Gurkha ladies.

Whilst these competitions were taking place, there were a number of side stalls that spectators could visit. One stall which was of great interest, especially for the Swiss spectators, was the stall selling Gurkha handicrafts. Items on this stall ranged from T-Shirts to beautiful hand-made wool rugs and carpets.

Another event which attracted large interest was the cross-bow pool bull competition. This competition was opened to all those who thought they were budding 'William Tells', and who could spare a couple of dollars to shoot three bolts. Many found firing the cross-bow was a little more difficult than they had imagined. The eventual winner was a young Gurkha signalman.

The main shooting event from the spectators point of view was the falling plate match, which took place on the San Wai Range. In this competition there were a total of 16 teams of four men. Each team consisted of two Gurkha soldiers and two Swiss civilians. To make the event even more interesting a 'Tote' was set up by some enterprisiing technicians, with a little help from a computer. This competition was run on a knock out basis, until there were two teams left to fight it out. A most thrilling event, with plenty to shout about, especially if your team won.

The final shooting competition of the day was the VIP crossbow match, between **Brig R. M. Llewellyn OBE** Comd Gurkha Fd Force and **Mr R. C. Wolf** the Swiss Consul General. The winner of this encounter was the Brigadier. After this event came the Raffle of some 75 prizes, as throughout the day a band of Raffle ticket sellers had been busy at work. This was followed by the prize giving, where Queen's Gurkha Signals won most of the competitions and matches.

A concentrated effort from: *Left to Right:* SSgt Bernie Thomas, Lt Col M. J. Lance, and WO1 (GSM) 'Mick' Hannagan

The final task on these occasions is the Cheese Cutting Ceremony, as the Swiss Association present a very large Emunthal cheese to Queen's Gurkha Signals, which is duly cut up and distributed amongst those present. Once this ceremony was completed all guests retired to the marquees for a superb curry supper and drinks.

To complete the day, after supper all present watched a Beating Retreat by the combined Pipes and Drums of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles and Queen's Gurkha Signals. A most colourful event, thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by all present. A wonderful climax to a wonderful day.

Comd Gurkha Fd Force Brig R. M. Llewellyn receives the VIP Crossbow Shooting prize from the Swiss Consul General Mr R. C. Wolf. WO1(RSM) Mick Hannagan looks on

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

REPORT OF A 12 MONTH DETACHMENT
by Sgt Stephen Hilton

On Wednesday, 1 April 1982 a Royal Signals detachment from CPA (now Projects Division, School of Signals) left Avonmouth Docks on board the RMS St Helena, bound for the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean. The detachment was headed by **Foreman Murphy** and consisted of 5 TE Techs from CPA's installation team and 2 Tele Mechs. The party numbered 19 including 5 wives and 6 children. This report covers the project in general, but is mainly about the job carried out by the Telemechs—**Cpl Tilley** and myself.

Four years ago the Government of St Helena made attempts to replace their old telephone system, which had been in operation for some 40 years. The telephone system was based on a 120 line manual exchange. The cabling was mainly open copper wire. The decision to change the system was forced on the Government because:

The system was poorly maintained and was in a sorry state of repair.

The demand for telephones had long since passed the 120 subscriber mark, so, by placing parallel telephones on lines (up to 6 on one line), some 290 subscribers were incorporated in this system. This led to poor service from overworked operators and naturally caused a great deal of inconvenience to subscribers.

Tenders were called for but proved to be too costly, so the Foreign and Commonwealth Office sought the help of Royal Signals. The necessary UK Government funding was provided and the project was given the go ahead.

BEST KNOWN LINK

St Helena is best known as the place of Napolean's exile and death. Indeed, many people know little more of the island than that. However, it is 47 square miles in area and surrounded by the South Atlantic Ocean. It is without an airfield and is 700 miles from the nearest land, the even smaller island of Ascension (one of its dependencies). The nearest mainland is the west coast of Africa, over 1,000 miles away. Cape Town, 1,700 miles to the south east, is the nearest regularly accessible place of importance. The island boasts its own ship, the RMS St Helena, which provides the link with Cape Town and, even more importantly, with the UK.

St Helena has been governed by the British for over 300 years, the population of some 5,000 is English speaking, the currency is Sterling-based and the general way of life is fundamentally British. In latitude 16° south and longitude 5° 45′ west, St Helena is tropical, but the climate is by no means as extreme as that suggests. It is equable and warm, but there is a noticeable difference between the drier low-lying areas such as Jamestown (the capital and only town) and the cooler, damper, cloudy uplands. Thunder storms are exceptionally rare, hurricanes are unknown and the island is free of common tropical hazards such as snakes and poisonous spiders.

WE ARRIVE

Seventeen days after leaving Avonmouth, we arrived off St Helena. The voyage had been pleasant although the ship was very small. We landed on the island by being ferried ashore in small fishing boats to the wharf. After passing through customs, we were transported to our quarters in the area known as Longwood. This was in the highlands, some five miles inland from Jamestown. This journey allowed us our first look at our new home.

All roads inland from Jamestown lead uphill and, like most on St Helena, they are narrow and demand sensible driving (Techs take note!). There are just over 52 miles of surfaced roads covering the island. The overall speed limit is 30 mph, but in some places it is even less. Many of the hills are long and steep and low gears are much used. Some 1,200 motor vehicles are registered, petrol is noticeably more expensive than in UK at £2.25 a gallon.

Most of the coastal region is rather barren, except for low scrub and cactus, but much of the central area, about a third of the total, is pleasantly green. One of the charms of St Helena is how the scenery varies so much within such a small area. The sudden contrast between bare slopes and lush pastures, between plains and sea cliffs, between dense plantations of flax and lunar-like volcanic landscapes is a striking feature.

THE JOB

The first two weeks were spent by my walking the proposed routes and **Cpl Graham Tilley** unloading and storing the many tons of equipment that we required for such a large job.

The Technicians started to install the 550 line electromagnetic type Strowger exchange, which had been recovered, refurbished and transported from Hong Kong. We were tasked to run lines from the central part of the island, where the exchange was housed, to the major populated parts of the island. This involved running some 49km of aerial cable.

OUR LOCAL FORCE

At the start of the third week we met our local labour force. This consisted of the local telephone linesmen (3 men and 1 apprentice) who had worked on the old system. The other part of the labour force was 10 local labourers who were to provide the muscle to complete the job. The working hours on the island are from 0730 hrs to 1600 hrs. This meant a start time of 0700 hrs and a finish of 1630 hrs for us. The average wage was about £25.60 per week for all our workers. Our first impression of our men was one of shock. They turned up in a mixture of cowboy hats and boots, T shirts and training shoes.

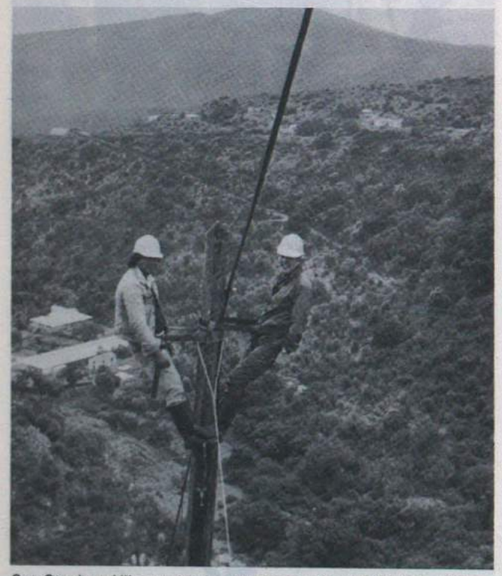
Sgt Stephen Hilton instructing Local Linemen in use of Jointing Kit No 1. Cpl Graham Tilley looks on

Sgt Stephen Hilton and Local Lineman Arthur Leo

Cpl Graham Tilley teaching Local Apprentice Lineman Chadwyn Lawrence jointing skills

IN EARNEST

The next day we started work in earnest. I decided to build the route that was likely to be the hardest first. It was to run from the exchange to Cable and Wireless, a distance of 2.8 km, and we had to use 100 pr SSACC. The route travelled over three ridges, which were separated by deep valleys, the last ridge being at the top of a place called Barren Ridge. This meant us building a route down what was almost a cliff face of about 300 to 350 feet. This is without doubt the steepest slope on which I have ever had to erect overhead cable. The problems involved proved very taxing, but the worst was the fact that the face was solid rock. The holes were at first made by using a petrol-driven pneumatic drill, but after only one day this broke down. Being isolated, the spare parts needed to repair the drill could not be obtained for 3 months, so **Cpl Graham Tilley** had his men bore the hole to the regulation depth by hand, using chisels and digging bars.



Sgt Stephen Hilton with Local Lineman Cedric O'Dean. Picture taken at the top of Barren Hill. The route went down an almost cliff face approximately 300—350ft high. Building belongs to Cable and Wireless

A PROBLEM OVERCOME

While this route was being built, I started training the linesmen in the skills that they needed. They had never had any formal training, so this meant starting from basics and ensuring every part of the job was taught. We found that the local workforce were quick to grasp any practical job they were shown. They started working well and needed no pushing, but after only two weeks they seemed to lose interest and the work rate we set appeared to be getting slower and slower. It got to a state which was unacceptable, so stern words were needed. This, instead of driving the men to produce better work, caused them to sulk. So, after more stern words, the solution was found to be very close supervision at all times. This meant tasking **Cpl Tilley** with the job of on-site management. No real problems with the mens' work rate were encountered again.

DIFFERENT FORMS

Our next two problems came in different forms, the first being the weather. The rain started to fall heavily and, unfortunately, lasted for three months. We and our men worked throughout, often soaked to the skin and covered in mud. Despite all this we were pleased to see a team spirit begin to develop. We found our men had no outdoor clothing and we had to purchase boots and overalls for them all—although even this still didn't stop them getting soaked. The second problem became apparent about the same time. I felt that we were not going to meet our 12 month deadline, so our working hours were extended to every Saturday and evening work when required.

After about 4 weeks' work on our first route, we started a small team working on the main route to Jamestown. This consisted of 3 x 100 pr SSACC and involved digging holes in solid rock over an area of about 1 km. The team had the use of a compressor and pneumatic drill, but even so they could only manage one hole per day and blunted about 6 drill bits a week.

TECHNICIANS DEPART

We carried on working on main routes overcoming the problems of local terrain. The men were kept at the task of digging holes, erecting poles and erecting and tensioning cable. By the end of six months, most of our major routes were constructed. At this time the Technicians had completed the task of installing the new exchange and begun packing prior to returning to the UK in November 1982.

The departure of the Technicians gave us the use of another Land Rover, bringing our total number to three. Transport was very short and we owe much to the St Helena Government garage which kept our much used and abused vehicles on the road. We pushed our Rovers to their limits and this caused breakdowns. The garage changed 12 half shafts and 2 gear boxes in 12 months, not to mention all the hundreds of other smaller items.

A SWITCH

After six months of concentrating on main routes, it was time to start teams on local wiring, both internal and external. We chose our best labourers and trained them in internal wiring skills. They picked up the job quickly and produced work of which many a unit would be envious.

Christmas gave us our first break from work in eight months. we had a great time celebrating Christmas when the temperature was in the 80's.

OUR TARGET

After our short break, the New Year signalled the start of work in earnest. Our target date was 16 April. **Cpl Tilley's** team was nearing the completion of all the major cabling, which amounted to about 49 km of SSACC, and some 400 poles had been erected. The internal wirers were now installing 6 houses a day. Linesmen began connecting dropwife and testing telephones.

THE BEST IN THE LAND

My work was increasing more in the office, although I still had to check jobs at the beginning and end of each day. Another aspect of my work was having to attend various Council and committee meetings. As time went by I became increasingly worried about meeting our deadline. I was forced to ask **Cpl Tilley** to push his team harder and increase the internal wiring and distribution cable work load. During this period we worked 0700 hrs-1900 hrs (when darkness fell). Our local work team had come round to the way we wanted them to work and they not only produced good quality work but developed a sense of pride in the job. I felt they became the best workforce on the island—they seemed to think so anyway!

The change-over day approached and we felt that we could just complete our task. (We did, with two days to spare). I had to issue a directory, train operators and inform the public how to use this new, and, to them, unique, method of using a 'phone. This was done by newspaper and radio broadcasts and when a telephone was installed a practical demonstration was given to the subscriber.

The big day arrived. The Councillors, the VIPs and the champagne arrived at the building. After speeches, the change over was carried out. During the day, we found that, out of nearly four hundred telephones installed for subscribers, only four didn't work. The last week we spent training the local tradesmen in testing the maintenance of the new system.

OUR SPARE TIME

Apart from work, in our spare time **Cpl Tilley** and I trained and assisted Boy Scouts and various other groups. I trained them in hill walking, map reading and expedition work. **Cpl Tilley** ran a gym club for the local Boy Scouts troop on Sunday evenings.

In the spare time we did have, we found the absence of television caused people to entertain far more than in other places we have served. It was common to be invited out or hold dinners or parties nearly every night. People seemed to be more friendly without the 'box'. We must thank both islanders (Saints) and expatriots alike for making our stay, both when working and not, most enjoyable.

SATISFYING

I feel, in looking back on our 12 months, that this was a very satisfying job. It was nice to start and finish a large job, and be able to apply one's trade skills to help people to have a modern system in such a remote place where it will be put to full use.

AND PRODUCTIVE

On our return voyage the ship suffered many delays in the form of cargo off-loading in the following places—Ascension, Las Palmas, Tenerife and Madeira, so our tour finished on a very high note! **Sgt Geoff Dawson**, one of the Techs, went out single and returned a married man. My wife **Deborah** presented me with a little girl just six weeks before our return, certainly a souvenir I was very proud to bring back.

To close, I would like to thank our understanding wives for putting up with our very long hours without too many complaints.

EXERCISE 'JOLLY ROGER'

Radio Exercise Troop and attached elements of HQ Sqn deployed to Wyke Regis on the Dorset coast in late May to soak up the sun and partake of the local leisures and pleasures at their annual summer camp.

On the first day, our happy band of warriors, relaxing after their morning's activities, including the military swim test, were firmly entrenched in chairs, easy, low back, eyes glued to the telly, anticipation, argument and discussion rife as everyone waited for the kick-off of the Cup Final—then CONSTERNATION!!! The electricity supply failed. **Maj Tony Marley** and **SSM Gordon Brogan** took on the role of electricians and with some outside help, restored power and joy. The cheer could have been heard at Old Trafford.

For the next five days everyone had the opportunity to experience the delights of wind-surfing, canoeing, dinghy sailing and rock climbing and abseiling, and just to keep the men on their toes **SSgt Bob Keen** devised a devilish night exercise for us. In addition to a 40km 'Yomp' and intricate map reading exercises everyone had to cross the River Frome without artificial aids and later, cross a wide ravine on the Dorset cliffs using only rope and common sense. The river crossing was made all the more pleasurable (for the DS) as they were able to enjoy the unbelievable reactions from passing motorists at the sight of naked or near naked squaddies taking the plunge. The sight of the sexy pink vest of **LCpl 'Taff' Walters** caused a passing motorist (female) to reverse for a second look in utter disbelief. Our CO **Lt Col Hugh Morrison** and RSM **WO1 Ken Russell** witnessed the closing stages of the ravine crossing and were suitably impressed. We, in turn, were delighted to have them to lunch.

Sgt Chuck Walker of 2 Sqn (Trials) brought along his expertise and windsurfers and during the week was able to introduce all our soldiers to that sport. **Sgt Chris Harden** is now pestering his 'missus' for £500 to kit himself out and **Cpl Al Potter** has promised us that in future, he will not panic in 2 feet of water, 100 yards from the beach.

LCpl Jim Latimer and **LCpl Steve Littlewood** looked after the dinghy sailing in Portland Harbour. This activity was very popular with everyone, especially since it was realised that it was not a court martial offence to ram friendly German destroyers.

Cpl Ian Thompson (3 Sqn 30 Sig Regt) and **Sgt Alan Pritchard** (Projects Division) spent all week trying to teach soldiers to canoe in a straight line, without much success. The more confident, however, were able to tour Portland Harbour without mishap.

Capt Andrew Johnstone and **Sgt Pete Hickey APTC** led the rock climbing expeditions near Portland Bill. Special mention must be made of all those who were able to overcome vertigo and hangovers to climb the rock faces and cliffs which rise out of the sea in this area. Thanks to their special brand of leadership everyone who tackled this sport is now much more self-confident.

Exercise *Jolly Roger* turned out to be a very rewarding experience for all concerned. We look forward with keen anticipation to July when the other half of the Squadron (Systems Troop) deploy for the same training.

RADIO EX TROOP
EX 'WINTEX 1983'

This was Radio Tp's first Exercise *Wintex* with our recently acquired Commitment DCN 0039, to supply communications from Corps HQ in the field to the MOD Defence Situation Centre.

The Troop OC, **WO2 (YofS) Kev Donaldson** led a third of the troop to London to form the MOD detachment (He knows which side his bread is buttered!) Once they were settled into their 5-star hotels, they installed their equipment and awaited the deployment of the BAOR det.

The other two thirds of the troop, ably led by **SSgt Bob Keen**, set off for BAOR a few days later. The road drive and channel crossing went without problems, and the troop arrived at Maresfield Bks midday Saturday, only to find that the Commhead PAPA det was to deploy immediately under **Cpl Ken Jones. Cpl Jones** was heard to make some unprintable comments about the Commhead OSCAR det led by your author **Cpl George Ralph**, which was left in Herford to enjoy a 'quiet' weekend. **Cpl Ken Jones** and his merry men were hosted admirably during this phase by a 14 Sig Regt det and would like to pass on their thanks.

On the following Monday the second det deployed to the field and the exercise proper commenced. It was obvious from the start that our recently installed complete CLANSMAN installation was going to improve the circuit 100% over previous exercises. I think it is safe to say that all who had occasion to use the Circuit, were impressed by the speed and efficiency of the communications. There was throughout *Wintex* quite a lot of high level interest in the system, an example follows:

DE DSC (Defence Situation Centre)
'Secretary Tarzan has just walked in'.
DE MUY (BAOR)
'Did you offer him a cup of coffee'
DE DSC
'Yes, he declined'.
DE MUY
'I'm not surprised, your coffee is like Ganges mud'.

The OC Sqn, **Maj Tony Marley** arrived towards the end of the exercise to collect his duty free, not to mention the kudos! Finally, at Endex the troops made their way back to Blandford laden down with the mandatory duty free and of course, the OC's wine. On arrival we met the bleary-eyed MOD det who had only just survived several weeks of expense account living!

In conclusion, this was, we feel, a successful exercise enjoyed by everyone and enhanced by the hospitality of Defence Commcen, DSC and of course, 7 Sig Regt. Many thanks to all, especially **SSgt Tony Desborough** of TM Workshops for keeping it all together.

SYSTEMS EXERCISE TROOP

For those who perhaps don't know, the troop provides the vehicles and equipment for the Instructional Wing of the School of Signals to teach and practise the management of the BRUIN System. The Troop OC is **WO2 (FofS) Alan Huey**, recently returned from a tour in the Falklands.

The troop Radio Relay operators were somewhat jubilant with the demise of the old C50s and C70s and the introduction of TRIFFIDS, which are much easier to operate and maintain. The remainder of the BRUIN installations are fairly standard but mounted on ancient Bedford RLs which break down with regular monotony!

The management aspect is practised on exercises UNITY and KOALA, which are mainly routine, except that in summer we have to compete with the tourists for the more attractive locations. Light relief is provided by the students on CQ, FofS, and YofS courses who try to lose us on Dorset back roads or at least leave us incommunicado. The main location at Piddlehinton Camp is at last getting a face-lift, and not before time, I can hear some of you saying.

Overall there is a certain amount of satisfaction and curiosity aroused as we do our bit before sending all to various posts around the world.

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

THE UNMENTIONABLE

The persistant appalling weather which might have dampened even the most cheerful of characters this spring, has done nothing to cloud the highlights of this very active part of the Ouston year. Beaufighter, Triangle, Battleaxe and Kukri Troops passed out on 20 April under the eyes of **Brig J. S. M. Grier OBE**, Commander 29 Engr Bde (V) and some 600 spectators, without a spot of rain falling on them, (although everyone had been soaked at the dress rehearsal the day before). Hadrians Hike managed to find the only three consecutive dry days this year, some competitors even managed a suntan.

There has been much coming and going, with the loss of the pass out troops, the arrival of a new Kohima Troop and some notable visits, of which that by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** was perhaps the most memorable.

FAREWELL VISIT BY SOinC

On Tuesday 31 May **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** paid his farewell visit to Ouston. He was greeted by a ceremonial barrack guard made up of representatives of each of the Corps serving with the Regiment. Then came a round of visits to troops at training and relaxing, with the accent always on the personal contact between SOinC and Junior Signalmen. There can be little doubt, that for the young men in the Regiment, that feeling of 'family', which **General Archie** is such an expert at fostering, will remain throughout their careers. A high point of the visit for the Cadre was the all ranks lunch which the Sgts Mess very kindly hosted. The General managed to speak to everyone. After lunch he was able to relax with a round of Golf on our brand new course and christened a new hole **'The Birtwistle Hole'** (without an **H**).

SOinC inspects the 'Quarter Guard'

JSgt Gary Jones informing the SOinC of the finer points of classroom soldiering

JSig Dave Hartley (spot the handicap) demonstrates to the SOinC how to assemble the LMG. Cpl Jeff Sammons looks on with hope and a prayer

The SOinC unveils the plaque formally opening the renovated Junior Ranks Restaurant. Capt Don Sinclair ACC looks on

WO1 (RSM) Tony Cartwright assists the SOinC to climb the last few steps to the Sgts Mess

KOHIMA TROOP FORMATION

On 11 May forty seven long haired and bewildered sixteen year olds passed through the barrier into Albemarle Barracks. Within a week they had been introduced to the Kohima Troop cadre, interviewed and issued with a mountain of kit. Whilst still bewildered, they had ceased to be long haired! Only now are the more fashion conscious juniors recovering from this traumatic experience.

The troop has settled in well. Discipline and hard work came as a shock to many, but a keen and enthusiastic approach has carried them through. Kohima Troop is beginning to look and work as a team, friendships are being forged and goals achieved. All aspects of training are progressing well and the troop are eagerly anticipating their first exercise in the field.

HADRIANS HIKE 83

Hadrians Hike is an annual 60 miles trek which follows the course of Hadrians Wall from Burgh by Sands in Cumbria to Harlow Hill in Northumberland. The event is sponsored by the Regiment and is open to teams of eight men from the Armed Forces, TAVR and the Police force. The Hike was undertaken in sections of 19, 16 and 25 miles, with two overnight stops at camp sites en route during the weekend 20-22 May.

This year for the first time the Regiment opened the event to a greater number of teams. The response was tremendous and included teams from the Royal Engineers, REME, RAOC, RPC, RAMC, RAPC, and many infantry teams, as well as those from the 'Old faithfuls', the Army Apprentice College at Harrogate and our Local Police. Participants even came from as far afield as 21 Sig Regt in BAOR.

The Hike itself went well, and the weather for once stayed clear and was even sunny at times—which is a rare sight for those of us in the Junior Regiment who 'live' on the wall all year round. The behaviour of all taking part was excellent and there was humour too. One Gem overheard coming from a Pioneer Private to a Royal Signals Major, just prior to a particularly 'scenic' part of the route, was 'I could have joined the Signals, but I didn't want a commission'!

The terrain covered varies from road to rugged cross country and the final day is by far the most arduous, covering approximately 6 miles of country followed by 19 miles of roads, up very steep hills. However, of the 180 marchers who participated only 3 failed to complete the full distance. All in all it was a most enjoyable weekend and although **WO2 (SSM) 'Sandy' Caterall** had sign posted the routes daily, the teams from 8 & 21 Regiments still managed to miss out two of the pubs. We hope that they and many others will return next year to try again.

It can't be uphill all the way lads! LCpl Jones leads Whitespear troop in the March and Shoot Comp

Capt Burn RAEC demonstrating to JLCpl Appleby, JSig Findlay and Pears how to magic a 'white rabbit' from his ammunition pouches in preparation for their mapreading exercise

The CO Lt Col K. G. Turner presents the March and Shoot Shield to JCpls Whiteway and Whittick

The CO presenting SSgt Colin Wing with a 'Hadrians Hike Medal'. Was it really worth it?

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 SQN

1 Sqn started April with a vengeance commencing with a site guard deployment on the 5th, ably lead by **Capt (Canada) Smith CELE** and supported by **SSgt (Fags) Jones** and **SSgt (Tech) Mower**. The period proved quite eventful, what with **Cpl (stand still or I'll fire) Young**, scaring the stars and stripes off the American forces and **Sig Rimmer** going to the most ridiculous lengths to convince his mates that he was 'not sleeping'. All in all a good site guard.

After a well earned rest we found ourselves eagerly preparing for Ex *Flying Falcon*. Once again the exercise proved eventful with **Maj Gen Hild** (Comd Comms BAOR) visiting and lunching with COMMCEN

No you can't come in!
Sgt Ireland and Cpl Lamberton chat to Comd Comms. Capt Smith in the background

You don't really want to know how it works. Cpl Banham chats to Comd Comms;

DELTA. We did, however, have our share of mishaps with **LCpl Fisher** and **Sig Burford** (both of Sierra Tp), narrowly escaping with their lives when the landrover they were travelling in turned over and burst into flames. Although not seriously injured they were admitted to BMH Hanover but released the following day. No sooner had we finished Ex *Flying Falcon* when we found ourselves preparing for the Annual Inter Squadron Athletics on Tuesday 5 May.

Guess who's coming to dinner? SSgt Jackson checks to see the flowers have not died yet!

Although we did not win the Inter Squadron athletics, we did, however, come a creditable 3rd and were given another outstanding performance by **SSgt (Harry) Worth**, Charlie Tp throwing the javelin.

The month ended with the Squadron Range day on the 31st at Hohne organised by **SSgt (SQMS) Bob Wyse** and **Sgt Willie Ireland** (Sierra Tp). Although it was designed to classify those attending, an Air Rifle stand and NBC stand proved to make the day very enjoyable. The best shot of the day came from **Sig Marley** (Charlie Tp).

2 SQN

April and May have been reasonably busy for the Squadron with the exercise season in full swing, including Ex *Flying Falcon*. A hint that some Squadron personnel are still not entirely familiar with the 432s was demonstrated by **Cpl (Robbo) Robinson's** spectacular entrance to one of them, knocking himself even more senseless than normal, and only requiring seven stitches to keep his sanity in place. **Sig (Archy) Archibald** in a determined effort to halt a moving 432 by holding on to the door only managed to dislocate his shoulder.

Sigs (Al) Balsdon and **(Steve) Regg** had a scenic exercise when they became geographically misplaced, but managed to take in a short sight seeing tour of the Harz mountains before realising their mistake. **Cpl (Alex) Sampson** was fortunate in being able to free run back from the exercise by using the clever ploy of bogging his det (yet again).

During Ex *Hurst Park* **Sgt (Phil) Rumsey** found that he and the Tac HQ had again been forgotten and was still valiantly defending a bridge, whilst the rest of the Division was on its way home. **LCpl (Jock) Hay** was one of the many to get bogged in on a hillside and finally emerged slightly dishevelled after many hours winching and much muttered cursing.

The Squadron had also had an active sporting two months, running the Regimental Athletics Day in which **LCpl (Nobby) Nevill** produced such spectacular pole vaulting style that once he had set off down the run way, it became a local sweepstake as to whether he was going to go over the bar backwards or upside-down. The OC **Maj (Carl) Conlon** and the SSM **WO2 (Pete) Sutherland** put up a brace doubles partnership in the Divisional Tennis Championships, but it is generally felt that progress would have improved if the SSM had not been to a Sergeants Mess dinner the night before and arrived at the tennis with a 45 degree list.

We have been fortunate to see a lot of promotions in the Squadron and our congratulations to **SSgt Gibbons, LCpls Lincoln, Nevill** and **Vogel**. Congratulations also go to **Sig** and **Mrs Everett** on the birth of a baby girl and to **LCpl Pulcher** on getting married. New arrivals **Lt (Gus) Boag, Cpl Partridge** and **Sig Falconer** are welcomed, but sadly we said goodbye to **Cpl Black, LCpls Holliday. Hunter** and **Lincoln**, all of whom we wish well in their new postings. **Capt (Bob) Fortune** paid a fleeting visit, as 2IC of the Squadron before moving on as Regimental Admin Officer. **Sgt (Bill) Wilman** eventually returned to us after a course in the UK only to disappear with **Sig (Mick) Main** to Heidelburg on a NATO Comms demonstration—the equipment not **Sgt Wilman**.

3 SQN—PAGE TROPHY

3 Sqn won the Page Trophy this year, which is hardly surprising when they won the Rugby, the Tug of War and the Volleyball. Leading lights were **WO2 (SSM) Drake** who led the hockey team to a close second, while **Sgt Clive Blackburn** and **SSgt Dickie Davies** led the Rugby and Volleyball team respectfully. However we are keeping quiet about the orienteering and definitely not mentioning it to our OC **Maj John Grierson**. But a sporting challenging day was rewarded with victory.

MARRIAGE

Lt David Sullivan married **Maria Springer** at the end of April. The telegram Oscar Tp sent to **Lt Sullivan** caused some raised eyebrows down at Soest: 'Sir, sorry we couldn't come, hope you don't have the same problem tonight!!' Well really! Back in Verden, line troop were enjoying themselves at the expense of **Sig Dai Evans** who also married. I hear married quarters are running short, any more takers?

VGSC HORSE SHOW

Once again this task fell on the broad shoulders of 3 Sqn and they rose admirably to the task. A hectic week prior to the horse show when it rained non stop was followed by a sunny day for the show.

The advertising efforts of **Sig Clark, Stanley, Jones** and **Sig Mohbat**, all helped considerably and although they didn't paint the town red they did manage to attract the spectators with their posters. Competitors included **Lt Col Fisher MBE, RSM Ron Hails** and **Lt Susy Reed** for 3 Sqn. There was some doubt as to whether the cheers were for the right reasons; will the RSM fall off? (he didn't—never mind next year perhaps). The event itself was an excellent Anglo-German Event, although the beer tent proved a major attraction. **SSM John Drake** ordered its removal around the German occupants!

PATROL COMPETITION

SSgt Mick Knights, took a team of healthy, fit soldiers from 3 Sqn (what, they're all fit?) the same with the Bundeswehr and managed to come second, against the Alpine unit, talk about beat them at their own game! **Cpl John Roose, LCpl Keven Graham** and **LCpl Simon Lock** all of whom enjoyed the day! But don't ask **SSgt Mick Knights** about patrol boats that go round in circles!

FOCUS—201 (22 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Ex *Flying Falcon* for 201 Sig Sqn turned into a whistle-stop tour of the German countryside. **Capt Peter Costello, LCpl Clive Adams** and **Sig Mal Burman**, the recce team visited countless possible locations of which 14 were finally used. During a short stop for breath the Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE**, flew in to see B Tp in action as Brigade Main and was treated to a soul searchers soliloquy from our resident leaf sweeper, **Pte Pete Lynch RPC**. During the weekend standstill **SSM Gerry Whelan** and **Cpl Alan Thornton** put most of the Squadron through the CS tent for a respirator test and some basic NBC drills. After the weekend, on we sped with moves of up to 40 kms, Bruin proved to be very difficult to maintain at this rate of advance and we had reinforced the reasoning behind giving Band, frequencies to Brigade Commheads, as Band 2 is very reluctant to work through woods.

Simultaneous to Ex *Flying Falcon*, 22 Armd Bde was holding a battle group live firing exercise (Ex *Royal Antler*) on Hohne ranges. The Squadron's resources were thinly stretched to provide comms for this also. A demonstration of ingenuity by **SSgt Dennis Usher** gave us an unorthodox but effective system of remoting for the occasion which will prove useful for the many similar exercises to come.

Unfortunately the ARF Commitment was brought forward suddenly by 4 days over Easter. The lads had 24 hours to change their plans for the standdown but bore it extremely well. Whilst most of us were merrily munching our chocolate eggs **Lt Jonathan Perks** and his trusty body of 28 men were doing their pokey drill.

There was no respite for good or wicked on this occasion because smuggled neatly between the ARF and Ex *Flying Falcon* was the ARU. This involved a tour of the Squadron by the Bde Comd, **Brig D. M. Naylor MBE**, and what little his eagle eye missed was eked out by his staff! **FofS Eddie Harper's** swashbuckling seafaring techniques came into good use after a 'saboteur' flooded his workshop by leaving the fire hose running overnight. After the techs had finished swabbing the decks the Squadron was ready with a keen lustre, and the discrete use of semaphore enabled the right departments to be in the right place at the right time.

SSgt John Topping, fresh from his 432 course, has been whirling round the tank park imparting his new found knowledge. The scarcity of 432 drivers is being decisively overcome by a series of courses the first of which was successfully completed on the 11 May. Consequently the Troops are being replenished with drivers and what had become a critical situation had been averted.

In the Divisional 6-a-side hockey tournament 201 Sig Sqn, having come unstuck against 5 Heavy Regiment 'A' team in the first match, fought its way bravely through to the final of the Plate. This we narrowly lost to 5 Heavy Regiment 'B' team by one goal in extra time! The scene is set for a fertile hockey season.

THE BIT BETWEEN THEIR TEETH

In the first few months of the year six of the Squadron wives took the bit between their teeth and embarked upon a 10 week riding course at the Hohne Station Saddle club. Under the guidance of **Mrs Mary Harper** and **Mrs Jacqui Levett** they completed a full course of stable management in addition to achieving some semblance of control over their large and wilful steeds. At the end of the course they all succesfully completed an hour long examination and were duly awarded certificates, medals and rosettes by **Mrs Karen Sheils**, and best beginner **Mrs Carole Jones**. Also successful in the exam were **Mrs Heather Usher, Mrs Jill Macdonald, Mrs Pat Tiley** and **Mrs Sue Dodds**. Those remaining in the Squadron so enjoyed the course (much to their amazement) that they are all now fully fledged members of the Saddle club.

ELDERS TRIUMPH

On the evening of 3 May 1983 the various departments pitted their wits on a 'Question of Sport', this was a Squadron quiz organised and compèred by the inimitable **Cpl Dave Norman**. The final was held between the SHQ/LAD department and the Squadron Seniors. After a fearsome duel the elders (or was it Seniors?) were triumphant.

EASY

In the first week of May, 11 men under the command of **Cpl Lenny Twells** went off on a Site Guard. As a result of the hot bed system that is operated, there only being 7 beds, it was noted how well the 'boys' were 'hettomh' on when they returned. The weather was fine and it turned out to be more of a rest-cure than arduous duty.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We have had a major handover/takeover in progress up to the end of May with the departure of **FofS Eddie Harper**. He is off to 233 Sig Sqn leaving us thin on the ground for sailing expertise as well as technical banter, we wish him and his wife **Mary** all the best of luck for the future. In his stead we welcome **FofS Tony McMahon** to take up the technical harness.

207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN ROUND UP

May has been a busy month for the Squadron athletes. The inter troop meeting easily won by A1 Tp, the teams were then selected for the Regimental Inter-Squadron meet. This took place on 5 May and was a very close run day with the Squadron coming second overall being beaten by HQ Sqn only on the number of individual wins.

BDE ATHLETICS

The Squadron found itself second again in the Brigade Athletics on 11 May being beaten for first place by 2 points by 16 Tk Transporter Sqn.

Some very notable performances came from the day, among them **LCpl Colin Dear** in the shot, **Sig Dinger Bell** in the long jump and **Cfn Foster** in the 200 metres, all winning their events. In summary a very successful meeting for the Squadron.

PERCY STUCK

Ex *Hurst Park* started for the Squadron in the early hours of the morning of 16 May. This was followed by a 6 hour drive to the exercise area; no mean feat in our 432's.

The exercise was fast moving with the rain seeming to coincide with each move. Refueling was slightly impeded due to **Sig 'Arfur' Daly** sinking our pod in the mire. It must have been a good spot since both of two recovering vehicles managed to get stuck trying to get Percy the Pod out.

Finally our thanks must go to **Sig Bruce Leigh** for giving the Squadron a new 'object D'Art'. Closer inspection of this work of art will reveal that it vaguely resembles a 432 exhaust pipe **complete** with silencer. Strange name too:- BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT?

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL PRESENTATION

Sgt 'Wobbly Ron' Taylor BEM received his British Empire Medal from the GOC, **Maj Gen C. P. R. Palmer CBE,** at a regimental parade at Imphal Barracks on Wednesday 20 April. The presentation was witnessed by **Sgt Taylor's** mother, his wife **Susan** and son **Robert.**

'Wobbly Ron' joined the regiment at Bunde in 1977 and, although his excellent work as a powerman warranted a reward, it was his dedication and efforts in support of BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, which were truly outstanding. He arranged highly successful fund raising activities and visits for BLESMA members on tours in BAOR. **'Wobbly Ron'** has now retired from the Army, lives in York and works full time for BLESMA. We wish him, **Susan** and **Robert** the very best of luck for the future.

1 SQN FOCUS

Personalities

OC Sqn	**Maj Ben Higson**
2IC Sqn/Admin Of	**Capt John Turner**
OC COMMCEN F	**Capt Mike Dent**
2IC COMCEN F	**2Lt Nevil Thompson**
OC Bravo Tp	**Lt Peter Gillespie**
OC Line TP	**2Lt Adam Hearn**
SSM	**WO2 Ray Georgeson**
FofS	**WO2 Frank Running**
SQMS	**SSgt Snowy Snowdin**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Burrell**

Since setting foot in the UK at the beginning of January the Squadron have had a very busy time. There has been unpacking, packing, planning for **HM The Queen's** visit, RSM's parades, preparing for exercise, going on exercise coming off exercise and the modelling and remodelling of staff vehicles! However, in between these hectic moments some of the squadron have managed, somehow, to slip away . . .

EX *HADRIANS HIKE*

The Squadrons Escape Committee, led by **Lt peter Gillespie** wound its way up the A1 to Albermarle barracks to take part in the Junior Regiment Royal Signals annual walking event, Hadrians Hike. Having hastily set up camp it was decided to concentrate on the second aim of the event which was to investigate the suitability of public houses north of York. This aim was finally achieved when **Sgt 'Smudge' Smith,** found an excellent establishment, and proved that quantity was better than quality.

The march itself, the first aim, starts in the outskirts of Carlisle and the teams had to follow Hadrians Wall back to Albermarle Barracks. It was not known whether the route card was right or wrong as the wall was only seen three times! But at the end of the day there were some winning performances from all. **Sig 'Hop Along' Rothwell** and **Cpl** 'I've got salt on my face' **McDonald** made the entertainment. **Sig** 'My wife's in Cyprus' **Pollard** showed his late night expertise as a cook by providing the team with pork chop sandwiches. **Sig 'Teeth' Barker** endeared himself to the team as the administrative vehicle driver by shouting such words of encouragement as 'don't worry lads, only another 15 miles to go'. Finally **Sig 'Oscar' Martins** smiled and **Sig** 'I'm not called Dusty' **Miller** encouraged him: smile that is!

EX *HIGHLAND TROT*

Cpl Clive Thorsby recently made the trip to Fort William to compete in the Scottish Six Days Trial or in motor cycle circles, it is known as this years 'Blue Riband' Trial. In addition there were riders from the REME and RGT with **Capt Gordon Parks** from 8 Sig Regt as Team Manager.

Each of the six days consisted of thirty observed sections, which can only be described as being similar to riding on the side of the house, and approximately ninety miles of open moorland. The object being that the obstacles were to be negotiated with the minimum of assistance from the feet or, if you are more realistic to negotiate the observed section period . . . and cover the ninety or so miles in a set time. Besides the thrill of the riding, the week was made even more enjoyable by the magnificent scenery of Ben Nevis, Glen Coa and the 'Great Glen'.

EX *FIRST DIP*

Exercise *First Dip* was an adventure training exercise in Cyprus organised by 30 Sig Regt. As the exercise name suggests, the party were not out there hill walking but trying to become Class 3 Divers. **Sgt Paul Brabbins** from HQ Sqn was acting as one of the qualified supervisors while **Cpl Pete Garman** was the token man that 30 Sig Regt has to swallow if they wanted any instructors. However, there have been definitely no complaints from either quarter.

A total of three weeks was spent starting with basic tests and aqualung training and finally finishing deep down amongst tunnels, caves and coral.

656 SIG TROOP—LUBBECKE

Who are 656 Signal Troop? The 'key' members can be described as:

OC TP	**Capt Paul Ellis**
YofS	**WO2 Keith Allen**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dixie Dean**
R Tech	**Sgt Chris Christian**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Paul Mellish**
ORQMS	**Sgt Graham Meredith**

Contrary to popular opinion, the 2nd Division has not completely departed for the UK! The Forward Headquarters is still at Tunis Barracks, Lubbecke and relies on the forty stalwarts of 656 Sig Tp for its communication and administration and . . . ! Despite being several hundred miles (a statistic calculated by the OC!) from the regiment in York the troop is still very much an integral part of 2 Sqn commanded by **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford.**

What have they been doing?

WO2 (YofS) Allen, Sig Clarkson, SSgt Dean and Sig Fell with that 'Beam us up Scotty' look

EX *FLYING FALCON*

The 2nd Division was represented on Ex *Flying Falcon* solely by the Troop and was commanded, that is the 2nd Division, by **Maj Mike Rice** (of orienteering fame!) *Flying Falcon* is *Flying Falcon* and it would be impossible to turn this yearly sojourn into a new best seller but special mention must be made of the following: **Cpl Alex 'Och Aye' Rankin** at Ice Station Delta for his daring culinary exploits; **Cpl Max Juka** the OCs rally driver; **SSgt 'Shiny boots' Dean** in the quagmire and **Sig Kenny** 'When do we cross the Atlantic' **Everett.**

BALTIC SAILING

Having done exceptionally well in the previous year's Corps Regatta it was only right and proper to return to defend our honour. The intrepid team of **Capt Paul** 'Hello sailor' **Ellis, Sig Geordie** 'Huey' **Fell, Sig Kenny Everett,** and **Sig** 'Suns over the yard arm' **Clarkson** set sail in the good yacht *Petrel.* On the first day of the trip to Denmark the tranquility of being becalmed was shattered as *Petrel* became embroiled in a fierce naval engagement with the German Fleet. However, the second days gales enabled the gallant crew to take its rightful place at the front of the flotilla, ready for the strong following wind which brought us back to Kiel at a brisk eight knots!

Sig Fell and Clarkson going Port and Starboard while Capt Ellis shows his best side

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

THE BREAD AND BUTTER

The period started with the old favourite Exercise *Flying Falcon,* you know the one when we all know we did best whilst the others practise the gentle art of self deception and convince themselves of their superiority.

We had the usual crop of visitors from UK and know they went away much impressed by the skilful balance between communications and concealment achieved by a least one COMMCEN. A few days later however the GOC carried out his interim ARU in the field and was singularly unimpressed by the fact that **Maj Ian Morris** does not know his firs from his larches. Mandatory training for COMMCEN squadrons now includes tree and bird recognition to enable them to be more attuned to their favourite environment.

Sgt Pete Garrett having a bit of difficulty convincing Brig G. R. Oehlers that he really does know what he is talking about when it comes to generators

The SOinC observed the field trials on the Admiral's new boots conducted at Commcen Yankee. Rear Admiral Eckersly-Maslin seemed to enjoy the visit and the trial

An impromptu 'O' Group on the hill. Maj Ian Morris posing a telephone problem for Sgt Ginger Baines whilst Capt Peter Neale and WO2 (SSM) Illy Illingworth wonder what little job they are about to get

Now when I press this switch you will be 'beamed-up'. Don't worry about a thing—the display tells me where to look for you, honestly
L—R Cpl Keith Carter, Sgts Pete Garrett and Mick Wilton

Meanwhile at Log HQ **Cpl Dai Jones,** (no relation to Jones the Op) was getting his own back on the hierarchy. The conversation went something like this:

GOC: Ah hallo **Cpl Jones**, and how long have you been in the Regiment?

Cpl Jones: Not long Sir, I have only done two exercises here since coming from 30 Sig Regt in Blandford.

GOC: Oh really, that's very interesting. How often did you go on exercise there?

Cpl Jones: Oh we only went on operations from there Sir!!!

Exit **GOC** muttering about another short tour for **Cpl Jones.**

That really was about the high spot of April as the Regiment then continued to bounce around the country with the Chief of Staff firmly gripping the reigns. 'What do you mean it's lunch time and we can't move? Crash out!! See you at Oscar or is it Papa—never mind, get moving!

On a slightly lighter note the Oscar Chronicle, produced, edited and we suspect mainly written by **Cpl Andy McIver** collected a few laughs during the exercises. Apart from the usual search for the winner of the Golden Blanket Award, you can see **Cpl McIver** timing a well known candidate in repose, there were some real flashes of humour to lighten publication days. And a few are here:

Rumours that **Sig Gary Davidson-Page** is in the Guiness Book of Records as the smallest giant in the world are strongly denied.

Sig Orson Carty wishes it known that he is not the first soldier to suffer from trench face.

A thought: SSM 2 Sqn's driver is a Chin-Dit.

And a lot more besides, most of which is either too localised or too rude. Well done **Cpl McIver**—we are looking forward to Summer Sales already.

WO2 (SSM) Ken Griffiths—he of the steely eyed stare, recently imported from the RRF exhorts the assembled masses at Log HQ to get on with their tea and egg banjos, lovingly prepared by LCpl Geoff Garlick (yes he really is ACC) before an early move out

Cpl Andy McIver (Gis a posting) doing field research as he strives to identify a worthy winner of the Golden Blanket award. The clue to the identity of the sleeping beauty lies in the ring. He now has his posting

ATHLETICS

A good news/bad news situation. The good news, as all our opponents know, is that we very convincingly won the Morrison Cup with 204 Sig Sqn winning the Minor Units Competition. The bad news is that being in the same Division as the Irish Guards and 50 Missile Regiment RA we could only make 3rd place and therefore fail to qualify for the BAOR finals. Surely such a situation demands the ability to play a wild card.

Mention must be made of some of the stars. **Cpl Charlie Foster** in the 800m and 1500m with **LCpl Winston Mattis** in the 100m and 200m were comfortable winners and have since competed well in the BAOR and Army individual championships. Both are particuarly to be congratulated for their relay event running in the Morrison Cup where real pace and determination saved many places and scored lots of points. But the team's strength lay in the absence of any really weak events, and a strong team spirit that overcame the short period available for training.

Before the heady victory in the Morrison Cup competition the Inter Squadron competition was held as usual in the Jahn Stadium in Soest. Unlike last year the weather was fine and sunny at times. A good day out for the family especially if you happened to be in 3 Sqn who won convincingly again, in spite of bad timing by OC 3 Sqn on posting **SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin** to 1 Sqn 2 days before the competition. **Maj Ian Morris** (second mention this time) was most grateful but it was not quite enough to raise him above second position.

The old soldier race was won by **Cpl Ken Hilton.** A quick check of his birth certificate revealed that he has been lying about his age for years and he only looks old because of his tonsorial problems. Yes that's him on the right coasting home before the arrival of that real veteran **Capt Derek Wood.** He, being the PRI officer, did not need to win any prizes so maybe that lunge for the tape was because he saw the photographers were out in force for the big race of the day. There were others who also ran albeit only because they were detailed.

LCpl Ken Hilton putting in a fine finish in the Veteran's Race

Cpl Paul Offord tries hard to keep up with SSgt Bill Hutton in the Hurdles sprint. SSgt Hutton knows when to knock 'em over however, and won handsomely

Cpl Charlie Foster (Letter G) puts in a burst of speed to move into the lead in the 1500 metres

SSgt Don Holmes being accorded the treatment due to a successful field events coach. Sig Derek Donnelly obviously relishes such a heaven sent opportunity

SSgt Bill Hutton weight training with the Inter Squadron Athletics Trophy. Mrs Gaby Waugh after a marathon prize giving session

The Winners of the Morrison Cup, names too numerous to list but didn't they do well?!

SHOOTING

The Regiment entered the Divisional SAAM and acquitted itself well. The prize giving represented a drill demonstration as the Irish Guards collected the bulk of the trophies but the pistol tiles team of **Majors Bill Bowen, Stephen Paul** and **SSgt Eddie Houstone** won their event with each firer producing the goods at some point to get them through some exciting contests. **SSgt Houston** also did well in the Pistol and SMG matches and after such an encouraging start, the team looks forward to progress next year.

The HQ Sqn SAAM Team. L—R Standing: SSgt Eddie Houston, Sig Kevin Bird, Sgt David Stewart, Cfn Paul Newsom, LCpl John Richards, LCpl Chris Christou
Kneeling: Dvr William Campbell, Cpl Geoffrey Underwood

CYCLING 100 IN 8

Report by SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin

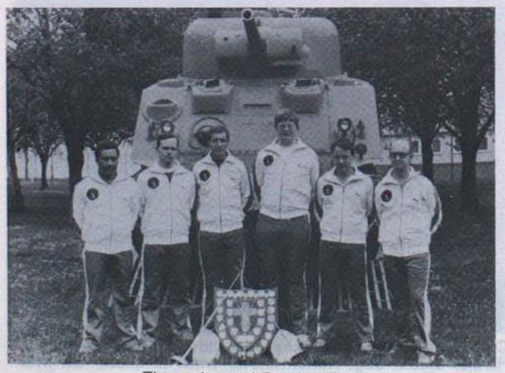
'100 in 8' refers to a BFG cycling event which was hosted by the Regiment on Sunday 29 May 1983. The event, organised by **Cpl Clive Britten** consisted of a 100 mile cycle ride to be completed within 8 hours (hence the title). Starting and finishing at Korbecke (St Sebastian Barracks), the race followed a circular, hilly course going out to Winterberg and back.

The event attracted riders from all over Germany with **SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin, LCpl Joe Matthews** and **LCpl Martin Haythorne** riding from the Regiment. All riders finished the course within 8 hours with an average time of 6½ hours. Although the day was wet and overcast, everyone said they had enjoyed the ride and looked forward to next year's event—all riders keep your ears open for the date and venue of next year's '100 in 8'.

FENCING

Mention was made in the last issue of the Wire of the fencing team's success in coming Runners Up in the BAOR fencing competition. The team was made up of: Left to Right: **Capt Max Springer, Sgt David Stewart, WO2 (QMSI) Peter Brierley, APTC Cpl Tony Blohm, Cpl Paul Offord RPC, Maj David Henderson RAMC.**

Unfortunately exercise commitments prevented the team from fencing in the Army championships but **WO2 Brierley, Cpls Blohm** and **Offord** were spared to compete as individuals. **WO2 Brierley** finished the Champion-at-Arms with a win in the Foil, runner up in the Epee and 8th in the Sabre—who says he gave up serious fencing 3 years ago? Secret training seems to be working wonders.



The regimental Fencing Team

ORIENTEERING

Having qualified at the Divisional level the team went to the BAOR competition convinced they could do better. After some concerted training in the hilly country of the Arnsburger Wald the Bielefeld Ridge held no particular terror for any of the team. The first day's cross-country result was particularly encouraging when we lay fourth at the end but a lack of experience was exposed during the relays on the following day when one member was disqualified for incorrectly punching his control card. The experience was valuable and three members of the team qualified as individuals in their classes for the Army Championships. **Maj Bill Bowen, Capt Jerry Sullivan** and **SSgt (FofS) Pete Martin** look forward to the event and hope to survive the tough course and avoid the scatter guns near the IGB in the Harz Mountains.

By way of compensation the Regiment won the Divisional League and thus ended a fairly consistent season on a high note. Mention should also be made of **Cpl John Arkley** and **Sgt Ron Allen**, both regular team members who have improved enormously since becoming more involved in course planning and event organisation. It must concentrate the mind one supposes.

PASSING OF AN OLD FRIEND

Our picture shows the CO and his driver, **LCpl Norman Finnegan** with Comd Sup **Lt Col David Harris RAOC** and his driver **Cpl Les Pawsey** just before they bid a fond farewell to their 1800s.

They have been retired due to the spares availability situation and were amongst the vehicles brought over from Bulford with the Regiment in the move.

Lt Col Waugh believes he has been short changed, however, as his Vauxhall Cavalier is short of leg room and he is looking for a quick release mechanism for installation on the front passenger seat to make it easily removeable. Anybody got any good ideas?

Farewell to Old Friends
Sixth sense photo by Peter Griffiths

INTER REGIMENTAL TIES CEMENTED

On 30 April, **Maria Springer,** daughter of **Capt Max Springer**, married **Lt David Sullivan** of 1 Div Sig Regt. Congratulations to them and we wish them well when **David** eventually manages to finish exercises and set up home.

AND FINALLY

Your scribe has been getting a bit of flak recently from a well known personality around the Regiment who felt that he was getting too much of the wrong kind of publicity and his image was beginning to suffer. So some repair work is obviously required and we will now concentrate on his dog, Bilbo Baggins (well what a name, I ask you). Bilbo Baggins clearly thinks he is top dog as well, so when confronted by three 'look a like' lumps of cotton waste his only reaction was to go for the throat. Keep up the good example Bilbo!

L—R LCpl Andy Furnie, Cpl Tim Bray, Cpl Steve (not Chippy please) Woods—obviously highly amused by their games with Bilbo Baggins 'lookalikes'

Cpl Steve Woods sees fair play in the Bilbo Baggins baiting

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

HQ SQN SUMMER CAMP

In May a diverse section of HQ Sqn was 'selected' to attend Summer Camp some 200 miles north at Eckernforde. The weather left much to be desired and thus the cooks and clerks marched mainly in the rain and their bivouacs were subjected to rigorous water-proofing tests. The main requirement was a form of orienteering, in sections, with the OC and SSM driving around making encouraging noises, the SNCOs sitting drinking tea and making discouraging noises and, as usual the soldiers doing the walking! The event was, however, a considerable success and despite a wide variety of blisters some useful training and even a little excitement; **Cpl Boggie Slade** has denied that he is reclassifying as a matador.

After the ardours of the training **Sgt Douggie Ellis** was so carried away with the raptures of nature around the barbeque bonfire that he gaily cast his clothes aside, the judges gave him 00 for artistic merit and style. The next day a number of the Squadron's more enthusiastic beer drinkers found they could get free boat rides as long as they bought beer, this they continued to do until they proved their stamina was greater than the boat owner's enthusiasm for overtime.

The weary warriors around the camp fire

THREE SQUADRON FOCUS

OC: Maj L. G. Fraser
21C: Capt P. C. A. Smith
SSM: WO11 (SSM) M. J. Goatley
OC G TP: LT M. A. Pretsell WRAC
OC K TP: 2LT M. J. Hancock
OC U TP: 2LT D. W. Somerville

Much has happened in 3 Sqn during the last few months, starting with the Squadron winning the Regimental Bismark replay ably led by our then Squadron Commander **Maj Phil Cooper.** The race was an exciting one and the loud vocal encouragement given by the spectators must have assisted the runners.

The next event was the Squadron Administrative Inspection held two days after our return from Wintex. The Squadron were paraded in full SOP kit with large packs and were inspected by the Regimental 21C **Maj Stephen Coltman.** From there we were dispersed into three groups; a forced march led by **Capt Pete Smith,** a BFT 'led' by **LT Nannette Pretsell** and AFO 1157 checks accompanied by **SSgt Keith Hawke.** The Squadron performed well on all accounts even though the weather didn't help us much.

The next big event on the calendar was the re-organisation of the Squadron to form three Troops from two (three into two does go—we've proved it) **2Lt David Somerville** and **SSgt Michael Jeffery** come to form Uniform T taking the terminals for Commcen Zulu from Kilo Troop and the lines and some powermen from Golf T. All this was accomplished in a fortnight which also coincided with the arrival from Blandford of our new OC **Maj Lachlan Fraser** and his wife **Diana,** who we welcome and wish them a happy tour in the Regiment.

They were on the right feet this morning sir

I'm sure the Commcen is somewhere around here

ONWARDS

The present 3 Sqn has been in existence for some two and a half years and the time is fast approaching for many of the founder members to move on. To become civilians in the near future are **SSgt Jim Lees, SSgt Dee Peart, Sgt Dave Campbell** and **Lcpl 'Taff' Davies;** to other units go **SSgt Keith Hawke, Sgt Roelf Bruinsma** and **Cpl Simon Jones.** We wish them all the best of luck. Ever onward must we go and the next few weeks see the Squadron military training in Soltau, planning summer camp as well as the normal host of exercises and activities—never a dull moment or time to think. We are seeing now the return of our first detachments to the Falklands and are about to send the next batches off to learn to waddle like penguins. Our intrepid reporter will produce a report of the summer's activities in due course.

ATHLETICS

This year's Inter Squadron Page Trophy Athletics competition took place at the Jahn Stadium Herford on 8 April. This was earlier in the year in the Regiment's Calendar than is usual to allow more time to select a team and train for the coming season. The weather conditions were cold and wet, which now seems to be a standard feature of this annual athletics meeting.

Although the weather conditions did not encourage spectacular performances there were some notable results. **LCpl Mark Quinn** of 2 Sqn ran a very fast 5000m. At middle distance **LCpl Steve Lawrence** 4 Sqn dominated both the 800m and 1500m events. **Capt Andrew Forster** 5 Sqn beat off all the rest of the field to win the 110m hurdles in a very fast time for a man who said his better times were past him. At 400m **LCpl Clyde White** 6 Sqn, who had been training through the winter, produced a qualifying time for the BAOR Individual Athletics meeting. **Sgt John Bowers** 4 Sqn won the javelin also with a BAOR qualifying throw. The Pole vault was hotly contested between **LCpl Dave Amos** 4 Sqn and **LCpl Kev Jarvis** 2 Sqn with the latter coming out on top. The relays produced a very thrilling finish to the day and the Athletics Page Trophy was presented by the Regimental Second in Command's wife **Mrs Coltman,** to the winners, 6 Squadron.

LCpl Mark Quinn winning the 5000m in fine style

Chain of Command Race saw 16 stone WO2(SSM) Ian Cairns fly though the air. WO2(SSM) Phil Daisey is the one posing

4 DIV OFFSHORE REGATTA

The intrepid mariners set off for a weeks 'undercover' training in a cloud of black smoke heading for Kiel at a great rate of knots. **Sgt Ian Bannigan** had already passed his Off Shore Hand but kept quiet and settled down to help teach the rest of the team.

Cpl Tony Howards enthusiasm coupled with **Lt Ginny Edwards** ability managed to balance out the watches and a successful week saw the team ready for 4 Div Regatta. **Lt Steve Herstell (Skippy)** assured us that no way could we get 'Gannet' back for the Regatta so we set to and gave her a good clean out. After handing her over we moved into the bar to phsyc out the opposition, failling dismally, as they all appeared very professional. After taking Gannet back over again—the cleanest boat in the fleet—**Ginny** went to sleep and we settled down to a nights motor over to Faarborg.

The next day **Spr Armstrong (Nav)** guided us successfully to Aero in a race filled with bravado as both **Skippy** and **Cpl Tony Howard** decided to wrestle with the spinnaker boom as Gannet tried her best to throw them both overboard. The race proceeded to Sonderborg during which **Nav**—having guided us to the front of the fleet decided he'd rather admire lighthouses than buoys—no wonder everyone else was on another course.

Sonderborg left the boat virtually unmanned for most of the night as the call of the Carlsberg was loud and the Danes liked our singing.

The remaining races were good fun including a flag visit from a German submarine whose periscope appeared only 50m away, they must have liked us as they matched our speed and sailed along with us for 20-30 minutes. Eventually they left obviously thinking one yacht with five of the Army's prime sailors was no match for the latest German torpedoes.

Overall the two weeks were great fun, coming third overall in the Regatta all of the crew are raring to go for the Royal Signals Regatta in July. It's rumoured that **'Skippy'** may have changed his trousers by then.

Navigation proved to be a problem

THE BAOR SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY COMPETITION

The Regimental team arrived in Minden for the BAOR sevens on a wet and dull morning. They were without skipper **Ssgt Andy Hickling** who had led the team to the final of the Courage Army sevens the week before.

The competition started with the group matches to decide which teams would enter the cup and plate competitions. Many strong teams qualified for the competition inlcuding 7 RHA and 21 Engineer Regiment the Army 15-a-side champions but the favourties were 1 RRW. From the start it was obvious that the Regiment would not have an easy time as 21 Engineer Regiment had been drawn in the same group. The Regiment won all the preliminary games with the help of some excellent running by **Cpl Chalkie Atkins, Sig Alan Poulson** and **LCpl Dean Richardson.** The clash against 21 Engineer Regiment produced an exciting finish when **Poulson** scored from a long pass by **LCpl Dave Wood** in the dying seconds. The quarter final was an easy victory but the semi final against 3 Regt AAC was a hard fought contest against a big physical side. After being a try down the Regiment came back to score three tries in the second half to win a place in the final against 1 RRW.

1 RRW had already beaten the Regiment in the 4th Division final and so the stage was set for a rematch and a chance for the Regiment to gain revenge. The Welsh were a big strong side but the Regiment seemed to have the edge in fitness and pace. The Welsh opened the scoring with a try from a line out close to our own line. The Regiment replied just before half time with a try by **Atkins.** With the score level at half time there was still everything to play for. The Regiment had an excellent start to the second half and were camped in the Welsh 22. **LCpl Dave Wood** crossed the line twice but both tries were disallowed. However **Lt Steve May** hooked a ball against the head. **Wood** made a break from which **Atkins** scored, **Capt Andy Forster** converted to make the score 12 — 6. This was closely followed by a drop goal 15 — 6. Finally **Cpl Harry Glean** scored a try on the whistle to give the Regiment an emphatic victory 21 — 6.

Team: **Cpl Hood, Lt May, Cpl Atkins, Capt Forster, LCpl Wood, LCpl Richardson, Sig Poulson, Cpl Glean.**

FOUR SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	Maj D.F. Palmer (David)
21C	Capt J. Gale (John)
OC B TP	Lt N. A. Swainson (Neil)
OC C TP	2Lt B. H. Rose (Bruce)
SSM	WOII M. E. Pawlack (Mick)
FofS	WOII F. A. Williams (Taff)
YofS	SSgt M. J. Taylor (Mick)
SQMS	SSgt A. W. Williams (Taff)

COMING AND GOINGS

First of all let us confirm that 4 Sqn is still alive and well and living at the top of North Camp. Since our last update we seem to have spent most of our time either on exercise (just for a change), or welcoming new faces and saying goodbye, or good riddance (only joking, really) to others.

In particular we have said farewell to three of the squadron heirarchy. Firstly to **Capt Joe Moreland** and his wife **Margaret.** Although **'CJ'** was only with the squadron for a relatively short period, he certainly made his presence felt, and we have now let him loose on the TEM course at the School of Signals. Secondly, **WO11 (SSM) 'Jock' Cairns** is departing for 40 Sig Regt (V) where he takes up the post of RQMS. We wish both him and his wife **Noreen** all the best for the future, especially with the OU course. Not to be forgotten is **SSgt (SQMS) 'Issac'** and **Linda Linton** who have left for a quieter life at the School of Signals—let us hope that the fishing is good.

We warmly welcome their replacements to the squadron **Capt John Gale, WOII (SSM) Mick Pawlak** and **SSgt (SQMS) 'Taff' Williams**—who already seem to be well into the swing of things by constantly looking out for spare places on recces.

A 'FACELIFT

Although this has been a very hectic period we did find time to give the squadron club a major facelift, with the work carried out by many members of the squadron. It took just half a day to rip out the old bar, mainly because the woodworm had already done most of the work for us. **Sig 'Bomber' Brown,** our resident bricky, then laid the foundations of the bar itself and the hard work began. **Sgt Rod Morton** became our public relations man by constantly running backwards and forwards to the shops to buy the materials.

The work was fast and furious in an attempt to complete the alterations in time for our squadron Christmas functions. A lot of people put in a great deal of work, giving up their own spare time and in some cases even working during their leave. There is not enough space here to thank them all personally but a few do deserve a special mention—**Sig 'Olly' Olive, LCpl 'Woody' Wooding, Sgt Rod Morton** and his wife **Elizabeth, LCpl Paul Sexby, Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** and **Cpl Jimmy Frew.** Through the enthusiasm of all the people involved the club was finished in time for the Christmas party, when it was christened in fine style.

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED

Despite our heavy commitment we even managed to squeeze in a week of military training which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of those who took part. It started off with the preparation and defence of a company position with most of the squadon hierarchy acting as the enemy and attempting to infiltrate it at night. After a forced march back to camp in the early hours of the morning, the training continued for the rest of the week. The highlight of the week was a short exercise combining much of the training covered earlier in the week, including helicopter drills and first aid.

IN STYLE

On the sporting scene the squadron did reasonably well in the inter-squadron competitions especially in the athletics and tug-of-war. The squadron won the inter-squadron rugby in fine style as expected, since we boast a high proportion of Regimental standard players.

SGTS MESS NEWS

OUT WITH THE OLD . . .

The month of May marked an era in Mess functions when we held our last Regimental dinner in make-shift accomodation (the cookhouse). On 6 May we dined out **WO1 Tam MacDonald, WO2 (SSM) Ray Cardwell, Ssgts Chris Laughlin, Jim Lees, Pete Sheperd, Dee Peart** and **Sgt Dave Campbell,** all on completion of 22 yrs with the Corps. It was also the occasion to say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) John Peacock** on posting and promotion and **WO2 (SSM) Ian Cairns** on posting. Speeches were made, **Tam MacDonald** once again having to be reminded that his was not the only one, and gifts exchanged. Then it was into the bar for light refereshment.

. . . AND IN WITH THE NEW

Thursday 19 May, a day long to be remembered by the WO's and SNCO's of the regiment, at last the day **WO1 (RSM) Bill Olive** had waited so patiently for. The opening of the WO's and Sgt's Mess. **Brig C. N. Last OBE.** Commander Communication 1 BR Corps, was invited to carry out the official opening ceremony and to present **SSgt Chris Laughlin** with his **LS** and **GC** medal. The medal duly hung and the white ribbon cut, the Brigadier proceeded to tap the first pint which **SSgt Laughlin** treated with the respect it rightly deserved.

Brig Last presenting SSgt Laughlin with his LS & GC. Keeping a watchful eye over proceedings is WO1(RSM) Olive, and the Adjt Capt Richard Thurston

Brig C. N. Last pulling the first pint

FIRST NIGHT NERVES

Saturday 21 May, saw our first social to mark the opening of the Mess. Any apprehension that committee members had (believe me they had a lot) was soon dismissed. What a great night. Dancing was to a live group alternated with a disco and everyone throughly enjoyed themselves well into the early hours, as **WO1 (Supt Clk) Del Harrod** can vouch for. It was also the occasion to welcome **Sgt Neil Thomas** and his wife **Dee** to the Mess. **Sgt Thomas** received his promotion on the 19 May.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE FINAL RUN

During May many viewers of Breakfast TV were treated to the spectacle of 4500 people trying out 8 Sig Regt assault course. It must have stirred the hearts of many ex students of Catterick to know that in most cases the competitiors enjoyed themselves and even considered it 'fun'. For all those in the North East there is another spectacle promised as the Regimental assault course competition is to be featured on Tyne Tees television in July.

The object of the fun run was to allow entrants from all walks of life to complete a 6 mile cross country run followed by an assault course. The original idea was formulated by an ex-serviceman on the TTTV Staff and last year it was run with the help of the Green Howards. This year, 8 Sig Regt was approached for help and **Maj Joan Roulstone WRAC** was appointed co-ordinating officer.

Sunday 15 May dawned dark and damp as usual, but the underlying feeling was bright. The hard work of the planners, plotters and tent erectors was completed and the big day was here. Registration teams, first aid posts, check points and assault course safety teams had their final brief and took up their positions to await the first of the anticipated 4500 enthusiastic competitiors.

The rough terrain of the trg area, the wind and the occasional rain soon took their toll and for many it became a 'Fun Walk'. Spirits remained high, however, and hearty laughter was evidence that fun was being had in the mud. At the end, the most challenging part was waiting, the assault course. Where the natural elements had not filled the obstacles, the fire brigade used their hoses to soften landings. With cries of 'geronimo' and 'it's freezing', newly purchased TTTV Sweatshirts were christened in a variety of ways and places. At the end of the day, comments from the competitors indicated that the event was a success. 'Yes, I'll write' was heard more than once from the lads on duty having assisted one of the many young ladies over the obstacles.

Spectators enjoy the sights as competitors young and old attempt the assualt course in search of fun

FOOTBALL SEASON 82/83

The Regiment's First XI achieved a considerable amount of success during the season winning no less than 4 competitions. As well as being the Army 6's Champions the Regiment won the District 6-a-side, Yorkshire Services Premier League and Yorkshire Services Charity Shield.

Our photograph shows the team at the end of the season but success was also due to several other players who have now moved on. Special mention must go to **Sgt Dickie Bird** (2 Div), **Cpl Ally McKenzie** and **LCpl Andy Hill** (28 Sig Regt), **Cpl Hall** (233 Sig Sqn), **Cpl Phil Welham** (22 Sig Regt), **Cpl Barclay** (Int and Sy Gp BFPO 801) and **LCpl John Tayne** (639 Sig Tp). We were fortunate to have an array of Corps standard talent passing through the Regiment and the following played at representative level: **LCpl Wilkins, Sig Wood, Halligan, Allmark, Day, Halligan** was also a regular player for the Army and Combined Services teams.

GOLF NEWS

The Regimental meeting commencing the '83 season was held on 25 March. All our dates had been selected by the out going OIC Golf, **WO1 Ken Clarke,** and he picked the wettest, coldest day of the year. Winning scores were in the high 70's and comments of the 19th hole were 'and this is supposed to be fun'. All that apart, thanks must go to **WO1 Clarke** on behalf of the regimental golfers for all his efforts and hard work.

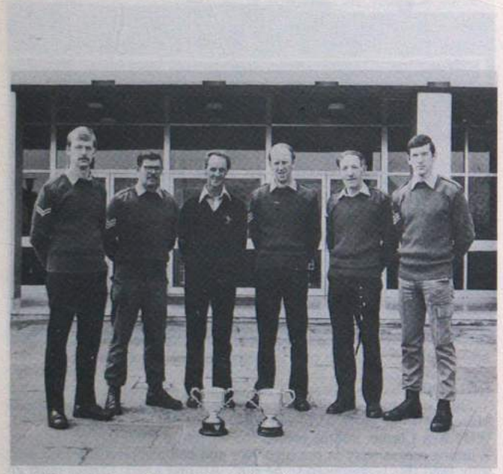
Maj John Elliot followed this competition by organising the Catterick Garrison Spring Meeting. Again, scores for the day were nothing to shout about with the exception of **Cpl Gary Prince** who, Playing off 12 shot a very good net 69. The 'A' Team for the day, **Chris Carveth, Mick Kilvington, John Elliott** and **Tony Kinsley,** won the Scratch Team Trophy for the third year running.

CORPS GOLF SPRING MEETING 28/29 APRIL

The Corps Spring Meeting assembled for the start of a 2 day event. Unfortunately as with our first regimental meeting it rained, so much that the start was always in doubt and as it turned out the last day was cancelled. This is always an unfortunate state of affairs especially when so many members had travelled so far for the event. I just hope that those from Germany and Northern Ireland enjoyed their one day and will make the trip next year.

The 8 Sig Regt Team **Maj John Elliott, SSgt Chris Carveth, Sgt Mike Kilvington, Mr Tony Kingsley** won the Inter-Unit Team Trophy. In the individual events **Cpl Gary Prince** was yet again in the lead.

Back row:- SSgt Dave Lumb, Capt David Shakespeare, Maj John Elliot, Cpl Gary Prince, Sgt Ivor Williams, SSgt Chris Carveth
Front row:- Sgt Charlie Mitchell, Mr Tony Kinsley, Mr Harry O'Mahoney, WO2 Wally Watson, Sgt Mick Kilvington, Mr Tony Evans



L to R:- Cpl Gary Prince, Sgt Mike Kilvington, Mr Tony Kingsley, SSgt Chris Carveth, Maj John Elliott, SSgt David Lumb, absent on duty and OIC Golf Capt David Shakespeare

1 SQN

The Squadron were the joint winners of the Training Group Royal Signals Athletics Meet on Saturday 14 May held at the AA College, Harrogate. The trophy was shared with the cadre staff team of the AA College and the Squadron obtains the proud possession of the trophy in November when it will be displayed in the trophy cabinet for 6 months. The team which represented the Squadron is as follows: **Cpls Daniel, Rose, Pinchin, Tait, St Clair, Killen, LCpl Wosika, Sig Metherall, Gowan, King, Krishna Kumar Gurung.** Individual prizes were won by **Cpl Killen** for 400m/Discus, **Cpl Tait** for 100m hurdles and **Cpls Rose, Daniel, Killen** and **St Clair** for 100m relay.

7 April was the only date appropriate to play the Regimental Rugby 7's competition. The team that were the overall winners were from T Tp, 1 Sqn. A very convincing win from an extremely strong side. To round the afternoon off, three members of the Squadron received Regimental Colours for the sport. **SSgt Roy Smith, Cpl Paddy Killen** and **Cpl Ian Simpkins.**

Congratulations to **Cpl Lifton, Cpl Barclay, Cpl Hall** and **LCpl Reason** on achieving the very covetted 'A' Grading award from their trade training course.

2 SQN

The Squadron water polo team flew through their league games winning all their matches with a super team playing like professionals. However, the vagaries of the rules dictated that this was not enough and that a 'final' had to be played at the swimming gala. Maybe the loss of **Cpls Chris Knutt, Chris Mountain, Mac McNaughton,** and **Remo Williams** had something to do with the result of that match when we were defeated by the odd goal in five. Anyway the team put up a fine performance against all the odds.

In the Brigade Athletics Meeting, the Squadron Tug-o-War team could only manage 3 weeks' training before the competition and did well to reach the final. However, they found themselves up against a formidable team from HQ and TTS who won by 2 straight pulls but well done the team.

Special mention must be made here of young **Sig Fats Marshall** who after winning the event with a 12m throw has been indentified as a potential Corps shot putter.

Congratulations also to **LCpl Old** of DT 950 U who was presented with his 'A' grading by **Maj Bob Stark.**

3 SQN

May has been a 'busy' month for 3 Sqn. Once again regimental athletics and the regimental swimming gala have dominated the sporting scene with the occasional Bikini Amber alert to provide the 'X' factor and ensure we earn our pay.

A cold, wet and windy Harrogate was the venue for the Group Athletics finals where our only performance of note was a first in the 100m final by **Sig Watson** and a third place in the Tug-o-War.

In the regimental Swimming Gala, we fared even worse with the lions share of prizes going to 1 and 2 Sqns. However, in the true 3 Sqn style the OC **Maj Ray Etheridge** and **SSgt Phil Lee** showed that when it comes to a chain of command race age counts for very little, (which accounts for the final placings).

The Tyne Tees TV fun run was next on our calendar and 3 Sqn was tasked to man the car parks and were well away from the fun and games (mostly water sports!), on the assault course. However, they were not dismayed as several wet bodies needed a rub down with a towel.

Due to the lack of Deltroids, a Cadre training programme was initiated with the aim of a 100% pass in our BFTs. Having achieved this, we now hope to broaden our horizons with something different. In the near future we hope to entice our desk bound cowboys out and on to some real four-legged creatures. We are not going to have any more 'Fun Runs' though as the SSM, **WO2 John Carter** has discovered that the assault course hurts!

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

1 SQ

Our notes for this issue are based on the contributions from three members of the Squadron. The Squadron Commander, **Maj R. A. H. Hoghton** tried to 'get away from it all' for a weeks sailing. Unfortunately he broke his ankle whilst practising and is now tied even more firmly to his desk.

Lt Stiff WRAC who seems to volunteer or be volunteered for every course going gives her account of a Basic Skiing Course. **SSgt Day,** who is still undecided which Squadron he belongs to, was finally cajoled into explaining his most recent absence in the notes on canoeing.

As this is prepared for the 'censor' in RHQ we learn that Bulford and Bovington COMMCENS have won Silver COMSTARS. Well done to them. We hope to have photographs for the next edition.

TEN TORS

One of the more unusual detachments for our switchboard operators is to Dartmoor for 'Ten Tors'. **Ptes Chris Dale, Sandy Vernon** and **Kerrie Hughes,** arrived on a cold, damp day at Okehampton Camp to help man the small exchange for the duration of the competition. All three girls had a memorable few days in spite of the long working hours and sparse accommodation. One of the highlights of their stay was a ride over the moors in a Gazelle, which was a welcome change from manning the switchboard. Although the detachment is something they would not necessarily like to repeat, to quote **Pte Hughes** 'It was an experience!'.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Our warmest congratulations are extended to **Mr G. King,** Taunton Military Telephone Exchange, on his award of the CinC's certificate of Meritorious Service.

Maj Gen Kinaham presenting the CinC's certificate of Meritorious Service to Mr G. King

EXERCISE EVERBLUE 1/83
Report by Yachting Correspondent

Comd Comms HQ UKLF, **Brig Alistair McKinnon,** using his influence with the Joint Services Sailing Centre, Gosport, acquired a weeks Adventurous Sailing on Her Majesty's Sail Training Yacht (HMSTY) *Kukri,* a 55ft ocean racing yacht, for a crew of 11 volunteers from 11—14 May.

After much rushing around getting passports, francs and suntan lotion a mixed crew of novices and experts all assembled at HMS *Hornet* the Joint Services Sailing Centre, Gosport, on the 11 May under the expert eye of the Skipper **Maj Stewart Read.** The crew consisted of **Maj Dick Hoghton, Capt Alan Davis, Lt Fiona Blood, Sgt Derek Duggan, Cpls Karen Topley, Julie Wade, Philip Annison** and **Ptes Jane Perry** and **Mary Abbott,** with the Brigadier as Navigator.

The first day was spent victualling and going over the boat before practising our watch duties and deck drills ready for a spring across the Channel next day. It was at this point that our correspondent bit the dust of the jetty, broke an ankle and had to be RTU'd.

The Commandant of the Sailing Centre, having demonstrated how dangerous his drills could be, seemed satisfied to allow us to set off the following morning for France, in a moderate gale which, eventually, turned all the novice sailors green and drove the expedition back into Poole Harbour that evening after rounding the Isle of Wight. The next casualty was **Cpl Karen Topley** who didn't manage to regain her sea legs even in Port.

On Friday 13th the remaining Ships' Compliment set off again and enjoyed some very exhilarating sailing to France and the Channel Islands at anything up to nine knots at times and eventually returned to Gosport, clutching their duty-free the following Tuesday, much to the chagrin of those of us who had become casulaties. We strongly refute all insinuations that **Maj Dick Hoghton** broke his ankle whilst under the influence or that **Cpl Karen Topley** was the victim of her own cooking.

SKIING — THE BASIC COURSE
Report by Lt Annabel Stiff

When asked to attend an Adventure Training Course, I carefully avoided the rock climbing and caving and elected a basic skiing course at JSMTC Scotland.

The weather, as always in the Cairngorms was unpredictable. The first day was perfect, sunshine, snow and a blue sky. On Tuesday the visibility was down to about two metres and following the class became a real problem. Our instructor must be the most patient man I have ever met. Many times, he would turn round to find none of the class behind him but strewn haphazardly on the mountainside—skis and poles scattered in all directions!

The weather improved dramatically for Wednesday and Thursday and left everyone with burnt faces and red noses. We tentatively took to the icy slopes on the Friday morning for our bronze proficiency test. Everyone passed 'easily' and we had the remainder of the day for 'free skiing'. It was a marvellous week and next year my aim is to do the 'progression' course.

CANOEING
Report by SSgt Pete Day

The Army Slalom canoe championships took place at Llandysul mid Wales, on the 20—22 May. The Regimental team travelled to Wales on the 16th to be met by rain, mud and more mud. Water was at a premium with the river higher than it has been for many years. The team consisting of four male and one female members of the Regiment were a little outclassed by the water, at least the male-members of the team.

The fact that we helped to build the course, putting gates across the river, did little or nothing to help us get a better position than ninth in the team event. In the individual events we faired a little better with the best being a fifth place; still there is always next year.

Being 10 Sig Regt we can always rely on the female members to help us out. Once again, **WLCpl Julie** (shoulders) **Maycock** came to the rescue winning the Ladies KI class. At the start of the week there were some twelve entries in the ladies class but our lass was the only one who could and did complete the course beating some male paddlers. The week was made by some very pleasant company and a nice friendly pub helping to get everyone wet inside.

SPONSORED RELAY (DRY) RUN

Sgt Dave Milner of the Squadron joined six other SNCO's from HQ UKLF in a sponsored relay road run from London to the Wheatsheaf Inn in Lower Woodford Nr Salisbury. The aim was to raise money for Cancer Research. The run took 10 hours and raised a total of **£366** for the charity. **Sgt Milner** is now believed to be in training for the Tidworth Marathon at the end of June. We wish him luck in that event.

ATHLETICS

The West Area Individual Athletic Championships were held at Tidworth Oval on Wednesday 1st June. A strong contingent of athletes from the Regiment entered and did very well collecting a total of seven 'pots'.

Individual Results

Mens Events

Cpl Alleyne	**4th in 100 metres**	**4th in 200 metres**

Womens Events

Lt Blood	**2nd in 3000 metres**	
Pte Fox	**2nd in Long Jump**	
Pte Skimming	**2nd in 100 metres**	**2nd in 200 metres**
LCpl John	**5th in 1500 metres**	
Pte Lansbury	**3rd in 100 metres H**	
LCpl Woodhouse	**3rd in 800 metres**	**4th in 400 metres**
LCpl Maycock	**1st in Discuss - 1st in Shot - 3rd in Javelin**	
Pte North	**9th in Discuss**	**9th in Shot**
Pte Hornsby	**1st in Javelin**	

2 SQN KH

VISIT BY BRIGADIER OLDS COMD 2 SIG BDE

On Wednesday 18 May, 2 Sqn were visited by the new Commander, **Brigadier Olds,** as part of his 10 county tour of the 10 Sig Regt 'patch'. After a presentation on the role of the squadron, given by **Maj David Podevin,** OC 2 Sqn, **Brigadier Olds** was escorted around Beavers Lane Camp. Having met personalities from the MT section, SWS Tp and Radio Tp, the Commander adjourned to the Squadron Club, 'The Bruno', where he presented a Gold Comstar award to **Mr Mike Martin** of Hounslow COMMCEN. It was the first such presentation that the Commander has made and the fourth the COMMCEN has received.

Brig K. Olds congratulates Mr Mike Martin the Senior Operator of Hounslow COMMCEN on the award of a GOLD COMSTAR

'Smile' you're on Candid Camera! These feet were meant for dancing. SSM (Mick) Davis obviously couldn't wait to get to Disco—or was it the Bar?

DERBY DAY

As the busy staff of SHQ bustled into work on 1 June, it soon became apparent that certain personalities were absent. The PRI office lay still and empty with no sign of the dynamic duo of **Capt Don Carr** and **Sgt Fred Waters,** the Orderly Room was hushed—where was the ebullient **Sgt Jeff Batt?** Recognition then dawned upon the poor overworked few as they sharpened their pen nibs (who ever said that progress had passed 2 Sqn by) and realised that it was Derby Day. Their erstwhile colleagues were already dashing down to Epsom enjoying the hospitaliy of the Sgts Mess of the Guards Depot, Pirbright.

Needless to say there were a few rosy glows apparent the next morning although how it is possible to get suntanned without leaving the beer tent poses an interesting problem and no-one admitted to backing anything but the winner!

LONDON DISTRICT MINOR UNITS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our small band of gladiators once again took up their arms to do battle against the Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers. Everyone is to be congratulated on their determination and spirit but the strength in depth of the opposition proved yet again too much for us to overcome.

LCpl David Smith proved to be our star find. Competing in the High Jump event he cleared a height of 1m 83 and was only beaten by superb jumping from two competitors from Major Units, one of whom went on to clear 1m 95. Being only a junior it appears the Corps can expect to see more of him in the years ahead.

Least we forget our other competitors:

100 metres	**Sig Bill Bishop** ran faster than expected.
400 metres	**LCpl Tim Jennings** found the BFT easier but gave his adversary a run for his money.
800 metres	**Lt Dick Sparshatt** felt and looked superb but found the sprint finish too fast.
1500 metres	**LCpl Mark Shergold** gave a good performance and will come again.
5000 metres	**Sgt Chris Brown** jockeyed with his opponent only losing out in the final stages.
Long Jump	At 40 years old and retiring in July **WO2 (YofS) Bryan Foulger** was hard pressed to cope with four jumps in one day.
Javelin	**Sig Philip Cooke** put in some good throws but found himself against the District Champion.
Shot	**Sig Neil Martindale** overcame inexperience and performed exceedingly well.

3 SQN

Report by Lt Wendy Bobbitt

During the course of the last two months, 3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt has indeed undergone considerable changes. It was, in fact, only weeks after the arrival of **Capt J. D. Rayment** Sqn Ops Officer that I arrived straight from Officer Training at Camberley as the new OC B Tp. As I am to run the Exchange, **Lt Fiona Leach** moved to the COMMCEN as the new OC A Troop. On Wednesday 18 May, **Brigadier Olds** who has relieved **Brigadier Hart** as Comd 2 Bde visited the squadron for a tour of both the COMMCEN and the Exchange.

It was towards the end of May, while many members of the Squadron seemed to be suffering from the threat of glandular fever, that our new OC **Maj Wilson-Brown** arrived from SHAPE Belgium. **Maj Briggs** who has been OC 3 Sqn for two years left us to take up an appointment in HQ BAOR, Rheindahlen in June; we wish him good fortune in his new post. Despite the changes in Squadron personalities, life has nevertheless gone on with the usual round of sporting activities, exercises and of course as always military training days.

SUPERTEAMS COMPETITION

This year the annual 'Superteams Competition' was held in Aldershot and a team consisting of **Cpl Lynn Thomas** and **LCpl Viv Bancroft** entered the event to represent the Army Badminton team. **Cpl Thomas** undertook to do the 800metres and the gym tests and **Lcpl Bancroft** did both the swimming and cycling events. Eight teams entered the competition including 10 Coy WRAC and at the end of play the badminton team were placed in 6th position.'

SEDSAM

On 20 May a shooting team consisting of **WO2 (SSM) Austin, Ptes Preston** and **Wells** competed in Sedsam competition on Ash Ranges. In the rehearsals and practice shoots leading up to the competition itself, the team had two reserves, **Ptes Chilcott** and **Carr** gave up much of their free time to improve the standard of their shooting and it was with pride that 3 Sqn was able to enter a team in the competition, achieving commendable results.

TRIP TO ANRAD

Report by Pte Katrina Sharman

On 6 May, 'A' Shift from the COMMCEN Aldershot consisting of **Sgt Bob Taylor, LCpl Nig Richards, Ptes Glynis Leftly, Lyn Jackson** and myself, set off by train to London. When we arrived our 'Super' Supervisor **Bob** decided to lead the way to MOD Buildings. When at last we finally reached our destination, we realised that if we had crossed the Thames by a different bridge we would have reached it a lot quicker. However, **Sgt Taylor** said he thought we needed the exercise!

We were expected there and duly received our passes to enter the main building where we were escorted to the Defence Communications Centre (DCC). Here we were led by **Mr Baylan,** our guide, into the Centre itself. During our tour it was explained to us how each job was carried out and what ANRAD (Automatic Routing and Distribution) was capable of. Following this, we were escorted back to the main door, before departing.

Having walked around all morning our feet were aching so we decided to find somewhere to have lunch. We spent the rest of the afternoon looking around the Science Museum. Afterwards **Sgt Taylor** and **Pte Leftly** parted company with the rest of us to return to Aldershot. We stayed in London to do some sight-seeing and tour the local pubs. All in all it was an interesting day.

NORTHERN IRELAND TRAINING

Report by LCpl Gridley

On Tuesday 24 May, **Pte Silversides** and myself, set off to participate in Ex *Terra Firma*. On arrival at the Trg Camp in mid-afternoon, we were briefed and given details of the role we were to play as members of the civilian population of Northern Ireland. The exercise itself did not begin until the following day so we were shown our accommodation—a 'smart' semi-derelict house. Having settled in we set off to the pub for a local gathering to make our acquaintences with other members of the civilian population.

The exercise was designed to represent a realistic version of the situation in Northern Ireland today and consequently the tasks we carried out were very much the same as those the troops could actually encounter during a tour of Northern Ireland. Wednesday and Thursday mornings dawned bright and breezy as we stumbled out of bed at 0630 hrs to make breakfast for 0700 hrs and work at 0800 hrs. Basically 'work' for us entailed walking the streets in order to make the area resemble a normal village engaged in mundane activities while the troops patrolled it, with incidents occurring at intervals to determine how they would react in a real crisis.

The exercise mainly consisted of bomb scares, shooting incidents and a funeral followed by an extremly aggressive, but very realistic riot, rowdy pub checks, house raids, car bombing and giving the unwelcome troops abuse. When it was completed, we all set about cleaning the entire village and this included sweeping roads, removing bomb-blasted cars and preparing the houses for the next occupants. As the exercise fully simulated conditions in the troubled parts of Northern Ireland today, it was, for us, quite an experience but nevertheless one which was thoroughly enjoyable.

SNOWDON MOUNTAIN CLIMB

Report by Pte Bosley

On Friday 18 April **Pte Heath** and myself, travelled to Capel Curick with 10 Coy WRAC having packed up a minibus with all the stores we required. On our arrival, we were shown to our hut where we were to stay until the Monday. After a quick meal, we went to the local pub before having an early night in preparation for the next day's walking.

On Saturday, having sorted out our equipment which consisted of rucksacks and waterproofs, and after packing lunch, we set off to climb Mount Moelsiber. It was indeed a hard day's walking and it took us about 3½ hrs to reach the summit as the conditions were cold and wet and snow underfoot was deep. We retired early to bed thinking we had worked hard, however, we were soon to find out how much harder we were expected to work.

On Sunday we woke feeling sore and uncomfortable and yet despite reluctance, we got ready for the climb up Mount Snowdon. Taking the minibus as far as the foothills we then set out to reach the summit. The weather was, to say the least, bad—ice and snow covered most of the ground at the bottom of Snowdon. Although we had been prevented from climbing the day before because the weather was said to be too bad and conditions too dangerous, we were permitted to attempt the climb on Sunday. It took about 4½ hrs to reach the top and just as we were climbing the final incline the sun came out and the view made the entire climb worthwhile.

However, the sun did not last long—it started to snow as we made our way back to the minibus. No one seemed to care too much—we had actually climbed Snowdon and consequently were feeling very pleased with ourselves.

Monday was spent cleaning the accommodation and booking up travel back to Aldershot. Both of us had a marvellous time and would like to take this opportunity to thank 10 Coy WRAC for permitting us to join them on this particular adventurous training weekend.

Ptes Bosley and Heath relaxing before attempting the Snowdon Mountain Climb

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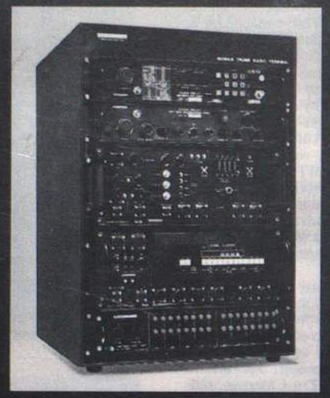

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Lt Col Andrew Carter left the barracks for the last time, as Commanding Officer, on Thu 24 Feb. We wish him and **Debbie** the best of luck in Aldershot and thank them for all they did for the Regiment over the past 2½ years. We extend a warm welcome to **Lt Col Peter Brown** and his wife **Josephine**. May their stay here be a happy and memorable one.

VISIT OF COMMANDING GENERAL US SIGNAL CENTRE AND FORT GORDON/USA SIGNAL SCHOOL FORT GORDON

On 19 Apr **Maj Gen H. J. Schumacher** USA visited the Regiment. The General was able to meet TA and regular recruits, and members of both Detachment Commanders' Courses and Staff Sergeants' Courses under training at the time. As can be seen from the photographs below he took a great interest in what he saw and talked at length with the students.

Gen Schumacher meets Sig Tough while the Tp Comd WO1 Gordon Philbrook looks on

Gen Schumacher speaks to Sig Forbes on the Assault Course with the CO, Lt Col Brown, in attendance

Gen Schumacher meets Sgt Mockford

2 SQUADRON (CARPE DIEM)

PERSONALITIES IN 2 SQUADRON

For those erstwhile members of the Corps who have been fortunate enough to enjoy the recreation facilities provided by the entertainment team of Helles Holiday Camp we have provided below unique photographs depicting the fun and joviality one can have with our highly trained fun-loving Green Coats.

ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER Maj Pat MacCulloch. Apart from the normal planning of holidays for future guests of the camp the EO also specialises in the art of meditation and relaxation, taking our campers on a 16 period course of self-hypnosis. Sadly however we say farewell to **Maj MacCulloch** and his wife **Sheena** and wish them all the best for their future with 32 Sig Regt (V).

CHALET ALLOCATION OFFICER WO2 (SSM) Ted Wray. Our very own compère and resident welfare officer who greets all campers with a cheery 'Ho de Ho' on their arrival. **Ted** was chosen for this task because he has the knack of calming the first time campers and making them feel at home in their spacious and luxurious chalets.

OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICER WO2 Ted Bentley. Past guests will happily confirm the loving and genteel manner which **Ted** adopts when undertaking his duties. His tremendous sense of humour and relaxed approach to the nature rambles and his abundance of knowledge on wildlife and outdoor camping makes this a pursuit all campers must enjoy.

ETIQUETTE AND ELOQUENCE OFFICER SSgt Rick Licence. A happy and amiable chap whose main responsibilities lie in teaching our guests poise and elegance, and the art of oral delivery. His calm and even tempered approach to the subjects injects confidence into our guests. His command of languages is an asset. His hobby is looking after the camp menagerie which houses a fine collection of Orang-utans, Rhesus monkeys and Igors!

GAMES AND COMPETITION OFFICER SSgt Dave Pinder. Dave's a scream. His infectious fun loving ideas really go down well with our guests. **Dave's** responsibilities have recently changed, prior to his present tasks he was the camp bank manager, advising guests on how to account for their holiday money and how to invest wisely. However, Dave has now found his true forte organising funny face and costume parties and bringing a lot of merriment to the place.

STORES AND PROVISION MANAGER SSgt (SQMS) Larry Formosa. Without **Larry**, this camp would not function. His ability to provide picnics for the nature rambles and his happy go lucky approach to life lends to the smooth and efficient running of the camp.

CABARET DUO Sgt Rick Logan and **Sgt Cliff Brumfield.** Not many camps can boast of possessing an act like the incredible duo of Snitch and Snatch. **Rick** with his quick fire wit and dexterity and **Cliff** with his impressions of Eamon Andrews make any audience appreciate their fine honed sense of fun and humour. They also partake in the nature rambles with **Ted,** using their compassion and sense of pity to assist our guests.

So there it is, as you can see dear reader a highly trained efficient and fun loving team await your booking, and to those fortunate enough to have experienced our hospitality please spread the word.

Finally we welcome to the 'Green Coats' **Maj Tim McCoy** our new Entertainments Officer. May your stay be fruitful and rewarding for our guests.

LATEST STAFF SERGEANTS' COURSE

Our most recent staff sergeants' courses are 198 and 199. Their photographs are on the following page.

THE VALUE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS LEADERSHIP COURSE

In the past, there have been many famous struggles between great leaders of different nations. For example: Montgomery against Rommel, Maximus Flavius against Boadicea, Sir Francis Drake (then only a potential foreman!) against the Spanish Armada. What have all

RSSSC 198
Rear Left to Right: Sgts Blood, Mockford, Waters, Boyd, Cleves McMahon. *Centre.* Sgts O'Donnell, Prince, McIntosh, McKendrick, Gilbey, Aveson, Vine, Chapman. *Front:* Sgt Logan, SSgt Licence, WO2 Wray, Maj MacCulloch, WO2 Bentley, SSgt Pinder, Sgt Brumfield

RSSSC 199
Rear Left to Right: Sgts Cross, Nelson, Wainwright, Rutter, Hems, Bell . *Centre:* Sgts Webber, Marriott, Taylor, Utley, Young, Blacklaw. *Front:* Sgt Brumfield (Wpns), SSgt Licence (Drill), WO2 Wray (MofI), Maj MacCulloch (Mil Law), WO2 Bentley (Wpns and Tactics), SSgt Pinder (NBC), Sgt Logan (Wpns), Absent on Duty SSgt Formosa (Q Accts)

these people got in common? They all completed a Royal Signals Leadership Course, or a clever copy of it. Of course it was a lot tougher in those days, especially with the Romans—have you ever tried doing a BFT in armour or sandals (the clever ones delegated slaves to do it for them!) They had much harder command tasks, fighting crazy blue—stained scottish football supporters who always insisted on having 'one for the woad' (There has always been woadworks on the A1).

THE ROMAN TRADITION

It was in fact, the Romans who first started the idea of leadership courses after a remarkable event in the Colosseum(?) one Saturday afternoon. It was the forerunner of the British Lions rugby tour with a slight difference—the British played the lions. So, on a sunny afternoon with the ground in tip-top condition, the managers of both sides got together and agreed that if one of the British could survive the lions for more than an hour—he would get his freedom. Then the games began, and in a very short time the lions had established a commanding lead and just about all the British had been carried off in buckets. Just one man survived—a certain Walter Step. He had brought with him all the equipment a good leader carried—yes—a 10ft plank, a 14ft plank and 2 toggle ropes. He built himself a strange contraption that lifted him off the ground and above the angry lions. In fact this set-up was later to be named after him and became the Step-ladder! The Romans loved this and wanted to know more. Julius Caesar tasked one of his officers, a Lettus Try, to form the basis of a leadership training school, then stationed at York and later moved to Catterick. Certain qualities which a good leader should have, were laid down and are still on the syllabus today:-

Confidence — No good potential centurion could hope to command if he didn't have faith in himself. So the Romans invented 'Shield'—the 24 hour protection that gives you confidence.

Loyalty — A good leader should obey his superior without question, an art in which only the Japanese Kamikaze pilots have so far achieved success.

Ability to Command 'Respect' — At that time, Respect was a small supply depot outside York and was a very tough place. Any Roman worth his salt had to have done a tour there.

Determination — As every good soldier in the Royal Signals knows, this is de ting at de end of de cable!

There are just a few of the centuries old values, that a good leader should have!

Today the Royal Signals Leadership Course is the result of much hard work and perfection. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world and we are justly proud of its reputation!! What does the average potential FofS or YofS get out of this course?

Tired This can be ingrained into a soldier by BFTs, running around golf courses and climbing trees.

Grit One thing we all had all over us when we had finished in the command task area.

Initiative We now all know how to build a working model of a Challenger tank out of 2 planks, a toggle rope and a 10ft pole. (An empty Fairy Liquid bottle does help!).

Appreciation I appreciate my Mum a lot more now.

Decision Making I can now say that I'm almost certain that I could probably make a decision, or not, when the need arises.

Aggression I went home and beat hell out of the budgie every night.

Confidence I now have complete confidence in myself. The trouble is, 150,000 other soldiers don't!

TV Experience I'm now ready for interviews on Nationwide!

So, if you want just some of these qualities—any many more besides, just send Annex B to SOinC's PD No 12 to your Chief Clerk along with 27 Cornflake packet tops and a £5 bribe. (Cheap for a 5 week holiday!!)—you might even learn something.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

THE FOCUS

Many BAOR Soldiers pass through the regiment enjoying the RSDCC so this time we start with:

ROYAL SIGNALS TRAINING TEAM (BAOR)

A grandiose title which embraces the following inmates: **Capt A. B. (Okey Dokey) Hill Trg Officer, WO2 B. (No passengers on my train) Smith SSM, Sgt M. (Folk Singer) Campbell, Sgt K. J. (Odd Job Thunderflash) Cox; Sgt L. (Bones) Madden.**

PT STAFF

WO2(QMSI) G. (No gain without pain) Bryson APTC
Cpl M. (Sasha) Hough
W/Sgt J. (Rigor Mortis) Rigby APTC

ADMIN STAFF

W/Pte C. (wannafella) Dobson

NO BREAK

This did not overly please the work force. 'Wot'? 'No break between courses? how are we to consolidate, update and amend the training packages and will not the instructor student information exchange suffer'? Which loosely translated means no fishing, folk singing, football, golfing or hospital visits on days off!

RSDCC 1/83

It didn't start too well, the sun was shining, no rain imminent. Not the ideal weather for training potential SNCO's. It didn't get any better when on the initial intake tests we had 8 failures from a course of 45. These were due to some safety errors on the weapons test and some students failing the BFT by minutes not seconds. The end result of 1/83 was as follows:

7	B	Passes
11	C+	Passes
11	C	Passes
8	E	Passes

Best student was **LCpl Owen** of 587 RLD. Well Done?

Quote from student to his Section Commander after falling in the lake at Grobbendonk.

'Ere, this water is taller than me'.

'That's because it's older than you!!' end Quote.

RSDCC 2/83

They must have read our notes because all 45 passed the intake standards. This was an excellent course not only for us but for 14 Sig Regt who took 1st, 2nd and joint 3rd at the end of the course. Well done **LCpl Anderson, Burkhill** and **Parker**, also well done training staff of 14 Sig Regt.

RSDCC 3/83

A poor turnout for this course, only 37 students arrived, some having been withdrawn at the last moment. Of the 37, 4 failed intake, 1 RTU'd medically leaving 32 students on the course, which is very nice for the instructors but meant that there were 13 empty desks screaming out for someone to occupy them.

Best student, **Cpl Donaldson** 4 Div Sig Regt, Well done again. 14 Sig Regt only got a 3rd place (come on **SSgt McConnan**, you're slipping).

Scene: The Regimental Square, Student taking his drill T P

'On receipt of the word of command, I immediately cut me arm into me side'.

Instructor whispers in shell like ear, 'Not *me* arm, son, *my* arm OK?'

Student: 'OK Sergeant, on receipt of the word of command, I immediately cut your arm into your side'.

Instructor—Bursts into tears!

RSDCC 4/83

Yet again with this course we had problems with intake standards. 40 arrived and 6 failed the intake. So yet another 9 spare desks demanding occupants. We only require the students to pass trained soldier standard in military knowledge, weapon handling and the BFT. Top student (yet again) from 14 Sig Regt, who have definitely

got their act together, was **LCpl Oakman** with a B pass—second—**LCpl Battle** (aptly named) 1 Div Sig Regt—third—**LCpl Wood** 486 RLD—well done lads!

RSDCC 4/83 LCpl Cummings, LCpl Andrews

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Training Wing OC **Capt Hill** and **WO2 (SSM) Smith** will have left us by the time you read these notes. Respectively, they will be at 30 Cadet Training Team, North Wales and RSM 30 Sig Regt. We wish them both well. To replace these stalwarts we welcome the new OC **Lt G. C. Blood** and **WO2 (SSM) J. Aspinall**, we hope you enjoy your tour with us.

H TROOP

ANNUAL VISIT

On 16 March, **Brig R. H. Swinburn**, Commander, Soltau Garrison, paid his annual visit to the Troop.

Much of this year's training effort had gone into military training and it was felt appropriate that we should show the Commander our skills. To this end the 2IC, **Capt A. G. Cox**, devised a suitable exercise, *March Hare*. This consisted of a 13 km forced march in battle order with a simulated road accident to test first aid, a river crossing and culminated in a shoot whilst wearing NBC equipment. The Troop was divided into 6 Sections. Each section set off at 15 minute intervals with the aim of completing the course in the shortest possible time and acquiring the least number of penalty points. In a closely fought contest the section led by **Sgt D. O. Allen** just pipped the others at the post and they were each awarded a medal by the Commander.

On the same day, **Brig Swinburn** kindly agreed to officially open the Troop's latest asset, a Clay Pigeon Range. The range was built by members of the troop under the able direction of the SSM, **WO2 D. Hooks**.

SOCCER

The Troop soccer team plays at the Dannenberg 3rd XI in Division 2 of the local county league. Before the final game of the season the team lay third. A win or draw would mean coming second and promotion to the first Division. After an exciting game the team proved its worthiness for promotion by beating Lemgo, a local team, 7—0.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Many congratulations to **LCpl** and **Mrs R. J. Cunningham** on the arrival of their son **David.**

We say farewell to **WO2** and **Mrs Mapp, SSgt** and **Mrs McLoughlin, Sgt** and **Mrs S. D. Wainwright, Cpl Yeomans** and **LCpl McLoughlin.**

We welcome **LCpl** and **Mrs Rankin, LCpl** and **Mrs Steward** and **LCpl Wilde.**

STOP PRESS

It has just been announced that the Troop has been awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for 1982. This will be reported in more detail in our next notes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN

Monday 21 March was a very special day for the Troop. We, together with many others, were invited to attend the prize giving ceremony for the 1(BR) Corps Environmental Cleanliness Campaign 1982. The event was staged at Bielefeld School. After some delightful musical entertainment by the children of the school, **Brigadier A. Yeoman** (ACOS G1/G4/G5 HQ 1 (BR) Corps) introduced **Sir Harry Secombe KG, CBE** who had come over from England to see the prize winning entries and to award the prizes. **Brigadier Yeoman** explained that winners and runners up prizes were to be awarded for three categories of entry together with a special prize for one unit that had done well in all three categories (Dortmund Garrison).

The results had been a closely guarded secret and it thus came as some surprise to us when it was announced that H Tp had won the category one (Projects of a Quartering Nature).

Prize—**Maj R. F. A. Axton** collected, on behalf of the Troop, a framed Commendation Certificate and a cheque for **DM1500**. Almost everyone in the Troop had contributed towards the tremendous effort that had gone into achieving this result and we all felt very proud that we had done so well.

Sir Harry Secombe with WO2 M. W. Green, Maj R. F. A. Axton and WO1 P. Westwell. 'I'm in the "waste" disposal business myself' he quipped. Sixth sense photo by Peter Griffiths

1 SQN

COLONELS CUP

Imagine, 8 gasping (depending on the age) men running and struggling up a sloping road, carrying a stretcher (the lightweight Army variety) complete with a WRAC casualty hanging on for grim death, with the prospect of going over the assault course, still to come, then you have pictured the Colonels Cup Competition! Not a pretty sight.

This 'Fun Competition' is our annual Inter-Troop 'Assault Course' competition and this year the competition was very keen, especially between Airborne 'A' Tp, 2 Sqn and TM Tp. The speed between the main three rivals were close, but as usual it was the shooting that decided 1st and 2nd place, 1st going to 2 Sqn (Note—1 Sqn must win it back next time). 2nd were A Tp followed by TM Tp in 3rd.

INTER-SQUADRON ATHLETICS

This annual event was held on 5 May, the day it didn't rain, and provided an opportunity for all our potential Morrison Cup Competitors to flex their muscles!! Needless to say 1 Sqn romped away with it again: well done lads.

FAREWELLS

We say farewell to, **Maj (Tfc) Brice, WO2 (Supvr R) Bandey** (off to Civvy Street) **SSgt (YofS) Stokoe, Sgt Shield, Cpls Brown, Pinkney, Facer, Dennis, LCpls Whitehouse, Jones** and **Sig Tall**, and wish them and their families all the best of luck in their postings.

WELCOME

We welcome to the Squadron, **SSgt (Supvr R) Kirk, LCpls Clee, Roberts, Sig Spiers, Payne, Williams, Fanning** and **Gardner** and hope they and their families enjoy their tour with us.

BAOR VOLLEYBALL

Report by Sig Prowse

On 29 May the BAOR Volleyball squad assembled at 7 Sig Regt, Hereford, looking forward to a good weeks volleyball training. 3 Royal Signals personnel were involved, **Cpl Dave Boyle**, 21 Sig Regt (AS) **LCpl Kev Jarvis**, 7 Signal Regiment and myself. Each morning started with a stiff warm up period and then into training in preparation for the match against RAF(G). Training started off slowly but as the team got used to playing alongside each other the standard improved rapidly. On the day of the 'Big Match' we were beaten by a far superior team (RAF (G)) who had had lots of experience playing as a squad. The week was hard work but very enjoyable and I am sure that everybody involved learned a lot about the game.

HOCKEY

As the season limps to its conclusion amid heavy rain storms the hockey players of the Regiment can look back with pride on the achievements of the season.

Finalists in the Inter Unit Hockey Cup Competition (Rhine Area Division)

Finalists in the Royal Signals Hockey Competition (Rhine Area)

Finalists in the Rhine Area Six-a-side Competition

Semi-finalists in the BAOR Major Units Six-a-side Competition.

For the numerically smaller unit, an excellent result. We do, as all teams must, lose some of our stalwart players, **WO2 (Supvr R) Mick Ford, Sgt Graham Barber** and **Cpl Simon Pinkney**, good luck to them, they will be missed.

Our annual Inter Troop Sixes was once more a great success thanks to a large number of spectators, a warm sunny day and a great deal of hard work by the organiser **WO2 Ford**. C Tp once again won the main competition under the generalship of **WO2 (Supvr R) Bob White**, and A Tp won the plate. The tournament trophies and individual medals were presented to the winners of the Main and Plate competitions, together with commemorative medals to the four umpires by **Mrs Pauline Walker** wife of the Commanding Officer. The plate, a new trophy, was presented by the outgoing Hockey Officer **Maj (Tfc R) Stan Brice** who is also off to pastures new.

With new players posted in and our playing standard improving, we now look forward to next season with keen anticipation.

SHOOTING

The Regiments Shooting Team have worked hard over the season but were not successful this year in obtaining a place at Bisley. Best of luck to the other Rhine Area Signal Regiments. We were pleased to have a success amongst our young shooters with **LCpls Paul Padden** and **Stuart Marshall** winning the prize at the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting for the best B Class LMG pair.

LCpls Padden and Marshall winners of the B Class LMG Pairs Match

ATHLETICS

Regimental Athletics at Birgelen has this season enjoyed an upswing in fortune due to an injection of fresh blood in the Squadrons and a high degree of interest amongst the junior ranks.

When asked to take over the team from **WO1 (FofS) Fred Brown**, soon alas to leave us, I approached the season with some trepidation. Having not witnessed a season at Birgelen before I had little idea of how to run an Athletics team or organise a meet. However with the stout support of **WO2 (SSM) John Smith** and the knowledge of the Regimental PT Staff led by **QMSI George Bryson**, the first hurdle, the Regimental Athletics Standards Competition, was crossed. A high proportion of the Regiment turned out to do their 'bit' for their Squadrons and the results were very close, with 2 Sqn just pipping 1 Sqn at the tape. On the day of the Regimental Athletics Meeting however the tables were turned. Faced with the forecast of rain on the day, it was with some hesitation that the teams officials and spectators gathered on the sportsfield. However the sun came out, the clouds went and a competitive day began. All Athletes attacked their events with a high degree of enthusiasm and the results at the end of the day were commendable. 1 Sqn managed to get their revenge by taking the honours.

Armed with the results of the Regimental meeting we now faced the task of picking a team for the Rhine Area Major Units Meet. The team that went to Rheindahlen gave a splendid performance and were only just pushed into second place after an objection in the last event. Of the team that went to the Rhine Area Meet the names that stand out are those of **LCpl Mark Burridge** who was the individual winner of the high jump, **Cpl Peter Ridlington** for his excellent runs in both 400m, 800m and 4 x 400m, relay, **LCpl Mark Littlewood** for winning the discus and **WO1 John O'Kell** for winning the hammer.

The final meeting for our season was the Morrison Cup at Sennelager. Here we were weakened by the loss of several team members due to courses, illness and all the usual problems which beset Army sports teams. The team which went to Sennelager managed to improve on last years position going from sixth to fifth place and gave an excellent performance. Although this result was due to a team effort and as such individuals cannot be fairly singled out, mention must again be made of **LCpl Littlewood** for his excellent discus throwing, this time achieving third place. The track stars include the whole of the 4 x 100m relay team, **(Sgts Rick Morris, John J. Smith, Cpl Bob Thompson,** and **LCpl Andrew Abernethy)** and the 4 x 400m relay team **(Sgt Arthur Harrison, Cpl Peter Ridlington, LCpl Mark Burridge** and **Sig John Griffin), LCpl Abernethy** again produced a fine run to finish second in his string in the 200m final with a unique style of running.

Sig Griffin hands the baton over to Sgt Harrison in the 4 × 400m relay which the Regiment won at Rhine Area

Regimental Athletics. LCpl Holsgrove leads Cpl Ridlington at the front of the 800m field

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

DIVERSE

This period's report seems to cover three very diverse subjects, all of which happened in the last three months.

The Colonel's Cup is our annual competition in which the troops compete against each other in military skills and marching. This is ably reported on by a member of the winning team.

Exercise *Southern Comfort* is the Regiment's annual adventure training exercise in Southern Germany which includes all the non military skills such as sailing and canoeing.

Our third report must surely qualify for an award under the 'Unusual Sport' heading. **WO2 (Mick) Jackson,** his wife and team of huskies have taken to driving through the local forest frightening people to death—it's funny what some people get up to in their spare time.

Since our last report **Maj C. R. Urquhart** has taken over the reins of 21C from **Maj J. F. Budd** who has gone off to continue the 'Paper War' somewhere else. We wish **Maj C. R. Urquhart** a happy and eventful stay in 14 Sig Regt and wish **Maj Budd** 'bon voyage' and thank you for all the hard work put in during the last couple of years.

THE COLONEL'S CUP

Lt (Andy) Goff, OC J Tp, and his 21C **WO2 (Supvr Radio)(Jim) Dodds BEM,** led J Tp to victory for the second consecutive year in the Colonel's Cup.

Having almost won the cup over phases one and two, it did not deter the Troop achieving the second fastest run time in phase three, behind Radio Tp. Radio Tp won phase three outright but were second to J Tp in the overall competition. Phase one was the assessment of each troop's performance in their APWT and BFT over the year.

Phase two was a series of written and practical tests on the following subjects: NBC, First Aid, Soviet Vehicle Recognition, Map Reading, Geneva Convention, Road Safety, Toets and an obstacle course. The Troop came first or second in each subject except First Aid. Each Troop had from January onwards to attain the required standards for the tests.

Phase three took the form of an Inspection. 10 Mile Bash, Inspection and shoot. Running fourth out of eight the Troop achieved what they thought was the unbeatable time of one hour forty three minutes. It was not to be, however, and Radio Tp under the command of **WO2 (Harry) Maddison** ran the course in a tremendous one hour and forty minutes to win phase three. Congratulations to RCP Tp who in coming third on the day kept the first three positions in 3 Sqn.

Apart from winning the Cup J Tp were presented with a tankard. This was awarded for the first time this year and was for the most outstanding performance by a soldier over the competition. It was won firstly by **Capt (Rick) Barfoot** of N Tp, but because it was for the best soldier, the tankard finally went to **Cpl (Bernie) Meehan.** This only goes to show that even the best soldiers get stuck on scramble nets.

J Tp is twenty one men strong, but was still able to field the required fourteen men for the competition. Each man having contributed to final victory it is only fitting to name the whole Troop.

Lt Andy Goff, WO2 (Supvr Radio) Jim Dodds BEM, Cpls Kev Bowker, Bernie (The stumps) Meehan, Dave (Porky) Pick, Chris Spencer, L Cpls Scouse (Paul) Cahill, Trevor (Fat Jack) Hawkins, Jon (The Dapper) Henry, Alan (Goof Frief) Oakman, Kev (Kwik Kick) Parker, Peter (Thommo) Thomas, John (True Grit) Wain, Sig Paul (Elvis) Beeching, Barry (Pike) Coates, Steve (Scoop) Harrison, Henry (Gums) King, Paul (Yosser) McDonough, Ivan (Pretty Boy) Oakey, Bob (Cod Heed) Scott and last but not least **Neville (Semi) Smith.**

DOG TIRED

Since the end of September 1982 Langelehen has been entertained by the antics of **WO2 Mick Jackson** and his team of Siberian Huskies. Abrupt encounters with various solid tree trunks **(Mick** always comes off second best) are not uncommon, and many an unsuspecting person, out for a quiet stroll in the surrounding woods, had to leap for cover as the team galloped round the bend.

After waiting unsuccessfully for snow in December and January, **Mick** and his wife **Christine** decided to go and meet it. They packed themselves, dogs and sled into car and trailer and headed South to the mountains. First stop was Tooltmoos in the Black Forest, who would believe it? Twelve hundred metres high and no snow for the first time this century. Back into the trailer and on to Trannheim in the Austrian Tirol. Here too, everything was green but snow was forecast. After three days of snow storms which blew away the snow before it could land, the experts of the Trail Club of Europe decided that they could make a twelve kiolmetre course where the snow had been trapped at

the end of the valley. This was not the usual race trail. The race organiser asked everyone to be very careful as they had been forced to include a very dangerous stretch of track. This was a half kilometre of nearly vertical downhill trail into a hairpin bend with an unprotected sheer drop into a lake below. Some of the mushers (sled team drivers) did indeed look a bit green as they came through the finish line.

On Sunday, after the race was over **Christine** discovered that **Mick** had not understood a word of the warning given by the Swiss official. This could explain why **Mick** and his team of five dogs had the fastest time in their class and were Austrian champions.

Still in a state of euphoria, it was on to Bruneck in Italy. could the success be repeated? **Mick** and **Christine** didn't think so but didn't really care. They had never believed that they could actually win a Trail Club race, and now, anything else was a bonus. And what a bonus! At the end of the first day **Mick** was one minute seventeen seconds faster than the second musher. On Sunday he had to start first with the second leaving one minute behind him. He knew that he must not be overtaken. He insists that the dogs did it all alone, as he spent the entire trip looking over his shoulder. **Christine,** waiting at the finish, aged about ten years. The complete Italian race committee suddenly left their radios and ran from all directions to the finish line screaming 'The Englisher is coming'. What a reception they gave him. It was impossible to say who was more pleased, **Mick** or the race organisers.

Back to Germany now and Eckenhagen for the Dutch championships. Everybody was saying that **Mick** was certain to win but he knew that two of his dogs were nine years old and the average age of a racing husky is three. The conditions so far had been perfect for his team but could it continue? Everything was going fine. The snow was wet and heavy going but the dogs went well, until **Mick** turned a corner and ran straight into a lady standing in the middle of the track with an Irish setter. Luckily nobody was hurt, but the lady learnt some new English words and **Mick** lost a lot of time. Still, third place was good going.

Bernau in the Black Forest and **Mick's** last race, the German championships. The weather now totally turned against the mushers. It raining non stop for four days. It was just too much for the two old dogs in the team. They gave everything they had. In fact, Bambi, the lead dog was lame for two weeks after the race. Even so, with the best in Europe competing, **Mick** was still in fifth place. Not bad when you consider that at the beginning of the season he hoped to come in the top twenty with an outside chance of making the top ten!

EXERCISE 'SOUTHERN COMFORT'

Beautiful Berchtesgadener Land once again provided the setting for Exercise *Southern Comfort,* 14 Sig Regt's annual adventure training exercise. From a base established by kind permission of the US Forces in a barracks on the outskirts of Berchtesgaden, members of the regiment ventured throughout Eastern Bavaria to participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from trekking over the 6000ft Jenner to sailing and canoeing on Chiemsee. Climbing and Abseiling tested the individual's confidence in both himself and his equipment, while the World Championship course at Ruhpolding provided an attractive introduction to orienteering. Archery found favour with budding Robin Hoods and drew crowds of inquisitive onlookers.

Also on the programme was a visit to Gebirgsjaegerbataillon 232, one of the Bundeswehr's elite Alpine units. The Germans demonstrated the use of their personal weapons and equipment and afforded their British allies the opportunity to kill tanks with the MILAN Simulator.

During a courtesy visit to Berchtesgaden Burgermeister Anton Plenk the exercise administrative officer, **Lt Lew Hammond,** expressed the pleasure of all at being able to train in one of the most majestic parts of the world amongst some of its friendliest and most hospitable inhabitants.

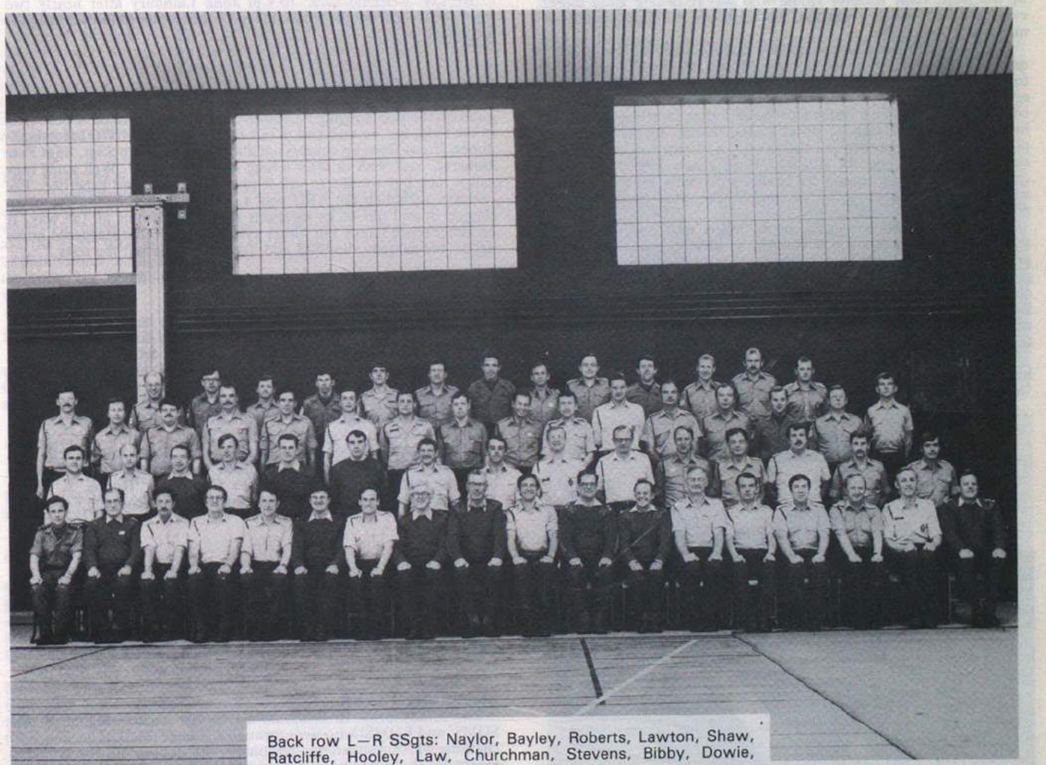
16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

TOT/FofS NWE CONVENTION 1983

The convention was hosted this year by 16 Sig Regt at Bradbury Barracks Krefeld on 26 and 27 May. It was opened and closed by **Col M. J. Hales,** Commander 4 Signal Group.

The theme of the convention was Ptarmigan, and we were fortunate in having the School of Signals Ptarmigan Presentation Team to give us a series of lectures on the up to date 'state of the art'. In addition experts from the BAOR and 4 Sig Gp gave equipment briefs and a detailed look at how and when Ptarmigan would be deployed in BAOR.

Since this was the first time that the convention has been held in the RCZ it was appropriate for visits to be made to RCZ manned installation at JHQ. Unfortunately 48 hrs of continuous rain forced the cancellation of an equipment demonstration arranged by 2 Sqn 16 Sig Regt. However the rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of the convention participants and the usual round of social events were enjoyed be all concerned.



Back row L—R SSgts: Naylor, Bayley, Roberts, Lawton, Shaw, Ratcliffe, Hooley, Law, Churchman, Stevens, Bibby, Dowie, Gorse
Third row L—R SSgts: Thompson, Rackham, Mugford; WO2's: Brown, Blauins West, Provart, Mabel, Barrowman, Gerrard, Grimmet, Todd; SSgts: Mayson Waring Jack Martin
Second row L—R WO1's: Payne, Priestley, Offord, Chaloner, James, Gallagher, McInnes, McIlree, Hall, Howes, Farrow, Boyd, Williams, Davey, Duncan
Front row L—R Capts: Forbes, Freestone, Hope, Scriven, Limb; Majs: Webb, Phillips, Lt Col D. Hunt, Col M. J. Hales, Lt Col J. H. Almonds, Lt Col K. West; Majs: Smith, Boulter; Capts: Smith, Kent, Kelbie, Maltby, Meachin

The convention photograph was taken by **Mr I. V. Morris** MMPA MISM of Public Information HQ BAOR and is included by their kind permission.

RHINE AREA SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

Once again the shooting teams annual pilgrimage to the sun drenched fields of Kohina Range, Haltern dawned warm and sunny, but a shock was in store for the 24 stalwart team members. Monday morning 16 May was cold, wet and windy—'this wasn't on'—it is always dry and sunny at Haltern complained the old sweats!

As in previous years the regiment had entered two, twelve man teams in the major unit competition and so with limited range practice due to exercise commitments (yeah yeah) there was an air of apprehension over the team tent, the team members sheltering from the rain and boasting of past glories and how we would win this year. Squadding, weapon preparation and waterproofs on and the 1983 shoot was under way. Day one wore on with no highlights but poor scores from the unfortunate individuals who drew detail's 1 and 2 in the SMG match who had to put up with an incredible thunderstorm and forked lightening.

The rest of the week continued in much the same way although thankfully the weather improved a little but without the sunshine of 81 and 82. The shooting maintained its low ebb with results well down on practise scores although certain team members managed to line their pockets with pool bull winnings. Team inspiration was provided by the Adjt, **Capt Richard Hoole** who was recording good scores everytime he touched a weapon. And that was without practise—it makes you sick really!

Friday 20 May came all too quickly and the final result depended on the LMG match which we had won in 1982. Regrettably it was not to be this year and so the cup slipped from grasp into the hands of our arch rivals 21 Sig Regt. The falling plate competition was our last chance and so with five teams entered and after careful seeding and lucky byes our best team 'C' stood a good chance. By the end of the preliminary round we were all still in with a chance and even by the end of the 1st round we still had three teams left. Then came catastrophia the best team were beaten admittedly by the eventual winners and so the rot set in, out tumbled the other teams and that was that for another year.

We had come 2nd, yet again, in the Major unit competition but secured our nomination for RASAAM at Bisley, retained the team prize of the Pistol Rose Bowl in Match 30 with **Capt Hoole** winning the top individual prize and **Capt Iain Brown** 3rd place. **Capt Hoole** also won the Champion at Arms and the top SMG prizes while **Sig Kevin Curlett** took the top 'B' Shot in the SMG match. **LCpl Hudson** of the LAD also did very well and has gained promotion to the Bisley team as the second 'B' Shot.

So now it is roll on the Corps Shoot and RASAAM at Bisley and back to the drawing board for Rhine Area SAAM 1984.

Capt Richard Hoole with his cups and Rose Bowl won at the Rhine Area Skill at Arms meeting

ALPHA TROOP REPORT

A Troop has been quite active over the last month or so commencing with the Leicester Trophy competitions. To begin we have had a first place in the inter-troop athletics, Rugby Sevens and a second place in the inter-troop Volleyball. Apart for these sporting activities we have been engaged in the normal exercise periods of DCN 038 where virtually the whole troop was used. During the month of May we have had **Cpls Jackson** and **Rose** deployed on exercise with 3 Div.

On the posting-in side of the troop we give a welcome to the following people, **Sig Bob Malvernm, Taff Drakes, Dave McDonald, Simon Oliman,** and not forgetting **Sig Steve Molson** on an interzonal posting from 28 Sig Regt. These postings-in were greatly appreciated and were immediately swallowed up on exercises *Flying Falcon* and *DCN 038,* without any real time to settle in properly.

On the posting out side we bid farewell to **SSgt Norrie Clanachan** and his wife **Chris,** and wish them all the best in 3 Div.

We would also like to say 'congratulations' and 'good luck' to **SSgt Henderson** on his promotion and forthcoming tour of the Falklands where he is returning for the second time. Congratulations are also in order to **LCpl Clawson** on his promotion.

We say 'welcome back' to **Cpl John Lathbury** after nearly two year's absence from the troop. He has been employed elsewhere in the Regiment.

FLYING FALCON

It was with great trepidation that Comcen Kilo rolled out of the gates on the year's Flying Falcon. Not only were we to have our ARU in the field, but we also had in our ranks a new SSM **WO2 Rowland-Jones,** (fresh from up country) and also a new Troop SSgt, **SSgt Pete Doherty,** back with us after a long spell in hospital. Well some may call it luck but we like to call it professionalism and expertise. The exercise, including the ARU was a roaring success as the commcen slipped in and out of its locations supplying comms all the way. It certainly was a happy but bleary eyed commcen that staggered home again. Incidentally the SSM and Troop SSgt passed the tests.

RECEIPTS AND ISSUES

The last month has proven very expensive in terms of forking out for the proverbial Falklands and it is with such sadness that we have to bid farewell to some of the troop stalwarts. **LCpl Simon Newton** and his wife **LCpl Shona Newton** good luck in Berlin and their impending new arrival. All the very best to **Sgt Guy Richards** and wife **Fran,** may they enjoy their tour in Detmold, also many congratulations to **Sgt Al Huggins** on his promotion to **SSgt** and may he and his family enjoy their tour in Celle.

On the credit side a hearty welcome to our three new switchboard operators **LCpl Helen Jones, Ptes Ellie Garland** and **Chris Mattison** and keeping up the salen numbers **Cpl Foggy Horne.** A hearty welcome back to **Sgt Keith Bradley** just returned from the Falklands.

MONSOONS

The remainder of the Corps will be pleased to note that contrary to popular belief the Rear Corps does have its share of bad weather and we haven't even had the opportunity to dry out the cam nets since Flying Falcon, much to the disgust of the linesmen as they now have nowhere to sleep! Nonetheless, the vehicles have never looked so clean, we only wish the PRE team were coming this month.

BRADBURY FAYRE

The Friday prior to Bradbury Fayre saw a gathering of all the SQMS' and RQMS' who went through a strange ritual of dancing and chanting which resulted in a reasonably dry day for all who attended except for those we were well and truly collared by **Cpl's Gaz Quick** and **Dave Metcalfe** who ran the Kilo ducking stool. The stand was its usual financial success thanks especially to **WO1 (RSM) Bonnet** who certainly drew them in. He took over DM20 and gave over fifty extras. Many thanks also to all the other generous personalities who gave their time to end up in the water tank.

ROMEO TROOP ROUND UP

Life has been quite hectic in Romeo Tp recently, with exercise *Flying Falcon* taking place we have been on the move! It made quite a change for us to see several dripping woods on one exercise rather than the usual one wet wood. The troop has also been preparing our vehicles for hand-back. The old and 'trusty'(?) C70 and C50's are to go in favour of the new 'Super Kit'—the Triffid, about which we have heard a lot but seen very little at our end of the country.

The troop has had several new arrivals. We say 'hello' to **Sig Keith H. Harling, Taff Evans, Mick Henty, Chris Marlow** and **Gary Thompson.** We also say 'welcome back' to **Sig Al Higgins** fresh from a tour with the sheep and penguins in the Falklands.

The departures from the troop are **Cpl's Jeff Dean** and **Phil Billingham,** who will be sadly missed and temporarily **LCpl Scouse Rosenthal** who is off to the Falklands. Good luck to all.

3 SQUADRON ON EXERCISE 'INTERCAMP'

The thought of being the leader of an erection party makes one wonder just what kind of job one has been lemoned for. Well, as you've probably guessed, it was all to do with putting up tents—not little ones to live in but marquees. 3 Sqn was asked to provide the Service Team to put up tents and run the administration for Intercamp 83, a six nation annual Scout Camp which this year was hosted by the British Scouts in Western Europe at Arsbeck Training Area.

Depsite the atrocious weather it wasn't long before the four containers of tentage had been unloaded thanks to the expertise of the SSM, **Hyster Coffill,** and his trainee Eager Beaver operators, **Cpl Phil Grimes** and **Sig 'Twigs' Twigger.**

VIDEO FOR THE RECORD

Dressed in their red Service Team shirts the members of the Squadron were always busy around the camp making sure everything was in its place. Even **Lt Tony Johnson** had his ingenuity tested when he was given two ten-panel marquees, 500 metres of hessian and 150 Elsans and told to make the gents toilets. Half a day later they were done and the method recorded on video by the OC so that he couldn't escape from it in the future.

THE PEELINGS

Sig 'Toad' Braund had a nasty shock on the day he went to check one of the water bowsers, to find a brown substance floating in the water. He summoned specialist help from the OC, **Maj Tony Gibb** and the SSM, **WO2 Roy Coffill.** The OC being a scouter proved that he didn't mind getting his fingers dirty whatever it was and delved into the water. **Sig Braund** was a little red faced when the potato peelings were pulled out.

A HOWLING SUCCESS

All in all the camp was a howling (!) success and the Team was congratulated by the County Commissioner BSWE, **Gen Sir Michael Gow,** who opened the camp. He joked with them in an informal atmosphere which summed up the overall spirit of the camp.

VARIETY

A special word of thanks must go to the medic, **Cpl 'Medic' Collins,** from RAF Wildenrath who was constantly treating a stream of cases from hypothermia to the Scout who was bitten by a mouse that jumped out of his tent when he unpacked it!

4 SQN IN BIELEFELD

In recent weeks the squadron has had several visitors saying farewell for different reasons. Among them was the **SOinC, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE,** accompanied by his wife who visited the exchange and the Commcen. During his visit he presented Meritorious Service Certificates to two long serving civilian operators, **Frau Ilse Bail** and **Frau Lieselotte Zeh** in Terrini.

The Garrison Commander, **Brig A. K. Dixon,** combined his farewell with the Squadron's admin visit. He toured both the Commcen and Exchange where he took great delight in meeting the faces behind the voices. He was also entertained to a buffet lunch in the Jimmy Club with the Officers and senior ranks.

On Sunday 17 April, six male members of the Squadron decided to tackle the Hermannslauf, a 35km run from the Hermannsdenkmal in Detmold to the Sparrenberg in Bielefeld. **Sgt Chris Balaam** was the first home in a time of 2hrs 32mins, closely followed by **Cpl Steve Potterton** in 2hrs 45mins, **Sig Dave Saunders** in 2hrs 49mins, **Cpl Steve Smith, LCpl Kev Gardiner** and **Pte Pete Jackson.** The event was highlighted at one stage when **LCpl Kev Gardiner** decided to stop breathing—a man with true style— however, his colleague came to the rescue and after a few well aimed kicks he seemed able to revive himself and continue to the finish. Congratulations to all who took part.

At the beginning of May the Massed Bands Display for 1983 was held at the Bielefeld Radrennbahn. The Display is an extremely important event in the BAOR Anglo-German calendar and the Squadron was tasked with producing a number of ushers. After the final performance several couples from the Squadron were invited to the Town Reception, marred only by the typical Bielefeld weather.

Maj Gen Birtwistle taking a keen interest in the work of Pte Michelle Roberts

Cpl Elaine Collinson explains the UK Booking system to Brig Dixon watched by 2Lt Debbie Smith, Maj Colin Rayner and Sgt Rena Tyler

Several changes in personnel have taken place within the Squadron. **2Lt Debbie Smith WRAC** arrived to take command of Exchange Tp whilst **Lt Helen Thompson** returned to Krefeld as OC Romeo Tp (congratulations on your engagement). Also leaving after three years in Exchange Tp was **Sgt Rena Tyler** who moved on to 242 Sig Sqn in Edinburgh. She was replaced by **Sgt Bernie McNamara** from Krefeld, **Collinson** (to Krefeld) and **Cpl Jill Webb,** also to **Carole Green** and **Jane Abbott** both leaving to start a family.

More departures include **LCpl Di Franklin, Ptes Elaine Beale** and **Janet Booth (Halstead)** and last but not least **Sig Mick Waldron,** the Speed King. Congratulations go to **Pte Michelle Roberts** on her marriage to **Pte Malcolm Johnson RAOC.**

Royal Signals **Sgt William Lofts** is also congratulated on his marriage to **LCpl Deborah Witney, and Sig Bill Gunn** on his marriage to **Angelika Prief.**

New personalities including **Sgt Pat Darby** as Admin NCO taking over from **Sgt 'Ginge' Haynes** who despite her injured toe made it back to 12 Coy WRAC in Mill Hill in rapid time. Also arrived in the MT Section are **Cpl John Miles** and **Sig Mark Richards.**

KOENIGSTUHL RUN 1983

At the beginning of May our sister battalion in Heidelburg invited 10 members of the Regiment to compete in their 8th Annual Koenigstuhl Run. Our sister battalion is the 43rd Signal Battalion (US) Army. The 4 May was our fourth anniversary. The run is unusual in that it is all uphill—no relief for 8.8km! The Koenigstuhl is the hill that overlooks the barracks. Some parts are steeper than others, the worst gradients are nearer the beginning than the end. Those who had done the race before took great delight in telling the others about the treat in store for them. The Regimental representatives thoroughly enjoyed themselves due to the very kind hospitality shown by our hosts.

We also managed to finish in 3rd place overall and 4th, 9th, 13th etc with the final accolade of being the winning team. Celebrations in order! The members of the Regiment who took part were **Capt Jill Gibson, Cpls David Brown, George Crozier, Mike Scott, Bob Story BEM, LCpls Peter Hudson, Chris Mayes, Keeny Primrose Nick Withers** and **Cfn Scouse Almond.**

WRAC SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS 83
16/28 SIG REGT

The winter months at 16/28 Sig Regt were very busy, sportwise, with teams travelling to UK on no less than three occasions.

In February, six members of the Cross Country team went to Aldershot as part of the BAOR team, to compete in the Army Championships: **SSgt Jeffery, Cpls Smith, Neville, McKenna, Blackmore,** and **Pte Freeman.** As the team reached Aldershot, all were wondering if BAO could win the Army title this year, having been runners-up so many times before. London District and Northern Ireland, in particular, were known to have strong teams. Having run in appalling weather conditions at Twesldown racecourses; it was announced eventually that the BAOR team had indeed won, albeit by a very small margin, thus bringing the title to BAOR for the very first time ever.'

After narrowly winning the BAOR Netball Championships, against all the odds, we were back in Aldershot in March for the Army Inter-Unit finals, ready to challenge the might of the UK! The tournament proved to be very exciting and we were unlucky to lose some of our matches by the smallest of margins. Nevertheless, the team put up a good performance and eventually finished 4th to the champions, WRAC BTY, Woolich.

Our last trip (to date) to England (Aldershot again) was for the Army Inter-Unit Hockey finals. 16/28 Sig Regt had won the BAOR Championships again for the third consecutive year. Playing on the grass at Aldershot, after the luxury of shale pitches throughout the season in BAOR, was akin to running with huge wet sponges tied to one's feet! However the team played well, despite the loss of our injured coach **Capt Cpl 'Taff' Doughty** and after two exhausting days of Hockey finished 4th to the winners 12 Coy, Millhill.

The following 'gladiators' were selected to represent BAOR against RAF (Germany); **Maj Johncey, 2Lt Chambers, Cpls Doughty, Marshall, Crossley** and **LCpl Moth.** Congratulations to all members of all sports teams for their fine performances during the winter season. After our hectic winter, we have now rushed headlong into what is proving to be a very busy summer.

On 4 May, we won the Rheindahlen Garrison Athletics meeting, much to everyones' suprise (not the least, our own!). This was the first time 16/28 Sig Regt had ever won the trophy; all credit must go to the valiant team members. 5 May dawned bright and clear, just the weather for a Regimental Sports Day. Encouraged by the sunshine, even the most unlikely of athletes were to be seen thundering around the track and a super day was had by all.

10 May brought us the BAOR (WS) Athletics Championships in Rheindahlen (time to start growling at the opposition!). The Championships were the most exciting for many years with 16/28 Sig Regt and 29 Coy WRAC on 60 points each, with only one event left. Sadly by winning the final relay, 29 Coy WRAC clinched the title with 16/28 Sig Regt finishing as runners up once again! All credit to the team for a brave performance (next year girls!?) and congratulations to the following BAOR Individual Champions: **Cpl Smith** - 1500 metres. **Cpl Neville** - 400 metres. **Pte Freeman** - 800 metres. **LCpl Hughes** - High Jump.

Our BAOR Individual Champions and **2 Lt Chambers** in the shot, were subsequently selected to represent a combined BFG team against RAF (UK) on 15 May. RAF (UK) won by a narrow margin on seven points. The Summer season promises to continue at a frantic pace—hopefully the enthusiasm will do likewise!

BSAC SPECIAL BRANCH 717

The Sub Aqua Club members, having lost their tan from the Easter diving expedition to Sardinia, were recently rather rudely reminded of the cold realities of inland diving in Germany.

The local German Fishing Club approached the branch complaining of murky water and pollution in the water they use. The Sub Aqua Club undertook the clearance job and surveyed the lake for sources of pollution.

The diving was supervised by the Club Diving Officer **WO2 (YofS) Allen Hawkins.** Club divers provided the underwater muscle. **LCpl Dave Bagshaw (Dive Leader)** and **Sig Jock Crockhart** did sterling work in clearing several bicycles, iron bedsteads, bottles and tyres. The survey revealed two leaking oil drums and engine parts which were later recovered. Hopefully this work will help improve the water quality and enable the fish to breed once again. **Pete Dunnings** who was to have led this dive had to call off with a cold, or was it the cold! All in all it was a successful operation spread over two days. The Fishing Club provided refreshment conjured up from the cool depths on the end of a rope. A fitting end to a useful day.

The Diving Club looks forward to the Summer Expedition to Arhus in Denmark where it is hoped to undertake diving on World War One Wrecks and a crashed Lancaster Bomber.

Sig Jock Crockart (left) and LCpl Dave Bagshaw (right) clearing rubbish from the pond

ROYAL SIGNALS (RHINE AREA) HOCKEY TOURNAMENT 1983

When **Maj (QM) John Rose,** an ex Corps Hockey Secretary, was appointed Hockey Officer for 16 Sig Regt he was rather disappointed to discover that Royal Signals Units in BAOR were not involved in a Corps hockey tournament.

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col David Hunt,** was approached and generously donated a Trophy and with the support of 13, 21 and 28 Sig Regt, the Royal Signals (Rhine Area) Hockey Tournament came into being. It was intended that the competition would be played over the weekend 7/8 May but both 13 and 16 Sig Regt won through to the BAOR stage of the 6 a sides tournament, where 13 Sig Regt must be congratulated on winning through to the semi finals of this competition.

The Rhine Area competition was re-organised to take place on 8 May and the start saw 16 Sig Regt play 28 Sig Regt. Despite some magnificent play by the 28 keeper, 16 won through by 4 goals to 1.

The play off for third/fourth place between 21 and 28 Sig Regt was also a close match which resulted in a win for 21 Sig Regt by 2 goals to 1. For the competition final game played between 3 and 16 Sig Regt, two umpires from the International Services Panel, **WO2 Avallano** and **WO1 Headon** were asked to officiate. This resulted in much stricter application of the rules being applied.

Both teams seemed to find some difficulty at the start, but after a period of scrappy play settled down to play fine hockey which was appreciated by the spectators. Eventually 16 Sig Regt went into the lead with a fine goal by **Sgt Assi Aslam** which was quickly equalised by 13 Sig Regt. Then a few minutes later 16 Sig Regt were awarded the first of their three penalty strokes which was converted by **Sgt Graham Lathbury.** The score remained at 2—1 until the interval.

In the second period of play 13 Sig Regt equalised with another final goal which was followed by a long period of tense hard fought hockey before 16 Sjg Regt were awarded their second penalty stroke which again was clinically converted by **Sgt Lathbury.** In the few remaining minutes of play 16 Sig Regt were awarded a third penalty but this was saved magnificently by 13's keeper.

The CO 16 Sig Regt, **Lt Col D. Hunt** Royal Signals, has kindly consented to present the Trophy. He was rather surprised when asked to present two. The first to a very startled **WCpl Julie Doughty WRAC** from 16 Sig Regt Hockey team in appreciation for her fine play for the Regiment, WRAC Army and Combined Services. **Julie** will be missed on the hockey scene in BAOR when she is posted to UK in two weeks time.

Finally the CO congratulated the players from all four teams on a splendid days hockey before presenting the Royal Signals (Rhine Area) Hockey Trophy to be a delighted **SSgt Alan Cunningham,** 16 Sig Regt Captain.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Many gallons of water have passed under the bridge, and many a happening taken place since the appearance of the Regiment in our Corps Magazine.

However with a 'bumper' edition we aim to put that right in this issue. Amidst the normal 'comings and goings' we have had many fine and varied achievements in the Military and Sporting fields.

FAREWELL VISIT BY SOinC

On 10 February, **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Birtwistle** paid their farewell visit to Wildenrath. The **General** and **Mrs Birtwistle** were met by the CO **Lt Col David Burton MBE** and **Mrs Burton** and the **RSM WO1 Geoff Northey.** After brief refreshment in RHQ, **General Archie** had a whistle-stop tour of the Regiment during which he presented a NI Commendation Certificate to **Cpl Benson** of 1 Tp, 1 Sqn. Meanwhile **Mrs Birtwistle,** visited the Community Centre accompanied by **Mrs Tricia Burton** and **Mrs Pat Northey** to meet some of the families over coffee. The morning's visit culminated with a joint Officers and SNCOs buffet lunch accompanied by the wives and the presentation. of the **LSGC** medal to **Sgt John Mason,** a stalwart of our LAD. **Lt Col David Burton** presented the **General** with an eagle as a memento from all ranks of the Regiment. A visit to ATC by the ladies and the presentation of the South Atlantic Medal to **Cpl Ackerman** of our Pay Office brought to a close an enjoyable, day. The Regiment wish **General** and **Mrs Birtwistle** a long and happy retirement.

L—R Mrs Marilyn Offord, FofS Dick Offord, RSM Geoff Northey, CO, SOinC, Mrs Birtwistle

SGTS MESS

The Sgts Mess has had somewhat of a busy social calendar. On 16 February **RSM Geoff Northey** 'chaired' his first dinner in the Mess when we dined out **SSgt Gordon Hardaker, Sgt Bob Hatton,** and **Sgt Ray Hancock** at the end of their 22 years service. The dinner was a great success despite the Station Alert sounding as the Mess sat down to dinner. However, dinner was saved by the Station Commander, although it was the first time dinner had been served by stewards in NBC suits.

The 18 March saw the Mess bid a fond farewell to the then CO, **Lt Col Burton** prior to his move to Brussels to Military Attache.

On the 6 May we welcomed **Lt Col** and **Mrs Ayrton** to the Regiment by holding a Ladies Dinner Night. It was a pleasure to see our wives join us for this function and the dancing went on until the small hours to **SSgt 'Pat' Garrehey's** White Lightning Disco. We wish the **CO Lt Col** and **Mrs Ayrton** a very happy tour with '21'.

REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Regiment has had a very successful time of late.

VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball Team have succeeded in capturing the Army Volleyball, Rhine Area Volleyball Winners Shield, and the BAOR Runners Up Shield for 1982-1983, and are fresh from their recent triumphs of winning the Rhine Area and BAOR Winners Shields for 1983-84. Under the watchful coaching of **Sgt Om Chhetri** and **SSgt Wayne Sweeting** they have had a very successful season. The squad consisted of **SSgt Fred Barden APTC, Sgt Gaz Wilson, Cpl Dave Boyle, Cpl Tony Hobbs, Cpl Phil Playford, Cpl Kelvin Lambert** and **LCpl Phil Mackenzie.**

CROSS COUNTRY
Report by WO1 (FofS) Offord MBE

Pre season the cry went out 'hands up all those who ran cross country last year' the silence was deafening! Next ploy 'Each Squadron produce 30 men for the Annual Inter Squadron Cross Country Race'. You see if you say 'annual' then everyone accepts the inevitability. But what should be the carrot to ensure participation by future unsuspecting Regimental Cross Country runners?'. 'Two crates of beer for the winning Squadron Team'. Needless to say the Competition, which was also the unannounced Regimental trial, was a resounding success.

Having purchased some 'go faster Nike training shoes' for the 'big event' it was then not too difficult to exert sufficient psychological pressure on the beer-chasing joggers to convince them that Cross Country was a good way of avoiding the development of a pot-belly, BFT failure, or in some cases, slowing down oncoming senility (sorry Taff).

And so more by judgement than luck the 1982/83 Cross Country Season got off to an unconventional but successful start. During the 16 race season of the Rhine Area and RAF(G) league, 41 runners were to represent the Regiment. In a very close tussle with near neighbour, 13 Sig Regt we were to become Rhine Area Champions and despite being outclassed in the BAOR championships, as the last race of the season drew near it was clear that we had a better than outside chance of the highest league position, ie 3rd, for many years.

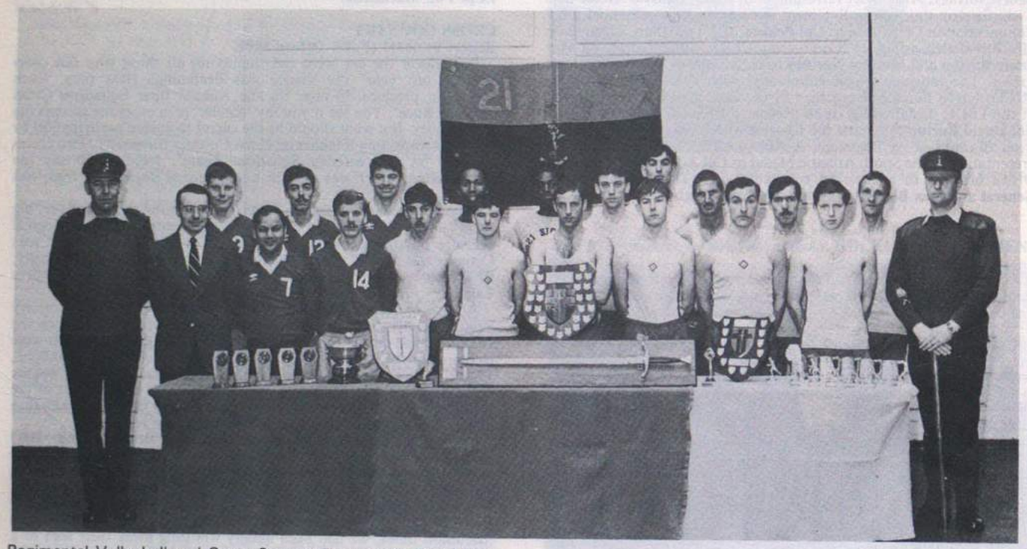
With the large station teams of RAF Bruggen and JHQ Rheindahlen already out of sight in 1st and 2nd places, it came somewhat of a shock for our neighbours at RAF Wildenrath to find that after the 15th race they had lost their 3rd position which they had held since the first race of the season. While their International runners were in the Far East knocking out near world record Marathon times, we had been quietly whittling away their lead to a point where even their 'big guns' during the last race were not quite big enough. The individual trophies subsequently gained had made it all worthwhile.

The main contributors to the Regiment's success were: **Sgt Gaz Wilson** who was also awarded 15th Individual trophy for the season. His natural ability was the envy of all. He also introduced his own form of sadism called repetition training; a painful experience. **LCpl Graham Pardew** started running mid season after injury and immediately established himself as the Regiment's No 2. He finished 4th junior runner in the BAOR Championships. **LCpl Alan Sallis** started the season as a middle of the road (not literally) runner and ended as a front runner. **Sgt Ian Kirkpatrick** arrived in mid October with ideal timing to provide much needed depth at that time. **SSgt Taf Gordon** was one of only two runners out of 460 who ran all 16 league races, with **WO2 Steve Tucker** and **Sgt Pete Knight,** their training was so regular and predictable throughout the season that it was possible to set one's watch by their training schedules. Barely a day went by when they were not out training. **Cpl Neil Allamby** joined the team mid season following injury and quickly established himself as a front runner. **LCpl Paul Hampton** showed flashes of inspiration. **LCpl Chris Rose REME, Sig Steve Lambert** and **Cpl Pete Tasker** all ran brilliantly but, each for different reasons through no fault of their own, were unable to run more than a few races. **Cpl Keith Hatton, LCpls John Beaty REME, Dixie Deans, Ritchie Conway, Sig Derek Mair, Ian Johnstone** and **Kevin Butler** were all regular runners who showed good promise for the future.

From nothing it was a very successful season and with most of the team here next season we can look forward to even greater success.

LCpl Sallis in the forefront of the 1500m

Regimental Cross Country Team
A smiling FofS Dick Offord surrounded by his Gladiators



Regimental Volleyball and Cross Country Teams with CO, FofS Dick Offord and RSM
The Wilkinson Sword—Army Volleyball Winners Trophy 82-83
Rhine Area Volley Ball—Winners 82-83
Rhine Area Cross Country—Winners 82-83
BAOR Volleyball—Runners Up 82-83

SHOOTING

The Regimental Shooting Team under the watchful eyes of **Capt Andy Scriven REME** and **Lt Gordon Haughie** made an almost clean sweep at the Rhine Area SAM in May. The team walked away with the Champion Unit Cup, the SLR Cup, the SMG Cup, and the LMG Pairs Cup. They came a creditable third in the Pistol Competition. Their efforts are now channelled towards the RSSAM and of course Bisley.

L—R Rear: Capt Scriven LAD, Cpl Copely, Maj Steane, Cpl Ackerman RAPC, Lt Haughie
L—R Front: LCpl Loudon REME, LCpl Nohar, Sig Hawkes, Cpl Kuzera REME

ATHLETICS

The Athletics team maintained the Regiment's tradition by winning the Rhine Area Athletics Competition for the 13th year in succession. It was a close finish and depended on the last relay as to whether it was '21' or '13' who took the Winners Shield. However the nail biting over, '21' were victors again.

FOOTBALL

The Soccer team, depite having a wealth of talent, has had a patchy season due mainly to injuries, exercises, postings and detachements. The season culminated with playing against the 'old enemy', 28 Sig Regt, in the final of the Rhine Area Cup. Again we were the bridesmaid going down to two fine goals.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

2 SQN BATTLE CAMP

This year the 21C, **Capt Mike Stanners** started the ball rolling early, issuing the admin instruction in the first few weeks of January; with the first amendment following swiftly on its heels.

The period up to Battle Camp itself which was at the end of March, was full of exercises and little beauties such as accepting Triffid (MK TRC 471 for the systems instructions back at Blandford) and the stores boards for the COs handover.

In the weeks prior to camp frenzied preparation was—or at least should have been—noticed. Troop runs suddenly got a look in on the daily programme. The Squadron Clerk, **Cpl Hughes** was almost buried alive in the paperwork flowing from the 21Cs office.

Eventually the fateful day arrived. **Sig Ricketts** was the first to feel the physical side of Battle Camp—with press ups for hands-in-pockets! We set off only five mintues behind schedule, a minor miracle in itself. Although Packet 2 set off 10 minutes after Packet 1 on the 15km trip to the Karken border crossing, they managed to arrive there well before Packet 1, who under the skilled guidance of **Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor** went for a scenic tour of Karken itself.

The camp started in ernest with a Squadron run soon after our arrival at Olen Camp in Belgium. Extra PT followed for those who had incurred the instructor's displeasure—ably led by **WO2 (SSM) Burnett. Sgt Slater** put in a nearly bid for the Golden Blanket Award, by sleeping through the above mentioned run.

Early morning battle PT the next day, initiated the first full day. Most people had managed to wake up by the time they went through the camp gates—on the way back in. Those officers and SNCOs who were instructors slipped into gear and pearls from heaven fell on all the normal subjects. The dulcet tones of the SSM, **Sgt Ager, SSgt Woodmason** and **Sgt Smith** drifted across both Olen Camp and Grobbendonk training area informing individuals of slight errors in their Battlecraft or Fieldcraft. This instructional phase continued for the next five days. Dotted around to enliven the instruction were BFTs, orienteering competitions, a Cross Country competitions and practise for the obstacle race.

The obstacle race—set up by the devious and sadistic mind of OC A Tp, **Capt Ian Harris,** after hours of hard work, proved to be just long and wet enough for the competition. **Sig Wilson** even tried to imitate 'Superman' on the way round, and ended up with a badly injured knee for his trouble. To the disgust of almost all, the officers and SNCOs team which entered actually won—legally!

The final phase of Battle Camp had to be curtailed due to 'operation commitments' and the planned two day exercise on the area was reduced to one day, with half the Squadron going round a number of testing stands and the other half, under two valiant platoon commanders, **Lt Roberts** and **2Lt Olding** mercilessly hunting down the notorious Ager's Marauders. The day was completed by a forced march from the training area back to the camp.

The final day was spent on Leopoldsberg Ranges. We had the normal ranges available as well as lots of grenades and even a reasonable number of 66mm HEAT missiles. The climax of the day was the Battle Innoculation range in which the whole Squadron participated.

The return to Wildenrath went smoothly and 2 Sqn got back just in time to wish farewell to the departing CO, **Lt Col D. B. Burton.**

K TROOP

The months of March, April, May saw many changes in K Tp, the first being the departure of our Tp OC **Capt John Piper,** who had only relatively recently returned from the Falklands as OC Airfield Comms Troop. Taking over from **Capt Piper** is **Capt Gordon Platts** whom many will know as OC Trg Wg and Grobbendonk Trg area: 'Welcome to the Troop'. Since **Capt Pipers** return from the Falklands some of the Troop, namely **Sig 'Stu' Baxter, LCpl Dave Bailey, Sig Dave Wagstaff** are still enjoying a four month tour down south.

April saw the last of the Troop's Battle Camps with **Sgt Johnson (Tony),** and **Sgt Chapman (Martin)** doing their bit to keep the Troops together on such journeys as 'A walk in the Black Forest', 'A bridge too far' and 'The Orient express'. For those who can still remember the night exercise—'If you still have your EGG could you please return it to OC Trg Wg as soon as possible'.

Lt Haughie getting agitated over something

Cpl Vavasour being shown how to fall backwards by Sgt Smith

At Wildenrath we seem to be quite lucky, because it seems as soon as more LTP cable arrives, so do the new arrivals. Welcome to K Tp **Sig Steve Senior, Tony Blatcher, Lewis,** and thanks for helping with the 23kms of cable laid this quarter.

It is time to say goodbye to the longest serving member of K Tp, **Sgt Ian Gilbert** after five years in the Regiment, four of which with K Tp. During his tour he has served under three COs, three RSMs, three Tp OCs, can you beat that? Well done **Ian** and good luck to you and **Kate** in Hounslow. And on the same note, welcome to his successor, **Sgt Ian Barnes** and **Winnie.**

L TROOP

The murmurings began in RHQ some 50 miles away, they echoed through the Squadron at Wildenrath and finished up in a crescendo at RAF Laarbruch, the quiet home of our Troop. To be honest it is about time that 'L' Tp appeared in print, no-one around here can remember the last time . . . . On our OC's **Capt Roy Adamson** cry to our Tp **SSgt Mick Turner** of 'Wire Notes' the trepidation set in and sent all in earshot scurrying in all directions; however, I wasn't quick enough and got the job. By the way I'm **Sgt Nigel Cullen** and this is my literary piece.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The whole Troop has changed; with the exception of our clerk, **Frau Busse,** who has served the Regiment, Squadron and Troop for . . . years; however, our most recent arrivals are; **Cpl 'Tam' Tulloch** and **LCpl Colin Kell** and their families, **Sig Gerry Wastell** and **'Skull' Scott.** We wish them all a happy and rewarding tour at Laarbruch. **LCpl Pete Bagnall** and his wife **Joy** have left us, both staunch members of the troop; they will be surely missed. We wish them good fortune in the hallowed halls of Sandhurst.

EVENTS

The ever increasing workload that has been thrust upon us because of the imminent arrival of Tornado has not dampened our spirits and active social life continues. The Troop 10 Pin Bowling Championships was once again won by **Cpl Steve Boyd** for the second year running—'sand bagger'. The 8 May saw 18 car loads of happy souls set off on a treasure hunt. Some three hours later all had arrived back safely but devastated, the devastation caused by the route set by **SSgt Mick Turner.** Husband and wife relationship were soon restored by our 'resident' chefs, **Sgt Mick Grant** and **Cpl** 'quiet boy' **Eddie Pluskota** who had prepared an excellent Bar-B-Q whilst the rest of us were exploring the back roads for miles around. The competition was won, I'm sorry to say, by one of our tame 'blue jobs', **Sgt Paddy Malone** with **Cpl Chris Rumney** in second place. As expected the booby-prize went to a driver, **LCpl Paul Carter** who had the distinction of covering more miles than the rest of us.

On 19 May the Troop darts championships were held. It proved to be a marathon event that went on until the small hours. The singles champion was **Sig Bob Tunnard** who beat our refugee from the South Atlantic, **LCpl Ian Thorne** on a hotly contested final. The doubles were won by **Bob Tunnard** and **Sig 'Tiny' Worsley** who only just pipped the Boss and **SSgt Mick Turner.** Finally, the ladies champion was **Sue Fuller,** who managed to stop a hatrick of wins for the **Tunnard** family by defeating **Jeanette** in the final.

Before you get the wrong impression we must mention work. This week has seen the arrival of some 35 kms of cable, that was ably off-loaded by **Sgt** 'honest I can drive a fork lift' **Jim Simpson** and his crew. We wish them luck in 'pulling it' together with all the other Kms when the time comes. Finally a word about our over-worked technicians, **Sgts Eric Williams** and **Nigel Cullen, Cpls Steve Boyd** and **Gerry Hogwood.** To think that they haven't had enough to do, repairing tele-brief; completely re-wiring standby COC for Bramis, on top of normal faults, the station had a lightening stike and most comms were lost. The rest of the toop wring their hands in anguish seeing the techs working so hard.

N TROOP

The end of April saw the departure of J Troop from RAF Gutersloh to Osnabruck leaving us as the only representatives of 21 Sig Regt (AS) on the airfield. Good luck to all of them in J Troop from all of N Troop.

During Ex *Handy Forge* one of the aircraft from this airfield crashed and three members of the Troop, **Cpls Crossley, Swailes** and **Sig Bower** found themselves whisked out to the crash site to provide comms, which they had established in about one hour.

On Thursday 5 May some members of the Troop found reasons to visit the most remote corners of the airfield in order to be away from the Troop Offices because we were playing hosts to the Squadron Commanders Conference which involved all the Troop Commanders and SSgts from all the Airfield Troops in the Regiment.

We have recently said farewell to **Sgt Arthur Sullivan** who has gone on a course to Florida prior to posting. Rumour has it that he is training as the first astronaut from Bolton. Also going for a stint in the Falklands is **LCpl Nobby Clarke.** New arrivals in the Troop are **Sgt Al Davey** from 24 Inf Bde (in time to write these notes), **Sgt Bob Orchard** from 259 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Bob Crossley** from 633 Sig Tp and **LCpl Bob Henshall** from 35 Sig Regt. From all this you can see that soon the Troop will be run by Roberts!

H TROOP MARK

CHANGE OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

At the end of March the command of 21 Sig Regt (AS) was handed over to **Lt Col M McI Ayrton** by **Lt Col D. T. Burton MBE.** As part of the handover both commanders visited the Airfield Troops, H Troop, RAF Bruggen being one of them.

On arrival they met the Station Commander, **Gp Capt C. J. Thomson AFC RAF,** and then proceeded to the Troop Lines where they were given a brief on the role of the Troop in support of the RAF by **Capt R. Bates.**

Lt Col M. McI Ayrton was then given a presentation on Airfield Survival Measures and Battle Damage Repair, being particularly impressed by the static and visual display. After the presentation the new CO met informally with members of the Troop. The Troop then presented the outgoing CO with an 'H' Troop plaque.

COs Handover/Takeover

L—R Sgt Whateley, Lt Col Burton, Capt Bob Bates, Lt Col Ayrton

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FLYING FALCON

Ex *Flying Falcon* was an interesting and memorable exercise for two reasons: One, because we deployed to the Sauerland; an area that was not only visually impressive but also testing from a communications point of view. The mountainous ground provided communications problems and all our resources were used to the full.

The other highlight of the exercise was the Flying Falcon Visitors dinner night which was held at Meschede and hosted by us. It was a most enjoyable evening attended by some very notorious (notable?) guests, both military and civilian. Our taste buds were tantalized by the culinary delights produced by the SCO **Lt Peter 'Spoons' Kingston** and his hard working team.

The SOinC chats to soldiers 'waiting-on' at the Flying Falcon Visitors Dinner Night

POST FLYING FALCON

The month following Ex *Flying Falcon* was a welcome relief for the Regiment, as it was almost totally taken up with various sporting events. However, **Maj Peter Williams** and Commcen Uniform courageously stayed out in the field for another two weeks on Ex *Handy Forge.* They took the opportunity to cram in some military training, shooting, weapon training, NBC tests, cross-country running—the culmination being a 25km march along the Teutoburgerwald Ridge! In addition, **Capt Alan Kite** and Special Tasks Commcen Echo displayed their resourcefulness and adaptability when exercising with 1 Div on Ex *Hurst Park* and with 3 Div on Ex *Red Deer.* After which they too returned to barracks for a well earned rest! They had been joined on their exercise by **Lt Elizabeth Payne WRAC (V)** from 36 Sig Regt (V).

Before any of the sporting activities got underway, certain members of the Regiment were preparing for a very different challenge:

WIVES JUMP FOR CHARITY!

On Saturday 23 Apr, a group of brave wives took part in a sponsored Parachute Jump at JSPC Bad Lippspringe. Their aim was to raise money for the disabled child of a soldier in the Regiment, and approx DM1000 was collected. What began as a jovial suggestion over coffee in the Wives Club, eventually loomed as a grave reality on the horizon. The ladies in question were: **Jerry Clow, Pam Seveal, Carol Whittaker, Cathy Hughes, Yvonne Nicholson, Rose Doyle, Regena McAlleese** and **Sandra Eyre.** Once they had forwarded their names, there was no going back.

Training had begun at 0900 hrs on a perfect Saturday morning and continued late into the afternoon, and all too soon the fateful hour approached. After much waiting around and nail-biting, the girls were eventually ready to board the plane. The Jump-master claimed that this was the quietest time of the whole day and the only time he could get a word in edgeways! Soon all smiles disappeared as static lines were hooked on and reserve parachutes were checked. As they circled high above the DZ at Bad Lippspringe, the ladies' lives flashed before their eyes as they sat waiting the inevitable.

Brave smiles from 22 Sig Regt wives as they prepare to jump for charity

Well they all jumped, some more enthusiastically than others and the battle cry '1000, 2000, 3000 . . .' sounded eight times over the DZ. Once the girls were safe and sound on the ground, their high spirits and exciteable tones returned and shortly after all experiences were being relived over a very welcome beer or two in the Clubhouse.

According to one wife; collecting the sponsorship money proved to be more difficult than actually jumping!

POTTED SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday 11 May, the Regiment donned its sports kit, evacuated offices and garages to participate in the Regimental Potted Sports Day. The Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps **Brig Christopher Last OBE** took time out from the YOS/Tfc Offrs Convention to try his hand (or arm) at Shotputting and Discus throwing and presented the trophy. At the end of the day 4 Sqn were the clear winners.

HQ Sqn Team grit their teeth in the stretcher race—Potted Sports Day

HOCKEY.

After some excellent heats, the final of the Hockey was played between HQ and 4 Sqns, with HQ Sqn winning 2—1. The victors were captained by **Sgt Mick Green** and shouted at by **Capt (TOT) Taff Hope**—who declared psychological warfare on 4 Sqn. There were good performances by the more experienced players—**Sig Paddy Keenan** and **Sgt Bob Parkinson** who slotted in the two winning goals.

REGIMENTAL WINTER PAGE TROPHY MULTI SPORTS

After the light-hearted atmosphere of the Potted Sports Day, Squadrons prepared for the greater challenge and competitive spirit of the Page Trophy. From 16—20 May, Squadrons challenged each other in Rugby, Squash, Basketball, Tug-of-War, Hockey and Table Tennis.

Sig Paddy Keenan receives the Page Trophy winners cup on behalf of HQ Sqn 'A' Team from the CO, Lt Col Peter Chaddock

TUG-OF-WAR

The Tug-of-War was won by 2 Sqn for the second year. They oozed confidence from the start—declaring that they were not prepared to lose a single pull. The team under **SSgt Brian Cottam** was put through a series of punishing training sessions: in the multi-gym, runs and rope work. The real back-breaking work involved hoisting a 20 gallon drum of concrete into the air and holding it until the back and leg muscles were throbbing with the strain. (Who said that **SSgt Cottam** was fired from the SS for cruelty?)

Their first pull against 4 Sqn put them ahead by 2—0 and this set the trend for the rest of the event. The final pull was against HQ 'A' Team, who they knew to be strong competition. Despite much wailing and gnashing of teeth, HQ Sqn lost to 2 Sqn. The winning team included **WO2 (SSM) Norman Stiggs, SSgt (YofS) Tony Glover, SSgt Brian Cottam, Cpls Andy Dingle** and **Ron Pike, LCpls Steve Farrell, Jock Stewart** and **'Jacko' Jackson, Sig Townie Townsend** and **Nick Blanchard.** Who was the bad loser and who said that 2 Sqn were all brawn and no brains?

RUGBY

After some very close heats HQ Sqn 'A' Team beat 2 Sqn in the final of the Page Trophy Rugby. There were good performances by **Lt Mike Gilyeat** for 4 Sqn and by **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft, SSgt (Tim) Prince, Sgt 'Joe' Fairbairn** and **LCpl Taff Edwards** for HQ Sqn. The final score was HQ 'A' Team 22 points and 4 Sqn 3 points.

SQUASH

The standard of the Squash-playing was very high. HQ Sqn again had the strongest side with players like **Maj John Radford, Lt Peter Kingston ACC, WO1 (SC) 'Slim' Cheetham** and **SSgt Jimmy Flockhart,** HQ Sqn eventually beat 1 Sqn in an exciting final.

BASKETBALL AND TABLE TENNIS

Thanks to the superior shooting ability of **QMSI 'Chalky' White** and **SSgt Steve** (Hole in One) **Meadows** from HQ Sqn 'A' Team, they inflicted a resounding defeat of 1 Sqn in the Basketball Final.

The final Table Tennis was eventually won by 4 Sqn.

FOOTBALL

ROTHMANS 6-A-SIDE AREA AND BAOR FINALS

After qualifying in the Area Finals as runners up to 27 Fd Regt RA, The Regimental 6-a-Side football team went to JHQ Rheindahlen on Sat 24 Apr for the BAOR finals. They were placed in a league beside 8 Regt RCT, 1 RHA and 40 Fd Sp Sqn RE.

The day was fairly successful for us as we reached the quarter finals. In addition some photographs with celebrity **Jackie Charlton** will look good in family and Regimental scrap books and remind us we all had a great day!

The regimental 6-a-side squad pose for a team 'shot' at the Rothmans Area Finals

Two Geordies together: Jackie Charlton gets together with Sgt Jeff Smith to discuss the requirement for toupées for sportsmen!

KAPE TOUR — MAY 1983

Bright and early, on the morning of 2 May, whilst the Regiment slept soundly in their beds, the hard working KAPE team drove out of the gates of Churchill Barracks bound for UK. The '22 Sig Regt Roadshow' led by **Lt Colin McGrory** was finally on its way. The team only had four days after Ex *Flying Falcon* before departing for Britain, so they were quite used to rushing around at the speed of light. This was just as well because it was to become the order of the day for the next two weeks. The Team toured Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire areas and the emphasis was on visiting schools in those areas. Two displays were also put on by the team; one in Nottingham Market Square, and one two-day event at the Long Eaton Carnival.

The team were constantly surprised by the variety of questions which the youngsters threw at them. Some of the questions proved too much for **LCpl Richard 'Gere' Squires** but as usual **Cpl 'The Old Man' Bailey** remained calm and unruffled. **Sig Rick Greenland** decided to go for the 'Triffid Crush' record and succeeded by fitting 26 bodies in one vehicle (how's that for a hardening and reducing study?) Whenever the kids became too much, the secret weapon was unleashed on them—**LCpl** 'Motor Mouth' **Roberts,** who dispersed them with devasting efficiency.

It was tiring work on the road and the youngsters were very demanding, but their enthusiasm was a pleasure to see. Most of the team appeared to have aged about 10 years by the time they returned to the Regiment. This was especially true in **Lt Colin McGrory's** case, who, after meeting so many 15 year old girls, declared that he would be sticking to the 'older' woman in future!

The team certainly enjoyed the tour and found it quite an 'education'.

PULLING FOR CHARITY

On Saturday 7 May, fourteen members of the Regiment travelled to Manchester to challenge the Busmen of Greater Manchester to a charity 'bus-pull'.

The lads from 'A' Tp 1 Sqn were sponsored by Townsend Thoresen, who kindly reduced their travelling fares and donated T Shirts especially for the occasion.

The challenge consisted of each team hauling a double-decker bus three times along the length of a high street in Manchester. The best of the three was the one to count and crowds gathered in St Ann's Square Manchester to witness the event. The Busmen of Greater Manchester were the holders of the *Guinness Book of Records* Bus-Pulling record and were determined not to be defeated. However, after considerable effort by both teams, 22 Sig Regt were the clear winners on the day. All the money raised was donated towards the Intensive Care Baby Unit at Withington Hospital Manchester.

The picture shows the triumphant 'A' Tp on the left with their coveted Bus-Pulling Trophy and the Greater Manchester Bus-Pulling Team on the right. The Trophy is now proudly displayed in 'A' Tps office alongside **SSgt Brian Slavins** personal 'trophy' of one black garter; a reasonable explanation is still awaited, Staff!

'A' Tp (left) pose with the Busmen of Greater Manchester and friends after the Charity Bus Pull

REGULARS v VOLUNTEERS—FOOTBALL AGAIN!

On Saturday 28 May, a football team from 265 Sig Sqn (V) from Bexley Heath in Kent, arrived in Lippstadt for a soccer weekend. Their team was Captained by **Capt Jim Esson,** and after all the introductions were over, they prepared for their first game against 1 Sqn.

The standard of football was high and 265 Sig Sqn were soon leading by 2 goals to nil. The 1 Sqn team toughened their defence with the 'gentle encouragement' of their skipper **LCpl Willy McPhee** and during the second half, 1 Sqn pulled back with a well taken goal by **Sgt Jeff Smith** the Regiment's answer to **Kevin Keegan** (well, except for the bald patch!). Two minutes later **LCpl Jock Henderson** made the score 2—2 but unfortunately 265 Sig Sqn scored again in the dying minutes of the game to make the final score 3—2.

A great day was had by all and both teams met in 1 Sqn bar afterwards to (quote) 'reflect on the game' (unquote). OC 1 Sqn **Maj Nigel Cory** (who is known to have as much interest for football as a blind eunuch at a striptease) paid his tribute to the winning team by presenting them with a well-deserved plaque. He then dislodged the moths who had settled in his wallet over the months and proclaimed that the drinks were on him. The teams needed little encouragement and soon **Maj Cory** was seen hastily retreating from the bar, muttering things about needing an overdraft. Thanks are also due to **Maj (QM) Mac McGilvray** who was responsible for most of the administration.

CROSS—COUNTRY

The Cross-Country Team, having missed the Inter-Services Marathon this year, decided to try a different challenge:-

HARZ WALKABOUT

The Regimental team of **WO1 (RSM) Fred Bancroft, Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** and **Sgt Phil Whittaker** competed in this years Harz Walkabout on 25/26 May 83. 'A Walkabout can't be bad' were the words uttered by the last minute volunteer of the team **Sgt Phil Whittaker,** and as the team were on the way to the start the RSM thought he had better explain that this walkabout was a gruelling contest of fifty miles plus with an 8000ft climb over two days.

On day one the team set out at 0630hrs in the pouring rain and after covering the course in seven hours, finished the day in fourth position out of fifty five team entrants. The elation was not to last, owing to an administration fault by the AMTC it was decided that day one would be cancelled, thirty six miles and soaking wet, all for nothing.

The competition now was to be determined by the Individual Event on day two and again the team proved to be one of the stronger teams by finishing in sixth place overall.

LONDON MARATHON

Our only entrant in the London Marathon this year was **LCpl Paul Collins ACC,** who contributed the following personal account of his experience:

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

April was a great month for two reasons: First it was my 21st Birthday, and second it was the month the London Marathon was to be held.

17 April wasn't exactly a day for deckchairs and picnics, rather lifebelts and wellington boots. However, not even an earthquake could have stopped the true British Londoner from lining the streets, waiting eagerly to egg on the 18,000 runners who ranged from a burly 26 year old school teacher to a very determined crippled man in a wheelchair!

0930 hrs soon approached, and off we went. By the time we were through the start, the front runners had already done between ½ and ¼ of a mile, and by the time the last runner had passed the start gate, **Mike Gratton** (the winner) had probably done a BFT. The first six miles were very hard, as it was difficult to find a comfortable pace. However, the crowds certainly knew how to encourage us.

The roads were slippery and by now covered in paper cups, and orange peel. There were drink stations every mile, and plenty of encouragement. Most people went for water, but the more experienced runners for XL1. It wasn't long (well one hour really) before I was running along Tower Bridge and my calves began to tighten up. Oooh!

Round about the fifteen mile point, and still surrounded by spectators, my laces became undone, I stopped to tie them up, and about 2,000 pairs of legs, all shapes and sizes, some tanned, some not, went ploughing past me. What a blow to my morale. By the time I was at the 17 mile point, I decided to try some XL1, but the people dishing it out thought 'cor, don't that look like **Seb Coe',** but then again maybe they didn't.

The front runners by now, had finished, had their medal, a cup of bovril, and a chocolate bar wrapped of course in their Bovril Space Blanket. I was running along looking around when I noticed a gold tracksuit, and it was Mr Samaritan himself, yes good old **Jimmy Saville.** He doesn't arf look different in real life.

LCpl Paul Collins ACC poses outside RHQ with his London Marathon Medal and Bovril space blanket!

It wasn't long before the magic Westminster Bridge was in sight, with the finishing post there as well! The last 385 yards I sprinted and if **Alan Wells** had seen me, he would have been proud. As I passed the finishing line with my hands in the air it was a great sensation. It may have rained everywhere in London, but the sunshone for every single runner who participated in the 26 miles and 385 yards of English road.

I finished in 3 hrs 20 mins, got my medal and a kiss from one of the helpers, thanks love whoever you are, then I got my blanket and swallowed 3 bars of crunchy chocolate, hungry work marathon running.

To sum it up, the atmosphere from the Londoners was great and really friendly, and it would not have been the same without them.

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

At the beginning of June, the Regiment said farewell to **Maj David Lowe,** who had commanded Commcen Sierra (2 Sqn) for the last two years. We wish him all the best in his new 'executive' job in MOD (don't eat too many business lunches!)—and welcome his successor **Maj Bob Drake** from 32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow.

MORE DEPARTURES

We also said farewell to **2Lt John 'Enzyme' Dakin** and **Hugh Wareham**—both officers are off on their CQ Course. We also hear that **Lt Des Moloney** eventually arrived in Belize for his Watch-Keeping tour!

SHOOTING

The Regimental Team, having qualified for Bisley are now in the process of last minute preparations. They leave next week for the competition in UK and we look forward to hearing their results.

MORRISON CUP—83

The regiment had some notable individual successes in the Morrison Cup Athletics, **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** was second in the 5000m and **Cpl Trevor Keats** was second in the javelin. **LCpl Paul Bower** and **Sig 'Oggie' Hogton** produced good all-round performances.

INVASION BY WARSAW PACT FORCES?

No, the Officers Mess was not invaded by Warsaw Pact Forces—the photo shows **Capt Alistair Harrison** (KCB General) **Lt Colin McGrory** (E German—Cpl) **Lt Mike Wise** (KGB—Colonel) and **Capt Elaine Jackson** (Russian Paratrooper—PTE)—prior to their Young Officers' Training presentation on the Warsaw Pact Forces.

L—R Lt Colin McGrory, Capt Alistair Harrison, Lt Mike Wise and Capt Elaine Jackson. Uniforms provided by Int Coy Brelefeld, Dutch courage provided by Smirnoff!

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →	→	4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →	→	11	11 →	→	3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →	→	18		16 →	→	1	22 →	→	7	7 →	23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose? To make electronics technicians who already have a C & G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

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Lockheed IAL

28 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

EXERCISE 'FRAN FALCON' 1983

The Regiment was tasked with providing an enemy for Ex *Flying Falcon*. The news was received at short notice, and as such the force Commander, **Maj Jim Heck,** spent the following two weeks frantically gathering together the necessary kit and information. The force consisted of some forty-eight soldiers from 1 and 2 Sqns and set out to fulfill two main aims. Firstly to mount surveillance patrols, and secondly to provide a quick reaction force—to exploit any information gained.

The platoons were commanded by **Lt Steve Johns** (1 Sqn) and **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** (2 Sqn). In the first week 2 Sqn formed the Quick reaction Force and 1 Sqn the patrols and they reversed roles for the second week.

The patrols performed very well, and were the means to acquire or confirm intelligence on, 1 (BR) Corps units. Information was passed back to enemy control by means of a HF Radio Detachment, provided by 604 Sig Tp whose detachments worked closely with the patrols throughout the exercise and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Various methods were used to locate and identify units, including following conveys into locations, and even asking the sentry for information.

This part of the 'Battle' proved to be very demanding but it also showed that if the job is both interesting and different it is possible to do it with little sleep and still enjoy it.

The Quick reaction force was tasked with providing realistic attacks on confirmed sites. The aim was to punish compromised locations and poor siting. Six attacks in an afternoon was not unusual when the RAF Puma helicopters were available. There was realistic pressure on Puma flying time and availabilty and this forced everybody to conform to strict timings.

Extra speed of action was forth-coming on the ground when it was realized that apart from the Puma, the only alternative means of escape from enemy territory after the assault was by walking tens of kilometres.

The Puma pilots did a fantastic job taking off, landing and flying tactically in some very tight locations to insert patrols quickly and often without detection.

HELICOPTER TAKEN OVER

During the exercise the platoons changed from being individuals to effective fighting teams. Skills learned in Basic training or detachment commanders courses and seldom used since were honed to a very high standard. As the platoons became effective in their new role as infanteers good battle procedures became second nature and in particular, anticipation and initiative developed at all levels. These qualities were particularly important during the patrol phase, as was well demonstrated by **Sgt Andy Hill** whose patrol captured a Divisional Commanders helicopter and employed it to good use before an irate headquarters demanded its return.

First lessons on 'how to fly'

IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements in battle procedures were not confined to the Regimental personnel. All communications locations rapidly tightened up their defences and enemy attacks became much more difficult to press home. As the exercise continued some locations took evasive action and others resorted to aggressive patrolling with counter patrols and snatch squads. This was a source of great amusement to the enemy as internecine warfare broke out with at least one Recce officer from one unit spending many hours under interrogation before being satisfactorily identified as Friendly Forces. By pure chance and a tendency to play musical locations some elements of the Corps received more than what they regarded as fair share of attention, sometimes resulting in a frantic phone call offering us the grids of other units locations if we would stop attacking their particular location! Needless to say we refused to cheat!

The whole exercise provided the Regiment with much military training and experience in low level infantry tactics and extended operations. Helicopter drills carried out on the various attacks were practised and rehearsed at St Tonis. Our photograph indicates the speed at which a helicopter can disgorge its load and the effect flying has on some people. **Sig 'Paddy' Potter** plays at superman whilst **Sig 'Spud' Murphy** contemplates leaving the nest.

LONDON MARATHON

Maintaining a tradition held since the first London Marathon, representatives of the Regiment competed in 1983. **Cpls Barry Richards** and **Mitch Pegg,** from the unit pay office, and **Pte Paul Bowen,** from the main kitchen dispelled all myths about Support Sqn being less than fighting fit by completing the Marathon and making DM1441-12 for charity.

The photograph shows **Cpl Barry Richards** and **Pte Paul Bowen ACC** receiving a cheque from **Maj Brian Robinson** representing the pledges made by the Corporals Mess.

THE JUNIOR RANKS CLUB REDECORATION

The redecoration of the Junior Ranks Club, the Golden Axe Club started in January. Progress and standards of the work were closely monitored by **SSgt Wayne Collinson** the Club Supervising SNCO. Work was finally completed in April when the full facilities of the TV room, bar, Snooker room and lounge were ready for use. Shown in the photographs are the bar being christened by the Comd, **Lt Col Brian Belton** and a pleasantly surprised group of 'Volunteers' who were rounded up by the RSM for the opening ceremony.

'Well done Staff' SSgt Wayne Collinson and the Comd Lt Col B. L. Belton toast the new club

'The first round, wait for it, wait for it!'
L—R Sig Hammy Campbell eager to start, Pete Rouse, Jim Clancy, Tolly Tollington, Brian Hickinbottom, Dennis Brooks and Jock Allen

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

The Commander Northag Signal Support Group (NSSG) **Col K. O. Rauchmann** (GEA) formally handed over command of the group to **Col A. Stessun** (GEA) during a ceremonial parade at Essen Kray in April. As always happens on these occasions the heavens opened and a strong wind blew everything from drizzle to a full scale blizzard but the contingents from each of the 5 units of the group were steady on parade. The parade RSM, **RSM Dick Hamilton** had his work cut out ensuring the differing national drill movements came together in a smart soldierly-like manner.

Col K. O. Rauchman followed Lt Steve Johns the Regimental detachment Commander and Lt Col J. W. Swindells Royal Signals, the parade commander

WRAC SHOOTING TEAM

The WRAC shooting team were runners-up to 29 Coy WRAC in the Rhine Area Skill at Arms competition on 17 May 1983. This was the first time that there had been WRAC events in the Rhine Area competition. Highest individual score of the team went to **WOI Elaine Willacy.**

STRAIGHT SHOOTING

The team won the Inter Unit team prize in the Headquarter Northag Skill at Arms competition in May. **Cpl Mitchell** was Champion Junior Rifle shot of the meeting.

They then went on to the Rhine Area Skill at Arms meeting where they qualified for a place at the Regular Army meeting at Bisley.

L—R Back row: WOI Elaine Willacy, Lt Sue Rostron, Sgt Carol Hoban
L—R Front row: Ptes Denise Waldnen, Julie Shakespeare, Linda Wright. Absent from photograph Pte Dawn Standaloft

Cpl Ken Mitchell receives the B class champion shot prizes from Northag Chief of Staff Maj Gen R. Zerling GEA, Maj M. D. M. Wilson, QO HLDRS reads the citation. Col I. D. B. Mennell Comd HS looks on

L—R Back row: WO2 (RQMS) Derek Brown, LCpls John Johnson, Kev Young, Cpl Russ Dodd, LCpls Lewis, Bill Jones and Phil Lythgoe
Front row: Cpls Garside, Pat Keeting, Lt Paul Hodgkiss, Lt Col B. L. Belton, 2Lt Llewellyn, LCpl Bob Shotton, Sgt A. L. Burnett, Absent on duty Cpl Ken Mitchell

TRAINING MAJOR GRADUATES

The Training Major, **Maj Brian Robinson** earned the Regiment's congratulations on graduating from the Open University with a 2nd Class honours degree in Politics and Economics. The Junior Officers can expect even more difficult essay topics this year! The graduation Ceremony took place at the Guildhall Southampton.

The Regiments newest Graduate Officer Maj Brian Robinson

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EXERCISE 'FIRST DIP'
Participants:

Capt Nick	**Denning**	**OIC Expedition**
Lt Andy	**Johnston ACC**	
SSgt Dennis	**Mustard**	**Diving Officer**
Sgt Brian	**Stevenson**	
Sgt Paul	**Brabbins**	**2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt**
Cpl Pete	**Garman**	**2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt**
LCpl Gaz	**Brooks**	
LCpl Tom	**Neil ACC**	
Sig Hamish	**Dixon**	
Sig Mick	**Delaney**	
Sig Craig	**Jones**	
Sig Dave	**Morris**	
Sig Scouse	**Vicary**	
Sig Chalky	**White (252)**	

CYPRUS IN COMFORT

Having recently formed a Blandford Garrison Sub Aqua Club we were anxious to actually get out and do some diving. Despite last minute hiccups over our RAF flight, on the evening of Monday 18 April the party arrived at Gateway House Brize Norton ready for departure. We flew out in a comfortable VC10 to Cyprus, and stayed in the accommodation arranged for us by 262 Sig Sqn to whom we are extremely grateful.

PROGRESSION WITH A SNAG

With the initial administration complete we were all diving (by the 21 April) though ear infections, which were to dog us throughout the expedition and restrict diving of a few, started to appear. The dive programme consisted of confirmation of all training previously taught in the swimming pool, before progressing to deeper and better dives.

Slowly but surely the novices got the grasp of all the different aspects involved in diving and progressed very well. On the first day using boats, **Capt Nick Denning's** craft ground to a halt the engine having suffered a broken gear box and drive shaft. **Sgt Paul Brabbins,** our friendly diving supervisor from 2 Div, promptly demonstrated several different distress signals and **Sgt Brian Stevenson** expertly took us back into the Dhekelia jetty.

The speed of operation increased as all became familiar with the routine. As people gained proficiency the depth of dives increased and dives outside the Sovereign Base Area to Cape Greco became possible. A particularly pleasant dive site was NATO Gully. On our first dive though, **Lt Andy Johnston** our SCO from Blandford, managed to lose a surface marker buoy and we all watched as a Greek fisherman stole it and sailed away.

THE TUNNELS

Another very interesting dive site which we returned to because it was such fun was 'Tunnels'. The entry to this is through a hole 2 feet in diameter which you enter head first into a large cave. Then a 10m swim out to the sea to explore some really interesting tunnels and rock formations. The exit to the dive was by a slightly smaller hole at the back of the same cave. To get out, the cylinder must come off first to be passed to a waiting person to leave enough space for the diver to crawl out.

AN INTERESTING WRECK

When all were acclimatised to sufficient depth the expedition dived on Ormidhia wreck. This was a ship scuttled by the British Navy around about 1947 for carrying Jewish settlers to Palestine and it lies in 30m (about 100 feet) of water upside down. It was a particularly interesting wreck and can, with extreme care, be entered in a couple of places. Again **Sgt Paul Brabbins** was particularly active with his camera. A rather expensive model, not like the 4 or 5 Minolta cameras owned by the party which naturally caused much confusion in the unsorting of equipment after the dives.

TO AKROTIRI

For the final few days of our expedition the party moved to Akrotiri. Air problems were reduced here as the RAF very kindly gave us an air bank which charged our cylinders much more quickly than the compressor at Dhekelia. The first dive was in the fish reserve off the Akrotiri SAC. All were armed wiht packets of crisps to feed the quite large fish that inhabit this quite small area. A sure sign that it's over-fishing not pollution that gives this part of the Mediterranean the Dead Med name. A very enjoyable dive was Jubilee Shoal, a most spectacular ridge 1½ or so miles off one of the beaches. It was especially interesting when we missed it and were in 20m of water with all blue around us; a potentially highly disorientating sensation. **Sig Dave Morris** one evening suddenly complained of stomach pains and was admitted to hospital, we then missed a days diving because it was far too windy and all of a sudden the last dive was over. So ended a particularly enjoyable first exercise for the BSAC. Now back to Blandford to write all those reports and to plan the next one!

AND MANY THANKS

May we thank all the units in Cyprus who helped us and to whom we are extremely grateful. Look forward to seeing you again!

An Octopus found at NATO Gully. Sgt Paul Brabbins got a pound off his meal that evening for that

Capt Nick Denning trying to read his palm!

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT 6-A-SIDE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
PLATE RUNNERS UP
THE PLAY

After a slow start, 30 Sig Regt warmed up and won through the early rounds to qualify for the Plate Final. This was played on a league basis between three teams. 30 Sig Regt drew 1-1 with the AAC but lost the game by a short corner. The game against RAC Centre also ended in a 1-1 draw, but this time, 30 Signal Regt won by a short corner.

No prizes were won for Plate Runners-Up, but the standard of hockey gives a firm start for the Summer League.

THE PLAYERS

In goal was **Sig Colin** 'Have I ever told you about when I played for the Corps' **Milne.** Outstanding in defence was **LCpl Jim Wood.** Midfield was covered untiringly by **Sgt Sid Steele** and assisted occasionally by **LCpl Brian Durlick** and **Capt 'JT' Thomas** when he could drag himself away from our one and only supporter, **Capt Denise Dunn WRAAC.** Up front were the goal scorers, the non-stop running of the Captain, **Cpl Sean** 'They all count' **Sutton** and **Sgt Jerry** 'Mr Cool' **Lillie.**

VISIT OF ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE

On 13 April a party of 15 led by **Maj Henry Scott** broke out of the confines of Reading to visit the Regiment. The aim of the visit was to meet the soldiers and see the equipment they use. All elements of

Lt Col Thompson, Capt Thomas and SSM Nevill greet RSM&RO party

Sgt Vince Wilby briefs a group

RSM&RO were represented. On arrival they were met at **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson, Capt J. E. Thomas** and **WO2 (SSM) Nevill.** An ops briefing was followed by a walk around the Squadron demonstrations.

In the afternoon, after lunch and an earbending session in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, they visited a continuation course under training on the ranges. Some of the Records personnel took the opportunity to have a shot, albeit closely supervised by **Sgt Robert Watts.** The day was wound up by an ops brief on the Falklands from **Maj Dick Hood.** During the day **Mrs Harris** was sadly taken ill, but we are all very glad that she has now fully recovered.

VALE - CAPT (TFC) W. D. DYKE

The Regiment has recently bade farewell to **Capt Dave Dyke** who after 29 years in the Corps, as both boy and man, has decided to retire and open a hotel in Bournemouth.

Dave joined the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate in 1954 as an impressionable boy of 15. After 3 years training he qualified as an Operator Wireless and Line (OWL) and joined mans service. Before becoming a Yeoman of Signals in 1968 he served in Aden, West Africa, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Libya and the United Kingdom. During the time he saw action in the Arabian Peninsula and South Arabia and was awarded the appropriate GSMs. He also gained the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. As a Yeoman of Signals he continued his distinguished career with the AMF(L) and in BAOR, adding Norway, Turkey and Germany to the list of countries in which he had served.

In 1977, after 23 years service, **Dave** was commissioned into the Corps and joined 55 Sig Sqn (V) as second-in-command in the rank of acting Captain. Later that year he was selected for a Quartermaster commission and appointed Traffic Officer. His first posting as Traffic Officer was to Comms Branch HQ UKLF where he served as the SO3 Operations and Mobilisation. This was followed by 3 years service with 30 Sig Regt where he became the resident expert on UKMF(L) comms.

Dave will be remembered throughout the Army and Corps cricketing fraternity for his invaluable contribution to the sport. In addition to being an active grade 1 umpire he served as Secretary of the Corps Cricket Club and Umpire Appointments Secretary for the Army.

Dave and his wife **Pat** will be sadly missed by both the Regiment and the Corps and we wish them success in their new and ambitious life as hoteliers.

P.S. Look out for the forthcoming advertisement in The Wire offering special rates to the Corps!!

FATHER AND SON

On 15 March 1983 **WO1 (FofS) Graeme Rothwell's** son **LCpl Colin Rothwell** joined the Regiment. This represents a complete cycle as **LCpl Rothwell** was attested into the Army by the CO, **Lt Col Thompson** as an apprentice tradesman. As **LCpl Rothwell** takes up his post in 1 Sqn his father completes his last few weeks of distinguished service in the Army. In his time in the Regiment, **Foreman Rothwell** has been to the New Hebrides and to Rhodesia/Zimbabwe where he was awarded the **MBE** for his work. In addition to all this he has run the Garrison Judo Club. His support was greatly appreciated and his efforts with the Regimental team were recently rewarded in the Army Championships.

Foreman Rothwell will be sadly missed by the Regiment. Best wishes are sent him and his wife **Dot** from the Regiment for the next job in Hong Kong.

WO1 (FofS) Graeme Rothwell explaining the intricacies of a T100 to his son

FAREWELL TO 21C

On 15 April **Maj Barry Rowe** drew a sigh of relief as he set out on his last Friday morning run. Needless to say he led the Regiment all the way round the 4½ mile circuit. At the finish he presented the Regiment with the ensigh from The Signaller (the winning yacht in the 1982 Three Peaks Yacht Race).

In his two years with the Regiment **Maj Barry Rowe** never managed a trip abroad, however his replacement, **Maj Norman Muir,** has already disappeared to Kenya visiting 1 Sqn on exercise. It should, however, be added that for much of his time **Maj Rowe** was either preparing for the Three Peaks Race or commanding the Regiment in the absence of the CO who was in the Falklands. The Regiment wishes **Maj Barry Rowe** and his wife **Paddy** the very best for their next posting to the MOD.

Maj Rowe leaving the Regiment

Maj Rowe presenting the ensign from The *Signaller*

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GCHQ

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

NEW HONORARY COLONEL

Five years seem to have passed in no time at all and in April we said 'au revoir' to **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** at the end of a tour marked by tireless energy, infectious enthusiasm and not a few 'suprise appearances', mostly accompanied by generous quantities of laughter.

We are privileged and delighted to welcome as our new Hon Col **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave KBE, MC,** who before he retired from the Army in 1980 commanded the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), was the British Commandant in Berlin, and later Commander British Forces Hong Kong and **Maj Gen** Brigade of Gurkhas. Until recently he has been Director General of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and is currently Chairman of the Hammersmith and Fulham District Health Authority.

Maj-Gen Sir Roy Redgrave

THE YEAR OF THE PARADE

1983 has brought honours and parades a plenty for the Regiment; in May the Freedom of Entry to the London Borough of Hammersmith was conferred on HQ Sqn. Under the command of **Maj James Allan** 60 members of the Squadron marched through Hammersmith with contingents from other units in the Borough.

Two weeks earlier **Maj Jim Mill** commanded 180 volunteers and 26 vehicles in a parade and march through one of Britain's busiest shopping centres to celebrate both the 75th Anniversary of the TA and the Centenary of Croydon as a Borough. We are told that the OC normally shops in Croydon on a Saturday morning—the citizens of the Borough seemed delighted that he had brought the whole of 41 Sqn (and the other units in the Borough) with him! Not to be outdone a contingent from 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sqn took part in the Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park on 1 May, under the command of **Maj Bill Morris.**

Much of the credit for the many favourable comments on these occasions goes to our **RSM 'Cas' Francis** and the three **SSMs Steve Bland, John Mackins** anbd **Brian Callaghan** respectively. **Sgt Maj Callaghan** congratulates his OC, since it rained in Hyde Park, on maintaining his record of three wet parades out of three! The tradition may yet be broken for on the 19 May 47 Sqn was granted the Freedom of the London Borough of Harrow by the outgoing **Mayor, Councillor Capt Eric Feakins,** a long-standing friend to the Regiment. The Squadron will be exercising the Freedom in a march through the Borough on the 16 July.

Maj James Allan leads 2Lt Tom Muir (Paymaster), 2Lt Sally Harrison, Capt John Robson, WO1 (SSM) Steve Bland and HQ Sqn through Hammersmith

With the Corps Band at their head the Croydon TA units commanded by Maj Jim Mill keep traffic off the streets

Maj Bill Morris (OC 47 Sqn) presents a 'Jimmy' statuette to the Mayor of Harrow at the Freedom ceremony

HIGH MARKS AND IMPRESSIVE PASS-RATES

At the end of March, **Lt Steve Martin** assisted by PSI **SSgt Gerry Beale, Sgts Mick Cordingley** and **Mick Dawton** and 7 hand-picked specialists made up the LAD team to enter Exercise *Southern Craftsman 83*, an annual competition in REME and military skills for REME units in London and South East Districts. Their placing of 2nd overall, only one mark behind the winners who, like the other three in the first five, were a Workshops team, was a tremendous achievement. We promise to try not to give you too many problems on the road to Scarborough!

Also in March at Windsor our MTWO **WO1 Harry Lund** masterminded a 9-day HGV Course and achieved the impossible with 26 passes out of 26! So maybe we shall get all our vehicles to Camp after all.

April brought our second 9-day Junior NCO' Cadre Course run by the RSM at Crowborough. Even early morning PT (or was it torture?) failed to dampen the ardour and at the end of the course students were heard muttering 'We enjoyed it'. The CO, **Lt Col Peter Thompson,** took the Pass Off Parade for which we were granted a 25 minute pause in the rain. 20 students passed out led by **Sig Martin Daoud** from 47 Sqn and **Pte Julie Chappell** of HQ Sqn who took first and second place respectively.

Lt Steve Martin and the LAD team with their prizes from Ex *Southern Craftsman*

NEW VENTURES

Under the aegis of **Maj Ron Miller** the Regiment's Recruit Reception and Training Team put its first batch of 25 recruits through an exhaustive selection weekend late in April. Despite the intensity of both mental and physical activity all returned for the second day to be closely scrutinised(?) by **SSgts Jack Mileham, Geoff Voller, Frank Smith** and **Sgt John Crook** with their energetic team of Corporals setting the pace for the recruits.

Our first new-style Skill at Arms weekend gave nearly 200 soldiers the chance to fire all three weapons, SLR, SMG and Pistol, and to test their skills in NBC, Fieldcraft, Sentry duties, not to mention plenty of practise in erecting and dismantling tentage including the newly designed Cinema, Field, Standing Room for 200, Mark 1 (shortest at the front, tallest at the back). As the squads of ten made their way round the three-mile circuit (How convenient as training for BFT's!) **WO2 (SSM) Henry Holman** made an impressive Ringmaster. Next time you shall have a red tailcoat; clowns seem to be readily available, or do they just need more practice?

83 SQN

Maj Paul Whittle assures us that he is not put out at not being offered a Freedom or anywhere to march (for his Squadron, that is) and sees this month's notes as an opportunity to demonstrate the high standards of food and hygiene in 83 Sqn as our pictures show. They are worth a thousand words, aren't they?

ANNUAL CAMP 1983

As this edition goes to press we shall be on on way to sunny(?) Scarborough.

Will Scarborough throat strike the RSM?
How will the RSM arrive at the Officers' Mess?
What surprises are in store for the CO as he gives up command?
When is the Adjt going to get a haircut?
Do we really have to salute the Camp Commandant's dog?

Don't miss the answers to these and other enthralling questions—all in the next issue.
31 Sig Regt at work(?)

'And it's so kind to my hands'. SSgt Gordon Brain (83 Sqn) has a quick ablute

'Honestly, Sir—it *was* 3 Shredded Wheat,' PSI SSgt 'Taff' Flaherty tells the Master. The OC and SSM Chris Mahony are clearly disbelievers

A leading brand oven cleaner—Cpl Keith Charlton ACC

'And this button holds the lemon whilst the other fruits spin again'. Pte Amanda Clarke and LCpl Simon Fernley-Jones fathom the mysteries of the C70

The Regiment's Permanent Staff at the end of the March with the CO and the Kensington Colours and Drums

The Falklands Tie

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33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

ANNUAL CAMP 1983

Stop Press News from Scarborough:- The Regiment have just completed the first week at Annual Camp and have now proceeded on Exercise—they will not be returning to Base Camp but reporting back to Drill Halls on Saturday 11 June from their Exercise locations.

THE WALKS

The first week consisted of General Military Training, Trade Training and Driver Training but the final part of Military Training was divided into two parts—The Lyke Wake Walk of 42 miles (for the really fit) travelling light, for the remainder a 25 mile yomp (for the so called not so fit) in full military regalia including arms. The number of Volunteers who completed these marches are very impressive showing grit and courage, the weather being terrible—rain, even thunderstorms at the start.

TIMELY HELP

During the Lyke Wake Walk, the team led by **Capt B. S. Kennedy** of 42 Sqn heard cries of distress in the darkness and found a group of Girl Guides from the Nottingham area, lost, cold, hungry and frightened—the team immediately took steps to comfort the children and in fact, not only led them to the next check point, but carried a very tired little girl suffering from diabetics. This task was undertaken by **Cpl B. Sharples** and **LCpl K. P. Garvey. Maj D. L. R. John** of 11 Sig Bde (V) arranged transport on their arrival at his check point—so all ended happily.

After a day off the Regiment held a Regimental Parade and a Super Stars Competition on the Saturday, a full report of these events will be in our next Notes.

A steady pace during BFT achieves success

The start of the Assault Course over the 12ft wall we go!

Enjoying the glorious sea air after the Gas Chamber

Cpl Terry Webster REME about to move off in the LAD Scarnel

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

OC:	**Maj D. A. Bodycombe TD Royal Signals (V)**
21C:	**Capt J. Walker WRAC (V)**
Ops Offr:	**Maj G. C. Mitchell TD Royal Signals (V)**
RMO:	**Maj M. M. Skillen TD RAMC (V)**
TFC Offr:	**Maj B. Newell Royal Signals (V)**
TOT:	**Capt R. Williams Royal Signals (V)**
OC LAD:	**Maj J Storey REME (V)**
SSM:	**WO2 R. Garrett Royal Signals (V)**
PSI:	**Sgt M. Ryder Royal Signals**

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

It is some ten months since HQ Sqn appeared in print and therefore the time has come for us to assert ourselves once again and report the happenings of England's most northerly based Signal Regiment (Volunteers that is).

We seem to have spent much of the time since HQ Sqn last wrote the notes giving assistance to others—but then that is the nature of our role. At the end of March/beginning of April the Junior Leader Regiment at Ouston asked for a little help and thus **Sig Alan Gibson, Sig Taffy Selby** and **Cfn Alan Chambers** were duly despatched to assist on an important exercise. They all enjoyed their time with 26 Sig Regt and **Taffy Selby** now sports the pin from the first grenade he had ever thrown to prove it!

During Ex *Wintex* the SWRACO, **Maj Mary Nicholson** and the OC 49 Sig Sqn went to Germany at the request of HQ 12 Signal Brigade/HQ 4 Signal Group and took with them **Ptes Waugh, Robinson, Tipton Hughes** and **Jones,** all members of the Squadron. The Exercise was a success and those involved from Middlesbrough certainly enjoyed their visit to Germany (and of course 16 Sig Regt).

We have also provided cooks and stewardesses for the dining out at Catterick of **Maj Gen Birtwistle** in June (and a great honour it was) and persuaded **Pte Grace ACC** to go to the assistance of 40 Sqn RCT in Catterick. In sum we could go on but in reality we are delighted to help, and, of course, there is no truth in the idea that we are about to debit those who ask for assistance.

FAREWELL TO A REAL FRIEND

In early June we held a Regimental lunch to say farewell to the retiring Secretary of the North of England Army Association, **Brig G. Westbrook, OBE, DL.** The Brigadier has been a great friend to the Regiment during his ten years in office (just look at our rebuild if proof were needed) and thus it was a particular pleasure to be able to invited him to lunch before he departed for the somewhat warmer climes of Dorset. The lunch was attended by a happy mix of regulars and TA, the most notable of whom was our Hon Col, **Col Mike Stewart** and the CO, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker.** In all 26 officers and senior NCO's (TA and regular) attended the lunch to say farewell officially to a great soldier and an old friend.

A SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS—IT GETS WORSE

Officer recruitment is often difficult for TA units but you could be forgiven for thinking that once you had got them in, your problems were over. You'd be wrong! It's not that we have any problem retaining their interest but, of late, there seems to be some kind of death wish prevailing over the officer Corps, and this is concerning us. The Padre, **Rev Alan Hughes,** has broken his foot; OC LAD has undergone a difficult operation (happily he is well on the road to recovery—no pun intended), the 2IC HQ Sqn and Messing Officer, **Capt Judy Walker,** has been in hospital recently and will be away for the next three months and (apart from the Adjt's ulcers) **Capt Charles Bland** has broken his arm and is experiencing even more difficulty saluting than normal. Hopefully they will all be in better health by the time that we write our next notes.

GOODBYE FROM ME AND GOODBYE FROM HIM

As ever with military life, we have recently said goodbye to certain key personalities and we wish them well. The Band has lost **WO2 Bob Smith** and **SSgt Billy Howe** (between them they have 82 years service), **WO2 Barry Durant** has departed after some 24 years in either the LAD or the Regiment (his last appointment was as SSM HQ Sqn) and **SSgt John Craig** has left after four years as the PSI for the LAD. **Maj Dia Rees** retires in July after 6 years with the Regiment and 42 years in the Army—he has been a great asset to the Regiment and we wish him well in his new career. To them all we say 'Don't make it too long before you come back to see us'.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Birmingham

ANNUAL INSPECTION

This year, Comms Branch UKLF had the good fortune to inspect us and so, on Tuesday 22 March, **Lt Col David Jolly, Lt Col Toby Rigby** and **Lt Col (Retd) Frank Wainwright** descended upon us. Having grilled the RHQ element, they went to the out Squadrons in the evening to see the TA at work. Three days later, we deployed on our first Regimental Exercise for four months, with SWITCH C once again located in the Kinver Million Forest. On the Saturday, **Brig Alastair McKinnon,** Comd Comms UKLF arrived to visit the Regiment and give us a formal inspection. There was not time during the weekend to visit all locations but the Brigadier managed to get into most vehicles at SWITCH, Echelon, Commcen C1 and PUP 2. He stayed in the field with us overnight and surprised everyone, **WO1 RSM Gordon Scott** included, by a very early start to the day. The overnight watchkeepers in the RCP and the SWITCH CP gave unexpected briefings at 0600 hrs in the morning.

Equipment, frequency and PPA problems made the exercise quite a trial but despite all this, the Brigadier seemed impressed with the Regiment.

The Sunday morning was the last training period for the Lt—Capt and Capt—Maj promotion exam candidates and a TEWT was organised. The Brigadier listened to the candidates give their answers to the numerous problems and gave his advice and encouragement. All our candidates passed the tactics needless to say!

Brig McKinnon sharing a joke with Maj George Harrell and Cpl John Bryne. A bemused SQMS SSgt David Blackford looks on

Brig McKinnon expressing disbelief at seeing two Clerks and one Medic preparing dinner. LCpl Tracy Omeara, Sgt Hyacinth Davis and Cpl Andrea Blackford. Capt George Clark the Adjt tries to explain why

OPEN DAY

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the TA, HQ Sqn and 48 Sig Sqn held a joint open day on the 9 April at Golden Hillock TA Centre, with radio relay, teleprinter, linelaying, recovery and NBC displays outside to entertain our families and selected visitors. We were honoured by the presence of **Councillor Peter Hollingworth JP Lord Mayor of Birmingham**, who took a great deal of interest in each display. His official car, a Rolls Royce, formed yet another display for those auto enthusiasts aspiring to own a 'Roller'. By far the most popular display was in the .22 range where **Capt Robert Scott** and **Sgt John Richards** ran an active and popular shoot with a queue of people aged 5—40 waiting to fire 5 rounds down range.

Maj George Harrell organised a very interesting historical display with photographs and articles covering the pre and post war history of 48 and 58 Sig Regts (in which he was involved!) from which 35 Sig Regt was formed.

A special limited edition Regimental mug was produced by a well known Stoke on Trent pottery firm. Over 200 were sold at the Open Day and the remainder are available from the PRI at 65p each. They have the Regimental Crest on one side and a 'Jimmy' on the other, with a nice gold band around the top.

Capt Malcolm Luing discussing the merits of moustaches with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Hollingsworth. Lt Col Mike Louden and Mrs Louden in the background

SSgt Dave Cotton demonstrating the SLR to the Mayor

Sig Paul Rowson, V Tp demonstrating the phone home facility of the C70 to a young visitor with a model of E.T.

Linemen at Work during the Open Day—Sig 'H' Henlen, Vaughan Chatfield, Lee Hewitt, Cpl Dave Elcock and his son

EXERCISE 'SACRED COW'

This was an aptly named exercise in which old concepts and operating procedures were thrown out the window and new procedures adopted. Despite briefings, old habits die hard and old familiar names were still in use. An attempt to rename an Exchange failed, the operators insisted on using the original traditional title.

Many radio relay vehicles and 48 Sqn Detachments deployed late on the Friday night to establish the links and much work was achieved. By dawn on the Saturday some communications had been established but not before **Capt Derek McConnell** had visited the major relay site in the wee small hours of the morning. **FofS Tony Jacklin** spent a frustrating 24 hours trying to iron out the bugs of his newly wired up Multiplex and Sub Multiplex vehicles 'Can't rush these things . . . !'

Despite the rain, by now an expected event on every Regimental exercise, morale remained high and most people accepted the new concepts. Perhaps the most upset group are the combat powermen, who lose their mobile caravan (4 Ton GS) and get a trailer in lieu. Gone are the bunk beds, the cooker and the fridge . . . we think!

NEW TA CENTRE

In July RHQ, HQ Sqn and the LAD move out of the somewhat delapidated TA Centre in Stoney Lane and move into a modern purpose built TA Centre at Sutton Coldfield. The move comes with mixed blessings, as we will lose all the nooks and crannies of the present buildings but we will gain more showers etc and a modern kitchen. And, at last, all our vehicles can be locked away in garages. The brand new Centre is located alongside St George's Barracks, the Recruit Selection Centre.

We have been told recently that the old Centre, after years of neglect, will be repainted after we move out. The mice and spiders who remain will surely appreciate it!

FREEDOM OF BIRMINGHAM PARADE

On 21 May, the Regiment will exercise up its right to march with bayonets fixed, through the centre of Birmingham. This time instead of the usual No. 2 Dress, the uniform will be combat kit. This will save hours of work by SQMS's and the QM getting uniforms to fit and be smart for the big day.

58 SIG SQN (V)
VALE—VALETE

Our recruiting goes on apace and it is always rewarding when those new recruits come back from their courses as qualified soldiers. We welcome newly qualified **Sig Andrew Povey, David Groves, John Knott** and **Ptes Annette Holland, Kim Jackson, Gillian Lear** and **Dawn Plant.** Sadly we say 'Good-bye' to **Sgt Arthur Sherratt,** who after many years with the Squadron has left to get under his wife's feet at weekends.

Recent promotions are **Cpl Malcolm Barrington-Clark**, who is now licking recruit troop into shape, and **Cpl Kevin Robinson.**

We are currently running an internal upgrading DTG Course. It is an intensive course over ten evenings and two weekends, at the end of which we hope to have many more highly qualified personnel.

A nine-strong mixed contingent attended Ex *Wintex* this year. A concensus of opinion was that they hadn't worked so hard for a long time. **Capt Richard Harris** who led the group is to be congratulated on such a fine showing.

On 9 April, along with many other TA Units, the Squadron held an Open Day to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Territorial Army during which we had several hundred visitors, amongst which were the Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle in spite of the fact that it was Grand National Day. There were numerous displays and stalls—one of the most popular was the 'crockery smashing' stall—a 'Potteries' speciality. A Celebration Dance was held in the evening and a very big thank you to all wives who as willing helpers, enabled us to make a success of the day. We are very pleased to say that after everything was totted up we were able to present a cheque for £100 to the Downes Children's Association for Mongol Children.

Our thanks to go TAVRA who have given the TAC a facelift. We now have a superb modern kitchen and a much appreciated heat saving new ceiling in the Drill Hall, and the Ladies Powder Room facilities are much improved. We are now preparing for the Regimental re-organisation and all that it will mean—so watch this space. We ARE alive and well, and living in Newcastle, Staffs.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

CONGRATULATIONS

The photograph shows our Paymaster **Maj Don Latham,** with his wife **Betty,** shortly after he received the **MBE** from **HM The Queen** on 15 March. He joined the Army in 1944, was commissioned into the Essex Regiment in 1946 and was seconded to various Royal SIgnals units in Egypt, Palestine and the Sudan until his discharge in 1948. In 1953 he joined London District Signal Regiment AER, serving as an adjutant and a Squadron Commander with various numerically redesignated Royal Signals AER units until the 1967 Reserve Army reorganistion. He then came to 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), commanding HQ Squadron until, to beat the evil disease known as anno domini, he transferred to RAPC (V), remaining as our Unit Paymaster. He holds the very unusual distinction of a high place in the Army List for RAPC TA while, at the same time, heading the Royal Signals White List for TA majors (compilers please note, he did rebadge as recently as 1974!) He feels one third of the award belongs to Royal Signals, one sixth to RAPC and 50% to his wife!

Photographs by Brentwood Gazette

Maj and Mrs Don Latham shortly after receiving the MBE from HM the Queen on 15 Apr

56 SIG SQN (V)
THE COURAGE TROPHY COMPETITION 1983

When the Courage Trophy Competition was mentioned on parade one evening, at Eastbourne TAC, looks of bewilderment prevailed. Courage Trophy, 'what's that?' **Capt Bob Carter,** our Tp Comd then explained to us what it was, and that it would consist of military skills and lots of physical fitness. Another look of bewilderment, and despondency arose, physical fitness, oh dear!

Early in Feb we started training for the competition, most of which was done at Sandgate where the other half of 56 Sqn are based. Running to get fit was the hardest part as most of us were not that fit when we started, and it was an aspect that was going to play an important part in this competition. The training started at 0600 hrs every Sat morning with a four mile run, just to warm up for the weekend ahead. Some of us did this whilst still asleep, and after the run and a wash and shave, we had breakfast, consisting of porridge. **SSM Derek Howell** said this was the best way to start the day, he swore by it. I'm not surprised either, (is it true that wall paper paste comes in saucepans?)—we swore at it!

After the Polycel breakfast we practised VCP duty, stopping various people as they drove down the lane to the TA Centre, and checking their identity and vehicles. It's quite surprising that they didn't seem to mind! **Sgt John Owen,** of the RAMC pretended to be a suspect in his car and put on a very good act, and had it been for real, we probably would not be here now. He also provided medical

back-up on the runs and the assault course, his presence was much appreciated at times.

The assault course claimed several victims, one being **LCpl Tony Lewis** who whilst pulling me, **Cpl Tim Odam,** over the twelve foot wall managed to break two ribs, although at the time was unaware of the cause of the sudden pain and carried on regardless. **Capt Bob Carter** found the six foot wall the hardest obstacle, and we had to give him a helping hand over it, however, he has a different view on this story. The water jump presented a few problems and not being fully conversant with equestrianism, we consequently got wet feet. On the last weekend of our training **SSM Derek Howell** presented each member of the team with a tee shirt with the inscription '56th Sqn Courage Trophy 83' emblazoned on them.

Fri 11 Mar, fortunately not Fri 13, saw the team heading towards Pirbright, home of the Guards Brigade, where the Courage Trophy Competition was to be held. Following an overnight stop at Guildford TA Centre we arrived safe and well.

THE DAY

Our first event was recognition of enemy aircraft, vehicles and weapons. I won't say how we did on this event but I think the Russian team got more points that we did. Event number two was to put on NBC gear and stroll into the gas chamber and then do a cannister change. After the effects of burgers and Army tea, CS gas is quite pleasant really. Our next event was again, as a team, answering questions on what to do if we were attacked by an enemy using CS gas and what immediate actions should be taken. Following this we had to carry a casualty through a minefield wearing full NBC gear, an excellent activity for the weight-watching freaks.

The two drivers in the team, **Cpl Tim Odam** and **Sig Bob Franks,** then drove the other six team members to the march where all teams were inspected to ensure they had everything they should. The drivers drove back to the Guards Depot to start their own event in the competition.

We had to change a wheel on a Landrover and answer questions on the Highway Code and other vehicles. After changing the wheel and convincing the RCT judge that after only three minutes we had finished, we made our way to the assault course to await the arrival of our team mates who were over the hills and far away doing the march. When they had finished and rested we were briefed on the assault course and after a short countdown we were off.

'Who said anything about wire netting?', I now know how rabbits feel, we had to crawl on hands and knees with the net barely two feet above us still wearing our webbing; a few choice words were exchanged here. A short run over some wooden beams and we came upon a concrete tank filled with some liquid not unlike tea, later got from a mobile stall before the next event. After several more obstacles and many bruised parts, 'Yes Private, that too' we came to concrete pipes which we had to crawl through on our backs hauling our webbing with our feet, looking like some other kind of rodents leaving a sinking ship. What fun it was to shout at the SSM to get a move on when he got stuck in one of the pipes as we endeavoured to extract him bodily by his collar; revenge is sweet isn't it?

We then went to the falling plate event, **Sig Graham Bonnor** was convinced that he had knocked the last one down three times but it would not drop.

ALDERSHOT

After a brief rest we made our way to Aldershot where we were to do the Vehicle Ambush event. Here we had to drive down a road and when we heard an explosion, we had to take evasive action, de-bus and re-group as fast as possible to destroy the enemy forces. This we did fairly well as we had been practising for this event in the past weeks. Having done this we then made our way to the Cross Country Driving event, this was the one the drivers in the team had been looking forward to for some time. Some team members found this event quite hairy judging from the way they dented and mangled their vehicles on the course; it made the 'Dukes of Hazard' look like child's play. At one part of the course I had to tow **Sig Bob Franks** backwards out of a deep muddy ditch, having done this, we sped off back to the finish point and on to where the rest of the team were waiting for us, having had a well deserved brew up. Having replaced the contents of the vehicle removed before the driving competition we made our way to Hankley Common for the night exercise part of the competition.

HANKLEY

At Hankley Common we divided our team into sections, four members went up on to a ridge where they dug in and did OP duties, the other four stayed at the bottom cammed up the vehicles and put up bashers for the team's night accommodation.

At midnight the team's drivers reported to a control tent to be briefed on what they were to do for their next event. Following the briefing we were given a countdown and told to make our way to a grid reference where we would find a replenishment site. We were told that if we were caught on main roads we would be disqualified from the event, so we made our devious way in our vehicles to the given reference. Eventually we found it and reported to the control point. Here we were told to get various documents and to start the set route. We collected some mock ammunition, petrol and water, then back to the replen control. We were timed back to the first control, we returned in 3½ minutes, much to the amusement and surprise of the control judge. While we were doing our bit the SSM and **LCpl Paul Gruncell** were taking tests in mapco, voice procedure and other radio skills.

BACK TO ALDERSHOT

At 0700 hrs all teams assembled and we made our way back to Aldershot for the next event which was a vehicle check point test. For this, Courage Ltd had supplied three drivers who pretended to be terrorists in their large beer lorries (empty unfortunately) and had various things hidden that simulated bombs and devices, the task being to find them all in a given time.

Our last event was the map reading stand. Here **Capt Bob Carter** and the SSM had to interpret a mock up of a Russian map whilst the rest of the team were set various tests using their knowledge of UK ordnance survey maps. When we had finished, or so we thought, we were told to have a shower and change into cleaner clothes as we were to go to the Duke of York's Barracks in London for the Courage Trophy Competition presentation ceremony.

A CREDITABLE OUTCOME

Prior to the Trophy being presented, we watched a display by the celebrated Red Devils parachute display team who landed on a cross in the middle of the parade ground, only about 50 yards from the Kings Road. Although we did not win we were happy to have come 7th out of about 43 teams entered; we thought we had done well for our first attempt.

SECURE

LCpl Tony Lewis who had dropped out of the team owing to injury came along with our OC **Maj Tom Hatfield** as a back-up and spent the night on Sat in a Guard Room Cell; at least he got some sleep. He was left to look after a team Landrover that died and when REME recovered them at midnight there was only one place to find him a bed for the night—in nick. Some people have all the luck—cooked breakfast and all!

56 Sig Sqn (V) Courage Trophy Team 83
Sig Richard Kinch, Capt Bob Carter, Sig Bob Franks, SSM Derek Howell, Sig Graham Bonnor, Cpl Tim Odam, LCpl Paul Gruncell, Sig John Urben

45 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Members of both 752 and 817 Troops have been competing keenly to be included in the Courage Trophy Competition held this year on the 12/13 March 1983. The Competition was held in the Aldershot Area and tested many military skills to the full.

Included in the competition this year, apart from a 3½ mile march followed by a gruelling assault course, was a night observation post, a vehicle search and checkpoint plus anti-vehicle ambush drills. The team did very well on the First Aid and NBC stands.

The team this year consisted of:-

IC OCDT Andy Wilkinson
2IC Sgt Mick Smith
Cpl Smudge Smith
LCpl Guy Power
Sig Tim Grant (team driver)
John Nicholson (team driver)
Colin Marchant
Dave Sayer
Reserve: Sig Dow

No sooner had the Courage Trophy ended when both Troops were deployed on to the Mobilization Exercise followed by a regimental exercise.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

A CREDITABLE OUTCOME

The Regiment entered teams in the South West District TA Rifle Section Competition in April. This is a challenging 36 hour event testing infantry sections in Skill at Arms, basic battle skills and tactics at section level, Navigation, NBC, First Aid and, of course, physical fitness. Our teams are to be congratulated on being placed 11th and 17th, ahead of several infantry teams.

A SPECIAL OCCASION

An occasion which has delighted both our regulars and volunteer soldiers is the commissioning of our RSM, **Mr G. C. Blood.** During a fairly hectic session of 'dinings-out' in the Officers and Sergeants Messes he was presented with a sword and other gifts which we hope will remind him of his time with us.

The CO, Lt Col Jean Blackwood and the Training Major, Maj Mike Martin ensure Gordon Blood is properly dressed for the occasion

The CO and Lt Gordon Blood admire the sword presented to him by the WOs and Sgts Mess and the scabbard presented by the Officers, 37 Sig Regt (V)

HORFIELD SUMMER REVUE

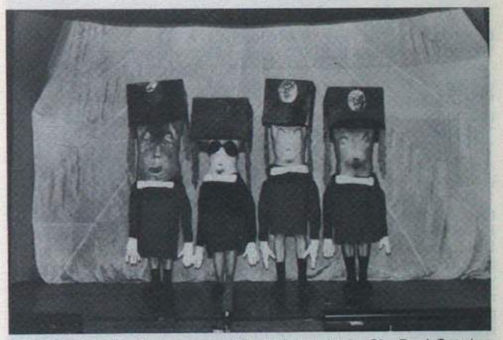
The third Horfield Revue was held on Fri/Sat 21/22 May 83. Once again the evening was organised to help raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund Avon Appeal. The Adjutant **Capt Tony Manders** was again the mastermind behind the show, after many late nights rehearsing, the two performances worked like clockwork.

The first major headache to overcome was to complete blackout in the centre, this was achieved thanks to **Sgt Frank Hulin** and **Sig John Melnyk** who precariously balanced on the roof to fix rolls of black hessian over the sky lights, not an easy job with the high winds prevailing at the time.

The demand for tickets was enormous and 250 sat down each night to enjoy the show, wine and a very substantial buffet superbly prepared as usual by **WO2 Norman Disley, Sgt Doreen Gorst** and **LCpl John Fenn.**

The show itself contained sketches, mimes, dances and a folk group, with many highlights. **Sig Paul (Wayne Sleep) Staples** deserves a mention for his performance in the ballet. We will have to teach him where to put his hands when doing a pas de deux. This, plus the antics of **SSgt John 'Sugar Plum Fairy' Richardson** are a living example that the loss of the Royal Ballet is the gain of the Horfield Revue!

L—R Cpl Debbie Nash (hidden), Pte's Kim Havvock, Rose Brooks, Julia Hussey, Miss Chris Cottrell



L—R SSgt John Richardson, Cpl Debbie Nash, Sig Paul Staples, John Melnyk

Angela Rippon and David Frost were ably substituted in TV AM by **Sgt Cpl Terry** and **Cpl Kathy Roper** both suitably attired in pyjamas, curlers and shaving cream, we are not sure who had what on though.

The folk group, **WO2 Kay Pope, Sgt Terry Roper** two original members from the Gate-Way group formed three years ago joined by **Pte Julia Hussey,** got the audience singing and clapping along with themselves.

Tony Manders appearing as Charlie Chaplin was better than the original, not bad considering he bought his complete outfit for 50p, including turned up shoes.

L—R Pte Kim Havvock, Capt Tony Manders

An addition after the finale had the producer fuming and wondering what the hell was happening. **Miss Ruth Haddock** alias **WO2 Kay Pope** complete with yellow coat announced the latest Oscar Awards, this was a two horse race between Sir Richard Attenborough for Ghandi and **Tony Manders** for the Horfield Revue. The winner hands down of course was our own **Tony Manders.**

This was **Tony Manders** last production of the Horfield Revue and his talents will be surely missed by all, but look out 13 Sig Regt we hope you have your ballet tights ready. Do not fear though, the Horfield Revue team will live on.

Squadron notes this month come from our Stratford Squadron.

67 (QUEEN'S OWN WARWICKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQN

As forecast in our last bulletin, 67 Sig Sqn (V) is now under the command of **Maj Stamford Cartwright.** His 21C is **Capt Edward Widgery,** newly transferred to the Yeomanry ranks from 53 Sig Sqn (V) in Cardiff. **Capt Peter Rhodes** assumed command of 9 AFHQ Troop at the beginning of the year when **Lt Gill Stuart** took over 871 Tp and **SSgt Dick Hall** was appointed to command 870 Tp. **Capt Andy Berncastle** continues to lead CMHQ Troop, currently re-equipping with MOULD.

The year may have started quietly on the communications front but there has been time to polish our fieldcraft skills, particularly during Ex *March Madness*, an escape-and-evasion weekend in the Forest of Dean. Range work, too, has paid off, with the squadron team under **Sgt Gordon Aylett** winning 2 Brigade's Clinch Cup .22 competition yet again. The team emerged first overall in the recent Regimental range competition and later helped 37 Sig Regt to a creditable fifth place overall in the SW District SAM. At the time of writing the team is practising for Bisley and we wish them well. One team member, **OCdt Tim Cooper,** took time off training to attend his Catterick recruit course, returning with the best shot award.

Preparations for camp in September is also a preoccupation, the squadron's fieldcraft expertise being much in demand. Work continues too, in preparation for our D11 refurbishment. The latest news is of new radio kit commencing in 1985. No-one has yet put any money on it!

The Stratford drill hall has just undergone considerable refurbishment and improvement, a new shower block proving particularly useful after keep-fit evenings—an essential and popular (!) innovation now that the BFT is upon us. **Sgt Ray Campbell** and **Terry Thompson** mastermind the fitness training and are in practice themselves for the forthcoming Bristol Marathon.

The Squadron is preparing for another long distance sponsored walk. Last year's 75 mile bash from RHQ Bristol to Stratford raised almost £1,000 for Multiple Sclerosis research; this year's beneficiary is to be a local charity for disabled youngsters.

Romance blossoms apace with the recent marriage of **LCpl Ian Cruickshank** and **Pte Carole Davis. Sig Paul Simmons** and **LCpl Judith Walker** are to wed shortly and **Sig Brett Cairns** and **Pte Rose Clarke** have announced their engagement.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CIVIC VISITORS

The regiment's strong links with the City of Sheffield have been strengthened on a number of recent occasions. To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Territorial Army, the **Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Wragg,** invited all TA officers of the City to join him at a dinner in the Town Hall. A simultaneous and equally successful function for the soldiers took place in the City Hall.

Other squadrons have also been celebrating the 75th Anniversary. 87 Sqn took part in a TA 'Drive Past' in Nottingham Town Centre. 46 and 97 Sqns have been hosts to receptions held to mark the anniversary.

The **Lord Mayor of Sheffield** has, also, received other visitors to 38 Sig Regt. **Maj Gen. A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE,** called on him during his last visit to Sheffield as SOinC, and, also, **Brig John Hart,** during his ARU as Commander of 2 Sig Bde.

L—R Mrs Jan Vann, Lt Col Mike Vann, Brig David Wilson (Yorkshire & Humberside TAVRA)

Maj Gen Birtwistle visiting the Lord Mayor

L—R Brig Hart, Lord & Lady Mayoress, Lt Col Vann

TWIN CITY

We never get to BAOR for camp so it was appropriate to receive visitors during April from Sheffield's Twin City in West Germany, Bochum. The Oberburgermeister, **Heinz Eckelbeck,** led his party around the Sheffield TA Centre. They did a brisk trade in momentos.

WO1 (RSM) David Longhurst prepares for his BAOR posting with some hints from Bochum visitor, Hans Franke

VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

In May, the Regiment was pround host for a display by Sheffield TA units when the City was visited by the Chief of the Defence Staff, **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall GCB OBE MC.** The Field Marshal visited displays showing TA activity in the area and met permanent staff and volunteers. Two members of 38 Sig Regt were presented with medals.

L—R The Chief of the Defence Staff presents medals to Maj Terry Lea TD and WO1 Derek Sivell clasp to Territorial Efficiency Medal

TRAINING

We also train! The Regimental SAAM this year was early (March), cold (very) and under canvas—'Gives that extra sense of urgency' promised Training Major, **David Gardiner.** Surviving frost, wind and lashing rain 46 Squadron edged to the front, led by **Capt (Tfc) Dewi Treharne.** HQ Sqn carried off a new trophy for WRAC shooting.

A further peril this year is the new fitness test for volunteers. The permanent staff are ready to show the way!

Sgt Marion Poulter waits anxiously for the CO to find her a fruit drop!

The winners: 46 Sig Sqn (V)

The RSM leads the permanent staff on a BFT

FAREWELL

WO1 (RSM) David Longhurst left the Regiment in June on commissioning. He leaves behind a heightened awareness of professional standards and his own forceful impression as RSM. His tour began with a Royal Visit and the pace has lasted! We wish him well.

Many saw the retirement of 'a legend in his own lifetime'—**WO1 Derek Sivell.** He has served in the TA for 32 years and he will leave a gap which will be hard to fill. He stays in the area (and in uniform) to serve with the ACF.

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

VISIT TO THE REGIMENT BY
THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF FIELD MARSHAL
SIR EDWIN BRAMALL GCB OBE MC

The Regiment was extremely honoured on 10 May to be visited by **Field Marshall Sir Edwin Bramall, GCB OBE MC.** After an introductory brief and welcome by the CO—**Lt Col Mike Upson** and our **Hon Col Brig Dick Vernon CBE** the CDS toured the TAC.

The visit was intended to provide the CDS with a view of the regiment's administration and training activities on drill nights. The first call, logically enough was the recruiting office.

The CDS in the recruiting office, Capt Julia Liesching introduces the latest recruit with our CO Lt Col Mike Upson looking on

In the Sgts Mess the CDS was able to speak to **SSgt Angell** and **SSgt Aquilina** both of whom were awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List. Finally **Maj Gwen Murgatroyd** welcomed the CDS to the Officers Mess for a Buffet supper to conclude the evening's activities. The genuine interest shown by the CDS in the training and achievements of all ranks was greatly appreciated. The visit was, for the Regiment, a most memorable and enjoyable occasion.

SSgt (SQMS) George and Mrs Martha Angell, SSgt (FofS) Joe and Mrs Helen Aquilina after the presentation of their BEM earlier this year

PSI MOVEMENTS

Our Chief Clerk, **SSgt Colin Beston** is moving nearer home in July, his replacement being **SSgt Chris Bell. SSgt (FofS) Joe Aquilina** is moving to the land of LOA during August and is being replaced by **SSgt (FofS) Pete Higson. Sgts Geordie (your round) Dobson** and **Dutch Holland** both leave in Sep. We wish them and their families all the best in their new Units.

FOCUS ON 1 SQN

OC	**Capt Vivian Dunn**
OC A TP	**Lt Belinda Exell**
OC B TP	**2Lt Philip Moore**
OC CTP	**Lt Mo Shannon**
RECRUIT TP	**Lt Barbara Moores**
SSM	**SSgt Alan Bristow**
SQMS	**SSgt George Angell BEM**
PSI	**Sgt Jack Kendle**

SOME SPORTING EVENTS

The first six months of 1983 saw a flurry of sporting activity in 1 Sqn, starting quite literally in a 'snowy setting' with Ex *Snow Queen* based in Marilleva in the Dolomites. **Lt Barbara Moores** and **Lt Belinda Exell** joined **Capt Julia Liesching** HQ Sqn and **Sgt Charles** in accepting the open invitation by 10 Bn Parachute Regiment (V) to make up their numbers on their annual exercise. It was a very well organised trip, plenty of laughs and a thoroughly recommended experience for all first time or experienced skiers.

In equally snowy conditions 1 Sqn entered a WRAC and a Royal Signals team for the London District Cross Country event. **Lt Barbara Moores** won first prize but HQ Sqn team just beat 1 Sqn to qualify for the UKLF championships.

Lt Barbara Moores being presented with 1st prize for the London District Cross Country

1 Sqn had a bash at orienteering this year. The London District event was 'an experience'. **Sig Hack** and **Lawrence** did well on their first ever event and were still smiling at the end of it all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally the Officers, SNCOs and ORs of 1 Sqn congratulate the OC, **Capt Vivian Dunn** on the occasion of his marriage to **Miss Ann Brown** on 29 May at Ferndown in Dorset.

BEFORE ENDEAVOURS FADE!

The fourth edition of the book 'Before Endeavours Fade', by **Rose E. B. Coombs MBE** has now been published by After the Battle Publications. This latest edition has been updated by **Miss Coombs** and should be considered an essential item of kit for anyone intending to visit the battlefields of World War I. Routes are planned so as to take in the many battle sites and monuments that abound in France and Flanders. The book is lavishly illustrated and has an easily readable and informative text. The book 11⅞ × 8½, contains 160 pages with 480 illustrations and 27 maps.

It is without doubt, the standard work of its kind and the author, **Rose Coombs,** has worked at the Imperial War Museum for more than forty years and has made over a hundred visits to the areas covered in her book, and is acknowledged as the leading expert in the subject.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

VISIT BY THE MASTER

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. Badcock, CB MBE DL,** paid his first visit to the Regiment during April. As Chairman of South-East Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Association the Master has a particular interest in TA Units.

The visit took place during a normal mid-week training evening giving him a good opportunity to see all aspects of Regimental Life, training and social; meeting and chatting with many of the volunteers from the newest recruit to the 'old hands'.

After the formal part of the visit, the Master was entertained in the Junior Ranks Club and presented with the now traditional blackthorn walking stick, by **Sig Giles,** a recent recruit to the Regiment. The visit concluded with supper in the Officers Mess.

This advice really comes off the top, the Master makes a point with Cpl Murray

The Master chats with some members of the Recruits Training Course

Sig Giles presents a blackthorn walking stick to the Master on behalf of the Regiment

THE TOPS

Top Territorial Army cooks in the Northern Ireland Army Field Cookery Competition 1983, held at Ballykelly, were the men of the Army Catering Corps attached to 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V), Clonaver Park, Belfast.

The Regiment's cooks come from all walks of life in the Province, and with a reputation to live up to, made sure of a 'first' with a score of 85½ points out of a possible 100.

Seven Northern Ireland Territorial Army units took part in the competition. Each unit had to provide three Army Catering Corps (Volunteer) soldiers and a driver and were required to set up a tactical field kitchen in two hours and then produce a set meal for ten soldiers.

The menu was designed to test the teams in the full range of field cookery skills.

Then followed the Cordon Bleu touch; in this test the teams had to produce an original dish of their own choice from basic Army ration 'Compo' processed cheese, producing flans, pizzas—baked potatoes with cheese topping and even a cheese dip with biscuits.

GOC, N Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson,** who presented the prizes paid tribute to the skill, dedication and initiative of the Volunteer Army Catering Corps as soldiers and cooks.

Winning team from '40th' look on as Northern Ireland GOC Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson, samples one of the prize winning dishes, after the Annual TA Field Cookery Competition in Ballykelly

Lord Lieutenants Certificates 1983 40(U) Sig Regt (V)
L—R WO1 (ASM) S. Stevenson REME (V), WO2 C. Cameron WRAC (V), WO1 J. Cameron RE (V), SSgt W. Carey Royal Signals (V)

News from Squadrons

Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

IN AND OUT

June has not only seen the Squadron busy with many exercises—five major ones including *Central Enterprise* and *Summer Sales*—but also with various comings and goings. We say goodbye to **Sgt Jeff Alexander,** who ran our MT Section so well and **Sgt Graham Pollard** our overworked and 'I need a holiday' Chief Clerk. We also lose our two Dutch Sgts—**Sgt1 John Willink** and **Hans Ven Brenk.** To them and their families we wish the best of good luck in the future.

We welcome to our fold **Sgt Mick Hague** and his wife **Sue** who came to us from Cyprus. Whilst **Sgt Graham Pollard** was cheering them in on their initial investigation of our lines, we were wondering who the unfamiliar brown gentleman was. His immersion shock will soon turn him to our usual wet weather colouring.

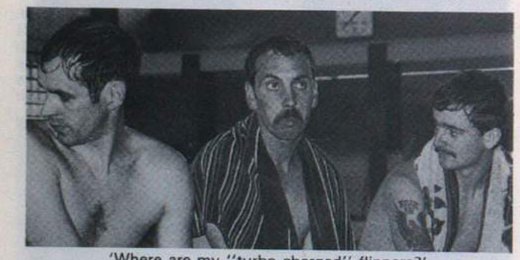
SHOOTING

The Squadron entered two full shooting teams for both the Northag and the Rhine Area Championships. This entailed leaving the camp daily at around 5.30pm and returning almost in the dark. However both championships were much enjoyed and produced some good results.

HQ Rhine Area Championships saw **Sig Hazel O'Connor, Sgt Jock Gibson** and **SSgt John Tope** reach the top 80 in the SLR match and **WO1 (SSM) Gue, SSgt John Tope** and **Sgt Jock Gibson** gained places in the top thirty in the pistol. All are in training for next year. In the Northag Championships **OG Uwe Scheer** came a very creditable 6th. In all, our team came 9th in the Championship. Again well done to both teams in our first year in these events.

TRIATHLON

We have, during this period also fielded three full Triathlon Teams. A ladies team of **Mrs Terry Gue** and **Mrs Jan Tope** took part in the AFCENT International and came 3rd in their classes—well done to them. Our own Squadron team won the Northag SSG Triathlon with **Cpl Scotty Scott** managing 3rd place overall. The team consisted of **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue, Cpl Scotty Scott,** and **Sld Frank Visser (NL Army).** Our third team of **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** and **Cpl Scotty Scott** came 3rd overall in the International two day event at Brunssum.



'Where are my "turbo charged" flippers?'
Cpl Scotty Scott with the team on hearing that he will have to swim 300m in 4min 20secs

'But they went through the same hole' (or words to that effect!) Competitors checking their scores during the Triathlon Shooting phase: Marshals here are trying to speak four languages at once!!!

JOC CUP

The Squadron are currently leading the field in the JOC Competition. This is a cup awarded to the best placed team competing in the following:

Cross Country	**NASRS 2nd**
Swimming	**NASRS 1st**
Badminton	**NASRS 2nd**
Tennis	**In progress (looking good)**
Football	**In progress**

Voleyball, Basketball and Table Tennis (yet to take place)

All members of the Squadron are involved with the current nail-biting matches being fought on the tennis courts. The Commander, **Maj Michael Anderson,** is as yet unbeaten on the doubles courts with his partner **Sld Frank Visser.**

VISITS

We have had visits from both our Commander **Col A. Stessun (GE Army)** and **Lt Col J. W. Swindells,** the Deputy Commander. On both occasions the Squadron showed all its skeletons and much was achieved. We look forward to future visits from ACOS G3 Northag **Brig T. M. McKing** and CCR Signals 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig C. N. Last,** in July and September respectivefully.

Col A. Stessun (GE Army) accompanied by Maj Anderson and WO2 (SSM) Gue reviewing the Squadron Quarter Guard during his visit

OPEN DAY

Report by our NASRS correspondent still in the field

4 June saw the siege of Ambiorix Kaserne raised, or NASRS hold its OPEN DAY with a difference. The sun shone to a sweltering 28° and not a puff of wind was felt. The Wives Club under the eyes of **Layle Anderson, Wilma Pollard, Jan Tope, Terry Gue, Joy Gibson** and **Jennifer Smith** sold 60 large baskets of strawberries together with a mountain of cream scones in the Olde Tea Shop.

The band played, 250 litres of beer was drunk as 800—1000 people went around the various stalls run by the Squadron. **KPL1 Arno Verbruggen** and **Kpl1 Bert Jansen** ran the Dutch shooting stall whilst **Cpl Gus Webster** and **LCpl Steve Hobbs** tried to prevent overkeen golfers hitting their balls into the beer tent!

Bf41,000 worth of food was eaten between 10am and 7pm, cooked by **CPC Paul Huble, Sld Harrold Zillekens** and **Sld Charlie Van Spijker.** In the background 14 football and Tug-o-War matches were played under the eagle eye of the referees **SSgt John Tope** and **Adjt Marcel Gaens.**

We thought it a shame that the two ladies teams who took part in the football were unable to take part in the Tug-o-War—they seemed capable of it!'

The two referees were backed up by **WO2 (YofS) Harry Beresford** working a 'Ship's Horn' as chief timekeeper and **Sgt Graham Pollard** as his advisor and chief statistic man. Thanks go to all who helped to run, organise, cook, serve, present prizes and wipe overheated brows to make the day such a great sucess. Over **Bf70,000** was paid in cash by our visitors who all had a great day out. Next year we hope that the Hot Air Balloon map reads its way to the correct town!!! We also hope that **Cpl Peter Rogers,** who ran the weapons stand and bunker, will escape from his SAS act and realise that the crowds have gone, the tents are down and all is normal? again!

A harassed OC Squadron being T'd up for the off by the staff of the Olde English Tea Shop
OC asking 'by the way, what does a NATO strawberry taste like?'

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1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

EX 'ROYAL AINTREE'

The time since Easter has proved to be as busy as ever for the Squadron. No sooner were we back from block leave than it was up to Norfolk for Ex *Royal Aintree*. This was a Brigade Command Post Exercise, although most of the Squadron spent the week in Bodney Camp acting as Higher Control.

Of those actually deployed in the field, the Linemen were kept busier than most. As much of the exercise took place on the Range Danger Area, copies of Range Safety Orders were well thumbed!

Meanwhile the BM had directed that Tac HQ should not be allowed to become bored. This was not quite the expression that **Cpl Ray Sant** and the rest of the crew would have used when their OC took them into camp, only to redeploy them 5 minutes later back to the location they had just left!

Members of 2 Platoon after a 'yomp' to Laxey. *L—R* Cpl Ray Sant, Sig 'Gandhi' Davies, Sgt Clint Mogg, Sig 'Mucky' Waters, (kneeling) LCpl 'Gunther' Weeks, Cpl Dave Sands

EX 'CHILL WIND 1'

The following week saw A and B troops on exercise again. The journey this time was somewhat shorter being just 10 miles down the road to the Porton Battle Run. They spent two days there operating in an extremely realistic chemical environment. Although this was not the first time the squadron had used the Run, it was in fact the first occasion on which any unit had tried to set up a Brigade HQ there. As such it proved to be very valuable.

After spending a few hours in a hide location, the 30 vehicles moved to an operational location. As the majority of the DS travelled in packet 3, rumours were rife that something would happen to those vehicles. Judge of the surprise therefore when the rockets from a multi-barrelled rocket launcher exploded during the move of packet 2! (This certainly caused more confusion amongst the DS than it did amongst the players, who took the incident firmly in their stride).

The attack was followed by numerous incidents varying from an artillery barrage on the Alternate HQ to a missile attack on Main. (All those who had said that it was impossible to sleep wearing a respirator discovered that anything can become possible after 12 hours!) The grand finale was provided by a Wessex fitted with spray tanks of 'Nerve Agent' taking out most effectively both Main and Alt.

Surprisingly enough the exercise proved to be both informative and enjoyable. Having learnt many lessons, other elements of the squadron will try to put them into practice later in the year on Ex *Chill Wind 2*.

One way to dig a trench! LCpl 'Taff' Baughan

On the alert: Sig 'Taff' Owens and (behind) Sig 'Basher' Bates

The DS team's solution to the Command Task

19 Fd Amb gives a helping hand (?) on the First Aid Stand

TIDWORTH HORSE SHOW

Back in camp C troop was being kept busy with Tidworth Horse Show. To run smoothly this event requires a tremendous amount of communications. To start with there is the obvious telephone network which links all the officials with each other and the outside world via a manual switchboard. Next there is a radio net with outstations strategically positioned to cover the cross country course. This provides rapid information on the progress of the horses to the announcer, who then relays it to the public as if he could see the whole course himself. Finally there is a complex system of lines to each fence judge on the cross country course, which takes accurate results back to the chief scorer and thence to the scoreboard. This system takes weeks of work on the part of our line section.

The fact that all this effort goes virtually unnoticed by the general public is a token of how well all concerned have done their job!

MARCHES GALORE

The Friday following the Battle Run and the Horse Show brought marching fever to the Squadron. First off the mark were A Troop who undertook a gruelling tab with bergans and rifles in preparation for the Lanyard Trophy Endurance March later in the year. Despite the many blistered feet and bruised backs the entire troop finished together, showing that they will be strong contenders in the competition.

A little later Brigade HQ set off on a slightly less demanding, but certainly more enjoyable, 10 mile march. The route took them from Tedworth House via Thruxton Circuit to Newton Tony (and more specifically the Malet Arms), where they were marched into the village by two pipers from 4 RTR. (That afternoon B Troop were also due to go out tabbing, but after being given the option of the afternoon off, wisely decided to postpone the march for a week or two or three or . . .)

Lt Guy Dean and Capt Johnnie Rollins on the Brigade March

SUMMER CAMP

On 9 May the Squadron set sail for summer camp. Following last year's trip to Cyprus, we tried a slightly less exotic island: the Isle of Man. The journey proved at least one thing: the RSM is no sailor.

For the period of the camp, the Squadron was split into five platoons, based broadly on the three operating troops, SHQ and a mixed bag. For the first five days, the platoons performed a 'round robin' of activities, varying from purely military skills such as NBC and map reading via tabs and fun runs to adventurous training activities such as abseiling and canoeing. The latter proved particularly interesting in gale force winds. Shooting also took place on the island's only range. (It is possible to fire the LMG on a 30m range, but is it possible to miss?)

All these platoon activities led naturally into the second week's Squadron exercises, which commenced with a defence exercise. The ridge on which this took placed in howling winds brought back memories to many veterans of the South Atlantic. At the end of the exercise, 1 and 2 Platoons forsook their positions and launched a major attack on the other three platoons. The tactics involved were somewhat reminiscent of 'Zulu' but, as the targets did not fall when hit, the position was soon overrun.

This exercise was immediately followed by a night navigation exercise masterminded by **Sgt Dave Vince**, which tested even the officers and seniors who took part in it. The following day saw a day navigation/orienteering with bergans competitions, again oreganised by **Sgt Vince**. Although advertised as being a 15km course, the majority of competitors travelled in excess of 15 miles!

Following a day's R and R, the final event of camp was the Turner Trophy. This is the annual Squadron Patrol Competition for the statue presented by **Maj J. G. Turner MBE**, a former Admin Officer and Quartermaster of the Squadron. The competition has previously been held in and around the Aldershot and Salisbury Plain Training Areas, but never in such rugged conditions as those experienced in the Isle of Man.

Particularly over the early stages, navigation proved to be quite difficult. Matters were not helped for the early starters as a thick mist enveloped the mountains. The stands varied from recce patrols and anti-ambush drills to TOETs and NBC via First Aid and the obligatory Command Task. Humerous incidents abounded: the scout (who shall remain nameless) of the DS team who shouted 'Ambush Left' whilst pointing right; the soldier who found a casualty clutching guts to his stomach and bandaged them up neatly—in his hand; the raft which disintegrated midstream with the casualty on board; the early morning call at the bivvy site by **Gladys Pugh**, cunningly disguised as the RSM: 'Bing, Bong—Good morning, campers. The pony trekking will start in 45 minutes. The ponies haven't turned up, but we're going just the same—Bing Bong'.

The eventual result was extremely close (as it was last year), but the section led by **LCpl Tam Bennie** was finally beaten into second place by that led by **LCpl Dave Toombes**.

All in all then, an ambitious and varied camp, greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

The DS team doubles in at the end of the competition

THE CHEEK OF IT ALL!!

The Chief Clerk and the Yeoman were discussing the rigours of Warcop during their Staff Sergeant's Course, which they had the dubious pleasure of attending together. 'Ah' said the RSM who was sitting at the same table, an ex-instructor from Catterick—'You only had to go through it once!, I had to do it 30 times'. 'Ah' replied the Yeoman 'But you passed it in the end, didn't you Sir'.

5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(205 Sig Sqn)
Aldershot

CHANGE OF RSM AND QM

Amidst a large number of Squadron postings the two notable changes are those of RSM and QM. We bid **WO1 Hunt** farewell and wish him the best of luck in his new job in Liverpool. The QM **Capt Meredith** leaves the Army to join the residents of Civvy Street. Both have played a major part in reorganising the Sqn from a part TA organisation into a regular unit with world wide commitments.

EX 'PHOENIX STEP'

After a delayed start because of potential strikes the Squadron took part in the Brigade Battle Camp at Stanford. 'Phoenix Step' had several phases, dry training, a defence exercie and an airborne exercise.

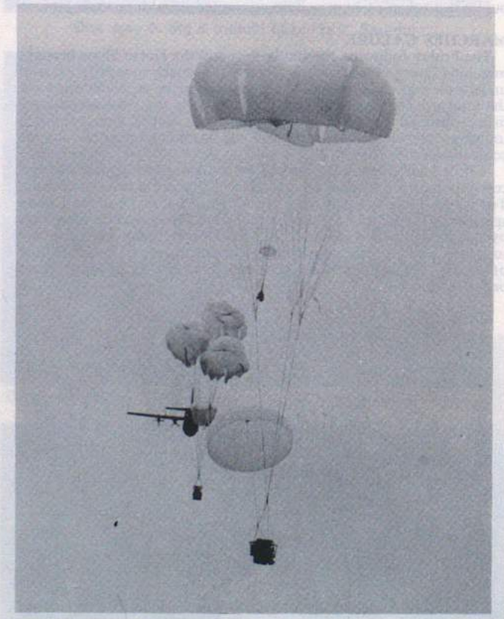
After three days of dry training on patrol skills and anti ambush drills the Squadron was ready for the defence exercise. Unbelievable enthusiasm, after a little 'prompting', was shown in trench digging. **LCpl Burrows** was actually volunteering to dig Brigade Staff Trenches! The Techs were even digging before putting a kettle on! The exercise went well, despite OC B Tp doing his best to murder two of A Tp during an attack whilst vacating a smoke filled trench. Eventually the RSM's never ending supply of pyro and cam cream was exhausted and we moved back for the final phase. The ABEX went well with **Cpl Bob Elliott** and **LCpl Banner** both managing to get their first Battalion Jumps.

A Brigade sports day also took place with the Squadron walking away (too tired to run) as the 7 a-side victors.

LCpl Eddie Mair 'dashes' for his trench

Cpl 'Fritz' Arunasalon and LCpl 'Bernie' Bernstein of 614 TACP moving out of Brigade HQ

Advance elements of 3 Para including 566 RLD and 614 TACP drop on to Frog Hill at dusk



566 RLD's vehicles on their way to Frog Hill! (PXR point—Convoy drills not up to BAOR standards!)

A TROOP

Pressure has been high on the Troop as continuous exercises are coupled with half the Troop away doing P Coy. Best of luck to them anyway and hopefully they won't suffer 'cherry berry' disease at the end of it.

A lot of Troop members have left us recently. Troop OC **Lt Mark Edwards** has moved to Trg Wing pending departure from the unit. The Troop would like to pass on their thanks for all his efforts in the Troop and wish him the best of luck.

Cpl Tony Vivian goes to RSC, **Cpl Pete Ball** to 14 Sig Regt, **LCpl** Red Nose **Dewar** is going to 'instruct' at RMAS. **LCpl Eddie Mair RE** is, unfortunately, leaving the Army altogether. **Sig 'Big John' Christer** goes to 549 RLD, **Sig 'Joey' Robinson** to 30 Sig Regt and **Sig Kev Argust** goes to 540 RLD. The Troop wish you all the best of luck in your new units and **Eddie Mair** in Civvy Street.

The three replacements for them are **LCpl Steve Myers** from 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, **Sig Vince Clark**, from 602 Sig Tp and the new Tp CO, **Lt Bruce 'Obi Wan' Knobel** who has arrived from places foreign.

Finally congratulations to **Cpl 'Taff' George** and **LCpl Burrows** on their promotions.

B TROOP

Brave Tp has also seen a lot of departures, **Sgt 'Taff' Williams** who goes to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Dennis Greasley** to 14 Sig Regt and **Cpl Jim Smith** who is leaving the Army. Good luck to all of them and welcome to their replacements **Sgt Mick Herbison, Cpl Brown, Sig Fivash** and **Payne.** Congratulations to **Sig Marty O'Gara** and **Janet** and to **Sig Merrit** and **Tanya** on their marriages. Congratulations are also in order for **LCpl Tony Cody** and wife **Diane** on the birth of a baby boy.

TM TROOP

After successfully negotiating Tele and PRE TM Tp has played soldiers along with the rest of the Squadron sacrificing even basic necessities such as a quick brew in favour of a quick trench. **SSgt Todd** (I've got my Corps Colours) **O'Brien** has been shooting off playing Rugby and training for P Coy. Several people have suffered injuries in trying to follow **Cpl Bob Elliott** as Airborne Techs but hopefully all will recover and try again soon.

AIRBORNE

Boneheads Unite! As a number of the Squadron depart to try their luck on P Coy at Depot Para; more volunteers are needed. Pre Para Courses run throughout the year. Any volunteers should apply to this Squadron via their unit Training Wing. We still have a lot of vacancies so give it a go.

SQUADRON FOOTBALL—SE DIST MINOR UNITS CUP FINAL

On 30 March the Squadron Soccer team played in the SE Dist Minor Units Cup Final against the RMP depot—last years winners.

Being the underdogs and remembering the old adage that time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted the RSM, **Sgt Ralph Smith** (team manager) and **Sgt Larry Little** (star fullback!) went to watch the opposition play a league match. With the recce successfully completed the battle plans were made. The main danger man in the opposition team had been identified and **Sig John Pole** was tasked to mark him.

Within the first few minutes of the match the Squadron were on the attack and did not look overawed by the strength of the opposition. After 10 minutes **LCpl Dennis O'Toole** got the ball on the edge of the penalty area, after some good midfield work by **Sig 'Ginge' Willimont**, and threaded a shot through a crowd of defenders into the net. The rest of the first half was very even, the Squadron still leading 1—0 at half-time.

The second half was rather different. The opposition, clearly more determined, dominated the first part of this half and scored a good equalising goal. However the squadron team showed a lot of spirit and fought back bravely, the defence holding out well and **Spr 'Woody' Wood** in goal making some fine saves. The Squadron still looked dangerous on the attack especially **Sig Dunn** who twice came near to scoring. With 10 minutes to go a break away by the midfield led to a scramble in front of the RMP goal and **Sig 'Zak' Liversey** put the ball into the net. Despite the continued pressure by the opposition during the last 10 minutes the Squadron held on to win 2—1. A great performance by all the team and the first sports trophy the Squadron has won since moving into SE District.

Important Footnote: After the match the OC brought a round of drinks in the Cpls Club!

POSTSCRIPT

SQUADRON FOOTBALL. The Squadron team were runners up in the SEDIST Minor units league—Well done.

P Coy. Well done to the following members of the Squadron who have just passed P Coy. **Cpl Leyman, LCpl Houlden RCT** and **Barnett, Sig Clark, Haynes, Philbrick, Pinto dos Santos** and **Evans.**

The Sqn football team with WO2 (RSM) Bill Hunt, Maj John Stuart and Sgt Ralph Smith

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

OC	**Maj Ashley Truluck**
2IC	**Capt Jo Fletcher**
OC Sp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC Comms	**2Lt James Bertram**
SSM	**WO2 Ron Smith**
YofS	**WO2 Trevor Taylor**
FofS	**WO2 Larry Proctor**
FofS	**SSgt Chris Wilkie**
SQMS	**SSgt Bomber Brown**
Radio SSgt	**SSgt Tony Pollard**

SETTLING INTO CATTERICK

24 Inf Bde is now well established in Yorkshire having returned from BAOR in March. The squadron has settled into its new home in Gaza Barracks Catterick, conincidentally last occupied by 24 Sig Regt. Thanks in no small measure to the hospitality and practical assistance given by the HQ and Regiments of the Training Group Royal Signals, the move into Catterick has gone remarkably smoothly.

FIRST UK EXERCISE

The settling in period was spiced by a programme of CSSH installation culminating in a proving exercise *Eagles Flutter* where we learned to our delight that all that had been said about CLANSMAN VHF was true.

The following week we deployed with the rest of the Division, our Brigade Staff and battalion Rear Link Detachments on Exercise *New Key*. We covered many miles over what will probably become familiar training ground around Catterick, Feldon, Ripon and Langdale Forest near Scarborough.

THE RUNAWAY AUTO

Some detachments covered the miles on Ex *New Key* rather quicker than expected. EAGLE PAPA's Auto Exch/Msg Cen vehicle became a runaway whilst descending a 1 in 4 gradient near Sutton Bank.

The speedometer told the story as first the clutch and then the brakes burnt out. The Auto's forward momentum was only arrested when it shunted the Engr Ops FFR in front of it. The detachment commander, **Cpl Alex Rennie** and **Sig Mark Bougard** were seen to be a whiter shade of pale for several days afterwards while Engr Ops now insists on travelling at the back of our vehicle packets on every move.

BACK TO BAOR

Our links with BAOR remain strong. **Brig Last** paid a visit to the squadron during Ex *New Key* in May about the same time as our BAOR Rear Party became our BAOR Advance Party. The transition marks our impending return to BAOR for Ex *Summer Sales* just two months after arriving in UK.

229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN)
BFPO 45

PREPARATIONS

The Squadron, in common with most other units in Berlin, has been concentrating on the 'ceremonial' for the past two months with all the preparations for the Allied Forces Day Parade and Queen's Birthday Parade. For both events we provide not only elements on parade but a great deal of command and control and public address communications. In the time spent preparing vehicles the air around the spray bay has been a permanent black and green haze. At one time the 'sprayers-in-chief' **Cpl Goater** and **Sig Stevens** had collected so much paint on themselves that they disappeared everytime they stopped beside a finished landrover.

Both events were a great success, the would-be demonstrators at the Allied Forces Day Parade were so completely outplayed by the West Berlin Police that they did not even bother to turn up for the Queen's Birthday Parade!

ALL WENT WELL

On Allied Forces Day Parade **Lt Green** and **SSgt Elliott** had a leisurely day representing the Squadron in the mechanised drive past, whilst **Sgt Haslam** took the hot seat in charge of the control communications. MQ and L Troop beavered away behind the scenes providing the Public Address and telephone facilities under the supervision of the TOT, **Maj Day**, **Sgt Beeley** and **Sgt Kelly**. The period straight after the parade was spent putting the vehicles back into their normal operational configuration again in preparation for a Squadron exercise and PRE. Thankfully everything fitted back together amid cries of 'we have the technology' and 'have you seen my meccano set'?!

Sgts Myerscough and **Lewis** were our leading representatives on the Queen's Birthday Parade, whilst Radio Troop provided the Marshalling communications and MQ and L Troop wired the various commanders for sound, and looked after the Public Address and telephone facilities at both Parade and Reception.

Sgt Kelly, Cpl Durnall and LCpl Lazenby, just a few of our men behind the scenes of the AFDP

LCpl Murray, recently arrived from the Apprentices College Harrogate, obviously enjoying his first experience of Allied co-operation

WIVES OPEN DAY

Saturday 28 May saw another first for the Squadron with the wives having been invited to an Open Day at Ruhleben Fighting City. The idea was the brain child of **LCpl Doughty** who, assisted by **Cpl Little**, did most of the organisation. The aim of the event was to show the ladies what their husbands actually do for a living. Various child minders were volunteered, namely, **Cpl Duffy, Sig Harris, Will** and **Garrity**. As it happened they more than earned their pay once **Sgt Lewis** had broken the film projector: rumour has it that this upset members of the Squadron more than the youngsters who appeared to be deeply engrossed in trying to assassinate **Cpl Duffy** and his assistants. All the ladies went off to try their skills on the various stands which involved driving ability (or lack of it!), line laying, a booby trapped house, mast erecting, vehicle camouflage and communications tests. By lunch time it became apparent there was a great deal of hidden talent among the Squadron wives, the OC was heard talking about including them in future alert exercises. An all-in stew was served as a typical exercise meal and there was certainly none left by the time it came to attempt the assault course.

The shortened course proved quite demanding and a fitting end to the day's activities. The final events were a Bar-BQ at RFC followed by a disco in the Squadron Club. Many war stories were heard that night as everyone relaxed at the end of a most enjoyable day.

Squadron Wives on parade eager to find out what their husbands get up to in a normal working day

RADIO TROOP

To celebrate the arrival of Summer the Troop organised its first Bar-BQ of the year at the Canoe Club, in the rain! Sadly it was **Sgt Billy Haslam's** last social event as he and his wife **Pat** are shortly departing for Dortmund. To mark the occasion, all the lads decided to throw him off the jetty. The disco was run by our own **Sig Evans** and everyone had a most enjoyable evening despite the weather. The Troop is now concentrating on its operational role after the light relief of the parade season, and by the time this goes to press will have spent two days out in the wild of the Grunewald sorting out equipment and procedures. We welcome **Sgt Tony Freeman** and his wife **Sue**, who arrived recently from Hemer and say farewell to **Sgt Haslam** and **Pat** and **Cpl Brine** and **Gillian**. Congratulations are due to **Sig Garrity** and **Carol** on the birth of their daughter **Nicole** and to **LCpl Williamson, Sig Martin** and **Sig Meadway** who have recently married.

Radio Troop 'farewell photograph' for Sgt Billy Haslam

COMMCEN TROOP

Royal Signals Manning and Record Office appear to have embarked on a Spring Clean of the Berlin Army Commcen with no fewer than seven departures and seven new arrivals in the past two months. We say goodbye to: **Sgts Alan Gold, Mick Jenkins, Dave Walker, Cpl John Saunders, LCpl Ian Groves, Frank Massingham, Sig Ian Taft** and welcome to: **SSgt Steve McKechnie, Sgt Roy Gipson, Sgt Ken Myerscough, Cpls Paul Draper, Bob Dodd, Pete Hewitt** and **LCpl Henry Newton**. This represents about 30% of the Troop which has left us wondering whether the 'trickle posting' system has been replaced by 'spurt posting'. Commcen Troop continued their social programme with an evening in the Squadron Club using 'horse racing' as a theme. The event was organised by **Cpl Johnson**, ably assisted by a couple of honest apprentices, **Sgt Gipson**, one of the new arrivals, and **LCpl Massingham**, one of the departing members. The evening was rounded off with a Chinese buffet washed down with refreshment from the 'on course' bar.

MQ & L TROOP

As can been seen from other parts of these notes, MQ & L Troop have been heavily committed behind the scenes at all the recent 'high profile' events. Their talents were not confined to matters technical either with **WO2 (RQMS) Brown** playing a key role in the preparation of the Jahn Platz for the QBP Reception. A special mention is due to **LCpl Cummings** and his PA van who must by now have attended more Parades, Open Days, Fêtes, Friendship Days, Skill-at-Arms Meetings and Sporting Fixtures than almost anyone else serving in Berlin. In amongst all the work, the Troop Commander **Maj Day** has found time to introduce several members of the Squadron to the mysteries of wind surfing and his protégés can now be seen skimming across the Havel with the greatest of ease—well, more or less!

SPORT

The Squadron has continued with its usual frenzied sporting programme. Having been forced to relinquish some of the trophies we won last year we have started to make a new collection to fill up the gaps in the cupboard.

Our Basketball team continues to contribute, having won the Minor Units section of the Brigade Competition and becoming runner up in the overall competition to RAF Gatow. The team now holds the titles of BAOR runner up, 3 Armd Div Champions, Brigade Minor Units League and Knockout Competition winners. Next year's team could well be as strong as this year's providing we can find someone with the stopping power (our opponents will understand the remark) of the SSM, **WO2 Wilson**, who is due to leave Berlin in the Autumn.

The hockey team also finished the season well retaining the Minor Unit league title. Earlier, they had won the 3 Armd Div Minor Units Championships and narrowly missed getting through to the BAOR finals as half the team found themselves unable to leave Berlin on the day of the semi-finals.

A new sport was added to the list this year when the Brigade Orienteering Championships were held for the first time. Interest in the sport was started with the arrival of an OC who preferred orienteering to marathon running and boosted when the new OC Radio Tp proved to be a bit of an expert as well. Our first events were held at Squadron level and then the Brigade League was started by which time there was a nucleus of good runners. The championship winning team consisted of the OC **Maj Storr, Lt Green** and **LCpl McMahon**, with **Lt Green** taking third individual place. The team later went on to compete in the BAOR championships over terrain which was far more demanding than anything available in Berlin. Standards were extremely high and the Squadron team only just managed to qualify as a guest team for the Army Championships later this month.

The Squadron also despatched two teams on the Harz Navigation Marathon and though neither teams finished particularly high in the results list, everyone gained much valuable experience for next year. After the first day during which our competitors covered about 70 kms and climbed the equivalent of 6000 ft, the Yeoman of Signals, **WO2 Cowen**, ruined his reputation by falling asleep over a pint of shandy!

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

APPOINTMENTS

Postings in and out of the Squadron have been numerous. We welcome all recent arrivals and to those that have left wish every success.

Capt Richard Blum arrived from Catterick in February as 2IC with the departure of **Capt Steve Jones** and his wife **Marion** for the Royal Australian School of Signals. We wish them both the very best of luck for the future.

April saw the departure of the OC, **Maj Dick Thwaites**, who takes up an appointment in MOD. We welcome **Maj Tony Kimber** and his wife **Elizabeth** to the Squadron.

We also say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Roger Gibson** who departed for a tour in Belize. **WO2 (FofS) John Jones** arrived from Cyprus to take his place.

DETACHMENT TO BELIZE

One of the many overseas commitments is to continuously provide two operators for tours of six weeks in Belize. During their tour they are based at Airport Camp and attached to the Tactical Air Operations Centre (TAOC), whose job it is to provide a HF Air Safety Net for Pumas and Gazelles, and a flight watch for incoming VC10 and Hercules Aircraft. The Shift system leaves ample time for visits with opportunities for Windsurfing, Sailing and Scuba Diving. Not to be missed is a trip into Belize City itself with all its associated delights.

BRAVO TROOP DETACHMENT ON ASCENSION ISLAND

In late January a party from Bravo Tp arrived on Ascension Island to assist in the manning of the British Joint Forces Signals Organisation, as part of the RAF Tactical Communications Wing Detachment.

Eleven in all went out to find **LCpl Gaz 'the Fliff' Johnson, Sig 'Taff' Sheppard** and Telemech **'Joat' Jackson** already hard at work. **Sig Sheppard** has now eventually and gratefully left the Island. The rumours that he attempted to return to Brize Norton by sea from North East Bay are unfounded!

The majority of the party work in the Georgetown Commcen, alongside some of the 'light blue' element. These are known as the 'Bungalow' workers and have appalling working conditions; being within walking distance of three bars, the beach and their accommodation! **Sig 'the Mute' Swiffen**, in his never-ending quest to tunnel back to UK had to have five stitches in his head having tried to dive into a rock pool that was complete except for sea water. **Sig Paul 'the Head' Humphreys** continues to keep the Island barber busy with his all too frequent head shaves. **LCpl 'Charlie' Kerr** specialises in impressions of a educationally sub-normal gorilla, and falls asleep in the strangest of places.

A small element is employed at Air Operations, where the real work gets done. **Cpl Graham Miles** and **Cpl John 'play for a beer' Ward** help maintain an industrious shift system, especially at nights. **Sig Jackson** appears to spend most of his time trying to repair the non existent telephone in the Beach Safety Hut. Still, as he says to himself, you can't expect much from a 'bush' (local adjective for Forces employees of low standing). The 'trees' **Lt Gareth** 'where's my bed?' **Smith** and **Sgt Bob** 'perforations' **Hooper** spend most of their time working out who's going back and when.

The Detachment has had a very successful sports record; providing players for the team going to the Finals of the Commander's Cup in Basketball and Football. **LCpl Johnson** and **Sig Jackson** are both members of the Island Forces Football Team, who are unbeaten to date.

Social activity is mainly confined to the Two Boat Clubs in Two Boats. Rumour has it that **Cpl Ward** has yet to buy a beer on the Island. The darts team remains a strong force on the Island; the double vision from the local beer assists greatly.

Overall appreciation: weather warm, beer cold, no complaints now that we know when we're going (except for the Boss and even he's happy now).

EXERCISE 'TACOMMEX 2/83'

Elements of Bravo and Charlie Tps departed for Denmark on 6 Feb, the remainder of Bravo Tp were in the Ascension Islands. Our first impressions of Denmark were that the climate was slightly different from ours. It was freezing; all the Arctic equipment held by the squadron had been issued to Alpha Tp for Ex *Hardfall*, in Norway.

Lt John Hall was in command of the detachment, **Lt Gareth Smith** had volunteered for the harder tour on Ascension. The exercise was staged on Jutland deploying from RDAF Skrydstrup to various training areas. These particular areas were patrolled by War Dogs which were permitted to roam free; a fact which was not made clear until afterwards.

Despite the all pervading snow, sleet and wind—no mention shall be made of the sherpa van employed in the cross country role—the exercise was a success.

Lt John Hall leads a mixed denomination prayer meeting, ably assisted by WO2 (YofS) Dave Gruncell

ALPHA TROOP—BASIC ARCTIC SURVIVAL COURSE IN NORWAY

The course started with an introduction to NATO Planks (Army Cross Country Skis). After a few days learning to balance on this precision made equipment we put on our Bergens and were told to 'ski up that mountain!', easier said than done! On reaching our destination we set about putting our evening lectures into practise and making little homes for ourselves.

We dug furiously for several hours and our icy residences finally took shape. They did look inviting! The night passed slowly and to our relief the snow walls were still around us, not on us! Filling in the hole is a lot easier and we were soon speeding back down to the Hotel. The culmination of three nights out was a Puma helicopter lift back to base.

THE REFRESHER COURSE

After *Hardfall '82* we all thought this was going to be easy! It was, apart from the skiing! **Lt 'Frans Kammer' Couch** just couldn't master the snow plough at first, but improved as time progressed. We believe he was doing some secret practise under flood lights. **LCpl 'Pig' Stannage** bottled out in the first week before we started the course due to some strained muscle we think!! Subsequently he was put in his rightful place, behind the desk at reception! **LCpl Kew** had something against skis, he kept breaking them, luckily that is all he broke.

The course lasted for 10 days and was designed to refresh all that we were taught last year. This included survival in the elements and living in snow holes and snow trenches. **Cpl 'Big Nose' Robinson** just watched and ate his rolos. Despite an early Spring, there was no shortage of snow.

RAF TACTICAL EVALUATION (TACEVAL)—RAF BRIZE NORTON

Annual Taceval is quite an experience, as all who have served with the RAF in recent years will know. It's rather like being submitted to a combination of basic training and an Army Fitness For Role Inspection; all in one week! RAF Brize Norton's Taceval took place in early April. The only light relief from the horrors of having RAF personnel playing at being soldiers was the look of pure disbelief on the faces of the new OC and 2IC who had not experienced the delights before.

On day four a large slice of the Squadron was flown out by Hercules to Salisbury Plain with part of the RAF sister Squadron. Several night moves later it was all over. The Wing had come through with flying colours unlike some other hapless Squadrons.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

SHOOTING IN 262

Report by Sgt Graham Reith

The Squadrons' top marksmen begin competitive shooting in November with the Cyprus Service Rifle Small Bore winter league which is run by our own **Sgt Keith Bridger.** This competition is fired over six months, each person in the team firing a set of 3 cards a month from the standing, kneeling and prone positions. The team consisted of **Sgts Keith Bridger, Graham Reith** and **Mal Geer, Cpls Chris Bean** and **Pete Latham** and **Sig Ian Richardson.** The team were the eventual winners with **Sgt Keith Bridger** also winning the individual prize for the highest aggregate score and **Sgt Graham Reith** runner up. **Sgt Keith Bridger** made a clean sweep by also winning the individual small bore target rifle competition. This was all good training for full bore which began in March when **Sgt Graham Reith** (Team captain) took over and began a fairly intensive training programme for NESAM 83 which was held at Akrotiri ranges on 5 and 6 May and at Dhekelia ranges on 10, 11 and 12 May. The many hours of training paid off as the Squadron won the section match which was a bit of a blow to the 8 Infantry teams taking part from 1st Bn Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and 2nd Bn The Grenadier Guards. **Sgt Graham Reith** had an unlucky incident when his Breach Block Broke (a new tongue twister) which thankfully was more of a personal disaster than a team one.

Individuals were also placed as follows: **Sgt Keith Bridger** runner up in Stage 1 of the rifle match and finished 3rd overall in the individual rifle championships. **Cpl Chris Bean** finished 18th in the individual rifle championship and **Sgt Graham Reith** 15th in the individual SMG championship.

The Squadron also entered a WRAC SMG team consisting of **Lt Nicky Thomas, WO2 Eileen Hobson, Cpls Jeanette Allen** and **Wendy Hunter.** Also a falling plate B team of **Maj Malcolm Emslie, Sgts Martin Leighfield** and **Dave Gunn** and **Sig Jim Burgess** and a pistol team of **Maj Malcolm Emslie, Capt David Potter** and **Sgt Roy Isbell.**

The final results in the Minor Unit Championship was Episkopi Garrison 1st, 62 (Cyprus Support) Sqn RE 2nd and 262 Sig Sqn a very creditable 3rd. This means that the Squadron has qualified for RSSAM at Bisley and will also enter the Corps shoot at Bulford the week before.

The team for Bisley will be **Sgt Graham Reith** (Team Captain), **Sgt Martin Leighfield, Cpls Chris Bean, Pete Latham** and **Sig Jim Burgess. Sgt Keith Bridger** is unfortunately posted, so unable to attend. Finally a big thank you to the '5 shooting widows' who have so cheerfully put up with our absence.

The Sqn Shooting Team: *L—R* Back row: Sgt Martin Leighfield, Sgt Graham Reith, Cpl Pete Latham
Front row: Cpl Chris Bean, Sgt Keith Bridger

Sgt Graham Reith and his wife Moira with his individual prizes

NEWS FROM CAPE GRECO

It has been a busy period for the Cape since last summer with a large turnover of personnel. There has also been the usual stream of visitors with several units 'borrowing' our rock to clamber over. The Cape has had success on the recent Sgt to SSgt promotion board, with **Sgt Nick Terry,** the powerman/storeman being selected. But work must go on and arranging a 'dead' standby generator to be taken away for rejuvenation is all in a days work.

RECENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Greco continues to 'shine' on the sporting scene with **LCpl Kev Lees RPC** gaining Army colours for rugby. **Sgt Dave Kingdom,** the station supervisor being selected for the Army hockey squad (must have been a veteran team!) **LCpl Bob Kirby** played football for the ESBA and is now playing for Ormedia a local side. **Sgt Jimmy Scoular** proved to be the Arnold Palmer of the Squadron (he's nearly as old!) by playing golf for the Army. **Sgt Hadge Watkins** has been a leading light on the squash scene and is now the ESBA secretary. The Foreman, **WO2 John Turvey** is now leading the Garrison athletics team instead of the cross country team. Finally **Sgt Graham Reith** has captained for the second year running the Squadron shooting team which is shortly off to Bisley.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

All Ace High stations, within 6 ATAF region are annually assessed by a three man team from Izmir, Turkey where the Local Control Organisation (LCO) is situated.

So in March the team led by a Colonel from the US Army and supported by two USAF SNCO's spent a weeek at the Cape giving it a thorough going over. The areas covered included system management and performance, security, safety and welfare. This year the station gained an 'excellent' grading and was second out of the twelve Forward Scatter Stations in this area. So for this Greco received an award for overall excellence.

STATION COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

This is also an annual occurrence hosted by the LCO at their headquarters in Izmir for all station commanders and supervisors in the 6ATAF region. So **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** and **Sgt Dave Kingdom** attended from Greco and **Maj Malcolm Emslie** went as the BFC representative. The conference format was three days of presentations by various Ace High and NICS personalities culminating in the Awards Ceremony Dinner. **Maj Malcolm Emslie** was presented with an award for giving outstanding support to Cape Greco over the past year and **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** collected the station's award for outstanding excellence in the same period. This meant that the Foreman had to go on stage for a change, which is different from his more normal backstage role in amateur dramatics.

Sgt Dave Kingdom would have joined them but he was too busy standing on his chair cheering! So to make up for this, later in the evening, he rolled up his trousers and took the stage to partner a belly-dancer, much to the enjoyment of the rest of the party.

WO2 (FofS) JohnTurvey (first left) collecting Cape Greco's award at the annual FSS Commanders Conference in Izmir, Turkey

FEATURING FOREMAN

262 Sig Sqn has two WO2 Foreman of Signals. **WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford** who when not at the Yacht Club or elsewhere in a boat is the Squadron FofS. **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** is the Station Commander at that Royal Signals outpost at the South Eastern tip of Cyprus, otherwise known as FSS Cape Greco.

Both Foremen are perhaps better known for their non-technical activities, as they devote much of their spare time to extra mural pursuits. **FofS John Turvey** to running and athletics and **FofS Alan Mockford** to the Dhekelia Yacht Club and Morris Dancing. **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** covers possibly more miles per year running than many of us clock up in our cars. He is perhaps the personification of

WO2 (FofS) John Turvey with many of the trophies he has won for running whilst in Cyprus

'Jimmy' only needing the cleft stick to complete the picture. Our photograph shows him with some of the many trophies he has won since coming to Cyprus in September 1981. They include:

All Island Major Unit X-Country Championships	-	1st
Combined Sevices X-Country League	-	2nd Overall
Waterloo Eight—8 miles around Dhekelia Garrison including the 'Snake' and 'Cemetery Hill'	-	1st
Akrotiri 10—Ten miles around Akrotiri	-	1st
Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia—15 miles	-	1st
CYPRUS SERVICES MARATHON	-	1st

in a time of 2 hrs 29 mins 02 secs which broke the previous record by 11 seconds and was 4 minutes in front of his nearest rival

He was also Captain of the Army Cyprus X-Country Team which beat the RAF Cyprus Team with all ten runners in the first eleven places.

An impressive record.

Our photograph shows **WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford** (on the left) encouraging **Sgt Martin Leighfield** in the art of Morris Dancing. The Morrismen are a group who entertain with traditional English Country Dancing collecting a modest fee, most of which goes to charity. Cheques have recently been sent to BLESMA for £125 and the Cyprus Cancer Foundation for £C280. The FofS, who is about to leave the Island on posting, persuaded **Sgt Martin Leighfield** to join the group as his replacement, as numbers are dwindling. As part of the 'fee' is traditionally free beer, not much persuasion was necessary. **FofS Mockford** has also been Sailing Secretary, Bar Member and more recently Vice Commodore of Dhekelia Yacht Club, a post he vacates on posting. As the FofS himself explains, 'it has kept me busy and out of mischief!'

By the time this goes to press **WO2 Alan Mockford** will have departed to Rheindahlen, his place being taken by **WO2 (FofS) Dave Jackson** who has moved all the way from 9 Sig Regt. To **FofS Mockford** farewell and to **FofS Jackson** and family the Squadron bids a warm welcome (what else in Cyprus in June!)

L—R: WO2 (FofS) Alan Mockford and Sgt Martin Leighfield Morris Dancing

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

A NEW PACE

With the advent of the new four month tour the turn-round replacement programme has speeded up to a new pace. The new OC, **Maj Bob Brewis** has a diary full of dates for new arrival briefings. **Maj Rodney Clare** departed in fine style—his aircraft was on the runway when it was delayed for 24 hours and much to his chagrin he had to be met by **Sgt Colin Thirkettle** who took great delight in pointing out all the prominent landmarks of Stanley on **Maj Clare's** return from the airfield.

To let. South Atlantic Chalet. Sleeps 3/4. Ideal for radio relay Operators and Powermen. Min 3 to 4 week lets available. Food and heating incl

RADIO RELAY TROOP NOTES
TALES FROM THE HILLS
Tp Comd: Lt R. F. M. Cousins
Tp SSgt: SSgt D. Glanville

Radio Relay Troop have 10 detachments all working more or less permanently. They are distributed the length and breadth of the Islands, mostly on hill tops but some on the lower ground near settlements. The detachments hitting the headlines recently have been:

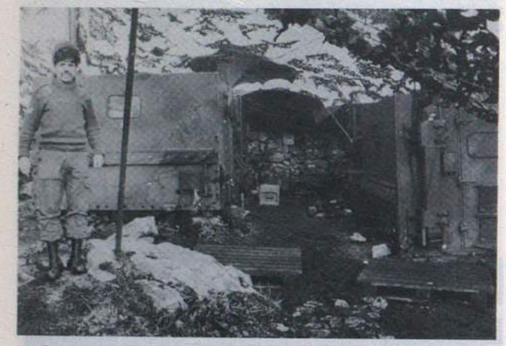
CAMPITO

Cpls Robbie Carroll, Geordie Kears, LCpl Pete Longworth and **Sig Geordie Robson** struck fame when they burnt their stores tent. The most spectacular loss was that of 30 ten man compo boxes. Spectacular because of the sight of exploding compo cans. A large area of Campito hill was for a time a foot deep in over cooked sausage and beans!

MT ADAM

In the dark days of last January a RR box was lifted on to the top of Mt Adam—height 2297ft, a mere 15ft from being the highest point in the Falklands. The crew then were **SSgt 'JJ' Thompson, Cpl Smudge Smith, LCpl Pete Longworth** and **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones.** After proving the circuit they were collected by Chinook. To relieve the boredom **SSgt Thompson** attempted to go Hang gliding in a 12ft × 12ft tent, luckily for all concerned **LCpl Jones** leapt to the rescue and restrained him six feet away from a 250ft drop; an act for which he received the CBF's commendation.

On 15 February the det was manned once again this time by **Cpl Bill Medland, Sig Skipp** and **LCpl Dave Romans** (The ED). **Skipp's** comments on seeing the site are unrecorded but his finger nail marks remain to this day on the floor and side of the Sea King. By now they have built a rather impressive building with a prefabricated cabin, a dry stone wall and two tons of timber and wriggly tin.



Cpl Robbie Carroll—the Det Comd at A Site near Ajax Bay

SALVADORE HILL

This location—now known as Fort Ludlam can boast a seven foot high three foot thick drystone wall with scots pine planted inside—but let them tell their own story:

Prisoners:

Cpl Stu 'Bumble anywhere' Johnstone (Det Comd) captured at 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

LCpl Martin 'I can cook anything' Robson (Tech) captured at 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn

Sig Roy 'I can fix it' Bray (21C)

Sig Steve 'Where's the grub' Mitchell (31C) captured at 7 Sig Regt

Sig Steve 'Lost Sheep' Saunders-Crook (ED) captured at 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt.

Fort Ludlam was built by **Cpl Steve Ludlam** (7 Sig Regt) and various crews whilst serving in the Falklands.

Now that winter has closed in on us we must convey our thanks to **Roy** 'I can do miracles to Aladdin heaters without the aid of wicks' for supplying the much needed heat. Additional heat was supplied by **Martin** 'I can cook anything so long as it comes from a can' **Robson** while sweating over a No 2 burner, and under the beady eye of our resident Gannet **Steve Mitchell.**

Our residence concluded, the DC decided one day to take a bumble down to the Penguin Colony dragging in **Steve** 'lost sheep' **Sanders-Crook.** Whilst bumbling back to the Fort we received an appeal for assistance over the 2 meter radio. The shepherds, alias **Roy** and **Mitch** were dispatched to recover the lost sheep.

On returning to the Lone comforts of Fort Ludlam the first words uttered by **Sig Saunders-Crook** 'I'm not leaving this hill again, unless it's by chopper'. The rest of the crew were much relieved by this declaration. We're not saying that this place is isolated but the only time we see a chopper is when the pilot is lost and asks for direction.

Finally we would like to convey our thanks to the locals for all the help and assistance rendered to all occupants of Fort Ludlam, and especially for the loan of a tractor. NB: At the moment there are a number of vacancies at Fort Ludlam—QM staff only need apply.

Self Service
SSgt Vince McGarry assists the aircrew to refuel the Scout at a lonely out detachment

CAPE ORFORD

Det commander **Cpl Phil Jefferies** with crew **LCpl Bob Brown, LCpl Dennis Feely** and **Sig Jock Brown** established the det in early February. The same crew have manned the det for 3½ months and are now in the process of being changed over. Having done their full training in huntin' and shootin' and fishin' it is now their turn to escape.

KELLYS GARDEN

The Detachment gallantly led by **Cpl Ken Gallagher** with **LCpl Jock McConachie** and **LCpl Wally Walpole,** have been playing musical Radio Relays. The entire det being picked up by chinook and dumped at various spots with scenic views of San Carlos water. They now seem to have settled in almost the right spot, within easy bread throwing distance of a chinook landing site.

SHAG COVE

The Det Comd was **Cpl Dennis Parkinson** ably assisted by **LCpl Mick O'Driscoll** and **Sig 'Nig' Allen.** The biggest excitement was moving the det, again by chinook, across the Falkland Sound to Goose Green. Whilst in the air they decided to play a game of conkers with the generator pallett and the Radio Relay box both of which were hanging below the helicopter. The pallett won and the crew now have a very well ventilated Radio Relay cabin.

PORT SAN CARLOS

Cpl Wally Westrop, LCpl Andy Lincoln and **Sig Jock Morrison** have had a relatively peaceful time up in Settlement Rocks, especially now that the chinooks have gone. No longer are there groups of green uniformed men standing around pointing to the sky saying 'Woka Woka' (Woka Woka is the onamatopoeic term that so aptly chafacterises the huge helicopter in flight). The 'Woka Woka' they miss most of all is the one that blew most of their det halfway across the Island., They are hoping that one day he will come back and help them find the many items that they have not recovered.

FLY TEENI-WEENI

By Lt Cousins

'There's been a fire at Campito—you are to head the board of inquiry. You'll have to go up there and do an immediate investigation. A 'chopper' has been booked for 1030 hrs': 'What sort of chopper?' I asked. 'It's a wasp' said the OC. 'Just like a scout except that it has wheels instead of skids'. No problem I thought and I set about collecting armfuls of bedding and clothing to replace that which had been lost in the fire. 1030 hrs came and found the OC, **Maj Bob Brewis** and myself waiting by the Government House helicopter arrival/departure lounge (A 6′ × 6′ × 6′ packing crate turned on its side). The southerly wind was gale force and still rising, the cloud base had come down to the sea and the temperature 2 or 3 degrees above zero. We waited for half an hour. I had more or less decided that no pilot in his right mind would be flying today when there came an angry buzzing from over Stanley Harbour. It was the wasp with its two man Naval crew battling manfully into the teeth of the wind. My doubts about the sanity of the pilot were reinforced by his rather dramatic landing. The machine came to a halt with the blades spinning about six feet from our heads. The carefully assembled pile of clothing for the hapless crew on Campito were blasted across the harbour. Exactly where they were blasted, I was unable to see from my hastily adopted prone position. As I looked round I saw that a particularly large bundle had been blown into a barbed wire fence, while a sleeping bag was rolling rapidly down the road causing mayhem with the traffic. The sleeping bag and much of the clothing were recovered. Upon closer observation the bits of green cloth stuck in the barbed wire fence turned out to be the OC.

Our composure regained as we approached the helicopter and the crewman ran out holding a life-jacket for me. 'Where's the rest of it?' I asked, pointing at the helicopter, for I could clearly see that this machine was incomplete—it looked like a half-built airfix model. Most conspicuous by their absence were the doors and seats. This of course aided loading. The luggage was quickly pushed into the place where the observers seat used to be. The observer, one passenger and myself were strapped to the floor and one of Heath-Robinsons more bizarre creations leapt into the antarctic wind.

The journey itself was uneventful but memorable, most of the time was spent recalling lectures on frostbite, hypothermia, wind chill factor and trench foot. Whilst on route the observer looked across, grinned and gave a 'thumbs up'; he was merely looking for some sign of response to ensure that his charges were still alive.,

Once disgorged at Campito there was about two hours work to be completed. This done we waited, with some trepidation, for the return of the helicopter. The weather, already bad, continued to deteriorate. The mist turned to rain, which turned to sleet. Darkness fell, I knew that helicopters did not fly in these conditions. I therefore made my way along the ridgetop to a location with a phone about a mile away. I had almost completed the journey when, out of the darkness came the familiar buzz of the wasp clawing its way through the air. With almost total disbelief I observed a scene which would be familiar to anybody who has seen 'Close encounters of the third kind'. Out of the gloom came a searchlight beam and a flashing red light. After such a sacrifice on the pilots part how could I refuse to go aboard? The return journey was made above the clouds, again 'sans' doors and seats. Anaesthetised by the cold I placidly sat still as the pilot made a descent through cloud in the dark without using radar. The cloud disappeared shortly before the ground appeared and Stanley lights, for once, looked quite appealing.

THE FALKLANDS PILGRIMAGE

On Saturday 9 April the *Cunard Countess* dropped anchor in San Carlos Water on a beautiful clear sunny morning within sight of the Blue Beach War Memorial. This was the first port of call for the *Cunard Countess* on her four day pilgrimage to the Falkland Islands for the dependents of those who died during the Falklands War. Private visits to the grounds were arranged for many of the dependents on the Saturday before a Service of Dedication the following day at the Blue Beach Cemetery.

After a naval Ceremony at sea in the Falkland Sound on Monday 11 April the *Cunard Countess* sailed for Port Stanley.

On Tuesday 12 April the dependents of **SSgt Joe Baker** and **Maj Mike Forge,** killed when their helicopter was shot down near Mount Pleasant were met by the Squadron 2IC **Capt Ken Wilson.** After spending an hour with all the officers and the RSM in Dolphin Cottage, the two families visited the Mount Pleasant memorial accompanied by **Capt Ken Wilson** and **Capt Peter Day** (the accompanying officer).

Many of the dependents were entertained by local families in and around Stanley before they departed for England on the *Cunard Countess*.

Sig Gary Parr who served in 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn during the Falkland Island War has returned for another tour of duty. He was an obvious selection to attend a commemorative service at Mount Pleasant. He reports:

Our Scout landed on Mount Pleasant on a cold, windy morning, on 9 April 1983. The Padre **Robin McDowall, Capt Richard Gittings, Cpl Geoff Young,** the two Pilots and myself made our way to the top of the Mount, where stood a large cross. There the padre conducted a service to commemorate the deaths of **Maj Mike Forge, SSgt Joe Baker** and the two Scout Pilots, who tragically lost their lives while on a rescue patrol during the Liberation of the Falklands in June 1982.

Lt Col Jim McLuckie and his pilot locating the memorial cross into its position on Mount Pleasant

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Because of the lack of facilities cross country running is the only organised competitive sport with regular fixtures. **WO1 (RSM) Bill Miles** is currently the Falkland Island Services Cross Country officer and ensures that meetings are held once a fortnight. During the past two months the Squadron has had some notable sucesses, and the team is proving to be too strong for any of the Tri Service opposition. The results below indicate just how strong the team is. And let no unit accuse this Squadron of 'Packing'.

The future looks bright, with four month tours the team changes rapidly, but fortunately the Squadron produces a sprinkling of good fit runners. This gives a good indication, that in this theatre, with a constant turnover of men, our Corps has quality fit soldiers in all units.

Stalwarts of the Squadron team have been **LCpl Latta** (21 Sig Regt), **Cpl McDine** (Junior Regt Royal Signals), **LCpl Brown** (28 Sig Regt), **Sig Barrass** (2 Inf Div Sig Regt) and of course **WO1 (RSM) Miles**—who has yet to beat the Commander British Forces.

We should add that the Squadron has been fielding a 'guest' runner, **Lt Col Gordon Howard.** It confuses the staff as to whether this is a Squadron or a Regiment!

RESULTS

10 Mile Road Race—April
1st 266 Sig Sqn
Individuals
1st LCpl Latta (21 Sig Regt)
3rd Cpl McDine (Junior Regt Royal Signals)
4th RSM Miles (late RSM 16 Sig Regt)
19th LCpl Brown (28 Sig Regt)

6 Mile Cross Country Race 'RAF Stanley'—May
1st 266 Sig Sqn
Individuals
1st LCpl Latta (21 Sig Regt)

4 × 3 Mile Relay 'Sapper Hill'—May
1st 266 Sig Sqn

POWER CRAZY

Sgt Colin Thirkettle had the surprise of his life on his first day in the Falklands. On being shown around his empire by **Cpl Andy Munro** their final destination was their office—the Power Shack. It had gone and to prove it the 'Rasser' was caught in the act as our photograph shows. Rumour has it that **LCpl Bomber Brown** (from 8 Sig Regt) was in it at the time!!

— News from Troops —

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

5 YEARS ON
Report by Sgt A. C. Reynolds

It is 5 years since I last served in Belize and for you Belize veterans here are some of the changes I have noticed.

COMMCEN SYSTEMS. A lot of new equipment has been installed. The COMMCEN is still busy and a new exchange has been installed (eat your hearts out ex Belizean Tele Mechs and TE Techs).

BELIZE CITY. Belize City has changed very little. The roads are worse and muggings and robberies are on the up. A lot of the bars have changed names and venues. The Big 'C' has now moved and is called the IO2. The establishment which has really taken over from the Big 'C' is 'Rauls Rose Garden'. Which as the Big 'C' was, is very popular with the troop. It is half way to Belize City and sells the well known bottle and four.

AIRPORT CAMP. The recereation facilities are a lot better now with video machines in all the messes. The MRS has been replaced by a hospital with a resident surgical team. The Troop has had several members in dock recently and is still top of the list there. Instead of two Battalions we now only have one, which is presently 2 Para.

REBRO'S. Alas, we no longer have detachements at Baldy Beacon and Big Falls.

CONCLUSION. 633 is a great unit to serve with as it offers job satisfaction and excellent opportunities to travel (USA, Mexico, etc). It is a place which you either love or hate and I believe most people look back with affection at their days with 633 Sig Tp.

FALKLANDS MEDAL PRESENTATION

Brig Pollard presented **Sig 'Bob' Allen, Andy Jennings** and **Pete Milner** with the Falklands medal on the 20 December 1982.

L—R Sig Joe Flood, Bob Allen, Andy Jennings and Pete Milner. Presented by Brig Pollard. Looking on is Cpl Mike O'Crowley. Obviously LCpl Ossie Butler (2nd rank far left) finds something more interesting

EX 'MOPAN RAMPART'

In January we had Ex *Mopan Rampart* which was a Belize wide defence exercise. Several detachments re-enforced us from 30 Sig regt. **Sgt Brian Ashton** and his detachments were flying back to UK by Hercules, but by the time they reached New Foundland, Canada, everyone had come down with a stomach complaint and had to spend 10 days in a hotel.

POPE'S VISIT

The Pope held a service on the airfield beside the camp during his whistle stop tour of Central America. Because of this camp security was stepped up and members of the troop found themselves patrolling the swamp.

May also saw the visit of HMS *Invincible and* **HRH The Prince Andrew.**

Hellos and Farewells. Members of the Troop who received their traditional 'Gozome' 'T' shirts were **Sig Bob Allen, Dog Belcher, LCpl Ossie Butler, Sgt Pelon Beall, Sig Luigi Dedman, LCpl Superop Harvey, Sig Kermit Crossland, Budha Jennings, LCpl Les Linnett, SSgt Spacehopper Nixon, Cpl Steve Smith, WO2 (YofS) (Days to do) Tait, WO2 (FofS) Les and Peggy Lightfoot, Maj John** and **Pam Graham, Sig Geordie Rigg, Cpl Scottie** plus many more.

We say hello to **WO2 (FofS) Roger** and **Janet Gibson, WO2 (FofS) Bernie Smith, Maj Lionell French, SSgt Mick (The Para) Lumgair,** and **Sgt Dave Millinton.**

NOBODY'S GOT THAT LONG TO DO!

639 Sig Tp
BFPO 23

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM
Report by SSgt B. Howe

OC	**SSgt Brian Howe**
TpCpl	**Cpl 'Chippy' Wood**
Radio Cpl	**Cpl John Coles**
Stores Cpl	**Cpl Aiden Verdon**

As promised in the distant past 639 Signal Troop once again extends greetings to the Corps, from the picturesque town of Celle, Niedersachsen.

Since our last contribution to *The Wire*, the troop has if possible, become an even greater asset to 94 Loc Regt RA. Not only in military matters but also in the sporting field.

SPORT

Looking at the sporting side of life first, namely Athletics, the Troop has recently assisted HQ Bty in achieving second place in the Regimental sports meeting held on 29 April. We not only played an important part in the organization of the HQ Bty team in the form of **SSgt Brian Howe,** we also showed the way to the winning pole on a few occasions. To mention all the achievements of the day would be big headed but the following should be mentioned: **Sig Frederich Winston Whyte** had an easy victory in the 200m, and along with **Sig Danny Hart** formed part of the 4×100m team which also crossed the line first. **SSgt Brian Howe,** just failing to take first place, came second in the 3000m. **Sig 'Higgy' Higgins** having been lulled into a false sense of security by a fellow competitor came second in the 1500m. **Cpl 'Paddy' Elliot** leapt to an easy win in the high jump.

Early on in the year the troop provided several competitors for the Arty Div Sub Unit sports meeting 6—9 April. With our assistance HQ Bty managed to take fourth place in the competition and was the highest placed HQ element. Our contribution in the form of bodies was given by **SSgt Brian Howe, Sig Simon Foote, 'Geordie' Harvey** and **'Higgy' Higgins** in cross country, **LCpl 'scouse'** (Fat Neck) **Collins** in rugby and **Sig 'Geordie' Harvey** again in football.

Now for the more mundane matters in Army life, work! Since September 1982 as always our Exercise calendar has been full, When not out in the field on Regiment or Battalion exercises, our services (Operating Skills) are offered to 3 RGJ the local Infantry Battalion or 22 Armd Bde at Hohne. This has enabled Junior members of the Troop to gain valuable experience not only in operating skills but also in Military matters.

Talking about Military skills, our illustrious leader took us on a four day nature tour of Scheuen Training Area. The time was spent jogging peoples minds and bodies back to the realities of Soldiering. This included night navigation, section battle drills, patrolling and thawing water bottles in the mornings. It was whilst planning a night patrol to meet up with a friendly Agent looking remarkably like **Cpl 'Paddy' Elliot,** that our leader decided to use the joke of the day as a recognition code. The key words being 'Shergar', the racing horse and 'Super Grass'. All went well until **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** arrived at the RV and met with the friendly Agent. After running through a list of names ranging from 'Cher Chan' to 'Bugs Bunny', he managed, by a stretch of the imagination, to get it right.

Now is there any Signalman in the Corps, who is bored with the everyday drudgery of routine and can handle a challenge? If so, and you are quick with your preference of posting form, you could be in time to take part in the next Troop competition, Ex *Super Signalman*. It is designed to find the top Signalman in the Troop, having been given a complete demonstration of the movement, by the NCOs.

Finally the Troop would like to extend belated greetings to **Cpl John Coles** and wife **Lyn, Cpl Aiden Verdon** and wife **Caroline, Sig 'Higgy' Higgins** and wife **Waltraud,** and **Sig 'Geordie' Harvey,** may they survive to tell the tale. Also farewell to **Cpl Bob Dillet** and wife **Doris, Cpl Dave Cooke** and wife **Shirley, LCpl Ivan Richards** and wife **Chris** and **LCpl John Tayne.**

Association News

FORMER PENSIONERS

Our thanks are due to our Regimental Pay Office, Taunton, who have reported the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

22541309	**Cpl J. T. Caven**
02312100	**Sgt W. A. C. Dowie**
01854141	**Sgt W. W. Goodyear**
01850416	**Sgt R. Hutchinson**

GUERNSEY BRANCH

At the AGM on 22 February the Branch Officers elected for 1983 are Chairman: **John Rudkin,** Vice-Chairman: **Peter Buchanan,** Hon Sec: **Len Barbe,** Hon Tres: **Stan Falla,** Social Sec: **Edna Chester,** Committee Members: **Vera Falla, Jim Remfrey, Tom Remfrey, Alvaro Salazer.**

On 21 May a Branch Dinner was held at the Hotel De Beauvoir at which the Guests of Honour were the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock,** and **Mrs Badcock.** In welcoming the Master, Chairman **John Rudkin** said that although Guernsey is one of the youngest branches of the Association the service rendered in the Corps by members spanned some 46 years of the 63-year history of the Corps.

Meeting every member personally before dinner, in his after-dinner address the Master outlined the present position of various Regiments, the wide-ranging role of the Corps and the recuiting needs. He also spoke with great feeling of the very active part played by our **Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Anne.**

The Master was presented with a traditional Guernsey Milk Can in copper, as a souvenir of his visit and **Mrs Badcock** was presented with a bouquet of Guernsey flowers.

Photo: Guernsey Evening Press

The Master of Signals is presented with a traditional Guernsey Milk Can by Guernsey Branch Chairman, John Rudkin

HARROGATE BRANCH

At the time of writing we are approaching the First Anniversary of the reconstitution of the Branch. Several members attended the Old Comrades Weekend at Catterick in July last year when the Standard was carried by **Mr Colin Grey.** This was the first time that the Standard had been carried on parade for many years.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking **Mr Les Strange** who has been the Standard Bearer virtually since the original inception of the Branch and who has now retired due to the pressure of his other ex-service commitments in the area.

Later in July, members enjoyed a Curry Supper and Disco at the Army Apprentices College. This was very well supported, was enjoyed by all attending and resulted in a healthy injection of cash into the Branch Funds. In March we were invited by the Leeds Branch to join them in the Annual Church Service at the Army Apprentices College. Later, members and their ladies retired to the various Messes for lunch.

The Branch meets regularly on the third Friday of every month at 'The Muckles' at West Park, Harrogate. Since this venue was decided upon, the turnout of members has been very encouraging. If you are an ex-member of the Corps and live in the Harrogate area, why not come along and join us! You are certain to have a good time and will probably meet several old friends.

We are now looking forward to the Catterick reunion in June and in the more distant future, the Branch is planning a Dinner and Dance in October.

Finally, we would like to thank **Col G. C. Verdon OBE** and the Staff of the Army Apprentices College for their help and co-operation in getting the Branch re-established.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by E. W. Vigurs, Esq

Having wisely elected our Officers and Committee for the ensuing year everything is going smoothly. After some diligent work by the Committee a proposition by **Gwen Hart** bore fruit and a Band Concert was arranged for 18 March. Alas we were not able to get our NUMBER ONE choice band, (Royal Signals of course), but happily through the good offices of our hard working Treasurer, **Maj R. L. Miller** , The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band, who have very strong ties with the Corps, stepped into the breach and they did us proud. A full house of over 250 enjoyed a bright, varied and very entertaining programme. Well done Committee and well done ladies. To the Middlesex Yeomanry Band—haste ye back!

OUR BLANDFORD REUNION— A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Report by Ex WO2 B. Howell (A.O.S. '39-'61)

Hail, and farewell! 1983 reunion at Blandford Camp, 15 May. I have become a very critical S.O.B., but the organisation could not be faulted. What a marvellous job was done by all concerned. It was all so very well done—what more can one say in praise?

The Curator of the museum must be especially praised for the really magnificent and dignified (yes! dignified—look at your Roget's Thesaurus, list 87N. dictionary 559n.821, etc) layout of our Corps historic equipment and records.

To fill my own personal cup with joy—a SWB 8E transmitter equipment at the main entrance—our very faithful, hardworking and most reliable 'friend' 1943, from India, Assam (with the 14th Army), Ceylon and finally Singapore on the occasion of the Japanese surrender, in 1946, from where I was first able to contact the War Office, London, Xmas/New Year '45/46 with a message to my late first wife.

Well met, **R. P. L. Smith**— 75 yrs young—ex-boy, 1923-38, joined at Crowborough, then on to Maresfield, Eastern Command, and on to the War Office Wireless service as a **Cpl.** I do hope he manages to meet up with **Maj Harfield,** Royal Signals Historical Rewards Officer with whom he had a date.

Well met, **'Ron' Shole**(?), doing reception for us old 'A.O.S.'s, and which teaches me never to 'gripe'. He took over as CO of Iceland 'C' Force Signals in 1942 (49th (WR) Sig. Regt(TA) as was) from our old CO in Norway, 1940, **Col Jackson,** (there was a song about that but I will not repeat it). I was up in the frozen north of Iceland at the time in Aukureyri, so CO's old and new did not come into my orbit.

Since we did not have a 'contact' board in reception I gave up trying to identify faces, but got on a bus to attend the retreat on Hawkes Square, and recognised an old CSM from Aldershot in 1950—I bet he is spending many sleepless nights trying to recall who the heck recognised him!

Is that not what reunions are all about? the ranks get thinner year by year, only to be filled by new A.O.S.'s, all proudly attending, watching our association colours flying, and listening to the stirring music played by our famous band, and which, unless you are completely devoid of emotion, bring those proud tears to your eyes.

I told my wife it was the cold!

Happy to meet, sorry to part, hope to see you all again, next year.

P.S. Overheard at the reunion 'Cor! do the army really eat like this?'

GOLF

NEWSLETTER NO 1
Report by Maj (QM) Harry Meekings, 39 Sig Regt (V)
CORPS V ROYAL NAVAL (COMMS)

On Wednesday 25 April a team representing the Royal Corps of Signals played a friendly match against the Royal Navy (Comms) at Southwick Park near Bournemouth.

The trend for the day was set when the Corps Secretary, **Maj Harry Meekings** asked for the opposing teams handicaps from their **Capt Commander Mike Benson** who immediately asked around his team and received replies such as 'Oh, about 24!!'

The morning round consisted of singles match play, and despite being a player short and having to forfeit a match, the Corps found themselves leading by five matches to three.

In the afternoon it was greensomes match play and this turned out to be a different kettle of fish. All that could be heard from **Maj Harry Meekings** was 'Who ever authorised their handicaps should be shot!' **Sgt Jim Lander** also had his problems since he had to play the opposition single handed AND concede 7 strokes. In fact he was so frustrated that he made a valiant attempt at putting his golf ball through the clubhouse window on the eighteenth hole (the ball ended up just off the green so perhaps there is a lesson there somewhere). However all was not gloom and the result was two and a half to one and a half in favour of the Corps giving a win to the Corps by six-and-a-half to five-and-a-half.

I am sure that all who took part had an enjoyable day, particularly **Capt Ted Noon** who had a bet with **Maj Gen Jackson** and won. Our thanks must go to the Royal Navy (Comms) and Southwick Park Golf Club for enabling us all to have such a great days' golf.

RESULTS

CORPS		V	RN(COMMS)
Maj H. Meekings	(2/1)	1—0	Mr S. Smith
Maj T. Noon		0—1(2up)	Comdr M. Benson
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson		0—1(2/1)	Mr M. Bee
Sgt J. Lander	(4/3)	1—0	CRS J. Hopperton
SSgt B. Bradford	(4/2)	1—0	CPS D. Baynes
SSgt D. Hope	(6/5)	1—0	CRS J. Phillips
WOII D. Freedman	(9/8)	1—0	CRS A. Kerrison
		5—3	

GREENSOMES			
Jackson/Bradford	2/1	1—0	Smith/Phillips
Meekings/Freedman		0—1 (2/1)	Benson/Kerrison
Noon/Hope		½—½	Hopperton/Baynes
Launder		0—1	Bee/Wilson
		1½—2½	

Corps Win

CORPS V RE

The Corps match against the Royal Engineers was held at Hankley Common Golf Course on the 24 May 1983. Hankley Common have made many improvements over the last year, not least of which is a brand new Clubhouse.

We were delighted to welcome back to the team **Col Blocks-Harris** who still plays a nice steady game off 20 handicap.

The morning saw the Sappers with two men short which was a great disappointment to us and rather an embarrassment for their team Captain. However, play started with the singles and the first four holes, which are rather tight and quite a few players came to grief. Lunch saw The Corps leading by the odd hole.

Besides having a new clubhouse Hanley Common had a new messing staff and the standard was high.

The afternoon foursomes saw some good golf from all players especially **Brig Jack Westlake** and **Lt Col Gavin McKay** making a birdie and three pairs on the last four holes and just losing by the odd hole. The afternoon score being two—two and the Corps just coming home by one game.

RESULTS

CORPS	V	RE
1 Sgt R. Key	1v0	Lt Col Sandy
2 WO1 I. Slieghtholm	0v1	Brig Busk
3 Lt Col B. Beattie	1v0	Lt Col Roland-Price
4 Lt Col G. McKay	0v1	Capt Rollo
5 Brig J. Westlake	0v1	Lt Col Dunham
6 Col. B. Harris	½v½	Capt Peebles
7 Maj J. Meekings	1v0	
8 Sgt J. Lander	1v0	
	4½—3½	

FOURSOMES		
1 Key/Slieghtholm	1v0	Sandy/Busk
2 Lander/Beattie	0v1	Roland-Price/Dunham
3 McKay/Westlake	0v1	Rollo/Peebles
4 Meekings/Harris	0v1	
	2v2	

CORPS WIN 6½—5½

CORPS V RMA SANDHURST

Aldershot Golf Course has always been notorious as a wet course but after the spate of rain that we have all been having the fairways were rather soft with any high flying shots guaranteed to be plugged. Fortunately the rain had stopped and we could at least enjoy the game without wearing our waterproof clothing. So started our game against the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on the 25 May 1983.

The RMA Secretary **Mr John Marsden,** although being a nice chap, had pulled a fast one on the Corps the previous year by producing a team of good young players with some very high handicaps, at least this year we were prepared for him. This fixture is an afternoon only match with just eight singles.

The first match home was **Brig A. L. Atkinson** due to his partner developing a back strain and had to retire. **Maj Mike Galloway** was playing an old friend and didn't realise the game was over, going down 5 and 4, as usual **Mike** was talking too much. **Brig Jack Westlake** had a very good win against a young student winning by 5 and 3, the Brigadier so much enjoyed himself he took the Corps Captain **Maj Ray Windmill** out for another nine holes.

In the end the Corps had a comfortable win of six—two which was very much enjoyed by everyone.

RESULTS

COPRS		RMA
1 Maj H. Meekings	1v0	Lt A. A. S. McDonald
2 Maj R. Windmill	1v0	Mr J. Marsden
3 WO1 I. Slieghtholm	1v0	Sgt R. Mason
4 Maj N. Horler	1v0	Lt M. J. S. Payne
5 WOII G. Coles	0v1	WOII T. M. Collier
6 Maj M. Galloway	0v1	Capt Kemp
7 Brig Al Atkinson	1v0	Capt B. S. Patterson
8 Brig J. Westlake	1v0	Lt J. Davis
	WIN 6—2	

GOLF FROM FAR AWAY PLACES
THE ROYAL SIGNALS SOUTH OF SUEZ ONE STAR MATCH PLAY COMPETITION 1983

Due to lack of support and opportunity, the above competition has not been held since the UK's withdrawal from Aden in the late 60s. However, this year two Royal Signals **Brigadiers (Butler** and **Westlake)** found themselves south of Suez at the same time and, both being enthusiastic wavers of golf clubs, decided to resurrect the competition. The venue selected was the Riyahd Desert Golf Club **(Brigadier Butler's** home club) in central Saudi Arabia. The dates 1 to 3 March 1983.

The Riyadh Desert Course is, as one would expect, largely desert. The fairways are flat, being carved from sand and rock with bulldozer blade. The rough is formidable, and is a mixture of rocks and camel thorn bushes. The greens are fine, damp sand, and are unlike any other putting surface in the world. On the fairways and in the rough the ball is played from a strip of astro turf carried by each player—(astro turf has a nylon bristle surface similar to a doormat). Apart from these oddities desert golf is not dissimilar to the game played in the UK.

The first day of the competition was sunny, but with a strong wind. **Brig Butler** quickly established a three hole lead while **Brig Westlake** was mastering the local conditions—astro turf places the ball one inch higher than the UK golfer is used to, the greens (sands) were very slow (a sledge hammer is more appropriate than a putter) and **Brig Westlake's** 250 yard drives were far from straight, and as a result he was visiting parts of the Arabian Desert that had previously been unexplored. However, by the sixth hole he had overcome his lack of local expertise and by the turn the match was 'all square' and remained so to the end—a fair result.

The next day was again sunny, but still with a strong wind. Both players were hitting the ball well and the match was very even.

But by the 17th **Brig Westlake** had established a one hole lead and had put the ball on the 18th green (sand) from the tee. **Brig Butler** was on for three and things were very much in the visitor's favour. However, it was time for **Brig Butler** to resort to guile and cunning! While bending to check the line of his putt there was a fearsome tearing sound and his trousers had split from front to rear—afterwards he tried to blame this on middle age spread but those who know him will recognise this as gamesmanship. As a result **Brig Westlake** could not stop laughing and four putted—the hole was lost and the second match halved.

The third, the final day, was sunny and very hot. Both players started well but soon the visitor established a strong lead and by the 12th (the water hole!) it was all over and **Brig Westlake** had won by 7 and 6 to become the One Star South of Suez Champion for 1983.

The competition was greatly enjoyed by both players, not taken too seriously and above all was the greatest fun. Hopefully more of our one star golfers will enter next year!

ARMY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Corps Team Triumph

Report by Maj H. A. C. Meekings, Secretary Corps Golf

AN OUTSTANDING FEAT

The Army Golf Championships 1983 were held at The Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club and Princes Golf Club, Deal, Kent from 16 - 20 May. The Corps had an abundance of good golfers under the Captain of Corps Golf—**Maj Ray Windmill.** In addition to our team in the Ordnance Cup, we fielded two teams in the Egypt Cup, and won both cups for the first time, together with the General's Cup.

ARMY SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

This year there were only 48 players in the qualifying round; quite a few of the regular players were in the South Atlantic. Standard were as high as ever, and the foul weather tested everyone to the utmost. after the the first day and 36 holes of medal play, the Corps was well represented with four players—**Maj Willie Brewin, Maj Harry Meekings, Capt Len Yates** and **SSgt Chris Carveth** in the last 16 qualifiers, the first time we have had four players still in at this stage. In the subsequent knockout it was unfortunate that **Brewin** and **Yates** were drawn against one another in the first round. A very good match ensued, and it was not decided until the 23rd hole, when **Yates** won the sudden death. Also in this round **Meekings** went out after taking his opponent to the 21st and losing to a birdie. This left **Carveth** and **Yates** in the quarter finals, where **Carveth** was against an ex-Army champion, and although playing very well, lost on the 18th green. **Yates** played well to reach the semi-finals. Where he played **Cpl Gray,** an ex-Army champion, and the eventual winner. The golf played was on the highest standard. When **Yates** lost on the 14th green, **Gray** had made six birdies and one eagle!

THE ORDNANCE CUP

The Ordnance Cup is for first teams of the Major Corps and Regiments. There are five players per side, each playing 18 holes, and matches being decided on total holes up or down. **Maj Harry Meekings** was Captain of our 'A' team and we fielded our strongest side for some years.

The draw gave us a hard fixture in the quarter-finals against RAOC 'A'. With the match being tight as expected, our last two players **Maj Willie Brewin** and **Gen Jimmy Jackson** brought us through with two good wins of six and four respectively.

In the semi-final we were against the holders and old opponents the Sappers A. We all knew that this game would be very close and so it proved. **Capt Len Yates** was our saviour coming in with a six hole win—all the other games being very close—and we won 7—2.

The final was against RAPC 'A'. Both teams were at full strength, but while **Maj Harry Meekings** decided to keep our team in the same order, the Pay Corps changed theirs. All matches were hard fought, and **Yates, Brewin** and **Gen Jackson** came in with wins to make the Corps close winners by 10—8. So the Corps 'A' team had won the Ordnance Cup for the first time for some years.

RESULTS
Quarter Final

Royal Signals 'A'	V	RAOC 'A'
Maj R. D. Carroll	1—0	Maj N. Ramsden
Maj H. A. C. Meekings	0—1	Maj B. Dickenson
Capt L. Yates	0—4	Maj A. Swindley
Maj W. E. Brewin	6—0	Capt L. Drury
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	4—0	Maj C. Davenport
	Corps Win 11—5	

Semi Final

Royal Signals 'A'	V	RE 'A'
Maj R. D. Carroll	0—1	Lt Col A. Kerr
Capt L. Yates	6—0	Lt Col R. Williams
Maj H. A. C. Meekings	0—0	Capt D. Jenkinson
Maj W. E. Brewin	0—1	Col D. Polley
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	1—0	Brig R. E. Semple
	Corps Won 7—2	

Final

Royal Signals 'A'	V	RAPC 'A'
Maj R. D. Carroll	0—5	Maj R. Drake
Capt L. Yates	4—0	Maj J. Stevenson
Maj H. A. C. Meekings	0—3	Maj D. Palmer
Maj W. E. Brewin	3—0	Maj M. Kerriage
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	3—0	Maj J. Law
	Corps Won 10—8	

Royal Signals 'A' Team—winners of the Ordnance Cup at the Army Golf Championships. *L—R* Capt L. Yates, Maj H.A.C. Meekings, Maj D. R. Carroll, Maj Gen A. J. Jackson, Maj W. E. Brewin

GENERAL'S CUP

Once again our representative was **Gen Jimmy Jackson.** After a comfortable win in the quarter-final, the semi-final was played in atrocious weather, gales, high wind and a thunderstorm. This ensured a close fight which went to the 19th where a par 4 sufficed. The General's opponent was **Gen Len Bartlet,** the Paymaster-in-Chief. In the final, **General Jimmy** played **Gen Derek Crabtree (DERR)** and had a more comfortable win by 6 and 5. This was the seventh time in eight years that **General Jimmy** has landed the General's Cup for the Corps and we wll congratulate him on a magnificent win. His caddy, **Col Don Fairman,** said he was playing better than ever and he should know! In other competitions during the week the General was runner-up in the RIASC Cup (36 holes Stableford), and third in the Grenadier Guards Challenge Cup (36 holes scratch medal).

EGYPT CUP

The Egypt Cup is for the Minor Corps and 'B' and 'C' teams of the major Corps. I t is run on similar lines to the Ordnance Cup. This year we fielded both 'B' and 'C' teams. The 'B' team was especially strong, led by **Maj Don Reed,** and had good wins against RA 'B' and RAOC 'B' in the quarter and semi-finals respectively. In the final against RAEC they won convincingly by 18—3. **Lt Col Stan Schofield** and **Maj Ted Noon** were outstanding, winning by 9 and 6 holes respectively. So the Corps 'B' team had won the Egypt Cup for the first time, and again, for the first time the Corps had won both Ordnance and Egypt Cups in the same year—a fine performance.

RESULTS

Quarter Final

Royal Signals 'B'	**V**	**RA 'B'**
Maj N. Horler	**0—2**	**Lt Col Selley**
Maj D. Reed	**2—0**	**Capt R. S. B. Luckman**
Capt B. Young	**4—0**	**Maj R. M. Gard**
Maj T. Noon	**0—3**	**Capt S. J. A. Lloyd**
Lt Col S. Schofield	**1—0**	**Maj G. M. H. Pelley**
Win	**7—5**	

Semi Final

Royal Signals	**V**	**RAOC 'B'**
Maj N. Horler	**1—0**	**Capt M. Priestley**
Capt B. Young	**0—3**	**Col M. Watts**
Maj T. Noon	**1—0**	**Maj J. H. McLachlan**
Lt Col S. Schofield	**3—0**	**Maj H. Mollett**
Maj D. Reed	**7—0**	**Lt Col Bridle**
	Win 12—3	

Final

Royal Signals 'B'	**V**	**RAEC**
Maj N. Horler	**0—3**	**Capt P. Wayman**
Maj T. Noon	**6—0**	**Capt A. Wilson**
Capt B. Young	**1—0**	**Lt Col P. Gowans**
Lt Col S. Schofield	**9—0**	**Maj O. W. Harrison**
Maj D. Reed	**2—0**	**Maj S. Strange**
	Win 18—3	

The Royal Signals 'C' team, led by **Col Mike Hales,** were drawn against Army Air Corps in the first round of the Egypt Cup and had a good win by 8—3, but were knocked out in the second round by a strong RE 'B' team by 18—1.

Details of the first round result were as follows:-

Royal Signals 'C'	**V**	**Army Air Corps**
Col M. J. Hales	**2—0**	**Maj Holtom**
Capt P. V. Dixon	**4—0**	**Lt Col Cox**
Maj R. L. Windmill	**0—2**	**Capt A. Wilson**
Maj P. Tidey	**2—0**	**Lt Col K. J. Hathaway**
Lt Col W. Kennedy	**0—1**	**Lt Col Clifton-Moore**
	Win 8—3	

Victorious Corps Teams at Army Golf Championships. Winners of Egypt Cup—Royal Signals 'B', *L—R* Maj N. Horley, Lt Col S. Schofield, Capt B. Young, Maj T. Noon, Maj D. Reed. In the cap—Maj R. Windmill, non-playing Captain of Corps Golf. Winners of the Ordnance Cup—Royal Signals 'A', *L—R* Maj H. A. C. Meekings, Maj D. R. Carroll, Maj Gen A. J. Jackson, Maj W. E. Brewin, Capt L. Yates

The very last competition of the meeting was a foursomes, selecting your own partners. **Lt Col Hugh Morrison** teamed up with **Lt Col Peter Jones** AAC to record a fine win to obtain yet another Cup from the meeting.

So ended a great week of golf for the Corps—on two great courses, and often in extremely unpleasant conditions. Players not actually selected for the teams rallied round as caddies, and with the team spirit which was so evident during the week, we can do the same again next year 'This was our best performance for some years, and great credit is due to our Captain, **Maj Ray Windmill,** and our hardworking Secretary, **Maj Harry Meekings'**—this statement was made by our President, **Gen Jimmy Jackson** at the presentation. The photograph shows our 'A' and 'B' teams with the Ordnance and Egypt Cups, taken at Princes Golf Club at the conclusion of the meeting.

Next year the Army Championships will be held at Rye and Littlestone Golf Club from 14 - 18 May 1984. We shall be pleased to see any and every Corps Golfer there for the week, so make a note in your diaries!

SAILING

WHALE ISLAND DINGHY REGATTA 24 & 25 MAY 1983

The Corps Annual Dinghy Regatta was again held at Whale Island in Portsmouth Harbour and sailed in Bosun dinghies belonging to the RNSA Sailing Centre, who were our hosts for the event. Wednesday and Thursday the 24 and 25 May provided the 11 crews taking part with some excellent racing in ideal conditions of a steady Force 2-3 north-easterly breeze and brilliant sunshine.

Maj M. J. P. Collins crewed by **Sig Sloan,** one of the 2 entries from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, was a clear winner with 5 1st places in 7 races. **LCpl Hinks** from the Trials Sqn, School of Signals, crewed by **LCpl Baxter,** one of the Corps' 2 bosuns at JSSC, was runner up and the No 2 crew from Colchester of **2Lt A. P. Bristow** and **LCpl Scoynes** were 3rd.

Conditions for the 4 crews of retired members who raced on the Friday were however somewhat frustrating, the wind varying from Force 0-3 and coming from most points of the compass during the day. **Ex-WO1 (FofS) D. Wheeler** produced the best results in the 3 races sailed and **Maj (Retd) N. D. Shaw** was runner up.

PETASUS OLD AND NEW

Many Corps sailors will recall with affection their time spent aboard the Corps Yacht Petasus which moved from the UK to Kiel some 20 years ago. In March this year Petasus, now 28 years old, was sold to **Lt Col Bill Roper,** CO 14(EW) Sig Regt, and continues to be based at Kiel under her new name of Talaria. The name of Petasus has been transferred to her successor, an ex-British Kiel Yacht Club Contessa 32. The Corps and Welfare Funds paid £10,000 for her and a further £4,000 has been spent fitting her out to a high standard. New Petasus embarked on her first cruise from Kiel under the Corps burgee on 1 May 1983. It is hoped to have a picture of her in the next issue of the Wire.

THE ADMIRAL'S BOWL

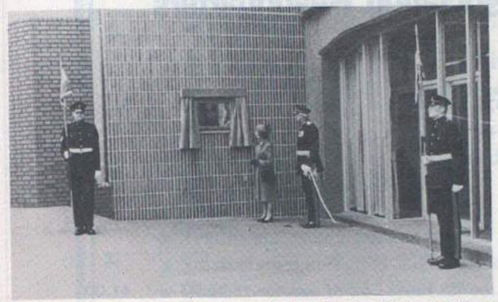
Our Admiral, **Maj Gen Max Sawers,** has generously donated a silver bowl (see photograph) to be awarded annually to the most promising young helmsman under the age of 25 in offshore, dayboat or dinghy racing. The aim is to encourage racing amongst the younger members of the Club. Any nominations for this award or, indeed, any of the annual awards of the Club should reach the Hon Secretary by 15 October.

1983 RULES AND OFFSHORE MEMBERS' LIST

Copies of the 1983 Edition of the Club Rules and the List of Qualified Offshore Members have been distributed to units and individuals. Any further copies required may be obtained by writing to the Hon Secretary, c/o Regimental Headquarters, who also holds a stock of ties, priced at £3.50.

HERE AND THERE

2 REGIMENT



Her Majesty unveiling the plaque flanked by the GOC, Cpl Mark Alexander and Sig Mark Dickinson

33 REGIMENT

Agony at the end of that Assault Course

244 SQUADRON

Cpl Hodgkiss and Flt Lt John Cookson communicating (to one another?) on TACEVAL

5 INF BDE

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

The results of the Branch Grand National Draw 1983 were as follows:-

1st Ticket No. **1143** Horse **Corbiere — SSgt Fisher** 21 Sig Regt **£150.00.**

2nd Ticket No. **9637** Horse **Grease Paint — CC McMillan** 30 Eng Regt **£50.00.**

3rd Ticket No. **9131** Horse **Yerman — R. C. Avery** Sheffield **£25.00.**

4th Ticket No. **7934** Horse **Hello Danby — T. Jones** East Ham, London **£10.00.**

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The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Chelsea Military extension 375, please.

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	£	£
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Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. 9 carat gold with spring safety stud.	39.70	45.15
Sterling silver with spring safety stud. Complete in presentation case.	6.50	7.50
Mens Calf leather wallets	6.00	6.90
Corps table mats (set of six)	23.10	26.30
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.50	7.40
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	8.90	9.50
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	4.10	4.50
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" × 4½"	1.65	1.80
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	3.80	4.35
Crested glass ash trays	1.35	1.55
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	2.30	2.60
Car badge—square, acrylic	3.40	3.75
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.70	0.75
Corps clipper board folders in blue vinyl with crest in gold	3.20	3.60
Corps transfers—large (10" × 7½")	0.85	0.90
medium (7½" × 5½")	0.80	0.85
small (3" × 2⅜")	0.75	0.80
Identity card holder	0.25	0.30
Blazer buttons—large	0.60	0.65
small	0.55	0.60
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl "coasters" with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
Calf leather comb case complete with comb	0.45	0.50
Playing cards embossed with the Corps Badge. Red or Blue	1.60	1.80

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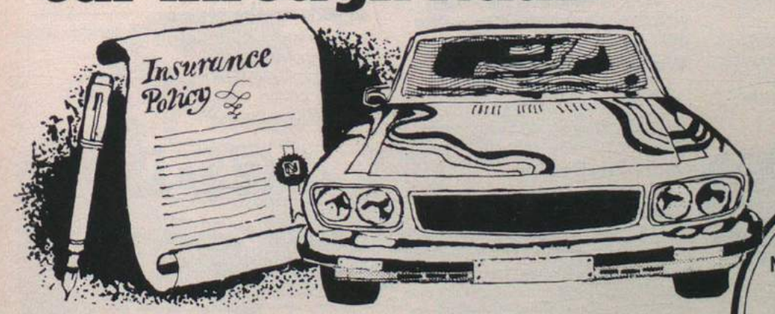

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in conjunction with COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)

September 1983

THE wire

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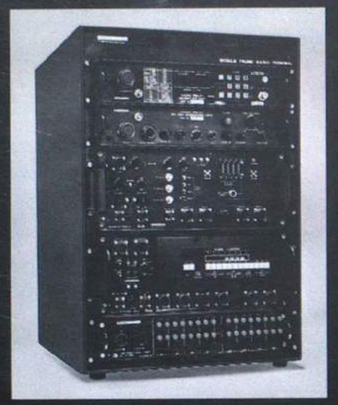

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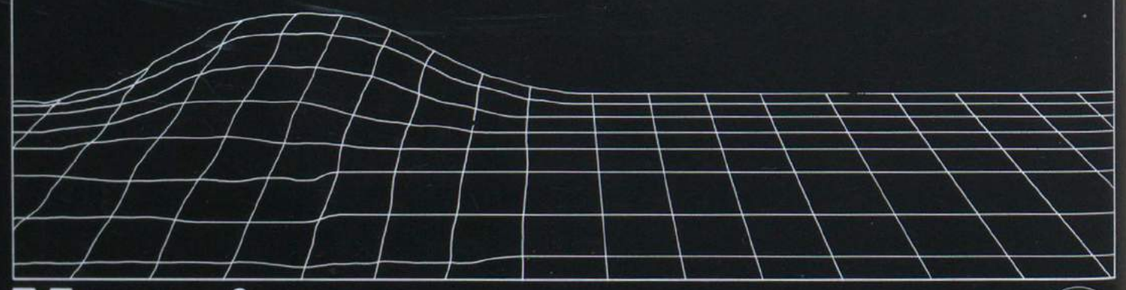

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THE WIRE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
September 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No. 5
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE
266 Signal Squadron(South Atlantic)

This tri-service Squadron provides Satellite, Radio Relay, Radio and Line Communication in support of British Forces Falkland Islands. To mark its first year since reforming, half the Squadron were assembled for this photograph.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WIRE FOR 1984

We are glad to advise our readers that the subscription rates for 'The Wire' are to be maintained at their present levels for 1984.

Our individual subscribers will recall that subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January. If you pay by 'Bankers Order' no action is needed.

Many of you, however, renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are in this category, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment, by 31 December 1983. We require to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful. CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS TO BE PAYABLE TO "ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS FUND", PLEASE.

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THE VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO THE CATTERICK REUNION

THE BACKGROUND . . .

On Sunday 18 December 1949 the late **Princess Royal** unveiled a Memorial Plaque in the Royal Signals Memorial Chapel to those members of the Corps who had lost their lives in the 2nd World War. Again in May 1953, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** visited the Association in Catterick to dedicate the Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Garrison Church. 30 years on, in 1983, a new Royal Signals Memorial Chapel had been built in the Garrison Church at Catterick and it was decided that the **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** should be invited to attend the Royal Signals Associations Reunion Catterick and to be present at the dedication of the new Chapel. To mark the occasion, **Her Royal Highness** graciously consented to visit Catterick on Sunday 26 June. **HRH** was to be invited to meet members of the Association and soldiers of the Training Group with their families; to take luncheon with the Officers of the Association; and to tour and watch a series of static and mobile displays.

THE ARRIVAL OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

The weather at RAF Leeming was dull and wet as the Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock,** the Regimental Secretary **Colonel J. A. D. Francis,** and the ADC for the day **Lieutenant Ian Seraph,** waited for the Andover. The Royal Party stepped on to the tarmac exactly on time and the cavalcade of cars was soon winging its way towards Catterick, delayed for a few fleeting seconds by a well-placed traffic shunt on the A1. **Her Royal Highness** was met on arrival at the Garrison Church by the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Major General A. A. G. Anderson,** the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major General R. Benbow,** and the Commander of the Training Group Royal Signals, **Brigadier I. O. J. Sprackling**. Finally before **Her Royal Highness** moved into the Church the Garrison Padre, **Gordon Watts** and the **Rt Rev M. H. St. J. Maddocks,** former Bishop of Selby, officiating Clergy of the day, were both presented.

The SOinC is presented to The Colonel-in-Chief outside The Garrison Church, flanked by Maj Gen Anderson and Brig Sprackling

HRH in the Garrison Sunday School. Padre Gordon Watts escorting

THE CHURCH SERVICE . . .

Before **Her Royal Highness** arrived five hundred Old Comrades had marched to Church led by the Parade Commander **Lieutenant Colonel Peter Brown,** Commanding Officer 11th Signal Regiment, his Adjutant **Captain Bob Holmes** and Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 Tom Friend**. The new Garrison Church holds only a fraction of the number that could be squeezed into the old St. Martin's Church so, with only about two hundred Old Comrades and the Standards in Church, the overflow was accommodated nearby in the Le Cateau gymnasium. **WO1 Les Budworth** and his team of five ushers carefully showed everyone to their seats. To allow those in the gymnasium to take part in the service a team from the Training Support Group of 8th Signal Regiment, lead by **Lieutenant Colonel Peter Devaney** and his experts **Mr Roy Walmsley, Sgt Tony Orwin** and **Mr Mike Smalley,** had installed a Closed Circuit Television system in the Church. They were able to record the entire service and also relay it to the gymnasium where it was shown on a large projection screen and numerous TV monitors. The service included the dedication of the new Royal Signals Memorial Chapel; the dedication of the new Standard for the Bedford Branch of the Association; and the traditional turning of the page of the Book of Remembrance by a member of the Association. Meanwhile, the four squadrons of regular troops representing the units of the Training Group had arrived and formed up outside the Church. At the end of the service **Major John Edgar** and the car ushers were soon busy identifying and guiding their charges out of the Church to waiting cars. Simultaneously the QM, **Major Ginger Cockcroft** assisted by **WO2 RQMS Colin Easton** were marshalling all the vehicles as part of an overall responsibility for transport for the entire weekend, a mammoth task made more difficult by the usual last minute changes. Whilst the congregation dispersed to their vantage points for the March Past, **Her Royal Highness** took the opportunity to visit the Sunday School and meet 40 delighted children from the Garrison. This engagement performed, **Her Royal Highness** left from the Church and departed by car to the Saluting Dais where **Major Tim McCoy** and his team of Ushers took over.

THE MARCH PAST . . .

The Parade stepped off, the Band leading and followed by the Parade Commander, Adjutant and RSM, The Standard Bearers and Old Comrade Squadron, and Squadrons from 8th Signal Regiment, 11th Signal Regiment, the Junior Signal Regiment (26th) and the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. The Band counter-marched into a side road just before the Dais and the Parade marched past the **Colonel-in-Chief,** and the proud heads of the Old Comrades turned smartly to the right to set an example to the younger men who followed. The dais was surrounded by a mass of flowers, and was typical of the excellence of the floral decorations that were on show throughout the Garrison. A fitting tribute to the hard work of the Regimental Gardeners and PSA.

HRH at The Saluting Dais shortly before The March Past with Gen Badcock, Gen Anderson and Brig Sprackling

HRH is seen here talking to CSM T. W. Goldsmith MM and Sgt H. R. Hulme, two of our Chelsea In-Pensioners. Keeping a watchful eye on the whole proceedings is Col L. W. Wright TD DL-Vice Chairman of the Association

TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE TRAINING GROUP ROYAL SIGNALS

Colonel Noel Moss, Commanding Officer of 8th Signal Regiment, had the pleasant duty of escorting **Her Royal Highness** through his Regiment's Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess to present groups of Association Members and members of the Cadre of 8th and 11th Signal Regiments. The Association Members were representative of all Branches present and although space was limited, one hundred and eighty members managed to be present.

HRH is greeted at the entrance to 8 Sig Regt Mess by CO 8 Sig Regt Col Noel Moss and his wife Edelgard. Maj Gen Anderson in attendance

Presentations in 8 Sig Regt WO's and Sgt's Mess. The Colonel-in-Chief talks to a happy SSgt Pickard (ex Boys Association)

Maj M. A. W. Rose TD (North London Branch) is presented

TO TAKE LUNCHEON WITH OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION . . .

One hundred and fifty four Officers and their wives were at Luncheon in the Officers Mess. Before luncheon the Mess Manager **Major George Harrison,** and the Chief Steward **Malcolm Stephenson** were presented to **Her Royal Highness,** and after luncheon **Her Royal Highness** was able to meet selected guests in the Mess ante-room. As she finally departed from the Mess, **Her Royal Highness** was invited to sign the Visitors' Book and have presented to her **Mr Harper** the head Chef and **Mr Lambert** and **Mrs Gammage,** the staff who waited on her at the table. The Officers' Mess Staff and Committee had prepared the Mess magnificently. With silver from the Headquarters Mess, the flower arrangements by **Mrs Edelgard Moss** and her team of helpers, the whole setting did justice to the occasion.

THE ARENA . . .

After lunch the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association escorted **Her Royal Highness** to the Vimy Sports Ground where the afternoon's activities were to take place. At the entrance to the display area little **Wendy Halliburton** daintily presented **Her Royal Highness** with a bouquet and **Colonel Moss** presented **Major Graham Halliburton Captain David Shakespeare, Mr Stephen Morton** the head gardener, **Sgt Ward** and **Signalmen Guppy** and **Kennedy,** a representative group of organisers and workers who had done so much to prepare for the weekend's activities. **Her Royal Highness** was then shown a series of static displays provided by the Wives Club, Le Cateau School and units of the Training Group Royal Signals. The Wives Club Stand was, as ever, full of good things to eat and bargains to buy. The children of Le Cateau School who did so well in raising money for the Save the Children Fund were equally delighted to show **Her Royal Highness** their trophies. The Training Group Units mounted superb displays of basic and trade training and the many sporting and extra mural activities that soldiers participate in. These stands were followed by a visit to the Satellite Communications stand of 30th Signal Regiment where **Her Royal Highness** signed a signal of greeting to all Royal Signals soldiers in the Falkland Islands. During the course of the afternoon a reply was received from the South Atlantic which was handed to **Her Royal Highness** before she left. This link was also used throughout the weekend by relatives of soldiers serving in the Falklands to pass personal messages. The last tent to be visited was the Royal Signals Association tent where **Her Royal Highness** took the opportunity to speak to many members of the Association.

Wendy Halliburton daughter of Maj Graham Halliburton presents the bouquet

The Younger Generation
The CO presents Sgt Ward, Sig Guppy and Kennedy of 8 Sig Regt at the start of the Fete. Sgt Stone of 38 Sig Regt (V) can be seen in the crowd capturing the happy moment

Would you like a book? Samantha Stevenson offers Princess Anne a book from the Wives Club stall. Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Carter, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Escott look on with obvious pleasure

Sign here please. Lt Nigel Harrison invites The Colonel-in-Chief to release a signal to members of the Corps serving in the Falkland Islands. Cpl Robson guards the TRC 520 in the background

The Association Tent. *L to R:* In-Pensioner A. R. Knox, Mrs R. O. Edwards, Maj R. O. Edwards (Leeds Branch), Col N. R. Bigland TD (Leeds Branch) and Lt Col G. R. Gould (York Branch)

THE FINAL EVENT . . .

The final event of the day was to be the Arena Display. In December the Royal Signals Demonstration Team were tasked with producing a mini tattoo for the Visit. The first priority was to build a set, a challenge taken up by the Team Workshops who produced a magnificent castle 50 yards long by 20 yards high complete with tower and oak gates. In addition to a Junior Signalman PT Display and an Apprentices Drill Display the team was tasked to devise a pageant of 'Signalling Through the Ages'. The team carpenter found himself heavily involved in building a Peninsular War Gamble Signalling Cart, a Murray Signal Tower, Begbie signalling lamps and helios on tripods, various flags and telescopes. The team mechanic rebuilt the team 1920's Triumph motorcycle and overhauled the Corps 1930 Austin from the Corps Museum while the OC wrote scripts and set them to music, scrounged vintage cars and motorcycles, signalling equipment long since forgotten, horses, riders, snowcats and a SULTAN. To this collection was added 30 soldiers and numerous hired period uniforms. Nobody was quite sure what we would achieve with this lot, least of all the OC RSDT, but everybody was quietly confident that, on the day, all would be well. And so it was. In what can only be described as a superb setting the Apprentices under **Apprentice RSM Simon Norris** resplendent in their blues, gave a faultless display of drill set to music with no spoken word of command. The Junior Signalmen gave an exciting display of 'log PT' such as we have rarely seen at a Reunion and the Pageant of 'Signalling Through the Ages' proved to be colourful, musical and entertaining. After the display **Her Royal Highness** was kind enough to congratulate the Show Director **Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Lockwood** and **his assistants Captain John Terrington,** OC White Helmets, **Apprentice RSM Simon Norris** Army Apprentices College and **Junior Corporal Glyn Widdick** The Junior Regiment Royal Signals (26th) on behalf of all those soldiers who took part.

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For full details please contact Recruitment Officer on Cheltenham (0242) 2149 Ext 2269 or write to the

Recruitment Office, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 5AJ.

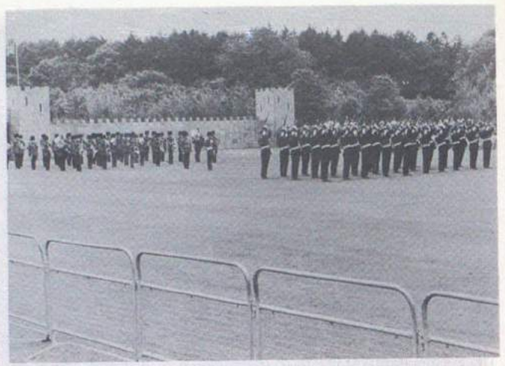
GCHQ

The production team and cast, in order of appearance, of the pageant of 'Signalling Through The Ages' is recorded as follows:

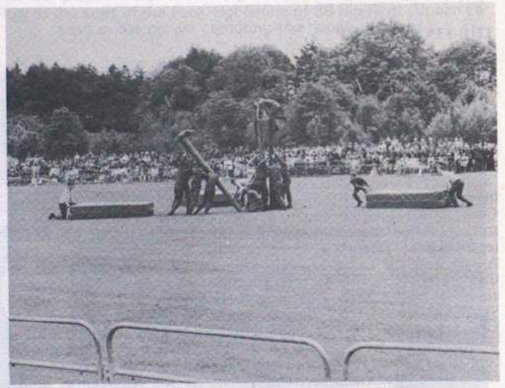
'SIGNALLING THROUGH THE AGES'

PRODUCTION TEAM		
Script Writer Producer and Director	Lt Col F. C. Lockwood OBE	
Announcer	Lt Col Mike Deverill	
Stage Manager	Lt Danny Lamerton	
'Props Manager'	Sgt Eddie Saxton	
Musical Director	Major Gordon Turner	
THE CAST		
Marathon Runner	Cpl Terry Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Roman Soldiers	Cpl Dave Davidson Cpl Keith Storey	11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt
Peninsular War Flag Signals	WO1 Pete Clark Cpl Bob Clair Cpl John Monk Cpl Gerry Brewer	11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt
Gamble Wagon	Cpl Paul Conway Cpl Steve Greaves	11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt
Zulu War Heliograph	Lt Graham Norris Sgt Ian MacKinnon Cpl Colin Tough	11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt 11 Sig Regt
1920 Dispatch Rider	Sig Paul Matthews	RSDT
Mounted lineman	Capt Ian Foxley	11 Sig Regt
Austin 7 Radio Car	SSgt Gordon Picilard	Army Youth Selection Centre
	Sig Martin Ishelwood	RSDT
JEEP	Mr Tom Hall Cpl Kevin Fitzpatrick	11 Sig Regt
Line Det	Cpl Jim Revans Cpl John Wardley LCpl Ian Campbell	8 Sig Regt 8 Sig Regt 8 Sig Regt
Sultan	Sgt David Beatie	540 Rear Link Detachment
	Cpl Neil Portlock	540 Rear Link Detachment
Snowcat	LCpl Chris Young Sig Willie Wilson	244 Sig Sqn 244 Sig Sqn
Manpack Satcom	LCpl Paul Hardin	30 Sig Regt

Our excellent Corps Band enter the Arena



Thirty Apprentices of the Corps gave a superb silent drill display



The Juniors gave their first display seen at a Reunion in Catterick—and an exciting one it was

Cpl Terry Gigg as Pheidippides opened the show bearing a message from Her Royal Highness

Cpl Dave Davidson gave an excellent performance as a Roman Soldier

A beautiful Gamble Cart built by the Royal Signals Demonstration Team and operated by Cpl Paul Conway (L) and Cpl Steve Greaves (R)

Using replicas made by the Royal Signals Demonstration Team Lt Graham Norris (R) Sgt Ian MacKinnon (L) and Cpl Colin Tough (C) show how it was done in the Zulu War

Sig Matthews rode this splendid 1920 Triumph

Capt Ian Foxley gave a superb performance as a mounted lineman

SSgt Gordon Pickard in his own authentic uniform in the 'Austin 7 radio car'. Sig Isherwood is his driver

The SNOWCAT commanded by LCpl Young

Mr Tom Hall shows off his jeep which he kindly loaned for the occasion. Cpl Kevin Fitzpatrick is his operator

Manpack Satcom. LCpl Paul Hardin 30 Sig Regt

Cpl Jim Revans and Cpl John Wardley gave an excellent line laying demonstration

The White Helmets were, as ever, immaculate

All photographs courtesy Army PR photographer Alex V. Wright.

AND SO FAREWELL . . .

After pausing to speak to **Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Lockwood** and some of his assistants, **Her Royal Highness** said her farewells to the Royal Signals Association Reunion 1983. **Major General Benbow, Major General Anderson** and **Brigadier Sprackling** took leave of **Her Royal Highness** at the entrance to the Arena and to the cheers of everyone the Royal Motorcade drove away from Vimy Barracks. The Master escorted the **Colonel-in-Chief** to her waiting helicopter on the Central Sports Ground, Catterick and minutes later **Her Royal Highness** was on her way to start yet another full week in a very busy diary.

The Association is profoundly grateful to **Her Royal Highness** for making the 1983 Catterick Reunion such a splendid occasion and one that will be long remembered by all present.

Lt Col Freddie Lockwood OC RSDT, Capt John Terrington OC White Helmets, Apprentice RSM Simon Norris AAC Harrogate

LETTERS EXCHANGED

The following is the text of letters exchanged after what must rank as one—if not the most memorable Catterick Reunion which has ever been staged.

From the Lady-in-Waiting to HRH The Princess Anne to the Chairman, The Royal Signals Association

Princess Anne has asked me to write and thank you for welcoming her at Catterick Garrison. Her Royal Highness enjoyed the day enormously and was so pleased to have the opportunity of meeting so many Members of the Association.

Her Royal Highness feels that the Annual Reunion is an important component of Corps life and recognises that it involves a tremendous amount of organisation and hard work. The whole week-end was obviously a huge success.

The Princess wishes me to send her best wishes to all Members of the Royal Signals Association and her warmest thanks for a very happy day.

From the Chairman, The Royal Signals Association to the Lady-in-Waiting.

Thank you so much for your letter and for the kind remarks of the Colonel-in-Chief expressed therein. I am very conscious of the very busy programme of engagements which Her Royal Highness keeps and all of us in The Royal Signals Association are most appreciative of the fact that virtually a complete Sunday was devoted to us.

The Colonel-in-Chief's gracious presence made this year's Reunion at Catterick a most enjoyable and memorable occasion for all those who had the good fortune to be present. It was particularly pleasing that Her Royal Highness agreed to participate in the whole of the day's events and spoke to so many people.

I would be grateful if you would convey the loyal and affectionate greetings of all members of the Royal Signals Association to the Colonel-in-Chief together with our deep appreciation of the time Her Royal Highness devoted to us.

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COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 35 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS VISITS RAF WILDENRATH

FOCUS ON RAF WILDENRATH
Report by 21 Sig Regt

Having just ended a very busy and exciting period in the history of the Regiment there is plenty to report on. The highlight of this period was the visit by our **Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips GCVO.**

On Thursday 7 July RAF Wildenrath had the honour of hosting **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Anne.** As part of the visit the Regiment was included on the itinerary. During the morning the Airfield Troop for RAF Wildenrath, K Tp, played a large part in the War Panorama which the Royal Air Force had composed as the centre-piece of the day. Having seen the War Panorama, our **Colonel-in-Chief** moved on to lunch in the Officers Mess, to be joined by our Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. McI.** and **Mrs Ayrton.**

OUR DISPLAY

After lunch it was the turn of the Regiment to put on our display. The **Colonel-in-Chief** arrived at Pertersholtz Compound and was met by the CO, **Lt Col M. McI. Ayrton** and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Northey.** The welcome to the Regiment over, our **Colonel-in-Chief** was duly invited to sign our visitors book. **Capt Bob Bates** presented the display with **Cpl Taffy Watts, LCpl Tony Howell** and **Sig Bob Holden** giving the **Colonel-in-Chief** an in depth brief of the work carried out by Airfield Troops and the equipment used.

Capt Alan Duncan, OC of J Tp, Puma Helicopter Support Troop presented a MAOT team to show the type of work carried out by the Troop and the level of integration with the Royal Air Force. **WO (MALM) Brian Miller RAF, LCpl Jim Stretton** and **LCpl Roland Pearson** were presented to HRH.

Lt Carol Lee, WRAC, OC of D Tp then presented a Triffid Detachment showing our **Colonel-in-Chief** another of the Regiment's many roles. **The Princess Anne** was introduced to **Cpl 'Eddie' Tock,** the det comd, and shown the interior of the Triffid vehicle, meeting **Sig 'Rick' Saunders** inside the vehicle who was the other crew member.

HRH then spoke to a number of soldiers of the Regiment who were watching. The Regiment, led by the RSM, gave the **Colonel-in-Chief** three rousing cheers as she departed from Petersholtz Compound. Having made a visit to the Community Centre, the **Colonel-in-Chief** then went to the Station Sergeants Mess to take tea with a number of WOs/SNCOs and their wives. **HRH** was able to relax fully and chatted informally to **RSM Geoff** and **Pat Northey, SSM Steve** and **Carol Tucker, SSgt Colin** and **Alma Ager,** and **Sgt Dave** and **Isobel Taylor.**

A terrific day for the Regiment and an honour to have our **Colonel-in-Chief** with us. The press coverage of the visit was vast with the CO and RSM being interviewed on BFBS radio, and the RSM being seen on WDR (German TV). Contrary to rumours, the RSM is not giving autographed copies of video tapes, as supplied by **Capt Bob Bates,** to members of the Regiment!

RSM Geoff Northey, Lt Carol Lee WRAC, Cpl Eddie Tock and Lt Col Mike Ayrton seeing HRH Princess Anne safely down from the back of the Triifid vehicle

L to R: 'Ginge' Stretton, WO (MALM) Brian Miller, HRH Princess Anne, CO, Capt Alan Duncan, RSM Geoff Northey, hearing the finer points of a MAOT team

'You've got me there Ma'am'. *L to R:* Capt Bob Bates, Sig Bob Holden and HRH Princess Anne

HRH Princess Anne sharing a joke with Capt 'Poser' Harris. Capt Doug Rowlinson 'smiling' for the camera

Lt Col Mike Ayrton escorts the Colonel-in-Chief from the Regiment

Lt Col Mike Ayrton listening to Cpl 'Smudge' Smith's reply to the Colonel-in-Chief

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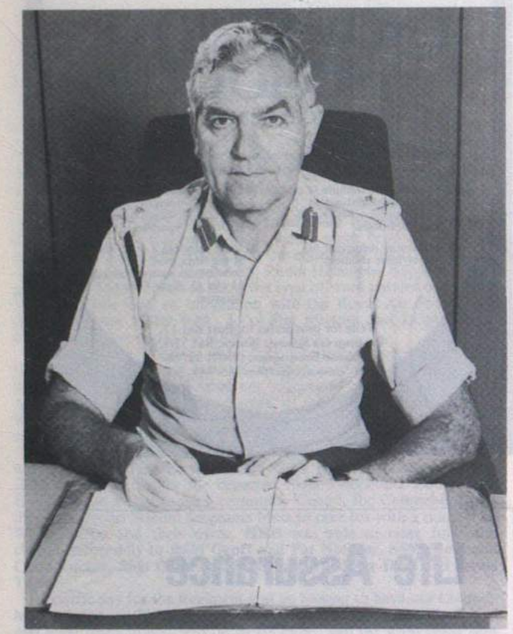
— From our "In" Tray —

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Major General R. Benbow



Many, of course, will have met **Major General Bob Benbow** during their service, but for those who have not we publish a photograph and a resumé of his Army career. **Maj Gen Benbow** was born in India in 1933. He was educated at Kimbolton School, Cambridgeshire and joined the Army in 1951. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Corps in 1953.

His first two tours of duty were with 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment after which he was Adjutant, The Junior Leaders Regiment, Towyn, Wales. He attended the Staff College Camberley in 1964 and this was followed by tours as a DAQMG in the Middle East, in command of 7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron in BAOR, as a company commander (Gaza Company) at RMAS and as Brigade Major the Training Brigade Royal Signals at Catterick.

He attended the United States Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk Virginia in 1972 and in the same year was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the appointment of Commander Royal Signals Hong Kong and Commander Gurkha Signals. His next appointment from 1975 to 1976 was as GSO1 Assistant Secretary (NATO) Chiefs of Staff Secretariat. On promotion to Colonel in October 1976 he assumed the appointment of Commander 1 Signal Group. In December 1978, he was appointed Commandant School of Signals in the rank of Brigadier and in 1981 attended the Royal College of Defence Studies. In January 1982 he became the Deputy Director of Personnel Services (Army). He assumed the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) on 11 June 1983.

Maj Gen Benbow married his wife, **Pauline**, in 1958 and they have three sons. **Nicholas** works for GTE, **Christopher** for UK Provident Insurance and **Alan** is reading for a degree at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We apologise for inaccuracies in our July Editorial covering awards in the Birthday Honours List and awards and mentions—also announced in June—for service in Northern Ireland between November 1982 and January 1983. The Lists are, accordingly republished below.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

OBE
Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson
Lt Col M. G. H. Wise

MBE
Capt (TOT) A. F. Dyer
Capt (TOT) W. A. Locke

BEM
AWO2 D. P. B. McLennan
SSgt (now AWO2) R. Bradley
SSgt (now AWO2) (Supvr R) J. D. Carr
SSgt (now AWO2) (FofS) A. F. Cashen
ASSgt T. S. S. Haynes
SSgt (FofS) C. M. Mitchell
Cpl (local Sgt) L. R. Tulett

NORTHERN IRELAND

MBE
Maj (now Lt Col) D. J. Walden

BEM
SSgt P. G. Taylor

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Sgt R. J. Sims
Sig (now LCpl) P. B. Murphy

IMPORTANT VISITOR AT HQ BAOR

Rear Admiral M. J. Schultz USN, the Senior US Communicator in Europe, arrives to discuss matters of US/UK interest. July 1983.

Our photograph shows from *L to R:*
Mr Genepri (USEUCOM), Lt Col Bryant (USEUCOM), Maj Gen J. H. Hild Comd Comms BAOR, Rear Admiral M. J. Schultz Dir C3S USEUCOM, Lt Col P. Webb SO1 Comms (Ops, Trg & Org) HQ BAOR, Maj Caddy (US Reserve Corps)

FALKLANDS PAINTING

30 Sig Regt commissioned **Mr Peter Archer** to paint a picture depicting Royal Signals activities in the San Carlos Water area during the intial landings. The painting is a panoramic view of San Carlos Water from Ajax Bay. The ships are, L to R, VM *Norland,* SS *Canberra,* a guard ship, HMS *Fearless* and LSL and some LCUs.

A limited edition of 500 colour prints is being produced, 100 of which will be signed copies, the costs are as follows:

Unsigned	£7.00
Signed	£8.00

The prints can either be collected from the PRI 30 Sig Regt or forwarded at a cost of £1 extra for postage and packing.

All enquiries are to be directed to:

PRI
30th Signal Regiment
Blandford Camp
Dorset
Tel: Blandford Military Ext 401

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, DUNBLANE, FOR THE SONS OF SCOTTISH SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN—ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admission to the School is open to boys between the ages of 9½ and 12 at date of admission who are the sons of serving or former Scottish Servicemen or Service women of the regular forces. Service in a Scottish Regiment qualifies, even if not of Scottish birth. The preferred age of entry is between 10 and 11 (Scottish P6 class). The sons of officers are only eligible if the father (or mother) has served at least four years in the ranks as a regular.

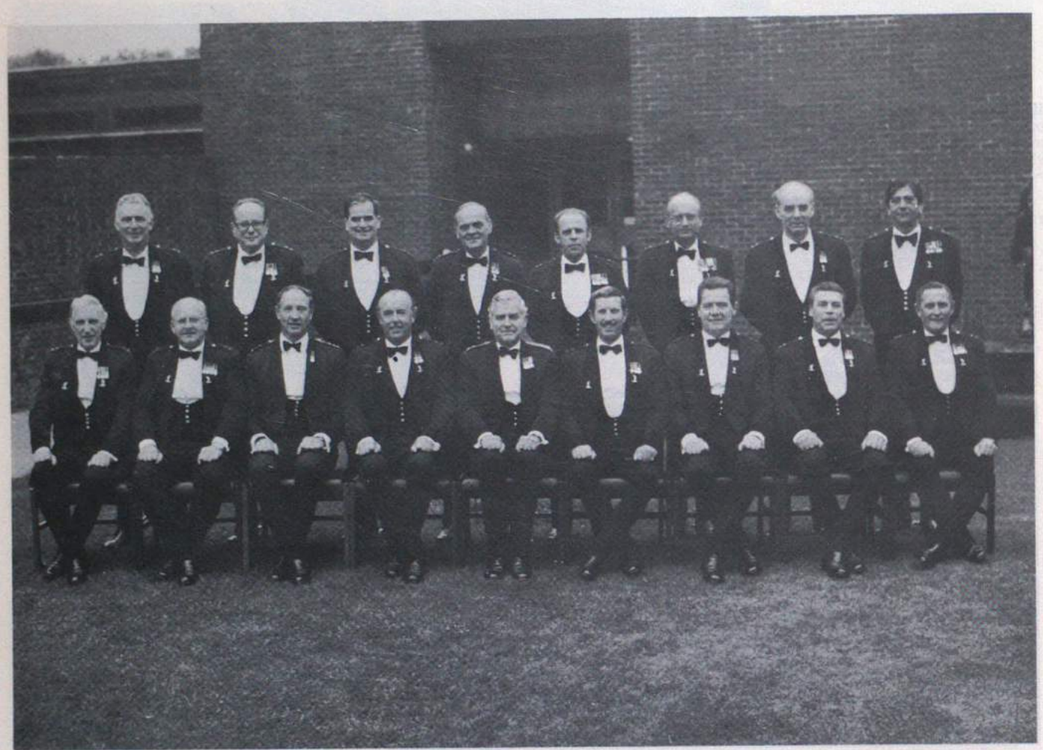
Boys may be registered as candidates for admission after they have attained their 7th birthday and will be first considered for admission in the year in which they attain the appropriate minimum age by the beginning of the Christmas term, or by the first annual Admissions Board sitting after receipt of application if already over minimum age. Very occasionally a vacancy occurs in the Secondary School. All candidates must be medically fit and up to average academic standard for their age.

Priority for admission is given to the sons of Scottish Servicemen who are still serving, with substantial service to run. The Service record of the father is a factor also considered by the Board. Special consideration is given to boys who have lost their fathers on Service.

An Admissions Board under the Presidency of one of HM Commissioners sits at the School each spring. Eligible candidates resident in the UK will normally be called, with one parent, for interview by the Board, and will sit an educational test at the same time. Travel warrants are issued. Overseas candidates are given equal consideration by the Board, the educational test being sent to their schools. Candidates selected for admission by the Board are required to join the School in September of the same year.

In recent years the Admissions Board has sat in May annually. It has been decided that from 1984 onwards the Admissions Board will sit in February. The closing date for applications to be considered in any one year is 31 December of the previous year. Applications for admission in September 1984 should reach the School by 31 December 1983. An application form giving further particulars will be sent on receipt of a firm request from eligible applicants. All inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to: The Commandant, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0JY. Telephone No: STD 0786 822288, Ext 25.

A VERY SELECT GROUP



Maj Gen R. Benbow attended his first formal dinner since taking up the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), when he dined, on the 16 June, with a very select group of old soldiers in Headquarters Mess at Blandford. The group consisted of fifteen Quartermaster category Lieutenant Colonels of the Corps, together with **Brig A. M. Willcox** Commandant of the School of Signals and **Lt Col Ron Saville**, PMC of the HQ Mess. The event had been planned over many months by **Lt Col (SQM) Rick Davidge** of AG11 and was very efficiently organised by **Lt Col (QM) Ernie Webb** of the School of Signals.

Lt Col (TOT) Rusty Davis and **Lt Col (TOT) Peter Devanney** ushered the guests to the table and the Corps Band started the evening off with a hearty rendering of 'The Quartermasters Stores' followed by a selection of World War 2 songs which brought a twinkle to the eyes of 'old sweats' like **Lt Col (TOT) Don Capon MBE** and **Lt Col (TOT) Mike Butler MBE.** Following the traditional Toasts, given by **Lt Col (Tfc) Derek Boddington** as Mr Vice, the Signal Officer-in-Chief made a brief speech outlining the continuing changes to our Corps and observing that many of those in attendance would be unlikely to attend such an occasion again as they would be 'moving on' within the next two years, in fact **Lt Col (TOT) Nigel Ribchester** and **Lt Col (QM) Alan Alfred MBE** leave within the next few weeks and **Lt Col (TOT) Ken West MBE** within the next few months. After enjoying an excellent meal and wine the party adjourned to the bar and were entertained to old soldier stories from **Lt Col (Tfc) Aubrey Howie BEM** and **Lt Col (QM) Fred Orr.**

The group of fifteen Quartermasters included twelve Ex Boys with **Lt Col (Tfc) Jess Weir**—23 Squad 1945-8 and **Lt Col (TOT) Benny Goodman BEM** among them. This was indeed a unique event and an unrepeatable opportunity for the group, drawn from all corners of Europe, to get together and dine with the Signal Officer-in-Chief. Travel problems were encountered and overcome, with the last man, **Lt Col (QM) Mark Wilson** arriving from HQ BAOR with minutes to spare.

ROYAL SIGNALS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

FIRST PRIZE £60
SECOND PRIZE £40
THIRD PRIZE £20

The ORLO team from the School of Signals tours University OTCs and School CCFs to give a presentation on Royal Signals, emphasising the responsibility and variety of a young officer's life. The presentation hinges on some topical communications operation but the main contents is a sequence of slides showing the role of Royal Signals units world-wide and the contribution that young officers make.

Send 2 colour transparencies that could be used to update this presentation and you could win one of the valuable prizes. Your photographs must show a young Royal Signals officer as the main feature. He or she must be involved in a communications task or military activity with a background that gives an indentification of the role of the unit. Remember that the slides will be used for recruiting and so the Corps cap-badge and badges of rank should be obvious.

RULES

The competition is open to amateur and professional photographers.
An entry must consist of 2 35mm mounted colour transparencies.
A stamped self addressed package must be included if entries are to be returned.
All mounts must be marked in some way so that the entrant is indentifiable.
The organisers reserve the right to use any entry free of charge.
While every care will be taken of entries while in our possession, the organisers cannot be held responsible for loss or damage.
The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into.
Closing date is 31 May 1984.
Entries must be sent to ORLO, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH and maked 'Photographic Competition'.

The winners of the ORLO Photographic Competition: 1st Prize **Capt P. R. Day,** 2nd and 3rd Prizes **Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE.**

1st Prize (£60) — Capt P. R. Day briefing Helicopter Pilot

2nd Prize £40 — Lt A. E. Kendall briefing his Detachment Commanders

3rd Prize (£20) — Lt A. E. Kendall aligning his SATCOM Terminal

4th — Capt P. R. Day with Joshua Nkomo in Zimbabwe

The entries for the past two years have been disappointing. This year only seven individuals submitted photographs. The competition will be held again next year; the prizes are worthwhile and good photographs help the ORLO's recruiting effort enormously.

THE 67TH NIJMEGEN 4-DAY MARCHES

Report by Joint PI HQ Northag and 3 ATAF

What is it that attracts 23,000 people from 32 different countries to walk 40 kilometres a day for 4 days at the height of a hot summer?

The answer is that you cannot explain it: you have to see for yourself the Nijmegen marches and feel the heady atmosphere to understand the unique aura they create.

Along the various routes villagers and sightseers alike turn out with their tables, chairs and refreshments, to hand out cold drinks and quartered oranges and to watch the endless procession. For hour after hour men, women and children, pretty young girls, gallant old men, military groups in uniform and in step, singing boy scouts and bearded eco freaks, happily subject themselves to this gruelling task. It is not a race and there are no prizes.

Of course a lot of it is to do with the friendliness of the Dutch people, their disarmingly pleasant manner and their great generosity. It is their beautiful country too. But also it is the fact that everyone approves—no-one quite knows why, but marching is clearly 'A Good Thing'. If Readers Digest are doing a special feature, the Nijmegen Marches must have universal appeal.

But the dissenters are there also, A placard, the occasional spray paint slogan, and Green Peace thinly disguised as the World Wild Life Fund and selling 'Save the Whale' and 'CND' buttons, are all apparent if you look hard.

The Nijmegen communist party attempt to fly a banner supported by a cluster of hydrogen balloons. It hangs horizontally for a few seconds to boos for the crowd, and then sinks into the stands below. The crowd cheer and burst the balloons.

Nijmegen town centre is the finish point on the last day. The marchers have a final rest some 8 kms back where they change into fresh clothes, fancy dress or uniform, and from there on the route is lined on both sides by an estimated one million spectators. And what a welcome they get.

Everyone receives an ovation and flowers—armsful of them; aircraft trailing banners circle overhead; bands play; TV cars cruise along the route; mounted police from Amsterdam genially shepherd back enthusiastic relatives who rush out to greet their family heroes; and four young men run about with a strip of red carpet laying it in front of each girl who comes along. It is perhaps this triumphal entry that makes it all worth while. **Chris Bos,** the commentator mentions every group by name and everyone is applauded.

'See you next year!' says a road sign as you drive out of Nijmegen. I think they probably will.

Sgt John Maltieson, 13 Sig Regt. Nijmegen Marches

28 Sig Regt team at the rest point in Grave on Day 4. *L to R:* Sig Tony Murphy, Steve Owen, Steve Miller, SSgt Steve Singers, LCpl Dave Prince, Sig Ken Royal, Terry Frankel and Cpl Mike Harris

1st Armd Div Sig Regt team pressing on through the village of Gassel. *L to R:* Sig BooBoo Carter, John Dixon, Frank Spencer, Ginge Hurford (half hidden). Darrow Summerell, (behind flagpole), LCpl Mal Argent (carrying flag), Sig Geordie Viney, LCpl Martin Cresswell, SSgt Bernie Temmens

Nijmegen Marches: British and Dutch soldiers of the NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron at the Grave Rest point. *L to R:* Sig Kevin Taylor, Cpls Peter Rogers, Scottie Scott, Sid van de Streek, Kpl Arni Buggenum, Maj Mike Anderson, WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue and SSgt Paul Smith

TRANS SAHARA TANDEM TREK

Report by Lt Paul Wright Royal Signals (V) 71 Signal Regiment (V)

THE AIM

The aim of our expedition was to prove that as a man/woman team, myself, **2Lt Paul Wright** and **Lt Amanda Dunn** could cross the world's largest desert, the Sahara, by tandem bicycle. The Sahara had previously been crossed by bike, but this feat had never been done on a tandem and we were interested to see whether this rather 'old fashioned' system of transportation could meet the challenge—mechanically for the tandem and physically for the riders.

PRELIMINARIES

The route took us from London to Kaduna, Northern Nigeria; passing through France, Algeria, Niger and Nigeria. The total distance cycled was 5,500km and it took 5½ months to complete. We set off on 20 November, 1982, after six months of planning and preparation. These months had been filled by looking for sponsors, selecting the right equipment and researching into the route. Our main sponsors were The Corps and 'She' magazine. During the selection of the equipment we managed to write-off one tandem and badly damage two others! The day we left we were riding our fourth. It was painted bright yellow with red panniers. Behind the tandem we towed a two wheeled trailer. After all the trials we could only hope that we had made the right choice of equipment. Throughout the expedition we were prone to both good and bad luck. The bad luck started after one mile with our first puncture. I was glad that the send-off party had gone back to their champagne breakfast and hadn't followed us in their cars!

FRANCE IS TESTING GROUND

We crossed the channel from Newhaven to Dieppe on day three. During the journey from London we had been involved in a race with a scooter and at one stage we were in the lead only to notice that the wheels to the trailer were about to fall off. I remember thinking on that cold, wet autumn afternoon what a long journey it was going to be to cross the Sahara.

Our descent of France took fourteen days. We had decided to cycle through France as this would give us an extended period in which to try everything once again. The trailer fell apart and had to be completely rewelded; the axles had to be changed five times and to add to this, we had twelve more punctures. Despite all these problems our time in France was a useful experience for the rest of the journey.

UNPLEASANT VOYAGE

The first week we both found the cycling hard, but at the end of each day there was always a good meal and rich, red wine to ease our aches and pains. There was a lot of snow, but fortunately this fell during the night and apart from the cold, it didn't affect the cycling. Many times we said that once we were in the desert we would be wishing it were cold again. Little did we realise that we would not encounter a really hot day until we had passed In-Salah, some 1,800km south of Algiers. In fact France was warmer than most of the desert we crossed. From Marseille we took an Algerian ship across the Mediterranean to Algiers. This was the worst 28½ hours of my life! The sea was running at gale force seven and the corridors of the ship were rivers of vomit. I remember listening to an Arab being ill for hours, hoping that he would die quickly so that I could suffer in silence.

USEFUL INTRODUCTION TO DESERT

We were both extremely glad to land in Algiers on the morning of 13 December. This signalled the end of phase one; the second part was to be in a new continent, in a land that we had only read about or seen on films.

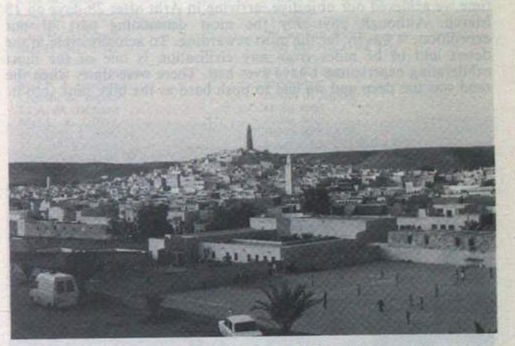
This phase was from Algiers, the capital of Algeria, to a town called Tamanrasset, the southern most oasis in the country. There we were to rendezvous with a friend, who was flying out from England to resupply us with spares for the tandem. The 2,200km journey took us till 15 January to complete and proved a useful introduction to the desert.

On leaving Algiers we had some hard cycling to cross the Atlas mountains. We were eager to get to the desert and to be through the mountains before the first snows, which normally start in the middle of December. Luck was with us and each day the skies were clear, crisp blue as we made our way slowly up the mountains, pulling the 65kg trailer behind us. It was hard, but we never once walked. Both of us were glad that we had fifteen gears on the bike. Every day the temperature was only just above freezing and a long way below at night. People that we met; Arabs, expatriates and tourists were very friendly and many times we had to refuse lifts on lorries. The Algerians could not understand why anyone would want to cross the desert on one bicycle for two people! Most of them thought that we were mad, especially Amanda, as she was a woman; either that or I must be a very cruel husband. Despite this, all shouted 'Bon Courage' and wished us well.

SNOW AND CHRISTMAS

We did have some snow, but by then we were in Djelfa and too far south for it to be heavy. The cold and the wind lowered our morale at this stage. The wind was always in our faces and would bounce us around as if we were paper.

Christmas was spent in Ghardia, one of the largest market towns in Algeria. Unable to get a turkey, we had to settle for Christmas lunch in a palm grove, eating cheese, dates and drinking sherry whilst toasting our Squadron.



View of oasis town of Ghardia

TOUGH GOING

The toughest section in this phase was from a town called El-Golea to In-Salah. This area has the reputation of being the hottest place in the Sashar during summer. We had no problems with heat in January. The distance between the two towns was 407km; 300km of which was on a plateau called the Tademait. The plateau is covered in small, black stones and is the most featureless area I have seen. Far from being hot, it was freezing. Each morning the water bottles inside our tent would be iced up. The wind was very strong and cut into us like a knife. The trailer broke its thirteenth axle, added to this, we had many sand storms. Trying to do repairs in these conditions was extremely difficult. The one consolation was that we still had some tea and a bottle of 'Johnney Walker'! In-Salah must be the pit of the world, but after the Tademait, despite continuing sandstorms, it seemed to be a haven to us. We had decided to get rid of the trailer and somehow managed to sell it for the equivalent of £50. They say there must be one born every minute!

From In-Salah we had a 670km ride to Tamanrasset. Having sold the trailer and with it, the problem of extra weight and broken axles, we found that we were able to enjoy the cycling far more. The weather improved and at times we even complained of being hot. The desert scenery was very attractive, with mass rock formation between sand dunes. The road often disappeared and we were forced to cycle on the 'piste'; this is a rough track made in the sand by previous vehicles. However, despite the bad route it was a very enjoyable ten days.

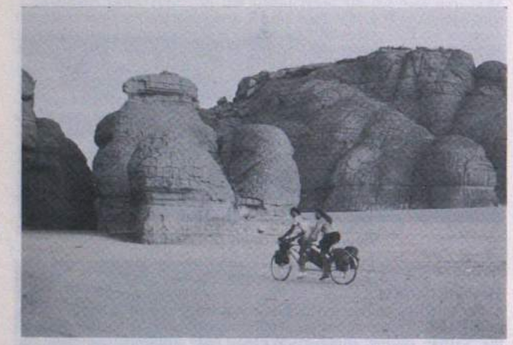
A PAUSE

Tamanrasset is in the Hoggar mountains and is 1400m, above sea level. As we approached it we had some spectacular views of the mountains. The town is attractive; all the buildings are made of mud bricks and it is dominated by one huge rock slab, called Adrion. The people are mainly from the Toureg tribe; a tall, elegant people, proud of their tradition to the point of arrogance. We stayed in the Tamanrasset area for a month. During this time we went on a camel trek and toured the Hoggar range; I even managed to go rock climbing with some Swiss over-landers. These mountains are unlike any I have seen in Europe or the States and have their own special characteristics.

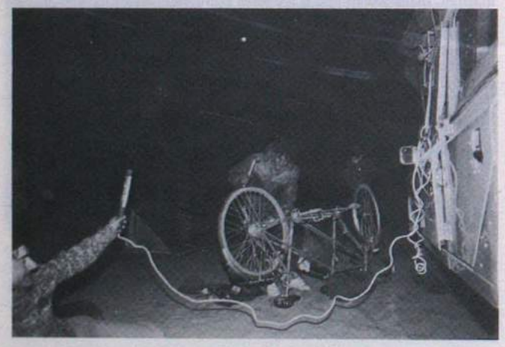
MOST CHALLENGING

South of Tamanrasset we were faced with the most challenging phase; 670km of desert to the next oasis, which is called Arlit, a uranium mining town in Northern Niger. There are no roads and we were forced to follow the 'piste.' At times this was up to 10km wide. Often we would see convoys of trucks and cars travelling parallel with us, but many miles away, carrying the precious water we so desparately needed, but passing us by, as they were too far away to see our frantic signalling.

Our first attempt at this section ended with an accident and we had to return 100km to Tamanrasset for repairs to the tandem. The second time we achieved our objective, arriving in Arlit after 28 days on 18 March. Although physically the most demanding part of our expedition, it was by far the most rewarding. To actually cycle in the desert and to be miles from any civilisation is one of the most exhilerating experiences I have ever had. There were times when the sand was too deep and we had to push hard as the bike sank into it.



Approaching Arak Gorge



Carrying out repairs by night 400 kms from nearest town

PUSH AND RIDE

Together with the heat these periods weren't quite so exhilerating. Our daily routine was to be up at sunrise, which was about 0630hrs and to have breakfast. To watch the changing colours of the sky as the sun rises in that land is an incredibly beautiful sight. By 8 o'clock we would start; sometimes we could cycle and we would both be cheerful and joke; at other times we would have to push many miles before we came across a hard patch of sand before the cycling could begin; then we would curse. After 1000hrs the heat got unpleasant and by mid-day we would both have headaches from the sun. At lunch we used to put up the tent to provide a little shade. Although lunch took till 1600hrs there were few times when the heat allowed us to rest. Even by that time it was still unbearable and the thought of another four to five hours hard slog did nothing for morale. It was at these times that our loyalty to each other was tested and fortunately neither of us failed. If the moon was up we would carry on until 2300hrs or mid-night, if not then we would camp at sunset around 1900hrs. Although I enjoyed our desert walks I longed for the moon not to rise. As time went on we were getting a little weaker day by day.

THE WORST

Most nights when we camped we would make bread in the sand on camel dung fires under bright, starlit skies. The No. 2 burner we had with us blew up in the early days and camel dung seemed an appropriate alternative.

We had some interesting experiences; once we were taken prisoner by the Algerian Army; we had six or seven days of sandstorms; the rear axle broke and the replacement was the wrong size; we had twenty eight punctures in two and a half days; several times we ran out of water. The worst thing for me was the sand storms. Trying to eat food which is covered in sand is most unappetizing. It is nearly impossible to sleep as the sand gets in your eyes and sticks in your throat. I remember one time sitting behind a rock for shelter, playing chess, when every few minutes the board was covered with sand and we would have to start again. We both had bad sun burn on our faces. The skin fell off my nose and for days it was a mass of dried blood and rotten tissue. But despite all, we both enjoyed the experience greatly.

A REST AND ON TO NIGERIA

At Arlit we rested for a few days. It was good to read our letters from home, to drink beer that was so cold it hurt, to be able to sit in the shade and most of all, to be able to wash without the fear of running out of water.

From Arlit we went on to Agadez, where we spent days trying to sell our surplus kit in the market. I had my hair cut by a local barber, who must have learned his trade at Pirbright.

We left Agadez on 30 March, our route taking us to the Nigerian frontier at Birni-NKanni via Tahoua. After Agadez we were out of the true desert and into the scrub land. We saw many large herds of camels and cattle. The people in this area are mainly from the Housa tribe and not as friendly as the Arabs in Algeria.

THE MEDICINE MAN

Near Tahoua we came across a huge lake and the attraction of so much water was too much for us. We ignored all fears of bilharzia and had three glorious days swimming and fishing in the lake. South of Tahoua I was sick. I remember lying on a blue and white grass mat, whilst a local medicine man filled me with foul herbs. All I could see was a circle of black faces looking curiously down on me, waiting to see what would happen to the 'white' man! I am sure Livingstone and Stanley must have had similar experiences.

A DETOUR

On arrival at the frontier we were told that our visas were not in order and that we would have to make an 800km detour to Niamey, the capital of Niger, in order to visit the Nigerian Embassy! Whatever happened to the great family of the Commonwealth? The detour took us ten days, during which time we spent frustrating mornings at the Nigerian Embassy and exciting nights being hosted by French expatriates.

BUSH REPAIR

We finally entered Nigeria on 21 April. To reach our destination, Kaduna, took us another eight days. Our route was via Sokoto Gusau and Zaria. We camped every night and found the native Housa people more friendly. Bad luck was to strike once again on this last section; due to the heat of the roads the rubber was removed from the rear tyre. As it was impossible to buy a new one of the same size, we had to improvise by buying one which was a little larger and sliding it over the existing tyre then wiring the two together with builders reinforcing wire; a 'bush repair', but there was nothing else we could do. After cycling every millimetre to Nigeria pride would not allow us to take a lift. The 'bush repair' carried us the last 150km.

At the end of the road

Statistics We had 124 punctures, used eight outer tubes and eleven inner tubes, four brake and three gear cables.
Finance:- We spent £4,500 from the time of preparation to returning to England.

Our thanks to the Sponsors, without whose support we would never have left. Our thanks, also, to the countless number of overlanders and natives, who helped us and often revived our morale when we most needed it.

To conclude, a very enjoyable trip and well worth throwing in a job to do it, if only to see a little part of Africa. There cannot be another two people, who can say that they crossed the 'world's largest desert' together on a tandem.

Finally my thanks to my partner, **Amanda Dunn.** The TA needs women like her.

A GENEROUS OFFER

From: A. Chas: J. Chalmers, Esq.
Dear Sir

I have copies of 'The Wire' from 1970 to date if anybody cares to collect—gratis

Directions—from M1—Hemel Hempstead—Aylesbury Road but turn at traffic lights for Bovingdon. Turn left at High Street—Chipperfield Road—turn right at Flaunden Lane—left at Holly Hedges Lane—signpost Hollow Hedge.

Yours sincerely,
A Chas: J. Chalmers

Hollow Hedge,
Bovingdon,
Hertfordshire.
Tel: Hemel Hempstead 83-3244

— Movements —

Officers

JULY 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj T. J. Hendren	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj (QM) J. V. Prees	BMATT ZIMBABWE
Lt Col M. J. Ridlington	Birmingham UOTC
Capt (Tfc Offr) D. R. Heyes	16 Sig Regt
2Lt D. M. Pratt	RMAS SGCH
Capt (TOT) P. C. Smurthwaite	7 Sig Regt

AUGUST 1983

Lt R. N. Clapp	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt (201 Sig Sqn)
2Lt H. M. Flint	HS School of Signals
Capt S. J. Heath	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
L/Maj(QM) B. M. Hudson	MFO SINAI
Capt N. E. Ladds	11 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Oldfields	21 Sig Regt
Lt C. R. Owen	262 Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc Offr) L. G. H. Storey BEM	11 Sig Regt
Capt H. J. Bardell	HQ BF Belize
Lt G. D. Baxter	40 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) R. C. Breese	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt R. A. Briant	233 Sig Sqn
Lt Col K. P. Burke	MOD OR 22
Capt M. Butler	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt W. J. Cheesman	7 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc Offr) M. S. Davies	STANOC CENTRE
Capt N. H. Denning	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Maj G. M. Finney	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt P. Gillespie	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col G. W. Howard	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Hryhoruk	30 Sig Regt
Capt E. K. Jackson	School of Signals
Lt A. M. Johnson	11 Sig Regt
Maj L. A. Jeffery	10 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. J. Jolly	JFHQ BFFI(AE)
Lt J. M. Kirkman	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) B. W. Maltby	HQ AFCENT BAE
Maj W. R. Mayne	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt A. N. Morphet	7 Sig Regt
Lt G. P. Norris	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Capt K. K. W. Parsons	8 Sig Regt
Capt L. J. Plumb	28 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Rock	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc Offr) J. M. Ross	28 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) F. A. Smith	HQ NORIRELAND
Capt P. G. Stock	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. C. Stutchbury	School of Infantry
Maj (QM) B. J. Styles	241 Sig Sqn
Maj A. Sugdon	16 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Offr) D. J. Tunmore QGM	10 Sig Regt
Maj I. Turner	DM(A)
Maj H. H. Van Pragg	8 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) W. G. Wallace	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col N. F. Wood	7 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) G. Yule BEM	HQ AFCENT SP GP

SEPTEMBER 1983

2Lt G. D. Anderson	HS School of Signals
Capt J. D. Ashton WRAC	38 Sig Regt (V)
Capt (QM) F. Atkins	HS School of Signals
Maj G. J. Barrett	JSDC
Maj M. J. Bowen	JSDC
Lt Col A. H. Boyle	RMCS
Capt H. T. Bradley	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt A. G. Brand	HS School of Signals
Capt L. K. Byrne	266 Sig Sqn
Lt I. Cameron-Mowat	HS School of Signals
Maj A. S. Cheal	38 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt J. W. Cooper	HS School of Signals
Maj R. E. S. Drew	HQ NORTHAG (BAE)
2Lt I. G. Favager	HS School of Signals
Lt Col J. V. Fielding	HS School of Signals
2Lt M. A. Finneran	HS School of Signals
Maj I. R. Grant	16 Sig Regt
Maj D. G. Halliburton	HS MOD Chinese Language School Hong Kong
Capt G. Harrison	16 Sig Regt
Maj T. J. Hendren	DPS(A)
Lt S. D. Hodges	Jnr Regt R. SIGNALS
Maj R. A. H. Hoghton	ASMT Leconfield
Maj J. D. M. Ingram	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Lt A. W. James	Jnr Regt R. SIGNALS
Lt N. D. Kennedy	541 Gurkha Inf Bn Sig Tp
Lt Col I. E. Kerr	16 Sig Regt
2Lt S. K. Macrostie	HS School of Signals
Lt S. J. May	Jnr Regt R. SIGNALS
Lt D. E. A. McAllister	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt P. J. D. Moloney	5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc Offr) J. Morrison	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Lt Col B. T. O'Connor	School of Signals
Maj D. S. Pawlow	28 Sig Regt
Capt R. Pearce	HS 38 Sig Regt (V)
Lt J. Peck	HS School of Signals
2Lt D. M. Pratt	HS RMAS
Lt S. J. Richardson	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt Col N. S. de N. Rogers	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt R. C. P. Salvoni	HS School of Signals
Maj (TOT) E. M. Short	MOD LE(A)
Capt V. T. Smedley	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt G. M. Smith	HS School of Signals
Capt C. G. Sneddon	233 Sig Sqn
Lt P. Stephenson	HS School of Signals
2Lt C. J. Thackray	HS School of Signals

Capt R. J. Turnbull	School of Signals
Capt S. J. Turpin	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Tuson	School of Signals
2Lt S. J. Vickery	HS School of Signals
Lt Col N. A. Walter	Comm Projects Agency R. SIGNALS
Maj B. A. Watson	HQ 11 Sig Regt
Maj J. A. Wraith MBE	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt N. J. Yeoell	Jnr Regt R. SIGNALS
Lt Col R. M. Yolland	71 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and Senior NCOs

AUGUST 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) H. E. Connor	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) A. J. McArthur	School of Signals
WO2 (Supvr R) M. E. Ford	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 (FofS) L. Proctor	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) A. C. Mockford	4 Sig Gp
WO2 T. T. Charteries	7 Sig Regt
WO2 R. Smith	Cardiff UOTC
SSgt (YofS) J. H. Chilcott	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) D. B. Hooper	9 Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) G. Cromack	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt (FofS) K. W. Suckling	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt (FofS) J. C. Travers	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. Aquilina	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. S. S. Andrews	22 Sig Regt
SSgt R. B. McSeveney	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt C. Wing	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt G. Fotheringham	11 Sig Regt
SSgt W. Allan	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Underwood	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt R. Halergham	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. Collins	8 Sig Regt
SSgt P. M. Shepherd	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
SSgt T. J. Broadley	242 Sig Sqn
ASSgt G. D. Macrorie	RMA Sandhurst
ASSgt E. L. Gallagher	AFNORTH
ASSgt W. Kirk	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt B. L. Mountain	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
ASSgt T. Ferry	Jnr Regt R. SIGNALS
ASSgt M. J. Partridge	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
ASSgt E. R. Millard	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. G. G. Corsar	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. S. Shelley	16 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Ashton	Hon Artillery Company
Sgt S. P. Dillon-White	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Morgan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Grant	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt I. W. Walker	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Harvey	10 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Pickersgill	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Smith	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt J. F. Graham	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt M. Reynolds	9 Sig Regt
Sgt W. D. McLean	School of Signals
Sgt F. P. Hartley	641 Sig Tp
Sgt M. T. Norton	632 Sig Tp
Sgt A. Sullivan	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt R. D. Smith	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Topping	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Wilson	HQ Int & Sy Gp (Ger)
Sgt L. M. T. D'Rozario	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. Jamieson	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. A. Ryan	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Shaw	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt K. L. Gelder	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. A. Critchlow	School of Signals
Sgt D. J. Stevens	School of Signals
Sgt R. P. Paulley	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. R. Casburn	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Collier	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. White	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. E. Wyles	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Allen	Army School of Mechanical Transport
Sgt G. Robinson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. S. Rogers	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. Kilvington	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Cooney	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. L. Wilkinson	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. Blackman	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Hedgeley	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. B. Parkinson	Queens Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt M. Webb	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. G. Lamarsh	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt R. Gratton	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

SEPTEMBER 1983

WO2 (FofS) W. Duncan	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) L. R. Harvey	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (EW Op) D. Weir	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. H. Waring	28 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) G. W. Duncan	602 Sig Tp
SSgt (Supvr R) A. Weaver	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt D. Simpson	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. MacGregor	55 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt J. N. Morgan	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. S. Symes	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
SSgt A. N. Fleck	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt P. T. Atherton	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt J. M. Besant	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt G. K. Fitzgerald	RMA Sandhurst
SSgt F. Phillips	Int Centre Ashford
SSgt J. B. Wooders	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt M. Dobson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt M. Collins	8 Sig Regt
SSgt I. Demain	School of Signals
SSgt D. Simpson	7 Sig Regt
SSgt H. H. Loates	FSS Mossy Hill
SSgt I. M. Urquhart	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt M. K. W. Richards	227 Sig Sqn
ASSgt F. Leigh	23 SAS(V)
ASSgt M. B. Underwood	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt J. T. Ryan	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
ASSgt G. S. D. Douglas-Hiley	608 Sig Tp
ASSgt P. R. Smith	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt M. Holland	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt W. A. S. Allen	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Taylor	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt K. B. John	School of Signals
Sgt R. A. Jakins	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Garvie	Jnr Regt Royal Signals
Sgt M. W. Wenham	School of Signals
Sgt S. R. Green	School of Signals
Sgt S. Brennan	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. J. O'Brien	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
Sgt D. B. Humphries	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt C. I. Harris	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Sgt R. J. Francis	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Williams	School of Signals
Sgt B. C. Turner	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Heapy	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt E. A. Doubtfire	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Sgt N. E. Hatton	580 Rear Link Det
Sgt M. S. N. Brown	593 Rear Link Det
Sgt K. G. Craine	School of Signals
Sgt R. Dudding	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. C. Soutar	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Farquhar	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. A. Rutter	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Jewell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Knaggs	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Taylor	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Farmer	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. A. Murray	School of Sigs
Sgt J. Pritchard	632 Sig Tp
Sgt P. A. Leighton	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt S. L. Jones	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Taylor	22 Sig Regt
ASgt J. Lamb	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt N. Churcher	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASgt R. T. Mitchell	Jnr Regt Royal Signals
ASgt J. Denehy	25 CTT

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ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1983.

Catterick Garrison Church Fund (Reunion Service)	£252.62
WO's and Sgts Mess, 37 Signal Regiment (V)	£145.50
Comd Comms BAOR Fund	£ 72.98
Maj F. C. Forbes	£ 6.00
30 Signal Regiment	£ 5.00
In memory of Lt Col J. H. St G Hamersley OBE	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 5.43
	£492.53

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1983.

Shrewsbury Branch RSA	£150.00
35 Signal Regiment (V)	£ 52.86
St Albans Church	£ 50.00
HQ Hannover Station	£ 48.10
Lt M. Cost Royal Signals	£ 47.00
Maj R. H. Blizzard	£ 40.00
Northumberland Heath School	£ 10.00
'Gillespie'	£ 10.00
Anon	£ 3.00
	£410.96

Welfare

JUNE 1983

Number of cases assisted financially	69
Amount spent	£8726.71
Number of parcels sent	14

JULY 1983

Number of cases assisted financially	49
Amount spent	£6316.26
Number of parcels sent	6

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex Cpl. served 63-78, has a wife and three children still at school. He was made redundant two years ago and has been unable to obtain work since. The worry of this caused him to have a severe nervous breakdown. We were able to ease the family's problems by assisting him to clear some of his outstanding debts.

The widow of an ex Sgt who served through the War, recently had two replacement hip operations, we were able to help pay for two weeks at a Nursing Home whilst her cottage was adapted to her needs.

Ex LCpl. served 41-48, now totally disabled by Rheumatoid Arthritis, had been rehoused by the local authority in a purpose-built bungalow. This was all electric, the Association was able to give a grant to him for a new cooker to replace his old gas cooker.

During June/July clothing has been received from the following: **Mr and Mrs H. Palmer, Maj Copeland, Lt Col and Mrs M. P. Walker, Brig P. R. Davies, Mrs M. Sloane, Mrs Smart.**

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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

Barnaby—Maj Gerald Alexander Barnaby was born in Nova Scotia, Canada on 9 Apr 1924. He enlisted as a boy into the KSLI in Bermuda on 15 Aug 1939 and served with the 2nd Bn in Bermuda until 20 May 1940 and then in Curacao until 23 Apr 1942. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the KSLI on 17 Nov 1944. In Oct 1945 he was posted to India and in Nov 1945 appointed Asst Camp Comd HQ Burma Command, a post held until he was released from military service in Sep 1946. In May 1950 he re-enlisted and joined Royal Signals. He was first employed in 7 Selection Regt at Catterick Camp and remained there until Jun 1953. In Apr 1954 he moved to the Middle East and served for two years with 3 Inf Div Sig Regt. He was then attached to HQ ALFCE (British Element) in France from Apr 1956 until Dec 1959 and this was followed by a two year appointment with the Camp Commandant at the War Office. His next post was on the HQ staff at Aden from May 1961 until May 1962 followed by a three year tour of duty with 30 Sig Regt. He then served at HQ Trg Bde until he was commissioned on 5 Nov 1967. Next he moved to Cyprus where he served as Admin Officer of 261 Sig Sqn until Oct 1970 when he returned to the UK and served for three years with 33 Sig Regt (V). In Aug 1973 he was appointed Adjt of 31 (GL) Sig Regt (V) a post he held until his retirement on 28 Sep 1975. **Maj Barnaby** died on 10 Apr.

Blake—Col Ernest Peter Blake was born on 8 Aug 1908 in Upminster. He was commissioned into the Corps from RMA on 30 Aug 1928 and served with 5 Divisional Signals until Dec 1933. He then moved to India and joined Peshawar District Signals until Feb 1939. During his service in India he was awared the India General Service Medal for duty on the North West Frontier and was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of 7 Feb, 1936. On his return to the UK just prior to the outbreak of World War 2 he was posted to 1 Divisional Signals and remained with them until Dec 1939. He was appointed GSO2 at HQ 1st Army, a post he held for six months and was then made GSO3 (Liaison) for 2 Corps. After another short tour of duty as a GSO3 he became 2IC of Z HQ Signals in Jul 1941 and remained with that unit until appointed CSO HQ Expeditionary Force in Apr 1942. He returned to HQ 1st Army in Nov 1942 and served with that HQ in North Africa. This was followed by a regimental appointment as CO of 78 Divisional Signals. He continued to serve in the Middle East area and held a number of posts, becoming CR Signals 46 Division in May 1945. In Mar 1946 he was appointed GSO I Signals at HQ BTA and remained in staff appointments until his return to the UK in Aug 1947 when he joined the School of Signals. He was given command of War Office Sig Regt in Apr 1949 and relinquished command in Dec 1951 to take up the post of GSO I at the School of Signals, a post he held for two years. His next appointment was a CSO HQ West Africa Command where he served for two years returning to the UK in Jun 1956 to take up his final post as OIC Royal Signals Records. He retired in Oct 1959. **Col Blake** died on 20 Apr.

Bond—Lt Col Donald James Bond was born at Gosport, Hampshire on 22 Jan 1916 and enlisted as a boy into the Corps on 30 Aug 1930. In 1934 he joined 2 Div Signals and remained with them until Apr 1935. His next posting was to the School of Signals where he remained until Oct 1938. He then moved to West Africa and served with the Gold Coast Regt of the RWAFF. In Oct 1940 he rejoined 2 Div Signals and was commissioned whilst serving with that unit on 1 Feb 1941. He then moved to East Africa and served with the East Africa Area (L of C) and in Aug 1941 was appointed OC 24 (EA) IBSS. In Oct 1942 he moved back to West Africa and joined Gambia Area Signals for four months and then went to Nigeria Area Signals for a further two months. In Mar 1943 he was appointed Adjt of 81 (WA) Div Signals and moved with that unit from West Africa to India. In may 1945 he joined the West Africa Trg and Rft Camp, in ALFSEA, and served first as 2IC and then as OC A Bn. In Jan 1947 he returned to the UK and took over the appointment of SO2 Sigs at HQ North West District but by the end of the year he was back in West Africa and then served alternately as OC Gold Coast Sig Sqn, Nigeria Sig Sqn until he returned to the UK on retirement on 3 July 1952. **Lt Col Bond** died on 29 Mar.

Boyle—Lt Col Alan Peter Boyle was born at Liverpool on 13 Sep 1922. He enlisted in to the Royal Signals TA on 24 Feb 1942 and after completing cadet training with 152 OCTU was commissioned as a 2Lt and joined 2 Corps Signals on 20 Dec 1942. He served, from May 1943 with D Corps Signals in India and remained with them during two reorganisations when the unit changed its title, first to 11 Army Group Signals India and then ALFSEA Signals SEAC. He returned to the UK in 1946 and served with the training organisation until Aug 1950. In Aug 1950 he moved to MELF and joined 3 GHQ Sig Regt and served with that unit for two years after which he returned to the UK for a further tour with the training organisation during which time he served with 3 Trg Regt and the School of Signals. In Dec 1953 he moved to BAOR and was appointed SO3 and HQ1 Corps where he remained until Jan 1956. On his return to the UK he joined the training organisation at Catterick for a third time and spent two years with the School. In July 1958 he moved to Malta and became OC Malta Sig Sqn, which later became 234 Sig Sqn, and in Aug 61 joined the European Radio Frequency Agency in the UK. After two years with the Agency he joined the Army Works Study Group and remained with that organisation serving in both the UK and BAOR until his retirement in October 1972. **Lt Col Boyle** died on 9 Jun.

Edwards — Mrs Joan Edwards, widow of the late **Lt Col (QM) W. B. Edwards** died recently after a long illness.
Maj G. R. Thornton writes **'Joan** was a very devoted and dedicated supporter of the Corps in organising Welfare and caring for all in need. She was commissioned into WAC(1) and served in India whilst her husband **Bill** (known to many as **Guy**) was in Quetta. She leaves three sons, two of whom served in the Corps.'

Hair—Maj Robert Hair MC was born at Bathgate on 5 Jan 1911 and enlisted into the Royal Tank Regt on 19 Sep 1932. He served in India from Sep 1934 until Aug 1939 with 7th Light Tank Coy. He was commissioned into the RTR in Jun 1941 and served in North Africa and Italy during which time he was awarded the MC. After a short time as a civilian in 1946 he was again granted a commission in the RTR in Sep 1946 and in 1948 was appointed as Adjutant War Office Signal Regiment. He remained in this post and transferred to Royal Signals on 11 Oct 1950. In Jul 1952 he was posted to the Far East and served with 19 Air Formation Sig Regt at Singapore. In May 1955 he returned to the UK and served in the training organisation from Aug 1955 until Dec 1959, first with the School of Signals and then with 7 Trg Regt. His final post was as OC 242 Sig Sqn. **Maj Hair** retired on 4 May 1962 and died on 22 Feb 1983.

Helps—Lt Col Rowland Philip Arthur Helps OBE MC. Rowland Helps was born at Enfield on 11 May 1890 and was commissioned from the RMC to the 2nd Bn Lancashire Fusiliers on 19 Oct 1910. During the early part of World War One he served with 4 Signal Coy in France and then moved to 3rd Signal Coy until Feb 1916. It was during this period of service with the Signal Coy that he won the Military Cross. His next post was as GSO 3 with 4th Corps and on promotion took up the appointment of Brigade Major of 207 Inf Bde, a post he held for two years until May 1919. He was awarded the **OBE** in the London Gazette of 3 Jun 1919. During the following two years he held a number of GSO 3 appointments and in Nov 1921 was seconded for duty with Royal Signals and joined the STC at Maresfield. His first Corps appointment was OC Gibraltar Signal Section, from Mar 1923 until Dec 1926. He returned to the UK and spent the next three years at the STC. In Apr 1930 he became CSO London District and in Mar 1931 moved to India and became OC A Corps Signals at Karachi until Apr 1935 when he returned to the UK and was placed on Retired Pay. He was recalled to active service on 2 Sep 1939 and served as OC Depot Bn at 2 STC. He retired on 10 Oct 1941. In addition to being awarded the MC for his service in France during 1916, **Rowland Helps** was also Mentioned in Despatches during that year. He died on 23 Mar 1983 at the age of 92.

Hesketh—Capt Clifford Edward Hesketh was born in Preston on 31 Mar 1929 and enlisted into Royal Signals on 3 Mar 1948. He was appointed Lt in the Corps on 1 Oct 1962 and then served for two and a half years with 219 Sig Sqn in Tripoli. After his return to the UK he spent three years with 24 Sig Regt and then in Aug 1968 moved to 7 Sig Regt where he served until his retirement on 13 Feb 1971. During his career he had served six years in the Far East and a further five and half years in Africa. **Capt Hesketh** died suddenly on 24 May 1983 at his home in Devon.

Hey—Col Walter Lancaster Hey CBE TD was born in Leeds on 12 Feb 1906 and was commissioned as 2Lt in the TA on 18 Jun 1926 and joined 49 (West Riding) Divisional Signals. He served with that TA unit until he was called to active service on 25 Aug 1939. He had been promoted to Major within his own unit on the day prior to his embodiment. In Jun 1940 he moved to 52 Divisional Signals for a short time and then returned to his parent regiment. On 19 Jan he moved to 1 STC to help form a new 49 (West Riding) Inf Div Signals prior to moving to Iceland. The unit had previously taken part in the Norway operations and was then given the task of providing communication on Iceland. The unit was to join with Iceland (C) Fortress Signals. On 11 Feb 1942 **Major Hey** was promoted to **Lt Col** and appointed to command the reformed unit.

In Oct 1943 he moved to a home based unit and took command of HQ Essex and Suffolk Div Signals and remained in command of the unit until he was appointed DCSO HQ East Anglian District in Nov 1944. He completed his active service on 28 Oct 1945. He served as a Hon Col in the TA from 11 May 1957 until 1964. **Col Hey** died on 22 Mar.

Hothersall—Maj (Tfc Offr) Phillip Hothersall was born at Lancaster on 6 Mar 1908. He enlisted into Royal Signals on 31 Aug 1926 and after training was posted to the Mounted Wing, D Bn where he remained until he was posted to 5 Div Signals on 13 Jun 1932. In Feb 1933 he went to India and served with C Company. He returned to the UK in Jun 1939 and served with 1st Army Signals until Apr 1940. He then spent two years with HQ 2 Corps which was followed by a two year tour of duty with the War Office. In Jan 1944 he joined 2nd Army and served with the CSOs Branch until Jun 1945. After a short tour of duty in the Middle East he was commissioned as a 2Lt on 26 Jul 1946 and joined 8th Army Signals in CMF and remained with them until Jul 1948, when he was released from military service. He was granted a commission in RA TA and served with 337 HAA Regt from Sep 1949 until Jun 1955. In Jun 1955 he transferred to Royal Signals TA and joined UKLF Sig Regt TA until Sep 1959. In Sep 1959 he joined 91 Sig Regt AER and served with that unit until Sep 1961. **Maj Hothersall** died on 24 Dec 1982.

Mahoney—Maj Edward William Sarsfield Mahoney was born at Leith Scotland on 12 July 1909. He served from Mar 1924 to Sep 1939 in the RA and then transferred to the RAOC. In Oct 1942 he transferred to the REME and was commissioned. He served during the remainder of World War 2 in the Middle East and North Africa. Following war service he continued to serve in REME in a variety of workshops in the UK and Cyprus. He retired from active service in 1964 but continued to serve with 324 Regt Wksps REME TA from Sep 1964 until Apr 1967. In 1967 he transferred to Royal Signals and joined 31 Sig Regt (V) and was with that unit until 31 Aug 1973. **Maj Mahoney** died on 10 Apr 1983.

Patterson—Lt Col Lewis Davis Malcolm Patterson was born in Cardiganshire on 11 Feb 1906 and after service as a Cadet in the Clifton College Engineering Contingent OTC for three years he joined the RMA as a Cadet. He was commissioned into Royal Signals in Aug 1926 and served in India from Dec 1928 to Jun 1935 where he was first with 3rd Cavalry Bde Sig Tp at Meerut and then with 2nd Cavalry Bde Signal Troop at Sialkot. In Feb 1934 he moved to Rawalpindi and joined 1st Indian Divisional Signals until Jun 1935. He returned to the UK on appointment as Adjt of GHQ Signals, SR at Glasgow and served with it in France in the BEF. In Jan 1940 he attended a 'War Course' at Camberley and then joined the staff of the War Office where he remained until Apr 1941. Then followed a number of staff appointments within the UK until Sep 1942 when he was posted to Ceylon to take over the appointment of SOI (Sigs) at HQ Ceylon Comd. In Sep 1943 he was given the job of DCSO of the Southern Army of India for a year. This was followed by a tour of duty as CO of 'T' L of C Signals in India until his return to the UK in Nov 1945. He was with 5 Inf Div Signals in NW Europe, until he retired on 21 Oct 1951. **Lt Col Patterson** died on 9 Mar 1983.

Rickard—Maj (Tom) Ronald Ernest Rickard was born at Devonport on 3 Sep, 1908 and enlisted into the Corps as a Boy on 23 Aug 1923. He joined man's service in Sep 1926. He was commissioned into the Corps as a TMO on 1 May 1940 and served with 4th Indian Div Signals in MELF until Nov 1943. From Dec 1943 until May 1945 he was with 208 HQ Signals in India. On return to the UK he served first with Eastern Comd Signals and then Western Comd Signals returning to MELF for a short period with the Army Signal School MELF. He then moved to CSOs Branch GHQ MELF to serve as SO3 Signals from Dec 1947 until Jul 1952. He then rejoined Western Comd Signal Regt for three and a half years.

After that he went to BAOR where he served with 1 Corps Signal Regt and 7 Sig Regt and after four years service in Europe returned to the UK for his final appointment as a TSO3. **Maj Rickard** retired on 3 Sep 1963 and died on 8 Apr 1983.

Sheffield—Brig Thomas Tredwell Jackson Sheffield CBE TD DL was born at Harrogate Yorkshire on 27 Jul 1894. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the West Riding Divisional Train, Army Service Corps, TF on 23 Nov 1914. He served for two years as the Transport and Supply officer, UK and this was followed by a similar appointment in France from Dec 1916 until Dec 1917. On 27 Dec 1917 he was seconded for service with the Tank Corps and in July of the following year was appointed Asst Staff Captain of 1st Bde (Tank Corps) in France. At the end of the war he returned to his parent Corps which had, by them, become RASC. He continued to serve in that Corps until Mar 1926, when he transferred to Royal Signals and served with 50th Northumbrian Div Signals TA. He was embodied with that unit at the outbreak of the second world war. In Mar 1941 he was made Commander of the NCO Trg Bde, Royal Signals, a post he held until Jan 1942 when he was appointed as OC Troops Harrogate Garrison. In Oct 1942 he was made CSO AA Command Group Signal Pool (Midland Area) a post he held until Feb 1945. In Jun 1944 he was appointed **ADC** to **HM King George VI**. His final active service appointment was as CSO HQ AA Command. He was **ADC** to **King George VI** from 1944 until 1952 and **ADC** to **Her Majesty The Queen** from 1952 until 1954. He served as Deputy Lieutenant Durham from 1950 until 1974. He was appointed **OBE** in 1945 and promoted **CBE** in 1960. **Brig Sheffield** died at his home in Middlesbrough on 25 Apr 1983.

Stow—Maj John David Fenwick Stow TD was born at Pinner, Middlesex on 21 Apr 1914. He served with the Honourable Artillery Company (TA) from 1935 to Sep 1939 and on the outbreak of World War 2 was commissioned into Royal Signals as a 2Lt. He served in the BEF with 11th Line Section and in Jan 1940 joined 1st Corps Signals. After return to the UK he continued to serve with that unit in the UK and in North Africa until May 1943. He was then given a staff appointment as SO R Sigs HQ L of C North Africa. He returned to regimental duty later in 1943 and rejoined his unit which had, by then, become 1st L of C North Africa. He remained with that unit until Dec 1945. He completed his active service on 30 Mar 1946. He joined the TA on 11 Oct 1948 and was commissioned and served with 23 (S) Corps Signals which later became 2 Corps Signal Regiment. The unit again changed its title to 2 (L) Signal Regt TA in February 1957 and he continued to serve with them until 23 Mar 1959 when he transferred to the TARO. **Maj Stow** was **Mayor of Barnes** from 1962-1963 and died at Barnes on 21 Jun.

Warman—Lt Ernest Alfred William Warman, was born at Wandsworth on 5 Aug 1906. He joined the Corps in Aug 1924 and after two years service with 4 Divisional Signals in the UK was posted to India in Jun 1927 and served with L Coy until Mar 1932. After his return to the UK he served with AFV Signals and then Tank Bde Signals. He then returned to India in Dec 1937, and when he was posted to the UK prior to the outbreak of War he served in the Training organisation until Sep 1940 when he joined 8th Armd Div Signals. He was commissioned on 1 Feb 1944 and posted to 30 Corps Signals. He completed his active service on 13 Nov 1945. **Lt Warman** died on 24 Mar 1983.

From: Col. T. H. C. Grigg

Dear Sir,

I was very sorry to read in *The Wire* of the death of **'Jack' Jenkins,** a notable figure in the Corps especially in rugger circles.

Jack was Secretary when I became President of Corps Rugby early in 1966 and no one could wish for a more suitable person for this important but sometimes thankless task. Not only was he a very capable administrator but as befits anyone coming from 'the Valley' he had a deep knowledge of the game and shrewd judgment.

The years we had together saw the Corps side in excellent form—we were also particularly lucky to have the guidance of **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle,** who, in earlier days had been a distinguished Corps rugger player (at the time of our association together he was commanding the Bruin Squadron in Blandford). After two seasons **Jack** was posted to 7 Sig Regt in BAOR when he made a significant contribution to the Regement's success in Army Cup competitions.

I am sure that I speak for the whole rugger fraternity who knew him when I say that **Jack** earned our respect, and affection. He was very much a Corps man and will be much missed but certainly not forgotten. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

Yours faithfully
Tommy Grigg
President Corps Rugby 1977-72

Askerwill
Dorset

SITUATIONS VACANT

RO3 VACANCIES AT ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE, CAVERSHAM

R. SIGNALS MRO is due to move to Glasgow in 1986 and is currently having difficulty recruiting two Retired Officers grade 3 to fill posts at Caversham due to become vacant, one in October and the other in December 1983.

To meet the situation MOD have indicated that they are prepared to consider applicants for these posts who are over the normal upper age limit (58 years) for recruitment as Retired Officers.

The duration of employment would be until R. SIGNALS MRO moves to Glasgow, the target date for which is 'NOT before 1 January 1986' but could well be later.

The salary scale for a RO3 is £6,819 rising in 2 increments to £8,078.

Applications or requests for further information should be addressed to:- Ministry of Defence, (CM(S)4f), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

FOUND

One mackintosh belonging to a Standard Bearer at Catterick on 26 June. Please claim from T. E. Holyoake Esq: Bedford Branch.

FOR SALE

Officers Uniforms: No 2 Dress, No 4 Dress, Mess kit etc, Height 5' 10". Waist 36". **Maj (Retd) L. D. Edinger,** Rose Lea, High St, Hampsthwaite, Harrogate HG3 2EZ. Tel (0423) 770656.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

AROUND THE BRIGADE AREA

In the early part of this period it looked as if the Brigade Area might be in for a relatively quiet summer. The only incidents of note were a shooting attempt in Strabane and a big explosives find in South Derry. However, in mid July everyone's attention was switched to County Tyrone where a landmine attack resulted in the deaths of four UDR soldiers. This was followed by a less successful attack against the RUC. Later in the month our attention was again focused on Londonderry City itself, with two shooting incidents involving the RUC. In one of these the principle weapon used was a Russian-made RPG7 Rocket Launcher of the type seen several times in recent years in Belfast.

However, not all the news is of terrorist successes. The Security Forces here have made a number of major finds, most notably in Londonderry, and the Christopher Black 'Supergrass' trial has shown the IRA to be particularly vulnerable to informers from within its own ranks.

The Bde Comd introduces WO2 (FofS) Colin Bachelor an acting RSM to the Rt Hon John Stanley MP on a recent visit. Yes . . . a Foreman with a pace stick!

FOCUS ON MIKE TROOP

Firstly, what is Mike Tp? Or as a visiting subaltern was once heard to remark, 'Who is Mike Troop? I haven't met him yet'. Mike is actually short for Technical Maintenance or long for M, depending on how you look at it. The Troop is a collection of Radio Techs, TE Techs, Telemechs and Linemen, not forgetting two REME attached personnel, all of whom slave feverishly under **WO2 (FofS) Colin Bachelor** and the recently arrived **SSgt Om Chhetri.** Workwise a lot of effort is expended on the moving talk-throughs and equipment from A to B and occasionally back to A again, while maintaining a constant battle to keep Ops rooms and hill-top sites tidy and in good working condition. Most recently the Troop has been involved with the re-configuration of the Brigade Insecure Command Net and with the introduction of Pye Pegasus equipment to the province.

On the sporting front the Troop has organised a six-a-side Hockey tournament for the Squadron and unsurprisingly (the umpires came from Mike Tp) developed a comfortable lead with only two games to go. A Squash ladder is also on the go and **Cpl Gary Hill** is currently on top, though he is facing strong opposition.

Finally, it would not be right to finish an article on Mike Tp without saying farewell to **SSgt George Fotheringham** who will be sadly missed although his departure does mean that the sound insulation can be removed from the inside of the Troop SSgts Office. Also recently departed are **Sgt Paul Wilson** and **Cpl Gary Legge.**

Most of Mike Tp in one place for once

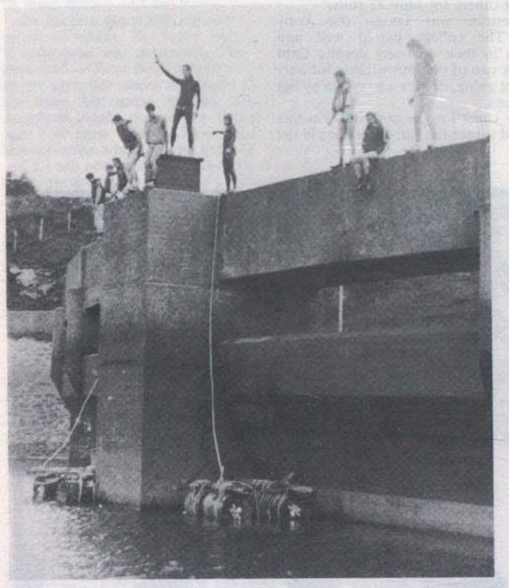
EXERCISE MARRAKESH EXPRESS 83

Once again it is that strange time of the year when apparently normal soldiers leave the relative warmth of Londonderry for the Mull of Kintyre on whatever transport can be scrounged, borrowed or hired and jump out of perfectly serviceable Landrovers to go running around the countryside. As soon as the first sections arrived at the Exercise base, a lonely but well equipped hut surrounded by pine forest with only eagle, deer and inquisitive sheep for company, they were briefed on their first exercise. **Cpls Dave Clarke** and **Clive Quantick**, led their men over streams, through woods and into trip flares and enemy fire. Then bed at 0200 hrs only to be awoken at 0630 hrs for a quick burst of PT, needed to work up an appetite for breakfast cooked by **Pte 'Stallone' Macbeth.**

,The first few days of each week were spent on military training which inlcuded ambush drills (where the sight of **Pte 'Eck' Brandon** peering enthusiastically from the bushes usually alerted the enemy of the ambush position) and a camouflage and movement exercise (where **Pte 'Marine' Blake** crawled up a full stream to avoid detection). A 15km orienteering type race sorted out the men from the quiche eaters and demonstrated to **LCpl Charlie Charlcroft** the inadvisability of allowing the friendly local to take you ALL the way to the finish. This proved to be the easy part of the week! Later activities included a race where the sections had to jump off a 30ft high dam and paddle a home made raft across a rather cold loch. This was followed by a one kilometre uphill race along a water pipe and, most popular of all, a gorge crossing. Times in the last event ranged between **LCpl Peter Ali** at 90 seconds and **Sig Jock Fox** at half an hour. He shouldn't have spent so much time hanging around.

Each week was rounded off with a three day patrolling exercise over the hilly terrain of the Mull. After a succession of lengthy patrols and tiring attacks the sections were found to be in need of a hot meal so **Pte 'Stallone' Macbeth** was called on to provide a fresh chicken dinner—very fresh in fact.

Despite all this activity there was still time for socialising in Campbelltown where the directing staff, **Lt Gordon James, SSgt Tony Crilly** and **Sgt Bruce Payne**, were for once, as active as the exercise participants.



'You've guessed it—The directing staff are the ones with wet suits'

Cpl Dave Clarke dragging both the log and Sig Sam McLeod. Sig Mike Moore and Pte Manners can only look on

SQUADRON SUMMER BALL

This year the Summer Ball was organised by Comms Troop and a spectacular evening it proved to be, with the Waterside Inn festooned with imitation palm trees, real flowers and white camouflage netting (don't worry 244 Sig Sqn, it will be back soon). Two of the ten foot high wooden palm trees mysteriously disappeared half way through the night, only to be found the following day in the area of MT Tp, under very suspicious circumstances. There are no photographs from the function as yet but we suspect that they will prove to be more suitable for blackmail than for The Wire.

SQUADRON BBQ

On Thursday 14 July the squadron shut up shop for the day and disappeared to a local beach for the annual Bar-B-Que. Unfortunately, after weeks of sunshine, the weather was a little disappointing. However, with an excellent meal provided by **SSgt John Brocklebank**, a well stocked bar run by **LCpl Paul Harding** and numerous other activities a good time was had by all. **Cpl Stewart Townsend** introduced many to the sport of water-skiing and the OC had his first wind surfing lesson. Overall the day was a great success, a fact due to the hard work of MT Tp under **WO2 Peter Yates** and **Sgt Dennis Downie**.

WIVES CLUB GET THEIR OWN HOUSE

The squadron wives club was given a big boost recently when they acquired a bungalow at nearby Clooney Base. The accommodation provides excellent facilities for meetings and activities and has been fitted out with a play area for children. It was opened by **Mrs Mattingley,** wife of the Bde Comd at a short ceremony attended by approximately 25 wives club members.

Opening day at the wives new club bungalow

Mrs Greta Mattingley talks to Mrs Annette Farrimond and Mrs Annette Nelson after the opening ceremony

CRICKET

For the first time in several years the squadron cricket team has really got off the ground this year and three competitions have been entered, most significant to date being the Army Minor Units Cup.

A win against 39 Inf Bde in the NI final, was enough to ensure a passage to the UK round. A good opening stand by **Capt Andrew French** (25) and **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson** (57) set a strong base for the later batsmen. Notable among these were **Maj Alaistair Cumming** (59) and **Sgt Kevin Thorpe** (22 not out). A total of 187 for 6 proved to be too much for 39 Brigade who were bowled out by **Capt Trevor Lindsey** and **Maj Mike Hart** among others for only 77 runs.

The next round in the competition was against the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. The college batted well and consistantly and amassed 191 runs in their 40 overs despite **Capt Trevor Lindseys'** bowling which took two of the four wickets for only 21 runs. Our batsmen never really got going, despite a brave 26 by **Sgt Kevin Thorpe**, and we lost by 73 runs.

Both the Northern Ireland Minor Units League and the six-a-side competitions are progressing well and we are the current leaders in the league.

Successful Cricket Team. *Back Row:* Maj Alaistair Cumming, Capt Trevor Lindsey, Sgt Mick Tucker, LCpl Stevie Brown, Maj Mike Hart, Cpl Neil March, Capt Andrew French
Front Row: Cpl Wayne Wilkinson, Sgt Kevin Thorpe, LCpl Giles Roper, WO1 (RSM) Geoff Nelson, Capt John Goodhall

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

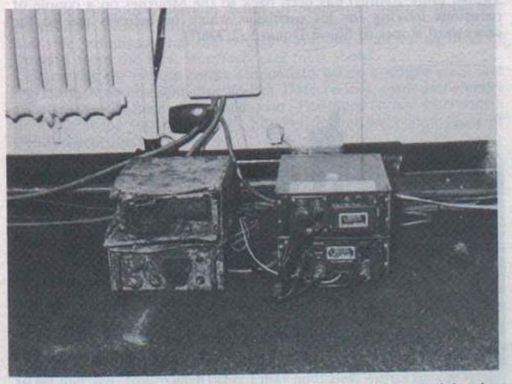
June and July has seen a fairly busy time in the Province especially in West Belfast and Bessbrook area.

On election day a proxy bomb was delivered to RUC Woodbourne on an oil tanker. The bomb exploded and the Army Ops Rooms at Woodbourne was destroyed. This was our second ops room to be destroyed in West Belfast within a month; RUC Andersonstown was blown up a few weeks previously. Miraculously no one was killed in the blast but some of our comms equipment was completely destroyed. Alpha troops West Belfast Crew led by **Cpl Chris Hobday** and **Cpl Stan Sudron** have since refitted a new ops room at Woodbourne which is now back to 'business as usual'.

1 LI are now well established in West Belfast and are starting to look forward to the arrival of 1 RRW later this year. So far they have had a successful tour but sadly they have already lost one soldier.

1 DERR had a very lucky escape in Crossmaglen when the base was mortored in June. Several mortors were fired but those which landed inside the base failed to explode. A Wessex helicopter flying into the base at the time managed to drop its load and escape to safety. In Newry, an attempt was made to blast the RUC station. Fortunately the petrol tanker bomb did not explode. If it had Newry would have ceased to exist!

LCpl Paddy Irwin and Sig Chris Alger fitting a new intercom at Woodbourne



Before and after. Some of the comms eqpt destroyed in the bombing of RUC Woodbourne

Sgt Tony Moses, LCpl Paddy Irwin and LCpl Corky Corkett taking a break in West Belfast

Filling in the Hole. Andersonstown after the bomb

The Corps Band playing in Belfast City Centre.

CHANGES

Since the last edition there has been a major upheaval of the Squadrons A Team. **Capt Geoff Cary,** our 2IC for the last two years, has now left us for the warmth and sunshine of Cyprus. We wish both him and his wife **Ann** well, and thank them for all the effort and hard work they put into the Squadron. In his place we now have **Capt Terry Canham** who has stepped upstairs from his former desk in Alpha Troop. Commanding Alpha Troop is now **Capt Keith Durward,** a new arrival to the Squadron from Germany. **SSgt George Fitzgerald,** also Alpha Troop, has now left us posted to the Signals Wing at Sandhurst. Handbag Troop, otherwise known as Bravo Troop has seen the arrival of **YofS Jason Wood** straight from Blandford and will soon see the departure of **YofS John Chilcott.** Even the QM's department has not been without change and **RQMS John Farrel** has left us and **RQMS Steve Jones** is now in the chair.

NEWS FROM TROOPS

ALPHA TROOP

Since the Bessbrook Bn and 2 UDR have been added to our area, Alpha Troop has been busy visiting and rewiring their ops rooms to bring them up to standard of our other Bde ops rooms. **Cpl Harry Fellows** and his team are now firmly in control of this area and seem to enjoy visiting Crossmaglen and Forkhill; probably because they have to fly there!

In West Belfast we sustained our first injury for several months. **Cpl Stan Sudron,** a new arrival to the West Belfast crew had a brick hurled at his face. His upper lip was badly lacerated and cut, but his reason for claiming compensation is that he had to shave off his moustache before he could be stitched up! Fortunately the damage was not too bad and **Stan** is now quite well again.

Sgt Tony Moses, formerly Combat Section, has now taken over as troop **Sgt** following the departure of **SSgt George Fitzgerald** to Sandhurst.

We offer our best wishes to **Cpl Chris Hobday** on his recent marriage and the news that there is to be an addition to his family. Rover Group also get a special mention for having such an excellent Summer Ball and special thanks to **Cpl Ted Kewley** and **LCpl Steve Richards** for all the hard work involved in organising it.

QM TROOP

Once again it has been a busy period for the troop; constant up dating of radio equipments in the Province keeping us on our toes. We've recently bid farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) John Farrell** and his wife **Jackie** who have just been posted to Cyprus. We welcome **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones** and his wife **Sammy** and hope they enjoy their tour with the Squadron.

Congratulations to our pet Para **Sgt Des Faherty** and his wife **Dawn** on the news that there is going to be an addition to the family, and also to **Cpl Mac McIntyre** on being selected for promotion.

Cpl 'Hurricane' Barbour has forgotten so often that he is on duty that the RSM now phones him personally to remind him. **LCpl 'Billy Whiz' Lewis** tried so hard to avoid going to Warcop on battle camp, that instead of just bruising his thumb he has broken it in two places. And finally, **Sig 'Teddy Boy' Baker** still seems to be getting more leave than the QM!

Back Row L to R: LCpl Paul Lewis, Cpl Paddy McIntyre, Sig Bill Baker, LCpl Andy Hilton, Cpl Bob Barbour. *Front Row:* WO2 John Farrell, Capt (QM) Mike Jennings, Sgt Des Faherty

TM TROOP

Without a mention in the Wire for so long Wire readers are probably not aware that we have a TM Troop. This has now been rectified and TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** has decided to give the matter his personal attention.

To cope with the enlarged Bde area **Cpl Steve Carr** and **Cpl Graham Tolton** have recently arrived from 8 Inf Bde. We also welcome two telemechs from Alpha Troop **LCpl Dave Blight** and **Sig Dave Harris.**

Two new awards have been initiated within the troop. The 'Stab in the Back' award first presented to **LCpl Cliff Wragg** and the 'Cabbage of the Week' award, the winner of which wishes to remain anon.

We have recently said farewell to **Sgt Clive Soutar** and **Cpl 'Bish' Hampton.**

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONS

Success has again been with the Squadron Swimming and Polo teams. After winning the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships Swimming and the Northern Ireland Water Polo Championships the teams headed off for Catterick for the Zone B Finals. The Waterpolo team defeated 210 Sig Sqn and met a strong team from 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the final. Fast breaks from **WO2 (FofS) Cross** and **SSgt Dave Hogben** secured the match for us after an early lead by the opposition. The final score was 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 11, 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 3.

A NEAR THING

Even more dramatic was the Zone B Swimming Finals. Our butterfly swimmer had flu and four of our team members were delayed by a motorway accident. The individual events saw the unit in fourth position out of four. The medley relay was won by a whisker which left everything hanging on the freestyle relay; if 39 Bde could win and 8 Inf Bde come second all would be well. Our eternal thanks for 8 Inf Bde for beating COD Donnington into 3rd position and giving us the day!

MOURNE WALL MOUNTAIN WALK

During the month of June each year 3,000 volunteers gather at the bottom of the Mourne Mountains in the expectation of completing 22 miles across extremely rough country; ascending and descending 10,000ft, and covering 14 peaks. The history of the walk goes back many years when somebody called Mourne decided to build a continuous wall in a circle covering all the peaks in the Mountain Range.

The majority of the participants are civilians with a mixture of army personnel who register as civilians because of the security situation, the Mourne Mountains being a particular sensitive area.

Capt Geoff (these boots were made for walking) **Cary 2IC** of the Squadron asked for volunteers who would like to attempt the walk. The initial response was good, but this soon dwindled to a few hard core individuals after the first training sessions.

Leaving camp at 0430hrs on 5 June the team reported to the marshalling area and by 0600hrs commenced the tab by tackling the first peak Slieve Binnian 2,448ft from sea level. The team soon dispersed with individuals making their own way, depending on fitness, with **LCpl Jamie James** from SHQ well to the front. Of the 3,000 marchers, over 2,000 managed to complete the walk. With all of the Squadron's team turning in respectable times, in particular **LCpl Jamie James** finishing in just over 6hrs. **WO2 (YofS) Pete Tapsell** (9hrs 20mins) has been back to the Mournes on a couple of occasions looking for his cartilages which he believes are on the downward slopes of Slieve Donard (2,796ft).

WO2 (YofS) Pete Tapsell leading the Squadron team on the Mourne Mountain Walk

PRESENTATION BY COMD NI

The Squadron was honoured recently by a visit from the GOC **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson** to present several awards and decorations the majority of which were announced in the Birthday Honours List. The notable exception to this was the award of the LS&GC medal to **Capt Dick Good.** Also honoured were **SSgt (FofS) Taylor (British Empire Medal), SSgt Geoff Douglas Hiley (GOC's Commendation) Cpl Gilly Walker (GOC's Commendation)** and **LCpl Brian Murphy (Mentioned in Dispatches).** Given awards on the same list, but not present at the ceremony were **Sgt Bob Hamilton (GOC's Commendation)** who has now left us after a long stint as Chief Systems Controller and **Cpl Gordon Moir (GOC's Commendation)** who has also gone on to pastures new in BAOR.

From L to R: SSgt (FofS) Paul Taylor, Capt Dick Good, Cpl Gilly Walker, Lt Gen Richardson, SSgt Geoff Douglas Hiley and LCpl Brian Murphy

WHO SLOANES WINS

As promised in the last issue of the Wire, the first and probably most important lesson—how a Sloane Soldier dresses—eagerly awaited by all connoisseurs of fine things. This will enable you to recognise a fellow Sloane at a glance and save you the embarrassment of conversing with non-Sloanes should you happen to meet them.

In uniform the only essential item is NI Patrol Boots; however captured Argentine Combat Boots or American Jungle Boots are permissible. Sloane haircuts are controlled and follow the no facial hair rule, no moustaches side whiskers and above all no hair over or forward from the ears. In effect 'ears must show'.

In civvies the Sloane enters a minefield where a simple error will mark him as a non-Sloane (or Wally). Desert boots, cords and chunky sweaters are the norm for casual wear. For more formal occasions a dark pin stripe suit is essential. Sloanes do not wear grey shoes or trendy sweatshirts.

This months Sloane vocabulary:-
Grockle — outsider, member of a rival unit
Thick — temporarily unintelligent
Chateaued — Sloshed on wine.

TECH TROOP

This summer finds the minions of Tech Tp hard at work maintaining communications throughout the Province but never let it be said that it is all work and no play.

July saw the annual Troop trip to the beach. It certainly was a sight for sore eyes to see **Sgt Chris Bond** and **SSgt Pete Dyson** armed with their buckets and spades eagerly awaiting the transport.

Love is in the air for three members of the troop as they prepare to get married. Not to each other I may add! Best wishes for the future are extended to **Cpl Steve Rogers** and **Fiona, Cpl Paul Davies** and **Jane Ellen** and **Sig Tim Jones** and **Veronica.**

New arrivals in the troop came in the shape of **Cpl Steve 'Traffic Accident' Pulman, Ozie 'Bungalow' Butler, LCpls Peter Furness** and **Andy Robinson.**

The next month sees the departure of some of the old school. **Cpl Albert Switzer** is off to terrorise 22 Sig Regt, **Sgt Paul Leighton** is moving to continue his swanning in AFCENT and **Cpl Kev Dale** is away to the sunny dunes of Catterick to do his TI.

Congratulations must go to **Sgt Steve Casey,** the only man to go to a wedding and come back with a broken nose. Nice one **Steve.**

WHISKEY TROOP

The Troop jogs along (literally), ten people led by **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Gibson** took part in the Lisburn ½ marathon, which was the largest running event held in the Province with over 3000 participants.

Cpl Mint Cobban organised a very successful Caveman night as his farewell thrash. However there was a lot of licence in the costume. How did ET get there Yeoman?

The W appears to stand for Wedding at the moment with **Cpl Jan Spencer** (now **McIntosh**), **Sig Bob Lancaster, LCpl Trish Stokes** (now **Huzzey**), **Sgt Brian Hair** and **Cpl Mint Cobban** all taking the plunge.

The farewell and arrivals list seems endless so enough to say goodbye and good luck to all the Troop Members who have left and welcome to those newcomers.

ADMIN TROOP

We would like to take this opportunity of saying farewell to an old and stalwart member of the troop. **Cpl Willy Coyne** leaves us this month on posting to BAOR and will be sadly missed. All the best to **Willy** and his charming wife **Pat** who was a Squadron typist for so many years.

Pte Sally Leatherby obviously thinks that 'roses grow on you' as she has been receiving the same from a mysterious source and has refused to say who??? . . .

We sadly also say 'adios' to a very long (3½ years) standing and hard working member of the Troop and a squadron personality, **Capt Len Jeffery. Capt Jeffery** is going to 10 Sig Regt and a deserved promotion.

A welcome is extended to **Capt Ray Briant** and **Cpl Alan Young.**

SHOOTING SUCCESS

'The team needs an extra man to go shooting next week. **Sig Geordie Coggins** did quite well on his NIRTT shoot, can we borrow him?' He also did 'quite well' at Bulford winning the Roberts Cup competition for the best B class shot during the Royal Signals Skill-At-Arms meeting.

HOWZAT

The Garrison was treated to a rare sight recently when the Squadron turned out for an Offrs & WO's vs SNCOs vs Cpls vs Sig Cricket Match. The weather was fine and the sun shone down on players and spectators. The Signalmen played well but were narrowly bested by the Officers led by the **OC Maj Pat Kington.** The final was a needle match between the Officers and SNCOs and the surprise of the day was the demon bowling of the AO **Capt Len Jeffrey** which helped the Officers to a victory. A good day was had by all and some fine (and not so fine) cricket played.

THE GENTLE TOUCH

WO2 (YofS) Geordie Atkinson was not too impressed by the prospect of an officer on attachment from Leeds University OTC, but when he discovered that **Lt S. E. Holt** was a woman and her name was **Sally,** it was all too much and he promptly took two weeks leave to recover. However it is rumoured that he has since been heard muttering, 'She's not bad really . . .'. We hope that **Sally** enjoys her time with us and that it is of some use to her when she gets back to University. What is Data Processing anyway?

ATHLETICS

The squadron were fortunate enough to send a team to the Army Inter Unit Athletics this year. **SSgt Graham Campbell** was extremely pleased with his time of 4min 2.3sec, not only was it a personal best but it is the fastest race he has had since 1973. **Cpl Barry Graham** won the 100m in 10.8sec and although the team only came sixth, four more of the members also achieved personal bests.

Cpl David Piggott in the 200m

SSgt Graham Campbell (letter L) in the 1500m

STOP PRESS

BT
UNCLAS
SIC SAA
FOR OCS FROM CONTROLLER DCN. CONTROLLERS CUP, FOR A MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO EFFICIENCY OF DCD BY OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TELE-COMMUNICATIONS BY COMMCENS/STATIONS PROVIDING FACILITIES . . . AWARDED 1983 TO LISBURN (INCL NIZE) NORTHERN IRELAND, CITATION PROMULGATED LATER. MANY CONGRATULATIONS.

BT

More in the next issue.

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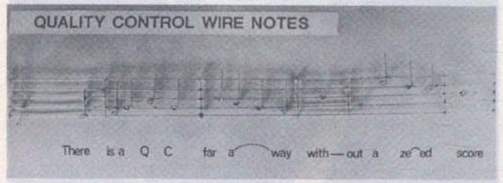
THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

– News from Headquarters –

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

A CHALLENGE TO THE SANE

Here at the College we pride ourselves that the often voiced criticism of our Corps 'They can communicate with everyone but themselves' does not apply. However, due possibly, to an unusually hot spell, we have as last conformed to our critics' view of us. Picture the scene, and for those of you who 'volunteer' to write notes for the Corps magazine, I know I pluck at your heart strings. This much harrassed Wire Notes Officer, with the usual Fleet Street deadline to meet is desperate for good 'Wire Notes Copy'. A letter to all departments informing them where and by when to send their contribution for the next edition is hastily despatched. Five days before the deadline an envelope drops on the desk, the contents are reproduced below. You may draw your own conclusions.



Without wishing to influence your conclusions, I will finish by quashing some ugly rumours put about by QCs 'sister' organisation at 8 Sig Regt.

It did not take OC Quality Control and 33% of his staff six 'working' days to produce this masterpiece.

It is not a therapeutic cry for help.

It is not an invitation to send that organisation any of your work.

For the puzzled reader still looking at the picture—join the club.

(Wire Notes—Get it!)

And now to less serious matters.

VISIT BY SOinC

On Friday 1 July the SOinC **Maj Gen R. Benbow** visited the College. His first duty was to inspect the Quarter Guard commanded by **AT RSM Norris.** A briefing and discussion on the College was followed by visits to the trade and education wings, then pre-lunch drinks in the Sgts' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

SOinC, AT RSM Norris, AT LCpl Crabtree, AT LCpl Cooper, AT Knowles

The afternoon programme included visits to the Quartermaster, NAAFI, WRVS, Cinema and Library, the visit being rounded off with a social evening in the Jimmy Club.

ANGLING CLUB

The College Angling Club has had an excellent year so far, with an increase in membership both from members of staff and Apprentice Tradesmen. The Club has produced good results in the Army Group 5 League, and the NE Dist League at both individual and team events. The teams were: Staff: **Mr Ken Glenville, WO2 (CSM) Sid Siddall, SSgt Nobby Clarke, Sgt Bill Parker, Cpl Glen Henderson, Pte Grif Griffiths, Mr Colin Pearson, Mr Brian Aldridge, LCpl Tom Cole. ATs: AT Mick Cooper, AT Troy Phillips, AT Robert Parr, AT David Hughes, AT Phillip Tonks** and **AT Mick Cave.**

The Club uses a small 800m stretch of the River Nidd at Cowthorpe, which the farmer has agreed to let us fish two Wednesdays a month. The river holds a good head of Chubb to over 4lbs, Roach 2lb, Grayling, Perch, Eels, Pike and the odd Barbel. **AT Robert Parr** (Rawson Sqn) has fished three matches there and had catches on all three occasions. **AT David Hughes** (Rawson Sqn) must have jam on his fingers, he too always catches fish, on the last NE Dist match he had a fine catch of Chubb, Grayling and Dace for 5lb 11oz to win the match. Well done. **AT Philip Tonks** provided an excellent back up weight with an all Chubb catch of 5lb 6oz, this with **AT Robert Parr's** 1lb 8oz Pike and Eel catch beat 8 Sig Regt easily. The staff team beat 15 Fd Wksps REME of Catterick. **Nobby Clark** had all Eels and a small Perch for 2.8oz, **Glen Henderson** 1 Grayling 11oz. **Sid Siddall** 1 Perch 9½oz, **Tom Cole** 1 Grayling 9oz, a good team effort by all. In the Group 5 league final two matches, one on the Trent and one at Holme Pierpoint were entered. The College PS team maintained the lead they had established, by winning both matches by a wide margin, thereby winning the league outright. The last match at Holme Pierpoint was also to find the still water champion. **Cpl Glen Henderson** won this with a catch that was almost double the runner up's weight, thus gaining him the match win and Group 5 AAA Still Water Champion 1983.

The sad news is the departure on posting, of **Sgt Bill Parker,** who has run the Club for the past two years. He is a big loss to the Club and the College team and will be sadly missed by all. Our thanks go to **Bill** and his family for all his time and hard work given to the Club.

Tight Liners

THE CORPS' FRONT RUNNER

Sgt Bill Cain is arguably the best distance runner in the Corps this year, the following is a list of his achievements:

England and Great Britain International Athlete in ½ marathon—marathon road races. Coached by **Dr R. A. Rielley PhD BSc** since October 1980.

MARATHON

Annual Progression in the Marathon

June 1980	2hrs 27 mins	ranked 105th in Great Britain
June 1981	2hrs 22 mins	ranked 56th in Great Britain
June 1982	2hrs 18 mins	ranked 39th in Great Britain
June 1983	2hrs 14 mins	ranked 16th in Great Britain

Trains 120-130 miles per week with a long term aim of representing Great Britain in the major games (Olympics, European, Commonwealth). Currently ranked 16th in Great Britain but while **Bill Cain** is maintaining steady improvement most of the athletes ranked ahead of him are either no longer improving or are, in fact, showing a decline in performances. **Bill Cain** has been verbally told by the National Event Coach for the marathon that he is to be selected as a member of the teams to represent Great Britain is an international ½ marathon in August (possibly Oslo) and an international marathon in September (possibly Montreal or Berlin) although official written confirmation is still awaited. He hopes that by September he will be fit enough to improve on his personal best sufficiently to gain a top 10 ranking place for 1983 thus becoming a realistic candidate for next year's Olympic Games. These are to be held in August with the marathon trial race provisionally booked for 13 May (team of three plus one reserve).

CROSS COUNTRY

By the end of the 1982-83 Cross Country Season **Sgt Bill Cain** was ranked approximately 15th in England and his coach is confident that he will improve sufficiently during 1983-84 to gain a place on the England cross-country team for the World Championships (team of nine plus one reserve). The Championships are to be held in New York on 18 March 1984 with the selection race taking place in the English National Championships on 4 March 1984 in Leicester.

His impressive record for 1983 reads as follows:

January 1983	2nd in the Morpeth to Newcastle road race (14½ miles) in 69.20 finished ahead of **Charlie Spedding, Fraser Clyne, Jim Dingwall, Ray Smedley, Ian Gilmour, Graham Ellis** (all established internationals).
January 1983	Member of the North Eastern Counties Cross Country team which finished second in the England and Wales Inter-Counties Cross County Championships.
February 1983	Selected to represent Great Britain for the first time in the San Blas road race over 13½ miles held in Puerto Rico. Finished seventh in 66.29—first European to finish, well ahead of **Mike Gratton** (Commonwealth Games Bronze medalist in the marathon).
February 1983	Army Cross Country Championships first.
February 1983	Inter-Services Championships fifth.
March 1983	Selected to represent the Combined Services Cross Country team.

ROAD RACES

Date	Race	Position	Remarks
7 Mar 1983	Tynemouth '10'	1st	48mins 48 secs, course record
4 Apr 1983	Hartlepool '10'	1st	47mins 55secs, course record
17 Apr 1983	London Marathon	30th	2hrs, 14mins 59 secs 16,000 runners
14 May 1983	North Eastern Counties 10 mile championships	1st	
19 June 1983	Great North Run	7th	21,500 runners
16 July 1983	England and Wales Inter-Counties 20 Mile Championships	1st	

TRACK RACES

22 Apr 1983	Army v Woodford Green	1st	3,000 metres
14 May 1983	Royal Signals Trg Bde Championships	1st	5,000 metres
4 June 1983	North East District Championships	1st	5,000 metres
9 June 1983	Army Championships	3rd	5,000 metres
29 June 1983	Northern Zone Championships	1st	5,000 metres
20 July 1983	Army Minor Unit Championships	1st	5,000 metres

THE MAKING OF HISTORY

If Army Apprentices College Harrogate had won the Army Junior Team Athletic Championships on 1 July it would have been the fourth successive victory and Army Junior Athletic History would have been made. In the event a whole series of mishaps resulted in the team sliding into third place after the final relay. However history was made in the Hammer with **AT Cpl Bill Harvey** and **Cpl Jim Thompson** setting a new Army record of 71m 66cm. **AT LCpl Bates** and **AT Aitchison** won the shot, **AT Charlie Matthews** and **AT Cpl Edlin** won the Discus and **AT LCpl Bates** and **AT Barnett** won the Javelin. Credit for much of this success in the field events must go to the coach **John Platford.**

After a clear win at the Triangular Games in very hot weather conditions, 12 Athletes from the College were selected for the Junior Army Team and 10 went on to compete for the Junior Combined Services v Wales.

Sgt Bill Cain

COLLEGE CRICKET

The College has had a very full and successful 1983 season at Cricket. We fielded four separate teams in five competitions and, despite a very bad start to the season because of the almost continuous rain, played over 50 matches.

Our results were as follows:

AT Junior XI — Army Junior Cricket Cup
AT College XI — Triangular Games Championships
Permanent Staff XI — NE District Minor Units Cup and Semi Final of UK Minor Units Competition.

Some notable achievements were:

PS Maj George Horne RAEC — averaged 45.5 runs
Maj Bill Price — averaged 35.1 runs
Capt Ian Buckley — averaged a wicket every 7.6 runs
WO2 (SSM) Malcolm Palmer — led his last season in the Army and Captained our evening A Team
AT 'Bagsy' Bain — averaged 45.5 runs with the bat and 9.1 runs per wicket with the ball
AT SSM (Tiny) Phillips, **AT LCpl Andrew Matless**, **AT LCpl Richard Matless** — Attended Army under 25 trial and played for GOCs XI
AT 'Barney' Barnett — Attended Army under 25 trial

In addition to this the College forwarded all the players for the first Corps Colts XI which played three fixtures against Rossall School, Fleetwood, St Peters School York and Welbeck College.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Mess members and their wives dined out the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle** on Friday 20 May. Requests for 'titbits' to spice the speech of the **RSM L. F. A. Bailey Coldstream Guards**, went to faraway places and as expected, more than enough information was forthcoming. The evening was a great success and ended with the **SOinC** and **Mrs Birtwistle** being pulled out of Uniacke Barracks by officers and Sergeants' Mess members with apprentices lining the route with flaming torches. All at the Apprentices College wish **General Archie** and **Sylvia** all the very best for the future.

The Sergeants' Mess would like to welcome the following new arrivals and hope that they have an enjoyable and rewarding stay at the College:

WO2 (SSM) Matthews — Rawson Squadron
WO2 (SSM) Warren — HQ Squadron
WO2 (RQMS) Firth — RQMS Tech
SSgt Degei — Tg Wing
Sgt Thompson — Elect Wing
Sgt Neil — Elect Wing
Sgt Bennet — Mil Trg
Sgt Bough — Elect Wing
Sgt Camm — ACC
WO2 (RQMS) Buckley — QM Dept
SSgt Ludlow — RAOC
Sgt Beall — Elect Wing

Farewells are to be said to the following:

WO2 (FofS) Eames — Posted to 3 Div As WO1
WO1 (SMI) Carraher — On his commissioning and posting to the Officer's Mess
WO2 (SSM) Palmer — Civilian Street
WO2 (ORQMS) Charlesworth — Civilian Street
SSgt Aldridge — Civilian Street
WO2 (SSM) Hodge — Posted to Catterick
Sgt Hardy — Posted to BATUS (Canada)
Sgt Rae — On promotion to Staff College

The Sergeants' Mess would like to wish them all the best in their new positions and every success in the future.

Detached in the Falkland Islands:
SSgt (FofS) Morgan McDonald
Sgt Steve Farrer
Sgt Tony Singleton

DARTS

The Sergeants' Mess have entered the Harrogate District Summer Darts League under the guidance of **SSgt Roy Martin RAMC.** After a shaky start they have begun putting some good results together and look forward to finishing well up in the league.

SUMMARY OF COLLEGE SQUASH — 1982/83 SEASON

The 1982/83 squash season has finished and we can now look back on a season of heavy involvement and considerable successes.

The teams consisted of: **PS: Capts Robin Broad, Paul Robertshaw, Ian Buckley, SSgt Ray Surgeon, Sgts Tony Parker, John Barker** and **Alex Hamilton. ATs: AT Cpl Mick Nutley, AT LCpl Mick Swift, AT Ian Outterson, AT Andy Baughan, AT Dave Wilson** and **AT Steve Bason.**

Although the apprentice team were outclassed in the local Harrogate league they held their own in the Army sponsored competitions by winning the triangular games competition and in the Army U19 team competition coming runners-up. The permanent staff team were runners-up in the Soldier Magazine Cup, winners of the NE/NW District Cup and runners-up in the NE/NW District Cup and runners-up in the NE/NW District league to RAF Leeming.

There were also reasonable successes in individual competitions. In the Army Championships **SSI Ray Surgeon** won the plate competition and **Capt Robin Broad** was runner-up in the over 35s. **Capt Broad, SSI Surgeon** and **Capt Robertshaw** all represented their Corps in the inter-Corps Championships. In the final of the NE/NW District individual competition **Capt Paul Robertshaw** beat **SSI Ray Surgeon** 3—1 in an entertaining match. **Capt Paul Robertshaw** also won the Royal Signals Corps Championships.

It is hoped that the 83/84 season will be as enjoyable and as encouraging as this one was. It is also hoped that the apprentices team will develop and thereby form the nucleus of the Corps Colts.

SUMMARY OF COLLEGE CANOEING

College canoeists both apprentice and permanent staff have had some notable successes in all disciplines of canoeing during the past season with excellent team and individual performances.

The College canoe team are currently:
Army Junior White Water Champions
Army Junior Slalom Champions
Army Junior Sprint Champions
Army Senior Sprint Runners-Up
Army Junior Marathon Champions
Triangular Games Cup Winners

Members of the team have also had notable successes in various civilian competitions.

An Impressive Display

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

SERGEANTS MESS

A Regimental Dinner held on 8 July in the WOs and Sgts Mess coincided with the end of Supervisor Radio Course Number 14 and the promotion of all six students to Staff Sergeant. The evening, being very warm and humid, resulted in a number of messages being passed along the table to the president. One note that bears repeating went as follows:

SSgt Willmott (ACC)—'It's so hot tonight sir, can I remove my jacket?'

RSM's written reply. 'How would the 29th suit you'?. (for extras).

SSgt Willmott. 'No thanks sir, I would rather take it off now'.

The RSM, **WO1 Bill House**, after one of his elephant jokes, congratulated **SSgts Frize, Barber, Dales, Simpson, Kent** and **Davis** on the successful completion of their course and left them in no doubt as to the location of the bell.

BRITISH ARMY WEST NEPAL EXPEDITION 1982

Cpl Stan Mullery who is currently serving as a Radio Technician at Communications and Security Group (UK) was very fortunate in taking part in this expedition just prior to his posting here. His report follows:

DOUBLE BARRELLED

'The British Army West Nepal Expedition 1982' was a double barrelled affair. The 'A' party consisted of 14 experienced mountaineers who had previously climbed in other major mountain ranges and who on this occasion were to attempt the 25,705 ft high peak 29 (Dakura). The 'B' party, which I joined, had less lofty aims and intended to trek in previously 'out of bounds' areas and climb minor peaks up to 20,000 ft. Our 16 strong party ranged in rank from Lt Col to LCpl and for the first time two women, including **Maj Katy Dyer**, also of Comms & Sy Gp (UK).

A RE-EQUIP

We departed Kathmandu on 18 September after a weeks hectic preparation of equipment and rations. Our rations were the only thing that went to plan as our equipment and money had not arrived by this time and we had to re-equip totally in the bazaars and back street shops of Kathmandu.

UP AND AWAY

For the next five days we trekked from the roadhead at Dumre to our first climbing area near Baudha (21,890 ft). We were camped at about 13,000 ft and spent the next five days climbing peaks up to 16,300 ft. During this period a group of six went off and climbed some peaks up to 17,651 ft in the area of Dudh Pokhari.

On the 28th we moved off towards our next objective, a 15,000 ft high pass called the Rupina La. On the way we climbed a 16,500 ft peak amidst fantastically distorted mountain panoramas. All around were huge ice packed glaciers and over all towered the ice encrusted South face of Bandha.

We eventually established camp at the Rupina La on 3 October and made attempts on two peaks of 18,600 ft and 17,649 ft but were turned back by the combined effects of deep snow and the rarified atmosphere at such altitudes.

THE FIRST PROBLEM

Our first 'problem' of the expedition threatened to take on epic proportions. **Bill Sharpe** from 1st Devon and Dorsets collapsed with suspected Typhoid and was unable to be moved. A runner was despatched to Kathmandu to alert a helicopter while the remainder of the party were forced to move on to our next supply rendevous due to diminishing rations. The doctor and some porters remained with **Bill** to await the helicopter. In fact it took four days for the helicopter to arrive by which time **Kev de Silva** from the Sappers had contracted the same bug.

A few days rest were therefore forced upon the main party at Setibas to await the outcome of the 'rescue'. These few days of relative luxury were spent washing, sleeping, washing, eating and doing even more washing.

On the 15 October we moved off towards the Ganesh Himal in search of more climbing. Ten days later, having found no suitable climbing, we set up Base Camp at 15,000 ft below Paldor, a 19,451 ft peak at the Eastern end of the Ganesh Himal chain.

THE ASSAULT

I made my attempt on this our highest aim so far on 28 October in the company of **Gus Goodburn** from Hong Kong and **John Muston**, a veteran of the successful Army Everest Expedition in 1976.

On the morning of 28th we moved up to Camp 1 at 17,200 ft and spent the rest of the day making the tent more comfortable and forcing eight pints of liquid each down our throats. At 0400 hrs on 29th we set about conjuring a breakfast. **Gus** and **John** struggled with two stoves in the cramped confines of the tent while I pretended to be asleep. Their valiant effort finally produced steaming mugs of coffee which, combined with our full bladders, forced us out into the cold dawn to prepare for our assault!

With crampon spikes stabbing the frozen snow we tramped off across the glacier to what we called 'Windy Col'. Here we traversed around a large rock buttress before confronting a steep 250 ft ice slope. With crampons and ice axe we forced our way up, our lungs labouring under over exertion in the thin air. From the top of the ice slope a narrow, corniced ridge wound its way towards the summit. Some delicate climbing on airy, exposed snow we reached Paldor East, a subsidiary summit at 19,111 ft. From here a knife edge ridge composed of rotten ice topped with soft unstable snow led up the final 300 ft to the main summit. This last risk was unacceptable and any attempt would, in the prevalent conditions, have led to tragic outcome. We congratulated ourselves on at least reaching the summit of Paldor East and after taking photographs returned direct to Base Camp.

FOOD POISONING

On 31 October we headed off towards Langtang in search of greater goals. On the 5 November half the party, myself included, were struck down with food poisoning but, due to our tight schedule, still had to continue the day's march suffering with violent stomach convulsions, severe vomiting and uncontrollable bowel movements. A day's rest was forced upon all and a decision was made to return to Kathmandu via Helamba.

On 7 November we climbed high again to reach the 16,000 ft high Kangja La pass and go on down into Helambu arriving back in Kathmandu on 14 November. A few days spent buying presents and then off to a two day stopover in New Delhi and eventually we were back home in UK.

NEXT TIME . . .

In rough terms the party walked over 300 miles and climbed 71,000 ft (2½ Everests). Eight peaks of over 16,000 ft were successfully climbed and 58 consecutive days were spent living 'in the field' at altitude in a remote area.

On the whole the expedition gave me a taste of what Himalayan climbing has to offer and after 58 days killed any taste that I ever had for compo rations. I eagerly await an opportunity to return and apply all that I learned, only next time to greater effect.

L to R: Cpl Stan Mullery, Maj John Muston RAOC, Cpl Gus Goodburn QGE

GROUP ANNUAL ROAD RACE—29 JUNE

The camp came alive with all soldiers coming into work clutching an assortment of holdalls and bags. **WO1 (FofS) John Mellors** (having spent the night sticking pins through effigies of the Group's top runners) and his SPA team were huddled together weighing up the opposition as they trundled past.

1000 hours—WO2 (QMSI) Brian Pyle started finalising the organising of the event, sadly missing his side-kick and go-fer **LCpl Dave McGaughey**.

1340 hrs—Teams started to assemble and were given their numbers. Last minute briefings were being given by team managers on how to run the race.

1410 hrs—WO2 Brian Pyle gave his briefing and rules on the route. What joy to find out that only the first 5 miles were uphill and the last two were downhill. With the temperature rising to 28° it promised to be a hard race.

1430 hrs—The 110 competitors, including two members of the WRAC lined up outside the NAAFI Shop ready for the off. The RQMS **WO2 Pete Dorans** pushing his way to the front declaring that as his number was one he had to lead and threatening all around that if they beat him he would get his own back.

1435 hrs—After an extremely fast and crowded start the runners settled down to their task which was briefly interrupted by a cry of 'Medic' from the local church graveyard where **SQMS Keith Sainty** had fallen over a low wall.

1511 hrs—WO2 John Skipper arrived home first to an ecstatic reception in a time of 41.43 minutes, closely followed by **Cpl Sean Weldon** and **YofS Brian Lawrence**.

The team competition was won by SPA with 2 Sqn coming a close second. After a brave run, **LCpl Wendy Sharkey** arrived home to take the first ladies prize.

The prize giving was slightly delayed whilst the CO **Lt Col Dobson** caught his breath after his gruelling run.

ORIENTEERING

THE ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983

This year's Championships were held in BAOR in the Harz mountains. We were accommodated at the Army Mountain Training Centre, Silberhutte and travelled daily to the race sites near Gottingen. The individual event, a gruelling test of stamina over steep and rugged terrain, was held on the Gleichen. We acquitted ourselves well with **SSgts Al Hale** and **Brian Lawrence** finishing in 34th and 59th places respectively on the A course. Meanwhile our B course runner, **WO2 John Skipper**, excelled in this type of terrain and finished a very creditable 7th only 9 minutes behind the winner. With a good relay run on the 2nd day we finished in 3rd place, a good 30 minutes ahead of our nearest rivals.

It had been a good season for the Group, winning the District Championships, 3rd in the UKLF Championships and 3rd in the Army Championships. We must now say farewell to **WO2 John Skipper** on posting and must look to rebuild our team for next season.

THE 'HARVESTER TROPHY'

Two of the Groups orienteers, **SSgts Al Hale** and **Brian Lawrence**, were selected to run for the Corps in the 'Harvester Trophy'. This is a seven man relay event starting at 11 pm and running through the night till 7.30 am, for the better teams. (Some were still running at dinner time!) This year's event was held at Longmoor in Hampshire and attracted teams from all over the country as well as many international teams. The trophy this year went to a team from Sweden and with almost 100 teams competing the Corps did well to finish in 15th place. Night orienteering is really an experience not to be missed!

STOP PRESS

The Group Orienteering team has been successful in its bid to take part in the 'Cyprus Walkabout' this year.

EXERCISE 'DELPHIC ORACLE'

Exercise *Delphic Oracle* was the brainchild of **Sgt Paul Wilson**. The aim was for a group of five people to travel to Greece to carry out mountain walking in the various ranges of the Greek mainland and as an additional project, conduct some basic insect and reptile research. The planning stage was an eight month period of overcoming various setbacks including re-timetabling and cajoling contributions from various funds. Additionally the necessary political clearances had to be obtained. The participants were **Sgt Paul Wilson, SSgt Steve Lidstone, Cpls Eric Ball, Al Martin** and **LCpl Stu 'Don' Adair.**

The method of reaching our destination was determined by the savings that could be gained on such essentials as petrol and therefore our journey in a blue 'civilianised' Army landrover took us through France, Belgium, Holland and into W Germany, with overnight stops at 13 Sig Regt and the American camp at Augsburg. Our journey south was through Austria via the Brenner pass into Italy and on to the port of Ancona. The journey was interrupted by an overnight stop in Venice and a short tour of the Republic of San Marino, arriving at Ancona in time to catch the evening ferry to Greece, a crossing time of 36 hours.

On arrival at the Greek port of Patras we cleared customs and camped at a local campsite making this our base whilst climbing in the Peleponnese district of southern Greece. Later the same day we climbed the lower slopes of mount Panahaiko, this was to stretch our legs in preparation for the stiffer climbs to come. The following day we started in earnest and climbed mount Kalliphoni (1998m) in the Erymanthos range and with this accomplished moved our base further east to a site near the Helmos range. Employing an early departure time of 0600 hrs to accomplish a good deal of walking before the sun got too hot, something learnt by experience, we climbed the peak of mount Helmos. Our journey continued eastwards passing through Corinth and then on to Athens, where we stayed for a couple of days to rest our legs and be initiated to Greek culture as well as the Plaka district. Departing Athens we drove to Parnith where mount Parnis was climbed. This achieved we moved on to Lamia, spending the night on the upper slopes of mount Oiti. Our intentions to climb to the top of Oiti next morning were foiled by heavy rain and, after retrieving the Landrover from the deep sticky mud, beat a hasty retreat to a seaside camp site to dry out. Once fully recovered, mount Liritsa (2041m) was climbed. Moving west now we moved camp site to Delphi arriving in the afternoon and spent a few hours looking around the ancient monuments. During our two day stay we climbed the Liakoura peak of mount Parnassos.

The last two days were spent climbing mount Helmos during which time more rain was experienced which didn't help panic tanning. Our two weeks completed the ferry was boarded in Patras harbour and signalled the beginning of a five day journey back to England. During our stay in Greece a few things became apparent. An elementary knowledge of Greek, even if it was only the English equivalent of Greek letters, came in very handy, especially away from the major towns. The standard of Greek maps left a lot to be desired and minor roads were badly signposted. It was an enjoyable as well as tiring four weeks which can, we hope, become a regular event.

L to R: SSgt Lidstone, LCpl Adair, Sgt Wilson, Cpl Ball

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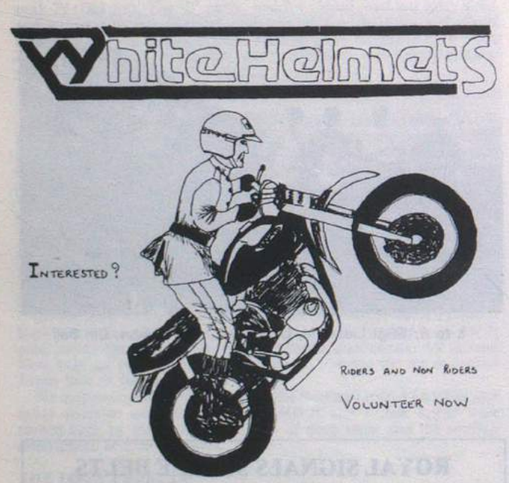
RETIREMENT OF MRS BETTY FISHER

Many members and ex members of the Corps will be sorry to hear that **Mrs Betty Fisher** has retired. She has worked 40 years in HQ South East District, the last 15 in Comms Branch.

GOC Lt Gen Sir Richard Trant and COS Brig R. B. MacGregor-Oakford with Comms Branch HQ SEDIST say 'Farewell' to Mrs Betty Fisher



School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

YOUNG OFFICER TRAINING AT THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

After a six month period of general military training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, all young officers commissioned into the Corps attend a 23-week Communications Qualifying (CQ) Course at the School of Signals.

As might be expected, the CQ Course is quite intensive, covering a wide range of Special to Arm training. In addition to classroom work, our young officers are kept busy with communications exercises and a wide variety of sporting and extra-mural activities.

There are currently three CQ Courses under instruction at the School. During September 1983 there will be four CQ Courses in station for a period of three weeks (this must be a record!)

The following photographs capture some of our young officers at work and at play . . .

2Lt Mullan receives the AGAR memorial prize from the Commander

Lt Mills receives the AGAR memorial prize from the Commander

24 CQ grapple with the problems of radio deployment drills

Members of 24 CQ preparing for a parachute jump

Members of 25 CQ aim to do well

Lt Mills demonstrates what the well-dressed young officer is currently wearing

Lt Gill is late for lessons again

Yes, the horses are real

SHAPE
B.F.P.O. 26

INTERNATIONAL AWAY DAY

Over the period 6-8 May 1983, an international party of 34 Warrant Officers, SNCO's and wives, containing representatives from each NATO nation at SHAPE made a special visit to London. The tour was organised and masterminded by **WO1 (RSM) Radford** of the UK Support Unit, who also sponsored the occasion. The main aim was to show our NATO allies a traditional aspect of London, with just a bit of a military flavour.

The long weekend commenced on the Friday, with arrival in London and tea at the Savoy Hotel before carrying on to the Prince Edward Theatre for a performance of the musical 'Evita'. Saturday was spent with the Household Cavalry, and included visits to the Changing of the Guard, the Riding School and Stables and the blacksmiths shop. The highlight was a ladies dinner night, organised as only the Household Cavalry could do, and, needless to say, with total success.

The action continued on the Sunday, with a tour of the Life Guards and Blues and Royals Museums at Cambermere Barracks, Windsor, followed by a traditional English Pub lunch. The afternoon soon flew past in the course of a visit to Windsor Castle. Our visitors were highly impressed, and many admiring comments were passed on how breathtaking was the colour and tradition so evident throughout the visit. Indeed a successful venture and another triumph for the cause of International Relations!

Sixteen Way Cut? The cake cutting ceremony by our NATO Allies at the Savoy Hotel, who also baked and provided the cake

The Clasp of Power? WO1 (RSM) Mick Radford and WO1 (RCM) Maurice Patterson. Blues and Royals exchange gifts at Cambermere Barracks

ROYAL SIGNALS HELP WIN SACEUR TROPHY ATHLETICS

One of the events of the SHAPE year is the SACEUR Trophy Sports competition, which is held over the twelve months between January and December. A bewildering variety of sports is included, and involves many national teams striving mightily for the honours in each competition. The winning nation then has to produce fairly versatile performances, if they are to succeed at much widely disparate sports as Badminton and Baseball, Athletics and American Football, with a few others in between. The UK side has been performing with notable success in this year's competition and several Corps personnel have been involved. Those two stalwarts of the soccer and athletics field respectively, **WO1 (YofS) Glen Bartliff** and **Maj Tom Moncur** hung up their competitive footwear for once and concentrated in steering the UK side to victory in these two sports. Prominent in the athletics team was **Sgt Steve Spink** of LIVE OAK, who put his Cyprus Decathlon experience to good use when he took time off playing rugby to play an active part in the sprints and sprint relay team, as well as coaching the latter to a narrow second place in the competition. Also featuring was **Cpl Al Warburton,** who capitalised on his exploits as a javelin specialist in Ulster, by securing a useful third place for the UK duo in this event. All in all, a satisfactory result.

SHAPE SIGNAL GROUP

At this stage, after two busy and action-packed years, the Group Commander, **LTC Richard C. Bartz, US Army,** handed over command to **LTC Richard E. Waterman** at a ceremony on 15 July. The Group Deputy Commander, **Maj Tom Moncur** acted as Commander of Troops in the American style Change of Command parade. An interesting experience, as **SSgt Vic Hoyle, Sgts Pete Holder** and **Tom Cooper** will testify, as they all played their part in the proccedings. **LTC Bartz** and his gracious wife **Carolyn** will be much missed, and to them go our best wishes for all good luck and fortune in the future. We hope that **LTC Waterman** and his wife **Jan** will have a happy tour here at SHAPE, and we look forward to seeing SHAPE Signal Group going on from strength to strength under its new Commander.

GENUINE KIT

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
LIVE OAK
BFPO 26

Silence is golden as the saying goes, which is only if your reporter has desisted from persecuting his unwary readers for a while. With the maxim of publish and be damned ringing in his ears however, herewith his latest snippets from the Gang of Four at LIVE OAK.

PERSONALITIES

Our belated congratulations must first go to **WO1(YofS) Jim Rayment** on his commissioning. A dinner to celebrate this event was held in his honour at which we learned that he was a man of many parts: a gastronome par excellence, a taster of good wine, and an expert sauna occupier. He also holds the record for hours spent at sea—on the cross channel ferries!

WO1 (YofS) Rayment receiving a surpise 'Packet'

Our best wishes go to **Jim** in his new career. We welcome in his place **WO1(YofS) Joe Farndon** and his family—not forgetting **Soula**—and hope they will have a thoroughly enjoyable tour with us.

Other more recent Royal Signals movements have been:

Departures: **Sgt Mick Richards** to 10 Sig Regt and
Sgt Rick Rickard to 2 Div Sig Regt.

Arrivals: **Sgt Dave Walker** and
Sgt Alan Gold from Berlin.

On the international side a fond farewell to that well known all purpose vehicle mechanic—**SP5 Spanner Jones,** and a hearty welcome to **SP5 Bob Elliott.**

ACTIVITIES

LIVE OAK is nothing if not an action packed organisation, and as if to prove it our reports start with a trip by the Communicators to Paris, ably led by **Sgt Thierry Aubry FR AF.** Despite the determination by some people to get lost at all costs, the whole party met up nearly as planned and a day of culture, good food/drink, and more culture ensued.

As if to shake off the guilt of such well earned enjoyment, **SSgt (YofS) Tommy Baldwin** organised a group from the UK Delegation Commcen to participate in the local German Volksmarch. He chose the hottest day and the longest route at the quickest pace, the SCO was heard to remark that he didn't realise it was a b . . . run! Half way around they met **WO1(YofS) Joe Farndon** and family who—sensible people—were taking part at a civilised speed. All entrants ended up earning the gold medal for completing the distance in the appropriate time. Well done.

Finally, as if to prove that where there's a will there's a way, another group of intrepid hereos were 'persuaded' by **WO2(FofS) Blair Smart** to tackle the descent of the river Lesse by canoe. This river, which rises in the Ardennes and empties into the Meuse is full of tricky little obstacles like rapids, sand bars, rocks, weirs and the occasional tree trunk. With frequent gulps of eu de vie to keep up their spirits, the heroes accomplished the journey without too many spills, and some even said they might do it again!

The heroes enjoying a rest during the Lesse canoe trip. *Standing:* SSgt (YofS) Tommy Baldwin, St Uffz Achim Eisenblaetter, Msgt Ingolf Weste, Msgt Manfred Huebner, Cpl Leroy Pearson, Sgt Dave Walker, Sgt Chef Bernie Pelissard, Mrs 'DJ' Elliott, WO2(FofS) Blair Smart. *Seated:* SP5 Bob Elliott

SPORT

Sgt Steve Spink, Cpls Paul Alexander and **Taff Rumble** continue to be stalwart members of the SHAPE rugby team, and the latter has been elected as team captain for next season. **Sgt Steve Spink** also put up a very creditable performance in the long jump and track events in the recent SHAPE Athletics meeting. **Cpl Paul Alexander** has again taken up free fall parachuting which he does at a local club in France.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

A MEMORABLE PASS OFF

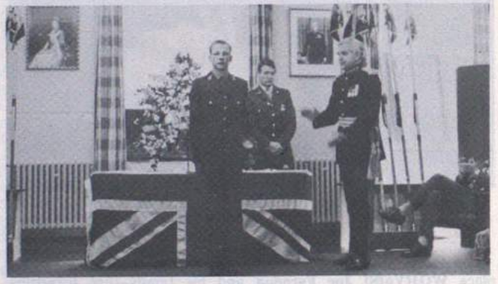
29 June 1983 was both an end and a beginning in more ways than one. For the young men of the September 82 intake it was 'Pass Off Day', the end of their training at Ouston and the start of their careers as adult soldiers in the Corps. For the reviewing officer at their parade the SOinC **Maj Gen Benbow,** it was the start of his tour in that appointment. It was a pleasure to see both the General and his charming wife at Ouston and an honour to have them make time to do so, so early in his tour.

The now traditional 'Last Breakfast' for the Junior Sergeants, as guests in the Sgts mess. RSM Tony Cartwright with JSgt Brown of Ulster Tp

The Parade Commander, Maj Dougie Pawlow, with his SSM WO2 Sandy Catterall about to leave the Sgts Mess after breakfast. The RSM is observing from cover

The same gentlemen some two hours later

The SOinC inspects Whitespear Tp



The SOinC congratulating the winner of the CO's Prize for all round excellence, JSgt Jones of Whitespear

The end of a term is always a frantic period but provides great scope for these notes. Apart from the Pass Out Parade, Battle Camp, complicated by a change in training area half way through—which almost finished our erstwhile training adjutant **Maj Mike Allen** and two adverture training exercises kept everyone busy. In recent weeks we have run a most successful summer camp for the children in the Lake District at no small cost to the OC Camp, **Capt Don Sinclair ACC,** whose hair has gone completely grey and his pallor yellow, in the best traditions of his Corps. **Lt Bob Etherton** has also had his share of excitement on exercise *Paddle Plod* of which more in a moment.

'I always knew the officers had it easy' Cpl Dunleavy instructs an interest period during Battle Camp

'Your weapon Sir. The target is now in range'

A first and perhaps last experience of live firing

Cpl Mowforth encourages determined if somewhat shattered members of Ulster Tp on the obstacle course during a 'rest' day

NORTHUMBERLAND SHIELD

Perhaps the most memorable days of this period for everyone in the Regiment, wives and children included, has been the first ever Regimental Home Defence Exercise *Northumberland Shield*. After a period of intense activity and not a little secrecy, the CO and the Adjt disclosed some of their plot in the form of an alarming scenario taking us to the brink of war. In the early hours of Monday 8 August the Regiment mobilised, assumed its war role and started to learn vital lessons. The reason for some of the secrecy became apparent when the wives and children in the guise of peace demonstrators besieged the rather startled young men guarding the entrance to the barracks. There will be some questions for them to answer when the exercise is over! The new boys of the July 83 intake, a full five weeks into training, have had to take over the defence of the barracks as their more experienced colleagues have taken on other tasks. Truly a baptism of fire. Hopefully the lessons we have learned will greatly increase our effectiveness in our war roles, we have certainly all got some stories to tell.

EXERCISE 'PADDLE PLOD' 16-23 JUNE

Paddle Plod was an adventurous Training exercise undertaken as part of a continuation programme for Junior Soldiers waiting to go to trade training.

The exercise was held in the Lake District of Cumbria and as the title suggests, it involved mainly canoeing and trekking with some abseiling thrown in to add variety. All the major lakes in the area were paddled, with a couple of long testing stretches. Unfortunately there was very little white water due to the lack of recent rain. The weather was very hot and the business of rolling and falling out of canoes became a pleasant way of cooling off, and canoe polo became quite popular.

The trekking phase was rather less popular, especially when the route involved a 1400m climb, in 85 degrees and with a full rucksack to slow the lads down. However no one lost his sense of humour for more than a few hours.

By way of a difference, Youth Hostels were used for overnight accommodation, and costs are very reasonable when self catering a'la compo.

The Youth Hostel Association is a great way to meet people, especially for soldiers who do not have much contact with the public and the lads were not unhappy to find friendly young persons of a similar age and opposite sex. In this company blistered feet and hands, and aching limbs were soon forgotten and tales of great adventure told. It was surprising how many people, including travellers from abroad, were interested in what we were doing. They were even more surprised when told we were getting paid to do it! Quote of the week 'All this and money too'.

Sig I. Howard leading some of the team in at the end of the Windermere Paddle

Cpl Dave Preston coming up for air after being capsised by Sig J. Scott, who subsequently did ten press-ups on the bottom!

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

IMPRESSION OF A CANADIAN EXCHANGE OFFICER
Report By Capt A. A. Smith CELE

'The posting is First Armoured Division Signal Regiment in BAOR' said the Colonel to the Canadian Signals Captain 'and I know you will love it. Make sure you think well before you speak and don't forget that your a Canadian and not a Royal Signals Officer'. With those words of wisdom the latest in a long line of Canadian Exchange Officers to BAOR was despatched on what has proved to be an interesting and valuable two years as OC Commcen Delta within 1 Armd Div.

THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

'What are the differences and how have you overcome them?' was one of the most frequently asked questions during my tour. Understanding the language of my first Troop Staff Sergeant who hailed from Hartlepool, Cleveland was certainly one of the hardest things to overcome. Sooner or later, however, one who has dealt with thick French Canadian and Newfoundland accents for over ten years should be able to handle a mere 'Geordie'. Trying to find the correct encryption key to decipher the utterances of a Kirkaldy 'Jock' was a bit more difficult but not entirely unmanageable.

There is the old expression that will occasionally lose something in the translation from Candian into English. 'Turn left at the yield sign, keep going for half a click, and hang a right at the Blackton road', will usually throw a British convoy for a loop when read on a Canadian produced route card. Generally, one exercise is enough to iron out these small details.

SIZE AND SCOPE

The relative sizes of the British and Canadian Armies are certainly a difference that requires an Exchange Officer to modify his thinking considerably. The transition from Brigade to Divisional and higher level signalling is one that takes a bit of getting used to, but since the overall principles of command, control and communications are very similar, it is relatively easy for a Canadian to fit into a British Signal Regiment. Amongst Canadians, the tour with the 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, where a Division and Corps level trunk system is frequently exercised, is a very valuable and unique experience that cannot be obtained within the Canadian Signals community as it now stands.

There is the important aspect of social organisation and wives clubs that play a major role in off duty life in BAOR but not so in Canada. The easy solution to this is to participate in those clubs where you can contribute and gain enjoyment from them. This again was a difference easily overcome.

COMMON GROUND

'What are the similarities between the British and Canadians Signals?' Duties and responsibilities of troop commanders, training philosophy, doctrine, general routine on exercise and in garrison, mess life, and many other areas are the same in both armies. This has helped nearly every Canadian Exchange Officer to quickly integrate into Regimental life in BAOR. Probably the single most important similarity, however, is the fact that Canadian and British soldiers display the same professional approach to their jobs and give maximum effort, regardless of the nationality of their officers.

THE PROXIMITY FACTOR

'What ideas will you take back to Canada from your tour in BAOR?' The emphasis placed upon training for war, while present in both countries, takes on a special importance in BAOR where the proximity of many Warsaw Pact nations has an over riding influence. As a result, a great deal of very pertinent training lessons regarding Commcen defence emission control, interoperability, and technical security are assimilated during a two year tour in BAOR. It is these lessons that one hopes to be able to retain and pass on to signallers in Canada.

'What ideas have you been able to contribute to your last unit in BAOR?' is a very difficult question to answer. It is hoped that as a troop officer first, the Exchange Officer can help his soldiers and NCOs to improve their military skills and leadership through effective assessment and counselling techniques. There are times when a different approach to an old problem can assist in its solution. Finally, it is relatively easy for a Canadian Commcen Commander on his first exercise to fold his arms and adamently refuse to move his Commcen when he is unaware of the importance of a Gunner Lt Col SLO who does care about a general 443 clearance. The contribution here was three extra hours of BRUIN communications before the CO ordered a crash move of Commcen Delta.

THE FUTURE

'What about the future of exchange postings?' Although this is not a question that can be answered at the Exchange Officer level, a personal opinion may be in order. 'One gets out of something what one puts into it', is a quote that best reflects my opinion. If future Exchange Officers on both sides of the Atlantic continue to adapt themselves fully into serving their Commanding Officers, their men, and their unit and still retain the individualism inherent in the fact that they are specifically a Canadian or Royal Signals Officer, then the future of exchange postings looks bright indeed.

DELTA TROOP

Following Ex *Hurst Park*, the troop enjoyed a brief mid-term break followed by a long period of training, exercises, and tasks leading up to Ex *Summer Sales 83*.

Ex *Silver Sabre* was a week long, 7 Sig Regt directed, signal exercise. While Charlie Tp went away from their summer camp, Delta stayed back to provide the communications for the Exercise. The Exercise was conducted in the Garrison, allowing us to continue our work up for a Troop exercise the following week.

Ex *Forward Drive* was a three day troop trade training exercise conducted at the Haberloh Training Area. The Commcen re-arranged and modified its equipment to field two 'TEV' type detachments and a mini-Commcen. Each of the TEV's deployed daily with one RROP, one Technician, and one Powerman Driver. Together each TEV team had to set up two working Radio Relay shots and terminate them for voice and telegraph circuits using their equipment and the power from two 3.5 KVA and one 10 KVA generator.

Following correct set up and establishing of Comms, the TEV's were redeployed to re-establish Comms. The only difference with the second set up was that no one in the team worked on his primary trade, consequently, many memorable moments occured during the exercise. **SSgt Les Jackson** saw a fine admin tent, catering to the comfort of the troops, with 'the lowest prices anywhere in the training area'. Each evening was spent in a relaxed, non-exercise, bivouac. Supper was followed by a few quick volleyball games on a pitch with more holes and craters than the moon and one or two video films, before bed.

SUCCESSFUL SSAFA BALL

Following Ex *Forward Drive*, the troop with assistance from members of Wavell, Sierra and Charlie Tps organised and set up the Regiment's annual SSAFA Ball. The hard work put in by all members of the Squadron on this task was well rewarded by a very successful Cabaret evening and a profit of over DM 700 for SSAFA.

WIVES SEE ALL

Ex *Summer Sales 83* was preceeded by Ex *Plug Up* as usual. This Plug Up had one small difference—that of a complete day dedicated to showing the Squadron wives all the aspects of their husbands' tasks in the field. Revealing photographs promised for the next issue!'

HECTIC

Finally, two recent troop bar-b-que's are worthy of note. 1 July on Ex *Summer Sales 83*, was Canada day in Commcen Delta. With a few subtle hints sent out on BMIS and the Sig Ops Teleprinter, most of the Signals Commcens on exercise were made aware of the fact. A troop Bar-b-que was held following the exercise to celebrate the start of a well earned break for most of the Troop. Well done to all Troop members for a good exercise season and successful work in Garrison. A special thanks is due to all Troop families for bearing with us during a very busy three months.

EX 'SQUADRON DIAMOND'—
Report by SSgt Brian Mower

The aim of the Exercise was for members of Charlie Tp to participate in Challenge Pursuits in the Bertchesgaden area of Southern Germany. The first challenge was the 898km drive to our American Hosts base at Strube Kaserne, Bertchesgaden. Highlights of the week included a 'local' orienteering day with **Cpl John Watts** section requiring a train to bring them back! The aerial confidence course with **Cpl Dennis Laws** completing it, at his age, aided by **Candy**, the female American instructor. Perhaps this was the reason **LCpl Jed Astell** wanted to go again!

The canoeing saw **Sig Jacko Jackson** going round in circles, **Sgt Bob Lee** wearing his 'pink' tracksuit bottoms which he claimed he borrowed from the OC's wife!

Due to the adverse weather the Rock climbing was limited to abseiling but this was enough for most with **Sig Booboo Carter** managing to get himself upside down!

The weather was the only headache with non stop rain highlighted by occasional glimpses of the Eagles Nest and the Watzmawn mountains covered in snow—in June!

Despite the weather the aim of the exercise was met and all members of the Troop returned to Verden refreshed from their week away. They are relieved not to have to do early PT any more!

2 SQN REPORT

While most of the Squadron enjoyed a week on Site Guard, the athletes of the Regiment were off to Sennelager for the Morrison Cup. Notable achievements within the Squadron came from **SSgt Bill Venus** (still going strong) who won the 5000m and **LCpl Neil Brockett** who, we are told, was an outstanding spectator.

A FINE WIN

The squadron took the Regimental boxing Trophy with a fine win in mid June, the nearest rivals being nine points behind. Credit must go to all who competed (especially those who never dreamt they had it in them, until **SSM Pete Sutherland** assured them that they had), and to **SSgt Pete Alves** who trained the team show below.

Back Row L to R: Sig Mick Main, LCpl Chalky Lang, Sig Andy Prutton, SSgt Alves, Sig Nige Dixon
Middle Row L to R: Cpl Charlie Farrant, Sig Will Revera, LCpl Eric Farmer, Cpl Bob Maskell
Front Row: Sig 'Tye' Tyson, Ossie Plant, Martin Hawkins, Hedgehog Bolton, 'Binser' Binns

EX 'SUMMER SALES'

With the ban on movement on *Summer Sales* extra training was the order of the day. When **Maj Carl Conlon**, the OC, announced that there was to be a command task, there was much suspicion as rumour had it that the task was to be a River crossing. . . and it was!

A team from each Troop found itself on a bank of the Immerste with the task of getting to the other side with a box full of crypto using some rope, planks and a tyre inner tube. The inevitable nasty twist appeared when the team leader was 'killed off' shortly after the briefing, and some unsuspecting individual found himself in the limelight. Suffice it to say, both teams succeeded after various stages of immersion, but probably the wettest was **Sig 'Jock' Cosgrove** who decided to swim across the river at a point when it was all of 3' deep. Rover Troop narrowly won the contest, and all who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves (as did the locals who were watching all of this).

There was one more twist. The Adjt, **Capt Mike Dyer** and ADC to the General, **Capt Will Mellows QRIH**, found themselves challenged against one another for the fastest crossing. **Capt Mellows** being slightly lighter, and thus slightly dryer was just quicker, but both appeared to enjoy themselves.

TROOP SUMMER CAMPS

After a hard exercise season, the squadron enjoyed two weeks in the Harz Mountains (one week each) engaged in Adventure Training.

Our thanks are due to the instructors:

SSgt Tim Haynes (rock climbing) assisted by **Cpls 'Robbo' Robinson, John Rutland** and **'Bas' Hawkins; SSgt Al Gibbons** (canoeing) assisted by **LCpl Nobby (Jeremy** to his friends) **Nevell** and **Sig 'Pops' Eardley.**

Many thanks also to **Capt Bob Fortune** and **Lt Gus Boag** who organised the camp. Their hard work provided a welcome and enjoyable break for the Squadron.

EXERCISE 'SQUADRON DIAMOND 1983'

Exercise *Squadron Diamond* was a November Tp (3 Sqn) adventure training exercise in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, from 1 to the 11 June.

The advance party left on Wednesday 1 June under the leadership of **Sgt Clive Blackburn**, officially to take over the accommodation, but rumour has it they were trying to get a head start on their suntans! However, they certainly paid for it with a 14 hour drive down, due to a very slow four tonner.

The rest of the party (23) left at 2200 hrs on Friday with **Lt Suzy Reed**. Most travelling in private cars, they arrived during Saturday morning, to be met with breakfast from **LCpl Chris Quelch** of 45 Field Regiment RA. Saturday night saw a quick recce of Berchtesgaden nightspots already well investigated by the advance party.

Sunday was the first working day and was an orienteering exercise to allow November Tp to get to know the area, just in case they got lost on any late night rambles. The OC was assured that there were no Gastaus on route, but it is hardly surprising that the strains of the Bavarian band at checkpoint 1, proved rather inviting, not to mention a drink for parched throats. Checkpoint 2 looked nowhere near as inviting and the ski lift up to it had stopped for the summer, so one section led by **Cpl John Smelt** was sent to find the clue and they didn't arrive at Checkpoint 4 until well into the afternoon; well done boys! It was a long way up! By this stage all four sections were still at Checkpoint 1.

On Monday, two sections went rock climbing, and two went canoeing. Needless to say it rained. The canoeing was under the instruction of **Cpl Mac Maclean** and it took a lot of persuasion on his part to get the two sections in for the obligatory swimming test, but due to rain everybody was soaked anyway. The capsize routine was got through, and everybody canoed off to investigate the beautiful scenery of the Hintersee.

The rock climbing and abseiling proved a bit more difficult than individuals were led to believe after watching our instructor from the Jaegerbatallion climb to rockface on his fingertips. We won't ask **Sig Aussie Osborne** about the re-arrangement of his face as he tried to grip the rockface with his teeth, being held by **Cpl Doreen Wright. LCpl Keith Graham** and **LCpl Spick Munro** nearly fell off the rock laughing until it was their turn.

The second days canoeing proved to be a great success and several capsize demos were given by **Lt Suzy Reed**, intentionally or not? By afternoon two exhausted sections, all very wet, lay on the bank soaking up the sun. The next challenge was rowing boats, great fun and off everybody set, lying back being rowed around. But weren't those girls pretty? So of course, closer inspection was required and during the ensuing waterfight—November Tp achieved a record—the only people to capsize a rowing boat on the lake. **Sig 'Spot' Ritchie** and **Sig Dave Lang** were the reputed ring leaders. But more importantly it meant the beers were at the bottom of the lake, so **Sig Nigel 'Fish' Ellery** was sent on a recovery mission.

A day was taken out of the programme to visit the Munich Olympic Stadium, to dream of sporting achievements perhaps! Oh, and just in passing, to visit the Hofbrauhaus, for one beer only of course! the view was reputed to be amazing, **LCpl Keith Graham** was considering the statues of course, or were some of them moving females?

November Tp returned at 6 am to our accommodation at Strub Kasserne, Berchesgaden only to rise again at 8 am to the dulcet tones of **Sgt Clive Blackburn**, starting another day with a small hangover. That day was a blur to some but the cold water of the Chinesee soon got rid of that feeling and cries of 'I can't get into the canoe let alone out', did nothing to prevent everybody capsizing yet again although **Sig Greg Berry** needed a bit of assistance, up the creek without a paddle perhaps? We took the opportunity that night with a buffet in

the local disco to entertain and thank our instructors for their help. I wish they had warned us about the next day first!

Friday was mountain trekking; everyone jumped off the bus with great enthusiasm, which changed to varying degrees of dismay with altitude especially for **Cpl Bob Kaiser**, who declared that age should have given him a handicap, preferably a helicopter to the top! **Sgt Blackburn** followed on with the packed lunches, but picked the wrong mountain, so we didn't see him again until 1700 hrs declaring he had gone higher than us. However, we all managed a trip to the swimming baths to cool off and even contrived to teach **Cpl Garry Dawson** to swim, even if it was tummy down on the bottom of the pool.

The last night was not wasted and the vision of **Sgt Blackburn** indulging in Traditional Bavarian dancing was not to be missed. Everybody met up in the Bahnhof disco and some didn't make it back until 6 am, including **Sig Greg Berry** complete with his sleeping head on. We won't ask him where he got to! Perhaps **Sig 'Snores' Jones** talked him to sleep at the bottom of the stairs.

Well, we all had a good time, worked hard and played hard! Where to next year? Berchesgaden again? Perhaps those mountains were a bit steep—let's try Italy—at least the wine will be good!

November Tp Canoeing on the Hintersee

Exploring the nightlife on a visit to Munich

Cpl Wright WRAC, Sig Berry, Ritchie, LCpl Bredin, and Sig Potts on mountain trekking.

207 SIG SQN FOCUS

The Wire notes this month are written by **SSgt Bob Cook** recently arrived in the Squadron from Bulford. Other new arrivals in recent weeks include **Sig Eddie Huxley** and **Andy Thompson** and we wish them a happy tour. Departures: **WO2 Jim Preston and SSgt Steve Jones**, and we wish them good luck in their new postings. One cross posting from A1 Tp to SHQ Tp is our new **SSM, WO2 Ivor Noble**, and the difference to his toecaps is already quite noticeable. Pride of place in our notes, however, must go to **Sig Vince McNaught** who receives the **GOC's Commendation** for showing considerable presence of mind, an ability to respond well in circumstances of mental pressure and physical danger when attempting to save the life of a German driver who had accidently driven into the rear of an AFV 434 during a night move on Exercise *Morning Glory*.

The Squadron is at present working Summer hours as a trial although whenever anyone mentions Summer working you can hear someone else saying 'Aye, and some aren't'.

A HOT AFFAIR

Summer Sales was a hot affair with most attention focused on the young lady who found the weather just too hot for even a skimpy bikini. Several tongues got trodden on. Much attention was also given to **LCpl Colin Dear's** caricature sketch of squadron personnel. **Sgt Geordie Millsip RPC** and his defence section again produced the goods and impressed the whole complex with their willingness. The highlight of their exercise was when the 'honey wagon' 'coughed' and pebbledashed someone's Landrover. 'Phew!'

Cpl (Winge Moan) Hunter also deserves praise for taking over the largest Troop until the arrival of a new SSgt. He does have **Lt Simon Hawkes** to help him of course.

BATTLE CAMP

After the dust had settled following the move back from *Summer Sales* preparation started for the Squadron Battle Camp. The training was organised by **Cpl ('Brigadier') Mitchell** and coordinated by **Cpl ('Colonel') Mitchell** while the actual work was done by **Cpl (Mitch SAS) Mitchell** who just couldn't find time to go on any runs 'due to pressure of work' and anyway 'I've just come from the SAS'.

NEW SWIMMING RECORD AND ATHLETES DO WELL

On the sporting side of life the swimming team did very well in the Divisional Minor Units Competition coming 2nd to 2 Fd Amb by only three points. Highlight was the 4 x 50 metres Free Style Relay team of **Lt Simon Hawkes, Cpls Mick Tait, Jim McCready** and **Sig 'Tommo' Tomlinson**, who set a new Division record of 2 mins 9 secs. The Squadron thus qualified for the BAOR Minor Units held in Berlin and despite a greatly improved standard within the team came 6th out of 8 in a very strong field. A creditable effort. The Athletics team also deserve an equal mention for winning a hard earned place at the BAOR championships held at Sennelager by coming 2nd at the Divisional championships. The result of the BAOR's was a 5th place, beating three other teams including the team that beat us at the Divisional championships. Congratulations, especially to **Sig Dinger Bell** for achieving Corps Colour Standards at all the meetings in his event, (Long Jump). The application is eagerly awaited for as each post comes in.

212 (12 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The last few months have seen several changes for the Squadron.

By far the greatest has been the recent move to Quebec Barracks from Scarborough and Woolwich Barracks. This was not such an unusual move, nor a venture into the unknown as Quebec Barracks was the home of 12 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn until 1976. It is therefore fitting that both HQ 12 Armd Bde and 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn returned to Quebec Barracks after an absence of nearly seven years. The move which followed hard on the heels of the annual glories of Ex *Flying Falcon*, was a period of frantic activity for all concerned. However, such periods of activity are not unknown in the Squadron and all went well. We are now settling into an improved workplace and lifestyle and are looking forward to the future in our old, restored home.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On the management level we have had several changes. **Maj Derek McLuckie** left the Squadron in February for Northern Ireland. We wish him, **Jan** and the girls all the very best of luck in their new posting. He has been succeeded by **Maj Richard Skaife** who arrived from UK, keen to get back to the 'sharp end' in BAOR. We extend a warm welcome to him, and to **Brenda** and the family.

The 2IC has also changed. Best wishes to **Capt John Ewbank, Denise** and the twins in their posting to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. A welcome to **Capt Bob Weston** fresh from exile in the wilds of Brunei; welcome and it shouldn't take long for us to learn Gurkhali!

VISITS

At the beginning of March, we were visited by our Divisional Commander, having come under Command 1 Armoured Division. **Maj Gen B. L. G. Kenny CBE** spent a day with us and for both parties concerned it was something like old times. The GOC in fact Commanded Task Force Delta (later renamed 12 Armd Bde) from 1978—81. For some of the older faces, it was something of a surprise to realise that they had not escaped the scrutiny of their former Commander. While with us the GOC presented the South Atlantic Medal to **Sig Richard Webb** who served there during the campaign with 30 Sig Regt.

Brig C. N. Last, Comd Comms HQ 1 BR Corps visited the Squadron early in May. It was a brief visit, but in the short time available he saw every aspect of the Squadron and remained with us long enough to open our new Squadron Club in Quebec Barracks.

FAREWELLS

We have seen the continual trickle of postings and the usual departure of older faces. **SQMS Don MacLennan** and his family departed for Brunei on promotion to **WO2; Sgt Eddie Clancy** to 24 Inf Bde; **Sig Dusty Binns** has left us to make the journey to Verden. **Cpl Steve Beswick** goes to Catterick on a course (he's finally got away!), **LCpl Taff Childs** goes to 21 Sig Regt. **Sig L-C Collis** goes to a RLD in deepest Norfolk. **Sig Robertson** leaves us for the travelling of 249 (AMF(L)) Squadron.

NEW ARRIVALS

To fill the gaps, new faces appear. Welcome to **Sgt Schofield** and **Cpl Hogg** to the RPC element. **Sgt Munro** as our new Orderly Room Gauleiter, and also to **LCpl Lincoln** our Orderly Room NCO.

To Comms Troop, **Cpls Arbuckle, Brine, LCpl Gaskill, Wilson** and **Sig Innes**. Welcome to Osnabruck — just in time for Spring/Summer exercise.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

We have said a temporary farewell to **Cpl Jock Grandison** who has left for a six month tour in the Falklands. Welcome back **Sig Andy Green** who has recently returned from there.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Paul Town** and **Cpl Andy Arbuckle** on their recent deserved promotions.

BUSY AS EVER

So the Squadron continues, busy as ever, rushing from one exercise to another. Hopefully, there is the Summer coming, with a chance to relax and indulge in more sport—we can hope for the best. After the glories of this Spring—especially Exercise *Flying Falcon*—which this year lived up to its name—a chance for sport and relaxation will be welcome.

VERDEN GARRISON SADDLE CLUB

The excellent weather in North Germany has led to intensive activity by the Regiment at the Verden Garrison Saddle Club. Some exceptionally good horses have been purchased by the Saddle Club and many members of the Regiment now take part in BAOR Riding events.

The CO, **Lt Col J. H. Fisher** is pictured on Nelson at the successful Verden Garrison Horse Show in May. The Rhine Army Summer Show was also well supported, with **Lt Suzy Reed, WO1 (RSM) Ron Hails, Sgt John Smith** and **Sig Mick Voros** all representing the Regiment.

Yet another riding course is planned for August/September and it is hoped to enlarge the Riding population of the Regiment even more by allowing soldiers the opportunity to learn basic riding skills in a week long course. This will be the fourth course run at the Garrison Stables, but keen horsemen are still required, especially if they are familiar with a pitchfork and wheelbarrow. This offer is open to all Royal Signals personnel in BAOR.

Lt Col J. H. Fisher on Nelson who belongs to the Verden Garrison Saddle Club

Now Available from The Royal Signals Museum

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Written by Maj A. G. Harfield, the Corps Historical Officer.
Published by Picton Publishing.
Price £3.00 plus postage 26p.

A fifty-four page laminated covered booklet giving all the information on Corps cap badges, collar badges, shoulder titles, buttons, garter flashes etc. It is a comprehensive guide to the many changes that have occurred to the badges etc of the Corps since its formation in 1920. Contains over 60 illustrations.

Publication available from Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
YORK

EX 'SUMMER SALES/SUMMER TIDE'

Early June saw our return visit to BAOR for exercises. A series of convoys passed through Hull Docks again on their way to Rotterdam while the air party took off from Newcastle Airport in a Hercules for RAF Gutersloh. Both groups married up with the advance party at an old disused camp in Hamm. The TCO, **Capt Harry Carter RCT** and QM Gen, **Capt Maurice Neville, Staffords,** with the help of representatives from all the squadrons had managed to turn the sheds and railway sidings of the camp into acceptable accommodation, which would later be used on our deployment by B Echelon. One toilet and one water point proved difficult but not impossible. Glorious weather and a few days respite after the move before our departure to our first locations enabled the various organisations to flex their limbs and try out communications and camouflage. The TOT, **Capt John MacDonald** and **WO1 (FofS) John White** using their normal pleasant manner beat the various officers and SNCOs into checking wiring, cleaning and teaching the newer members. The complex commanders **SSgt Dave Cloake** and **Sgt Robert Smith,** Radio Tp Radcon commanders **Sgt Gerry Knight** and **Sgt Jock Rice** and the COMMCEN bosses **SSgt (YofS) Ron Burrell** and **SSgt Colin Taylor** all started the long hours they were likely to put in throughout the exercise. **Sgt Gerry Knight** had every reason to mutter about the piles of work coming his way as he was also tasked with hanging from helicopters to take aerial photographs. The results of which are excellent.

THE WRONG SIDE

The exercise was like all the other *Summer Sales* of previous years except boxbodies were used instead of APCs and we were the wrong side of the Weser. In particular the Donnington fire provided a different angle. Visitors came in their droves but we were especially happy to welcome Comd Comms BAOR and Comd Comms 1 BR Corps on their one day visits. It was, however, with a great deal of delight that we headed back to the UK via Hamm at the end of the four weeks. This time the staff travelled back with us, having only joined mid exercise. They were not treated to our dusty little camp in Hamm but to the delights of the school accommodation, swimming pool and officers' mess. One note of pleasure was that on our way through customs at both Newcastle and Hull there were no problems with any of our men (nearly 500). (Please note all members of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt that this policy should continue!).

49 BDE SIGNAL TROOP ON EXERCISE

OC	**Capt Richard Davies**
2IC	**Lt Chris Richards**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt 'JJ' Thompson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Taylor**

The Troop was formed just prior to the Regiment's return to UK in March and at that time consisted of six men and eleven vehicles. **Lt Chris Richards** was seen with a paintbrush in his hand and exhaustive enquiries have not yet revealed who taught him to use it. On returning to the UK the Troop came up to strength and was soon busy preparing for our annual pilgrimage to Germany for Ex *Summer Sales*. In the meantime the Troop, especially **Sig Andy Hearley,** gained a good working knowledge of Yorkshire wine, women and song.

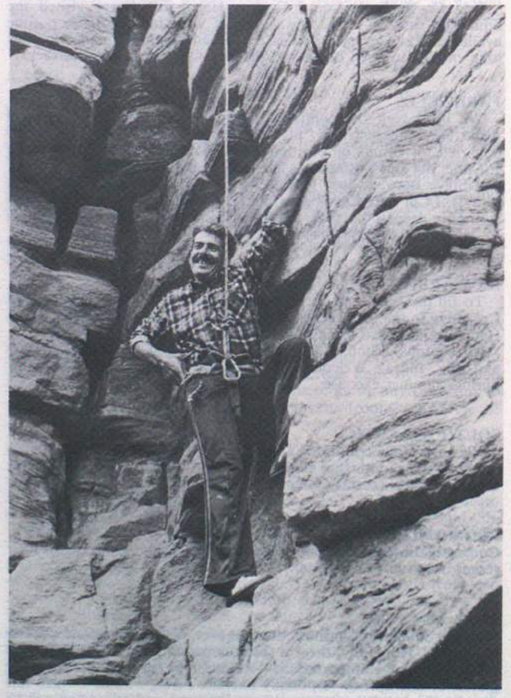
The Exercise in Germany had several highlights among them the moustache growing competition won by **Cpl Phil Vinnicombe, Sig Hugh Little** being second with the aid of 'Cherry Blossom', another was the lovely, topless German lady at the swimming pool who caused us all to dive into the coldest water we could find. And who, but 49 Bde, could choose the hottest week of the Summer to be in Noddy suits!

We spent a very good day at the Mohnesee Yacht Club, though few took to the water. Those that did, **Capt Richard Davis** amongst them, found themselves becalmed on the wrong side of the lake and had no alternative but to doze for a couple of hours. On our return **Sig Jock Tait** made us one of his infamous washbowl curries which was a great success, though there were a few twinges of regret the next day.

EX 'SUMMER LOCKSMITH'

The Regimental adventure training camp was organised this year by the Adventure Training Officer, **Capt Mike Dent** and the Training Officer, **WO1 (YofS) Ron Chisholm**. Due to our recent arrival in the UK the booking of Whitburn Range Camp near South Shields was a very successful first shot at a suitable future yearly location.

The exercise took place over two weeks at the end of July, beginning of August and the places were shared by HQ, 1 and 2 Sqn personnel.



Cpl 'Doc' Ash, RAMC, obviously enjoying the respite from blisters and sunburn

Cpl Clive Thoresby, 1 Sqn, exhibiting that his talent is not restricted to motorbikes

A full programme included hill walking, wind surfing, rock climbing and canoeing while the evenings were filled with volleyball, young ladies of Sunderland and South Shields and the odd pint of ale from Newcastle.

The wind surfing was obviously the blue riband sport of the holiday and was taught by **SSgt Mick Schnable,** who has just returned from the Forward Signal Troop. Unfortunately the North Sea is a little chilly and definately too windy for beginners. There were, however, enough waterbreaks doubling up as windbreaks for the frozen few who watched the progress of the head instructor as he broke his own board.

The climbing proved to be a great success with **Capt Dick Good,** OIC Camp, **Cpls Clive Thoresby** and **Dave Meggit** providing the expertise for the budding human flies. **Sig Stevie Hardman** proved to be the stickiest fly of all, prepared to climb anything too difficult or higher. **Sig Bryan Allen** was in a suitable position to reap revenge when acting as safety man for his troop commander was heard to ask him while he was stranded way up a climb, 'What about those Works reports Sir!'

It is normal to hear about the exciting exploits of the officers and instructors only. But there should be a final word from behind the scenes for **Sgt Jock Rice** who controlled the administration of the camp. I understand he should be awarded a special prize for the number of miles he covered in his own car in vital stores resupply. In addition the cooks **Cpl Andy Self ACC, LCpl Bradley** and **Pte's McKellar** and **Keggie** who all produced nourishing meals and an abundance of cheese and ham sandwiches for the masses of packed meals. Finally **Cpl 'Doc' Ash RAMC** who in between the odd climb kept the typhoid cases to nil.

THE COS XI v THE CO's XI

The gin and tonic brigade of the Divisional Staff while balancing the hefty responsibility of where to go on their Summer leave and how does one move a division to BAOR still found time to challenge the Signal Officers of the Regiment to a cricket match. This was a slight change to last year's arrangement where the Sgts played the Officers in Bunde but one could feel that the staff were already seeing themselves as easy winners.

It was obvious from the start that the COS had around him in the staff some excellent regimental players from across the arms and services. Not to be outdone **Lt Chris Richards,** only recently promoted, set about the task of selecting a Corps team. On viewing the officer manning it was clear he would have liked to adopt the policy of borrowing players from outside the county or even country. Unfortunately the Yorkshire Cricket Club rules were closely followed and only **Maj Richard Bugler RAOC** was stolen from the opposition when they forgot to ask the CRA, **Brig Peter Bonnet,** to play and they needed the space in the team.

On the day the following played for the CO's XI: **Lt Col Mike Taylor, Majs Ruairidh Rutherford, Ben Higson, Richard Bugler RAOC, Capts David Proctor, John Turner, Mike Dent, Lts Paul Pople, Chris Richards** and **Nevil Thompson**. And after last year's screaming success, **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Neillings.**

It was agreed from the beginning that the match would be played over 30 overs for each team and all players would bowl. The COS, we think, won the toss and elected to bat and within 28 overs the staff had put together a hefty score of 176 runs. Most of the wickets were taken either from the cunning ball hidden amongst the five boundaries of the over or due to over confidence of players who had reached double figures. **Capt Mike Dent** relived the recent test tours to Australia by producing one of the longest overs in history. He now knows a wide means bowling an extra ball!

Athough labour came from the various messes and Squadrons **Capt Christopher Prestwich** SO2 G2/G3 (Ops, O&D) arranged an excellent tea of sandwiches, strawberries and cakes and, if requested, chilled beer. We, fortunately, did not have to run this off in the field but could relax while the batsman sought 177 runs! **Maj Ben Higson** was caught first ball on the leg side which immediately made the COS team think the game was over by five o'clock. 0 for 1 followed by 83 for 1 changed that. **Capt David Proctor** with a total of 44 including three sixes over the sight screen helped push the score along and although wickets fell steadily the target crept closer. It was suggested that if the staff had run for the ball instead of calling for a signaller the runs might have been fewer. **Lt Nevil Thompson,** another one promoted recently, after ably backing up the CO's running end to end for two runs to keep the bowling scored an excellent unbeaten 46 to win the match.

The pristine whites, blue blazers, strawberry tea and glorious sunshine provided a beautiful day for a game of cricket. Unfortunately, there will be no rematch but in September the Sgts Mess will play the officers. Then, goloshes and raincoat might be the order of the day.

INSPECTIONS

One request that has been pushed in our direction has been from the training establishments to help inspect and mark in drill competitions. As a result of this an interesting conversation was passed to the writer of these notes concerning **Capt Stan Vannan,** Traffic Officer, and the RSM, **WO1 Bernie Neillings.** While at a recent event at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, they had just selected Penney Sqn as winners by, I quote, 'a mile' and were walking to the messes for a gentle pick-me-up before returning to York.

Comd	'Were either of you two at Harrogate?'
Capt Vannan	'Yes Sir, as a boy some years ago in Penney Sqn'.
RSM	'Yes Sir, as a SNCO instructor . . . in Penney Sqn'.
Comdt	'Didn't Penney Sqn just win!

At this stage the Traffic Officer and RSM could be seen to lengthen their stride. (Afternote: This incident was purely a coincidence and I am informed they were definately the best on parade).

FAREWELLS

Although in the last few months quite a number of individuals have moved on to other units or gently slid out of the Army, one important change has been the handover-takeover of the 2ICs **Maj Maurice Davies** who joined the Regiment on the 8 August 1980 was dined out with his wife **Christine** at a Ladies guest night in the Officers Mess at Imphal Barracks on Thursday 8 August. Three years to the day! They were presented with a print of York which will go nicely with the prints presented by the Wives Club to **Christine** for all her hard work in Bunde and in York. We wish them well at STANOC, Larkhill and welcome **Maj George Finney** and his wife, **Frances,** who will find the North of England a chilly change from Cyprus.

Don't be disappointed!

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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

VISIT OF CDS

On 15 June **Field Marshall Edwin Bramall GCB OBE, MC**, the Chief of the Defence Staff visited the unit. He fired a Very Pistol to start Commhead Oscar racing on to the square to set up in record time. He later toured the Commhead and met an old friend in the shape of our **QM(T) Maj Jack Simpson** whom he had met before in 1 Div, Hong Kong and Wilton.

WO2 (SSM) Dave Scott (he has another name but in fairness we won't embarrass him here) tries to guess who is shaking his hand this time. Maj Chris Donaghy tries a bit of helpful telepathy whilst the GOC Maj Gen A. F. K. Walker knows he will get it wrong

WO1 (RSM) Steve Marshall carefully cocks the Very Pistol for Gen Sir Edwin Bramall. The General fired the pistol to start Commhead Oscar on its way to setting up the Hardened HQ on the square

Now look here Simpson—you really have got to stop following me around. CDS meets QM(T) in Korbecke after earlier meetings in Verden, Hong Kong and Wilton

SWIMMING

The swimming season has been upon us recently with the Regimental and Divisional competitions in June and the BAOR championships in July. The Regiment put up a good show at the Divisional meeting, winning the Water Polo by beating 2 Fd Regt RA in the final and coming second to 50 Missile Regt RA in the swimming. Congratulations to **Capt Sam Jarvis REME** from our friendly staff and **Cpl George Hardstaff.** The CO **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh** also played, thus ensuring himself a ticket to Berlin, for the BAOR championships.

In Berlin, however, the Regimental team came up against stiff opposition principally from not 4, but 7 RHA and 21 Engr Regt. They were forced to settle for 'also swam' status in both the Water Polo and the swimming, but had the satisfaction of having competed at this level, despite very little training.

EX 'SUMMER SALES'

Ex *Summer Sales* came round again, just as we feared it would. To add a little interest this year, the staff moved, but the Commheads did not, somehow the recee officer **Capt Max Springer,** still managed to seem busy.

One of the highlights of the exercise was the main-to-main shuttling birthday cake. Celebrations for the 40th birthday of the CO **Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh,** started before the exercise and the cake was seen to change command a number of times.

NEW 2IC ARRIVES (AND PASSES OUT)

The new Regimental **2IC Maj David Gardiner** arrived for a look round the unit prior to joining us in October, by which time the present holder of that noble office, **Maj Bill Bowen** will be long gone. **Maj Gardiner** made sure that he drew attention to himself by joining the quarterly COs cross country run and then passing out, due to dehydration in the heat wave. He is awarded five points for trying and two more for getting his name known, but loses 10 for passing out, although it was conceded to be an understandable reaction on seeing the Regiment for the first time!

EX 'MOTO FRENZY'

The Regimental skilled driving competition, Ex *Moto Frenzy*, took place on 28/29 July. After a 'tick test' on German Traffic laws, competitors had to show their skills manoeuvering Land-rovers in confined spaces. A night navigation drive followed, during which competitors collected letters of the alphabet at each check point. Having collected the complete set, they had to solve the anagram to read the message, 'time to go home'. Not quite, though! They still had a tough cross country section to complete and a day navigation drive back to barracks.

Sig 'Taff' Connor comes briefly out of hiding to show he really does know where he is on the map

WO2 (SSM) Ron Hughes briefs some of the competitors

Sig Nigel Matthews looks pleased to be even remotely near the bullseye

VISIT BY SOinC

Maj Gen R. Benbow visited the Regiment on 8 August and carried out a full tour of all departments. He was welcomed by a quarter-guard and then saw a Headquarters Complex set up on the square, some weapon training, an assault course race and many other activities showing the wide range of skills and interests in the Regiment.

Sig 'Brains' Lawson contempletes his next move on the GPMG. The SOinC and Cpl 'Fez' Newel meanwhile discuss the finer points of long jumping. The rest look enthralled

What a good joke sir! Capt Keith Pritchard waits for WO2 (SSM) Illy Illingworth to explain it all later

The SOinC inspects the quarter-guard, starting with Sgt 'Boom' Moore

The QM(T), Maj Jack Simpson proving yet again, that he has more personal friends in high places than the CO has

MOHNE FEST

The Annual regimental weekend, the 'Mohne Fest', took place on 16/17 July. On the Saturday the main attractions were the fete on the sports field followed by the all ranks dance in the local 'Schutzenhalle'. The weather was perfect and having opened the fete, our star guest, **Miss Nicole Raymond** of BFBS 'Birthday Time' fame proceeded to gain the attention of a large number of children (and others). All the fun of the fair was there, including the ducking stool, complete with Squadron Commanders to be ducked and free-fall parachutists descending from a clear blue sky.

On the Sunday, the Officers played the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess at cricket. Despite an outstanding performance by the CO, (I've got to earn my confidential report too, you know) the Officers allowed themselves to be beaten by a narrow margin.

At the end of the day a nett profit of over DM5000 had been made, which was then distributed between local and UK charities, DM2000 going to a German family whose children had been involved in a bad traffic accident. The children are now recovering and the money will be used to provide a free holiday for them.

REGIMENTAL SAILING

Wednesday 27 July saw the Regimental Inter-Squadron dinghy regatta, held at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. The weather was 'variable'. Over half of the fleet capsized during the first race when a 'Mohne Special' swept the lake and many competitors were so busy trying to stay afloat that they did not even have time to see the recall signal from the bridge. Much lively discussion followed, with some competitors trying to claim that the race should stand. It was notable that they were those who had managed to stay afloat!

Later in the day, a race had to be curtailed when a number of boats were becalmed and had not managed to complete the course after almost two hours.

Congratulations to 1 Sqn, who won the competition, by a good margin, **Cpl Chas Cowell** and his trusty crewmen **LCpl Jock Robertson** coming first in each of the three races. The other members of the 1 Sqn team were **Cpls 'Tweaky' Robinson, Martin Henwood, SSgt Tony Watson** and **Sig Mick Wilton**.

Sig Jim Kelly received the CO's Cross Country Individual Winner's Trophy for the second time

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

A SWANSONG

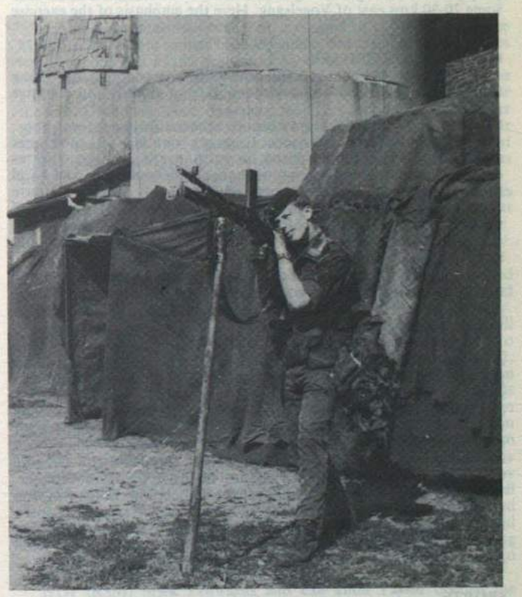
It is always a busy time of year for a Divisional Signal Regiment during the Spring and early Summer or from *Wintex* to *Summer Sales*. *Wintex* was the 'swansong' for that well known Herford personality **Capt (now Maj) Dickie Dyer**. For the third year he organised the building of Control Headquarters in our gymnasium, and the Regiment played host to 600 visitors. You will read more of **Dickie Dyer** later.

EXERCISES

In March the Regiment consolidated its expertise with divisional and brigade hardened headquarters on Exercise *Keel Haul*. Thus prepared we deployed on Exercise *Flying Falcon* with COMMCEN Golf, commanded by **Lt Tim Watts** leading the Corps, despite 200 Sig Sqn's attempts to 'Roll a 439' our confidence and experience was growing. But we are only half way through the story. A few days later, with 211 Sig Sqn leading the way with a professional presentation we provided PA, communications, administration and stands for the Staff College's Demonstration.

We spent the rest of May on site guard and deployed, in early June, on Exercise *Main Brace*, the main divisional CPX for 1983. On this occasion COMMCEN Hotel, commanded by **Capt Steve Crane**, was found to be a bit sharp. Nevertheless our training paid off with another successful exercise and we even had time to demonstrate to the Corps Commander some air defence ideas as the photographs show. *Summer Sales* came and went, and the Regiment deployed with its Brigade Squadrons to Vogelsang for a week.

LCpl Andy Young going solo



Sig Tim Dodd wondering if he'll hit anything

VOGELSANG

Capt Jerry Jarrett planned an exciting escape and evasion exercise: 'Last night Orange troops occupied 'Poland' in strength in order to suppress a popular uprising. A US spokesman for NATO has issued an ultimatum stating that unless they withdraw from 'Poland', NATO countries will mobilise and further escalation cannot be ruled out. Active Edge has been called and the Regiment will march back to Vogelsang Camp in preparation for our return to Herford'.

So the Regiment, led by the 2IC **Maj Jonathan Lowe**, marched. It was a hot, dusty road. Leading the first section were two female Irish UOTC Cadets. We are still waiting for suitable comments to incorporate in these notes. After 7 kms, the Regiment was halted and the following signal received by the 2IC:

> 'During the night the situation escalated rapidly. Orange forces have launched a series of pre-emptive strikes throughout North West Europe. Do not attempt to return to your peace-time location. Situation confused, but it is known that large parts of West Germany are now occupied. You are to disperse your force throughout the Vogelsang/Bad Munster Eifel area and await a counter offensive as soon as reinforcements arrive from US and UK'.

And:

'From local reports received, we know that there are large formations of the enemy approaching Vogelsang. Before they arrive, we will have dispersed into the countryside in small sections. Make sure you now know who you will be with. Every man has been issued with a map.

The aim is to evade capture within the areas outlined on the map until rescued by our own forces.

There are agents, some local Germans, others from the Regiment, throughout the area. They will be able to help you with information and food. You have been given the locations of the ones in this area. Keep away from civilians and buildings unless you know they are agent controlled'.

IT WAS ON

These words were punctuated by a series of explosions as the enemy, led by **Maj Derek Howshall** and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Kerr** advanced towards the Regiment. The exercise was on. Two hundred men scattered across the countryside looking for their first agents: **WO1 (SC) Dave Hornsby, WO2 (BSM) Dave Hardy** and **WO2 (QMSI) Geoff Smith**. This proved more difficult than anticipated. 'They couldn't see me because I was wearing a red shirt and waving at them'. Eventually tired and hungry, the escapers were passed down the pipe line from agent to agent and arrived in the main exercise area some 20-30 kms east of Vogelsang. Here the emphasis of the exercise changed.

CHANGE OF EMPHASIS

'For the next 48 hours you will be evading enemy forces and giving assistance to guerrillas who are attempting to establish an effective resistance to Orange'.

The escapers 'tabbed' from agent to agent, information was poor, sometimes incorrect but the local Germans were helpful, sometimes too helpful. The guerrillas asked for assistance in such activities as instruction in the use of foreign weapons. (**Cpl Trev Irvine** and **LCpl Phill Lord** portrayed the guerrillas), recce of VPs for future exploitation, planting explosives on pylons (those Irish UOTC students again) and dealing with simulated casualties (**Sgts Jam Nason** and **Alan Burnett**). And to eat: black bread, blue soup, cherries and rabbit boiled, spitted or burned to taste.

Limping, tired but happy, the Regiment moved on to the next phase of the training which was carried out under squadron auspices.

VOGELSANG FINALE

On our final day in Vogelsang, the Regiment regrouped to wind down and have a day of competitions. **WO2 (QMSI) Smith** organised potted tortures such as 'medicine ball tennis', 'the log race' and 'the stretcher race'. **Lt Peter Robinson** organised a pistol shooting competition and **Capt Eddie Humphreys** an SLR shoot. These events were won by our pioneer platoon led by **Sgt Keve Church** until he got tired, and then by **Cpl Geordie Seely**. They could not have won without the active support of **LCpl Robert Hay**, and **Cpl Geordie Crinson** asked to be mentioned because he drove the team 4 tonner.

The day finished with an assault course competition which was won by the 3 Sqn team led, it is rumoured, by **Lt Mark Perry** and a superb barbeque laid on by our excellent catering team. It is noteworthy that the Sergeants' Mess team narrowly defeated the Officers' Mess team on both the assault course and the barbeque race.

SPORTS

With all this training going on, who would have thought we had time for anything else. Well, **Capt Stan Hargreaves** (Badminton), **WO1 (FofS) Geoff Chaloner** (Athletics), **WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould** (Golf and Cricket), and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Kerr** (Ex *Eye Opener*) will explain some of our other activities and 200 and 202 Sig Sqns will continue the story with their own words.

VOICE OF 4 ARMD DIV SPORT MOVES ON

One of the most familiar 'voices of sport' in BFG has just left the airways of BFBS Radio in Cologne. **Capt Dickie Dyer**—who spent three years reporting the sporting life from 4 Armd Div—has returned to UK on posting. His voice became well known to sports enthusiasts throughout BAOR, first with his regular weekly round-up on Thursday evenings and later in the new Saturday morning 'Sports Watch' presented by **Tom Scanlon**.

Dickie Dyer began his Forces radio sports reports in Malta in 1964, as a favour to a friend. 'I still often find broadcasting extremely difficult. **Andrew Pastouna** in Bielefeld taught me that you've got to spend time working out a script and then reading from it. You can't just ad lib', he said.

Of all the sports he has reported **Dickie's** firm favourite remains rugby. He was rugby officer for 7 Sig Regt and selector for 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Herford, before becoming BAOR team manager in 1981. Just before leaving Germany last week he retired as chairman of the BAOR rugby selectors. 'My big thrill is that having been involved in selecting this year's team, we have just beaten the Dutch and West German national teams. The Dutch hadn't lost a game this season until they met us', he said.

He has been careful to make sure that his personal love of rugby has not interfered with his broadcasts. 'People are sometimes very upset, if their reports are not aired, but you've got to keep a balance'. Rugby will be part of his new life at the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate, however, where, he has already been told he will be running the rugby team. In fact, the college is where he trained as a boy soldier and he is returning there to command his old training wing.

NB: We are delighted to report that in the Queen's Birthday Honours **Dickie** was appointed **MBE**.

Capt Dickie Dyer seen receiving his certificate in recognition of his services to sport in the Division from Comd 4 Div, Maj Gen J. C. Reilly

BADMINTON

On a bright sunny day in April, the top twelve BAOR teams met in Herford to compete for the BAOR Inter-Unit Badminton Knock Out title. As holders of the title for the last two years, the Regiment was determined to achieve a 'hat trick'. But there were several good teams to beat. 21 Sig Regt, 21 Engr Regt and 3 BAD were particularly strong.

The regiment were able to get to the finals reasonably easily where they met their old rivals from 1982, 21 Sig Regt. 21 Sig Regt were stronger this year with the addition of **LCpl Jim Moore**, a BAOR standard player, who had defected, on posting, from us to them.

The scene was set for an exciting, and sometimes nail-biting final. However, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt was able to squeeze home by 5 games to 4 and retain the title for a record third year.

The victorious team: *L to R Standing:* Sgt Brian Innes, WO1 Bryan Selkirk, CO Lt Col AF Eastburn Cfn Steve Hardie, Capt Stan Hargreaves; *L to R Kneeling:* LCpl George Dudley, Sgt Sid Hayward, Sig Max Boyce, WO1 David Gilchrist

ATHLETICS

The athletics season got off to an early start with the Divisional Championships held in cold and wet conditions at Sennelager on 19 and 20 May. One of the new units to the Division, 1 WFR, proved too strong for the rest, winning the Major Unit competition by 22 points. The Regiment finished a creditable fifth place, having some success in the field events; **Lt Bob Sharp** winning the high jump, **Gnr Sam Day** the Discus, and **Cpl Paul Davies** coming second in the hammer. Two weeks later we returned to Sennelager in bright sunshine for the Morrison Cup. As always this was an enjoyable competition during which many old friendships were renewed. The Regiment finished third in the Major Units Competition with a good all round team performance. Again, **Lt Bob Sharp** (High Jump) and **Gnr Sam Day** (Discus) were our winners.

GOLF

Sir Winston Churchill said 'golf is a damn good way to ruin a walk'. Notwithstanding his position as the greatest Englishman, there are at least 30 members of this Regiment who would disagree. On Thursday 10 March these men met at Sennelager golf course, to take part in the first competition of the newly-formed 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Golf Society which was the brainchild of **WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould**. Although the day was damp and misty, the golfers' enthusiasm was undaunted and the first competition started at 0830 hrs.

The day was split into two competitions, the Bradley Trophy in the morning and the Quadrant Cup in the afternoon. To add variation and interest, they were played under different playing and scoring rules; the Bradley Trophy (inter-squadron competition) as a greensome stableford (pairs) and the Quadrant Cup as a stroke competition (individual).

Golf, especially the scoring, can sometimes be befuddling and bewildering to the layman, but whatever scoring system is adopted, a novice can play an established player on nearly even terms taking players' handicaps into account. Of course, scoring is only a small part of a sport that manages to combine luck and technique, frustration and elation with exercise and fresh crisp air and variable natural surroundings. Those who participated appeared to have a very differing view on all manner of golfing subjects from stance to grip, equipment to clothing. One nameless WO, **(WO1 Bryan Selkirk)**, insisted that ability comes a poor second behind attire. However, not only was he 'nattily' dressed but he also walked off with the Quadrant Cup net prize. Perhaps his philosophy is right.

Throughout both competitions all participants showed not only a full range of golfing skills but also sportsmanship of a high standard that has come to be accepted as the norm within the Regiment. There cannot be many sports where an opponent will help his adversary with advice, look for his golf ball or tend the pin. On more than one occasion a less-gifted player benefitted from unsolicited advice which allowed him to win the hole.

There is perhaps a misguided opinion amongst some that golf is for officers, WOs and a few chosen SNCOs. Proving that this could not be further from the truth, those participating represented every rank from private soldier to colonel, with the exception of 2Lt and Lt. Perhaps at the next meeting even these ranks will be represented. The CO who presented the prizes was surprised to find 3 of his 4 squadron commanders playing; he is now faced with the dilemma of either forcing the absentee and himself to take up golf or ensuring that the 3 golfing OCs play on consecutive days.

WO2 Bob Allison RAPC being presented with the Quadrant Cup, *L to R:* WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould, Lt Col A. F. Eastburn and WO2 Bob Allison

The CO, **Lt Col Eastburn**, presented the prizes at the end of the day to the following golfers:

Quadrant Cup		
Winner	**WO2 Bob Allison**	3 Sqn
Runner-up	**WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould**	3 Sqn
Quadrant Cup (Net)		
Winner	**WO1 Bryan Selkirk**	2 Sqn
Runner-up	**Capt Ted Banham**	202 Sig Sqn
Bradley Trophy Inter-Squadron Competition		
Winners	**WO21 (SSM) Mick Raybould** **Sig Nigel Scott**	3 Sqn
Runners-up	**Col R. H. MacKeith** **Mr John Osman**	3 Sqn
Bradley Trophy (Gross)		
Winners	**Capt Ted Banham** **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson**	202 Sig Sqn
Runners-up	**WO1 (RSM) Mick Ledwards** **Cpl Steve Catlett**	HQ Sqn
Best 24 Handicap	**WO1 Fred Hart**	3 Sqn
Played Most Golf	**Cpl Keith Brownless**	2 Sqn

The most unusual prize was that presented to the player with the highest score. There cannot be many sports where the man who comes last is encouraged in this fashion.

Although the competition could not have taken place without the golfers, similarly it could not have occured without help from outside the unit. To the president, chairman, members and staff of Sennelager golf course, many thanks for the use of the club's facilities, and to **Mr Roger Sherratt** of JBI (Financial Consultants), **Mr Les Beebee** of Grattans and **Capt D. J. T. Poole** (PRI), for their more than generous contributions towards the trophies, we say a very special thanks.

Now that the first meeting has ended and each and every stroke has been replayed at the 19th, we hope to see an increased field at the next 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Golf Society Meeting.

CRICKET

Despite forty days and forty nights of rain, the long awaited beginning to the Regiment's cricket season started with a hard and difficult match against the League's All Star XI on Sat 21 May. Played on the Regiment's pitch at Wentworth Barracks, Herford, All Stars led by **Cpl John Ainsworth** (RAF) lost the toss and were put into bat. The Regiment, slightly changed from its well balanced side of '82, opened the bowling with 2 left handers; **Sgt Tony Lea** and **Cpl John Taylor.** The initial shock effect of **Cpl John Taylor's** pace was cushioned by his early season inaccuracy but **Sgt Tony Lea** soon settled into his comfortable rhythm of line and length and took an early wicket in his second over. This brought **Cpl Mark Taylor** an RAF Germany player, into bat and he quickly showed his strength by scoring freely on the legside. An intelligent change of bowling by skipper **WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould** bought a wicket to **Capt Neil Fisher** with a classic inswinger which straightened off the seam and beat **Taylor** between bat and pad. Spirited attempts by **Griffiths** and **Jackson** failed to regain the lost ground and a renewed bowling onslaught by **Capt Kerry McLean** and **SSgt Peter Huntley** brought to an end the All Stars innings for 93 runs.

WO1 (RSM) Mick Ledwards and **Cpl John Taylor** opened the batting for 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt but an early mistake resulted in the dismissal of **Taylor** without the score being opened.

Jackson and **Bentley** bowled intelligently for the All Stars and frustrated attempts by **Capt Kerry McLean, WO2 Mick Raybould** and **Lt Col Alan Eastburn** to attack the bowling. **McLean** and **Raybould** were both caught whilst **Lt Col Eastburn** had to retire with a head injury which needed eight stitches. This was the result of a mistimed hook and the ball flying off a thick edge on to his forehead. The game became highly charged as batsmen 7, 8 and 9 were dismissed with 20 runs still needed. However **WO2 Graham Harris** and **SSgt Peter Huntley** batted steadily, displaying to the opening batsmen the virtue of running the first single quickly. As the score slowly approached 93, so runs seemed to dry up and the atmosphere became electric. In the event, victory was something of an anti-climax as the last 2 runs were obtained by a wide and a no ball. No matter, this close contest has rid the Regiment of an early season complacency and shown the rest of the League that we are not going to lose easily the championship title.

SCORERS EYE VIEW OF THE INTER SQN 6-A-SIDE CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Some of the highest class and most exciting 6-a-side cricket that I have seen for a long time was played on 14 Jun.

In the first game between HQ Sqn B and 211 B, HQ knocked up 67 in the allotted 5 over and then demolished 211 for 11 runs. The margin in this case was comfortable but the majority were close run things with five games going to the penultimate ball. Perhaps the most exciting of these was 1 Sqn A v 'the favourites' 3 Sqn A. 3 Sqn set 1 Sqn a target of 37 mins to win and with 1 over, no spare wickets and six runs needed, **Lt Mark Perry** came in to bowl. 1 Sqn won on the 5th ball with the crowd cheering them on. In the semi-finals both HQ and 1 Sqn teams played each other. HQ A comfortably beat 1 Sqn B although **Cpl Whitfield** of 1 Sqn did have some success ending with figures of 5 for 13 off 3 overs; including CO caught and bowled.

The other semi was another close fought game. HQ B batted first. **Cpl Chris Calder** looked to be off to a good start with a quick two runs when **Cpl Dave Whittaker** hit the stumps from the outfield and ran him out. This modest fielder said he was throwing in to the keeper—we all thought **Botham** was in the field. **Cpl Calder** finished up scoring 43 runs in his three innings and 2 for 8 off 2.5 overs. **Cpl Boswell** also turned in some good figures for HQ B; 1 for 13 off 3 overs and 64 runs.

The final between HQ A and 1 Sqn A began with CO's side (with three Regimental players) as the favourites. **Sgt Dick Woodfine** gave 1 Sqn a good start by winning the toss and putting the HQ A in to bat. A score of 41 for 3 looked good. The RSM had scored another 12 runs to complete three not out innings and a total of 48 runs. There is a rumour that as the bowlers came in he gestered with one hand the number of extras a successful bowler would get! The CO however was less lucky as **Cpl Tony Clark** bowled him for 4, the CO finished with 57 runs off his four innings.

The Target set, **Cpl 'Jenks' Jenkinson** came into bowl and was hit, for 9 runs, his four overs for 0 wickets and 23 runs was quite creditable for an opener. Although the bowling and fielding went well **Cpl Whittaker** 20 not out **Cpl Tony Howse** 22 not out won the day with 5 balls to spare. This was 1 Sqn A's most comfortable win. The CO ended up with 3 for 18 off 3.1 and the 2IC 3 for 16 off 3. Could there be the start of a good officers side for the Sgts versus Officers match?

Mrs Eastburn presented a cup and medals to the victorious 1 Sqn team. The CO thanked the umpires, **Maj John Hayes** and **Capt Mike Cox**, and **SSM (Mick) Raybould** for organising a successful and enjoyable day.

EXERCISE 'EYE OPENER'—21 MAY

Exercise *Eye Opener* was the name chosen by our OC, **Maj Mike Thorne**, for 2 Sqn's Open Day. Members of the Squadron decided it was time to show their wives and children just how tough life was on exercise. The only person who seemed to have overlooked the fact that the date coincided with the Cup Final seems to have been the OC!

To enable us to impress our families it was agreed that OSCAR HQ Complex PAPA's cookhouse and a rebro cluster would provide static displays, and AFV 432 rides supplemented by a weapons/NBC display and .22 Shooting with a few side shows would be thrown in for good measure.

To ensure that the families entered into the spirit of the occasion a competition for the best dressed lady and child in 'combat kit' was organised.

HQ COMPLEX

The OSCAR Complex was provided and erected by Al Tp under the expert guidance of **SSgt John Mullender** and **Sgt Skip Redman**. Various members of the Troop manned radio sets on each vehicle and allowed the families to talk to each other. Needless to say the voice procedure was not quite by the book!

REBRO CLUSTER—WEAPONS/NBC DISPLAY

A3 Troop provided the rebro cluster and weapons/NBC display under the watchful eyes of **Lt Nick Metcalfe** and **SSgt Keith Harewood**. **Sig Steve Whitehead** waffled his way brilliantly through a description of the weapons on display, and on the odd occasion even **LCpl Wally Walsh** was able to pick the correct weapon to go with the commentary. At the same time **Sig Steve Harris** and **Tony Taylor** ably assisted by **Sig Dave Mack** and **Budge Bird** were baffling everyone with the intricacies of a 353 three way rebro. Most people came away looking decidedly dazed and muttering abbreviations to themselves.

AFV 432 RIDES

Rides on 432's was the most popular display and was stage managed by **Sgt Jock Letford, Cpl Pat Keay** and other members of A2 Tp, too numerous to mention by name. It was amazing how many wives, children and safety men could be packed into and on, a 432. It was even considered safe to allow some of the wives to drive and they all performed admirably. One person who really enjoyed his 'cabby' was **Mr John Davis**, father of **SSgt Martin Davis**. He is a retired train driver and once he had been convinced that there was no footplate, and a fireman was not necessary, he proceeded to impress us all. He did say that by the time the grandchildren heard all about it, his tale would include at least one T62 tank and assorted Russian infantry!

.22 SHOOTING

Shooting was organised and run under the eagle eyes of **SSgt Jeff Armstrong** and **Sgt Paddy Flannigan**. Nearly every wife had a go at the competition and did very well; none as well as **Mrs Doris Shuttleworth**, wife of our SQMS who scored a maximum of 50. The snide remarks that she used to be a Corporal in the Waffen SS were all a bit unsporting.

PAPA COOKHOUSE

The standard of cuisine and service provided here would have impressed the 'Maitre de' at the Savoy. **SSgt (SQMS) Vic Shuttleworth** dressed in a natty little green, brown and black number was in overall charge; whipping into line his helpers **Cpl Alan Marsden** and **Cpl Pete Tyers**. The preparation of the meal was expertly carried out by **Cpl Scotty Scott** and **Cpl Gary Regan**. The families were impressed by the shiny crockery and one wife was even hear to comment that the 'deep sides were quite clever to stop the food falling off'. All in all over 200 meals were provided by this hard working bunch of guys, which is quite remarkable when you consider they only had rations for 180. Obviously a case of the SQMS' secret art at its very best.

BEST DRESSED WIFE AND CHILD COMPETITION

The responsibility for judging 'the best dressed' competition was given to the Admin Officer **WO1 Bryan Selkirk BEM**. It was reckoned that he has the best line of patter in the Squadron, and having served previously with the TA was least likely to throw a 'wobbler' and break down in tears, when confronted with the ragtail and mottley collection of femininity. As the photograph shows it was quite a rabble.

WO1 Bryan Selkirk valiantly tried to instal some military sense into RENT-A-MOB!

He was delighted that so many of the wives had made the effort to compete and after a hard contest in which there were 13 joint 2nd places, the winner was judged to be **Mrs Sally Brownless** wife of **Cpl Keith Brownless** of A2 Tp.

The children were equally good. Having decided that to choose one of the OCs children might be misconstrued, **Stuart Mable**, son of **WO2 (FofS) R. F. Mable** was judged the winner.

With superb timing the open day ended at 1400 hrs just before the heavens opened and in time for everyone to watch the Cup Final.

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The Squadron has had a very eventful and busy period since the last edition. Exercise *New Ground* and *Flying Falcon* have come and gone. Our two marathon gladiators **Sgts John Thomson** and **Phil Norbury** went across the Channel to run in the London Marathon. Congratulations to both of them for doing so well. During the first week of May Alpha Troop departed to simulate casualties on Exercise *Mini Mash* and Bravo Troop went adventure training.

BRAVO TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

This year Bravo Troop's summer camp was held in the Mosel Valley, just outside Cochem, during the first week of May. The week started off well with glorious sunshine and while it lasted, many a green bottle of Mosel wine was consumed. Sadly the sun did not last long enough and rain came to dampen our spirits.

The activities offered were canoeing, hillwalking and rock climbing. Troop **Sgt Gary (Renato) Ledger** greeted the late slumberers every morning with a fire bucket full of water and a well placed DMS boot. Few objected to his persuasive efforts to awaken them!

OC Bravo, **Lt Keith Durward (alias Moses)**, took the hilling group 'in search of the promised land' up and down 30 km of grape infested vineyards, woods, woods, woods and yet more woods. **Sgt Bob** (I can Eskimo Role) **Blakeman** was meanwhile instructing some of the finer points of canoeing on one of the local lakes and finding it a struggle keeping people afloat and upright. In the afternoon he dared to take the merry band on a fast flowing river. Two of the flotilla **LCpl (Ogga) Hodgson** and **Sig (Mick) Edwards** spent much of their time spluttering under water or drifting sideways or backwards down fast flowing rapids. Our leader had even worse luck when he jammed his canoe in a stopper at the bottom of a weir and had to suffer the indignity of being half drowned before he finally struggled free.

If the canoeists thought they were having a rough time **SSgt Brad Bradley** was giving rock climbers a gruelling time on the rock face. Abseiling was the main event and he is said to have lowered some of his 'friends' down a 70 ft cliff upside down! **Cpl Mick Rose** decided discretion was the better part of valour and after sampling the sport decided his life assurance policy was not worth dying for.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and special thanks must go to our chef **Pte Tom** (yes, it's my real name) **Onions** for producing excellent food throughout the week.

211 SIG SQN

During a very busy period of training the highlight was a visit by **Field Marshall Sir Edwin Bramall GCB, OBE, MC** as part of his tour of BAOR. On Thursday 16 June, **CDS** saw a demonstration of the

new armoured Brigade headquarters which was set up on Kingsley Barracks square and met the OC, **Maj Neil Donaldson**.

Friends of **Maj Donaldson** will be delighted to hear that he will be marrying **Miss Nicola Ann Williams** in the Dom Minden on Saturday 6 August. Stories that he has been telling other unmarried officers to follow suit (no man should be happy all his life) are untrue: although he has had some success with 'The Chief'.

FOCUS ON 202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	Maj C. V. Nind
2IC	Capt E. J. Banham
OC E1 Tp	Lt S. R. Renfrey
OC E2 Tp	Lt K. P. Fisher
SSM	WO2 R. Rylance
YofS	WO2 S. Watson
FofS	SSgt J. Mason
SQMS	SSgt C. Lawrence
OC LAD	SSgt W. McGee

EX 'KEEL HAUL'

At the end of March the Squadron deployed with its 'hotel on wheels' for the first time. This refers of course to the Hardened & Reduced Headquarters which is starting to resemble a gin palace. Both troops administered first aid to the tentage with the inevitable rubber bungie and, by Endex, diamond one represented a catapult on tracks.

All concerned worked extremely hard, especially the LAD under **SSgt Bill McGee**. Not satisfied with just losing a road wheel, **Sig Schaun Day** lost it prior to Chemical Strike and **Cpl Frank Burns** was, therefore, voted 'best mechanic in a respirator 1983'.

Whilst one third of the Commhead was without wheels, the Rapid Relay detachment under **LCpl Les Lavall** and **Sig Dave Hindley** lost its way and returned just in time for Endex.

Apart from this, all went well, except for the one occasion when **LCpl Steve Blunsden** forgot to wake up the COS on a change of command. When the said Staff Officer surfaced, he found himself in an entirely different location, fully cammed-up. 'I thought he needed the rest' was the comment heard amidst cries of hysterical laughter.

ARU

Inspections, reinspections, more inspections, and not one complaint! On 30 March, **Brig P. G. Brooking, MBE**, Commander Paderborn Garrison, inspected the Squadron for its ARU. All working elements plus the accommodation block were inspected and all appeared to go well—if the photographs are anything to go by.

. . . and you've missed out on leave as well!' Brig Brooking cracks a joke with Sgt Paul Duffy who does not quite understand

Cpl Frank Burns: 'Now, which bit did I take off first?'

BORDER PATROL

On 6 April, twelve intrepid heroes set forth to defend Western Democracy on another border patrol. The sheer reality of it all struck deep and the experience was quite stimulating. The pictures on the Intelligence posters really do exist. The lucky participants were: **Lts Simon Renfrey, Kevin Fisher, LCpl Jim McGlinchy, Sig 'Phillice' Phillimore, Ian Scroggs, Dave Hindley, Stan Tivey, Dvrs Campbell** and **Levitt, Pts Igo** and **Olive**,all selected from a cast of thousands. Our thanks go to **FSO 11 Fred Hope** (must be an alias) from the British Frontier Service.

FALKLANDS MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 8 April, **Sig Michael Parrish** was presented with a Falklands Medal for service in the South Atlantic last year. **Sig Parrish** left the UK on 20 May, 1982 for the Ascension Islands. A series of helicopter lifts, lifeboat journeys, the QE2, HMS *Antrim* and finally HMS *Fearless* took him to San Carlos waters, where he remained for the duration of the conflict.

Sig Parrish worked in the Amphibious Operations Room operating voice and morse links within the Navy Gunfire Support Cell, and was finally transferred to the Commcen before returning home to the UK on 4 August for a well deserved rest. He joined the Squadron in September and says he finds it quiet here!

Brig P. G. Brooking, presents the Falklands Medal to Sig Mick Parrish, E1 Troop

SPORTS

With the unpredictable weather, much has had to be postponed. The Squadron soccer side are, however, training hard for the first round of the Task Force Cup. The other Brigades seem to be slow off the ground in getting their entries into the organiser, which is improving our chances of reaching the final.

However, interest in running continues, and in April we entered the 25km road run through Paderborn. The five survivors, **Lt Simon Renfrey, Cpls Clive Doughty, Bob Pemberton, Sig Stan Ticey** and **'Doris' Day**, found the race quite gruelling with many top European athletes in competition. There has to be a better way of touring Sennelager ranges.

EX 'FLYING FALCON'

'This exercise will be so fast moving, you won't know your backside from your elbow', so sayeth **WO2 (YofS) Steve-the-quiff Watson**. Three days later, Echo 2 Troop began the first hour in their two day 'hide' location. Meanwhile, Echo 1 Troop were being buzzed by hostile aircraft and a recce patrol was sent forth to investigate. No enemy were found but **LCpl Gonzo FFitch** amused all by catching frogs and blowing them up to three times their normal size. 'Feeds more people'', was the classic comment which kept morale high for another day.

Other incidents included **LCpl Stuart Edwards** complaining that siting the Radio Relay detachment 300m up a hill was the hardest lay he's ever had, and the anti-ambush drills employed by **Sgt Bob Kerr**; on leaping from his landrover, he immediately 'cammed up' by sinking in four feet of liquid clay.

The weekend activities included a training morning with map reading, skill at arms with the 66mm LAW and a combat survival stand run by **SSM Bob Rylance. Sig 'Buffalo' Jones,** when asked for the grid reference of a telegraph pole, coolly explained that the said feature wasn't on the map, so he couldn't answer the question.

Meanwhile, back in the hide location, **Lt Kevin Fisher** kept the troops amused by boiling water in a paper bag and other such important survival techniques.

Cpl 'Brummie' Stuart, of 25 Field Regt RA Rear Link, Sig David Ferraday and LCpl Gonzo FFitch—Good, Bad and Ugly?

Two days before Endex, Comd Comms 1 BR Corps, **Brig C. N. Last, OBE** visited the headquarters to speak with the troops on the ground. No-one told him we were NBC Amber 1 at the time, but **Cpl 'MA' Jackson** got the oximes out just in case, and then spent twenty minutes telling everybody why.

Unfortunately, the photograph showing **Sig Schaun Day** and **LCpl Mark Wareing** passing the one and only Tarif message, hot off the teleprinter, to the Comd Comms didn't come out. Ah well, there is always next year.

Meanwhile, **Cpl Steve Barrington** and **Sig 'Howard' Hughes** were busy making up pre-taped '98B OK over' answers for the inevitable radio checks. Such cunning soon became unstuck when their call sign changed on deployment as a divisional rebro station.

HELLOS/FAREWELLS

We welcome **SSM Bob Rylance** to the Squadron, along with **SSgt Gus Graham, Sgt Paul Duffey** and **LCpl Mark Wareing**. Sadly, much experience is leaving the Squadron in the form of **SSgt Archie Hambling, Sig (now LCpl) Ned Kelly, SSM John Walker (now RSM)** and **Sig John McPortland**. We wish them well in their new postings.

SQUADRON CADRE COURSE

From 4-16 May, sixteen hand-picked men were chosen to relive the horrors of drill, section attacks, bull nights, more section attacks etc . . . **Sig 'Buffalo' Jones** actually enjoyed having his best boots thrown out of the window by drill instructor **Sgt Terry Filer. Sig (now LCpl) 'Doris' Day** went from being a hand-picked man to a nose-picking Sig as he mesmerised all with his skills during the five minute lecturette. Entertainment was the name of the game, the chosen subject was immaterial.

Two weeks and a few jailings later, all concerned were a little wiser in the art of map reading, survival techniques, drill and basic Infantry skills. **Sig 'Phillis' Phillimore** was judged top of the course and was presented with 'The Bull' by the Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps **Brig C. N. Last OBE**, on the pass off parade.

Lt Kevin Fisher, Sig 'Spade' Lewis, Comd Comms & OC Sqn . . . and you've always had that nose?'

Comd Comms inspects. OC, Maj Chris Nind, and SSM 'Noddy' Rylance look on

Comd Comms presents 'The Bull' to Sig Phillimore. SSM looks on and wonders how much it might fetch in the right hands

LCpl 'I eat frogs' FFitch presses the Comd Comms into making a decision he may regret. In the background, LCpl Andy Terry thinks about what he's missed in the past fortnight

EX 'MAINBRACE'

'Right lads, that's the gist of it. We're going South.'

'But we've just come from there, Sir.'

'I know, don't worry, the Yeoman got the map upside down on the briefing.'

Ex *Mainbrace* became Ex *Main Trace* as Staff Officers rushed around saying 'Right, we'll go firm on that then'. Echo Two Troop followed those orders to the letter and went firm in a hide for three days, beating the previous record by three hours. Such inactivity made the Auto Exchange switch-off, and we all went Auto-fail without a manual board for seven days. **Cpl 'Whitewater' McDermott** definitely made an impression on his debut. Meanwhile, back in Main, everything was so well cammed up that a helicopter landed on the RMP Info Post Trench. Not to be left out of the 'action', the Yeoman went Tac with the Brigadier and got his hands dirty. It's also rumoured that he lost his comb .

Sig 'Benson' Hudson went to give communications advice to one of the Battle Groups. He got bogged down, was helped out by the people he went to assist, who then promptly told him that 'Comms are in now'.

All of a sudden, back in the Hide Troop, nothing happened. Then, Echo One Troop 'moved'. Sig Ops under **Sig Terry Hardaker** 'moved' one hundred yards. Others were more fortunate. A few hours later, Echo Two Troop moved and **Sgt Doug Kirby**, in the excitement fell down the Commander's hatch and broke five ribs! It was that sort of exercise. After Endex, **Cpl Martin Lelacher**, not to be outdone, broke down on the way to the washpoint. Honestly, some people take a joke too far.

RHINE ARMY SUMMER SHOW

No sooner off exercise, the Linemen and Technicians set to work on the PA systems for the Rhine Army Summer Show. Under the watchful eye of **SSgt 'Taff' Millard**, communications slowly took shape and for the three days, all went well. Fine weather on the last day saw a massive turnout at the Show and the lads from both troops did a stirling job in taking over DM 60,000 from programme and ticket sales.

EX 'SUMMER SALES'

Everything started really well. The infamous RRB crew, **Cpl Steve Barrington** and **Sig Mick Hughes**, proved that an AFV 432 can fly, though not for very long. In location, once communications were set up and a shift system in operation, much of the troop took to the hills in a frenzy of fitness attacks. It could just have been that there was a choice of swimming pools either side of the location. **Sig (now LCpl) 'Mackum' Edminson** commented to his Tp OC on how sweet the baby boars were, whilst on his way to a Rebro. He changed his mind on seeing the 'thing' that was their mother staring him in the eyes from six yards.

Wildlife seemed to be an interesting factor in the maintenance of morale. **Cpl Charlie Brown** reported seeing rabbits on the hill whilst on a run. The information was passed to **Lt Kevin Fisher**, who sallied forth up the hill accompanied by **Sig Stan Tivey**, with enough Don 10 to strangle Watership Down. Seven days and no rabbits later, **Cpl Paul Skinner** commented that 'Fiver and Co' probably had such an extensive intercom system by that time that any potential threat could be spotted and reported from miles away!

CONNAUGHT SHIELD—GARRISON HEATS

'Sir, how would you like to enter the Connaught Shield?'

'Yeah, great Sar'nt Major. What is it?!'

In a surge of enthusiasm, the Squadron had entered itself for the Garrison heats of the Connaught Shield, a Corps competition designed to test many aspects of military skills. Six lucky volunteers were selected from thousands of unsuccessful applicants to speed march and carry a stretcher around the Sennelager ranges. The six heroes, **Lt Simon Renfrey, Cpl 'Bish' Bishop', Sig (now LCpl) 'Natocar' Williams, LCpls 'Doris' Day** and **Mackum Edminson**, spent a restful hour being inspected and tested on TOETS, First Aid, and general military knowledge. A speed march, during the midday heat, brought our team the practical stand where two casualties had to be treated and rescued from a Chieftain. The one survivor was then carried by stretcher for two and a half miles to the finish. The squad did exceptionally well, finishing as top minor unit, though unfortunately they did not qualify for the Divisional finals.

SPORT

Cricket has been a non-starter this season, but undeterred, the soccer team carried on the motion in the Brigade Signal Squadron Cup. Much credit is due to the team in reaching the semi-finals, losing narrowly to 201 (22 Armd Bde) by 2-1. This narrow defeat could be attributed to **Cpl John Brooks** whose unselfish attitude off the field went as far as trying to kill the whole team as well as himself on the Autobahn to Hohne. He put it down to enthusiasm—'Couldn't wait to get there, Sir!' The team can now look forward to a period of rest and safety—**Cpl Brooks** is posted.

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

We welcome **Cpl Paul Skinner** and his wife, **Denise** to the Squadron and say farewell to **Cpl (soon to be Sgt) John Brooks** and his wife **Gina.** We also say farewell to **SSgt Taff Millard** who is posted to Catterick. He and his wife **Wendy,** both strong Squadron supporters, will be missed and we wish them well in their new post.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

BADMINTON

This last season saw the Regimental Badminton Team progress very well indeed. For the first time in the Regiment's history they got through to the BAOR Championships having won some fine matches on the way up. Next season looks even more promising and hopefully in the next report we can claim even more success.

L-R Rear: LCpl Mark Speight, Cpl Grahame Kendall, Spr. Nobby Clark, SSgt Mick Hill
L-R Front: LCpl Monty Moore, Nicola McManus. Lolly Bradon, SSgt Paul Rowland

REGIMENTAL TEN PIN BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was the first time this championship had been held in the Regiment. Due to the time available to us, only Singles and Team events were bowled. At 0900hrs sharp on Wednesday 15 June the first ball was bowled. 35 bowlers took part in the Singles event of 5 games each, it was a hard fought battle all morning before a winner was eventually found. **Cpl Speedie Speed** of 1 Sqn was the winner, with **SSgt Chris Laughlin** a close Second and **SSgt Pete Shepherd** third.

The afternoon event saw the Squadron teams competing for the Regiment Shield, with two teams per Squadron a total of 14 teams bowled 3 games each man. At the end of the afternoon 6 Sqn became the victors taking both the first and second places with HQ Sqn A team a close third.

The Masters competition proved to be a very hard fought battle with the best of the top 12 being eliminated down to the last 6. **SSgts Chris Laughlin, Pete Shepherd, Dick Russell, Cpls Dean Ward, Speedie Speed** and finally **Lt Neil Swainson** were the 6 finalists playing a round robin to find the eventual winner. **SSgt Pete Shepherd** became the Champion with **SSgt Chris Laughlin** a close second.

SSgt Dick Russell, Cpls Dean Ward, Speedie Speed and finally **Lt Neil Swainson** took the remaining prizes.

All in all the day was very successful and ended at 2200hrs with a total of over 500 games being played. The prizes were presented by the CO, **Lt Col Burke.** This very good competition was organised by **SSgt Chris Laughlin** with a special mention for **SSgt Stu Williams** (4 ADSR) for helping with the maths. A vote of thanks also to **Capt John Kirkman** our PRI/Familes Officer for his help in arranging the buying of the splendid trophies. Well done to all those who took part. Are there any volunteers to run the Competition next year?

REPORT ON 'GOLDEN OLDIES' 18 JUNE

Once again fine weather welcomed the 'Golden Oldies' to Herford. It was good to see the **Lytollis** brothers, **SSgt Ginge Doak, Yorky Layton** and **SSgt Andy Hickling** (who was on a course) all making the long trip from England just to enjoy the weekend.

The ladies team with opposition. Referee far right

Lt Steve May (centre) going in for the kill. Capt Geordie Gainford (far left) thinking about it. 'Is he slowing down at last?'

A large crowd enjoyed a hard and entertaining game. The 'Golden Oldies' team was considerably weakened from the two previous seasons by the recent departures, on posting, of such stalwarts as **WO2 Jock Cairns, Sgt Dave Higgins** and **WO2 Stu Gray-Cowan** to name but a few. Without players of their calibre the 'Golden Oldies' were always struggling to gain possession and 7th Regt made the most of the possession they won. Some strong and forceful running by **Cpl 'Chalky' Atkins** and **LCpl Dave Woods** helped the Regimental team to run out eventual winners. **Cpl Pete Lytollis** and **Mick Lytollis,** now a civilian, were the scorers for the 'Golden Oldies'. Unfortunately, **Sgt Seci Drika,** who was playing his last game before leaving the Army, didn't get on the score-sheet but he still managed to show the skills which had made him one of the best known and liked of the Fijians who have entertained us over the past 22 years. Most of the wives of the rugby players again turned out in a friendly against the Regimental 2nd XV. With the help of the referee, **Lt Col K. P. Burke** the girls won very easily. They were spurred on by **Cpl Steve Stephenson,** wearing a snazzy outfit with thigh length split, suspenders and black stockings. The day was rounded off by a Disco and Buffet which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone until the early hours of the morning.

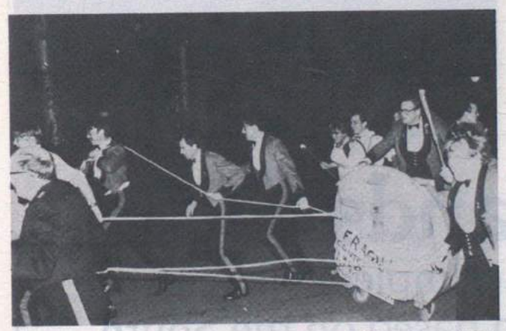
Many thanks to all the 'helpers' for making this event possible—mainly **Mrs Brenda Gainford,** wife of the Rugby Officer, and **Sgts Gig Plumb** and **Doug Ellis.**

FAREWELL TO THE CO

Sadly in August the Regiment had to say its farewells to the CO, **Lt Col Peter Burke** and his wife **Claire.**

The Wives Club held a cheese and wine party and gathered in strength in the Spearhead Club to say goodbye to a very popular CO's wife. The 2IC's wife, **Mrs Judy Coltman,** presented **Claire** with a farewell gift from the wives.

The CO was dined out in fine style by the Officers' and Sgts' Mess' and was invited for lunch-time drinks to the Cpls' Mess. We extend to them both our good wishes and best of luck for the future.



The CO being escorted from the Officers' Mess in a highly polished stadt bin

The Regiment welcomes the new CO **Lt Nigel Wood** and his wife **Wendy** and wish them a happy tour in Herford.

BRISTOL MARATHON

On Sunday 24 July the Regiment entered a team of 13 into the Bristol Marathon. There were approximately 1500 starts and team results were produced from the first four competitors in each team. The Regiment came first and third in the team placings beating teams from the Avon County Police Force and the Royal Marines. Our first three home were 95th **LCpl Paul Sexby** in 2 hrs 58 mins, 100th **Lt Nick Bateson** 2 hrs 59 mins and 200th **LCpl Mark Quinn** 3 hrs 13 mins.

FOCUS ON 5 SQN

OC	**Maj Peter Gurney RA Signals**
21C	**Capt Andy Forster**
OC D Tp	**Lt Alex Wilson**
OC P Tp	**Lt Steve May**
SSM	**WO2 Terry Jinman**
FofS	**WO2 John McIlree**
YofS	**SSgt Bill Wingate**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Mackenzie**

There have been many changes to the management of the squadron since our last report. Most were inter squadron postings but we welcome the new SSM **WO2 Terry Jinman** and the new Yeoman **WO2 Dave Watson.**

The exercise season has just drawn to a close with the completion of Ex *Summer Sales.* Each exercise can be remembered by various incidents. For example on *Winter Sales* a triffid driven by **Cpl John Miles** slid off an icy mountainous track and nearly resulted in a large NMD claim for **Sig David Barrett.** Fortunately after three days of winching and digging by the LAD the triffid was saved. On Ex *Wintex,* 5 Squadron's answer to Evil Knievel, **Sig Tony Rutter** fell 20 feet from a ladder and lay on the ground quivering like a beached whale on heat. After **SSgt Ian Mackenzie** rendered first aid, **Rutter** was admitted to hospital and happily he recovered the same day. The highlight of Ex *Flying Falcon* was the live entertainment in one particular location. The farmer each evening would mate his prize bull with a cow whilst walking them around the farm yard. A strange but evidently effective procedure.

EXERCISE 'KANGAROO QUADRANT'

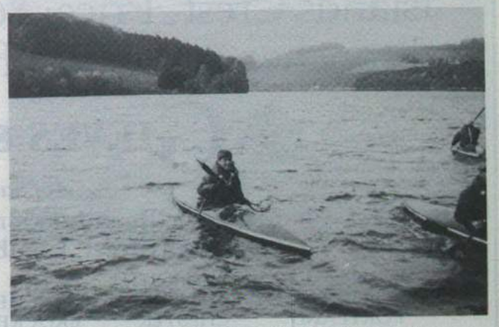
On 9 May, 5 Squadron departed for Eslohe in the Sauerland which was made the base for the Squadron 'Summer' Camp. The aim of the camp was to introduce soldiers to various outdoor adventurous training pursuits, namely rock climbing, canoeing, windsurfing, hill-walking, sub-aqua diving, sailing and orienteering.

The water sports took place on the ice-cold water of the Hennesee and inclement weather detracted from the enjoyment of some of the activities, however all were able to get a feel for the sports and many expressed a desire to pursue them further in warmer conditions.

Disaster struck on Day 1 when, shortly after offloading, the hamper of crockery was placed in front of **Sig Taff Webb's** car. The inevitable happened. **Webb,** sporting flip-flops, shorts and sunglasses, drove off spreading the contents of the hamper for 10 metres along the car park. **Webb** was heard to remark 'I can't see a thing with these sunglasses on'.

Activities started the following day, and it was clear from the start that canoeing was not going to be one of the favourties, largely due to the mandatory swimming test in the lake. Some, however, entered into the spirit of things rather over enthusiastically. **Cpl Jacko Jackson** when 'slapping for support' in order to prevent his canoe toppling over to the right slapped a little too hard and capsized to the left. Capsizing was not in the programme for the sailors, but not to be outdone by the canoeists **Cpl R. B. Rowlinson-Bates** took advantage of a freak wind to demonstrate his ability to overturn a Bosun dinghy. He and **Sig Ali McKitterick** were immediately thrown

Lt Alex Wilson 'Now this 'ere is what we in the trade call a rope'



Lt 'But I like going around in circles' Steve May

overboard, but the durable **LCpl Smudge Smith** managed to keep dry by scrambling along the boat. On surfacing, cries of 'Don't panic' could be heard from **Cpl 'R-B'** but it soom became evident that he was the only one panicing. From afar, **Sgt Sandy Sanderson**, the skipper of the other boat, in gallant style, sped to the rescue. Just as **Cpl 'R-B'** was righting his Bosun **Sgt Sanderson** lost control and rammed it. Another ducking and 20 minutes more in the water for **Cpl 'R-B'** and crew. Compared to these the windsurfing ran very smoothly, though some of the surfers had to be towed back from the far side of the lake. The sub-aqua divers, who spent the entire camp on this activity, enjoyed success in preparing the novices for the first step up the diving ladder.

Rockclimbing was popular but on this showing the Squadron isn't hoping to produce any cliff-leaders. Mountain walking went without incident but, according to **Capt Andy Forster,** the map and compass were merely deadweight for some soldiers and could have been left behind. The recreational day of a visit to Fort Fun was enjoyed by all, especially by **Sig Jim Bowring** who lost his heart to a young girl from Lippstadt.

As usual people began to run out of money quickly. Some faster than others. **WO2 (FofS) John McIlree** resolved this problem by arranging entertainment in the evenings. The Officers and SNCOs played 'The Rest' at cricket and soft ball, emerging easy victors on both occasions. After a devasting start in the cricket by **Sig Stoney Stones** who took 3 wickets for no runs in the opening over, **Lt Steve May** came in to score 80% of the runs needed to take the match. **FofS 'Magnus' McIlree** ably assisted by **Sig 'Bamber' Murray** who had officiated in all the contests, organised a quiz, with teams entered from the Officers, SNCOs, JCNOs, and Signalmen. In the preliminary rounds the officers convincingly beat the JNCOs; however the SNCOs team, after a poor start, finished weakly and were pipped at the post by the Signalmen. This was a result which found favour with the crowd. In the exciting final the Officers emerged victors despite a strong challenge led by **Sig Dave Barrett** who had been outstanding throughout the contest. Victors and vanquished then retired to a very successful barbeque which rounded off an enjoyable camp.

'Doc Murray and the McKittrick Kid' at Fort Fun

The Falklands Tie

An officially approved crimplene tie with an attractive woven design based on the South Atlantic medal ribbon colours on a navy blue background, interspersed with the Falkland Islands Crest. Price: £6.95. Available from all branches, or by post from No. 1 Savile Row.

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EMPHASIS

At the end of June, the Royal Signals Association held their annual reunion at Catterick. This year it was a very special event as **HRH The Princess Anne** was with us on 26 June. The event required a lot of preparation and all ranks of 8 Sig Regt helped out in one way or another. On the day, Vimy Barracks was well groomed and the display area was a credit to all those involved. The Reunion is reported fully in this edition.

The sporting activity of the Regiment continued. Success was achieved in Athletics, Shooting and several WRAC competitions.

SHOOTING

The Regimental Shooting Team participated in a full season of Service Shooting this year. The 'A' team achieved Second Major Unit (Regular Army) at NEDSAM and thus qualified for the second round of both the Rifle and SMG matches. **WO2 Hindle** achieved third place in the Roberts Cup. Two other awards, Best Other Arm Rifle Team and Best Other Arm Shot, are currently under dispute with the match organisers!

After shooting on the Yorkshire Dales during practice, the sunshine and fine weather at Bulford was different too. After a disappointing first day, we recovered to produce reasonable results in the team events. Our 'democratically elected' third LMG pair took on 'off the peg' LMG, scored 101 in the LMG match and then wondered where the rounds went during the Section match. The team finished the competition in sixth place—not bad for the first year.

Bisley provided us with much needed experience, especially for the younger members of our team whose team spirit and appreciations of the skill increased markedly through the competition. One light hearted interlude during the competition was when our rather aged, B falling plate team were announced over the PA as having an average age of 'over 50'. In a temperature well into the 90s they then proved to be at least equal to the young infanteers by losing their round by a mere second, and beating the paras into the bargain! The promised stretcher at the firing point did not materialise!

Individuals from the Regiment have been prominent in the North East District Small Bore circuit this year. Four members of the Regiment entered the North East District Individual championship and all four qualified for the shoulder to shoulder finish at Stensal. Final placings were:- **WO2 John Carter 10th, WO2 Jim Hindle, 13th, WO2 Jim Humphreys 14th, WO2 Olly Walton 15th. WO2 Carter** and **WO2 Humphreys** went on to represent NEDIST in the Inter-District Match where the team reached the UK final, and shot against Yorkshire in both short and long range matches.

The Snap team briefing, *L to R:* LCpl Sherrard, WO2 (YofS) Hindle, WO2 (SSM) Humphries, Cpl George, Sig Goodliff, Maj Dickinson and Sgt Shrive

Our Ladies shooting team have re-established themselves and will be participating in a full programme of competition this coming season. We would be pleased to hear from any similar teams within the Corps with a view to competing, either shoulder to shoulder or by post.

GORDONS CUP COMPETITION

The Regiment's annual assault course and log race competition took place this year on one of the hottest days on record. **WO2 (QMSI) Brown** and his staff assisted by an army of officials conducted a well organised and fair competition resulting in a new record for the course and a double for 2 Sqn. After weeks of training and the inevitable squabbling over the rules, (well handled **Maj Dickinson**) the 12 teams which competed gave the Regiment a tremendous display of effort in overcoming both the effects of heat and fatigue. With a strong record in this competition, 2 Sqn again won, and not content, also came second. In great style **WO2 (SSM) Escott** and his team came from behind in a new record time of 15 mins and 7 secs to win from **Lt Seraph's** team who had been leading, again in a record time of 16 mins and 26 secs. 'T' Tp, 1 Sqn, were third (16.39).

The competition emphasised the spirit and rivalry within the Regiment and such a win was well marked by the champagne celebration which followed prize giving. For all who took part it was a worthy and challenging experience.

BRAVO Troop Team
Winners
Back row: LCpl Sacree, Sig Jones, WO2 Escott, Sig Staniford, Russell. *Front row:* Sig White, Mogre, Cpls Bell, Doherty

ALPHA Troop Team
Runners Up
Back row: Sig Ormeord, Sig Benson, LCpl Richards, Sig Keates, Sig Slade. *Front row:* Sig Wallis, Cpl McHugh, Lt Seraph, Sig Jacques

WRAC SPORTS

The summer season has been very successful for the WRAC element of 8 Sig Regt. In the Zone 'D' Swimming Gala, **LCpls Chris Burgess** and **Wendy Parker** won two out of the three individual events whilst **Cpl Val Hutton** was just beaten into second place in the third. However, the team went on to win all three relay races outright by beating teams from 40 Sqn RCT, Benbecula and York Garrison. The team now represent the Zone in the Army Women's Swimming finals.

Cpl Joy Von Wielligh and **LCpl Burgess** won the Inter Zone Ladies tennis doubles and have both been selected to represent the Zone in the Army finals in July.

The Zone 'D' Rounders Tournament was held at Craigiehall near Edinburgh this year and after a twelve hour round trip in a white bus 8 Sig Regt made it worthwhile by winning all five matches with a staggering sixty rounders for and only three against! They now go on to the Army Finals at the WRAC College Camberley.

2 SQN FOCUS

As always at this time of the year, it's busy! We say goodbye to **SSgt Goldie Peters** and **Sally** who leave the Squadron after three years to move on to better things in 16 Sig Regt. In his place, we welcome **SSgt Ken Counsell** and **Avril** who arrive from the TTS, not a newcomer to the Regiment but nevertheless, we hope they both enjoy their time here.

The Squadron has been full with more D Tgs arriving by the day. In all we have had a floating population of about 250. Events have been demanding of late with many visits and in particular the attendance of our **Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Anne** at the Association Reunion weekend. Our own OC A Troop **Lt Ian Seraph** was ADC for **HRH** and **Sgt Jim Simpson** organised and ran the Squadron minefield stand for the static display. A special mention also for the Gordons Cup competitors who put in a tremendous amount of effort and were rewarded by not only winning the competition in a new record time, but by coming second and eighth.

WO2 (SSM) Gavin Escott led the winning team for the second year running and his ambition next year is to get a first, second and third for the squadron; watch out.

3 SQN ROUND UP

June and July have proved very busy for the Squadron due to the visit of **HRH The Princess Anne** and the Gordons Cup Competition. **Sgt Chas Ward** and his work party are to be congratulated for the hard work that was put in to constructing all of the arena tentage and stands not to mention the supporting structure for the castle backdrop. During the visit **Sgt Ward** and two of his work party were presented to **Princess Anne.**

Turmoil in SHQ has continued again and yet another 2IC bites the dust under the strain. **Capt David Shakespeare** decided to leave the Regular Army for the TA. **Capt Shakespeare** has had a long and varied career, he left the army once before, but came back in when he discovered how expensive it is to play golf with civilian clubs! We wish him and his wife well.

Cadre PT continues in ever increasing circles. Our new 2IC **Lt Roger Courtney** has repeatedly kept up with the OC Squadron who recently went for a three mile run and came back two pounds heavier. With the OC now leading from the front, 3 Sqn must be in with a chance of winning the cross country! As The Wire goes to press, the Squadron are in the midst of battling out the football and cricket competitions. The Linies are totally confused as the football competition is being held before the cricket . . . .

PRESENTATION

Sgt Coltman of Traffic Group received an award from the MOD Non Technical Services Committee. The Director Postal and Courier Services considered this suggestion of a new label worth pursuing and will be adopting it with minor adjustments. The photographs show **Sgt Coltman** receiving his award from OC TTS, **Lt Col Smith.**

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

VISITS

One of the advantages of being based at Wilton are the number of visits we are blessed with; rumour has it the quarter guard's accommodation is being moved to the guardroom to accommodate the visits. However, it goes without saying that we probably have one of the most experienced and well used mixed quarter guard in the Corps. The pictorial record of some of the visits speak for themselves and including the following:

5/6 May 83 — Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, CB CBE SOinC
30 Jun 83 — Mr J. P. Stanley Minister of State for the Armed Forces
1 Jul 83 — Lord Trefgarne Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces
5/6 Jul 83 — General J. Lacaze Chief of Defence Staff, France
6 Jul 83 — Brig J. Westlake Deputy SOinC
15 Jul 83 — Maj Gen benbow SOinC

Maj Gen Birtwistle, Lt Col Webster and WO1 (RSM) Wringe viewing the Commemorative Plate as Bruno looks on with his constant mysterious grin (what secrets does the cable drum hold?—we wonder)

Mr J. P. Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces inspecting the Quarter-Guard

Lord Trefgarne Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces inspecting the Quarter Guard

Visit of Gen J. Lacaze (Yes, the spelling is correct) Chief of Defence Staff France

On 15 July the SOinC Maj Gen Benbow visited Salisbury COMMCEN and Exchange. Our photographs show him talking to Ptes Dawn Williams and Sharon Mallic and one of our civilian telephonists Mrs Pat Reffin

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HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations are extended to:

SSgt (FofS) Colin Turner on his outstanding top of the course pass on his Foremans Course. The distinctions and merits he achieved are too numerous to mention.

Brig J. Westlake presenting the Technician Education Council Higher Diploma to SSgt (FofS) Colin Turner

Sgt Steve Jackson on winning a Gold Medal for the Nation in the World Canoeing Championships at Helsinki.

WO2 Chris Newlands ACC on his award of the **LS&GC Medal (Military).**

Brig J. Westlake presenting the LS & GC medal (Military) to WO2 Chris Newlands ACC

1 SQN

A sad case of writers cramp has befallen the editor of 1 Sqns notes and these are restricted to a photographic record for this edition of The Wire. However, further congratulations are extended to Warminister Telephone Exchange on winning the Bruno Cup and to Bulford and Bovington COMMCENs on being awarded Silver COMSTARs.

The winners of the Bruno Cup this year were Warminster Telephone Exchange. The Photograph shows the Supervisor Mrs Frances Waite holding the trophy third from left with Irene Bradley, Jane Green, Dona Moss, Dorothy Street, Peta Neale, Dawn Tarr and Iris Jones

Mr Bernie Capper, Supervisor of Bulford COMMCEN receives the Silver COMSTAR from the GOC South West District Maj Gen M. Gray. Looking on are the staff of the COMMCEN and the Sqn Comd (Maj R. A. H. Hoghton) and SM (WO2 Joan Page)

Brig R. J. Rhoderick-Jones, Comdt RAC Centre Bovington, presents the COMSTAR to Mrs Joyce Saunders and Mrs Shelagh Miller

SHQ 2 SQN

The nerve centre of the squadron has been rolling along, casting aside all problems, leaving a trail of peace and tranquility in its wake (**Sgt Jeff Batt**, our Chief Clerk, whose ambition is to get his name into every edition of The Wire, is on leave).

Cpl Keith Whincup (Ex Lineman) has taken the mantle of Chief Clerk and is to be seen every day merrily working the keyboard of the Army Viewdata System to which we are a subscriber.

WO2 (SSM) Mick Davis was seen to choke when a snoopy watch was detected on the wrist of a soldier during the OC's parade. It was quickly explained that the soldier in question was a Technician of SWS Troop and everyone agreed no further action was necessary.

LCpl Claire Raja administered First Aid, in the form of tea and coffee, to the SSM and **Maj David Podevin** before resuming her leave clerk role. We all wish **Claire** health and happiness in her forthcoming marriage when she becomes **LCpl Elliott** (ET eat your heart out).

Our 21C, **Capt Carolyne Wilding,** finally made her first parachute jump with advice ringing in her ears from **Capt Don Carr,** the Admin Officer. However it is worth noting that not all first timers receive the same treatment.

SSM: 'Did the exit from the aircraft go well, Ma'am'?

21C: 'All I can remember is the jump master saying 'Good Luck', giving me a kiss and pushing me out'.

A mention for our stalwart, **Mrs Wyn Johnson,** our docs clerk and **Mrs Kath Brown** our typist. **Wyn** has been with us for many a long day and always has a P20 order for you when you call in. **Kath,** remarkable typist though she is has surprised everyone by returning to work after a wrist operation and continuing to produce our letters and official papers, with all her previous efficiency even though the mobility of her hand caused her discomfort. To these two ladies we say 'Thank you for all your work on our behalf'. Finally the last member of SHQ—Echo—the 21C's Alsatian The SSM wasn't aware they grew that big and was obviously over-awed, so much so that **Sgt Jeff Batt** (that name again) was heard to explain to a visitor, 'Oh yes Echo is part of SHQ, the SSM and he have an understanding. Echo goes where he wants to and the SSM lets him.

3 SQN

EXCHANGE SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE

On Friday 3 June, the Exchange Supervisors Conference was held at Aldershot with the CO in attendance. As such conferences are held once a year only, the programme consisted chiefly of some interesting demonstrations. Among the presentations in the morning were such subjects as the principles of TELTAG, the Deutsches Bundespost, SPC Exchange Facilities. In the afternoon we drove to 2 Sig Bde for a look at the Monarch Console/MF4 Telephone, Word Processor Terminal, Whisper Writer and TELTAG Equipment. Following a brief 'open forum' **Lt Col Webster** presented the Bruno Cup to the Exchange that was judged to be the most efficient and best run. Maidstone Mil Exchange run by **Mrs Bartlett** won first place and was awarded the Cup for the best overall Minor Exchange, whilst Aldershot who had been entered in the Major Units competition gained third place to Woolwich and Warminster, having won the Bruno Certificate. Well done to all Staff and Supervisors who worked so hard to achieve such high standards over the last year.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

On the sports front, 3 Sqn has been both busy and highly successful, having entered swimming, tennis, rounders and athletics competitions within the district.

On 8 Jun, 3 Sqn defeated teams representing 10 Coy WRAC, WRAC Centre, WRAC College, RAOC Trg Depot, to gain first place in SEDIST Swimming Championships and gain second place to SWDIST. At the end of a highly competitive afternoon the scores stood as follows:

1st, WRAC Centre—37 pts; 2nd, 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt—30 pts; 3rd, Trg Bn & Depot—20 pts.

In the rounders league, 3 Sqn have done well to beat Beaconsfield and the QARANC. The results being respectively:

3 Sqn 7½ — RAEC ½
3 Sqn 13 — QA Depot 5
3 Sqn 4 — 10 Coy 9
3 Sqn 2½ — Bicester 9

On the tennis front, we redeemed ourselves by defeating Bicester at tennis, having lost to them at rounders. As we won both the singles matches, the doubles match was rendered unnecessary. In the Lawn Tennis—Open Doubles Championships held at Aldershot on 24 June **2Lt Wendy Bobbitt** and **Pte Heather McNair** from 3 Sqn won the finals and are now due to compete in the Army Inter Zone Championships on 22-23 July, representing South East (East). On 15 Jun 3 Sqn took part in Athletics—SEDIST Team Championships in competition with 10 Coy WRAC, WRAC Centre, WRAC College and Trg Bn & RAOC Depot. To bring the day's events to a favourable close, three members of the Squadron carried away individual awards:

Cpl Thomas — First place in High Jump
Pte Abrahams — First place in 800 m
Pte Silversides — First place in discus

Competition on a much lighter note took place at Duchess of Kent when members of 3 Sqn representing all ranks teamed up with 10 Coy representatives to take part in an inter-rank obstacle course on 23 June. Despite the storm that was waging war overhead, the decision to run the course was taken and after getting thoroughly soaked at the first obstacle, the pool, much fun was enjoyed by everyone. The results were: 1st—Ptes, 2nd—Offrs, 3rd—SNCOs.

After a short break to get changed and showered, everyone returned to Duchess of Kent Barracks for a splendid barbecue, carefully planned and prepared by the PTIs, who had put so much spirit into arranging the whole event.

While some 14 members of 3 Sqn prepared themselves to enter the Chichester March on 7 Aug, others remained at Aldershot simply to enjoy the glorious weather while a small party enjoyed a change of scenery during their ten-day stay at the International Air Tattoo, Greenham Common—an account of their time spent there can be found below.

GREENHAM AIR TATTOO

Report by LCpl Danny Vardon WRAC

When a notice appeared on 'Squadron Orders' requesting volunteers for the International Air Tattoo, **Sgt Janet Pepperrell** and I jumped at the opportunity. It was being held at Greenham Common and we were able to be accommodated at AWRE Aldermaston which is situated not far from the base. What luxury! We had a room to ourselves and even a bar in the same building (not that we used it, you understand!) It was simply paradise.

Although it interfered with our social activities, we did however do some work at times. We worked at 'Staff Reception' which entailed booking-in personnel from the various forces and units around the world and issuing different types of passes for access beyond the tight security to the airfields.

The aircraft on show, ranging from helicopters to something as large as the 'Galaxy' were fantastic, as was the noise—there being over 500 types of aircraft. If, for some unaccountable reason, one had a headache then one simply had to grin and bear it, having no place to hide from the sound of aircraft practising routine 'fly pasts'!

On the whole, it was an excellent break of some ten days and the money was certainly well OVER spent!

ARMY LONG DISTANCE AND SPRINT CANOEING CHAMPIONSHIPS 18-25 JUL 83

We arrived at Monmouth on Mon 18 July after travelling the scenic route via Wilton and Warminster! When we arrived **SSgt Peter Day** and **LCpl Julie Maycock** were there to help unload the truck and set up our patch at the camp site. The days leading up to the weekend were split up into long distance training in the morning and sprint training in the afternoon. **Cpl Lennie Witts** and **LCpl Tiny Murdock** were training for the Class 4 Long Distance Doubles and the Slalom Sprints. On Friday **LCpl Tansey Millsopp** travelled down and entered for the Slalom Long Distance and, for somebody that had never paddled a canoe over a five mile stretch of water before, she did very well by coming in tenth.

On Saturday the Sprint Championships took place in which **Cpl Lennie Witts** and **LCpl Tiny Murdoch** came third in the Class 4 Sprint. On Sunday we entered the Long Distance race and took fourth place. Even though we did have a few problems and ended up going for a swim upstream! However, our finishing time was 1hr 45mins which was five mins faster than last year's efforts!

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

RECRUIT TRAINING—1 SQN

The Royal Signals soldier is not only a tradesman; he is first and foremost a soldier. It is the role of 1 Sqn to turn the newly-joined recruit into this trained soldier. To this end the Squadron provides training ranging from basic fitness and drill through NBC and first aid to personal weapons, individual fieldcraft and minor tactics. At the end of a demanding 10 weeks, our recruit passes off as a soldier capable of defending a communications or headquarters site using personal and platoon weapons, and the appropriate tactics and fieldcraft.

With the recent lifting of restrictions on recruiting, the Squadron, commanded by **Maj Jack Boyle**, ably supported by **WO2 (SSM) Roger Minty**, is rapidly filling to full capacity. With 6 Troops in training by the end of July, each averaging 40 strong, 1 Sqn is looking forward to a very busy summer. 'Business as usual' is the adopted slogan!

'That's your RIGHT foot lad'. Sig Dave Taylor being addressed by Sgt Pearson

5 Tp at the double

'Keep it Steady' says Cpl Fitzpatrick to Sig Kevin McHugh

VISIT OF CINC UKLF

The CinC UKLF **Gen Sir Frank Kitson KCB CBE MC ADC GEN** visited the Regiment on Thursday 16 June 1983. After a briefing by the CO, **Lt Col P. J. R. Brown**, the CinC toured the Regiment, viewing the recruits accommodation with **Maj Jack Boyle** and **Lt Graham Norris**, visiting 2 Tp undergoing weapons training with **Lt Jim Dryburgh**, 1 Tp PT with **WO1 John Newman** and 4 Tp rehearsing their Pass Off parade under **WO1 Gordon Philbrook**.

MILITARY CAREER COURSES—2 SQN

2 Sqn, commanded by **Maj Tim McCoy**, supported and assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Ted Wray** has the demanding role of training JNCOs and SNCOs in the military skills required for their careers.

JNCOs within the Royal Signals will find themselves returning to Catterick to undertake the next stage in their formal military training—the Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course (RSDCC). Contrary to popular opinion the course is not intended to turn a man into a gibbering mental and physical wreck. Rather, the objective is for him to be able to command a detachment, often isolated, and to deploy and control it in the defence of a communication site. To this end the permanent cadre of 2 Sqn instruct in aspects of supervision, administration, instructions, skill-at-arms and fieldcraft. In particular **Sgts Ian Fraser** and **Rab Young** along with **Cpl Geoff Gardner** take an active interest in the successful completion of the many courses run.

SNCOs too, come in for their share of the training cycle when attending the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course(RSSSC). The course aim is to train a SNCO to be capable of deploying a troop on operations and provide its administration both in barracks and the field. This latter includes welfare, morale, discipline and accounting. Consequently **WO2 (QMSI) Ted Bentley**, **Sgt Dave Pinder** and **SSgt (SQMS) Larry Formosa** provide a wide variety of instruction, assisted by **Sgts Cliff Brumfield** and **Rick Logan**. A new arrival has been the SSI (Drill) **SSgt Ken Morris.**

With a never ending succession of courses the cadre of 2 Sqn lead an active and demanding life maintaining the high standards of training provided.

'The Model'. Capt Lance Byrne instructing at Det Comds course on orders

'Listen in'. A section O Group on Det Comds course

'Just a drop'. Sgts Peasey and Holmes on WRAC (TA) SSgts course

LEADERSHIP TRAINING—SOMETHING DIFFERENT

One of the little known functions of 2 Sqn is to provide leadership training. This involves a variety of courses for all ranks that includes the Royal Signals Leadership Course (RSLC) and Potential Officer courses, plus Adventurous Training in Scotland and the Lake District. Run by **Capt Lance Byrne** and **Capt Ian Foxley**, and assisted by **SSgt Tony Salter**, the variety and scope are endless. Though often demanding they are rewarding—one student even made it to Portugal!—so if you fancy your chances why not apply? There will be more of the activities of 2 Sqn in the next issue.

Adventure Training. R. SIGNALS Leadership Course No 50 prepare to go on expedition

FAREWELL VISIT OF SOINC

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE, the retiring Signal Officer-in-Chief, made his farewell visit to the Regiment on 1 June 1983. The General was with us for the afternoon and met the members of all three recruit troops under training and the WRAC TA SSgts Course. He concluded his visit by taking refreshment in the Sgts' Mess and then left the Barracks through an avenue of soldiers lining the route. All members of the Regiment wish the General and his wife a long and happy retirement.

VISIT OF SOINC

Thursday 30 June 1983 saw the visit of **Maj Gen** and **Mrs R. Benbow**, to the Regiment. Whilst **Mrs Benbow** was entertained by **Mrs P. J. Brown** and the wives of the Regiment at the Wives Club coffee morning the SOinC met the officers of the Regiment. Afterwards the SOinC watched 1 Tp on drill instruction, visited 5 Tp at Bellerby ranges and listened to 3 Tp under **WO1 Pete Clarke** and **Sgt Alun Parry** undergo teaching practice.

THE COLONEL'S 'FUN' RUN

Overheard 'I understand the CO's keen on fitness?' 'Yes, he wants us to do a Regimental 5 mile run next month—****!!'

After frantic searching of diaries, calendars and the like, for prior appointments, courses or any reasonable excuse for being AWOL, the Regiment duly paraded on the appointed day for the CO's 'Fun' Run, only to be aggreably surprised to find it was fun! Led by HQ Squadron flying **WO2 (RPMS) Colin Easton's** infamous black-hand flag, off we set. Pennants flying, songs on our lips, up hill, down dale to the astonishment of passers-by the Regimental column doubled its way around the garrison finishing with the standard bearers' 200 yard dash back to the square. Enjoyed by all, we are now looking forward(?) to the next time which we understand won't be announced until the day before. . .

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Specialist Catering Officer **Lt Ros Archer WRAC/ACC** and the catering staff for catering for over 1000 people on the Old Comrades Reunion so successfully.

To **Cpl Steven Greaves** and his wife **Brenda** on the birth of their son **Liam**.

1 SQN—SUMMER CAMP AT ASPINALL'S HIDEAWAY

The Camp was held in June at Grobbendonk Trg Area,—apologies to old Det Comd courses who shiver when they see that name. It consisted of three days of combat survival and self defence training, fitness training, bayonet fighting (yes it still exists), and culminated in a 20km Escape and Evasion exercise.

Instructors, or as they prefer to be known, torturers were **WO2 John Aspinall, SSgts 'Trapper' Savage, 'Mad Max' Crook, Sgt Keith Simpson, Cpls 'Camera' Hopwell, Beeny Owen, Tony Wells, 'Shake Hands' Hough** and **LCpl Basher Bavin.** Head poisoner was **Sgt Clive Grayshan** though how a DTG gained control of the kitchen remains a mystery. All five Troops of the Squadron took part, even the OC. Rumours of him getting extra kip, are according to him totally unfounded.

To express the enthusiasm and events of the Summer Camp here are the trials and tribulations of Delta Troop:

DELTA TP

It was that time of year again, when to keep the troops happy, **WO2 (SSM) John Aspinall** provided the luxury of Grobbendonk Training Camp for their delights. 1 Sqn's Summer Camp once more hit the road and the happy smiling faces of Delta Tp, led by their ever smiling Troop Commander **WO2 (Curley Toes) Ford,** were determined to enjoy themselves.

Maj Tim Smith, 1 Sqn OC, and **WO2 (SSM) John Aspinall** opened the proceedings by giving us a very thorough brief. Then the fun really started. Our local SAS hero, **SSgt Trapper Savage** fashioned the most exquisite pleasures for the troops. Firstly, **LCpl 'Robbo' Roberts** was given a stunning little creation to wear made out of the finest hessian cloth. Then we all sampled the delights of worm omlettes, which we were assured were very platable. Such fun, and after this excitement it was time to enjoy a normal games night in the bar. The beer flowed, the games were played in good spirit and the final outcome was only decided when **Cpl Andy Marshall** brought on his team's secret weapon for the boat race,—**LCpl Bert Probert.** No other team stood a chance against that onslaught.

The following morning dawned bright and early, with many a moan and a groan from the suffering troops. The DS were not sympathetic to our cries and **LCpl Eric Clee** found out how cold it was when he was forced to strip for the search and evade manoeuvres. All our money, cigarettes and the comforts needed by the modern day soldier were taken away for us by the uncaring DS.

The rest of the morning was taken up being taught how to survive in the field. Dinner was a rabbit donated by the DS. It proved interesting to look at, but difficult to eat. Not a great deal was consumed, which was perhaps in our best interest as the next phase was to be a trip around the assault course. Rallied on by **SSgt John Kirk,** the troops strove manfully on. **LCpl Eric Clee** showed how it should be done by going around the course in 7 min 2 sec (a time not to be bettered throughout the camp's duration). Now all eyes were on **Sig Tell 'Big Boy' Goodman** as he took to the death slide. With a final cry of 'Geronimo' he took a kamakazi dive for the pulley. Naturally he missed and therefore set up the record for the quickest time to the bottom of the death slide.

Fun was once again over as we practised our section in defence drills. The DS attacked us enthusiastically. This could have been due to the fact that they had most of the ammunition. The Troop soon surrendered, working to the principle that it was better to live and fight another day. Taken as POW and interrogated—what more could happen? The Troop then showed their fighting spirit by escaping en masse. (Well, maybe we were allowed to escape). After a night of hiding in the woods, tormented by the mosquitoes, most of the Troop wished they had stayed captured. Having had our early morning swim (this to cross a river) we changed into civilian clothes for the final phase of the summer camp. This was to be a nice gentle 20km stroll through pleasant countryside pursued by **Sgt 'Mad Max' Crook** and his merry men. Some were caught on their way to the checkpoints and most collected blisters along the way.

ENJOYABLE

Safely back at camp the DS tried to make it up to us by waiting on us in the dining hall. Unfortunately, **Sgt 'Slops' Grayshan** has not yet completed his B3 Master Chef's course. On reflection, after the rabbit, perhaps it wasn't too bad . . . .

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Finally, our thanks must go to **WO2 (SSM) Aspinall** and his staff for making the Summer Camp most enjoyable (Honest!).

Other notable events of the camp were **Cpl 'Squelch' Smy** demonstrating that plastic bags are not always waterproof. Bravo Troop 'boat racing' with Mars Bars and Jacobs Cream Crackers. Charlie Tps **Sig Paddy Williams** discovered the depth of the lake in a fashion he would have preferred not to have done. Lastly, but not least, Oscar Tp who provided the best section of the camp—who says DTG's are handbags?

L to R: Cpl Hough, Cpl Hopwell, WO2 Carty showing Cpl Smy (on bank) that plastic bags can keep your kit dry

RUMOUR CONTROL

Cpl Hopwell is a good photographer and the eight rolls of film which did not turn out were bad films (we believe you, honest).

Heard in Squadron Office: 'Sir, we do not call it a crash out here we call it a crash IN'.

Oscar Tp's new Yeoman is still looking for his horse.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Congratulations to all those recently promoted—well done! We say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Aspinall** who for his efforts on summer camp has been given the task of training RSDCC students. Also leaving or promoted are **WO1 (Supvr R) Nex, WO2 (Supvr R) Ford, WO2 (Supvr R) White, SSgt Savage, Sgts Martin, Morris, Cpls Barnes, Pinkney** and **Thompson. LCpls Curtis, Gill, McKeating, Talbot** and **Sig Church.** We wish them and their familes best of luck in their new postings.

We welcome to the Squadron, **WO2 (SSM) Hennrie, WO2 (Supvr R) Inglis, WO2 Carr, SSgt (YofS) Bowman, SSgt Smith, SSgt (SQMS) Cooper, Sgts Hayes** and **Hunter, LCpls Corner, Davies, Forbes, Lee, Littlewood** and **Snowdon, Sig Fyfe** and **Payne,** and wish them and their families an enjoyable tour with us.

2 SQN

In the first three weeks of June, two members of the Regiment had the opportunity of experiencing life on board a modern warship.

WO2 Colin Gibson and **Sgt Steve Buck** were attached to HMS *Fearless* from 4 to 24 June, and were able to view at first hand various Naval operations.

During their visit the ship was engaged in *Danex 83* which involved—amongst other manoeuvres—a beach recce by LCVP's, a GUNEX using Bofors, an NBC exercise and a transfer of personnel from a frigate to the ship by means of a light jack-stay.

3 SQN

An unusual (if not unique) ceremony took place on Tuesday 7 June. Both the OC **Maj Gus Vigurs** and the SSM, **WO2 Gary Mason** handed over their duties. The new OC **Maj Alan Griffiths** and the SSM **WO2 Bill Metcalfe,** looking equally bemused, said farewell to their predecessors and thanked them for, under the circumstances, a smooth handover. **Maj Vigurs** departs on posting to Blandford (or is it Catterick? or is it vice versa?) and **WO2 Mason** is going to 16 Sig Regt via a tour in the Falkland Islands. We wish them and their families well in the future.

Due to recent and impending changes in the Squadron, perhaps it would be a good idea to update the personalities:

OC	**Maj Alan Griffiths**
21C	**Capt Mick Thorpe**
Sqn Offr	**Capt Mark Donovan**
Sqn Offr	**Capt John Walker**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Metcalfe**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Terry Spicer**
Ops WO	**WO2 Brian Ward**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) John Phillips**
SQMS Designate	**SSgt 'Faz' Fadzilah**
Ch Clk	**Sgt Ron Watson**

MILITARY TRAINING
THE 'WARLORD' DESCENDS

During early July a team of highly skilled instructors from the Regiment at Birgelen visited the Squadron to carry out annual training. An unusual aspect of training was a demonstration of aikido by the 'Warlord', alias **WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson APTC.** The aikido was a popular and interesting addition to the training schedule. The Squadron would like to thank the Regimental Training Wing for their patience and hard work; we look forward to next year's visit.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

The Squadron continues with its busy sports and social activities. The good sporting reputation of the unit has been carried on during various Berlin leagues and competitions. A success worthy of special note is the horse riding ability of **Cpls Wendy Coulling** and **Dave Smith** who went with the British Berlin Saddle Club to the Rhine Army Summer Show at Bad Lippspringe during 16-18 June. They were members of an Army team that took part in the Soldiers Prix Caprille event which combines dressage and jumping. **Wendy** came first in her class and **Dave** fifth in his. The team was placed second overall. **Mrs Julie Smith, Dave's wife,** took part in one of the show jumping classes—The Maiden Stakes—and did well to come fourth out of an entry of about 100. In another highly contested show jumping event **Dave Smith** won a rosette for ninth place.

The social side of life has not been neglected with various farewell parties, official receptions and the odd cocktail party or two. We held

Cpl Dave Smith, Cpl Wendy Coulling

a Bar-B-Que at the 'Inn on the Pool' on Sat 9 July, the Squadron entertainments committee put a lot of hard work into this function and are to be congratulated on a successful and enjoyable evening.

COMINGS AND GOINGS
FAREWELL

Maj Gus Vigurs, Capt Carolyn Jenkins (her replacement can't possibly be as pretty), **WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason, SSgt Geoff Cromack, Sgt Terry Morrissey, LCpls Elaine Brady, LCpl Mick Brennan.** Thank you all for your support and hard work during your tour and good luck in the future.

WELCOME

Maj Alan Griffiths, Capt John Walker, WO1 Tom Lackenby, WO2 (SSM) Bill Metcalfe, Sgt Ron Watson, LCpl Maureen Evans, LCpl Dave Walton. Welcome to Berlin, we look forward to your support in the future. Also welcome to baby **Peter, a son for Richard** and **Pat Auton.**

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →		4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →		11	11 →		3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →		18		16 →		1	22 →		7	7 →	23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose? To make electronics technicians who already have a C & G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

The courses last an average of seven weeks and by the end, you'll be ready to fly straight out to Saudi Arabia to take up a challenging two-year assignment.

If that's a prospect that appeals to you and you're leaving the forces soon, contact your Resettlement Officer or fill in the coupon.

TO: The Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ.
Please send me full details of careers with Lockheed.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

RANK _____ SKILL _____

AVAILABILITY _____

REF. L192

Lockheed IAL

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BFPO 42

2 SQN MOVE TO OSNABRUCK

As part of the move of the Harrier Force Coms Sqn to Osnabruck, the RAF Detachment Osnabruck officially took residence in Scarborough Barracks Osnabruck on 6 May. The CO, RSM, **Maj David Richardson** (OC 2 Sqn), **Capt Brian Campbell** (Ops Offr Support Helicopters) and **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Forster** represented the Regiment at the parade to mark the opening of the Detachment. A tour of the Barracks culminated with a reception and buffet lunch in the Sgts Mess. The Barracks are shared with 12 Ord Coy RAOC and the claim to fame of the Barracks is that it was used in the TV series Colditz.

L to R: Lt Col Mcl. Ayrton, Capt B. Campbell and Air Cdre Milne RAF AOA discussing the finer points of the accommodation at Scarborough Barracks

VISIT OF THE SOinC

On Friday 5 August the Regiment were honoured by a visit from **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Benbow** accompanied by Comd 4 Sig Gp, **Col M. Hales**. Upon arrival they were met by the CO and **Mrs Ayrton** and the RSM. Coffee was followed by a brief on the various roles of the Regiment, by **Maj John Tydeman** (OC 1), **Maj David Richardson** (OC 2), **Maj Cliff Webb** (ACPO), and **Lt Gordon Haughie** (OC HQ/Mil Trg). A visit to K Tp (Airfields) was next on the programme where the SOinC and **Mrs Benbow** were met by **Lt Dave Longhurst** and shown the aspects of Airfield working by the Telemechs of the Troop.

1 Sqn set up Commcen Quebec and **Maj John Tydeman** escorted the SOinC and **Mrs Benbow** around the Commcen. At the end of the visit to the Commcen the SoinC was asked to sign the visitors book. The SOinC then presented **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** his Commander British Forces Falkland Islands Commendation, awarded whilst serving in the Falklands in January this year.

At this juncture **Mrs Benbow** and **Mrs Ayrton** left the party and went to the Married Quarter of **Mrs Susan Applegarth** for coffee, and were joined by 6 wives of JNCOs of the Regiment.

The SOinC next visited 3rd Line where he was met and briefed by **SSgt Pete Fisher**. At the end of this, a brief call on 2 Sqn in Hangar seven was made where the SOinC saw an inter-troop competition with the theme 'Casualty Evacuation'. Each detachment was set a number of tasks, including a fast wheel change on a land-rover, tending a victim with a broken leg and establishing comms from a landrover borne 353 Set. The SOinC presented **Sgts Joe Peters, Mike Duffin, and Don Blacklaw** with their LS & GC medals and **Sgt Dave Long** with the best Student Certificate from his recent T1 course. The presentations were followed by a buffet lunch, superbly presented by our Master Chef **SSgt Terry Green ACC** and the Mess Manager **WO John Bateson RAF**, for the Officers, SNCOs and their wives. After lunch **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Benbow** departed at the end of a memorable visit.

SOinC presenting Sgt Dave Long with his certificate of attainment from his recent T1 exam. Sgts Brian Hudson, Mike Duffin and Joe Peters looking suitably impressed

'Are you sure?' Sig John (K Tp) explaining a joint to the SOinC

LCpl Taff Jones receiving his Commander BFFI Commendation from the SOinC

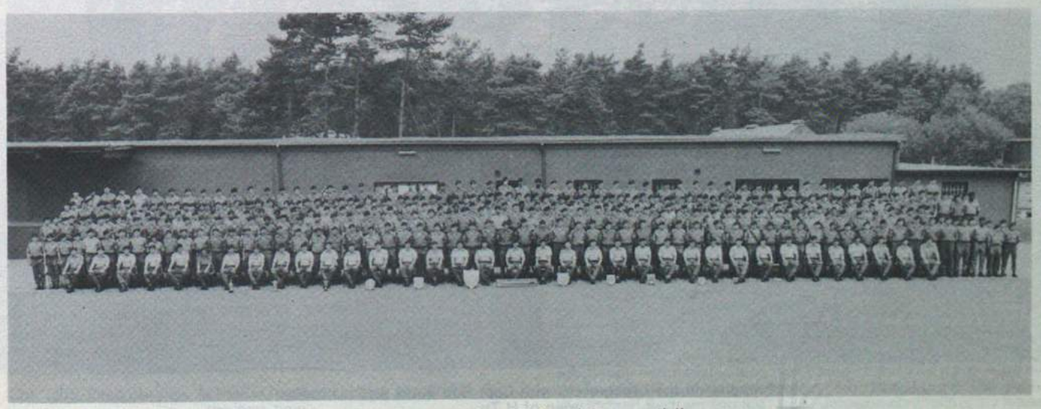
NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS MESS

On Friday 22 July the Mess dined out **WO2 (SSM) George Cook** at the end of his 22 years service. A superb meal produced by **SSgt Terry Green ACC**, service of the highest order orchestrated by Mess Manager **WO John Bateson RAF**, a fine après dinner speech by **George Cook** and a Casino night to separate Mess Members from their money, run by Chief Croupier **WO2 Steve Tucker**; all contributed to an excellent evening. All Mess Members wish **George** and **Karen Cook** a successful 'tour' in civvy street.

Sunday 10 July saw the sun rise with ferocity on the Wildenrath 'Oval', the venue of the Annual Officers Mess versus Sergeants Mess Cricket Match. Still smarting from last year's defeat the SNCOs were determined to get revenge. The CO and RSM under the watchful eye of umpires **WO Ken Jolly RAF** and **WO John Bateson RAF** (Howzat! for organisation) 'tossed the coin' with **RSM Geoff Northey** calling correctly. After much deliberation with **Sgt Jim Simpson** the SNCOs elected to bat. A fine first wicket stand between **Sgt Gaz Wilson** and **Sgt Graham O'Sullivan** saw the mess off to a good start. **Gaz Wilson** fell to the accurate bowling of **Capt Brian Campbell** and was joined at the crease by **SSgt Mal Forster**. Much hitting of the willow on red leather saw the SNCOs rattle up a good score of 146 at the end of their 25 overs, with **Sgt Graham O'Sullivan** knocking up 54 valuable runs. The Officers were soon in trouble as **Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor** was out first ball caught and bowled by **Sgt Geordie Johnson**. At four wickets for three runs all looked lost, however, solid batting by **Capt Stuart Lockie** and **Maj John Tydeman** pulled the Officers score along quite nicely. Despite this revival, accurate bowling by **SSgts Colin Ager** and **Mal Forster, Sgts Ron Bragg, Jim Simpson** and **Geordie Johnson** finally won the day for the SNCOs. The RSM had great pleasure in accepting the 'Winners Bat' from the CO on behalf of the team, who were then presented with commemorative medals by **Mrs Rosemary Ayrton**. On behalf of the Sergeants Mess the RSM presented the Officers team with a crate of ale. A superb day for cricket and weather with everyone who attended well fed and watered by our galloping gourmet, **SSgt Terry Green** and his ACC wizards. PMC **Steve Tucker** organised a fine day and became the hero of the children when he produced a Noddy Train.

REGIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPH

'I think we ought to have a Regimental Photograph RSM' said the CO. 'Right Sir!' said the RSM. 'Impossible to do' said the pessimists. 'They don't make cameras that big' said the RQMS. So the idea was born and the wheels set in motion to arrange this photographic masterpiece. **Sgt Cram RAF** was visited and recruited to carry out the mighty deed. From Gutersloh, Osnabruck, Laarbruck, Bruggen, Rheindahlen, and Roetgen they came, and on the 15 July, those that could be spared from duties converged on Wildenrath. After one hour of sizing, jockeying, and taking out and putting in, the gathered body was ready for the 'cheesey grin'. The photograph taken, the Regiment then dispersed back to their 'hidey holes' of labour. Can you spot **LCpl Scouse Mahoney** who is definitely registered as the shortest in the Regiment?



The Regiment, magnifying glass essential!

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

H TP, 3 SQN

HELLOS/GOODBYES

Recent times have seen various people coming and going so we'll start off with the hello's and goodbyes.

'Systems' say farewell to **Sgt Bob Harber** who's hung up his red coat and musket for his last 6 months with 71 Sig Regt (V) in UK. **Cpl John Marsden** also left for 632 Sig Tp, and our congratulations go to him on his promotion to **Sgt**.

The MT section have said farewell to **Sig 'Barny' Barnes** who has left for sunny FSS Mossy Hill.

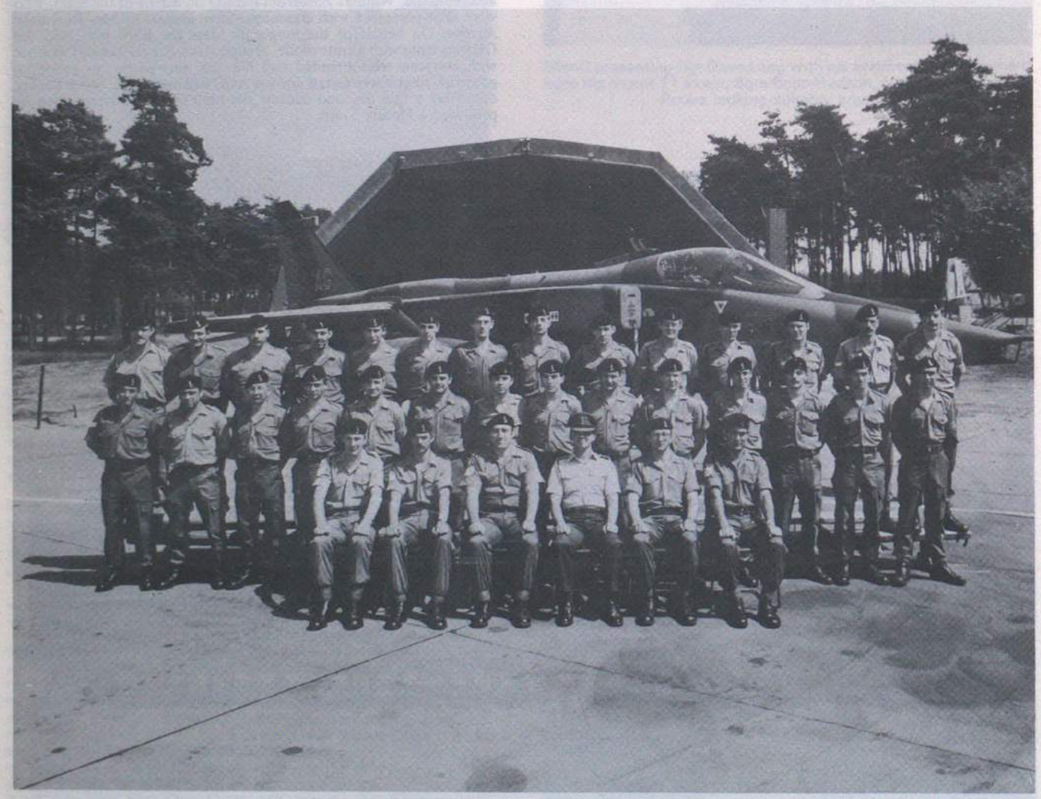
Two new arrivals to the H Tp team are **Cpl Niel Buckingham** — from 8 Inf Bde — and **Sig Mick Mottram** — from 262 Sig Sqn. We hope they and their families enjoy their time with us.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

The main event of July was H Tp involvement in a display at Wildenrath for **HRH The Princess Anne** on 7 July, involving as it did many hours of rehearsals.

While this was going on, the remainder of the Tp were busy moving into our new working areas. H Tp now have a firm base in Hangar One with the Stores, MT, Tech Wksp, T Bar, Display Room, Lines Office and Troop Offices on the same floor. Our thanks go to GRF who decided they'd rather watch aeroplanes by the runway than have accommodation in Hangar One.

As usual all departments are rushed off their feet with the work load, so if there's any Tele Mechs looking for a posting, remember we're here!



A Jaguar in the background with Capt Bob Bates and his merry men of H Tp

N TP

The big event this month was the Morrison Cup athletics match on the 2nd and 3rd. As the Regiment were organising it this year, we provided three men as officials, **Sgt Davey** was responsible for sorting out the medals and cups and **Sigs Maxted** and **Maidment** (suitably dressed in No 2s) were there to hold the Presentation Cushion.

On Friday 10 the single men took over a brand new Barrack Block complete with single rooms, kitchen and common room and all mod cons.

Congratulations to **LCpl Phillips** on his recent promotion. We also welcome back **Cpl Downs** from doing his bit in the Falklands and we say goodbye to **Cpl Skelly** who leaves us to go to 633 Sig Tp and to **LCpl Smith** who has gone to do his last 6 months in the Army with 33 Sig Regt (V).

L TP

As I seem to spend more time lately writing these notes, rather than writing to my mother, I've decided to use these revered pages to kill two birds with one stone.

'Dear Mum, Well, life rolls on up here at the sharp end. The weather has been good just lately, so all our tele mechs have been hard at it. In fact, the 'blue jobs' here reckon that all our tele mechs were born without legs, because every time they see them they are up to their waists in a big hole. Still, we proved them wrong last week in the inter-squadron swimming gala. The sole representative of Electrical Engineering Squadron were, guess who? Yes, the Troop, and we attained a very creditable 4th place overall. Some of the personalities. were **Sig 'Cas' Cascarino**, who was overall winner of the freestyle, **LCpl 'Sparks' Power**, who, being the only member of the troop capable of swimming the butterfly, did a lot of swimming (rumour has it that **'Sparks'** got some special training from the penguins when he was in the Falklands). Still, all the lads did well and thanks to them all.

LCpl Brian Challice and his wife **Angie** left recently for Cyprus. All the lads are bemoaning his absence, but we are not sure whether they wish they had his posting or miss his expertise in records.

Cpl Jeff Trotman left us last week to return to our regimental Valhalla in Wildenrath. We all wish him well.

Cpl 'Taff' Pirso has just arrived with his wife **Angela**. He has taken over from **'Jeff'** in the Tp MT. At the same time our MT pool has doubled with the addition of six of the old co-op delivery bikes. The lads think they're great and are rapidly training to develop a display team to rival the 'White Helmets' next summer. If you look at the photo you will see two of our 'Tame Blue Jobs', **Cpl Brian King** and **Sgt John Lewis**. We are not certain if the room they occupy is our building or a new kind of Zoo, or just somewhere the Station put them to keep them out of the way.

Anyway Mum, I must go and catch some more people for the 'Come-as-your-caught' do we are holding next week.

So I'll see you soon.

Cpl 'Taff' Pirso our new MT NCO reacts to seeing the Tp MT for the first time

White Helmets at Laarbruch? Not quite

EX WET BACKSTOP

Exercise Wet Backstop 'they' said, canoeing, 'they' said, adventure training but no mention of what the 'Wet' really stood for. Anyway it started on the 11 July and it's warm then isn't it?

We left at 7 am on Monday morning, headed for the Eifel Mountains for some lake canoeing for two days. After setting up on a civilian camp site where the scenery was good, the mountains weren't bad either, life begins to look better and better! At this stage our expedition leader and canoe instructor **SSgt Derek Coker** tells us of swimming tests and white water, life begins to look glum.

The water in the lake was freezing being piped 250m from the bottom of another lake through a power station before we canoed on it. Still with temps of 30 deg C it didn't take long to warm up.

All too soon we were off again to canoe on the river Erft, some 2½ hrs drive to the North. We were also to get a look at white water. Wednesday morning standing on the bank looking at our first rapid (terrifying), this is obviously where the fun starts.

Sig Gus 'submarine' Galashin had a periscope fitted to the bottom of his canoe, to save him getting out to see where he was going. Our only blue job **SAC** 'cookie' **Andy Penman** found it wasn't as easy as boiling spuds. **SSgt Derek Coker** made it look so easy in his red mean machine but for the rest of us it was swim and swim. To the locals we must have looked like lemmings, and some even felt like them.

After so many swims we made it through to Friday and the big one. The river trip, the last rapid had been saved as a special treat? It was like hitting a wall of water, then a fight on the inside of a washing machine. Paddling like mad and a quick Geronimo and we were all through. Unfortunately it was time to pack up and go home. On return from a really exciting week, would the Foreman, or the wife believe we had canoed 20 foot waves? Not a chance.

SAC Andy Penman deciding that 'crabs' don't like water after all. While *L to R* SSgt Derek Coker, Sig Tom Burns, Cpl Bertie (Performer) Bertram and Sig 'Jock' Johnson play follow my leader

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

BEYOND OUR CONTROL

The 'fast moving' exercises *Iron Key* and *Summer Tide* were followed by *Summer Sales* aptly renamed *Static Sales* by the Regiment due to circumstances beyond our control!

Lt Sally Reading TA spent two 'interesting' weeks with the Regiment during these exercises. During her stay she even sampled a 2 Sqn Dinner in the field. However, luckily, she missed **Lt Mike Wise** and the 'fire extinguisher' incident the same night at a 3 Sqn Dinner. The subbies would like to publicly thank **Mike** for featuring well as Orderly Officer!

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

We have recently said farewell to some 'old' faces in the Regiment, **Maj Vic Prees** departed suddenly for Zimbabwe where he is now living in a mansion with several servants (not WRAC!). He should be back in Jan 84. **Capt Elaine Jackson** moved (no, she wasn't driven away by **Vic Prees**) to Blandford where she is to take up the post of WORLO (no that isn't some sort of dragon!). **Lt Colin McGrory** departed in July for the three year degree course at RMCS Shrivenham, **WO2 (YofS) Dave Watson** left for the Calypso country of 7 Sig Regt and **WO2 (FofS) Bill Duncan** is off to beat the lads at the Trade Training School.

We welcome our new arrivals; **Lt Peter Gillespie; WO2 (YofS) Dave Weston** who joins 1 Sqn and **WO2 (FofS) Dave Andrews** launches into the technicians of 4 Sqn.

And, so the Regimental 'period of maximum leave and Adventurous Training'.

5TH INTERNATIONAL VOLKSWANDERUNG LIPPSTADT MARCHES

The Lippstadt Ramblers March, first held in 1979, is now a well established International event, with participants from many Allied Nations.

This year the 5th International Wolkswanderung organised by the Regiment in Lippstadt took place on 16 and 17 July 1983. Once again despite the tropical weather it proved to be a very enjoyable weekend for the 1463 walkers who took part. Individuals and families came from all parts of Europe and indeed one walker travelled all the way from Norway to enter the event.

The event is organised as a German Civilian style walking weekend under the guidance of the DVV and IVV. These walking weekends enable individuals and families to go out into the fresh air and take part in a little relaxing exercise. The weekends also afford the chance to meet people of other nationalities and make friends as well as seeing and enjoying the German countryside.

A new medal was designed this year to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of 22nd Signal Regiments' Freedom of Lippstadt. The medal shows the insignia of the Royal Corps of Signals on the top half. On the bottom half is depicted the River Lippe with the town name in the 'Big Bend of the River Lippe'. The ribbon this year was

2 Sqn marching team headed by Sig Phil Henry and Ossie Grady.

The RSM, WOI Fred Bancroft and his family 'as cool as cucumbers' having run the Lippstadt Marches

in Corps colours suspended from the original 1979 British Lippstadt Ramblers clasp. Individuals who completed the 12km or 25km signed courses were presented with Bronze or Silver medals respectively. Prizes were also awarded to all groups of over 15 walkers, the largest 10 of these receiving trophies.

Work has already started on the 6th International Volkswanderung to be held on 3 and 4 March 1984. Details will be published as early as possible and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

LUDENSCHEID PARADE

On 10 June a Troop from 1 Sqn under command of **Capt Alisdair Harrison** (2 Sqn) represented the Regiment at the annual Belgian Friendship Parade. This was also the year that the Belgian Commanding Officers of 6TTR changed over, so the parade has a special significance.

Capt Alisdair Harrison leads the Troop onto Parade

The parade was followed by a social gathering after which the **RSM WO1 Fred Bancroft** and the conducting officer **WO2 (SSM) Ian Borland** were invited to the Belgian Sergeants Mess for a presentation and barbeque.

The festivities continued on the Saturday when reinforcements in the form of **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Pym, SSgt (SQMS) Russ Thomson** and **Sgt Pat Dooher** represented the Regiment at the Sergeants Mess Summer Ball. A good time was had by all and many friends made.

SHOOTING TEAM

Despite many conflicting Regimental commitments, the unit Shooting Team competed in the 3 Div Skill at Arms meet at Sennelager and against strong competition from the Irish Guards and Gordan Highlanders secured a place at Bisley. We also won the pistol team trophy and finished second in the Roupell match. **Lt Malcolm Coupar** won the individual pistol match and **Sig Compton** won the Roberts cup (class B).

Next stop was Bulford for the reinstated Corps Skill at Arms meet. With our past record of success in the competition there was pressure on the team to do well but we were quietly confident. We finished either first or second in every shoot except one, the section match, where we came 4th. This won the competition by 11 pts. This was a real team effort. Everyone played his part to the full and overcame the other units, the anti-cyclonic gloom, and the after effects of the Druids midsummer celebrations to win the Maresfield and Catterick cups and the Cowsill Bowl as well as the Championship Trophy. **Sig Compton** added to his Divisional Trophy by taking the Corps SMG Individual B class cup.

So to Bisley—the main contest as usual was one between the Gurkhas and the other infantry Battalions. Our hopes were dashed when we had two team members hurt in a car accident. However the team spirit won through and despite fielding two men short compared to 1982 we only dropped one place in the Major Unit Championship.

Lt Col Peter Chaddock was selected to Captain the Corps VIII and **WO2 (SSM) Manning** was selected for the team and to compete in the National Rifle Association meeting. **WO2 Manning** won five bars at the National to add to his Services Pistol 30 and SMG 75 bars. Unfortunately he just missed out once again in the Army 100 Rifle Championship. So if anyone has a spare Army 100 bar please send it c/o HQ Sqn, 22 Sig Regt; it's the only one he doesn't have!

The Regimental Shooting Team. The Corps Champion Team for 1983. *Back Row L to R:* SSgt Lloyd Williams, Cpl Keates, Lt Coupar, Lt Col Chaddock, Cpl Ford REME, WO2 Manning, SSgt Reid Robertson (Adjt). *Front Row L to R:* Cpl Mahon, Sig Knight, Sig Compton, LCpl Eatwell

'IT'S A KNOCKOUT'

Sunday 24 July saw the first 22 Sig Regt 'It's A Knockout' competition opened by the CO, **Lt Col Peter Chaddock**. The games got under way and so did the weather; the skies chose their day and opened up on teams and spectators alike.

Teams from all the Squadrons quickly entered into the spirit of the event. HQ Sqn tried to play the joker twice, 4 Sqn were disqualified for 'bending the rules' in one game and Commcen Echo tried something similar in most games but did so with a little more style than 4 Sqn!

The winners were 1 Sqn with 2 and 3 Sqn as joint runners up. The Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig Christopher Last** presented the prizes and then spent a small fortune on the side-shows.

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION

The 'Safe and Skilled driving competition in July was well organised and run by our resident 'truckie', **Sgt John Henderson RCT.** He was ably assisted by the QTO's and driving instructors of the Regiment.

The competition consisted of a Highway Code test (UK and BAOR), a vehicle knowledge test and set of manoeuvres concerning height, width, accuracy and reversing.

The winning team were from 3 Sqn. **LCpl Graham Hubbard, Sig Les Crowder** and **Andy Powell.** The individual winner, after a 'sudden death' wheelchange tie breaker was **Sig Dibby' Dibden,** also of 3 Sqn.

The CO presenting the winning team with their trophy

1 SQN

EXERCISE 'ALFA QUADRANT'

Members of Alfa Tp, 1 Sqn attended an adventure training exercise in the Sontofen area of Bavaria during the last two weeks of July. The exercise organised by **SSgt Brian Slavin** and **Sgt Jeff Smith** was designed to promote leadership and test courage within the Troop. Amongst the activities were canoeing, windsurfing and waterskiing.

Sgt Pat Doohner, the expedition chief instructor, was delighted with the 'Team'. The best overall performance by a student was by **Sig 'Swim' Barr,** anyone who spends more time in the water than in the canoe and still keeps up with the group deserves a mention.

LCpl Archie Archer taught waterskiing and the troop so enjoyed watching **Lt Rod Thomas** and the Chief Instructor paying their money simply to fall into the water, that they offered to club together for further entertainment.

The windsurfer gave **Sig 'Gripper' Swain** endless hours of fun and allowed the canoeists to practise towing techniques on several occasions. Nonetheless as endex neared a number of students mastered the art.

LCpl 'Radar' Goodwin, the Troop's PR man spent much time 'Bird Spotting' while **Sig 'Lover Boy' Langley** caught two fine specimens! The exercise concluded with a Barbecue and presentation to the OC, **Capt Elaine Jackson,** who is leaving the Troop for Blandford. The exercise proved to be so successful that **Sgt Jeff Smith,** who is also departing soon for pastures new, would like to apply for an attachment to the Troop for next year's expedition (new OC A Tp to note, please).

2 SQN

The hierachy of 2 Sqn have decided to go for windsurfing in 'a big way' thanks to **Capt Alan Kite** of Commcen Echo and the Mohnsee Yacht Club. The 'wind' is assessed every half an hour by the 2 Sqn weather men to see whether a 'sports afternoon' is likely or not.

Lt Vyvian Thatcher and **SSgt (FofS) Graham Chaplin** are at present on the Island of Elba running a diving expedition (they have taken windsurfers as well). There will be a report on that exercise in the next issue.

3 SQN

ADVENTURE TRG BOBC NORWAY

An element of 3 Sqn's ADV TRG took place at the BOBC Norway with seven members of the Squadron taking part.

Lt Mike Wise (the Boss), LCpl Phil Cheeseman (the Abominable snowman), LCpl Sid Vickers (Lentils), LCpl Rory Hubbard (Grandad), Sig Mal Allen, Sig Jock O'Neil, Sig Morty Morton.

All spent 10 days in the mountains of south Norway, which had its ups and downs. Fortunately the weather was on our side, and all came back with relatively good sun tans, although a lot of 'mozzie' bites have still had to heal.

Upon our arrival at the BOBC we were given a briefing about which beers to drink and which one's to avoid. Then they issued us all with our camping kit including a tent (how kind) then off to our sun hut for some well needed sleep.

We were dropped off at the base of a mountain the following morning with only two ways to go, back or straight up. **Lt Mike Wise** made the decision for us (straight up), a great boost to morale. After he handed the compass and map to **Sig Morty Morton** we set off, with our battle cry 'it's only a K and a half to go'. By the time we reached the top our chins were knocking against our knees. The second, third, and fourth days were much the same up hill down dale, up more hills and down more dales. We did add the words fruit soup to our vocab though it stuck to everything and took days to remove from our mugs.

We were replenished after four days much to our delight as it meant, at least, a change in menu. We were starting to turn yellow after eating curried chicken and AB biscuits. Having replenished we were all eager to set off again. The packmules were no where in sight so we plodded off into the mountains again with the thought of endex and the nearest pub.

We did two days walking the following day so that we could have a bit of a rest and find somewhere to make a high water level to have a bath. Having found a river which was dammed we all went in. That bath must be the quickest on record! After that **Sigs Mal Allen** and **Morty Morton** went on a recce to get the circulation going again.

The final day we set off on our last 16 km. The route, surprise, surprise, was over relatively flat ground. Upon our arrival at the pick up points, a rather large lake, we met up with another group from the BOBC. They told us the water was warm; like lambs to the slaughter we went in—well some of us did **LCpl Sid Vickers** took on inflatable femur splint in with him which he had been carrying around for eight days but it didn't last too long much to his annoyance—it got a puncture. Three members of the party were a little shy of yet more cold water, namely **Lt Mike Wise, LCpl Phill Cheeseman** and **Sig Mal Allen** but with a little help from the rest of the party they went in.

Our journey back to Lippstadt had a little black cloud over it (RSIT) but a good time was had by all and we've all got the 'mozzie' bites to prove it.

FOCUS ON 4 SQN

PERSONALITIES

SHQ Tp
OC Maj Ian Noble
2IC Lt Mike Gillyeat
SSM WO2 Bill White
FofS WO2 Bill Duncan
YofS WO2 Bob Waller
SQMS SSgt Norman Crossley
Mt Rep Sgt Pete Hunter

BRAVO Tp
Tp Offr Lt Rod Thomas
Tp Sgt, Sgt Ken Mercer

JULIET Tp
OC SSgt Tony Lunney
Tp Sgt, Sgt Peter Reynolds
Tp Sgt, Sgt Fred Muir

KILO Tp
Tp Offr Lt Peter Gillespie
SSgt Geordie Armstrong
Sgt Paul Ratcliffe
Sgt Steve Tupling

The lads of 4 Sqn perform a special role within the Regiment. Two Troops provide Terminal Equipment Vehicle (TEV) facilities and a third makes up the Corps Commanders Rear Corps Relay Troop. As you would expect the Squadron is always in popular demand and is therefore well supported by a very able SHQ Tp. Recent months have seen a number of changes of the people at the top.

First to depart was **SSgt (SQMS) 'Q' Richardson** who is now at 14 Sig Regt working for the MTO. **SSgt Chris Stone** soon followed on promotion to **WO2** and is now telling soldiers of 3 Sqn 14 Sig Regt to 'Get their haircut'. Unfortunately the close of Exercise *Summer Sales* brings about the departure of **Lt Colin McGrory** who is off to university, and **Lt Rod Thomas** who is moving to Alpha Tp, 1 Sqn. **WO2 (FofS) Bill Duncan** soon departs the Regiment for Catterick on promotion to **WO1. Foreman Duncan** has done a tremendous job ensuring that the Squadron's equipment is always serviceable and will be missed both as a director and as the foreman. Worried readers need not be disturbed by the seeming flow out of the Squadron.

A warm welcome is extended to the new team. **WO2 (YofS) Bob Waller** is now well entrenched in the Squadron and has become 2IC of the Sergeant Major's safaris, **SSgt (SQMS) Norman Crossley** has arrived from Cyprus and looks forward to the busy time ahead. **SSgt Geordie Armstrong** has replaced **SSgt Chris Stone** at the head of Kilo Tp and **Sgt Pete Hunter** is the new MT Rep. **WO2 (FofS) Dave Andrews** should arrive in August from 3 Armd Div to look after the technical wizards. **Lt Marian Evans** is moving from 2 Sqn to become the new Bravo Tp Commd **LCpl Paul Davies** was overheard telling the rest of the Tp 'she looks a lot better than **Mr Thomas** but I don't know what the wife's going to say' **Lt Peter Gillespie** has joined us from 2nd Div to replace **Lt Des Moloney**.

EXERCISE 'FRITZLAR PATROL'

A five sheet example of paperwork by the 2IC, **Lt Mike Gilyeat** brought terror to the faces of the rest of the Squadron. The Annual Squadron Battlecamp has always been important to the Squadron. It is one of the few occasions when were we able to exercise together. On communicating exercises we are usually deployed as individual detachments throughout the Corps area. This year Battlecamp was designed to develop soldierly skills, enhance mandatory training and enjoy a particuarly beautiful area of Germany.

The Advance Party commanded by **WO2 Bill White** set up the base camp Squadron. One of the tasks of the Sergeant Majors team was to establish a 'hot shower system' in a disused shed. The 'hot' shower soon became a focal point of the exercise and anyone requiring hot tips on cool showers should contact the SSM soonest!

During the first three days all members of the Squadron underwent training on the ranges at Fritzlar, instruction on map reading, rules of war, military law and NBC. A popular stand was the introduction to survival techniques taught by **Sgt Yorkie Reynolds**. Within moments **SSgt Tony Lunney** was catching trout and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** was placing an order with the SSM to buy survival aids. The evenings were filled by tuition in low level tactics from **Lts 'Warry' McGrory** and **'007' Thomas**. All too soon the 'rest' was over and the real work was about to begin! The Squadron formed into two platoons for the 2IC's dream Exercise *Fritzlar Patrol*. **Lt Gilyeat** and the **FofS 'Wild Bill' Duncan** headed the planning team ensuring that this phase was as rewarding as it was demanding. After a period of preparation each platoon headed towards its own base, being ambushed en-route.

Nasty cavity lower left 3

Funny place to have a duck shoot

At first light the sections started their six km march between six stands followed by a return to their patrol bases. Emphasis was placed on the overall knowledge displayed by section commanders. A number of stands were designed to test the reactions of sections to different situations and several interesting results were observed by the DS; **LCpl Cliff Cliffords** section shot an NBC casualty thinking he was the enemy playing 'hard to get' whilst **Sig 'Compass' Nelson** successfully navigated across country only to turn right instead of left at the only road junction on his route!

The final phase of the patrol exercise was the famous 'dawn' attach. While 1 Pl became involved (where **Sig 'The Beast' Punter** won a number of VCs, both posthumously and otherwise) 2 Pl carried out 'search and destroy' operations against **'Wild Bill's Mob'.** So successful was this mission that **Bill** did not think that the platoon had found the correct grid until it was all too late. In high spirits both platoons returned to the base camp for 'stand 7'!

By tradition the final event at the Squadron Battlecamp is the potted sports competition. Organised by **Sig Derek Wilson,** this year's events proved to be very successful. They included 'Toss the Welly', and 'Blind Man's Walk'. The idea behind stand 7 was to keep the cost of the evening Barbecue at a minimum by exhausting the Troops!

From nowhere new reserves of energy were found and the new 'Q' was able to offer several portions of steak, chicken and bratties to all. Guest of Honour at the Barbecue was the 'Merry Widow' who had allowed the Squadron to use her farm as base camp. A thoroughly good evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Special thanks go to **Lt Mike Gilyeat, WO2 (SSM) Bill White** and **SSgt Norman Crossley** and their staff for an excellent Battlecamp.

EXERCISES 'EIFFEL AND QUADRANT' 11-23 JUL

It was early on the morning of 11 July when two landrovers loaded to the roof left Churchill Barracks for the Eiffel Mountains as the Advance Party of another 4 Sqn Adventure Training Exercise. This was our third Major venture of the year and after a very static exercise *Summer Sales* it made a pleasant change just to be on the move again.

The two week Exercise included many activities, the main ones being Rock Climbing with **Cpl 'Paddy' MacKay** instructing and wild water canoeing with **SSM Bill White** ensuring all the participants got a nice cool refreshing dip in the river Rur. The Exercise was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves and all managing to get the adrenalin flowing either on a rock face or on little rapids.

Of the many amusing incidents that can be related we must mention just two. **Cpl Ivor Bailey** who-being famous for his expert communcations—having capsized below a dam tried to tell the remainder of the group about the temperature of the water. His head must have had the wrong polarisation as he was only able to transmit garble, much to the amusement of both the group and the local audience. There was also **Lt Rod Thomas,** who, when in Rapids, tried to develop the 'Flap for support'. This involves throwing the paddle away and waving the hands as fast as possible to prevent capsizing normally, with no success.

We are all looking forward to our next trip to the Eiffel Mountains for the Corps Signals Regiments' Battle Camp at Vogelsang when once again we will be able to enjoy the fresh air and a little light exercise.

28 (BR) Sig Regt
BFPO 35 (NORTHAG)

FOCUS ON 1 SQN

THE SQUADRON HIERACHY

OC — **Maj Judy Webb WRAC**
2IC — **Capt Ken Hadfield (Now Adjutant 37 Sig Regt (V))**
Capt Les Plumb (designate)
OC A Tp — **2Lt Malcolm Llewellyn**
OC B Tp — **Lt Steve Johns**
OC Tropo Tp — **WO2 (FofS) Paul McGinn**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Ken Clark**
FofS (Sqn) — **WO2 (FofS) Lee Brown**
FofS (TARE) — **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins**
YofS — **SSgt (YofS) Ben Gilhooly**
SQMS — **SSgt Tom McGinnis**
OC's Dog — **Spud Murphy**
Sqn Clerk — **Sig Gas Day**

To start this introduction to One Squadron 1983 we have the sad task of reporting some departures. **Capt Ken Hadfield** and his wife **Cathy** have been posted to 37 Sig Regt (V) (AG 11 have obviously noticed his ability to work for lady bosses), **2Lt Richard Wilson** originally came to us on attachment but ended up staying some seven months mostly as OC Tropo Tp before departing for 'the School' and CQ25A. We wish them all every success. Contrary to popular opinion there is no truth in the rumour that the OC's Dog Murphy has been posted but it can be reported that he is now into African Violets (The OC's).

THE MOSELLE

With the delights of Ex *Wintex* behind us, **2Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** took some 'A' Tp volunteers and **2Lt Michael Atkinson** (on attachement from 35 Sig Reg (V)) to spend the Easter break discovering the Geography of the Moselle valley and the industries contained therein.

It was noted that most of the castles were sited at the top of steep hills; which were only approachable on foot, through vineyards. **Sig Lee Cooke** and **Tony May,** recently arrived from Catterick, managed to have severe problems in finding one peak, whilst **Cpl 'Hawkeye' Creevy** and **Sig Brian Hickinbottom** reported music of a high standard in some strange looking cellar located in the depths of Cochem. However the rest of the party have been sworn to secrecy.

THE NETHERLANDS

Not to be outdone, Bravo Tp have recently returned from a mountaineering trip to Holland. The trip had several aims, and apart from the usual rock climbing and hill walking some time was made available for leisure activities. The day began with our usual run, this time only a 'Four Mile Jog', to get the cobwebs out of the body. Some members of the Tp attemtped to become expert water skiers, including the troop **OC Lt Steve Johns,** who failed miserably! Much time was spent fostering British/Dutch relations, and much of the credit for this must got to **Cpl John Standen** and **LCpl Terry Smith.** During our hill walking we came across a group of cyclists from Bolton, who were so impressed by the Army spirit that they inquired about signing up! The weather was süperb and most of the troop returned to St Tönis with suntans and smiling faces—much to the disgust of their wives. **(Sgt's Dave Price** and **Dave Taylor** had a lot of explaining to do!) The trip was a great success, having mastered the art of rock climbing, we are now considering going further afield—the OC is currently on a recce in Greece!

NORTHAG SWITCH REWIRING PROGRAMME

For those unfamiliar with the workings of NORTHAG, the SWITCHES ALPHA and BRAVO are similar in purposes (but nothing else) to a Corps COMMCEN and for the last two months the techs and tele mechs from Alpha and Bravo troops spent their time poring over plans and rewiring the principal Switch vehicles. This task has been supervised by **WO2 (FofS) Lee Brown.** 2 Km of new cable was used ('How many joints was it Foreman?') The acid test was to

be our next outing with 840 (GE) Signal Battalion's new multiplexes and radio relay equipment to see if it worked. The result—our wiring stood up well but the standard telegraph engineering procedures will need revising if we are to avoid providing unwanted additional central heating in the German submultiplex wagons.

TARE TEAM AND THE FRANCISCAN FETE

The Tare team under **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins**, haivng put our venerable Tares (even older than Tariff) to rest and recouperation, after the work of *Wintex*, volunteered their services for the Summer Fete Grand Draw—spending weeks begging prizes from local firms. Fortunately the rain stopped for long enough and the crowds poured in. The highlights were obviously the Draw and the pleasures of consigning the OC, **Maj Judy Webb** to icy cold water beneath the ducking pool. The final accounts of the Fete showed a profit for charity of DM 9039.22. A splendid effort by all concerned.

TROPHOSPHERIC SCATTER TROOP

With the impending demise of the only mobile Tropospheric Scatter Troop in the Corps **Sgt Sam Coster** and **Cpl Jimmy Frew** have been ploughing their way through the ledgers calling in all the loans and acquisitions whilst **Sig Steve Maycock** busily shines every Hay Box in sight. This is a sad time for the Troop, but they held a very successful Grand Farewell Ball at which the health of Troop members past and present was well and truly toasted in commemorative tankards.

NORTHAG SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP
'ITS A KNOCKOUT 1983'

Once again the unit was host for the NSSG 'It's a Knockout' held in Francisca Barracks on Tuesday 28 June.

OC 2 Sqn **Maj Jim Heck** was appoointed to co-ordinate the event and a team of enthusiastic volunteers set about designing the games, led by **Cpl Gregg Peakall** assisted by **Cpl Gus Murrary, LCpl Chris Meehan, Sig Fagos Fagan** and **Spud Murphy.** Invitations were extended and accepted by all NSSG units, each team consisting of eight males and four females:

840 (GE) Sig Bn	3 teams
28 (BR) Sig Regt	3 teams
13 (BE) TTR	1 team
NL Sig Sqn	1 team
NASRS	1 team

in addition guest teams from the town of Tönisvorst and from 16 Sig Regt participated.

With **Capt Dennis Rimmer** RPC as Chief Judge and **SSgt (SQMS) Brian Johnson** as Chief Marshal the games commenced at 1400hrs in glorious sunshine. During the games **Cpl Mick Harris** put to good use his knowledge of the German language as a bi-lingual announcer (both the Germans and the British were equally confused).

Going going gone The NSSG 'Its a Knockout' version of pinning the tail on the donkey. Cpl Jo Cooke, Lt Sue Rostron, Maj Judy Webb and WO2 SSM Ken Clarke drowning the Witch

Capt Denis Rimmer and Cpl Grog Peakall the referees see fair play as balloons burst

Once the games were completed all of the teams and most of the judges, had got wet. As the recorder **SSgt (FofS) Dave Gorse** was finalising the scores the teams high spirits exploded and several team officials were thrown into the 2500 litre water tanks used as obstacles.

Results finalised, the Commander **Lt Col B. L. Belton** invited Commander NSSG **Col A. Stessun GEA** to present the prizes. 1 Sqn 28 (BR) Sig Regt led by their Captain **WO2 (FofS) Lee Brown** were overall winners. 16 Sig Regt won the best guest team prize and NL Sig Sqn won the best joker prize.

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

In recent years the Regiment has organised Summer Camps involving water activities, hill walking, climbing and other adventurous pursuits. Invariably on these occasions in June or July the weather has been appalling, rain, hailstorms and one year a freak snowstorm. This year **Maj Brian Robinson** and **WO2 (SSM) Keith Johnson** of Training Wing organised the Regimental Battle Camp to instruct and test all personnel in Military Skills. It had an emphasis on demanding physical activity and the weather has been glorious sunshine with temperatures in the 80's and 90's fahrenheit. Stretcher races in full NBC kit at the best of times require fitness and stamina, in such hot weather it reduces the fittest to a sweating staggering heap. Section and Platoon battle drills and battle fitness training have a similar effect. During the three weeks many gallons of the famous Army Jungle Juice were drunk, no one complaining of the taste. The camp ran (and I mean ran) from 10—30 July with each member of the Regiment spending one week going through the programme. Sunday to Wednesday was taken up with training and testing stands covering the activities already mentioned as well as combat survival a confidence area and voice procedure using Clansman man packs, kindly loaned by 1 Irish Guards. It was a new experience for many Royal Signals tradesmen to use combat net radios!

Evening activities included abseilling, tug of war competitions, volley-ball and a trail run by all of the proposed Combat Fitness Test. This eight mile bash sorted out all those older soldiers who are heard on BFT's saying they would prefer to do 'a proper fitness test of a forced march'. They all prefer a quick run round camp in boots lightweights and PT vest now!

The Thursday of each week at camp was devoted to personnel weapon tests and the good weather produced some shooting results. The final day and half of the camp was a map reading and intiiative exercise, a full escape and evasion exercise being difficult to control around the Rheindahlen area. Most covered well over 60 kms marching to find the various check points. Before setting off, each man was searched by **Cpl Gus Tait** and **Sgt Andy Hill,** prison camp wardens to ensure their only extras were water bottle and poncho. At the check points tests had to be completed—the prizes awarded being a dip in a 'blue bag' for goodies such as half cabbages or, rarely, a can of beer. For the smoker, cigarettes but no matches! One of the most interesting tasks was a water obstacle crossing, oil drums, ropes and planks being provided. On completing the march a live chicken was presented to each four man group. It was intended that the combat survival skills should be employed to cook and eat it. The softer hearted members of the Regiment proceeded to feed the chickens with their meagre rations and went hungry. Training Wing now have a small battery-hen farm and can supply fresh eggs to order.

The Assistant Chief of Staff G3 Headquarters NORTHAG **Brig T. N. McMicking** visited the training on 12 July and can be seen in the photograph taking a keen interest in the training activities. The following week Comd Rhine Area **Brig G. D. J. R. Russel CBE** also visited the camp.

Sig 'Mac' McGillvary sorts out his puttees while Pte Jan Alexander comforts Sig Bob Gillham

Physical Training Instructors SSgt SSI 'John' McGonigle and LCpl 'Lloyd' Lambert having fun with logs

Brig T. N. McMicking ACOS G3 NORTHAG Maj Brian Robinson Trg Maj, and Lt Col Brian Belton Comd, look with interest as Capt John Wedgbury briefs a Chemical OP

Brig G.D.J.R. Russel shares a joke with Capt John Wedgbury, Sig Paul Murgatroyde looks relieved the NBC phase is over

VISIT OF MAJ GEN TAYLOR CHIEF OF STAFF HQ BAOR

Maj Gen W. R. Taylor CB visited the Regiment on 27 June and after looking closely at our NATO Communications equipment presented the North Rhine Inter services football league trophy to **Sgt Dave Taylor.** The league includes most of the RAF and Army major units within Rhine Area and so demands a very high standard of football.

Presentation of the North Rhine Inter Services Football League Trophy by Maj Gen Taylor Chief of Staff HQ BAOR to Sgt Dave Taylor captain of the 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) Football Team

Photographs by Cpl P. Bradley RPC

He then went on to present Individual Trophies and BAOR colours to members of the Regimental team. In particular **Cpl Ally McKenzie, LCpl Terry Smith** and **Sig Yorky Richards** were awarded BAOR colours for playing regularly for the BAOR team.

BREWIS' CHALLENGE TROPHY

At the inter squadron level the Brewis Challenge trophy has changed hands twice in the last three months. This Silver trophy was donated to the Regiment by **Maj Bob Brewis** the out going deputy commander prior to his posting to the BFFI. The cup is held by a squadron until successfully challenged by another squadron. After a Hockey match 1 Sqn gave up the cup to 2 Sqn who lost it at Tug-of-War to Support Sqn.

Support Sqn are awaiting a challenge, quietly confident that they are going to hang on to the trophy.

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 8 July 1983 the Regiment reached the end of 'a chapter' as we said goodbye to our two principles, **Lt Col Roger Thompson** and **WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Campbell** when they left us for the School of Signals and 7 Sig Regt respectively.

The most momentous time in the Regiment was obviously Op *Corporate* where they had to command and control the Regiment extensively deployed in the South Atlantic. The attendant problems of the care and welfare of 'headless families' actively involved their wives, **Aureole Thompson** and **Margaret Campbell**. A composite family effort much admired and appreciated.

We would like to wish them both 'bon voyage' and the best of luck in the future.

We welcome to the Regiment our new CO, **Lt Col Bill Backhouse** and his wife **Keri,** and our new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Brian Smith** and his wife **Sheila**. We hope that they all enjoy their tour with us.

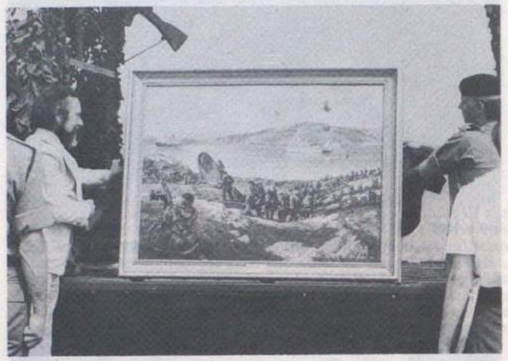
Lt Col Thompson handing over command of the Regiment to Lt Col Backhouse

FAREWELL PARADE

On 8 July the Regiment formally bade farewell to **Lt Col Roger Thompson** with a Farewell Parade held under very hot and humid conditions. Under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Campbell** for the last time, the whole Regiment participated, less those demon travellers, 1 Sqn, on exercise in Jamaica.

During the Parade, the husband and wife team of **LCpls Gary** and **Fay Hearn** presented the CO and RSM with farewell presents from all Ranks and the Civilian Staff of the Regiment. Also during the Parade was the public unveiling of the painting commissioned by the Regiment to depict its role in the Falklands Campaign. The painting entitled 'San Carlos Water' was unveiled by the artist, **Mr Peter Archer** and **Sig Michael Weatherley,** who was with the Rear Link Detachment of the 2nd Battalion The Scots Guards during the battle of Tumbledown.

The Parade culminated in the ceremonial towing away of the CO on a suitably decorated trailer with the RSM in rear in a yellow dumper truck!



The unveiling of the Falklands painting 'San Carlos Water, May June 1982' by the artist Mr Peter Archer with the help of Sig Michael Weatherley

1 SQN TO CYPRUS AND KENYA

In an attempt to get away from the 'Great British Spring' 1 Sqn has carried out its training a little further afield—to Cyprus and Kenya to be precise.

Exercise *Treble Shot* was a Contingency Comms exercise with the RAF, based mainly in the Dhekelia areas, at Anzio Camp near Pergamos. The new RACAL 1885 transmitters proved to be very reliable with the magic figure of 24 hours 'Green Time' just missed by a few minutes. The new equipment has shown, as most people believed anyway, that the technicians are now almost redundant. This at last has given them the chance to come out from the tents and cabins and catch a bit of the mid-day sun. It even gave **LCpl 'Herman' Blair** a chance to enter the world of 'wildlife' photography (prints available at a price!) **Sgts 'Taff' Whitchell** and **Chas Collins** even managed to find time to take part in a Cyprus Walkabout.

A LITTLE TOO MUCH

The sun proved a little too much for some who have spent most of the last year either in the wet and windy Falklands or equally wet and windy Blandford. **Sig 'Jock' Lamont** proved to be one of the early sunburn casualties. It is rumoured that even **2Lt Nick Borrill** had to go inside and find some work to do when his back went a little redder than planned.

A REPACK

The Squadron returned to UK in late April just in time, to spend three days repacking and fly to Kenya for another contingency comms exercise. In fact there was so short a turn round time that the 'OC's Box' didn't quite make it out of customs before being reloaded.

SOME MAST

The advance party were very sad to learn in mid-flight that due to bad weather they would have to stop overnight in Crete—what rotten luck! On arrival in Kenya **SSgt (YofS) Alf Thomas (now WO2)** set about his ritual of pacing out the antenna field while puffing away at his pipe, meanwhile **WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Campbell** and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Nevill** took to the bush and planned the military training phase. Much joy was to be had later by all when it came to patrols, section attacks, and CQB ranges in 100°F plus! Other military training took the form of a walk up Mount Kenya. At the overnight stop at the Meterological Station at 10,000ft **Cpl 'Jeff' Oates** and **Sig 'Mac' McCarthy** constructed a dipole supported by 30ft bamboo poles and worked a schedule on a PRC 320 back to Blandford. It shows one can get results with a 10,030 foot mast! During the return to base **LCpl 'Tiger' Evans** discovered a knack for spotting wildlife, where did he get that nickname from?

INCENTIVE

During his spare time **Cpl 'Pop' Robson** turned his hand to helping out a Safari Lodge and managed to mend its Pye radio sets. When a free Safari was mentioned as the fee **Cpl Robson** easily found six people to carry his tool box! By the end of the R&R phase most people had managed to get a trip to the world famous 'Ark' wildlife lodge. **LCpl Mick Plumb** and **Sig 'Smug' Smith** managed to get some very good pictures with their telephoto lenses, most of the rest of us just managed a few shots of hind legs as animals turned and ran into the bush—one hind leg looks like any other!

THE CROWD PAID

Besides the daily RSM's run (it's not so easy at 6500ft) the squadron managed to arrange football and volleyball matches against local sides. In one match against the Nanyuki town a paying crowd of several hundreds turned up in the Stadium! They must have heard about **Sgt Bill O'Hare's, Cpl 'JB' Lockart's** and **LCpl Jimmy Hanlon's** legs.

On the return flights to UK the main party thought they had won when their flights were staged through Crete. But again the Rear/Advance party really had the last laugh—they stopped overnight in Luxor, Egypt.

ANOTHER REPACK

We're just back now in time to repack for the exercise in Jamaica and Barbados—more about that in the next issue of The Wire.

Sig Lamont and Esson checking in recorded messages in the Squadron COMMCEN on Exercise *Treble Shot*

NEWS FROM SUNNY BEIRUT

Yes, the 100 strong British contingent of the Multi National Force remains deployed in Beirut, Lebanon. Although the British contingent, known as BRITFOR LEBANON, was only initially deployed for three months as agreed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to cover the period February to May 1983, the word came through in late April that the BRITFOR LEBANON mandate was to be extended by a further three months. As a result all Force personnel, including the 10 attached members of 30 Sig Regt, were extended to help cover this period. At the time of writing, early July, it is not known if the mandate will be extended yet again although the general feeling is that it will be, and we are replacing the men initially sent.

IMPROVEMENTS

Following the news that the mandate was to be extended great steps were made in improving the facilities at the BRITFOR LEBANON base in the SE Beirut suburb of Hadath. The base is in a disused and previously bomb damaged hotel. On arrival conditions were very primitive—no windows, irregular electricity supply, an erratic supply of water and general mayhem. Basically the soldiers had to camp inside the shell of the building. Now, beds, sheets and mattresses have been provided—very welcome after three months in sleeping bags. There have been great improvements in the toilet and showering facilities along with cold water dispensers, more fridges, air conditioners (for the cookhouse only) and fans becoming available. The Force has also been given two safari type land rovers and additional sports equipment. To help to provide power for all the additional electrical equipment the Force has been given two 10 KVA generators initially maintained by **Sig George Anderson** and now by **Sig Chippy Strowger.**

OPERATIONAL REPORT

On the Operational side the city is fairly quiet although occasional fighting between the Christains and Druze militias and the Palestinians and Israelis is not unknown. Life is made more interesting (!) for BRITFOR LEBANON by having an Israeli HQ one hundred metres to the west of their position. This Israeli base has been attacked on several occasions by terrorists using small arms and RPG7 rockets. As a result an anti-rocket fence and anti-blast wall have been built around BRITFOR LEBANON base 'just in case'.

BRITFOR LEBANON patrols continue to patrol the hole of Greater Beirut following the deployment of the Lebanese Army into Eastern Beirut in early March; this area was, until then, controlled by the Christain militia or Khatib. These patrols are carried out in armoured cars and mine protected land rovers.

One of the main features of the past few months, which indirectly affected the contingent, was the blowing up of the US Embassy on the 18 April with reported figures of 61 killed and 85 injured. Following the explosion US Embassy staff moved into the unused second floor of the British Embassy, only 600 metres away. As a result the British Embassy where our soldiers serve is now guarded by a platoon of US Marines with sandbagged defensive positions around the base of the building and on the roof—making for greater protection for the

Sig George Anderson and 'Ging' Donnelly of 2 Sqn presenting Lt Col Thompson with a Lebanese flag from 30 Sig Regt detachment in Lebanon

members of 30 Sig Regt who regularly work at the British Embassy.

At present the detachment supplies the Force Communications Centre (COMMCEN), capably run by **Sgt Sammy McElreavey** who replaced **Cpl Chris Aslett** in early May. The COMMCEN is normally staffed by four Radio Telegraphists presently **Sgt McElreavey, Sig Tony Rathmell** and **Smudge Smith** and **LCpl Ashley** who arrived in early July to replace **LCpl Mick Hearn.** The detachment also supplies a secure radio detachment at the British Embassy/Ambassadors Residence. The British Ambassador, **Sir David Roberts,** is responsible for the daily political and military direction of BRITFOR LEBANON so a radio link from BRITFOR LEBANON is manned by **LCpl Andy Craig, Sig Buck Buckmaster** and **Billy Butler.** They are undoubtedly grateful for the protection given them by the heavily armed platoon of US Marine guards. The personnel in the COMMCEN and on the radio det change at regular intervals to get as much variety as possible.

All technical problems have been dealt with by **Sgt Jack Dempsey** who departs Beirut on 5 July to be replaced by **Cpl Johnno Johnston.** The OC, **Lt Mark Campbell** and **Sig Buck Buckmaster** are to be replaced in mid July by **Lt Nick Borill** and **Sig Ray Orange** respectively. The last member of the original detachment, **Sig Tony Rathmell,** is to be replaced by **Sig Sid Perks** in late July.

The detachment continues to work hard with little free time available. However, everyone has the opportunity to take one weeks leave (R&R) in Cyprus after three months and some detachment members have been able to go on beach trips to the town of Byblos to the north of Beirut.

MULTI-NATIONAL FIXTURES

Some detachment members have visited the US Helicopter Assault ship the USS *Guadalcanal* and cross training has continued with other Multi National Force contingents. Sports facilities are basic although weights are available and a running circuit has been approved close to the BRITFOR LEBANON base. Several sports fixtures have been arranged with other Multi National Force contingents—football and rugby are played against the US Marines, the French contingent and local Lebanese teams.

UNCERTAINTY

Little information is available regarding any future operational developments. At present plans have been agreed for the Israelis to withdraw to southern Lebanon and for the Lebanese Army to deploy into the area the Israelis vacate. At the time of writing, early July, it is not certain that the Israelis will withdraw as the Syrians are making warlike noises in the north. However, if the Israelis do withdraw it is likely that the Lebanese Army will request Multi National Force assistance to aid them in their move out of Beirut. Wait Out!

EX 'CYGNET RING' 83

Report by Lt Andy Kendall

It was a bright, sunny April afternoon when we left Blandford with the prospect of a transatlantic flight to the sunshine of Fort Bragg in North Carolina. We were only slightly disappointed to arrive in the USA and discover it was raining. However that soon stopped and before long it was snowing!! 'It isn't always like this', our shivering, short-sleeved hosts from 50 Sig Bn, 35 Sig Bde, informed us. 'But then you must be used to it in Britain'. We smiled and admitted we were.

THE AIM

Ex *Cygnet Ring* 83 had the aim of practising communciations procedures with the United States Army. The idea was that 1 Officer, 1 Yeoman, 6 R TGs, 2 Technicians and 2 Veh Mechanics should take 2 VRC 321/BID 860 Land Rover stations out to America for a month between 18 April and 18 May and take part in Ex *Solid Shield*, a large exercise involving 82nd Airborne Division and the US Marines. Three days after we arrived we found ourselves out on exercise in the field; a football field to be precise, which was where the rear comms elements were placed. Things were crowded, we set up a Vee on a 12m mast to work 1600 KM north west to Salt Lake City, however each morning **Yeoman Pete Baron** would discover more and more American dipoles surrounding, over and under our Vee, all pushing out several hundred watts. Our detachment provoked a great deal of interest among the US soldiers and **Sig Mick Weatherley** (RLD 2Bn Scots Guards) with **Sig Steve Mairs** (RLD 1/7 Gurkhas) reluctantly but vividly gave blow by blow accounts of the entire Falklands War! **Sgt Graham Butler's** detachment out in the wilds literally kept the Union Jack flying (in this case a tea towel) and insisted on tea every afternoon.

JOINT TRAINING

After two weeks on Ex *Solid Shield* we returned to camp and started some joint basic training on signals procedures, first aid, NBC and weapons. Here **Cpl Pat Gibney** demonstrated his ability with the M203 grenade launcher by putting shrapnel in the leg of one Armerican officer and grey hairs on **Lt Tom Buonforte,** our host and range officer.

Our final treat was a weekend trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This was 20 miles of beach, beer, hamburgers and space invaders machines. Here **Sig Kitchener** and **Bolam** demonstrated their ability to 'funnel', the American equivalent of the yard of ale. A relaxing if somewhat exhausting weekend and a fine way to finish the exercise.

REWARDING AND INTERESTING

And so an interesting, enjoyable and hard working exercise was over. We had communicated with the US Army in all senses. We had learnt military skills from each other and we had seen a few of the local sights. The equipment had proved itself capable of working to similar American equipment and the men had shown they could manage easily wherever they were and with whatever and whoever they were asked to work. Our thanks to all our hosts at 35 Sig Bde for a fine time and we hope for a reciprocal visit in the future.

EXERCISE 'NORMAN QUEST'—ALDERNEY

This was a sailing trip not to be forgotten. The crew for his epic voyage were:

Skipper, Sgt 'Trevor the Weather' Morgan, Capt Vic Zimmer, Cpls Geordie Deeming, Tomo Thompson, LCpls Fish Fisher, Kev Stevens, Sig Jock Morgan.

The trip started out from Gosport with the worst hailstorm any of us had ever seen, with hailstones the size of golfballs. **Cpl 'Geordie' Deeming** and **'Tomo' Thompson** received the worst of it as they were changing a sail at the time.

The next high point in the trip happened when **LCpls 'Fish' Fisher, Kev Stevens** and **Sig 'Jock' Morgan** were on deck duty. Another wild storm blew up and skipper 'Trevor the Weather' **Morgan** had to shout for help on deck as **LCpl Kev Stevens** was hanging over the edge of the yacht knee deep in water with the other two members of the deck crew hanging on for dear life. Help was at hand in the form of **Capt Vic Zimmer** and **Cpl 'Tomo' Thompson** who managed to rescue the rest of the crew and the boat.

Despite the heavy storms some members of the crew still had not got their sea legs, and **LCpl 'Fish' Fisher** could be heard muttering 'Never again'.

When we finally reached Alderney we met the 'locals' and carried out the task of cleaning a vast area of waste land for a children's recreation area, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. When the task was finished it was time for some recreation and we were kindly invited back for a sauna and swim at one of the local houses.

The time had now come to leave Alderney—it had been a good trip and was enjoyed by all.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

CHANGES

The Regimental motto: HYHIABC (Haven't you heard, it's all been changed?—to the unitiated) has been well and truly exercised of late.

At the end of Annual Camp we said good-bye to the CO, **Lt Col Peter Thompson** and his wife **Joan** who joined us for the Dining Out and what proved to be a strenuous round of farewells! Original thinking on methods of transport to bear away our leader seemed to predominate and the results included a custom built trailer with armchairs (no lights for tactical reasons), a pony and trap and, of course, the donkey which bore him to the start of the BFT course. The CO was sorry to learn that it was not, on this occasion, his ready wit which brought laughter from the Regiment but the donkey's generous contribution to the landscaping of the Scarborough square!

We wish **Col Peter** and his family every happiness in Newcastle where he is going 'to work full-time for my employer'.

From Krefeld we are delighted to welcome the new CO **Lt Col David Strong,** his wife **Maureen** and family and hope they will enjoy a happy tour with 31.

In the Orderly Room **SSgt (ORQMS) 'Mac' MacKender** has left us on promotion to Germany. Welcome to his successor as Chief Clerk **SSgt Dave Tarrant.**

Sig Joe Wegener, LCpl Pete Farmer and Sig Jacko Jackson on their way to present a spear to the RSM and bid an unorthodox farewell to the CO and Mrs Joan Thompson

The CO, Lt Col Peter Thompson presents the LS&GC Medal to SSgt (ORQMS) now WO2 Mac MacKender

HQ SQUADRON

HQ Squadron spent Annual Camp under the command of **Maj (TOT) Jim Fowler** and, while others were reorganising, got on with winning honours.

In spite of being captained by **SSM Steve Bland,** now indisputably over 40, they won the Inter Squadron Football competition as well as the Netball and the coveted award of 'Rounders Champions of 1983'. We've not yet discovered who covets it—maybe 'Sig Barraclough'!

Excitement was injected by **Sgt Pete Wilson** who endeavoured to co-pilot a hang-gliding Land Rover from which, happily, he emerged unscathed. RHQ remain unconvinced that they needed this oppotunity to become even more familiar with TAVR Regs.

Congratulations to **Sgt Anne Dawton** who, on promotion, joins her husband **Sgt Mick Dawton REME** in the Sergeants Mess, and to the rest of her team, **Cpls Linda Dominguez** and **Brenda Prater, L/Cpls Margaret Kirby** and **Jill Sanders** and **Pte Evonne White** who recently succcesfully completed the WRAC course on the Chichester RMP March.

47 SQUADRON

June and July have been hectic months within the Squadron. Three major events have occured which involved most of us in one way or another.

The first was the formation of a second Switch (Commcen to BAOR buffs). After months of talk, lots of paper and wheeling and dealing by the Training Major, **Maj Peter Tresder** we finally got the go-ahead. In typical TA fashion we were given the tools (oh yeah?) and told to do the job. Our new (well, slightly shop-soiled) Multiplex and TRV arrived the week before Camp giving us just enough time to work out which keys fitted the locks. Our Command Post vehicle was an empty box which, with the help of **Sgt Terry Palmer, Cpl Steve Young, SSgt Jim Morton** and **Sig Graham Richards** (and the OC directing) was coverted into a functioning palace (gin and other beverages served) over two weekends. The telephone arrangements took us a bit longer!

And so we rolled off to Scarborough, Movement Orders notwithstanding. The highlight of the first week was the preoccupation of everyone with BFTs. The prospect of the Regiment running along the Prom must have filled the locals with horror. But after **SSgt Jim Norton, Sgt John Crook** and **WO2 (YofS) Dennis Rose** (whose combined ages must be over 150!) made the practice run, within time, it all seemed so easy. How wrong we were. One old lady, seeing the men (and women) pounding away at 0730hrs on the real thing was heard to remark 'I think it's terrible what they make these youngsters do'. I agree, it's only the thought of Bounty that keeps us going!

The Harrow Council paid their traditional visit to the Squadron in Camp. The Deputy Mayor, **Cllr Tony Cocksedge,** past Mayor, **Cllr Bobby Feakins** and the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant's Committee for Harrow, **Ron Raby** saw the Squadron trade training and fitting out the new vehicles.

Our second week was a rolling exercise back to London—as a Switch. Isn't it amazing where theory and practice diverge? Well, despite the Foreman, **SSgt George Johnstone's** forecast of technical gloom, off we went. To take a Squadron on to a major exercise in a new role is something we do all the time (every exercise in fact!) The **2IC Capt Susan Fenney** and **SSM Brian Callaghan** recced. The OC diverted to look at the PUP (whoops—Minor Commcen) that the Squadron also has to field. **Capt Mike Lucas** and **Lt Maggie Pickles** brought out the rest, with **SSgt (SQMS) Martin Jones** bringing up the rear. We made it work, learnt a lot and look forward to the next exercise.

The final event was the exercising of the Freedom of Harrow on 16 July. Parades are fun enough and, after practise at Camp, no real problem. Except that for the past week London had been enjoying temperatures in the high 80s. That Saturday it was 92°F and with full uniform, swords and bayonets fixed—just a little uncomfortable. Together with 131 Commando Sqn RE and 257 (S) General Hospital RAMC we paraded in front of the Civic Centre at Harrow to be inspected by the Mayor, **Cllr John Campbell.** Then followed a march through the borough. The road surface was so hot you had to keep moving! Back to the Drill Hall for a buffet and duty was done. Our thanks to the cooks **Cpl Keith Charlton** and **Pte Janet Wilson-Brown** for a splendid spread and to all our friends who came to support us.

'Well, you see it's like this . . . ' Sgt Terry Palmer explains to the Deputy Mayor of Harrow how to test 10-pair. SSgt (FofS) George Johnstone is keen to learn too

The Mayor of Harrow, Cllr John Campbell, inspects 47 Sqn on parade outside the Civic Centre

On parade at Scarborough the Bde Comd, Brig Ian Shapter presents the Efficiency Medal to LCpl Peter Mackins watched by a smiling WOI (RSM) Cas Francis

83 SQUADRON REPORT

83 Sqn's activities in the last few months have been dominated by a major internal re-organisation and Annual Camp.

The introduction of a second Switch necessitated significant changes to the organisation of 83 Sqn which had hitherto provided the Regiment's only Switch, Switch India.

As part of Brigade's blueprint for the Regiment we had to implement a new Troop structure consisting of Radio Troop ('B' Tp) a Switch Troop ('C' Tp) a Line Troop ('E' Tp) and a Relay mini-Commcen Troop ('A' Tp). Inevitably there had to be major transfers of personnel and equipment from the old Troops to the new as well as a certain amount of trading vehicles and equipment with other Squadrons. Historically Switch I had been strong in Radio Relay resources but weaker in Line and Power resources; following the re-organisation some erstwhile RR to Combat Linemen or Combat Powermen. Fortunately redundancies have been avoided but in a few cases personnel have had to move from the TAC at Southfields to the Squadron's other Drill Hall at Cobham, Surrey.

The new Troop Commanders and their teams of SNCOs are now in place and the Squadron's organisation tree looks like this.

OC — **Maj Paul Whittle**
2IC — **Capt Keith Bruce-Smith**

'A' Tp Commcen
OC — **Lt Penny Radway**

'B' Tp (Radio Relay)
OC — **Capt Roger Knowles**

'C' Tp (Switch)
OC — **Lt Ian Webber**

'E' Tp (Line)
OC — **Lt Diane Lilley**

Annual Camp 1983 at Scarborough took place, as usual, except that the long cavalcade of vehicles and stores en route from Merton Road to Scarborough was longer this year as the Regimental diktat was 'to take everything and sort it out when you get there'.

The first week of camp was a hectic pot pourri of trade training, parade rehearsals and equipping and wiring of new technical vehicles. Nevertheless the Squadron found time (and energy) to win the Regimental Volleyball Competition and participate in the gruelling social marathon known as 'The Squadron' Party'. The only notworthy feature of the first week of Camp was the conception of and subsequent rapid demise of one **'Signalman Barraclough'.**

Sgt Anne Dawton attempts to sort out 'Sig Barraclough' (looking remarkably like SSgt Ginger Doak) before the Sgts Mess make their way to the Officers Mess for lunch

The second week of Camp saw the Squadron immersed in a Regimental Comms Exercise. Rather quickly the Squadron encountered some of the practical problems posed by the two Switch concept. Happily the Regimental Command Post were able to play the honest broker in some of the more tricky inter-Switch demarcation disputes.

Post Camp the Squadron has a lot of work to do to bed in its new organisation and prepare for the Autumn round of Regimental Exercises.

NEW ARRIVALS

The Regimental baby season seems to have started again (We must have a look at last year's calendar!) Our congratulations to **Krystyna** and **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** on the arrival of **Michal** to **Angela** and **Lt John Ruske** a welcome to **Sarah** and most recently to **Stephanie** and **Maj Paul Whittle's** new daughter **Helena Louise**.

31 (GREATER LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The 31 Association has now been formed and is growing apace. Informal meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Hammersmith, except 1 November when the venue will be Harrow. Arrangements for future functions are now taking shape, including a Dinner in February, a visit to the Derby in June 1984, and to Royal Signals Day at Blandford.

All past and serving members and staff of 31 are eligible to join—further details from the Secretary, **Lt. Col C. A. P. Quick**, 18, Sheridan Road, Oxhey, Herts.

32 Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

THE CONCEPT

The Trg Maj, **Maj Bob Drake**, in the depths of a Glasgow winter last year hatched a plot to take the Regiment to the sun. His MOD brochures of sunny places bore no fruit since as a Home Defence Regiment the furthest south he could get us was the Watford Gap. Undeterred he looked to the west and snuggling between Bideford and Barnstaple he found Fremington Camp! Devon in late May. Visions of surfing, beachcombing and drinking rough cider added to the attractions and a recce plot was hatched.

The CO, **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen**, **Capt Colin Markie** the QM, and **RSM Peter Clarke** set off one dark spring week to check if the sun did shine beyond Carlisle. The Adjt and Chief Clerk were, as usual, left to mind the Glasgow shop and ensure that our local pub did not go out of business. This they ably did, but only under duress. Bronzed, fit and full of enthusiasm the recce team returned and Fremington was declared fit for Scottish consumption!

THE TWO CAMP PLAN

The plot gathered momentum and eventually it was decided that one camp wasn't adventurous enough. Why not stretch our resources completely and run two camps? So, Fremington would be military courses and Scarborough would be a centre of knowledge where trade courses would be run.

The Training Major now locked himself away and produced the paperwork to support this master plan. Interrupted only by doses of Valium and bottles of Heineken he laboured until Admin orders, course instructions for Recruits and Det Comd's had been produced and B3-B2 upgrading courses had been finalised.

Mid May arrived and the Regiment gathered together, finished off their 'carry outs' and headed en masse for Devon.

INFANTRY STYLE

The first 48 hours was devoted to Exercise *Red Hackle*. This was an infantry style exercise over Braunton Sands and the 'war stories' which emerged over two days are too numerous and horrific to divulge. One story does bear telling and that was when an intrepid enemy force of two men, **RQMS George Paton** being one of them, stealthily crept into a Coy location. Unsure of exactly where the Coy HQ was, they grasped the nearest person to them by the throat. This turned out to be one of the P1 Comds, **Lt 'Big John' Geddes.** When 'politely' questioned by these two desperadoes he decided that discretion was the better part of valour and told all. The enemy in fact decided they had heard and seen enough when he was giving them his cheque book and Barclaycard in return for his life. As you can imagine **John** is still trying to live this down since the enemy insisted on retelling the tale to anyone who would listen.

The exercise over, the Regiment separated to its two locations and proper training commenced.

FREMINGTON

From dawn to dusk the drill square resounded to recruits being put through their paces. Instructors, **WO2 Jim Sims** (spelt Smyff), **SSgts Phil** 'the Greek' **Atherton**, **Morna Strachan WRAC** and others looked even more tired than the recruits by the end of the first week! However as the result of their efforts the course was demanding and achieved its aim completely.

The Det Comd's course was equally exhausting for both student and instructor but with typical Scottish flair proved to be a resounding success.

SCARBOROUGH

Maj Mike Sandys commanded the Scarborough end of camp with verve, style and a mixture of fear and trepidation. RHQ was assured that in their absence flip flops and tee shirts were not the order of the day and the trade results at the end of the course certainly proved this. **FofS Garry Sharp** certainly had a furrowed brow by the end of the 10 days and kept parading his Regular technicians to ensure that the D11/R234 training had not completely exhausted their technical vocabulary.

GUIDON PARADE

The Fremington end now did a major logistic move to Scarborough so that the whole Regiment could form together for the bi-annual Guidon Parade. 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn have the privilege of trooping the Guidon of the North Irish Horse bi-annually and **WO1 (RSM) Peter Clarke** produced an excellent parade in the short time available to him. It should be noted that he did erect floodlights so that sword, rifle and flag drill could continue until midnight!

52 Sqn preceding the Guidon Party

WO1 (RSM) PETER CLARKE

WO1 (RSM) Peter Clarke gave 3 years of effort and enthusiasm to the Regiment. By his personal example and guidance the standard of

military training improved greatly during his tour. At the conclusion of camp the Officers lunched **Mr Clarke** out of the Regiment and our photograph shows **Lt Col Cullen** presenting **Mr Clarke** with a token of the Officer's appreciation for all his efforts.

JNCO WEEKEND

Our new RSM, **WO1 Brian Peel** immediately tok up where **WO1 Clarke** left off and produced a demanding weekend for the JNCO's of the Regiment. Less of the brawn and more of the brain is now the order of the day and the weekend concentrated on map reading skills and convoy discipline. Our photograph shows the eventual winners.

L to R: LCpl Margaret Taylor, LCpl Colin Horten (Nominally in charge) LCpl Fiona Smith

THE CHIEF

Chief clerk, **SSgt John Powles**, who fervently claims that without him the Regiment wouldn't function—at least in the field of food consumption, recently celebrated one of his numerous birthdays, high days or holy days.

Our photograph places the Chief Clerk in his true perspective.

The Adjt — ON TOP. The Chief — where he should be! — Supporting the Regiment

THE 'GANG OF FOUR'

The 'David Bailey' of the Regiment, who also doubles as the Ops Officer, **Major Mike Sandys** captured this group of technical whizz kids during our most recent exercise at Lanark.

L to R: WO2 (FofS) Garry Sharp, TOT (52 Sqn) Capt David Watt, Regimental TOT Maj Alec Peebles, Trg Maj Pat MacCulloch

61 SIG SQN (V)

Others will write reams of prose about the rigours of Annual Camp; the Edinburgh Squadron prefers to keep its social head above water and add a touch of the cavalry spirit to the Regiment. One memorable weekend prior to Camp, elements of the Squadron, under the leadership of the intrepid **Capt Hall**, managed a weekend mobile radio exercise, taking in the Fife Point-to-Point and a display by the Regiment's Pipes and Drums in Midlothian—all this under cover of a District Study Period which happily occupied almost all those Officers who might have had other designs on the employment of their men.

Operating in Fife with the assistance of former members of the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, the faithful soldiery stayed in a barn—personally selected by **Capt Hall** as ideal for the purpose. However, he saw it on a fine day—when we came to use it there were dark murmurs from the inhabitants—it was specially designed (according to **SSgt John Brown**) to let in rain and wind! **LCpl Ian Marshall**, displaying unknown—and unlearnt—culinery skills looked hard for vermin to roast on a spit, but even with the assistance of copious quantities of whisky cunningly supplied by the Royal Naval occupants of the farmhouse those seen proved too lively to catch.

The Point-to-Point passed calmly. **SSM Murray** tried very hard to exchange green landrovers for new Series 10 models at the Landrover stand, but even with the voluble assistance of **LCpl Philip Carson** (our gentleman ranker—or officer's spy) failed to convince the BL representative that he represented the Defence Procurement Executive.

Two of our crews — led by **Sgt Cammy Payn**—did prove that nothing is beyond Royal Signals when they demolished a fence at which horses were falling in soft ground. The same two crews also tried for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records—for the most Stewards in a GS Rover. Seven at one stage.

The remainder of the weekend passed in giving aid to the civil community. The Regimental Pipes and Drums played at Prestonhall, Midlothian, the home of **Maj David Callander**, late Scots Greys. The event was Daffodil Day, when the loyal tenantry and other yokels can see around the house and gardens.

Once again the mobile radio exercise saved the day. The faithful soldiery, deprived of their barn but anticipating rain, erected a small tented village, to hide the retiring Pipes and Drums in, and to hide in themselves when the admiration of the young girls from Oxenfoord Castle School became too pressing for pure young souls.

The CO visited, unexpectedly, but was charmed by the Chatelaine, savaged by Bonzo (the resident mastiff) and withstood Oxenfoord Castle.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

EXERCISE YORKSHIRE RELISH

After forced marches along 'The Lyke Wake Walk' and 'Superstars' it was a relief to most people to escape into the less gruelling environment of a Regimental comms exercise. There was the added incentive also of progressively moving towards home rather than, as in previous years, returning to barracks. No doubt this innovation produced a corresponding dip in the profits of the pubs and clubs of Scarborough.

Passing the 'Buck'! The Unit Paymaster, Maj P. Edwards, on the right, accepting responsibility for the Unit Imprest Account for the duration of Camp from Maj Edward Emett

Maj Chris Clark in Command of one of 42 Sig Sqn (V) teams arrive back at Burniston Barracks in triumphant mood after completing a gruelling 42 mile Lyke Wake Walk over the Yorkshire Moors

Training Major George Carmichael, and **Yeoman Stirling**, had done their planning well, producing a scheme which worked on the basis of the more successful the comms, the nearer home the formations would get. They also ensured that things were not made too easy by including C70 shots, which should have worked but didn't—at least that was their story!

Members of HQ Sqn enlist the support of the Padre, Rev Ian Simpson in erecting a 24 x 12 Shelter on arrival at Echelon location

As usual Exercise *Yorkshire Relish* provided the opportunity for our annual inspection, undertaken this year by **Brig A. W. Mac L. McKinnon**, Comd Comms HQ UKLF, shadowed predictably by **Maj Edward Emett**'s prize winning PR team anxious as ever to get copy for The Wire and our local press.

Maj Edward Emett interesting Comd Comms UKLF, Brig A. W. Mac L McKinnon in PR photographs taken during Annual Camp, whilst the CO Lt Col Tony de V Hunt (left) and Maj Chris Clark and Lt Philip Osment of 42 Sig Sqn (V) (right) look on

As the week wore on, peace again descended on the hills and estates of North Yorkshire to the detriment of the Yorkshire coal fields. The sudden arrival beneath the Emley Moor TV tower of Y1 and the RCP on the eve of the General Election clearly gave the locals food for thought, judging by the equally sudden arrival of the local constabulary anxious to establish that a coup d'etat was not in fact in progress.

Exercising in industrial areas certainly produced its contrasts with X1 perched rather precariously on the edge of a working quarry, Switch X in the middle of a housing estate—but adjacent to the local sauna baths, and Switch Yankee rapidly changing colour on a slag heap. However all's well that ends well and **Lt Col Tony Hunt** was not quite 'quick' enough at Endex to witness anything but the tail enders disappearing as if by magic into the Pennine mist on the M62. No doubt he is still thinking that if we could set up at that speed the Regular Army would really have to look to its laurels!

The Hon Col, Col Michael Stanley discussing Comms with OC 80 Sig Sqn (V), Maj Jim Johnson whilst Sgt J. E. Murphy and Lt Jane Walker-Cull 'Listen In'

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

We were privileged to receive a visit from the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow** on 26 July, when he took the opportunity to present Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to four members of the Permanent Staff of the Regiment.

The CO Lt Col Tony de V Hunt and WO1 (RSM) R Lockwood receiving Maj Gen R. Benbow, SOinC on his arrival at RHQ (by courtesy of The Reporter—Merseyside)

The SOinC Maj Gen R. Benbow talking to recipients of the LS and GC after the presentation
L to R: The SOinC, WO2 (FofS) Chris Vanparys, SSgt (YofS) John Stirling, SSgt Antony Talbot, and Sgt Bruce Murdin (by courtesy of The Reporter—Merseyside)

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON 49 (WR) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

In April the Squadron said farewell to our Sergeant Major **WO2 Ken Naylor, Ken** was the last member of the Squadron to have 'endured' National Service. He joined 49 Sig Regt (336 Sqn) in 1957 after his National Service.

Congratulations are in order to:-

the new **SSM WO2 Graham** (I've been to Pirbright') **Jennings.**
Sgts Pete Hardaker and **Mick Pollard** on their promotion to **SSgt.**
Cpls Maggie Bottom and **Dave Gath** on their promotion to **Sgt.**
Sig Ian Haynes who was Top Recruit on the 11th Sig Regt No 127 Recruits' Course (see photograph).
Cpl Tommy Simpson on the birth of a son (He says his wife fulfilled her 'commitment' also).
Sig Mick Hardy and **Pte Janet Clarkson** on their engagement, and finally, to **OCdt Sharon Matthews** on her recent marriage.

PROTEUS CAMP

The Squadron's training weekend in May was a great success with many BFTs and APWTs being achieved. The most outstanding achievement was a new world record for the 100 metres self-propelled stretcher dash set up by **LCpl 'Flash' Stefferson**; some credit must be attributed to the donor of the unignited thunderflash!

REGIMENTAL OPEN DAY

The Squadron took part in a Regimental Open Day in July on the Catterick Ranges. The response from families, ex-soldiers, potential-soldiers, and friends was overwhelming. With so many activities and sights to see our panorama of photographs prove the correctness of Confucius when he said 'A picture is worth a thousand words!'

Sig Ian Haynes with his Top Recruit Awards

Sig Martin Hardy explaining the rigours of a Lineman's world

Sgt George Berry at the NBC Sales Stall — no offers were made for the 'dummy'

Sig Cairns and 'friends': possibly a dispairing glance before the crowd surge forward

'If you go down to the woods . . . ' (Train by courtesy of 8 Sig Regt: shot-gun guard is one of ours)

Music while you eat. Our Bandmaster, Mr Farrington, and young admirer!

Pte Walton doing his bit in feeding the 40,000 (actually nearer 500)

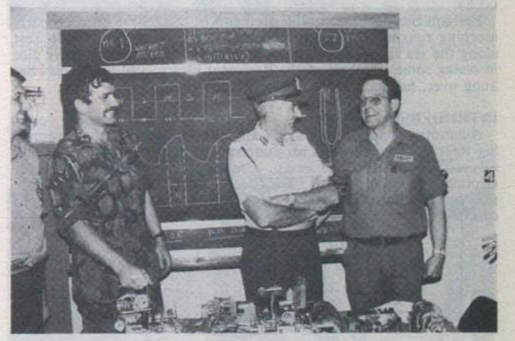
35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

NEW HOME (AT LAST!)

After several years of being promised a purpose built TA Centre for RHQ HQ Sqn and the LAD, we finally moved in on the 30 July the day we returned from annual camp. The new Centre is located adjacent to the RSC at Sutton Coldfield and boasts toilet and shower facilities second to none. The lone all ranks shower of the old TA Centre at Stoney Lane looks very meagre compared with the seven now available. Changing rooms, lockers and larger gardens are all part of the significant improvements. On the debit side, nearly everyone complains of less storage space and the Training Major, **Maj Rollo Rumford** is actually complaining he has no telephone! We are now planning and looking forward to the official opening by our **Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Anne** in October.

ANNUAL CAMP

This year camp was held at STC Scarborough in fine weather. A week of trade and driver training took place followed by an exercise as we moved back (eventually) to our TA Centres. We had the good fortune to be visited at Scarborough by the SOinC **Maj Gen Bob Benbow**. He visited the trade training during the day, talking to many of our soldiers and examined the training facilities the STC has to offer. In the evening, the SOinC joined in an Officers Mess/Sergeants Mess games night. He carefully avoided getting wet or riding a donkey in some of our more energetic games, unlike **Brig Ian Shapter**, 11 Sig Bde Comd, who was also visiting the Regiment.



Some joke . . . The SOinC with Sgt Phillips and Sgt Jeff Evans at the technician training

Examining the trade test answers with SSgt (YofS) Stevens and Lt Col Mike Louden looking on

Brig Ian Shapter, WO2 (SSM) Bob Hazelgrave and Sgt Hyacinth Davis

GLEE

Perhaps the most memorable moments of camp were the daily early morning runs at 0620hrs, culminating in the three mile Tickle Test along the sea front. Some of the Permanent Staff took positive glee in seeing some members of the Regiment bleary eyed and somewhat hung over, having a run so early in the morning.

INTRUDERS

A handful of personnel led by **Capt Rick Ludlow,** attached from 38 Sig Regt (V), took part in an exercise with RAF Staxton Wold and successfully invaded the camp. Crawling along the ground over virutally open country with line ladders to approach the site is not easy nor exactly quiet but they succeeded and, had it not been for a carefully placed trip flare, the entry could well have been unnoticed.

Now what other unit can boast four QM's! Capt John Dillion, Maj Ray Vasper, Maj George Harrold and Capt Tony Jones

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The highlight of the reporting period was the handover of command from **Lt Col W. I. M. Alan TD R. SIGNALS (V)** to **Lt Col D. J. Walden MBE R. SIGNALS** on 26 May.

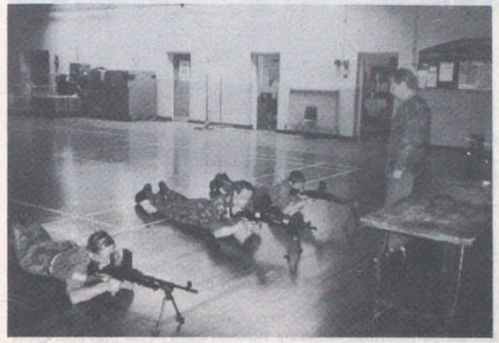
A smiling Lt Col 'Willie' Allan watching Lt Col David Walden signing his life away

Yet another smiling Lt Col 'Willie' Allan, this time being carried out of the TAC at Wanstead

The Regiment was honoured on 19 May with a visit by the SOinC, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE**. The volunteer members of the Regiment always knew **Gen 'Archie'** as a man who greatly believed in the TAVR.

HQ SQN (WANSTEAD)

HQ Sqn is still alive and kicking, and to prove it here are two photographs.



LCpl Keith Williams instructing *L to R:* Cpl Ken Hill, Sig Mike Stone and 'Scotty' Scott

The christening of Lt Paul Redrup's (Sqn MTO) offspring by the Regimental Padre, The Rev David Roland-Shrubb. Also in attendance to ensure all arrangements went with military precision were Maj Bob Hill, OC HQ Sqn, and the OC LAD Capt Jim Rennie. There is no truth in the rumour that Maj Hill is standing on an orange box!

COLCHESTER TA CENTRE

For the first time in many months the Colchester Football Team managed to win a game against outside opposition!—perhaps the purchase of a new football strip could have something to do with this.

The new TA Centre at Colchester looks like being completed in record time; the garages are already near completion and should be ready for the proposed partial occupation date of Mar 84.

Sig 'Jim' Jamieson and **'Scoobie' Ross** were successful in being selected for the Regimental Shooting Team and have been to Bisley for the recent shooting meeting.

We say farewell to **Capt Roger Buston** who has left to take up duties as 2IC of the Squadron at Brentwood, and extend a welcome to **Capt Jackie Allan WRAC** who has arrived to take over as Centre Commander and OC 750 (COMMCEN) Troop—it is said that the two will be waving to each other as they pass along the A12 because **Roger** lives in Colchester and **Jackie** lives in Ilford! Also a sad farewell to **Capt Frank Jepson** who is leaving us as Tp Comd 750 Tp for 44 Sqn (V) at Gillingham which, coincidentally, is just a few minutes from where he lives. The 'Green Goddess' of Breakfast TV fame has some competition from the Centre—there are Centre keep fit periods on Monday evenings when the appointed duty 'Hitler' descends from his bunker (the gymnasium at 40 Field Regt RA).

44 SIG SQN (GILLINGHAM)

The extension to Gillingham TA Centre was officially opened on Thursday 28 July by **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the Master of Signals, who is also Chairman of South East TAVRA. In addition to the Master we were delighted that amongst the civilian and military guests were our Bde Comd **Brig J. R. Burrows, Col M. H. Seys-Phillips TD, Capt (Retd) R. E. Wilford**, CO and RSM respectively of the old 44 Sig Regt, and **Councillor L. Dollery MBE**, The Mayor of Gillingham.

Following the opening ceremony the guests toured the new extension and saw a variety of training taking place. The evening finished with a buffet supper for everyone in the drill hall, which was a fitting climax to a most enjoyable evening.

The Master unveils the plaque to commemorate the event

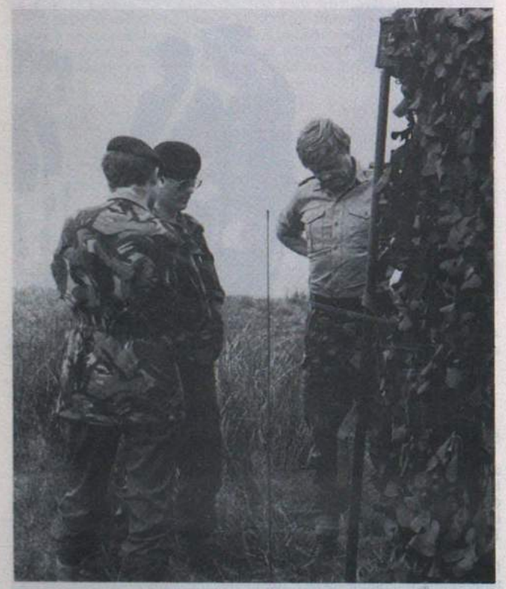
The Master gives a lesson to Sgt Wilcosz at a practice session of 44 Sqn Corps of Drums. SSgt Gaffin, Maj Ian Chrystie, Pte White and LCpl Docherty look on in a mixture of amusement and disbelief

54 SIG SQN (V)—CAMBRIDGE

Over the weekend 8-10 July, 54 Sqn provided communications for a major HAC exercise in Sennybridge, S. Wales. Deploying from drill halls in East Anglia at 0700 hours on the Friday morning the detachments were in position with communications fully established by 1800 hours. All this despite a slight detour by the OC, **Maj Brian Taylor**, to see if Cardiff really did have a live topless disco club.

In all 55 members of the Squadron deployed on the exercise and fought off heat exhaustion, sheep, flies, live enemy and the temptation to climb a feature 562 metres high; the notable exception to the latter was **SSgt (SQMS) Frank Sharp** who climbed the feature, came back down again and immediately indented for a new pacemaker.

Cpl Tevor Holyoake rehearsing Messrs Dave Cooper, Gary Brinkler and Brian Dodd for the Christmas performance of the 'Mikado'



Maj Brian Taylor and Capt Derek Blake are instructed by the HAC in antenna propagation. Technical Note: Due to the extreme heat the featured antenna was unable to grow to the normal 36 feet

54 Sqn Caption Competition. The photograph shows a financial discourse between a VAT inspector and members of 54 Sqn and Bistro. An immeasurably small cash prize will be offered for the best caption for the above photograph. The decision of the judges shall be final (if given)

The ability of the Squadron to provide tactical communications was severely tested when the enemy attacked a site in the mistaken belief that they had found our friendly forces' HQ. However, the immediate counter-attack (verbal and seemingly to do with travel arrangements) alerted the enemy to their mistake and they withdrew in confusion.

Popular mythology suggests that a picture paints a thousand words. Bearing this in mind, The Wire's special correspondent equipped himself with a camera and an Officer Cadet: the results speak for themselves. Our thanks go to **O/Cdt Wesley Blewitt**, together with a reminder that although he took the photographs, the film rights remain vested in the Squadron Commander!

54 (EA) SIG SQN (V)—NORWICH (DET)

Following a very successful trip to the battlefields and military cemeteries of Belgium and Northern France last year, 35 members of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V) 36 (E) Sig Regt (V) spent an interesting weekend visiting Arnhem around lunchtime and spent an hour or so on the now famous John Frost Bridge. After lunch we travelled to nearby Oosterbeck to visit the Airborne Museum and Airborne cemetery.

Unfortunately, time was limited and we had to leave the museum, promising to return again soon to see the cemetery which is beautifully kept, as are all the military cemeteries tended by the War Graves Commission.

While at the cemetery we took the opportunity to present a small gift to **SSgt John Skinner** who has just retired after 32 years in uniform. He joined the TA in 1963 after leaving the regular army and has spent the last sixteen years with a troop of 54 Sig Sqn based at Norwich.

Saturday night was spent in Antwerp and after a brief stop at Bruges on Sunday morning for a beer and some souvenirs (or was it a souvenir and some beers?) we headed for Zeebrugge and the return ferry to Dover.

Presentation to SSgt John Skinner at Arnhem, *L to R:* WO2 (SSM) Dave Watson, SSgt John Skinner, SSgt Frank Sharp, Sgt Bill Howes, WO2 (RQMS) Gordon Royal

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Having said farewell to **Capt Tony Manders** in the last issue we have since welcomed our new Adjt, **Capt Ken Hadfield** to the Regiment. We wish both him and his wife **Kathy** an enjoyable tour. We shall soon by saying farewell to **Maj (QM) Danny Kay**, who, at the end of his second tour with the Regiment, is retiring after 37½ years service with the Corps. We wish him and his wife **Kathleen** every success in the future and congratulate 54 Sig Sqn (V) Cambridge, on their gaining such an excellent PSO. His successor, **Maj (QM) Roger Breese**, has already visited us and we wish him too, an enjoyable tour with us.

MENTIONS

APWT, BFT and Tickle Tests are a weekly occurrence during this season of the year and we are rapidly becoming very fit and deadly accurate. The Regimental Shooting Team's performance at the TASAM at Bisley in July was very creditable, especially in the Section Match Competition (obviously we didn't quite win it) and **Sig Phillip Clark** of 53 Sqn is congratulated on being 'Best Shot' on his recruits course at Catterick. **Pte Kathryn Barker** of 67 Sqn is also to be congratulated. She was awarded a proficiency certificate on her recruits course at Guildford.

GREENHAM COMMON

Once again the Regiment was responsible for the control communications for the International Air Tattoo at Greenham Common. A great deal of patience, skill, determination and flexibility was demanded of the members of the Regiment involved. Their hard work was a patent success.

BRISTOL MARATHON

Nearer home, 57 Sqn, ably assisted by members of our other Squadrons, was responsible for the control communications for the Bristol Unigate Marathon held in July. Among the 1300 runners who took part were 5 men and 1 woman Volunteers from the Regiment. Between them they contributed several hundred pounds in sponsorship money to the Army Benevolent Fund. Congratulations are due to all the regular and Volunteer members of the Regiment who were involved in the detailed and complex planning for this task, for we supplied not only the communcations and some of the marathon runners but also many cooks, ABF collectors, clerks, stewardesses and the expert knowledge needed to run such a large public event.

Squadron notes for this issue are from 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn (V).

43 SIG SQN (V)
Report by Capt A. J. Cornish
MEN AT WORK

Sqn TA Centres at Bridgewater and Exeter have been undergoing major 'face-lifts' this year. First it was Exeter, where the CMHQ Troop under **Capt Mick Back** has at last been able to move from its original Nissen Hut into much more spacious accommodation built within the garages at the Butts Road TA Centre. Now at Bridgewater, work is still very much in progress at the time of writing, and is expected to be completed by September. Here, the main work is the extension of the garage. Up to now, many of the Squadron radio vehicles have had to be kept powered up in the open due to lack of garage space. The first phase of the project has been completed, with one new garage and the main gate to the TA Centre having been moved around the corner. We all look forward to the not too distant day when each Troop will have the unheard of luxury of its own garage!

CHANGE OF EMPHASIS

Compared with last year, Radio Exercises have been somewhat sparse, more emphasis being placed this year upon military skills, leading up to Annual Camp at Penhale Sands in Cornwall at the end of September. Two Brigade Exercises have been held this year, however, and in February the Squadron deployed detachments at RAF Locking, Chickerell Camp and Knook Camp. In June, Bulford Tregantle and Yoxter were visited.

FITNESS TRAINING

With the lack of vehicle space at Bridgwater, and perhaps also with the introduction of BFTs as a bounty requirement, the squadron has taken a much greater interest in Fitness Training. Several squadron members have attended two week PT management courses run by the PT school at Bulford, including **Cpl Avery WRAC, LCpl Steve Anstey** and **LCpl Barry Kennings.**

SHOOTING

Another activity that has occupied us much over the past few months is shooting. This year, for the first time, the Regiment held its very own SAM at Bulford, with each squadron providing a team. The meeting was a great success and much enjoyed by all the team. For 43 Sqn, our own successes come in the Section March, which we won, and the Falling Plate, in which we were runners-up. Taking part in those matches were **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **'Sid' James, LCpl** (now **Cpl**) **Gerry Huxtable, LCpl Steve Anstey, Sig Ross Akerman** and **Paul Lovering.** Two weeks later, the teams were all back again for the SWDIST SAM, in which the Regiment qualified to send a team to TASAM at Bisley. **Cpl Huxtable** and **Sig Akerman** being selected to represent the squadron in the team.

In May, the squadron was able to put most of its number through their APWTs at Tregantle Fort, with ample oppotunity for PT (the bullets travel very much downhill at Tregantle!) Marksmen included **Sgt James** and **Cpl Huxtable** on SMG, and **Capt Rosemary Tuhey, WO2 (SSM) Brian Aldridge** and **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Darley** on Pistol.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS

We welcome **Capt Peter Muxworthy** to the squadron as OC 866 Troop. **Peter** completed his Regular service only eight months before joining the TA, his last appointment being that of RSM in 14 Sig Regt, so his name will no doubt be familiar to many readers.

Another recent addition is that of **Sig Russ Oldfield,** who has been posted to the squadron on the permanent staff from 3 Armd DIV and HQ Sig Regt, as a Combat Powerman.

Two Sergeants, each with many years service, have recently left us. They are **SSgt Colin Parsons** and **Sgt John Brown. Colin** is to be congratulated for having completed the recent Taunton Marathon, in a time of just under 4½ hours.

Goodbye to **Lt Jimmy Ong,** who left us just after Christmas, and was commissioned while touring in the squadron over four years ago, and who was our only 'oriental' member. All the best, **Jim!**

Finally, we say goodbye to **2Lt Vicki Davies,** who married **Flt Lt Andy Taylor** at St Andrews Church, RAF Locking, on 21 May. Three trusty lads from the Regiment providing part of their Guard of Honour were **Capt Mick Back** and **Capt Andrew Cornish** of 43 Sqn and **Capt John Geake** of 57 Sqn. **Vicki** first met **Andy** while on Exercise *Milk Tray* at RAF Locking last August, their engagement coming within two months—fast work! Our best wishes to them both.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Since the last Wire notes we have welcomed a new RSM to the Regiment, **WO1 Ken Folwer**. We hope he will enjoy his tour. His predecessor, **WO1 (RSM) David Longhurst** departed after a marathon period of farewells and feasting which reflected the high regard in which he was held. We shall continue to remember him as he very kindly donated a trophy which is to be awarded to the squadron winning a new basic skills competition.

Despite a strong emphasis on communications training during the summer, both military and physical fitness training have not been ignored.

64 SQN UNIT TROPHY

64 Sqn (Sheffield) distinguished itself by winning the TA minor unit or sub-unit gaining the highest number of points in a wide range of sports. The cup made a miraculous arrival from the boot of the Honorary Colonel's car during a Regimental dinner!

SIGNIFICANT SHOOTING

We have had two significant shooting successes. At Bisley a member of the LAD, **LCpl Rod Bulmer REME** won the TARA Pistol Individual Championship. Firing smaller bullets, the Regimental WRAC team won the Army (Womens) Rifle Association Postal Competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

NJIMEGEN MARCHES 1983

Much strenuous preparation went into building a team this year. Weekend after weekend was spent pounding the roads of South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire in order to select a team and tune blisters to a fine state of agony.

Led by **WO2 (now WO1) David Warburton**, the team travelled to Njimegen on 19 July, during our brief tropical summer. Their training paid off and they completed all the marches in excellent style and we were very proud to lead British teams into Njimegen on the final day. The team collected twelve individual medals and a gold medal for the team success.

Njimegen Team in decorative mood led by WO2 David Warburton

LYKE WAKE WALK

The final weekend in July saw the Regiment on the North Yorkshire moors again, competing for the **Lt Col Frank Pedley** trophy. Eight squadron teams and over 40 invitation civilian walkers took part. 64 Sqn (Sheffield) confirmed their previous success although the 93 Sqn team gave them a close run (or walk). Please will **LCpl Gerry Vallely's** team let us know when they finish (perhaps a postcard from Whitby?)

VISIT TO 93 SQUADRON BY GOC, NORTH WEST DISTRICT

Our Blackburn squadron was very pleased to welcome the new GOC, **Maj Gen P. M. Davies OBE**, when he visited the TA Centre on 18 June. He saw how the Squadron deploys its equipment and talked to volunteers.

The GOC meets Sqn 2IC Capt David Cree

Maj David Smith listens nervously as Sig John Hyland tells the GOC the whole story

NOTTINGHAM PARADE

The Parade in Nottingham to mark the 75th Anniversary of the TA took place on the 28 May 1983, and consisted of a mounted parade, with all TA units based in Nottinghamshire participating. The celebrations started in April, when each unit planted a commemorative Oak tree in Wollaton Park with the assistance of veterans who were involved with the TA at, or shortly after, its establishment in 1908. At the tree planting ceremony; the Royal Signals representatives from 87 (Nottingham) Sig Sqn, led by the OC **Maj Roger Merryweather, TD** were assisted by **Mr John Dorgan,** aged 90, who enlisted with the 7 Northumbrian Fusilers in 1911. The TA veterans were also present as special guests on the actual day of the anniversary parade.

A great deal of preparatory work had been carried out in the preceding weeks to ensure that vehicles and personnel were immaculate for the day. The parade was to be drawn up and inspected by the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, accompanied by GOC Eastern District, **Maj Gen J. R. A. McMillan CBE** prior to driving through the centre of Nottingham, with the salute being taken in front of the Council House.

A GREAT SUCCESS

The day dawned cloudy with a light misty rain, but it certainly did not dampen the enthusiasm of all those taking part, and the Squadron's detachment arrived punctually at the parade ground at 0820hrs, although official proceedings did not commence until 1030hrs. The Squadron's vehicles were led by the OC **Maj Roger Merryweather TD, 2IC Capt David Creed, TD** and **SSM Peter Bacon, MBE**. We had been directed to produce vehicles which would be interesting to the general public and portray the activities of the unit involved. Our 15 Radio Container Vehicles were externally rather uninteresting and so we adapted four ton cargo vehicles to display our skills, with the addition of Landrovers for TM Tp, Line Tp and the Medical Detachment. Combat Power, led by **SSgt Brian Moore** used their four ton cargo to display power distribution kit and towed a 27½ KVA generator, the cleanliness of which we had never seen before! TX Tp led by **SSgt 'Robo' Robinson** had a great array of radio equipment on display with a loud morse signal for all to hear, whilst RX Tp had teleprinters and a telephone switchboard being operated by glamorous WRAC Data Telegraphists, under the guidance of their Troop OC, **Capt John Sydney.** SHQ, determined not to be outdone, had the cooks in gleaming white busily preparing one of their '5 star compo!' meals, with everything securely fastened to the table! The drive past was a great success, enjoyed just as much by the spectators as by those who took part. It was an event which all will remember in this Anniversary year. The days' activities were followed in the evening by a superb Squadron buffet (food not attached to the table!) and disco which went on into the early hours of the morning. A very memorable day.

Lord Lieutenant talks to SSgt 'Robbo' Robinson and Tx Tp

Maj Roger Merryweather reports to the Lord Lieutenant

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39 Sig Regt (V)
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REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

The Regimental Shooting team achieved its aim this year at Bisley by winning the Mercury Cup. The Cup is presented to the Royal Signals team having the highest score in the Unit Championship table. Well Done!

Back row L to R: Cfn Sullivan, LCpl Clarke, Sig Carlisle, Sgt Chadwick, Sig Shields, Pte Brown. *Front row L to R:* Sig Hack, Sgt Dick, WO2 Wheatley, (Team Captain) Cfn Elliott-Smith, Sig Bishop

CUPID IN THE MESS

The Unit has had quite a few weddings in the past but not many from RHQ Sgts Mess and certainly not when both parties are PSIs. Happily we can now correct that statement as **WO2 June Hawkhead** became **Mrs Skelton** on 20 August. **June** and **Chris** will continue to serve with the Regiment. Congratulations and best wishes to them both.

UNDERCOVER ASSIGNMENT

Each year the clothing store at RHQ is firmly closed for business for three weeks during July. This is not for the usual reason of stocktaking but in order that **RQMS Des Hart** can work behind the scenes at the Royal Tournament. Both he and **WO2 (CSM) Roz Higgs** have been carrying out these duties for four years now and as with all ceremonial occasions it is the backroom boys that really make it all happen.

FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj G. S. W. Rutherford**
OC Des	**Capt I Gordon WRAC**
PSO	**Capt W. Naismith**
OC D TP	**Lt S. Monks WRAC**
OC E TP	**Capt S. Aitken WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 R. Fell**
PSI	**Sgt C. Whitehead**
PSI TECH	**Cpl I Lumsden-Gordon**

During the recent months the Squadron has been involved in Ex *Dog Bark* and Ex *Salmon Bank*. The former of the two saw the Squadron deployed on a Comms exercise with dets at home in Dundee and some fortunate members in Cyprus.

Ex *Salmon Bank* was a military skills exercise organised by the training major **Major David Jessett** and his crew of PSIs. The area was Barry Budden, the tasks varied, and the aim well and truly achieved.

The CO, **Lt Col Mike Upson** visited the Squadron during the exercise accompanied by the Hon Col, **Brig H. R. W. Vernon CBE** who came to bid us all farewell having completed his term of office. We of the Squadron were delighted to see him and wish him well for the future. One of the Hon Col's last sights of the Squadron was of an anonymous Capt instructing how to drain Kero from a Sherpa minibus.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

ULSTER ROYAL REVIEW (75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TA)
Report by Capt (QM) M. C. K. Smart

Ulster with undisputed pride and justification boasts a unique military track record second to none. Through the ages the Ulster soldier has won lasting admiration of his friends, and conversely, has struck terror into the hearts of his unfortunate enemies. Indeed from the Crimea to Korea, from India to the Somme many a cocksure adversary has regretted the day he 'mixed it' with men of the province. His enemies quickly realised that the Ulster soldier likes nothing better than to close with his opponent. He adopts this tactic in order to mete out such deadly punishment as to leave a shaken and demoralised enemy with a terrifying experience he has no wish to see repeated. The national tough and plucky character laced with a strong sense of loyalty and gifted wit is the very stuff that exceptional soldiers are made of.

PRIDE

Ulster has and continues to produce such soldiers which many a General has been thankful to see in the line. Be he regular or volunteer, in the vortex of war or splendour of the ceremonial the Ulsterman will never fail to rise to the occasion and the anniversary parade proved no exception. His personal pride and natural ability to 'carry' a uniform, accompanied by his resplendent saffron kilted pipers makes him a highlight in any military display or parade.

This heritage, this legacy, this fine tradition is still very much alive and was reassuringly in evidence on 20 June, the date chosen for the celebration parade. St Patricks barracks, home of the Royal Irish Rangers formed the venue to the Royal visit and parade. The fitting backdrop was awash with military pageant decorated with a splendid array of uniforms exposing a kaleidoscope of colour. Martial music tempered with that unmistakable Irish lilt resounded about the barracks and echoed through the immediate picturesque countryside, much to the delight of the locals.

MOVING AND SPLENDID

Fiercely proud of their volunteer force, Ulster could not allow such a celebration to pass unnoticed. Furthermore it was almost unthinkable not to have a member of the Royal Family to share the celebration. **Her Majesty, The Queen Mother**, both loved and admired, was asked and graciously accepted to honour the volunteers with her regal and dignified presence. It was also appropriate that **The Queen Mother** attended the 75th Anniversary celebrations because she was in attendance on the 50th Anniversary.

All major volunteer units within the province were represented by ceremonial guards. The regiment with a contingent from 32 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn formed the Royal Signals guard. Our WRAC representation was part of the province's women services contingent. Our guard, commanded by **Maj Norman Geddes** OC Training Squadron and **WOII Billy Woodrow** SSM HQ Sqn, needed little encouragement with their drill and turnout. Without wishing to appear biased the regiment's representation was of an extremely high standard and was indeed both a credit to the Corps and the volunteers. That was also true of our girls under the watchful eye of **SSgt Christine Spence WRAC**.

The whole atmosphere on the great day was quite astonishing and extremely moving. A mixture of colourful military splendour and sincere patriotic fervour gripped everyone. To the stirring sound of Irish war pipes and resounding beat of the drums the ceremonial guards marched on to the square. Chests swelled, backs became that bit straighter, heads were held that much higher and heels were dug in with that much more force. Flags and pennants fluttered proudly in the light breeze as the glint of swords and bayonets reflected the bright sunlight.

AT HIS BEST ON A MEMORABLE DAY

The now silent parade and watching crowds stood in quiet and excited anticipation to await the arrival of the Royal Visitor. As the black and shining majestic saloon car, flying the royal standard, glided sedately to a dignified halt, the national anthem struck up and some 400 men and women presented arms or saluted in perfect precision. Without fear of contradition the parade was a complete success illustrating the dedicated volunteer soldier at his best.

The afternoon continued with lunches held in respective messes and groups of excited people patiently awaiting presentation to **Her Majesty**. Not only did the regiment produce a guard worthy of public duties, we also carried the lion's share of the day's administration. The truly memorable day will be discussed for some time and 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt can hold up its head and say 'we came through with flying colours', and nobody can deny us of that statement.

The Regiment's guard marches smartly past the Royal Saluting Dais

Her Majesty, accompanied by the RSM WO1 David Smith, presents from *L to R:* Mrs Mary Smith, the RSM's wife, WO2 (SSM) Billy Woodrow, guard WO, SSgt Christine Spence, female contingent SNCO, SSgt Tommy Caines and Sgt Heather Butler WRAC

The Women's Services rehearsal the day before the event

VISITS

Late May saw the visit of the GOC **Maj Gen Sir Robert Richardson** to the unit. The GOC spent the evening with us and was shown various aspects of 'Drill Night' training. The following montage forms a record of his visit.

WO2 Davie Lemon the volunteer MTWO, is seen chatting to the GOC; Cpl Manten looks on

Cpl Carol Boyd and the GOC share a joke

SSgt Steve Delaney is introduced to the GOC

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bromley

FOCUS ON 265 (KENT & SHARPSHOOTER YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) - THE SOCCER TEAM 'SHARPSHOOTERS TOUR BAOR'

At the start of the season our PSO, **Capt Jim Esson** promised that if we won the London District Football Cup for the third year running he would try to arrange a football trip to BAOR. Well, we kept our part of the bargain and won the cup. He kept his and on Friday 26 May we set sail for Germany.

OUTWARD BOUND

Thursday night was spent at our TA Centre in Bexleyheath, Kent in preparation for an early kick-off at 0330 hours to catch the 0530 hours boat to Zeebrugge. At Dover, we successfully navigated the coach to the right boat but in the euphoria that followed this early triumph we left the car containing **SSgt 'Eddy' Marsh** and **Cpl 'Mark' Penny** behind! However, their inspired decision to 'transfer' to the Calais route meant that they were actually waiting at Zeebrugge when the coach trundled off. After many miles and a few beers, or was it many beers and a few miles?, we arrived at 22 Sig Regt to be met by the PSO (The Advance Party!) and **SSgt 'Mike' O'Brien** of 22 Sig Regt.

THE FIRST (AND NEARLY THE LAST) NIGHT

After a welcome drink it was time for a quick shower, change of clothing and then off to a local 'Gasthouse' for a dinner (arranged by 'The Advance Party!). We were pleased to have as our guests from 22 Sig Regt: **Maj (QM) Mac McGilvray, Maj Nigel Corey,** OC 1 Sqn,**SSgts 'Jimmy' Flockard, 'Dave' Savin, 'Mick' O'Brien** and **Sgt 'Geoff' Smith.**

Following a speech of thanks by **Cpl 'Adrian' Rabot** and a presentation to 22 Sig Regt by **SSgt 'Eddy' Marsh** we set to and 'tackled' the serious business of eating and drinking. A good night ensued with 22 Sig Regt trying to 'fix' the next day's game by introducing our team to German beer and the much feared 'Korn'. **Maj Nigel Corey** was greatly in evidence encouraging us to eat, drink and be merry (and unfit for the match on the morrow!).

DON'T BLOW SO LOUD REF!

Next morning, complete with headaches and hangovers (must have been something we ate!) we took to the streets and the serious business of getting together all the duty free and shopping for gifts for those back home, together with sightseeing in the local area.

Saturday afternoon we met up with 1 Sqn again—this time on the football field. After an excellent game, played in a very friendly spirit we were lucky to win by three goals to two. The match was in many ways a family affair and most confusing with certain people having a husband on one side and a brother on the other, also a son on one side and a son-in-law on the other; who do you support! After the match the team were guests of 1 Sqn to a curry lunch with a suitable liquid refreshment—1 Sqn trying to get their own back for the previous night!

On Sunday an early start took us to 1 Sqn, 3 Armd Div Sig Regt where we played the second game of the tour. In this match we were well beaten 5—3 but enjoyed the spirit, if not the rain, in which the game was played. Our thanks to 1 Sqn and in particular **Sgt Garratt** for the game and the curry lunch afterwards.

The afternoon was spent on a sight seeing tour of the Mohnesee, whilst a visit to a shooting fest in the local village finished off the third day of the tour.

HOMEWARD BOUND

Monday arrived all too soon and saying our farewells, we took the long journey home, arriving safe and sound, together!

It was a trip that is still being talked about and we would like to thank the CO of 22 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Chaddock** for the privilege of staying with his Regiment, **Maj 'Mac' McGilvary** for all his efforts to ensure everything went according to plan, **Maj 'Nigel' Corey** and all members of 1 Sqn for making us so welcome, **Mrs Lesley O'Brien** for washing our football strip (hope you liked the flowers!) members of 3 Armd Div Sig Regt and everyone else, too numerous to name, who made us feel part of the 'One Army' concept.

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Sig Sqn)
Tidworth

HERE AND THERE

July may have been 'royal month' in Tidworth with visits to the Garrison by **HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh** and **HM The Queen Mother,** but the nearest most of the Squadron came to seeing any royalty was in manning the royal VCPs! However, the Squadron has managed to keep itself busy with personnel deployed to Wales, Scotland, Denmark, Turkey, Italy, Norway, Canada and Belize. Reports on some of these activities will be included in the next issue.

ATHLETICS

Since summer camp the Squadron has been involved in three main athletics competitions. The first (in chronological order at least) was an inter-troop meeting held at the end of May. The competition was extremely close throughout, but A Troop proved to be the eventual winners. **LCpl Tony Barker** put in a particularly impressive performance in the 400 metres. The afternoon closed with the chain of command race, which involved various ranks dressing and then carrying their troop commanders around the steeplechase course. Just why most of the officers were dropped at the water jump is still not clear!

In mid June the Squadron team took part in the South West District Championships. **Cpl 'Bill' Bailey, LCpls Earl Wigglesworth, Dave Gill** and **Jim Scully** won respectively the 5000m, 1500m, 800m and the Shot Put. After a recount, the Squadron were proclaimed minor unit winners, this despite being disqualified in the 4 x 400m. The following week the Squadron came joint second in the Zone Meeting with 233 Sig Sqn, but failed to qualify for the Army Finals as 233 won more events outright.

All this proved to be exceptionally good training for the Tidworth 'Jog-a-long' Marathon. Last year the event took the form of 5 circuits around the Garrison. This year there was a significant change in that the competitors firstly ran a 13½ mile half marathon course followed by 2½ circuits of the Garrison. The Squadron did extremely well with 23 of the 56 runners who completed the course and, more specifically, 5 runners in the first 11 places— **Cpl 'Taff' Steele** (1st in his first ever marathon), **WO2 (YofS) Len Harvey** (6th), **Sgt Bob Vickers RAPC** (9th), **Cpl 'Taff' Dennis** (10th) and **Sig 'Taff'** (yet again) **Carter** (11th). The Squadron put up an equally impressive performance in the relay coming first overall with the 'A' team and 2nd in the minor units (and 3rd overall) with the officer's team.

EXERCISES

The only major exercise to take place since summer camp was Ex *Epsom Down*. This can be best summed up by one sentence 'It rained and it rained and it . . . .' Salisbury Plain was wetter and muddier then even the most hardened veterans could remember. Fortunately the exercise had been billed as 'minimum movement'. With vehicles sinking lower and lower into the mud, almost hourly, a crash move could have proved disastrous. Whether the rain was the cause of the increased number of punctures is open to question, but there were certainly a phenomenal number: approximately 30, with one land-rover having three flats in one day.

During the latter stages of the exercise it became increasingly difficult to decide who was on whose side.

16/5 Lancers launched an attack on Main HQ whilst the 2IC **Capt Johnnie Rollins** sprang an ambush on a patrol led by the SO2 Sup, **Maj Colin Airdrie,** who was taking reinforcements to QO HLDRS!

The 'linies' were kept as busy as usual, but this time had an extra pair of hands, as the OC, **Maj Chris Shuker,** decided to give them some help. Unfortunately whilst doing this, his landrover became bogged in. When a line wagon tried to pull it out, all that was freed was the front bumper; the rover stayed stubbornly stuck! Light relief was provided by the Brigade's Artillery units who put on displays throughout the exercise to demonstrate their various roles.

Whilst *Epsom Down* was the only full Squaqdron deployment, there were a number of exercises in which elements of the Squadron were involved. These ranged from Ex *Full Trot 1*, a Radio Relay exercise with 30 Sig Regt, via Ex *Second Strike,* providing assistance to 2 Inf Bde on Stamford PTA, to Ex *Rough Diamond*. On the latter, umpire communications were provided for 3 Commando Brigade, for 6 days on the plain. At one stage an unplanned move had to be made when it was discovered that the shells whizzing overhead had mechanical fuzes and could explode at any time!

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Finally in this field there was the visit of the French Chief of the Defence Staff to the Brigade. Like virtually every unit in Tidworth, the Squadron became heavily involved in the organisation of the visit and acquitted itself handsomely. Place of honour must however go to **Capt Johnnie Rollins** who translated and spoke the French commentary to the demonstration.

LANYARD DAY

The Squadron's annual jamboree took place on 1 July. The day started with a parade attended by many families and old comrades. The inspecting officer was **Brig Tony Willcox,** Commander of the School of Signals, himself an ex-member of 216. During the course of the parade, he presented various Squadron prizes including the Turner Trophy (presented to **LCpl Dave Toombes**) (for full report see last issue), the Bardies Cup (**Cpl 'Bill' Bailey** for sporting achievements) and the Dennis Tankard (**LCpl Tam Bennie,** for Military Skills).

LCpl Dave Toombes receives the Turner Trophy from Brig Willcox

Following the families lunch, there was a display on Salisbury Plain of some of the Squadron's operational roles. The main event was the heli-lifting of the Tac, underslung from a Chinook. The rehearsals for this were particularly thorough, although no Chinooks were available. Thus the sight of Tac moving into location with **LCpl 'Sting' Ray** sitting on the roof of one of the rovers, twirling a VHF whip and shouting 'I am a helicopter!.

A particularly impressive display of First Aid Skills was put on by **Cpl 'Hoppy' Hopkinson** assisted by members of 16 Field Ambulance. Unfortunately the NBC incident which followed it, although managing to fill the wood with fairly obnoxious smoke, was otherwise ignored by the crowds!

In the evening the Lanyard Dinner was attended by several old comrades. It was brought to a suitable conclusion when the surviving members of K Section, one of the Squadron's earliest ancestors presented a fine silver cup.

Throughout the day the Corps band provided a wide variety of musical accompaniments, which were greatly enjoyed by all who heard them.

KAPE TOUR

During July 18 members of the Squadron took part in a KAPE tour of South West District. During the 12 days of the tour, they put on an incredible 17 displays/exercises varying in duration from 3 hrs to 2 days. The team visited Basingstoke, Swindon, Bristol, Gloucester, Stroud and Badminton and attracted large crowds and a great deal of interest wherever it went. The only problem was that it was far too hot. Standing in the burning sun, being cheerful, is particularly tiring!

The only other incident of note occurred on the final day when **Sig 'Tetley' Teall** had a haircut. Not that he personally wanted one! **Cpl 'Rob' Robinson** decided that his rather long and thick fringe was extremely unmilitary and, together with 13 other members of the team, took the shears to him at Badminton Air Show. The attempt unfortunately failed as the scissors did not prove sharp enought to cut **Sig Teall's** golden locks!

On the KAPE tour: LCpl 'Sandy' Brown cools down the Japanese way

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

CHANGES

The period since our last entry in the Wire has seen the arrival and departure of many Squadron members who are quite literally too numerous to mention. However we wish all those who have departed the best of luck in their new units and congratulate **Derek Brown** and **Gus Graham** who left on promotion to **SSgt.** To those who have arrived we extend a warm welcome and hope they have an enjoyable tour.

GERMANY

The Squadron has completed three successful BAOR exercises, *Flying Falcon, Hurst Park, and Summer Sales*. Some of the events on these exercises will live in the memories of Squadron members for some time to come. *Flying Falcon* saw the Engineers build an assault bridge across the Weser just north of Hameln so the Squadron could participate in a bridge crossing. The local German population (beers in hand) lined the main road bridge which ran parallel to the one we were to cross awaiting the night's entertainment. Unfortunately the water on the bridge ramps was too deep for our FFR Landrovers and they ended up speeding across the main road bridge to the rear of our audience who stood somewhat puzzled!

Our recce officer **2Lt Andy Bristow** then managed to site us in a nature reserve; on realising his error he did a quick night recce and the Squadron moved again. But it was one of those exercises and our new location was yet another nature reserve. For his sins the recce officer was awarded the 'Squadron Dummy' by the RSM at Endex.

2Lt Andy Bristow receives his award from the RSM, flanked by Sig Pipe-Wolferstan and Cpl Steve Atkin

WHO DUNNIT

Hurst Park started with some red faces but time has taken the sting out of the situation and the true unabridged version of the story can now be told. It all started as normal with a convoy leaving the barracks, driving down to Harwich and boarding the ferry for Hamburg. Unfortunately on this occasion two vehicles managed to drive on to the wrong boat which sailed almost immediately they were safely loaded, however, not to Hamburg but to Sweden. One of the vehicles belonged to the OC, the other to the YofS. **WO2 Pat Gethin.** We will not point the finger of blame and it will remain a classic who dunnit. Sufficient to say the OC was seen jumping from the boarding ramp as it was being raised and the YofS went off to Sweden. The word is going out now that he was doing a recce for the next YofS Convention.

SHOOTING

Army service weapons shooting 1983

Having qualified at our district meeting for RASAM the Squadron team consisting of **Sgt Henry Banks, LCpls Tony Sherwin** and **Smudge Smith, Sigs Davey Sloane** and **Skin Thrumble** went into serious training for the forthcoming corps shoot to be followed by the great levelling event of all shooting men, Bisley.

After an absence of two years the corps shoot in conjunction with the Royal Artillery shoot, went extremely well, not only as a meeting, but also for the Squadron who came third in the minor unit table.

A creditable 16th place out of 36 minor units at Bisley ended the Squadron's shooting year, and will see the end of yet another team very ably led by **SSgt Henry Banks** who is moving, on promotion, to 30 Sig Regt. **LCpl Tony Sherwin** who goes to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, also on promotion and **LCpl Smudge Smith** to 233 Sig Sqn. It is believed to be generally felt among the corps shooting fraternity who assemble at Bisley each year that owing to our relatively large participation (8 major and 9 minor units on average) a focal point is needed, possibly in the form of accommodation if any is available, whereby all units could meet to discuss the many tactics and aspects of the Sport. Perhaps others with an interest in the future of the corps shooting have views on this?

RUGBY

The 82/83 season was very successful despite regular interruptions caused by exercises and the loss of players to 266 Sig Sqn. Good team performances resulted in victories over several major unit teams and only one defeat by a minor unit team, this being at the hands of The Depot The Welsh Regt in the Army Cup. The climax of the season came in the EDIST Minor Units Cup. After defeating Comms and Sy Gp UK at Loughborough and 1 Sqn RCT, our neighbours in Colchester, the final was against The Depot, Queens Div. The first match was a draw but the Squadron was victorious in the replay. As an end of season fling we entered the District Sevens Competition, only to find that the majority of the team disappeared to BAOR on exercise. Fortunately Bde HQ remained behind and together with the sick lame and lazy put up a creditable performance reaching the latter stages of the competition. Several of the older members of the team (most of the forwards) have threatened to hang up their boots for the last time, again. However OIC Rugby, **WO2 (FofS) Graham Atkinson** has other ideas and will be whipping them into shape again come September.

For the Record:	PLD	W	D	L	Pts For	Pts Against
	19	13	1	5	344	142

Back row L to R: Sgt John Taylor (Medic), Capt Don Robertson, Capt Paul Filler, Sgt George Bremner, Cpl Simon Rose, LCpl Alex Farquhar, Sgts Tony Clifton, Fred Tedby, LCpls 'Sax' Saxby, Gordon Bland. *Front Row L to R:* WO2 Geoff Harper, Cpl Frank Buntain, Sig 'Killer' Killeen, Ken Morrissey, Capt Charles Vane-Percy, WO2 (FofS) Graham Atkinson, Pte Nigel Arkinson, Sig Mark Williams, Maj Doug Cantley, LCpl Tony Mason, on leave Sig Watts

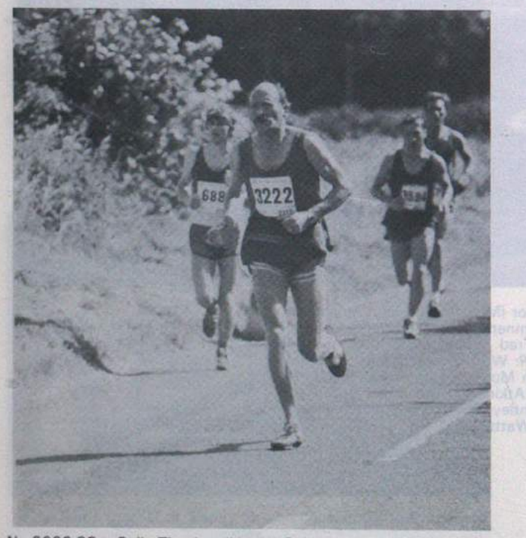
ATHLETICS

The summer has seen the forming of a successful athletics team from a humble beginning. The inter troop athletics standards competition was held and the Athletics Officer was heard to groan in despair, but this was short lived and some good individual performances, taking five firsts, saw the athletics team win the District Minor Units Championship, and a place in the Eastern Area Zone Final. The team did not do too well here but special mention should be given to **Sig Paul Watts** for winning the 100m and for second places to **Sgt Fred Tedby** (Shot) **Cpl Tony Winter** (Javelin) and **Sig Stu Henson** (5000m).

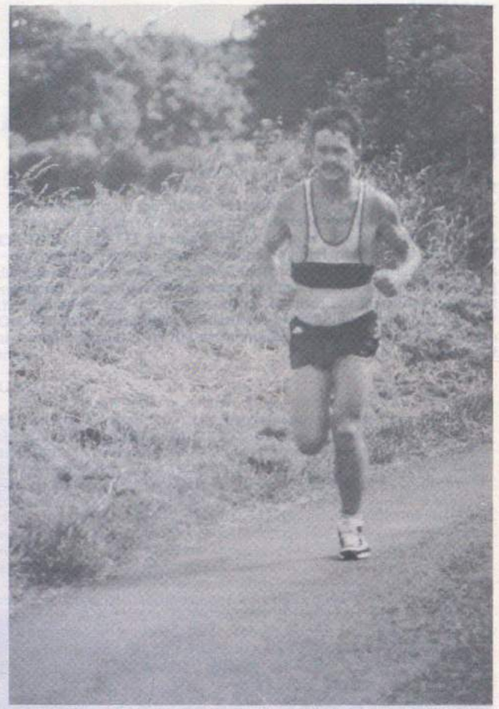
Back row L to R: OC Maj Collins, Sig Mick Rumball, Cpl Richard Plummer, Sig Stu Henson, SSgt Colin Thackwell, Cpl Geoff Backhouse, WO1 Dave Towers-Clark RAOC, Lt Tuson (Athletics Officer)
Front Row L to R: Sig Paul Watts, WO2 (FofS) Atkinson, Sgt Fred Tedby, Cpl Tony Winter, Sig Tony Long

FUN RUN

At the end of June on a gloriously sunny day, the Colchester Fun Run was held over a distance of 13 miles. There were nearly five thousand runners taking part and for most of them it was a serious event, the only fun being at the end when the run was over. The Squadron entered four teams for the run and the 'A' team consisting of **WO1 Dave Towers Clark RAOC, Cpl Geoff Backhouse, SSgt Colin Thackwell, SSgt Dave Beadsworth RAOC, Sig Stu Henson** and



No 3222 SSgt Colin Thackwell in the Colchester Fun Run finished 71st



Sig Stu Henson in the Colchester Fun Run finished 11th

Pte Alan Marr ACC came first in the team event with **Sig Stu Henson** placed 11th individually.

TENNIS

The Squadron took advantage of the good weather to hold an individual Tennis Competition and in the weeks running up to the grand event 'M' Tp were never to be found in the workshops but on the tennis courts. However the training paid off with the following results:

Singles: 1st Cpl Bates Bateman M Tp, 2nd: Sig Ian Hett M Tp, Doubles: 1st LCpl Sax Saxby A Tp, and Sig Andy Drummond A Tp, 2nd Cpl Tony Winter M Tp, and Cpl Tony Conlan M Tp.

MENS CLOTHING

is still URGENTLY REQUIRED

by the WELFARE SECTION

229 Sig Sqn (BERLIN) BFPO 45

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

This is the last contribution to The Wire from 229 Sig Sqn (Berlin) as, on 1 September 1983, 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) is due to form amalgamating this Squadron with the Berlin Garrison Administrative Unit (BGAU). The new Regiment will consist of two Squadrons, HQ Sqn (the old BGAU) and 229 (Berlin Inf Bde) Sig Sqn (this one) so our name will live on!

CONTRAST

Meanwhile, life has gone on in a normal Berlin fashion, the Parade Season finishing with the Americans on 4 July and the French on 14th and the exercise season restarting with a variety of events including the inevitable alert exercise which took us all off to the Grunewald in our noddy suits on a beautiful sunny day with the temperature in the 90s. We can assure you that there is nothing quite like sitting on the edge of the Havel beach at NBC State RED and watching scantily (very in some cases) clad Berliners enjoy their summer holidays!

VIP VISITS

During the exercises we had a number of VIP visitors, the first, **Gen Sir Michael Gow GCB ADC GEN**, on his farewell visit to Berlin as CinC BAOR. For this occasion we gathered together a selection of our radio detachments which support Brigade, Sector, the Allied Staff and the Berlin Infantry Battalions.

Gen Sir Michael Gow talking to members of Radio Troop during his farewell visit to Berlin as CinC BAOR

Towards the end of July Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Hild MBE** paid us a visit. Radio Tp laid on a demonstration of its various brigade command posts. After a tour of Radio and Maintenance, Quartermaster and Line (MQ&L) Troops the General visited the Berlin Commcen. There is, apparently, no truth in the rumour that **Sgt Beresford** only comes out of his box when the photographer is around. Towards the close of his tour **Gen Hild** presented **Sig Whitehead** with his well earned Falklands Medal.

Our third visitor was the new CinC BAOR, **Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall KCB CVO MC**. As part of his tour of the Berlin Brigade, Radio Tp demonstrated its ability to prepare a house for defence and use as a Brigade Command Post. The task turned out to be a considerable one with everyone lending a hand at filling the enormous number of sandbags required in temperatures that reached 100°F (in the shade — not that there was any!)

SWIMMING

The so called quiet period in the Squadron coincided with the commencement of the swimming season. This resulted in quite a hectic time for the non-swimmers, particularly of Commcen Tp, who provided some of our 'star' swimmers. In all honesty two men on a shift isn't too bad, you have only to ask the two men involved!

The first hurdle was the Berlin Championships which took place in the Olympic Stadium on 5 July. The Squadron Team were confident of victory and so it turned out that at the end of the competition the Squadron beat 38 Fd Sqn RE and qualified for the BAOR Competition.

The BAOR Championships were also held in the Olympic Pool the following week. The Squadron were once again faced with strong competition from the Sappers of 65 Corps Support Sqn RE. Both teams were neck and neck throughout the competition but in the end the Sappers pulled ahead and won. The Squadon, being runners-up, qualified to go forward to the UK finals at Catterick.

A NEAR THING

The team left Berlin on the 20 July and stayed at the AAC Harrogate, whom we thank for the accommodation and training facilities which they kindly provided. I am sure **LCpl Tony Mellett** would also like to thank their MI Room for the First Aid he received when he tried to adjust the shape of his head on the bottom of the pool.

The big day finally came on the 27 July and the team travelled to the competition in a very cosy GC Landrover convertible. On arrival the first off the mark was **Sgt Steve Roberts** in the 66⅔ Freestyle, he was just pipped at the post by a very strong swimmer from 65

Sgt Steve Roberts receiving the BAOR Runners-up trophy

Engrs. The next one to go was **LCpl Henry Newton** in the 66⅔ Breastroke. He only managed to get fourth place in this against a very strong field. After this was the 100 Freestyle and **LCpl Newton** swam very well and finished in second place. **Sgt Steve Roberts** swam in the 66⅔ Backstroke but was beaten into 2nd place by 65. The next race we were involved in was the 4 × 66⅔ Medley Relay. The team for his was **LCpl 'Rocky' Mountain, Sgt Ken Myerscough, LCpl Henry Newton** and **Sgt Steve Roberts**, they managed to pull up three places compared with their BAOR result, putting 229 in 2nd place behind the Engineers. With only one more race to go we had yet to achieve a win in the competition and the 4 × 66⅔ Freestyle Relay Team had it all to go for. The swimmers were **LCpl Tony Mellett, Cpl Geordie Sinclair, Cpl Chris Gopsill** and **LCpl Ricky Ball.** Although 65 had a good team the might of the Radio Tp element of 229 was too much and we won the race.

We finished the competition in second place, only four points behind 65 Corps Support Sqn RE. One last word of thanks must go to **Cpl Scouse Yarwood** who, although he never swam, trained very hard and was ready and willing to step in at any time if the unthinkable should happen.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Congratulation to two more Squadron members who have recently taken the 'plunge'. **Cpl Robbie Davies** married **Ute Rheinhardt** in June. **Cpl Mick Durnall** married **Pte Sue Osborne,** who is serving in the Berlin Brigade, in July.

Sadly, the Squadron is losing some of its 'old and bold' members. **LCpl Greg Doughty, Sig Colin Williams** (on promotion) and **LCpl 'Mac' McMahon** leave shortly from Radio Tp, **LCpl 'Chippy' Davies** from MQ & L and **Cpl Pete Hewitt** (on promotion) leaving Commcen Troop.

Recent arrivals include **Cpl 'Geordie' Laverick, LCpl Colin Cootes, Sig 'Tiny' Latham** also **LCpl Bob Carroll** with his wife **Claire,** with congratulations to them on their own particular new arrival.

BATTLE CAMP

The Squadron deployed to Sennybridge Training area during the second and third weeks of May for our annual (was it really a year since the last one?) battle-camp. The RQMS, **WO2 Ray Jeffery** and his advance party managed to erect all the tented accommodation just before the first rainfall which lasted most of the week and turned the site into a scene somewhat reminiscent of the 1st World War campaigns.

The Squadron was divided into two halves so bad luck to the first party who had the rain. This week claimed most of the injuries viz—broken legs, torn ligaments, displaced knee-caps etc, thanks to the gruelling section attacks and pairs fire and manouvre. The weeks training culminated in live section attacks watched by a party of wives and children who had endured the long coach journey to be with their 'loved ones' for the day, all thanks to the Squadron wives club led by **Mrs Elizabeth Kimber** and **Mrs Elaine Muir**.

The second week we were joined by **Flt Lt John Cookson** and three junior members of the Tactical Communications Wing RAF; the only ones brave enough to volunteer—and they want to do it again next year! This week the weather held out but if anyone thought they might stay dry the SSM, **WO1I Tom Muir** had other ideas after putting them through the live section attacks. **Sig Willis** thought he had a novel way of routing the enemy,—figure 11 targets—by completing the final assault with his trousers around his ankles, much to the amusement of everyone else involved.

EXERCISE 'REDHAND VENTURE'

Exercise *Redhand Venture* took place in the Kinloch Rannoch area of Scotland between 18 and 26 July 1983. Led by the intrepid duo of **Lt Gareth Smith** and **WO2 (SSM) Tom Muir**, the group of twelve hillwalkers strained under the weight of their 70lb packs in bright sunshine and 80°F temperatures. The exercise started with strenuous walking but as a result of blisters and an invasion of Chinook-sized horse flies, swimming and fishing was the order of the day towards the end.

Smudges group early on prior to another arduous day

Some just found it all too much

TATTOO TIME APPROACHES

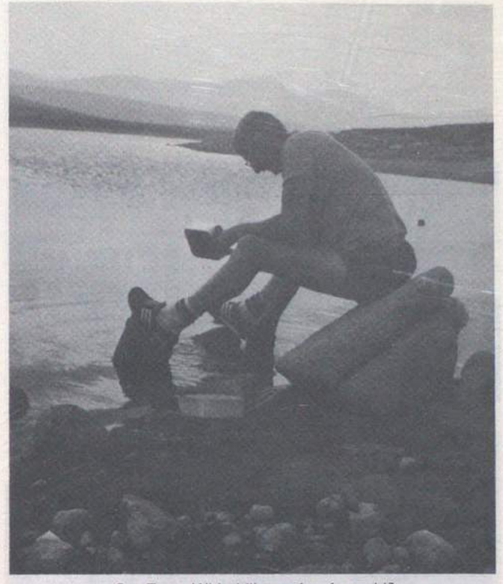
All the lucky new arrivals have appeared just in time to help prepare for the Berlin Tattoo. We have 1000-plus posters to put up around the three allied sectors, a lighting crew to provide for the Tattoo itself and a mountain of telephones and micophones to install throughout the Deutschlandhalle.

The poster sticking campaign, although sounding somewhat obscure and mundane, becomes a key issue in the life of the Squadron. You would be amazed at the number of phone calls asking whether we are aware that the poster at such-and-such has been torn, pinched, put upside down, written on etc etc.

However, it's a good opportunity for new members of the Squadron to find their way around Berlin and we also use the event as a radio exercise. Perhaps we could run a private radio taxi service as a sideline!

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

LCpl Mark Liens and Sig 'Jacko' Jackson get to grips with man eating horse flies



Sgt Terry Whitehill panning for gold?

EXERCISE 'REDHAND WANDERER'

This exercise was another adventure training week, this time in the Lake District, and after some delicate negotiations by the 2IC **Capt Richard Blum** it was established using 11 Sig Regt base camp at Torver on Coniston Water. An enjoyable week was had by all canoeing, climbing, abseiling and walking the hills, although as the peak of Scarfell was crested some wag was heard to say 'I thought the AS stood for Air Support not Alpine Support'. Who was that man?—**Sgt Reynolds!**

In addition the Squadron has managed to send detachments to Turkey on Exercise *Ample Express* led by **Lt Neil Couch**, Denmark with the RAF led by **Capt Richard Blum**, and Barbados/Jamaica on Exercise *Filament Mercury* led by **Cpl Steve Dale**, assisting 30 Sig Regt.

Assistance was also given to 2 Inf Div on Exercise *Summer Sales* in the form of **LCpl Steve Slater, Sig Dave Rooney, Mick Morgan, Al Tocker**, and **Dave Oliver,** and the Telemechs have continued to provide support both in Belize and Ascension.

The Red Hand Gang conquer Sca Fell

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

ATHLETICS STANDARDS COMPETITION

The Squadron took to track and field on 4 May for the annual inter-troop Athletics Standards Competition. Everyone attempted at least two track and one field event and some very creditable performances were recorded in particular from **Sig 'Biddy' Baxter** in the sprints, **Sig 'Col' Burnett** in the shot and **LCpl 'Griff' Griffiths** in the 1500m. **Sgt Bob Cook** (Admin Tp) was responsible for the excellent organisation and the mathematics behind the final points collation. Despite Support Tp attaining the highest number of points overall and the best individual score **(Sig Burnett)**, Admin/Mike Tp won the overall competition. Support Tp's reaction was 'shocked'; the case continues.

EX ADVENTURE EXPRESS

Report by Sig Russell

When in June the Squadron deployed to Turkey with the rest of the A.M.F. we looked forward to a pleasant change from a somewhat wet British climate. We arrived at the USAF Base at Incirlik on the first leg of our journey in blistering heat and immediately went in search of our advance party who, we were assured, had been having it tough. They were eventually found roughing it beside the base swimming pool, one of a number of amenities kindly made available to us during our short stay. For those members of the Squadron who had never been to Turkey before, the exotic insect life came as something of a shock. **Sgt Milford** soon discovered that the best way to make friends with a Scorpion is not to sit on it. The Scorpion was duly arrested, charged with assualting the dignity of a SNCO, found guilty and sentenced to death.

More work was provided for the medical staff the next night by **Sig 'Betty' Lynch,** who while sleeping on top of his landrover, dreamed he was a helicopter and decided to go for a flight. (You won't get your pilot's licence that way **John**).

All good things must come to an end and eventually we flew north to the exercise area around Sarakamis. Heavy rain had turned many of the tracks into virtual bogs, but despite this the Squadron carried on as normal. Deterrent Ops were carried out in torrential rain but the sun reappeared with Combat Ops and remained until we finally left. The weather was a bit deceiving however, as **Capt Ewin** in his Rebro Recce role was to find out. While guiding two Rebros into location he experienced a slight sinking sensation which required a tracked wrecker to remedy. (Maybe someone should have recce'd the route for you Sir).

After Endex, members of the Squadron took part in the Change of Command ceremony to welcome COMAMF (L) designate **Gen Christy** of the Canadian Armed Forces. During the parade **Sig Wilkinson** decided to take a keen interest in something he saw at his feet, so keen in fact, he lay down to get a closer look. (Probably just a bit tired, poor lad).

A couple of days later the Squadron returned to Bulford, slightly browner than we left and already planning for the Danish exercise in the Autumn-September. See you then.

COMAMF(L) Maj Gen M. F. Reynolds inspecting the Sqn parade contingent accompanied by Lt Alan McComb

'Not quite what I had in mind'. Capt Ewing (centre) carefully sights some Rebros. *L to R:* Cpl Vowden, Sig Goddard and O'Driscoll

Cpl 'Brummy' Seaton keeping Sig Armstrong's morale up during stand-to with a cuppa

Sig Paisey and Williams enjoying a few home comforts in Turkey

Lt 'Tufty' McComb and 2Lt 'Doc' Holliday 'roughing it' in Turkey

ARMY SCHOOLS EXHIBITION

On returning from Turkey the Squadron despatched a party to Bassingbourne Hertforshire for a week to take part in the Army Schools Exhibition. It was soon discovered that Volvo oversnow vehicles, well able to operate over rough terrain in temperatures of −40 degrees centigrade could not hack the streets of Cambridge. Afternoon motorists were treated to the unfamiliar sight of a broken down Volvo in the High Street. A frustrated **Lt 'Tufty' McComb** looked on while the scouse team of **Sig Johnston** and **Madine** remedied the situation. When not working, the party enjoyed the comforts of hotel accommodation and **Sig Dougie Eaglesham** informed us that he made lots of new friends.

UNIT ADVENTURE TRAINING

In the first week of July eleven members of the Squadron went to J.S.M.T.C. (Wales) for a very enjoyable week of Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Abseiling, Orienteering, Raft building . . . in fact, you name it, we did it. Quote of the week—'Hi Chic' **(Sig Scouse Jones)** 'Tut' **(Sig Romer)**, 'Hoots', I canna move' and 'Sweeeede' **(Sig Jock the Turtle Byrne)**. **2Lt 'Doc Holliday** would once again like to say a special thanks to our Swiss (or was he a Swede?) Alpine Guide and Sig Jones whose experience and linguistic talent proved invaluable.

2Lt Holliday, Sig Middleton, Sig Artingstall and Sig Romer model a new line in wet suits

'Where did he get that hat?' Sig Artingstall LCpl Carling and Sig 'Romeo' Romer on Cader Idris, Wales

BATTLE CAMP

The last week in July saw the Squadron in the Garden of England, Hythe in Kent, for Battle Camp. Much of the time was spent on the ranges although we also sampled the delights of early morning dips in the sea, a patrol competition and inter-Troop Orienteering. 1 Platoon won the inter-Platoon shooting competition while **Sig 'Herbie' Banks** (Support Tp) won the trophy for the best individual shot.

Support Tp won the inter-Troop orienteering as expected with Mike/Admin Tp and Main Tp coming second and third respecitvely.

LCpl Frazer and **Sig Proctor** of Admin/Mike Tp achieved the fastest run of the day.

FAREWELLS

Several old faces have disappeared since the last edition and we would like to say thank you and the best of luck in your new units to the following:-

Capt (QM) R. Danells, Lt A. W. T. McComb, WO2 (SSM) Campbell (on promotion to **WO1 (RSM), WO2 (FofS) Bradley, SSgts B. Dalton, J. Harley, Sgts Mulhearn, Deowenelly, R. Cook.**

After a busy period most of the Squadron can now relax for summer block leave before getting down to the business of deployment to Denmark in September and the beginning of pre-Arctic training (Is it that time already?). Stay tuned for the next instalment.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn BFPO 567

254 (UNFICYP) SIGNAL SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC/Force Signals officer	**—Maj L. R. Smith**
2IC/SO Comms (Radio)	**—Capt A. J. Bowering**
SO Comms (Tels)	**—Capt R. Hamalainen (Finnish)**
Comms Offr	**—Lt C. Bergeron (Canadian)**
SSM	**—WO2 (SSM) B. Robjohn**
FOS	**—WO2 (FOS) C. Ramsay**
YofS	**—WO2 (YofS) J. Haldane**
SQMS	**—SSgt (SQMS) J. Mountcastle**

As you can see from the above, the Squadron has an international flavour to it which is further enhanced by some 13 Canadian Radio Ops and Linemen. The British element is made up of ten two year continuity posts, whilst the remainder of the Squadron are on six month roulement postings from the ubiquitous 30 Sig Regt. As a result there are, unfortunately, far too many recent personality changes to record them all here. However mention must be made of the recent departure to civvie street of **WO2 (SSM) Dave Kennington**. At his dining out party at a local restaurant, the OC made several references to the SSM's early morning PT sessions which he must have taken exception to, as the 0600 hour session the following morning was notably more painful than normal! In his place has arrived **WO2 (SSM) Brian Robjohn** who has already taken up the mantle of PTI.

WO2 (SSM) Brian Robjohn cheerfully taking over as SSM from WO2 Dave Kennington

MINI MEDAL PARADE

At a recent mini medal parade held in the Squadron Lines, some 12 British and 9 Canadian members of the Squadron were presented with their UN Medal. The DCOS HQ UNFICYP and Commander British Contingent **Col H. W. K. Pye** (late 9/12 Lancers) presented the medals which are awarded after 90 days service with the UN. The

parade was commanded by our French Canadian Comms Offr **Lt Claude Bergeron** and after the short and simple ceremony the DCOS met the medal recipients informally over coffee in the OC's office.

Cpl Brian Bell flanked by Canadian members of the Squadron being presented with his UN Medal by the DCOS whilst the OC looks on

GREEN LINE RUN RECORD REGAINED

The Green Line Run is a relay race run over a distance of 43 miles from the top of Troodos Mountain elevation 1762 metres to Jubilee Camp elevation 226 metres. The first 15 miles consists of very steep downhill running tapering off to 14 miles of very hilly terrain with the latter part being fairly flat. The race is open to teams from Support Regiment UNFICYP but must only be made up from sub units. Teams consist of ten men, composition being 1 Officer, 2 SNCO's and 7 Junior Ranks total age must not be less than 225 years. The start point is outside 254 Sig Sqn Radio Rebroadcast Detachment Troodos, running all the way down the mountain through the villages of Kakopetria and Astromeritis and finishing outside the Mercury club Jubilee Camp Nicosia. Each leg must be a minimum of 3.5 miles and a maximum of 5 miles, the last mile being completed by all ten runners. The record prior to 17 June held by Support Regiment Workshops REME in a time of 4 hours 4 minutes 45 seconds.

After four weeks of intensive training a determined Signal Squadron team captained by **SSgt Pete Aitken** decided to have a crack at the record. On the 17 June we left Jubilee Camp at 0200 hours to start the race at 0330 hours, the majority of the running being done in the cool of the morning. After three very fast legs covered by **SSgt Pete Aitken, Sig Paul Harrison** and **Pte Neil Davis** the team were already well ahead of the scheduled time. The next three legs covered some very hilly terrain but after some excellent running by **Maj Leslie Smith, Sigs John Jones** and **Neil Roome** we knew the record was on. By this time the heat of the morning started taking its toll and although the legs were shorter the timings started to get slower. At this stage a mention must go to **Cpl Lance Thornton-Granville, LCpl Jeff Hay** and **Sig Steve Laurence** for very gutsy performances. I'm sure at one stage **Sig Laurence** thought his change over point was never coming. With the last leg to go everyone was checking watches but the record was in the bag and, after a fine run by **Sgt John Beach** a very jubilant team tackled the last mile to finish in a time of 4 hours 1 minute 53 seconds. Special mentions to our pacer **Sig Graeme Keith** who ended up being paced himself at one stage, and **Sig Andy Donovan** for providing the back up.

A triumphant Green Line Running Team with the Official Supporters Club kneeling in front

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

TECH TROOP
Report by Sgt Russ Moren

Well, just for the record we would like to say Farewell and Good Luck to **WO2 (FofS) Alec Taylor** and family. **Alec** has been posted 'down the road' to 9 Sig Regt to become a **WO1** and **Sylvia** is heading off back to UK. We wish 9 Sig Regt all the best! On the same note, welcome to **WO2 (FofS) Frank Cashen** (don't forget the **BEM**) and family. **Frank** has recently developed a passion for Gateaux slinging, and had best watch out on his house warming party.

Now, down to the 'Nitty Gritty', The Hodgson Shield Cricket. The Troop were in a remarkably strong position in the match against SHQ. We were bowling, and they needed 26 runs off 6 balls to win. Suffice it to say that **Sig 'Lillee' Hayes** will not be bowling next year!! PS—They won!

Keeping on the sporting front, our intrepid TE Tech **Sgts Phil Hill** and **Pete Ormond** managed to get some time off work (again!) for a Hang Gliding course. To date, **Phil 'Aaargh-Crunch' Hill** is in his fourth week of a plaster cast on a broken wrist and **Pete 'Aaargh-Crunch' Ormond** is taking orders for subterranean photographs of people's back gardens.

There isn't much to report on the Radio Relay side of things, since most of them are on leave following the intensive training they went into for the SWS v RRSC boxing match. They do, however, have a new team trainer in the form of **SSgt Roy Habergham** who has taken over from **SSgt Iain Urquhart.** Hello **Roy** and family, hope you enjoy your stay. Goodbye **Iain, Jan** and family and all the best for the trip to SOEST. Incidentially, should anyone from Manning and Records be reading this, could they please confirm or deny the rumour that to be a Radio Relay SSgt you have to be under five feet tall? (some of our chaps are getting a bit disheartened!) We would also like to say farewell and good luck to the other Radio Relay types who are leaving, **Sgt Steve Green** and family to Blandford and **Cpl Ron Taylor** and family to Catterick.

In the Troop nerve centre (Radio Workshops), the Radio Techs are at present aiding and abetting 262 Sig Sqn with the installation of the new Storno Talkthru' equipment. At last there is a little light at the end of a very long, dark tunnel! On the lighter side, a special mention for **Cpl Taff Davies** who actually passed a BFT recently, and who, anyway, would like to see his name in The Wire.

Finally, a word about our elusive Troop, **SSgts Eugene Dullaghan, Jimmy Neil** and **John Davis.** If they read this could they pop into work and collect their mail?! Cheers!

NOTES FROM THE MOUNTAIN

Actually the past few months have passed in a bit of a blur. No sooner had we said farewell to **Capt Colin Lawrence** and his Foreman **Pete Higson** then comes along **Lt Martin Hoskins** transferred from the Airfield, and his new right-hand man **SSgt (FofS) John Hoyland,** who comes straight from the 'factory' at Blandford. After their welcoming party we got a bit busy and I've forgotten the order in which we won everything after that. Success comes naturally to the Mountain Tp. We proved that last month when we won the Hodgson Shield Swimming Competition without any training periods. We also possess the Army (Cyprus) High Jump Champion in the shape of **Sig 'Ginge' Willimont.** (True to form, **Ginge** went out and celebrated so much that night that he could'nt get within 15cms of that record a few days later during the All-Island Championships!)

The Boss has got some funny ideas when it comes to what a det should look like. I mean, the grease and grime adds to the character of the place somewhat, adding just that touch of 'je ne sais quoi' to the subtle ambience of the mountain. Not according to him it dosen't. Guess who's been down to raid the DOE paint stores for all the creosote and paint they've got? Yellow? Now he's just got to be joking. Must admit though that **LCpl Mick Rash** did a pretty good job down the Radio Det with that yellow emulsion and black gloss. The Radio Relay Det's going to be white (ish) and the Boss hasn't decided what colour carpets are going down yet. I won't say that he's got strange ideas about interior decoration, but any officer who can hang his Royal Commission on one wall and a portrait of ET on the other certainly demonstrates that he has a different attitude to soldiering than most.

SHRINKAGE

It's nearing that special time of year that all we soldiers dread. We've got to start wearing our kit again (I'm sure I put that webbing somewhere in that attic last year) and start our final preparations for the Squadron Battle Camp followed by the Cyprus Milskills Competiton. For those of you out there who don't know what that is, it's that competition where all the non-infantry units on the Island get together to show what a fine bunch of soldiers they actually are. And all because the lady loves Milk Tray? She's getting Diary Box next year, and liking it. Because we 'up the top' belong to that species Homus Olympus—Mountain Man, we don't often get to wear our combats as we work and play outside the Sovereign Base Area. Funny—isn't it strange how webbing belts shrink when they're alone for nine months of the year?

The news from the Radio Relay side is that **Sgt Bob Scrivener** and his crew have been getting to know an awful (horrible) lot about the inner workings of our kit, and why it's not quite working at the moment. No, it's not brand new and straight from the factory. If ever you served in Malta and thought that on leaving the Island you would never see that GEC 300 Series again, you had better start signalling Manning and Records that you don't want a Cyprus tour. We don't know what you did with it over there but we would be grateful if you would give **Sgt Mick Jagger** or **Cpls Paul Bartlett, Neil Parsons, Ian Binks** or **Dave Holton** a call and give them a clue!

The news from the Radio side is that **LCpl Mick Rash** has been beasting around his heroic crew of **Sig Ginge Willimont, Carl Wharton** and **Moff Moffat.** He though he had life sussed before the Boss went up and looked over the det. Who else actually buries a counterpoise or brings the TURF inside when it's not being used? Well, we do—now. **Mick's** shortly to get a new toy—a permanent 40 foot mast to hang his horizontal antenna and his droopy dipole on. (Rumour Control has it that since **Mick's** stopped living in his apartment right next to all the Swedish tourists, it's not only the droopy dipole that's giving him some cause for concern).

The Line Det has now been transformed into a more efficient crew by **Cpls Kev Walker**, and **Alec Murphy**. **Sgt Bob Knights** has just returned to us from his holiday at 'Costa Del Bisley'. That makes it the seventh consecutive time he's been to that holiday resort. (Me? I never go to the same place twice). We congratulate **Sig Taff Bryant** on his recent promotion to the rank of **LCpl,** and we welcome **Sig Jimmy Fearon** who joins us to get away from the heat and the humidity of Episkopi Troop. **LCpl Kev Pallister, Bob McFarlane** and **Yorkie Rawnsley** carry on grafting, unrecognised and unappreciated for all the work they do.

Sgt Owen Evans, our gallant Troop Sgt continues to look upon us as the only family he's got left. After getting us soft toilet paper for the block I'll never question his word again. Got to get back to all this military stuff now. How does it go again? Aim, Courses Open, Factors, Mission, Plan. Sounds about it.

OPERATION SEDIMENT

During the period 24-27 June, 259 Sig Sqn was involved in an internal security operation in which it supported The 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in their role of security of the Western Sovereign Base Area.

The major commitment to the exercise was the running of a VCP at the entrance road to the officers mess and married quarters. Three sections of seven men were formed to carry out this duty. They were commanded by **Sgts Cox, Rick Reay** and **Willie Patterson.** The VCP became quite famous over the weekend as people began to learn of a document compiled by all three sections. This was commonly called the 'Women worth searching list'. One officer who had a look seemed quite put out as his wife wasn't on it, but we explained as best we could that beauty was in the eye of the beholder (or all 21 of us).

A special mention must go to **Miss Penny Vine,** a local BFPS presenter who succumbed to our wishes and played numerous requests for us, even if it was at threat of a complete body search. Although the VCP was manned throughout a weekend morale was high and everybody did the task set with some enjoyment. The cheerfulness of all concerned was remarked up on and it made the task easier when all the people passing through co-operated. During night shifts offers of snacks and hot drinks were plentiful and if all had been taken up I am sure we would still be feasting.

EX 'JULY VENTURE'
Reported by Sgt Russ Moren

A FULL SEA

'There is a tide in the affairs of men
which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
omitted, all the voyage of their life
is bound in shallows and miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
and we must take the current when it serves,
or lose our ventures.'
Brutus, in Shakespeares' Julius Casear

Well, we had a full sea and very nearly lost our venture. Only 10 minutes out of Akrotiri 10 Port Squadron RCT and the rear deck was lined with people depositing their breakfasts (last night's beer?) into the glorious med. This was going to be some beach landing!

SO WELCOME

The landing craft wallowed its way to Melanda Beach in 90 minutes, where three sections, under the command of the HQ Platoon, were emptied. Never have 36 people been so glad to see land! Once ashore, the platoon attack began. Despite one or two (?) setbacks, the platoon objective of securing a helicopter landing site was finally achieved, and all personnel were successfully evacuated by a search and rescue Wessex of 84 Squadron.

BAD TERRAIN

That night we began a 14 KM/6 Checkpoint escape and evasion exercise which was to take some of us on a 30 mile hike across possibly the worst terrain this side of the Gobi desert. I don't like to name names, or offer excuses, but **Sgt Roly Thompson** (and whoever dropped him off?!) deserves a special mention. If the DS can't find two of the checkpoints, what chance has the rest of us?

The 36 hour exercise came to a close early the following morning. The only other event of any note being the biting of **Sig Ginge Willimont** by a rabid half-starved Alsatian of 3 Army Dog Training Unit during the escape and evasion phase. According to my well-informed sources, he bit it back! As they say, nothing ventured, nothing gained, roll on battle camp.

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES
JOB VACANCIES

Uniformed Estate Patrolman. West London. c£6000. Max age 55. Must live in West London Log 155

Porter. Queens Club Gardens W14. Plain Clothes. Basic £80pw with possibility of promotion. Log 157

Doorman. Age immaterial Allan St. W8. (2 men) 10am - 6.00pm. Wages negotiable. Log 145

Chauffeur EC1/NW1. Rover-Porsche. Uniform optional c£100pw + BUPA + Free Luncheon. Log 153

Reception-Security. Tabernacle St. EC2. Full uniform c£4698 + £1.20 LV etc. Reliable cheeful, fit applicant needed urgently. Log 80

Street Patrol (Uniform) W1 Barrett St. Smart, polite, firm, non-drinker. £6000pa. Log 150

Custodian (Plain Clothes) Hatton Gardens £85pw + LV's. Log 140

Central Front Door. Green St. W1. £500pm (Self Employed). Log 133

Security Full Uniform. Shoe Shop. New Bond St. £100pw. Log 148

Residential Caretaker. Plain Clothes Shepherds Bus W12. £100pw + free flat. Joint appt. with wife.

Residential Caretaker Plain Clothes. Willesden Area. Negotiable salarly + free flat. Joint appt. with wife. Log 128

Caretaker/Housekeeper. Curzon Street W1. £80pw + free flat. Age not important. Joint appt. with wife. Flexible routine. Log 135

The Corps of Commissionaires
3 Crane Court
Fleet Street
London EC4A 2EJ

Tel: (01) 353 1125/6/7

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

SHQ

SHQ has had a big change round over the last couple of months. First of all the 2IC **Capt Craig McColville** was detached to the British Contingent of the International Peacekeeping Force in the Lebanon for three months. This meant OC Comms Tp, **Lt Nicky Thomas**, was promoted to 2IC causing the OC, **Maj Malcolm Emslie**, to go on a Free Fall Parachuting Course! Then a 'new SSM' was posted in, **WO2 (SSM) John Farrell** and the Squadron RQMS **WO2 Rod Gladwin** was posted out. So this meant the 'old SSM' **WO2 Geoff** (where's my posting) **Marshall** moved to the RQMS department causing the whole Squadron much confusion. Anyway we wish farewell to **WO2 Rod Gladwin** and his family and extend a warm welcome to **WO2 John Farrell** and his family.

SHQ Tp have also had a promotion, **Cpl Mark Bonham** is due shortly to leave the Squadron on promotion to **Sgt**. He is moving just up the road to (254 Sig Sqn) UNFICYP Sp Regt. We wish all the best to **Cpl Mark Bonham** and his wife **Babs**.

On the left the 'old SSM' WO2 Geoff Marshall handing over to the 'new SSM' WO2 John Farrell

COMMS TP
COMMCEN

The WRAC of Comms Tp have been very busy on the sports scene this summer. They combined with the wives to form Dhekelia Ladies Athletics team and swept the board by winning all of the league meetings. A special mention must go to both **Cpl Alison McClelland** and **Mrs Gill Geer** who put up excellent performances throughout the season.

The WRAC volleyball team is also doing very well having recently beaten the 1 Queens Lancashire Regiment team without 'bribing the ref'!

Several personalities have left the Commcen including **WO2 Eileen Hobson, Cpl's Jeannette Allen** and **Fran Forbes** and **Pte Ann Pollard**. New arrivals include **SSgt Joan Wilmot** and her trusty friend 'animal' and **Pte Deirdre Hughes**, both from 10 Sig Regt.

RADIO SECTION

A radio detachment made up of **LCpl Fred Steel, Keith Roach** and **Sig John Eccles** went back to school. They visited Dhekelia Primary School giving **Mr Frank Murray's** class a talk and practical demonstration on the equipment used by a Royal Signals radio detachment in Cyprus. After the talk it was hands on the kit.

L to R: Sig John Eccles, Cpl Keith Roach and LCpl Fred Steel looking very happy about 'going back to school'

SQUADRON BEACH BARBEQUE

On Friday 22 July the Squadron descended upon Golden Beach, Ayia Napa and took it over for the day. **Sgt Sandy Sanderson** started the ball rolling by organising the event, but then decided to fly home to England instead. Into the 'hot seat' stepped **SSgt Trev Jones**.

The day started quietly with umbrellas sprouting like mushrooms. **Cpl Mint Cobban** found driving on sand not so easy, got stuck, and blamed it on his wife **Mary**. Nice one Mint!

The Blitsa disco played away while the more energetic played volleyball or went to the kiddies tent and watched videos. For the more adventurous there were pedalloes and canoes.

Late in the afternoon **SSgt Trev Jones, Sgt Hadge Watkin** and **Sgt Graham Reith** did the honours on the bar-be-que, after which people started to doze. **Sgt 'Uncle Reg' Hall** decided to be King Canute until it was pointed out that there was no tide.

Then as dusk came the evening was spent dancing to the Blitsa disco which was a great success.

262 Sig Sqn enjoying the sun and the sand

266 Sig Sqn
(South Atlantic)

REMOTE DETACHMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Much work has been carried out over the last two months to improve the living accommodation of those deployed to the remote detachments on East and West Falklands. For very nearly a year, soldiers lived, slept and worked in one ISO container perched on the top of some remote hill. Now four man MODUS units have been air-lifted in and, under the expert do-it-yourself craftsmanship of **SSgt Dennis Glanvill** and **Sig Roy Bray,** extensions including rest room, kitchen and toilet have been built at four of the locations. Their work has now been taken over by **Cpl Michael Licence.**

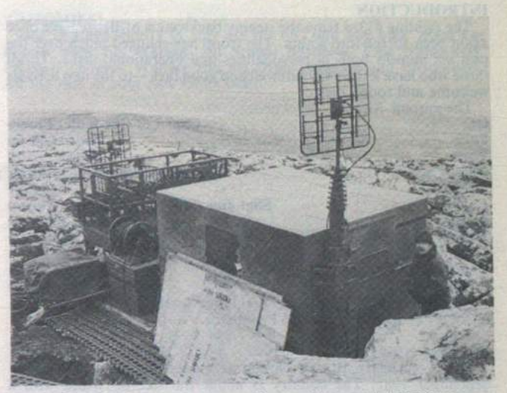
ISO container is on the left. MODUS container (on the right) has just been air-lifted in, ready for work to commence on the extension

To add to the luxury, **SSgt Vince McGarry** and **Cpl Brian Dom** of the Royal Engineers installed all the electrical fittings. Now the detachments eagerly await the Videos, Radios and Games packs. **SSgt McGarry**, as always, determined to see his job done missed his boat home and came precariously close to missing his flight. Our photograph shows him having to be handcuffed and led away from the Squadron.

'Goodbye McGarry' *L to R:* SSgt (FofS) Pete Braithwaite, Cpl Chris Ward, WO2 (FofS) Jim Hilton, Cpl Dave Leaning, SSgt Vince McGarry, Cpl Craig Allen and Cpl Rob Jenkinson

RESPONSIBLE JOBS—RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE

One of the advantages of a posting to the South Atlantic is the responsibility given to junior ranks. Having overcome the initial shock of finding no night life, discos and bars the new arrival finds himself thrown in at the deep end. Here, Corporals command detachments often some distance from civilisation and certainly at places inaccessible to landrovers carrying officers and the Sergeant Major!



Cpl Bill Medland surveys his newly installed Triffid

Detachment commanders are entitely responsible for all the operational and administrative requirements (with all the inherent problems of resupply) for periods of about two months. We reckon they then need a bath!

BASE RATS

Two key men of the Radio Relay Troop are **Cpl Roy Pledger** and **LCpl Jock Clancey**. Both are 'Mister Fix-its'. **Cpl Pledger** is responsible for ensuring that food, water, equipment and spares are collected together at Stanley and are ultimately delivered to the boys on the mountains. He is often heard muttering **'I'll speak to a mate'. LCpl Clancy** is the Squadron helicopter tasking coordinator. Neither have easy tasks. In fact both are applying to the Vatican for Sainthoods at the end of their tour. **Cpl Clancy's** work was rewarded by the Air Corps Squadron inviting him out personally to watch a live TOW firing exercise.

SHORE ACCOMMODATION

For those who have served in the Squadron—remember waiting for RCLs and CSBs? Well those days are over. By and large everyone is now comfortably accommodated in one of the new Coastal Ships or Look Out Rocks Camp. The Coastal is a floating hotel, complete with swimming pools, squash courts and a large gymnasium.

ELECTION DAY

Resulting from one of those conversation pieces which start 'Wouldn't it be nice if we had . . . ' a direct line, via the Satellite was installed under the direction of **WO2 (FofS) Jim Hilton**. This line connected the General News Service of the BBC direct to a teleprinter in the local Falkland Island studio. Since results of the election were being despatched by the GSN to news rooms 15 minutes before the summary bulletins were read out, it can be claimed that we knew the results before the general public in England.

CATTERICK REUNION—LINKED BY SATELLITE

On 25/26 June a live satellite was established with 30 Sig Regiment detachment on the playing fields at Catterick. Primarily intended as a link for our **Colonel in Chief** to send us a message, soldiers from within the Squadron were able to send personal greetings to friends and families in Catterick Garrison.

– News from Troops –

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

INTRODUCTION

The fighting 633rd from the steamy backwaters of Belize have once again been stirred into action. The troop has changed much over the past six months both in personalities and operational tasks. To all those who have left we say farewell and good luck—to the new arrivals welcome and tough luck.

The current XI are:

OC	**Capt Les (the mole) Plumb**
FofS	**Roger Gibson**
YofS	**Bernie Smith**
Admin SNCO	**SSgt Mick (the Para) Lumgair**
SQMS	**Sgt Kerr**
TX Site	**SSgt Jim (Stig of the Dump) Watson**
Syscon	**Sgt Ian Bemrose**
Tech Wksps Sgt	**Sgt Millington**
Chief Clerk	**Cpl (Mad Angus) Smith**
Commcen SNCO	**Sgt Noon**
Radio	**Sgt Beattie**

Not forgetting, of course, the longest serving member, of the Troop, **LCpl Pronto.**

FOCUS ON BELIZE

Belize, formerly British Honduras gained Independence on 21 September 1981. The country is about the size of Wales with a population of mixed ethnic groups totalling about 150,000, of which 60,000 live in the commercial capital of Belize City. British Forces Belize commanded by **Brig Pollard,** late R Anglian, are centered on Airport Camp (APC) next door to the only International Airport in Belize. The resident Infantry and other teeth arms are divided between Rideau in the south, Holdfast and APC in the north. The Troop is responsible for providing equipment for a secure HF rear link between the Battle Groups and APC and more recently a VHF net. The provision of a VHF net has meant that the Troop has had to deploy a Rebro into the Mountain Pine Ridge area of Belize.

Cpl Sid 'Porky' Holderness, LCpl Morgan and **Sig Allen** have recently taken over the manning of the Rebro from **Cpl Ian McKay** and **Sig Pearson** and **'Sting' Fowler.** The resident ED and master of all trades **LCpl Terry Taylor** has been replaced by **LCpl 'K9' Pronto,** the expert ratter. No offence meant **Terry.**

Commcen Belize is very busy handling up to 450 messages a day. The three shifts work a nine day cycle and in addition to trade work become involved in airport camp defence, hurricane and military training exercises. New arrivals spend much of their tour in the commcen and workshop areas although for the operators there is a transfer to the Radio Section after mid tour leave in USA, Mexico or Costa Rica. A new task for the commcen ops is the HF radio op for the adventure training centre at St Georges Caye. Sun, surfing, sailing and sub-aqua combined with the occasional radio schedule enable old sweats like **Cpl 'Barny' Barnett** to panic tan prior to leaving Belize.

The facilities for trade training are limited and much has to be done in individuals spare time. Recent successes and congratulations go to **Cpl Scouse Bottomley** on his selection for Pot YofS training after six weeks intensive morse training, and to **Cpls Wallace** and **Roberts** on passing their T1 entrance. **Sgt Scottie Reynolds** leaves in July to attend RSSSC before going on his YofS course at Blandford in October.

April saw the introduction of a new Monarch electronic exchange. It was a sad day for the Belize Defence Force (BDF) but a happy one for the Techs when the old 'Clockwork' exchange was handed over to the BDF. She had served the Force well for 20 years but her heart was weak and she fell silent shortly before the new one was installed. **Sgt Jones** handed over the control panel to **Cpls Raffles Ingram** and **Kiwi Marshall** who are still trying to play 'mastermind' with the computer. No chance of either of them winning at the moment.

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

During his visit to Belize, Commander 1 Signal Group **Col M. Marples OBE,** visited the Troop. After meeting many new faces and **Sgt Scottie Reynolds** yet again, **Col Marples** presented the **LS&GC** to **Sgt Morgan Davies** and Falkland Island medals to **LCpl 'Taff' Jarvis** and **Sig Holden.**

Sgt Davies receives his LS&GC

LCpl Jarvis and Sig Holden being presented with their Falkland Islands medals by Comd 1 Sig Gp

Following a curry lunch, where he met all of the troop seniors, **Col Marples** met a visiting aerial riggers team who were busy instructing members of the troop in 80ft mast erection and collapse, in preparation for the Hurrican Season. Led by **Cpl Riach** from 21 Sig Regt, the team consisted of **Sig Bragg,** also from 21, **Sig Hayles** from 13 Sig Regt and **Sig Green** from 4 ADSR. The team inspected all troop mast and antennae systems working extremely hard in temperatures of 85 degrees Faranheit and above. Well done lads.

MILITARY TRAINING

Apart from the periodic defence exercises the troop undergoes physical and military training periodically. Occasionally this leads to members of the troop joining 2 Para on jungle patrol. **Cpl Kiwi Marshall** frustrated at losing mastermind yet again disappeared into the jungles of Toledo District for 7 days.

In a recent March and Shoot competition the troop did exceedingly well and came first, beating four other Units from within APC. After an initial inspection where the OC forgot yet again to clean his boots, the team set off over a five mile tab across swamp and road to Salt Creek Ranges where they doubled down to 100 metres and fired GPMG and SLR at targets and falling plates respectively. The gun team of **Cpl Thomas** and **Sig Smith** scored a maximum 50 out of 50 and the rifle team of **Capt Les Plumb, YofS Bernie Smith, Sgt Ian Bemrose, Cpl Bob Martin, LCpls Davies Williams, Rahman, Sig Jackson** and **Taylor** killed the plates in the fastest time. Well done the team.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **ASgt Reynolds, Cpl Shipton** and **Chalkie White** for being selected for promotion. Congratulations also to **Sgt Noon** and **LCpls Bolam, McCarthy, Marshall** and **Davies Williams** on gaining promotion on their arrival in Belize.

SPORTS

The departure of many of the seasoned players from the Troop Rugby and Football teams has greatly affected our success rate. The arrival of new blood recently, will ensure that the teams do well.

'GOZOMIES'

Due to leave shortly in July are the OC **'old and bold' Capt Les Plumb, SSgt Jim Watson, Sgt Scottie Reynolds, Cpls Holderness, Phillips, Thomas, Wallace** and **Sig Orme, Pearson** and **Richardson.** All the best in your new Units lads.

Queen's University OTC B.F.P.O. 801

LAKELAND '82

Report by S. J. L. Phillips

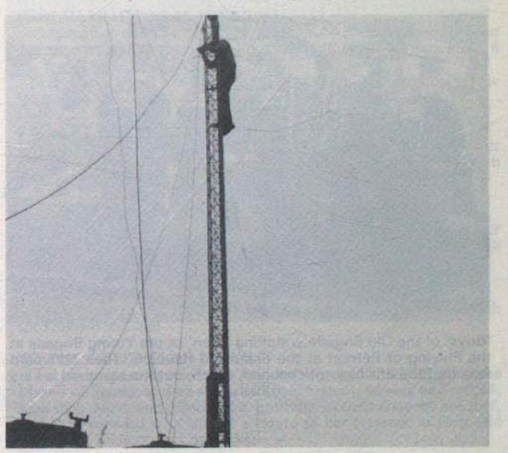
During 1982, Scouting celebrated its 75th Anniversary, and to commemorate this, the Northern Ireland Scout Council, decided to host an International Camp at Castle Archdale, in Co. Fermanagh.

The Camp, the result of many years planning, was to be co-ordinated by **Mark Scott,** a local man and former members of the Irish Rangers TA. This inevitably led to Forces involvement in the Camp, and the OTC was asked to contribute by supplying radio communications for the safety of the scouts on their Hikes and Island Survival tasks.

Lakeland's nerve centre

On 27 July, some twelve members of the Corps, including an immigrant from Edinburgh OTC, set off to Fermanagh to undertake this task. On arrival, we immediately recognised the military style of tenting, etc., and on reporting to the Headquarters, we found **Mark Scott** being fitted for a Scout uniform, answering the telephone and dealing with people's queries, all at once! We soon sorted out the important issues, such as where to sleep and eat, and then decided to set up our Base Station. After several attempts by our more agile members to scale the walls and roof of the HQ building, we admitted defeat and put our antenna on a mast behind the building. Finding somewhere to put our radios and Base Station caused a little more hassle, but after a day we occupied an 'office' beside the main control room. This had only one minor disadvantage, in that the room was already occupied by several families of young swallows, and we cordoned off certain areas of the floor as Danger and No-Go Areas!

We had two tasks to undertake for this Camp. The first was to provide the Safety Net for the Hike, which took place along the Ulster Way, in Lough Navar Forest. Most of the time was spent trying to ensure that the correct numbers of scouts that started at one end duly



Oh Dear! Which one is ours?

finished at the other and didn't get lost in between. With hindsight, I hate to think what would have happened, if our Clansman hadn't worked so well. Secondly, we also provided an operator for the Island Survival task on Lusty More Island. Again this was needed in case of an emergency, which luckily did not arise, although on some mornings it took the assault craft two or three hours to find the island in the fog!

Both these tasks took up most of our working time, but I soon discovered that certain members of our team had managed to become acquainted with members of a Glengormley Venture Scout Unit, notably members of the opposite gender to themselves! Enough said!

We had many important visitors during the Camp, and although we kept a fairly low profile, the Commander Land Forces, did pay us a brief visit.

Another of our activities, of a more sporting nature, was a volleyball challenge match against the 'Sailors', a group of degenerates employed by the Dept of Education to take the Scouts boating, etc. It is with regret that I must report that we lost, even after practising our newly learnt skills from Annual Camp.

The Camp ended on 6 August, and after saying our goodbyes to all, we were presented with Lakeland '82 badges, and 'The Lakeland Challenge Award', and so ended a very enjoyable ten days.

Those taking part were:

Steven Phillips, Janet Carsons, David Lyttle, John-George Willis, Janet Roberts, Gary McMullan, Alan Davidson, Alan Magee, John Coalter, Philip Doskett, Colin McCourt and from Bonnie Scotland **'Mo' (Maureen) McCormack.**

BLANDFORD REUNION

The Catterick Reunion features prominently in this issue and we report briefly the other most significant event in the Association's annual calendar. In so doing, we express our most sincere thanks to The Commander, School of Signals and the many components of The School and Blandford Garrison—and our superb Corps Band—who made the Blandford Reunion on 15 May a day to remember.

'Boys' of the Old Brigade watching 'Men' of the Young Brigade at the Playing of Retreat at the Blandford Reunion. Their comment was that the drill has not changed, much, but the standard is very high

10 of our Association Branch Standards were 'On Parade' during the Playing of Retreat at the Blandford Reunion. The Standard Marshal is SSgt G. Pickard MSM

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON SATURDAY 25 JUNE 1983

PRESENT

Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB, Chairman; **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO**, Immediate Former Master of Signals and President; **Brig I. O. J. Sprackling OBE**, Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison; **Col L. W. Wright TD DL**, Vice-Chairman; **Brig P. J. Evans CBE**, Vice-Chairman; **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**, General Secretary and some 247 Members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the meeting by extending a special welcome to **Gen Bradley**. He went on to thank **Brig Sprackling**, his staff and the many components of the Training Group and Catterick Garrison who do so much to make the Reunion so memorable and enjoyable.

MINUTES OF THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were approved unanimously by a show of hands and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRANCHES

I am happy to report the establishment of the Poole Branch and sad to record the closure of the Affiliated Branch of the 3rd Holding Battalion Reunion Club. We have varying advice on the status of the Exeter Branch so I can state, with certainty, that we are based on 62 Branches if we exclude, and 63 Branches if we include Exeter.

GEOGRAPHIC AFFILIATIONS WITH THE SERVING CORPS

At the Branch Representatives Meeting in April, I drew attention to a map which presented the regimental recruiting areas throughout the United Kingdom. In my opinion, it is important that our branches establish a link with the Regiment concerned. I urged Branches to take the initiative by writing to 'their Regiment' offering to help in supporting any Recruiting effort which the unit may be planning. Nothing but good can come from a strong link between a Branch and a Regiment of the Corps.

RECRUITING

The Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief asked the Association to help in guiding suitable young men or women into the Corps and the General Secretary has forwarded copies of **Brig Westlake's** letter to all Branches. The Corps is looking to the Association for a real practical response in this vital area and I look to all Branches and Members to respond. The Chairman offered a bottle of whisky to the Branch who first recruited someone into the Corps during the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP

We have gained some 131 new Life Members and 25 Annual Members, through Branches, during the year. I, also, report with regret the known death of some 103 Members. Amongst these were **Maj 'Mac' McQuade** and **Mr 'Tiger' Hart** (both West London Branch). You will recall that **Maj McQuade** and **Mr Hart** were made Honour Members a year ago. **Mr Alex Walsh** who many of you knew well as a member of the Association Headquarters Staff until his retirement in January 1981 sadly also died on 14 June.

BENEVOLENCE

During 1982 some 835 Benevolent grants were made to individuals whose distress merited financial assistance. The expenditure involved was some £66,100. (Some 738 grants expended £56,400 in 1981). We also despatched some 357 clothing parcels during the year. (474 in 1981).

Miss Margaret Cook, our Senior welfare Officer and her Deputy, **Mrs Doris Ward**, coped well with a busy and demanding year.

FINANCE

Our accumulated funds at the end of 1982 were some £470,300 against £408,300 the year previously. The book value of our investments were some £394,700 with a market value of some £716,100. (£376,400-£586,400 in 1981). This is a very healthy situation which owes much to the outstanding support which the Association derives from the serving Corps. During 1982, we received some £151,000 under the One Days Pay Scheme and I wish to place on record our most sincere appreciation and thanks for this magnificent support.

THE WIRE

The subscription rates for our Corps magazine, The Wire, have been kept at their present level since 1978. The production and distribution costs rise and the subsidy in 1982 was £19,995.

REUNIONS

Our two most successful Reunions in 1982 and the Falklands Reception at Blandford involved expenditure of some £10,400. Your Central Committee decided in November that subscription rates payable by Members attending Reunions should be increased to partially match the increasing costs, particularly catering. The last review was in 1978.

MEMORIALS

The New Memorial Chapel at Catterick will be dedicated at our Reunion Service tomorrow morning. I attended the dedication of the Memorial Porch at Blandford in November.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The accumulated funds of the Officers Benevolent Fund were merged with those of our main Benevolent Fund on 1 January 1983. The War Memorial Fund is now closed.

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

You all know, from the Press and The Wire, of the immensely successful visits of **The Princess Anne** to the Corps at home and overseas. And, of course, how proud and delighted we are that **Her Royal Highness** is to be with us tommorrow.

STAFF

Mrs Moira Mason succeeded **Miss Margaret Cook** as our Senior Welfare Officer in April. Otherwise the small staff of the Association HQ is unchanged from a year ago. I conclude by congratulating the General Secretary and them for all they do in furthering the objects of our Association.

THOSE SERVING ON COMMITTEES

I would, also, like to record my thanks and appreciation of the work accomplished by all of you who serve on any of the many Association Committees from the Weekly Welfare Committees, the Central Committee, to those responsible for the running of the many Branches of the Association throughout the country.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Mr S. C. Hawker (Cotswold Branch) asked if the reduction in Bank Deposit Interest for 1982 compared with 1981 was due to the high current account balance reflected in the accounts. The Chairman explained that the reduction was due, primarily, to reducing interest rates payable by the Bank in 1982 compared with 1981. The General Secretary went on to state that the high balance at 31 December 1982 was not a reflection of the amount maintained as a balance in the account throughout the year.

Mr S. C. Hawker (Cotswold Branch) proposed that the audited accounts of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 1982 be approved. The proposal was seconded by **Maj R. O. Edwards** (Leeds branch) and approved unanimously by a show of hands. (The accounts are shown on pages 516 and 517).

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 & Treasurer:	**Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB** (Re-election)
Vice-Chairman:	**Col L. W. Wright TD DL** (Re-election)
Vice-Chairman:	**Brig P. J. Evans CBE** (Re-election)
TA Representative:	**Col W. J. C. Foster TD** (Re-election)
Zone 'A' Representative:	**Mr M. E. Harper** (Scarborough Branch)
vice:	**Maj F. G. Bolam** (York branch)

PROGRAMME FOR 26 JUNE 1983

A statement was made by **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Stevenson** bearing on the presentations to the Colonel-in-Chief in the WOs & Sgts Mess, 8 Sig Regt on 26 June.

WO1 (RSM) T. J. Friend explained matters of detail bearing on the march to Church, the Reunion Service and the March Past.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE

Mr F. Dyson (Oldham Branch) presented a Branch plaque for display in Association Headquarters. The Chairman received this with an expression of thanks to the Members of the Oldham Branch.

CITY OF LONDON BRANCH

In response to a query, the Assistant to the General Secretary explained that the City of London Signals OCA Branch was an affiliated Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

The Chairman read the following texts of telegrams exchanged with the Colonel-in-Chief

TO THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

'As we prepare to celebrate 'Princess Royal Day' on 28 June, the Master of Signals and all ranks of Royal Signals, serving and retired, send their warm and affectionate greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief, and look forward with special pleasure to her presence at their Old Comrades Reunion in Catterick'.

FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE

'I was delighted to receive your kind message of loyal greetings on the occasion of 'Princess Royal Day' and would ask that you convey my best wishes to all members of my Corps wherever they are serving. I very much look forward to attending The Royal Signals Association Reunion on 26 June, at Catterick'.
ANNE
COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

REUNIONS 1984

In declaring the closure of the Annual General Meeting, **Gen Anderson** advised Members that the dates for the 1984 Reunions would be as follows:

BLANDFORD — Sunday 13 May
CATTERICK — Saturday/Sunday 30 June/1 July
(After note by General Secretary)

A letter was received from the son of **Mr G. T. Clarke** (Newcastle Branch) advising those attending the Annual General Meeting that his father had died on 20 June 1983. **Mr Clarke**, who lived in Hexham, Northumberland attended the Catterick Reunion regularly.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet — 31 December 1982

1981				
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
		Listed (market value £716,139		
376,470		1981 - £586,468)		394,718
		Unlisted - Royal Signals Association		
5		Trustee Limited		5
376,475				394,723
4,960		LOANS TO SERVING SOLDIERS		1,810
		CURRENT ASSETS		
		Stock at lower of cost or		
6,835		net realisable amount	5,794	
7,230		Sundry debtors and prepayments	9,486	
5,923		Income tax recoverable	7,380	
36,746		Deposit accounts at bank	54,503	
2,749		Current account at bank	10,288	
46		Cash	21	
59,529			87,472	
		LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
32,670		Sundry creditors and accrued charges	13,651	
26,859		NET CURRENT ASSETS		73,821
£408,294				£470,354
		Represented by:		
408,294		ACCUMULATED FUND		470,354
		CHAIRMAN AAG Anderson		
		SECRETARY RL Murray		
		18 April 1983		
£408,294				£470,354

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

We have audited the accounts in accordance with approved Auditing Standards.

In our opinion, the accounts which have been prepared under the historical cost convention give, under that convention, a true and fair view of the state of the Fund's affairs at 31 December 1982 and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

PRICE WATERHOUSE
Chartered Accountants — 18 April 1983

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1982

1981				
		GENERAL FUND		
		INCOME		
32,492		Investment income		39,332
4,030		Bank deposit interest		3,158
355		Subscriptions		232
62		Receipts from branches		57
29		Sundry income		269
36,968		TOTAL INCOME		43,048
		LESS: EXPENDITURE		
14,887		Contribution to costs of publications	19,995	
7,643		Administration expenses	22,941	
1,208		Pensions to former employees	1,353	
-		Falklands Reception	3,514	
4,359		Cost of Association Reunions	6,839	
28,097				54,642
8,871				(11,594)
5,356		Profit on sale of investments		56,036
14,227		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		44,442
1,844		ADD EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR BENEVOLENT FUND		17,618
16,071				62,060
392,223		ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY		408,294
£408,294		ACCUMULATED FUND CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER		£470,354

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1982

1981				
		BENEVOLENT FUND		
		INCOME		
	21,592	Receipts from Corps Fund: Officers		24,452
	112,448	Other ranks		124,613
	134,040			149,065
		Donations:		
1,369		Individuals and local branches	2,845	
1,223		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	4,242	
	2,592			7,087
	809	Benevolent grants refunded		1,105
	137,441	TOTAL INCOME		157,257
		EXPENDITURE		
	44,500	Benevolent grants		56,073
	15,909	Royal Signals Games Club grant		17,246
	10,000	Royal Signals Yacht Club grant		2,632
	-	Memorial Chapel and Porch		3,530
		Donations:		
34,000		Army Benevolent Fund	35,000	
11,755		Other	4,345	
	45,755			39,345
	2,635	Convalescent Holidays		3,317
		Administration Expenses:		
14,241		Salary costs	15,098	
720		Pension for former employees	888	
820		Postage of Welfare parcels	222	
1,017		Sundry expenses	1,288	
	16,798			17,496
	£1,844	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		£17,618

Notes to the Accounts — 31 December 1982

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(1) Income from investments

Dividend and other investment income is included only to the extent to which it has actually been received and no income other than interest on deposits is accrued. Franked income includes imputed tax credits.

(2) Investments

Investments are carried at cost and no provision for any shortfall between market value and cost is made unless there has been a permanent impairment of value.

The market value of investments is based on the middle market value prevailing on the balance sheet date. The market value of investments listed overseas is translated at rates of exchange at the balance sheet date.

(3) Pensions

The Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund provides pensions for certain of its employees and former employees. The pensions are provided by single premium payments to the Life Assurance Society to purchase annuities for the pensioners and supplementary payments by the Fund. These premium and supplementary payments are charged against income in the year in which the payments fall due.

2 On 1 January 1983 the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund and the Royal Signals Officers' Benevolent Fund were merged to form the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by W. L. Grandsome (Hon Sec)

After a crash course on 'Phyllosan' and 'Best Bitter' our aged, and overwrought reporter has been able to meet the dreaded twelve day deadline with this vignette.

At the Branch AGM held at Burniston Barracks last April some thirty five members attended. The election of Branch Officers was expedited by simply returning the old firm 'en bloc'. The President, **Maj (Rtd) Wilf Richardson** gave a commendable address, in which, after touching on Branch matters, he went on to applaud the philosophy of the bonding together of all elements of Royal Signals, Regular service, Territorial, and the RSA, to the advantage of the Corps. He said that this Branch had always been closely integrated with Regular serving members Royal Signals, and visiting Territorial units, and we had benefited and flourished with this arrangement. Immediately after the AGM a 'Bring and Buy' sale organised by the ladies was off to a flying start (the trick is to bring it all back to the next sale; many do!). The evening was rounded off by an excellent curry buffet provided by the CO **Lt Col A. S. R. Alfred MBE R SIGNALS.**

Lt Col Alfred left early in July to take up an appointment in the south of England. He will be succeeded by **Lt Col B. Cleaver, R SIGNALS. Col Alfred** has been in command at Burniston Barracks for the past six years, and during that time he has given the Scarborough Branch RSA unstinted support and sound advice, and has provided many outstanding social occasions. To show our appreciation for his service to the Branch he and his wife **Marjorie** were entertained to dinner at the 'Briar Dene' hotel last May. By sheer good fortune **Lt Col B. Cleaver** who was on a preliminary visit to Burniston Barracks was also able to attend the function. Other special guests were **SSgt Bill Chubb,** and his wife **Jan. Bill,** a member of the permanent staff at the Barracks, has now retired from the Army. He has settled in Scarborough, which means the Branch has acquired an old/new member. After a first class dinner, the Branch Vice-President, **Mr J. Simpson** paid tribute to the generous support **Col Alfred** had given the Scarborough Branch during his tenure at Burniston Barracks, and on behalf of us all he wished **Alan** and **Marjorie** all happiness, and good fortune in their new home. The Branch Chairman **Mr H. Harper** then presented **Col Alfred** with a specially commissioned panorama picture of Scarborough, and the Secretary **Mr Bill Grandsome** presented **SSgt Bill Chubb** with a Tantalus.

Lt Col A. S. R. Alfred being presented with a panorama picture of Scarborough by Mr H. Harper

Congratulations to our Chairman **Mr M. E. (Harry) Harper** on being appointed to Zone 'A' representative.

The Scarborough Branch members who attended Catterick '83 wish to congratulate all concerned, at Association HQ and Catterick Garrison for a most happy, and superb occasion. Thank you.

FORMER PENSIONERS

Our thanks are due to our Regimental Pay Office, Taunton, who have reported the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

01982964	Cpl. G. T. Clarke
02751608	Sig C. A. Hadden

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by E. W. Vigurs, Esq

Attendance is still very good at our monthly meetings, and there is no shortage of volunteers to make the numbers up for social activities. On Saturday evening, 18 June, a party of 30, plus **Dave Greenbrook,** Assistant to the General Secretary, paid a visit to HM Tower of London at the invitation of **Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake,** an ex Corps member, who gave us a most interesting conducted tour. This was followed by a very pleasant time in the Yeoman Warders' Club where **Alan's** wife **Joan** provided us with a welcome buffet. A fine evening was enjoyed by all.

Ten of us made the trip to Catterick for the Annual Reunion on 25 June, and even those who did not meet **HRH The Princess Anne,** were delighted to be there. Your scribe was a little disappointed at not finding any of his comtemporaries. Where were you heroes of early 1927? Still the weekend was so enjoyable we are determined to make it again next year. Catterick, we thank you for your hospitality and look forward to our next visit.

Finally, our thanks are due to the Ladies Section of the Branch who organised a most successful Spring Fayre on 21 May, which has boosted Branch Funds considerably.

— Sport —

GOLF

ROYAL IRISH RANGERS BOWL - 1983

Report by Maj Harry Meekings

For the first time, the Royal Irish Rangers Bowl was held at the Catterick Golf Club over the 31 May to 2 June 1983. As we all know if there is any bad weather about Catterick will normally have its fair share of it. So it proved to be, for when the teams arrived on the Wednesday the course was closed for the day. The Secretary of Catterick Golf Club, **Maj Jim Telford** and his staff, had made a big effort to ensure that the course was at its best but with all the bad weather prior to the event, time was against them. However, all the players highly praised the course over the two day event, for the excellent greens and the difficulty of the course and all look forward to the next time they visit Catterick and hope for better weather.

It was a very disappointed Secretary of the Army Golf Association, **Maj Don Reed,** when he had to announce that four teams had withdrawn from the competition, the Infantry, RAPC, RAEC and RA. Therefore the draw was a bit light in the bottom half but the committee decided to let the draw stand. This gave the Corps Team a bye in the first round. In the second round the Corps were against the Sappers and although our team won all four games the Sappers never gave up and fought all the way to the eighteenth.

RESULTS

CORPS		RE
SSgt C. Carveth	2—0	LCpl A. J. Brownrigg
Capt L. Yates	4—0	Spr N. Bloomfield
Maj H. Meekings	3—0	Sgt M. Stubley
Maj W. Brewin	2—0	Lt Col. M. Hill

Win 11—0

The following day our opponents were the REME but the main feature of this round was that it was played in a heavy mist. The Corps team again played very steadily and some good scores were made by **SSgt C. Carveth** with a 69 and **Maj Harry Meekings** 71.

RESULTS

CORPS		REME
SSgt C. Carveth	7—0	LCpl D. Spilles
Capt L. Yates	3—0	SSgt P. Hague
Maj H. Meekings	5—0	Maj R. Spilles
Maj W. Brewin	3—0	SSgt B. Hughes

Win 18—0

In the final we met the previous years' winners of the R.I.R. Bowl, the RAOC. In the first match **SSgt Chris Carveth** met this year's Army Champion, **Cpl Ian Grey.** After a very tense match and both scoring a 71, par for the course their game was all square. Our number two, **Capt Len Yates,** again put in another steady round and squared his match. The third member **Maj Harry Meekings** played a steady game with him and his opponent making eight birdies between them in the course of the round, unfortunately it was five, three against him and he went down by two holes.

The last match had **Maj Willie Brewin** playing against **WO1 John Kierney,** who has a handicap of seven. On the thirteenth green he was asked how he was playing, 'Oh I'm playing rather well, I am one over par, however, I'm five down. My opponent is four under'. So the match ended with **Kierney** scoring a gross 68, three under par, with **Willie Brewin** unable to match such a fine score. Although the Corps had lost, the team had played some very steady golf.

RESULTS

CORPS		RAOC
SSgt C. Carveth	0—0	Cpl I. Gray
Capt L. Yates	0—0	SSgt D. Kelley
Maj J. Meekings	0—2	Maj A. Swindley
Maj W. Brewin	0—6	WO1 J. Kierney
Lost	0—8	

NEWSLETTER No. 4

CORPS V RCT

It is always a delight to play The Royal Corps of Transport and especially to play them at Blackmoor Golf Course. After all the bad weather that has been with us, it was nice to see clear skies and the sun. So June proved to be successful for the Conservatives as well as the Corps Golf Team.

The morning singles were led by **Maj Harry Meekings** against **Maj Derek Moorcroft** with **Meekings** being four down after nine holes. However, some steady play produced a win at the seventeenth, but only just. Two notable wins in the morning came from **Col Don Fairman** and **Lt Col Roy Williams** with a margin of 6/4 and 6/5. Other triumphant wins came from **Lt Col Stan Schofield,** 3/2 and **Sgt Jim Lander** 2 up. But the most talked about game was from **Brig Jack Westlake** with his opponent complaining of the Brigadier sinking three putts of over 30 foot. As he was heard to say 'That's not funny'.

With six wins in the morning, the pressure was taken off the Corps for the afternoon foursomes, two further wins came from the partnerships of **Schofield, Williams** and **Fairman, Westlake.**

An enjoyable day's golf was had by all and we all look forward to next year's match against the RCT.

RESULTS

SINGLES

CORPS	V	RCT
Maj H. A. C. Meekings	1 v 0	Maj D. Moorcroft
Lt Col S. Schofield	1 v 0	Capt D. Hagenbuch
Sgt J. Lander	1 v 0	WO11 J. Parry-Jones
Lt Col R. Williams	1 v 0	Maj T. Rees
Col. D. Fairman	1 v 0	Capt D. McDougall
Lt Col G. MacKay	0 v 1	Maj A. Turnbull
Brig A. Willcox	0 v 1	Col A. Watson
Brig J. Westlake	1 v 0	Maj W. Fisher
	6—2	

FOURSOMES

Meekings — Lander	0 v 1	Moorcroft — Hagenbuch
Schofield — Williams	1 v 0	Parry-Jones — Rees
MacKay — Willcox	0 v 1	Turnbull — McDougall
Fairman — Westlake	1 v 0	Watson — Fisher
	2—2	

Win for the Corps 8 — 4

ROYAL SIGNALS V RAPC

Report by Maj R. Windmill

At long last a warm sunny day for a golf match against our rivals in the RAPC at the new venue of Tyrrells Wood near Leatherhead in Surrey. **Lt Col Roy Williams** was the first to arrive so the early bird tells me. He allowed two hours to travel from Aldershot — the time the rest of us allowed from Salisbury and Winchester—he was early the rest of us were nearly all late! But no matter at Tyrrells Wood we were the only players around.

I, as Corps Captain having decided on singles in the morning and four ball better ball in the afternoon asked **Roger Key** to brief us on the course. From no other authority than the AA book itself we were told about this gently undulating parkland course—next he will tell us that Wales is flat! The course was a delight, nothing of any length but with well guarded beautiful greens, approached from well turfed fairways. The trees and sloping fairways made the line from tree to green all important. The matches soon got underway with **WO1 Ian Slieghtholm** taking on the ex-Army Champion **Maj Richard Drake.** Although he lost, with **Richard** on form this year, **Ian** did very well to keep the catch as close as he did.

We soon returned and tucked into a good lunch improved by our one point lead. The scores had been very low so we expected a hard fight in the afternoon matches. I think everyone had to work hard for their win, I known our double did, as it took birdies to win the holes. When I could not get a birdie or blew up in the attempt **Doug Burt** was always there to secure the half.

We took three of the four afternoon matches which gave the Corps a 7½ — 4½ win going into tea and the 19th.

RESULTS

SINGLES

CORPS	V	RAPC
WO1 I Slieghtholm	0 v 1	Maj Drake (5/4)
SSgt R. Key	0 v 1	Maj Law (1 up)
Lt Col S. Schofield (5/4)	1 v 0	WO1 Pilling
Maj R. Windmill (2 up)	1 v 0	Lt Col Younger
Lt Col R. Williams (4/2)	1 v 0	Maj White
Sgt J. Lander (3/1)	1 v 0	WO2 Oliphant
WO2 G. Coles	½ v ½	Capt Jones
Maj D. Burt	0 v 1	Maj Price (1 up)
	4½—3½	

FOURSOMES

CORPS	V	RAPC
Slieghtholm/Williams	0 v 1	Drake/White (4/2)
Key/Lander (3/1)	1 v 0	Law/Oliphant
Schofield/Coles (4/3)	1 v 0	Pilling/Jones
Windmill/Burt (6/4)	1 v 0	Younger/Price
	3—1	

Corps win by 7½—4½

ROYAL SIGNALS (LONDON BASED) V INTELLIGENCE CORPS (ASHFORD BASED)

A friendly match between a Royal Signals team (predominantly the Signals Directorate supported by that well known novice **Maj Harry Meekings**) versus an Intelligence Corps side (based on the Intelligence Centre at Ashford) was arranged for 30 June 1983 at Littlestone Golf Course on the Kent coast. After a long dry spell the day was initially remarkable with the wet weather limited to the South East corner of the country for the morning. Despite this the golf over a pleasantly challenging course was thoroughly enjoyable and some qualifying golf was achieved by the Signals team. Especially notable was the performance of a hard working AG11 rep, **Mike Galloway,** gazetted to **Lt Col** on the very day, who celebrated with a 6 and 5 victory. **Harry Meekings** was another with a fairly comfortable victory while **Major Don Reed** and **Lt Col Bill Kennedy** both won at the 17th. **Brig Jack Westlake** politely waited till the 18th before beating his host of the night before. A white wash of the opposition was diplomatically avoided by **Gavin MacKay** (the author) who succumbed gracefully to 2 and 1 loss to **John Healey** who rounded the morning off at 5 to 1 in Signals favour.

The afternoon matches were based on greensome type foursomes, the rain had stopped, the course dried out and there was no wind of the type one would expect on an exposed seaside course. Conditions were perfect for golf. Selection of the Signals team was by **Harry Meekings** who, perhaps anxious to avoid too much diplomacy partnered himself with the author and they went on to win 2 up. **Brig**

Jack Westlake and **Col Bill Kennedy** had the most comfortable win of the afternoon at 4 and 3. **Mike Galloway,** anxious not to seem too ungrateful, helped **Don Reed** to a 2 down loss to make the afternoon course 2 to 1 in Signals favour. All in all this was a thoroughly enjoyable day. The detailed results are shown below.

MORNING

Maj D. Reed (2/1)	**1 v 0**	**Maj J. Haynes**
Maj H. A. C. Meekings (4/3)	**1 v 0**	**WO2 I. Leithead**
Lt Col W. Kennedy (2/1)	**1 v 0**	**Maj N. Newell**
Lt Col M. Galloway (6/5)	**1 v 0**	**Lt Col J. D. Landolt**
Lt Col G. MacKay	**0 v 1**	**Maj J. Healey (1/2)**
Brig J. Westlake (1 up)	**1 v 0**	**Col A. K. Crawford**
	5—1	

AFTERNOON

Reed/Galloway (2 down)	**0 v 1**	**Haynes/Leithead (2 up)**
Meekings/MacKay (2 up)	**1 v 0**	**Healey/Landolt**
Kennedy/Westlake (4/3)	**1 v 0**	**Crawford/Newell**
	2—1	

Corps Win 7 — 2

SKIING

CORPS COLOURS FOR SKI-ING FOR 1983

The following have been awarded Corps colours for ski-ing for the 1982/83 season:

Honorary Award — **Maj Gerry Funnell,** HQ NORTHAG, Corps Ski Secretary since 1967.

Re-awards — **SSgt Gordon Townsley** 22 Sig Regt.
Cpl Pil Philemon 22 Sig Regt. Current Army Alpine Champion.
Cpl Percy Percival 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Paul Ford 1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sig Oggy Hogton 22 Sig Regt

Initial Awards — **Lt Des Maloney** 22 Sig Regt
Cpl Stan Sudron 22 Sig Regt
SSgt Bernie Temmen 1 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sig Neil Eardley 1 Armd Div Sig Regt

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ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1984

Stocks of the 1984 Corps diary are now available for sale. The diary is of a similar pattern to previous years. It is based on the modern slim-fold planner style. On opening, the day of the week runs across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance. The outer cover (6″ × 3½″) is in flexible blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1983, 1984 and 1985; listing of European holidays 1984; an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.10 for orders within the United Kingdom, and 95p for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

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In the RCT is embodied all the tradition and dedication to service that distinguished the RASC. Although in a sense this is the story of two Corps, the common thread that binds the two is the very best characteristics that have been passed from father to son. In presenting this story we remind the younger generation of the achievements of the RASC and we hope that the older generation who served with and loved the RASC will feel proud that their fine traditions are being continued.

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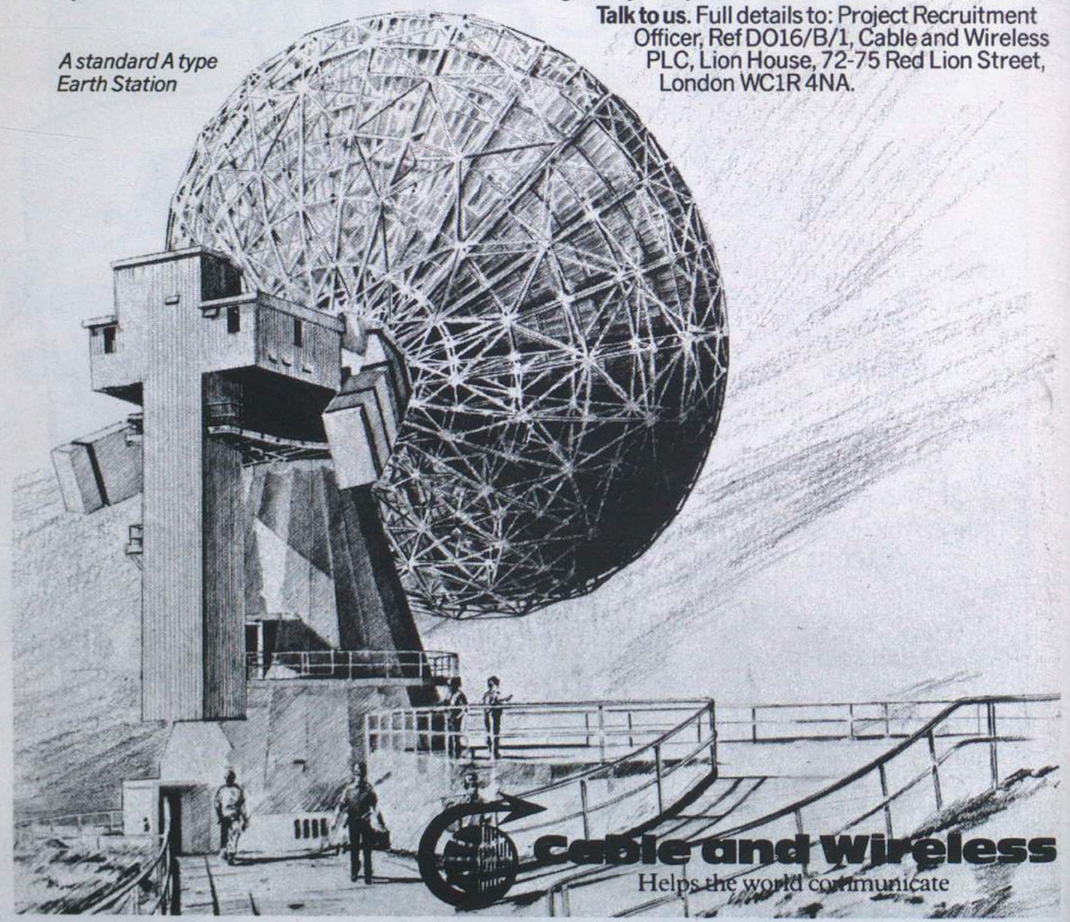

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in conjunction with COMBINED SERVICE PUBLICATIONS LTD, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR
Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)

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THE wire

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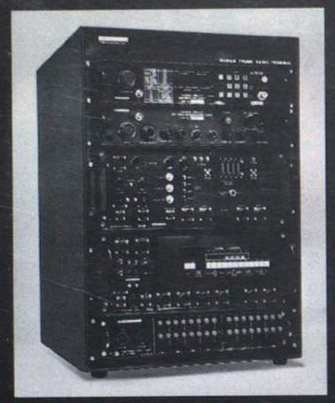

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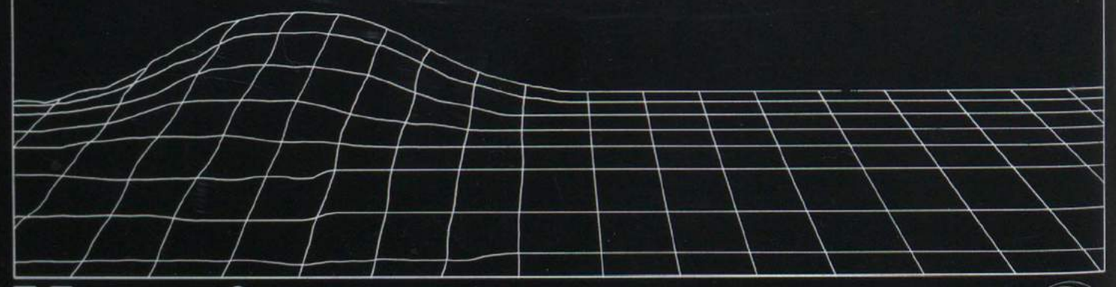

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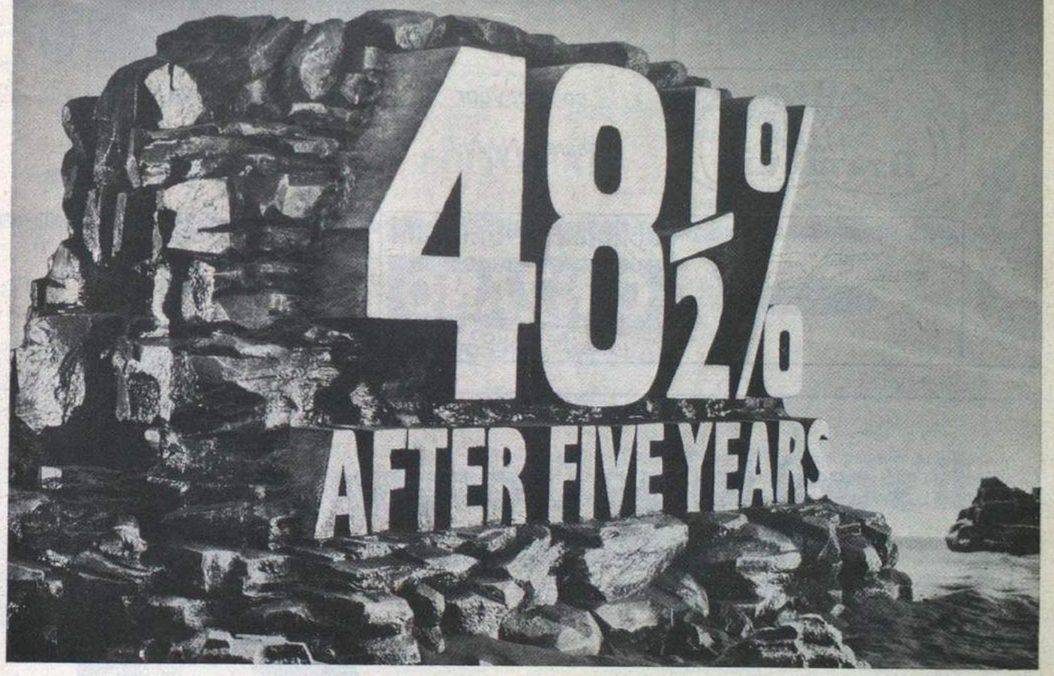

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The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association
November 1983 (New Series) Vol 37 No 6
Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
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All correspondence and matter for publication in THE WIRE should be addressed to THE WIRE, Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH. Tel No: Chelsea Mil. Ext 374 STD 01-930 4466. Ask operator for extension.

Matter for publication must be received by the 12th of the month preceding publication.

Subscription rates 1983 (Bi-monthly)
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov).
Individual: Yearly **£2.10**; Bi-monthly **35p**; Bulk (five or more copies): Yearly **£1.80**; Bi-monthly: **30p**
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EDITORIAL

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

Upon coming to the end of my first year as Master, it is a great pleasure to be able to use The Wire to send, on behalf of my wife and myself, our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and most successful New Year to all present and past members of the Corps and their families.

One of the highlights of the year was my visit to Northern Ireland where the professional approach of the Regular and TA Corps both at work and in sport is so well exemplified. I know that this is mirrored elsewhere in places which I look forward to visiting in due course. Meantime, my very best wishes for 1984.

. . . AND THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

After some six months in my appointment I have this welcome opportunity to send to you all and your families Christmas Greetings, from my wife and myself. In my early visits to the Corps I have been impressed by many things but perhaps the one thing above all others that has struck me is the friendliness and warmth of all ranks. The Corps is a big family with professional pride properly tempered by care and compassion—that is as it should be.

My visits so far have been enjoyable, interesting and, for a new SOinC, necessarily educational. Thank you and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the next two years. I feel very privileged to be selected to lead you at this exciting time in the development of the Corps. Keep up the splendid work wherever you may be. Enjoy life, have a very Happy Christmas and for all of us may it be a peaceful and successful 1984.

OUR COVER PICTURE

The results of the 1982/83 Tickle Skill at Arms Competition were a resounding success for 4th Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment. The Regiment were congratulated by the Army Rifle Association for their record win of some £550 out of a total prize money for the non-infantry competitions of £1,676. The Competition is run by the Army Rifle Association and may be fired in conjunction with the Annual Personal Weapon Test. The matches have been specially designed to provide a realistic competition for a large number of officers and soldiers throughout the Army, but with the minimum of administrative overheads. Matches can be shot anywhere in the world with umpires from another unit.

We are delighted to feature the team from Headquarters Squadron with their two trophies, The King Edward VII Cup and the Army Rifle Association Shield. Not only were they the most successful squadron team in the Regiment but this serves to emphasise the total integration of the many supporting cap badges in the efforts of the Corps.

The King Edward VII Cup was presented by the Sovereign in 1902 to the Militia Rifle Association, and is known as 'The King's Prize'. It was transferred in 1910 to the Army Rifle Association and is now awarded to the Other Arms and Service Minor Unit Champions. The cup is valued at £25,000 and sadly has to be secured in vaults because of the high insurance premiums! The Army Rifle Association Shield dates back to 1909 and is known as The Company Match Shield "At Home". It is presented to the runners-up in the Other Arms and Service SMG Match and this is the first occasion that it has been won by a unit of the Corps.

(BACK)

Cpl Lock (RAMC)	**Cpl Sanders** (RCT)	**Sgt Webb** (RAPC)	**Sgt Stone** (R SIGNALS)	**SSgt Dougan** (RE)	**LCpl Kee** (R SIGNALS)

(CENTRE)

Cpl Ridley (R SIGNALS)	**Pte Johnston** (RPC)	**Cfn Hart** (REME)	**Bdr Twohigg** (RHA)	**Sgt Caswell** (RAMC)	**Gnr McDonald** (RA)	**LCpl Taylor** (ACC)

(FRONT)

SSgt Kent (RCT)	**WO2 Hardy** (RA)	**Lt Col A. F. Eastburn** (R SIGNALS) Commanding Officer	**Maj J. T. Morton** (SCOTS DG)	**Capt Humphreys** (RPC)	**SSgt Davison** (RPC)	**SSgt Collins** (REME)

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE WIRE FOR 1984

We are glad to advise our readers that the subscription rates for 'The Wire' are to be maintained at their present levels for 1984.

Our individual subscribers will recall that subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January. If you pay by 'Bankers Order' no action is needed.

Many of you, however, renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are in this category, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment, by 31 December 1983. We require to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful. CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS TO BE PAYABLE TO "ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS FUND", PLEASE.

The Editor,
The Wire,
Royal Signals Association,
Cheltenham Terrace,
Chelsea,
LONDON SW3 4RH

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THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF WITH 35TH (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Princess Anne opening Cateswell House, watched by the CO Lt Col Mike Louden

BACKGROUND

Saturday 1 October was the most important day in 35 Signal Regiment's life—a visit by our **Colonel-in-Chief** to open our new TA Centre in Sutton Coldfield, Cateswell House. The name was chosen because it was the name of the Centre used by 48 (South Midland) Signal Regiment before its move to Stoney Lane. Several months of detailed planning had taken place, involving such diverse agencies as the West Midlands Police, City of Birmingham Council House, HQ Western District and most important of all, RHQ Royal Signals. We would like to thank **Col John Francis** for all his advice and help.

ARRIVAL AND OPENING

We were initially expecting our Colonel-in-Chief to arrive by helicopter—up on a recce the week before. With 48 hours to go, the news was that **Princess Anne** would drive herself, thus, at just after 11am, a dark blue 3.5 Rover arrived at the Recruit Selection Centre barracks adjacent to Cateswell House. HRH was welcomed by the Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands **The Earl of Aylesford**, who presented the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Badcock**, the **SOinC Maj Gen Benbow**, Commander 11 Signal Brigade, **Brig Shapter**, our Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Haycock** and the ADC for the day **2Lt Helen James**. A short car ride brought the Royal entourage to Cateswell House where the CO **Lt Col Mike Louden** and several hundred members of the Regiment and their familes were waiting to greet the Colonel-in-Chief. After meeting the 2IC **Maj Richard Showell** and the RSM, **WO1 Gordon Scott, The Princess Anne** was shown a tableaux from each of our widespread Squadrons, by their own SSMs. The tableaux themes were the historical, geographic or civilian environment of each Squadron which for the uninitiated are; HQ Sqn Sutton Coldfield, 48 Sig Sqn Birmingham, 58 Sig Sqn Newcastle-under-Lyme, 89 Sig Sqn Rugby and 95 Sig Sqn Shrewsbury and Hereford. During the 58 Sig Sqn tableaux Her Royal Highness was presented with a Regimental Plate, specially made in the potteries, for the occasion. The formal opening of Cateswell House was then followed by a fanfare of trumpets from the 34th (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Band and the presentation of a bouquet by **Julia Kearney** daughter of **Sgt Mick Kearney** our ACC Sgt.

TOUR OF CATESWELL HOUSE

Her Royal Highness then commenced a tour of the facilities. She met members of the West Midlands TAVRA responsible for building the new TA Centre, then visited the QM stores and met **Capt Tony Jones** and several members of his 'empire'. Following this, she visited the kitchens where she met a number of the Regimental cooks busily preparing lunch. Next the Princess visited M Troop Workshops where **Maj John Wall, Foremen Ivan Thomas** and **Tony Jacklin** and a number of technicians demonstrated their skills and new repair facilities. Out in the vehicle yard, **HRH** met **WO1 (MTWO) Jim Crannage**, several drivers, and members of the LAD involved in the driver training, vehicle repair and maintenance. Our stripped down Land Rover had been revitalised and made roadworthy for the day. From the vehicle yard, **Princess Anne** went to the .22 Range where she shot against the Master, the SOinC and her Lady in Waiting using 7.62 rifles with heckler Koch conversions. A practice, held by both the Master and the SOinC the day before, paid off and good results were achieved by all. The tour ended with a splended Royal lunch in the Sgts Mess. Thanks to some excellent organisation by the RSM and his Mess Committee some 130 WOs, Sgts and their wives and guests sat down with The Princess. Help was on hand from the Catering Staff of District HQ and our own WRAC Clerks and DTgs supplemented our own Mess Staff. No one quite knows which stories our ex naval SSM from 58 Sig Sqn, **WO2 'Sailor' Ecclestone** told the Princess during lunch but the RSM passed them all as suitable.

The CO presenting WO1 (RSM) Gordon Scott to Princess Anne

Princess Anne watching driver training with an anxious MTWO WO1 Jim Crannage looking on. The SOinC and the CO have confidently taken one pace back

IN THE FIELD

After lunch the Royal entourage took the 20 minute car journey to Whittington ranges near Lichfield where Her Royal Highness first toured Switch C tactically sited in the trees bordering the Range. OC 48 Sig Sqn **Maj Brian Foxon** guided **Princess Anne** round his empire where she met and spoke to many members of the Squadron. This was followed by a visit to 89 Sig Sqn and Minor Commcen 4 where **Capt Paul Stafford** the Squadron's 2IC was the guide.

The main event then followed. It was a communications detachment race between teams from 58, 89 and 95 Squadrons. Each team produced a C70 radio relay vehicle, a CST 1+4 No. 3 multiplex vehicle and a line detachment. To ensure fair play and as little bending of the rules as possible **SSgt (YofS) Lou Stevens** was the judge. Following an exciting 'Le Mans' style start, the teams raced forward to positions in front of the Royal and families enclosures. There was then a rush to establish a telephone link from the multiplex vehicle via the cable laid across an imaginary road to the radio relay vehicle and thence to the Switch. Three lines had been previously laid from the Switch to a table in front of the Royal enclosure and a telephone labelled with the respective Squadron number. The first Squadron to establish communications and ring their telephone was 95 Squadron, although 58 Squadron had won during the rehearsal. The times for all three teams were very close and the winners were presented to the Princess, by **Sgt Ron Jones**.

The winning 95 Sqn team being congratulated by Capt John James

The finale was a visit to one of our REME detachments demonstrating the recovery of a land rover with their vintage Scammell. HRH was invited to drive this splendid old vehicle and confounded our recovery mechanic **Cpl Robert Finnigan** by bringing off some smooth gear changes.

An exclusive! Our Colonel-in-Chief driving the Scamell

The 58 Sqn detachment racing to establish their C70 radio relay link

The Princess talking to members of V Troop Capt Scott, Sig Green, Westwood and Burt

TEA AND THE BALL

The return trip to Cateswell House went as smoothly as all the other events, thanks to the willing cooperation of the West Midlands Police. Tea with about 80 soldiers and their families was a great success, thanks to more hard work by our Messing Officer **Capt Ivan Armstrong**. Her Royal Highness then had a brief respite from her gruelling programme when she went to the COs quarter to have a well earned break before the Ball. The Ball took place in the City of Birmingham Council House by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, **Councillor W. J. H. Sowton, MBE**. The glittering 19th century building was an ideal location for the event and after, several officers, their wives and guests had been presented to **Princess Anne**, we were treated to a sumptuous Dinner in the Banqueting Suite. The 34 Sig Regt Band provided some excellent entertainment and we danced in great style to 'Runcible Spoon'.

FAREWELL

Her Royal Highness took her leave of the CO, The Master and SOinC at the top of the Council House stairs before being escorted to her car by the Lord Lieutenant. During this hectic day some 235 officers, WO's and SNCOs, soldiers and their wives were presented to **Her Royal Highness** and all of them with all those who took part will long remember our Royal Day.

The Regiment is deeply gratefuly to **Her Royal Highness** for making the visit such a memorable occasion, which will prove an inspiration to us all in the months and years to come.

— From our "In" Tray —

WILKINSON SWORD OF PEACE PRESENTED TO H TROOP 13TH SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Wednesday 12 Oct, H Troop 13 Sig Regt were presented with the 1982 Wilkinson Sword of Peace. This award was first made by Wilkinson Sword Limited in 1966 and is presented annually to a unit from each of the three Armed Forces. The aim of the award is to recognise outstanding efforts by British units in fostering good relations in the territories and areas in which they are stationed.

For the record, this was the second time that the award has been made to a R. Signals unit but the first time that the sword has been presented to a BAOR unit for Anglo-German relations. The troop itself is a small isolated detachment situated near Dannenberg (Elbe) a town just a few kilometres from the Inner German Border and some 75 kms from Munsterlager—the nearest British Army Station. The unit consists of two officers and 45 soldiers together with wives and families.

Maj Gen B. L. G. Kenny presenting the Wilkinson Sword of Peace for 1982 to OC H Tp Capt A. Field

Brian Kenny talks to WO2 (SSM) David Hooks

Photographs by Sgt Slater, HQ 1 Armd Div

Since its formation in 1974, the troop has forged very close links with the local community and the award of the Sword of Peace is a reflection on the efforts of all those who have served in the unit. The results of all this hard work and enthusiasm have been out of all proportion to the size of the unit. Some of the ongoing joint activities include Football, Orienteering, Open Days Schutzenfests, and Shooting Competitions.

The Dannenberg Council generously allowed the use of the main square and the parade was held at 1130hrs on Wednesday 12 October. The Troop were led on by the band of the 14/20 Hussars and marched on flags flying, bayonets fixed and swords drawn. The Sword of Peace was then handed to GOC 1 Armd Div **Maj Gen B. L. G. Kenny CBE** by **Sir Ronald Ellis** of Wilkinson Sword.

Maj Gen Kenny then presented the sword to OC H Tp **Capt Andy Field.** The troop then marched past before proceeding to the Hotel Zur Post for the celebration lunch. Needless to say all the Troop's German friends were present, along with several previous members of the Troop, including **Maj Bob Axton** who entered the Troop for the award when he was the OC.

The Sword and the citation are now appropriately displayed in the Troop all ranks club. Following the excitement of the parade and the celebrations, the Troop is now returning to normal and the Friday morning drill parade on the car park has already become a thing of the past!

COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP VISITS CANADA

Commander Training Group visited the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics during July. Our photograph was taken when Brigadier Sprackling inspected the quaterguard provided by Operator Training Squadron (commanded by Maj (now Lt Col) Mike Payne Royal Signals, on exchange)

FALKLANDS PAINTING

All signed prints of the picture depicting the Corps at San Carlos, published on page 413 in the September issue, have now been sold. Unsigned copies are still available from 30th Signal Regiment.

SGT STEVE JACKSON — WORLD CHAMPION

'While athletes Daley Thompson and Steve Cram snatch front page headlines for their world beating triumphs, the achievements of canoeists **Stephen Jackson** and **Alan Williams** have gone almost unnoticed.'

This was how the first paragraph of the front page article in a local newspaper read and it reminded 2 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF), most forcibly that it has a world champion in its midst. In August, **Sgt Steve Jackson,** partnered by **Mr Alan Williams,** won Britain's first ever gold medal in the K2 10,000m event at the World Canoeing Championships in Finland. In addition **Sgt Jackson** was fifth in the K1 1,000m final, the highest placing a Briton has ever achieved in this event.

The world championships marked a major stage in **Sgt Jackson's** preparations for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles next year and he has added the Gold medal to his already large collection of awards and titles.

To date he is the Army and Inter-Service Champion in five events: 1, K1 500m; 2, K1 1000m; 3, K2 500m (co-partner **Cpl Bob Storey BEM**); 4, K2 1000m; 5, Marathon.

He is also the UK Record Holder in K1 1000m.

He has also represented Britain at six International Regattas this year, the latest one being in Los Angeles on the Olympic course. This gave him an excellent opportunity to assess the course, weather, jet-lag effects and generally plan for next year.

In addition to this and his twice daily training sessions, **Sgt Jackson** is a full time radio technician employed in 2 Sqn's SWS Tp with responsibility for keeping a large proportion of London's resident Infantry Battalion's radios up to specification. His dedication to both his career and his sport earns him the respect of his colleagues and all who encounter him in the course of his work.

We all wish him the very best of luck in his preparations for next year and hope that winter is kind to his training programme.

Sgt Steve Jackson — World Champion in the K2 10,000m event at the Canoeing Championships, Finland

THE AMERICA'S CUP 1983 EXERCISE *CHARLESTON REPRISE*

Report by Major Tony Cudlip

How, you might ask, did the services become involved in the America's Cup in Newport Rhode Island, USA? I asked myself the same question many times during the hectic challenger's services.

It all started in November 1981 when the *Victory* syndicate and the Royal Burnham Yacht Club suggested to the joint services that the whole challenge was worthy of service participation as an adventure training exercise. Letters were sent to all service yacht clubs and to units and, after being convinced that I was a little long in the tooth for the crew, it was suggested that I would be far more suited as the Comms and Admin manager.

I soon slotted into the organization at the St James's Street meeting place with the late **Lt Jim Barry** who was to have been detached from 2 Para. The move to Newport in April 82 coincided with the Falklands crisis and, shortly after our arrival, we sadly learned of **Jim's** death. The whole squad was shocked by the loss but his spirit and determination was still with us on *Victory*.

MAY — OCT 82 — NEWPORT R.I.

This was the training and settling into Newport period. It was fully realized that we were novices in the 12 meter sailing world but the aggressive positive attitude we brought to the Americans and the three 12 meter yachts, *Victory*, *Australia* (bought from Alan Bond in 1980) and *Lionheart* (Britain's last entry) soon convinced them that we intended to achieve as many hours on the water as possible. The training regime was very rigorous, every day started with fitness training at 0630 hrs, roadrun, assault course together with computer monitored fitness rating. A full English type breakfast and then down to prepare the yachts, planning to leave the Victory dock at 0915 hrs. Sailing usually finished at 1800 hrs followed by departmental meetings; sails, mast, computer and deck gear followed by a tactics meeting. These can be likened to a Div HQ org in the field where the Cols of ops and logistics sort out their problems prior to reporting to the GOC. Much was made by the media of our 'spying' on the Americans in our rubber boat *U2* and whaler *K9*. To us it was not intended to provoke but only to learn of the American's potential in the light of our 'apparent newness'.

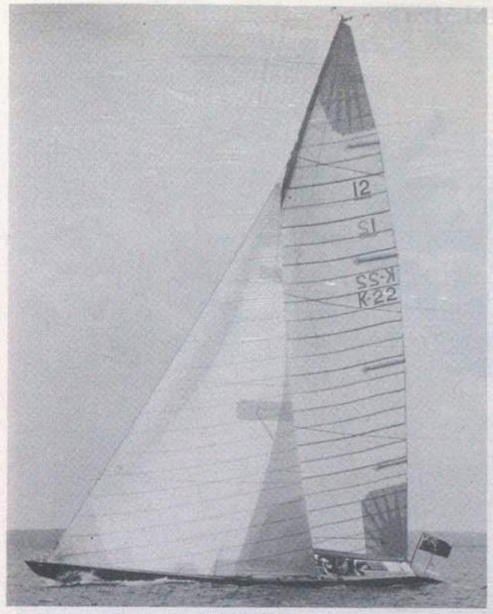
The 82 season was rounded off with the Rank Xerox World 12 Meter Championship with entries from Canada, France, and our three yachts. The New York Yacht Club would not permit any of the potential American defenders to compete but that did not detract from *Victory*'s convincing win. The final fleet race was enlivened by our syndicate chairman **Peter De Savary** at the wheel of *Australia* colliding with *France III*. This resulted in a six feet gash in the port bow of the French and **Mr De Savary's** bow becoming two feet shorter. After the Newport period it was decided to move the crews and yachts to Nassau, Bahamas for the winter camp but, unfortunately, most of the service personnel had to return to their units.

OCT 82 — APR 83

I spent my time in Aldershot as part of 3 Squadron, 10th Signal Regiment and also trying to borrow VHF military type rugged radios from manufacturers for the 1983 season in Newport. During the winter it was decided that the original *Victory* was not fast enough so **Ian Howlett** (the designer of *Lionheart*) was tasked with rushing through a new *Victory '83*. Late March saw the culmination of all our hard work with **HRH Princess Michael of Kent** naming *Victory '83* and looking at the radios kindly loaned to us by RACAL TACTICOM (PRC 352). The radios together with PRC 349 loaned through the auspices of MOD SIGS 36 were to be the mainstay of our own *Victory* comms net.

APR — OCT 83

Returning to Newport in April was easier than expected. The houses, docks and containers we had used in 82 were soon readied. The cooks, housekeepers and Duke of Edinburgh gold medallist helpers rejoined to give us the truly 'British Is Best' squad. Hectic activity was seen in preparing *Victory '83* plus the other yachts and the Newport harbour front was very crowded with other squads from Canada, Italy, France, plus three from Australia. The three American squads were preparing for their own defenders series. The *Victory* squad worked flat out to tune and evaluate the new yacht in time for the Challengers Series which was to begin on 9 June when seven yachts would match race (one against one) until the eventual winner would be decided by 8 Sept and become the challenger.



Victory '83

Inspecting the Victory Racal PRC 352
L to R: Maj Tony Cudlip, Mr Ray Allen MD RACAL TACTICOMM, HRH Prince Michael of Kent

I won't elaborate on the race details since many newspapers and tv commentators excelled in the coverage. But I will not over emphasise the point that many people behind the scenes (120) were involved in the boat preparation, sailmaking, shore engineering and logistics. My job as Comms Manager was eased with the arrival of a Royal Marines radio tech, **Cpl Stan Rae.** He brought that quiet efficiency of his service so that radio problems were virtually eliminated and he could then concentrate on the problem of sorting out the gremlins in the ICL PERQ computer on the tender *Revenge* and the Apple 2 units on the yachts. All instrumentation on *Victory '83* was hooked into the Apple 2, through an Ockam Modem to be transmitted into the data evaluation bank on *Revenge*. To watch the systems analyst using the PERQ (he needed his PhD maths), was to use the Americanism 'awesome'. Windspeed, direction, rudder and trim tab angles plus sails used, combined with Loran position and helmsman tactics enabled boat speed evaluation to be simplified. The secret being, if we could sail one tenth of a knot faster than other boats, then, over the 24 miles course we should win!

My admin manager's hat grew bigger when, as well as managing the two headquarters houses, accounts and stores etc., my MTO empire was vastly expanded! I know that many will envy the following: 2 Rolls Royce Silver Spirits (one for **HRH The Prince Andrew's** visit), 1 Aston Martin Lagonda, 1 Aston Martin Volante, 1 Aston Martin V8, 1 Ford Mercury Topaz and 1 Ford Tempo (both similar to Sierra Ghia), 2 Ford Minibus's (15 seater super exec), 1 Ford Ranger pickup, 1 Chevy pickup, 30 bicycles, 15 mopeds.

Thankfully I could 'sub-account' most of the above to 'users', but nightmares were to follow.

The comms net using the PRC 352 as REBROS and the PRC 349 on the yachts and tenders worked well. The difficulty came in persuading a 'megabucks' millionaire chairman that his 2,500 hp 50 knot Magnum speedboat worth 1.1 million dollars would be ideal as a REBRO station! **Peter De Savary** blanched when I explained that the range he required to work was on the edge of the range of the PRC 352 Rebro mounted on the roof of the dock base but a quick demo on the America's Cup course soon convinced him that he would make an ideal combat radioman. Which reminds me, he will be soon ready for practical upgrading to Class 2. Must persuade AG11 to permit me to visit him in Nassau to conduct his trade test!

Life became very serious in early June when 15 months hard training was put to the test. *Victory '83* was to be involved in 48 match races with very little spare time allowed for boat repairs.

Many people worked through the night after each day's racing to ensure everything was ready for the following day.

We adopted similar security precautions to the *Australia II* squad in working under a 'modesty skirt'. It was soon realised that **Alan Bond** had a very fast boat in the secretive *Australia II*. Our suspicions were quickly confirmed during the Round Robin series when *Australia II* only lost four of its 39 races. We had to sail hard to qualify for the semi-finals to join *Australia II*, *Challenge 12* and *Azzura* from Italy. Meanwhile I took on another hat as OC Irish Guards band visit. The band had been brought over for the Victory Ball that was to be held in one of the Newport mansions 'Beechwood' when **HRH The Prince Andrew** was to be the guest of the *Victory* syndicate for a long weekend. My task was not helped by the American NORAID threatening to demonstrate, which they did. Luckily the police and FBI were most helpful (another funny comms job), and the only 'incident' was when the band played in Washington Square and NORAID demonstrators included them in their egg throwing competition. Needless to say, the experiences gained during the KOHIMA FETES and CATTERICK DISPLAYS helped during the Victory Ball, barbecue and cricket match!

The semi-finals series were very exciting, *Australia II* and *Victory '83* were worthy winners and runners up but the sailing achievements were marred by the New York Yacht Club endeavouring to eliminate *Australia II* due to her alleged illegal keel. Fortunately, commonsense prevailed and 28 August saw both boats come together in the Challengers Finals.

Mercury smiled on the British that day, the weather and sea were in our favour and we won very convincingly. The scenes at the Victory dock were memorable when everyone was thrown in and Pimms flowed for hours. Unfortunately the successive races were won by the 'Aussies', 4 — 1, and we went to their dock to wish them well in the America's Cup Series. History was made when they eventually won the cup in a nailbiting 4 — 3 series to take the cup to Perth. Whilst pleased for the Royal Perth Yacht Club it was saddening to think that after two years hard work we were not able to take it to the Royal Burnham YC, but everyone acknowledged that the best boat had won. The British crew was considered to be the best of the bunch in Newport.

So it was with regret that we packed up all the gear, returned those luxurious cars to the agents and said farewell to the many friends we made on and off the water in Newport.

It all sounds as if it was a great 'Swan' and I suppose that on a few occasions it was, but, if anyone aspires to join the next British challenge in 1987 in Perth, then be prepared for some extremely hard work! We had four world sailing champions in the squad, many of the crew had been in at least two Round the World Races and all were well qualified in many professions together with extreme dedication to sailing and fitness.

Many thanks must go to the people who made my job possible and considerably easier. AG 11 — For their help and understanding; SIGS 36 — Loan of the PRC 349 and Antennae; RACAL TACTICOM — Loan of PRC 352 and equipment; BDS WASHINGTON SIGNALS — Radio frequency allocation.

THE BLUE HELMETS

The Blue Helmets over Netheravon
L to R: Sgt Steve Whittick, WO1 George Devine Instructor, LCpl Mac McLaughlin, Sgt Mick Thurman

THE OTHER TEAM

All have heard of the WHITE Helmets, the Corps Motorcycle Display Team, but, despite its 10 year history, few have heard of the Corps' other display team, the BLUE HELMETS. The Blue Helmets are the Royal Signals Freefall parachute display team now actively filling the skies of Britain at every opportunity. Formed 10 years ago at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate by the late **Maj Mike Forge,** the team is now based on 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205) deep in the heart of Airborne Forces Country in Aldershot.

THE FUNCTIONS

The team provides a four/eight man display team to represent the Corps and the Army at both public and service events throughout the country. In addition the Blue Helmets always enter teams into the Army Parachute Championships held annually at JSPC Netheravon and sometimes the BAOR Championships at JSPC Sennelager. However, perhaps the primary task is to coordinate freefall activity within the Corps and to foster interest in this growing sport. To this end, the team holds training camps at JSPC Netheravon to improve both competition performance and display techniques. Many up and coming parachutists within the corps are invited along to these weekends which, in 1984, will be held with increasing regularity. Many of the original Apprentice College members have gone on to become very experienced parachutists and the team is constantly looking for new members to promote along a similar path.

1983 ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a two week training camp the Corps freefall team assembled at Netheravon for the annual army 'meet' on an early June windy morning. The team consisting of **WO1 (YofS) George Devine, Sgts Mick 'Pig' Thurman, Steve Whittick, LCpl Mac McLaughlin** and **W/Pte Chris Clements,** entered three events to be competed for over the two week competition. Perhaps the most difficult is the 4 man relative work event in which the team jumps at 9,500ft and must complete a series of aerial linking manoeuvres within 35 seconds. The second event was the accuracy event. After jumping from a height of 3,200ft the aim is for all four team members to land on a tiny 5cm diameter disc. The third event, style, is an individual event whereby the competitor must do a series of very fast acrobatic exercises during the 20 seconds freefall. The exercises are critically judged on their speed and accuracy. The Blue Helmets did quite well as a team in the first event, scoring 2–3 points for each of the 8 relative work jumps. In the individual accuracy event **Sgt Mick Thurman** came 17th out of 48, competing against some of the best parachutists in the country. In the style event **W/Pte Chris Clements** came a very respectable 8th and went on to win a silver medal in the British National Championships.

The Corps has also been represented in both the BAOR and Cyprus Championships. In Cyprus **W/Pte Shirley Woodward** (71 Sig Regt (V)) won a silver medal in the novice accuracy event and **Sgt Mick Thurman** narrowly missed a Bronze Medal in the senior accuracy event. It must be the good weather that does it!

THE DISPLAY SCENE

The Blue Helmets carried out six displays at the St Helen's show over 28–30 July. A six-man team, using BN Islander aircraft from a variety of places, entertained capacity crowds at this famous show. Except for the third display being called off due to low cloud and one of the team (no names) missing the arena on the second display (due to a steering problem) all the jumps went off without a hitch.

A month later, on 29 August, the Blue Helmets were again performing in the Midlands, this time at the Leeds Gala. The six-man team, jumped from a piper-lance aircraft into a natural arena, surrounded by numerous obstacles on target, in front of an appreciative crowd. They were presented to the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

VOLUNTEERS

The Blue Helmets are now 'under new management' and are based on 5 Brigade in Aldershot. There is a requirement to update the Corps register of qualified free fall parachutists. If you are an active freefaller and would like to join the Blue Helmets in competition, displays or training weekends, then write to the **Secretary, Capt Peter Day,** at 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Aldershot, Hampshire, giving your personal details, BPA Category and number of descents. We are interested to hear from all Corps freefallers no matter where they are located! Happy landings.

THE PEARL OF THE ORIENT
MOD CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL—HONG KONG

Report by Cpl F. Grant, RSDT Catterick Garrison

NOTHING VENTURED—NOTHING GAINED

There is certainly a wealth of opportunity in the Army! I had an interest in languages and an ability to pick them up easily. This interest had been fuelled by five and a half years regular service in Germany, picking up a living language amongst the people on their homeground. However, since before joining the Army I had delved into the Chinese language. I had passed 'O' level Mandarin with an 'A' pass and made a brave but unsuccessful attempt at 'A' level. Also, I had made very startling results in the army ALAT and LATOL tests. The successes were stepping stones, the results of many hours of private study after work sitting in the barrack room writing hundreds of Chinese characters and listening to a tape recorder. I volunteered for two years language training in Hong Kong. As a Royal Signals Radio Technician it seemed rather wishful thinking. Eventually, however, I did arrive in Hong Kong in September 1980 to begin two years of intensive study of Mandarin, the national language of China.

DESTINATION HONG KONG

Moving to Hong Kong meant an unexpected change in lifestyle. At that time the language school was situated in the picturesque Lyemun Barracks. There was no accommodation for Corporals, so I was given the local rank of Sergeant for the next two years and I enjoyed the mess life immensely.

Outside working hours, there is so much one can do in Hong Kong. The hot humid climate, the hustle and bustle of Kowloon and the Island are exactly as portrayed on the television series shown in U.K. Shortly after arriving I found fine christian fellowship and experienced an awakening in my faith.

ON COURSE

The language school timetable was varied, interesting and full. The civilian staff are a cheerful band of professionals. Their pleasant manner and patience helped ease the many pressures. We learnt how to read, write, speak and even eat like Chinese. The school was ably organised by the military RAEC staff. They too were interpreters in either Cantonese or Mandarin and were an inspiration and encouragement to tired and weary students. All members of staff were always eager to listen, give advice, and extra tuition when needed.

MAKING THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES

During the two years at language training there was the regular block leave. I tried to use this time to utmost advantage by going to Chinese speaking countries or communities of overseas Chinese in Asia to practise all I had learnt, to learn of the culture and problems faced in their particular areas. These trips took me to China, Taiwan, Macau, Philippines, Singapore, Penang (Malaysia) and the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

A GOAL REALIZED

The last six months were very gruelling. They were spent developing interpreting skills, reviewing the previous 18 months work, consolidating vocabulary and polishing up our spoken and written skills. I was overjoyed when the results came through and I had been awarded a first-class Interpretership.

STILL IN HONG KONG

After the final exams in September of 1982 I was posted to the Gurkha Field Force HQ and Signal Squadron in Sek Kong, the New Territories. I was greatly impressed by the calibre of the Gurkha soldiers, particularly those on the Technical side of life with whom I worked day-to-day. Whilst in N.T. Troop the Duty Technician Roster, more interesting than one might expect, meant travelling by Landrover or helicopter to hilltop observation posts along the China border, and occasionaly by speedboat to outposts on remote outlying islands.

In February 1983 I was detached to the Joint Maritime Communications Project based in H.M.S. Tamar. The Project Manager and his team had, over the previous two years, been designing and commissioning a new communications network to combat the illegal immigrant threat. Preliminary installation visits were starting and I was involved in many of the day-to-day tasks undertaken by the team. This involved liaison with various Government departments, PWD, RHKP Marine Police and Philips Radio Engineers. The Project Manager, a Naval Commander, made full use of his talents, which had earmarked him for the Project, and we were the eyes and ears to see all was progressing according to the Project Concept in over a hundred different locations.

IN CLOSING

I am indebted to many who have given me support and encouragement. Many thanks to 225 Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Regt (EW), especially the Tech Wksps, and the Royal Signals Manning and Records Office. Many thanks also to the fellow students, teachers, military staff, all at GFF HQ & Sig Sqn and JMCP who have made my time in the army so interesting and rewarding.

AN OLD SWEAT — '39—'61
PART 3 — WAR BREAKS OUT

Report by Ex WO2 Bert Howell

I was pleased to read the reference to **Lt Trapmore** by **ex Sgt N. H. Morton** in the July 'Wire' having noted my comments about that very fine officer in Part Two of my experiences (January issue). He it was who really instilled into our recruit squad the first seeds of espirit-de-corps by his wisdom in dealing with our misdeameanour of breaking out of camp with the 'iron discipline' routine for our whole squad. He could have brought us up on disciplinary charges under Section 40 and no doubt we would have been peeling potatoes for weeks and hated every minute—and him! What in fact happened was that the whole squad became filled with a determination to be the best after our week of mutual 'suffering' (parading at the guard room every half hour from 0630 hrs till 2100 hrs). I was proud to serve under many such officers who knew how to dish out punishments without the aid of the MML and thereby gained far more respect—and results!

Our drill inspector, a **Cpl Dugdale** of the Cheshire Regiment seemed to delight in admonishing me for everything—drill, turnout and kit. I was a 'scruffy' individual according to him—I could do nothing to please him. How I cursed him behind his back! I was to find out later how misconceived were my ideas about him.

Came the day when all training squads paraded in front of the Officer Commanding, Officers, **RSM Stickley(?)** and our instructors for the final passing out parade. After the parade during which each instructor put his squad through their paces, the names of recruits who had merit in each squad were called out to march smartly up to the OC to receive a riding whip with silver top for PT or Drill. I was non-plussed when my name was called out with a **Sig Hencher** and I was presented with a silver whip for drill. Actually **'Jock' Hencher** won both the whips for PT and drill but apparently my instructor, the man I loved to hate, had suggested the drill whip be given to another and I had been nominated.

Afterwards **Cpl Dugdale** came to me and confided **'Howell'**, I knew you had it in you but you need a bit of pushing'. So all the time he had deliberately been driving me and not 'riding' me, as I mistakenly thought.

I was to experience the same lesson in 'civvy street' many years later when my boss deliberately drove me to distraction and then called me in months later to inform me that 'he had been watching me to see if I could take the pressure, and I had, so he promoted me to be a planning engineer' but then I had already learned this lesson through **Cpl Dugdale** had I not? Do not be too ready to assume your superiors dislike you but do sometimes have a real motive in the pressures they apply.

We were all then divided up into the categories of whether we wished to be operators, drivers, despatch riders or linemen. The operators were sent down to 4th Div. Signals at Canterbury. (Yes! **ex Sig Morton,** I was there too. I am sure we must have met). It was there that war was declared and for several days we spent our time filling sandbags to protect buildings. **Ex Sgt Morton** will no doubt remember the long line for our first inoculations—never to be forgotten!

We all had arms like balloons for days, I think they used nails, well it felt like that!

The only memories apart from that was of the local fish and chip shop at the main gate where one got excellent fish complete with tails and, of course, always a source of amusement to us where we met the 'Ovaltinies', these were recruits who needed physical improvement who wore white belts to denote them as such which gave rise to the 'nickname'. On reflection they may have been boy soldiers, but I never confirmed this one way or the other.

It was decided that we all return to Catterick, and so it was I found myself once again in that awesome place, now filled with 'reservists'. Our training then became more intensive and came the day when I was classified as an Operator B111 and posted to Masham, Yorkshire, to 49th (WR) Divisional Signals (TA) where they were forming ready to proceed to Finland.

Well, now the fun and games were really about to start and in my next episode I will relate the experiences with that Signal Regiment under the title of 'The Greyhounds of Norway'—till then, good luck, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

CAN YOU HELP?

From: Lyn Macdonald

Dear Editor,

Once again I am trespassing on the hospitality of your columns to appeal for assistance in a 'last ditch' campaign.

Some of your readers may be familiar with my work as an author and historian of the First World War, and may know that I have devoted the last ten years to compiling a vernacular history of 1914–1918. Three books of what will probably be a series of six have already been published:- THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE (The story of the 3rd Battle of Ypres) THE ROSES OF NO MAN'S LAND (a history of the War from the point of view of the casualties and medical services) and, most recently SOMME (a history of the 1916 campaign.) All my books depend heavily on first hand information from survivors and, to date, we have contacted 3,000, many of whom we have interviewed. But even after almost ten years, there are still many whom we have not traced. Time is rapidly running out and soon the irreplaceable personal recollections of this important period of our history will have 'faded away' with the passing of those who lived through it.

I should deeply appreciate it if any veterans, or any reader who can put me in touch with a surviving soldier of the First World War, would contact me care of my publishers:

Michael Joseph Ltd.,
44 Bedford Square,
LONDON W.C.1

Yours sincerely,
Lyn Macdonald

From: SSgt J. S. Bailes

Dear Sir,

I am a collector of Regimental/Squadron plaques and at the moment my collection has two plaques missing. They are 255 Sig Sqn (Bahrain) and 4 Gds Armd Bde & Sig Sqn (Munster).

Should any of your readers have either plaque which they would be willing to part with I would be delighted if they would contact me at the address below.

Yours faithfully
J. S. Bailes

3 Sqn
1st Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BEPO 32

From: Maj (Retd) M. H. Priestley

Dear Sir,

Does anyone from GHQ Signals (SR) remember depositing 2 decanters in the Clydesdale Bank, George Street, Edinburgh in 1939? After all these years the Bank has started to charge for storage, so the decanters have been collected and will be used by 32 Sig Regt (V).

Yours faithfully
M. H. Priestley
Army Headquarters Scotland
Edinburgh EH1 2YX
Tel: Edinburgh Mil 031-336 1761 ext. 6374

NEW ADDRESS

From: Mrs V. W. Smith

Dear Sir,

For 27 years (1949—1976, when I retired), I served with the Corps at Sandhurst.

Because of ill health, I have not been able to keep up with correspondence to the many friends I have in the Corps.

Now, I have changed my address and few know of my present 'abode'. Please, could you spare a small space in The Wire giving my new address in **Storrington.** I would be so grateful.

Yours faithfully,
Violet W. Smith
6 Hormane Crescent
Storrington
W. Sussex

— Movements —

Officers

OCTOBER 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. R. Bailey	SOLF Sig Regt
2Lt M. Baines	21 Sig Regt
Capt N. P. Blampied	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj (QM) S. F. Bloom	Army Pers Selection Gp
Maj M. E. Bradbury	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj P. R. Brewis	DOAO/DOAE
Lt S. J. Callaghan	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Maj D. J. Case	HQ BAOR
Lt M. S. Castle-Smith	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Lt Col R. A. Cemm	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj C. P. Canlon	BDLS OTTAWA
Capt N. J. Corbin	22 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc Offr) A. W. Cudlip	10 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc Off) P. J. Daniel	262 Sig Sqn
Capt (QM) A. Davies	7 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) P. H. Davis	School of Signals
ACapt M. J. Dent	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt S. C. Dexter	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Lt M. A. Eaton	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj D. J. Elson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) B. J. Gallagher	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. G. W. Gardiner	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. C. Gilyeat	School of Signals
2Lt P. W. Glibbery	16 Sig Regt
Capt D. A. Hargreaves	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt A. R. Heath	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Lt S. J. Hertsell	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Capt J. P. Hudson	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj B. J. Hughes	DGGWL(A)(PE)(AE)
Lt A. Humphreys	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. M. Hyams	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt A. E. Kendall	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt J. P. A. Luckins	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt I. W. Mackenzie	Queens Gurkha Signals
Maj M. J. Macklin	DSS(AD)
Maj G. P. Maddren	266 Sig Sqn
Lt A. W. T. McComb	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
2Lt J. A. McDonnell	7 Sig Regt
Capt P. T. McGann	30 Sig Regt
Lt C. D. McGrory	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Lt D. M. Mills	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col N. C. Muir	School of Signals
2Lt A. H. Mullan	244 Sig Sqn
Lt Col E. Mulley	RAC Centre
Lt Col M. A. Payne	HQ Land Forces, Cyprus
Capt (QM) R. Pearce	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI Force)
Lt M. J. Perry	HS RMCS (38 Degree Course)
Capt (TOT) P. Pettifer	266 Sig Sqn
2Lt R. J. Quinlan	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt S. R. Renfrey	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Maj P. Richards	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. K. Ridley-Jones	21 Sig Regt (Air Support)
Lt F. T. J. A. Riley	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Lt F. P. Roberts	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Col P. J. Rowland	DSS (AD)
Maj J. A. Shepherd	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt D. D. Smith	266 Sig Sqn
Capt G. Smith	7 Sig Regt
Lt R. G. C. Sparshatt	RMSC Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Maj R. G. Stokes	HS 30 Sig Regt
Lt C. Wakerley	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt T. J. P. Watts	RMCS Shrivenham (38 Degree Course)
Col D. C. Whitehead	MOD DM(A)
2Lt K. Whitehead	266 Sig Sqn
Capt C. J. Whittaker	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col H. R. Williams	HQ 2 Sig Bde
2Lt S. R. Workman	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

NOVEMBER 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. D. Birch	12 RSME Regt
Lt Col (TOT) M. Butler MBE	School of Signals
Maj E. F. Carrel	HQ BERLIN (BR SECTOR)
Maj (TOT) W. G. S. Cochrane	641 Sig Tp (HQ 2 ATAF)
Brig R. F. L. Cook	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lt E. H. Cranston	WRAC Centre
Maj J. R. Dawson	HQ BFFI
Capt J. F. Fletcher	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Col C. T. Garton	DSS(A)
Maj W. A. C. Griffiths	DAMA (BAOR TEAM A MANS)
Lt Col G. W. Howard	HS School of Signals
Capt C. W. Lockwood	266 Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) B. A. Meachin	242 Sig Sqn
Col N. Moss	ACGS(OR)
Capt (Tfc Offr) J. D. Rayment	JFHQ BFFI (AE)
Maj (QM) C. H. Richardson	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Maj M. J. Sinton	HQ BFFI
Capt P. C. A. Smith	HQ BFFI (AE)
Capt M. G. Springer BEM	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt R. M. Thurston	BDLS(ARMY) OTTAWA (HS)
Lt M. P. Wise	HQ BF BELIZE

WOs and NCOs

OCTOBER 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (Supvr R) A. E. Nex	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2(FofS) J. Millar	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (FofS) R. W. Boyd	Project Wavell Mil Team
WO2 (FofS) J. L. England	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) N. Blavins	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2(YofS) B. Greenwood	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) B. Smith	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 B. R. Brown	School of Signals
WO2 A. Catterall	Oxford U OTC
WO2 M. McBirney	Jnr Regt R. Signals
WO2 M. M. Reybould	13 Sig Regt
WO2 P. W. J. Wall	35 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 B. Wilson	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) A. T. Cerqua	10 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) B. Dulston	633 Sig Tp
SSgt H. W. Banks	30 Sig Regt
SSgt B. G. Watson	30 Sig Regt
SSgt B. J. Cartwright	HQ 1 Sig Gp
SSgt P. T. Connors	13 Sig Regt
SSgt J. T. Crooks	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. L. Deam	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. Seddon	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt D. B. P. Usher	School of Signals
SSgt G. L. Crossland	11 Sig Regt
SSgt S. G. Goslyn	30 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Stewart	241 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. Read	21 Sig Regt
SSgt T. McKnight	633 Sig Tp
ASSgt P. Boon	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. McIntosh	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt P. Honey	266 Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. L. Stephenson	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Barton	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Sgt J. S. Fairbairn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. Sinnett	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt C. T. Jones	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. M. Webb	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. A. Rogers	29 Sig Regt
Sgt E. F. Clark	School of Signals
Sgt T. McAuliffe	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. P. Dempsey	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Hunt	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt I. G. Underhill	7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Wilson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Harrigan	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. M. Watkins	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. Wood	School of Signals
Sgt J. R. Camplin	22 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Hitchens	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. I. Parsons	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt R. W. Mee	10 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Kingdom	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Beach	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt M. R. C. Davies	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Jewell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Comber	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. F. Hayward	Sig Sy Sect AFNORTH
Sgt L. R. Searle	31 CTT (Crickhowell)
Sgt R. B. Low	13 Sig Regt
Sgt F. T. Morris	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Pickup	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt K. Bridger	29 Sig Regt
Sgt V. A. Wilby	7 Sig Regt
Sgt N. R. Phillips	642 Sig Tp
Sgt M. D. Lumgair	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. Garvie	Jnr Regt R SIGNALS
ASgt A. A. White	28 Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Westrop	30 Sig Regt
ASgt S. H. Dobson	8 Sig Regt
ASgt C. Wooff	11 Sig Regt
ASgt J. A. Paine	583 Rear Link Det

NOVEMBER 1983

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) C. M. Birchall	RMA Sandhurst
WO1 (YofS) G. F. Devine	5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 D. J. Bell	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. Corcoran	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) C. R. Bachelor	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 (FofS) P. H. Coleman	608 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) B. K. Billsberry	259 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. R. Illingworth	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 C. C. Miller	11 Sig Regt
WO2 B. F. Williams	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) P. J. Roscoe	632 Sig Tp (Hebrides)
SSgt (EW Op) K. M. Hall	9 Sig Regt
SSgt C. G. Harris	HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt F. Lunness	11 Sig Regt
SSgt J. D. Parish	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt J. M. Jones	Sennelager Trg Centre
SSgt J. A. Tope	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt F. Byrne	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt J. Ginty	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt I. M. Duncan	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. P. Wright	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Marsden	AA College Harrogate
Sgt A. M. Roberts	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Middleton	9 Sig Regt
Sgt F. Thompson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. E. Childs	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. O. Sharman	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt R. Gristock	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt G. T. Buckley	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. G. Tozer	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Cotton	RMA Sandhurst
Sgt K. E. Sheppard	7 Sig Regt
Sgt F. P. R. Coleman	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. L Woodfine	HQ Landjut
Sgt M. W. Moir	HQ Landjut
Sgt G. W. Furber	13 Sig Regt
Sgt E. C. Monk	School of Signals
Sgt T. Hall	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. Goodacre	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Snailham	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. L. T. Parker	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt L. J. Robinson	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt E. D. James	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Kane	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. R. Preston	7 Sig Regt
ASgt R. J. Maskell	527 Rear Link Det
ASgt I. B. Wright	532 Rear Link Det
ASgt C. Alexander	227 Sig Sqn
ASgt A. W. Winfield	HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASgt B. Lauder	11 Sig Regt
ASgt J. N. Waddingham	11 Sig Regt

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1983.

RAC Centre	£200.00
30 Signal Regiment	£ 50.00
Mrs J. A. Strike	£ 25.00
39 Signal Regiment (V)	£ 21.00
G. W. Cook Esq	£ 10.24
Anonymous	£ 10.00
Capt M. J. Dent R. Signals	£ 6.00
G. M. Lewis Esq	£ 5.00
Anonymous	£ 3.00
A. J. Oglesby Esq	£ 2.00
Miscellaneous	£ 5.50
	£337.74

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1983.

7 Sig Regt	£177.22
In memory of Brig R. G. Miller CBE	£100.00
Glossop & District Signals OCA	£ 25.00
Gillespie	£ 15.00
Anon	£ 10.80
Anon	£ 10.00
F. E. Foulds Esq	£ 10.00
Maj J. Gatehouse	£ 10.00
E. C. Barker Esq	£ 7.90
Lt Col H. Scarborough TD	£ 3.90
R. L. Cartwright Esq	£ 3.00
W. R. Harmsworth Esq	£ 1.30
Miscellaneous	£ 2.90
	£377.02

Welfare

AUGUST 1983

Number of cases assisted financially	37
Amount spent	£5998.29
Number of parcels sent	10

SEPTEMBER 1983

Number of cases assisted financially	49
Amount spent	£6428.96
Number of parcels sent	9

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex-Sergeant served 1940–46, was recently rehoused as he is unable to walk unaided. He has no family and lives alone; a grant was made for essential items of furniture.

An elderly widower ex-POW (Far East) who lives in a remote country area, urgently required a telephone to keep in contact with his doctor, a grant was made to meet installation charges.

The widow of an ex-Signalman who recently died after a long illness was in financial difficulties as she was not aware that she could claim Supplementary Pension. The Association were able to clear her debts and also advise her to apply to DHSS which relieves some of her problems.

We acknowledge with thanks three boxes of clothing received from an 'anonymous' source in Germany; sorry we can't thank you all personally! Also thanks for clothing received from **Maj and Mrs Meakin, Maj and Mrs Carson and Col Spence.**

Classified Section

ADVERTISEMENTS should be concise—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 through 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.

MARRIAGE

Bate—Francis On 20 August 1983, **Phillipa**, elder daughter of the late Signal Officer-in-Chief **Major General A. C. Bate OBE** and **Mrs Bate** of Shroton, Dorset, to **Julian Francis,** younger son of **Colonel** and **Mrs J. A. D. Francis** of Maidstone, Kent. The wedding was held at Shroton Parish Church, and the reception was given at the Headquarters Officers Mess, Blandford Camp.

DEATHS

Hammersley—Lt Col James Hubert St George (Jim) Hammersley was born at Christchurch, Hampshire on 14 March 1916. He was commissioned into the Corps on 30 January 1936 and after attending his Q Course was posted to 3 Divisional Signals and remained with them until April 1939. He then joined Malta Command Signals and served on that island until September 1942. After a short tour of duty with the CSOs Branch HQ Palestine Area he joined 30 Corps Signals in Mar 1943 until he attended a Staff College course in March 1944. On completion of the course he went to the Middle East and was appointed 2IC 78 Divisional Signals. He returned to the UK and became DAAG, AG11 at the War Office where he remained until September 1947. This staff appointment was followed by two tours of duty in an instructional capacity, first for a year as CI at the National Service Officer's Training Wing at Catterick followed by a three year tour as an Instructor at RMAS. **Lt Col Hamersley** returned to Staff duties on posting to HQ East Africa Command where he held the appointment of GSO 2 (SD) for two years returning to the UK in Oct 1954 to join the Joint Service Staff College. He then moved to BAOR where he served in 11 Armd Div Sig Regt as 2IC and then as CO 6 Armed Div Sig Regt. He returned to the UK as OC R Signals Wing, School of Signals a post he held for a year before moving to the Far East to become AA and QMG of HQ 17 Gurkha Div. He returned to the UK in 1960. **Jim** died at his home in Petersfield on 13 July 1983.

Hassall—WO1 Barry Hassall. It is with deep regret we report the death of **WO1 (FofS) B. Hassall** on 12 Sep. **Barry** was a character of the Corps who during his service served with the Royal Marine Commandos and the School of Artillery, Larkhill. He was was buried at Tidworth Military Cemetery on 19 Sep at a private funeral attended by comrades from the Projects Div, representatives from the School of Signals, and other serving and former members of the Corps. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife and three sons.

WO1 Barry Hassall was known throughout the Royal Signals shooting world and renowned as one of its great characters. He was an excellent shot with all types of weapons and also highly regarded in his abilities as coach to young soldiers, captain of numerous unit shooting teams and latterly as a very successful Secretary of Corps Shooting. In all these activities he showed great determination and boundless enthusiasm. He shot at Bisley for many years and was one of a select band of Corps members who have won Army 100 and SMG 30 medals as well as representing Royal Signals in the Methuen Match. Perhaps his finest achievement was the gold medal won as a member of the 30 Sig Regt GPMG team representing the UK in the Cento Nishan competition in Turkey in 1973. His shooting career spanned over 20 years but it is characteristic that the last time he fired at Bisley he was representing his Corps in the Methuen Match of 1982, immediately prior to his illness.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to his shooting prowess came from outside our Corps when the Gunners appointed him their own Assistant Secretary of Shooting during his tour in Larkhill. Never again will we see **'Big Barry'**, as he was affectionately known, thundering down the range wearing his green commando beret. Royal Signals shooting owes him a considerable debt and he leaves a gap in our ranks almost impossible to fill.

Hayward—Maj Horace Albert Hayward was born on 15 Oct 1902 at Exmouth, Devon. He enlisted into the Northumberland Fusiliers on 3 Dec 1920 and, after completing his 12 years full time service in 1932, joined the Royal Signals TA in Nov 1934. He was embodied with the TA in Sep 1939 and in Dec 1939 was commissioned into the Corps. After service with the BEF he joined 54 Divisional Signals in Jan 1940. After a short spell with 73 Ind Inf Bde Sig Sqn in 1941 he became an Instructor at 151 OCTU where he remained until Aug 1942. He was then posted to North Africa and joined 16 L of C Signals and served with that unit until Oct 1944 when he moved to 15 HQ Signals. He remained in the Middle East area and became SO2 AMG/CA, CMF and later held two other appointments finally moving to BETFOR in Sep 1947. He served in HQ BETFOR in a Staff appointment until his retirement from active service in Jul 1949. **Maj Horace Hayward** died on 22 Dec 1982.

Hudson—Ex Sgt A. Hudson enlisted in the Corps in 1927 and was a member of the Cross Country team Bulford that year. **Sgt Hudson** was posted to Singapore and when there taken Prisoner of War by the Japanese. He returned to Durrington where he left his wife and family while in the Far East. On leaving the Army he was employed at Bulford Camp until his retirement. He was a long standing member of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club attending, in spite of failing health, reunions at Bulford, London and Soest. A great friend of **Joe Cotterell** and **'Porky' Edwards.** He died at the age of 75 on 11 August, 1983. He was known in the Corps as **'Soapy'**, after Hudson's soap.

Jenkins—Capt John Ivor Jenkins was born at Port Talbot, Glamorgan on 17 June 1920. He enlisted into the Welsh Regt on 27 June 1940 and in January 1942 transferred to Royal Signals. From November 1942 until June 1946 he served with 78 Div Signals in the Middle East and Italy, and in October 1946 joined 1 Div Signals, in the Middle East, and remained with that unit until January 1950. **Capt Jenkins** then returned to the UK and joined 6 (Boys) Trg Regt for 3½ years. Next followed duty with the School of Signals, 2 Wireless Regt, Cyprus and 4 Sig Regt in BAOR. He was commissioned on 16 December 1964 and was with 30 Sig Regt for 2½ years, this posting was followed by tours with 7 Sig Regt and 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt. He returned to 30 Sig Regt in December 1971 and remained with that unit until his retirement in January 1975. **Capt Jenkins** died on 26 April 1983.

Kennett— Brig Brian Bishop Kennett CBE was born at Hastings on 16 February 1899. He was educated at Christ's College Finchley and at RMA Woolwich. Commissioned into the RGA as a 2Lt on 6 June 1917 he joined 295 Siege Battery who were acting in support of the Australian Corps in France in 1917. He was wounded in August 1918 and was Mentioned in Despatches. After the Armistice he attended a course at the Army Signal School at Dunstable and then returned to duty with the RA. In 1920 **Bill Kennett** was seconded to the newly formed Royal Corps of Signals and attended the No. 2 Q Course at Maresfield. In 1922-23 he served with No. 3 Wireless Company at Constantinople until January 1924 when he moved to 1 Company Egyptian Signals at Abyssinia. Whilst serving in Egypt he studied Arabic and also represented the Corps in boxing, athletics, hockey and water-polo. He returned to the UK and served in the Boys Company at the STC where he remained until June 1930. He then returned to Egypt and qualified as an interpreter in Arabic. In January 1931 he was appointed Staff Capt at the STC Catterick where he remained until 1935. He again returned to Egypt and was seconded to the Foreign Office for duty with the Egypt Frontier Administration. Whilst on this service he was accorded the rank of Bimbashi (Lt Col) and served with the Camel Corps and the Light Car Patrols on the Egyptian-Libya frontier, carrying out what was mainly intelligence work. **Bill** was appointed MBE for his exploits and in 1936 he moved to Palestine as an Intelligence Officer attached to 1 Div during the Arab Rebellion. He was Mentioned in Despatches for his work during that period. At the time of the out-break of World War 2, he was serving in the Egypt Mobile Signals unit but returned to UK in April 1940. He then joined 2 Armd Div Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) and, after a short ten day campaign in Norway as OC Signals in the Aandlesnes landing, he took over command of the unit and moved 2 Armd Div Signals to Egypt in time for Rommel's first counter-attack in April 1941. Most of his unit were overrun and captured but **Bill** managed to escape to Tobruk and in December 1941 took command of 4 L of C Signals. In March 1942 he returned to the UK and became CSO 3rd Armoured Group and this appointment was followed by another Staff appointment at Northern Command. In December 1942 he became CSO 12 Corps and remained with that Corps until January 1945. He was appointed CBE for his part in the planning of communcation for the Rhine crossing operation.

At the end of the War, he returned to the Middle East first as CSO Persia and Iraq, then, as the forces in the area were reduced, as CSO Iraq Command and eventually he became CSO HQ British Troop Palestine a position he held from June 1946 until the British withdrawal in May 1948. He returned to the UK for his final active service appointment as CSO Southern Command and retired on 9 September 1952. It was during this period that **Bill Kennett** devoted must of his time to assisting and advising the then reformed TA units. After his retirement he accepted an RO2 appointment with REME at Arborfield and became editor of the REME Journal.

Bill Kennett was greatly admired and respected by all those who knew him and served with him. One of his GSO2's from the difficult days in Palestine after the end of the War writes of **Bill Kennett.** 'He was the straightest of men, humoured and kindly to his staff, a staunch friend. He was also unnervingly short whenever he met careless incompetence or selfishness. His standards of duty were sky high, and I remember him as a wiry uncompromising, smiling commander whom I was most privileged to serve.'

Brigadier Bill Kennett died on 15 July 1983 and a private funeral service was held at Greyfriars Parish Church at Reading on 19 July 1983. The Corps extends sympathy to his widow **Pamela**, who was an officer in the ATS Signals and to his son **Alan (Bill)**, a former Corps officer, and his family.

Longhurst—Capt Edward John Longhurst was born at Sheerness on 21 June 1904. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers on 3 January 1924 and then joined 4 Divisional Signals in June 1925. In January 1927 he moved to China and served with the Shanghai Defence Force Signals until November 1927 and then with the North China Signal Section until February 1929. He then returned to 4 Divisional Signals and served with that unit until his posting to L Company, India in December 1931. He was with 1st Cavalry Bde Signal Troop at Risalpur. He remained in India until May 1938 and returned to the UK to join 1 HQ Signals and moved to France in September 1939. He was commissioned on 30 March 1941 and in March 1942 returned to India to join 5 Divisional Signals and remained with that until during its tour of duty in Iraq, Middle East and Italy. In February 1945 he again moved with the unit to North West Europe remaining there until his release in November 1947. He died on 12 May 1983. **Edward Longhurst** was one of three brothers who all served in the Corps.

McClean—Maj Harold McClean was born in 1907 and commissioned a 2Lt in the Supplementary Reserve on 29 May 1929. He served with 2 Coy L of C Signals until 21 September 1939 when the unit was embodied. He remained with them and moved to France in October 1939 but was then transferred to the L of C Signals Railway Telegraph Company until he returned to England. He then joined the Railway Signal Training Battalion on 3 December 1940 and in May 1941 moved to No 1 Railway Tg Coy. He later served in 3 and 5 Companies before retiring on account of ill health on 18 August 1943. **Maj McClean** died on 28 May 1983.

Nicholson—Lt Col Philip Oscar Jackson Nicholson was born at Cork on 16 Aug 1913. **'POJ'**, as he became known, was commissioned into the Corps on 31 Aug 1933 and spent the first 18 months of his career with the Trg Bn of the STC. In Feb 1935, he moved to 1 Divisional Signals and moved with the portion of the unit that served with the Palestine Emergency Force in 1936/1937. In Dec 1937, he moved to India and joined Waziristan District Signals where he remained until Apr 1940. He then moved to Burma and joined Burma Army Signals at Muymyo and in Aug 1941 moved to BFF Signals and remained with that unit in both Burma and India, eventually serving as Adjt until Jun 1943. He then joined 33 Indian Corps Signals at Bangalore and served in India and ALFSEA eventually returning to the UK in May 1945. In Sep 1945 he was appointed CR Signals of 15 Inf Div Signals in BAOR until Apr 1946 when he joined 56 Div Sig Regt in the Middle East. He remained in the Middle East until May 1947 when he returned to the UK and was attached to the SME. In Apr 1949 he joined Southern Command Signal Regiment and thence to a staff appointment at HQ Southern Command. In Dec 1951 he was posted to FARELF to command Hong Kong Signal Regiment, succeeding (then) Lt Col P. M. P. Hobson, DSO. In Aug 1953 he moved from the Far East to the Middle East and joined 3 L of C Sig Regt and eventually became CO of the unit. On his return to the UK he joined the Ministry of Supply (Military Estab) and was appointed TSO 2 in the Directorate of Electronic Research and Development a post he held for nearly three years. He then joined MI 8 at the War Office as a GSO I and served in that department until his retirement in Sep 1965. After his retirement **'POJ'** became a Science and Maths Instructor at the REME Apprentice College at Arborfield. He settled in Fleet where he became a popular member of the community, a strong supporter of the local church and a leading member of the local branch of the British Legion. He was President of the local branch. He died suddenly in April 1983.

Shakeshaft—Capt Gerald Edwin Shakeshaft was born at New Delhi, India on 30 December 1932. He enlisted as a Boy Soldier in 1947 and joined man's service in December 1950. After serving in the Corps in various ranks in BAOR, East Africa, Cyprus and Singapore he was commissioned on 3 December 1973. After a short tour of duty with 14 Sig Regt he joined the School of Signals in May 1974 and remained with that unit until his retirement on 2 December 1978. **Capt Shakeshaft** died on 21 April 1983.

Thomson—Lt Col George Thomson was born at Dunblane, Perthshire on 13 Oct 1911. He was commissioned into the Corps as a 2Lt on 27 Aug 1931 and after serving at the Depot Bn he joined 2 Divisional Signals in Jan 1935 and remained with that unit until he moved to the Far East in Dec 1935. He first served with the Hong Kong Signal Section and then in Jul 1936 moved to Tientsin Signal Section where he remained until May 1939. On his return to the UK he joined 2 STC and was appointed Staff Captain and in May 1940 he became the Bde Maj. After attending Staff College he was posted to 42 Divisional Signals in Oct 1941. In Jul 1942 he joined 11 Armd Bde Sqn and remained with that Squadron until he joined the CSO's Staff of 12 Corps in May 1943. In Jan 1945 he was appointed 2IC of 1 Corps Signals and in Jun of that year he became CO of 12 Corps Signals, and after only four months moved to take command of 18 Air Formation Signals, in the Middle East a post he held until Mar 1948 when he became the Instructor (R. Signals) at the British Military Mission in Greece in the rank of Lt Col. He returned to the UK in Jan 1949 and became CI at the Army Apprentices School a post he held until he moved to Malaya to become OC Malaya Signal Regt. In Jan 1954 he moved to GHQ Signal Regt in Singapore and served in command until Jun 1955 when he returned to the UK and took up his last full time appointment as CO Western Command Sig Regt TA. He retired on 30 Oct 1958. **George Thomson** died on 1 Mar 1983.

Warner—Lt Col John Vincent Warner was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Corps on 31 August 1940. He became an Instructor at the Junior Leaders School from October 1940 until December 1941 when he moved to No. 1 (Basic) Radio Mechanic School where he remained until May 1944. He then served with 61 Divisional Signals. In January 1945 he moved to India where he became 2IC of the Signal Training Centre at Bangalore, until he returned to the UK and became an Instructor at the School of Signals in April 1947. In October 1948 he attended the No. 3 TSO Course at the Military College of Science and on completion was posted, as a TSO 2, to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.
In February 1952 he joined the British Ministry of Supply Mission in Australia and remained there until February 1954. In April of that year he took up his last active service appointment which was with 18 Army Group Signal Regt in BAOR. He retired on 1 November 1955. **Lt Col John Warner** died at Healesville, Australia on 1 June 1983 after a long illness. The Corps extends sympathy to his widow, **Betty.**

Wickens—Ex Dvr **Norman A. Wickens** enlisted in March 1942 and, following in the footsteps of his father (who was attached to the Indian Signals), joined the Corps. He received his basic training at Ossett and subsequently was posted to No 15 Air Formation Signals, which became part of No 2 Group 2nd Tactical Air Force. Between 1944 and his demobilisation in June 1947, as a member of No 149 Line Section (No 1 Coy.) he served in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Bavaria. **Norman** was a founder member of the Reading Branch and served on the committee. He will be remembered particularly for his enthusiastic liaison with the Royal British Legion in which organisation he became one of the leading lights throughout the County of Berkshire. At his funeral on 17 August, British Legion members turned out in force and in all, 21 standard bearers took part in the service, at Hurst Parish Church, the slow march to the village graveyard and paid homage by the lowering of standards at the graveside.

FOR SALE

Modern terraced house at 11 Downside Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset. One mile from Blandford Camp and within easy walking distance of shops and schools. Lounge/Dinette 25′ × 10′ 4″ with attractive stone fireplace and hardwood mantle. Kitchen measures 13′ × 7′9″, with fitted cupboards over and under. Fully glazed Entrance Lobby. Open plan stairway leading to first floor, and three bedrooms: 11′5″×11′ with fitted wardrobes and dressing table, 12′9″ × 7′9″ and 11′5″ × 7′4″. Spacious bathroom with pink suite and airing cupboard. Curtains and Carpets fitted throughout except for kitchen and bathroom.
Outside Garage with up and over door. The gardens front and rear are laid to lawn. Heating is by oil fired warm air system. **Price £26,000** freehold. Contact **Blandford (0258) 52778 (Mr Brews).**

PERSONAL

For that special presentation or anniversary. The Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear is now 9 carat gold. See listing of goods on page 636.

Attention Bridge and card addicts. Crested sets of playing cards are now available. These attractive items are manufactured by Waddingtons of Leeds & London. (See Association goods on page 636).

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

At the start of this period the attention of the media was firmly focussed on the emergence of yet another supergrass and the consequent arrests of several prominent IRA members. The whole period has seen sporadic violence throughout the Brigade area, but notably in Londonderry and Strabane. SF successes have included a massive explosives find in a quarry near Dungannon but this event was totally eclipsed by the unfortunate breakout at the Maze Prison. In the follow up to that incident, Brigade reserve companies were deployed in support of 39 Infantry Brigade for several days. After a slight lull in terrorist activity at the beginning of October, a well planned and executed bomb attack against a vehicle patrol of 2 QUEENS regrettably left one soldier dead and two others badly injured.

SPECIAL CANOEING EXPEDITION — NORWAY

Fresh from the rigours of Ex *Marrakesh Express* **SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly** was recently coerced, cajolled and generally persuaded into leading a canoeing expedition in Norway.

It was the OCs idea (is he trying to get rid of the Yeoman?) and **Lt Gordon James** was tasked with 'recruiting' members from the busy troops, it has been said that he would have become NCO i/c Radio Room if he had not managed to get seven members of the Squadron to Norway, but that is just a rumour!

The expedition members had an afternoon introduction in the cold and rough sea at Magilligan Point near Londonderry. Skill levels demonstrated at the time were not encouraging—but there again the Yeoman likes a challenge!

Canoeing Norway: *L to R:* LCpl Martin Casey, SSgt (YofS) Tony Crilly, Pte Smithy Smith RPC, Sig Ticker Durham, Sgt Robbo Robinson, Sig Blue Naylor and Ian Tolley

The journey to Norway lasted from 5 am on Mon 19 Sept until lunchtime the following day utilising minibus, shuttle, tube, train, coach, aircraft, coach, coach, boat and landrover. Nice people at BOBC—friendly welcome accompanied by food. Quick briefing, issue of kit and standby for the next day. The free time was used for familarisation with the canoes. The team seemed to be quite happy and spent a comfortable night in the BOBC accommodation. Next morning (Wed) all the kit was packed into the canoes and the merry crew went for a paddle in the fjiord to ensure the canoes were well balanced. At about 11 am the expedition set off in BOBC transport to RISOR about 150 km NE of the BOBC. They cracked straight on after a couple of publicity photos by **SSgt Tony Crilly**. First problem was that they had been dropped off some 2 km east of the edge of the map and had to guess the coastline.

That seemed to work and they paddled a comfortable 7 km in the face of strong wind until a suitable place to camp for the night was found. Wood had been collected for a fire and **Sgt Robbo Robinson**

The edge of the map

was doing his boy scout bit. 'Throw on some petrol' said **Sig Ian Tolley**, 'That's the city dwellers way' replied **Robbo** and persevered for a while until 'all right, pass the bl.... petrol!' was heard. Sun rise the next day (Thu) revealed a crisp but bright day. The first day of serious paddling saw 15 km covered by lunch time and continued to the night stopping place at the 24 km point. After tea they all sat wearily round the map and **SSgt Tony Cruilly** pointed out their route and destination for the following day. As he traced the route, an apprehensive **Pte Smithy Smith** was heard to say 'We won't be able to fit between those islands will we?' which was answered by much stomach clutching laughter (Well, it seemed funny at the time!) The following night was spent at a camp site about 4 km SW of Arundal. Four intrepid explorers, namely **LCpl Martin Casey, Sig Ian Tolly, 'Ticker' Durham** and **Pte Jeff Smith**, set off for civilisation, leaving **Robbo** and **Tony** to sleep (some more) and **Sig Tom Taylor** to dream of skiing (if he had mentioned it once more there would have been a hanging!). The explorers returned shortly having spent the time sipping bottled beer at £2.20 a bottle!

The remaining days passed by, each with their highlights like **Ian Tolley's** attempts at fishing with a stick, a piece of string and an open safety pin. He did actually hook a fish with a cry of 'Check it out' but didn't manage to land it—however they still had plenty of chicken curry left.

There was also the day spent chasing the elusive shop (they don't have many in Norway). It seemed that each time they stopped and asked directions to the nearest shop it had moved since their previous stop. They did eventually find it and the smokers amongst them quickly set about polluting the atmosphere with heavy smoke filled sighs. The expedition returned to a warm welcome (once again from the BOBC staff). It has to be said the service and equipment provided was excellent and very much appreciated. The team had a great feeling of achievement on their return having averaged about 20 kms a day without a single capsize. It would certainly be worth repeating the trip next year!

BEATING RETREAT

To commemorate the second anniversay of the amalgamation of 3 and 8 Inf Bdes on the 15 Sep 81, a superb display by the massed bands of the Brigade was held in Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry on the evening of the 9 Sep. The individual bands which took part in the display were the bands of 1 Queens, 2 Queens, 1 Cheshire and the band of the 1 RGJ only recently reformed after being involved in the terrorists bombing in Hyde Park, together with pipes and drums from the UDR. Among the several hundred guests the GOC for NI **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE** took the salute. All those who attended were entertained by a glittering display which was once again floodlit by the lads of Comms Tp.

NORTHERN IRELAND SIX-A-SIDE COMPETITION

On Saturday 3 September the NI six-a-side competition was held at RAF Bishopscourt. On arrival at RAF Bishopscourt we found that in our first round game we had been drawn against the 'A' team of last year's NI League Champions, 1st Bn Cheshire Regiment. Although faced by this daunting task we were narrowly beaten by 1—0. This result qualified us for the plate competition, our first game of the plate was against AAC Regiment. This was a very tight match resulting in a 1—0 win, for us, thanks to a well-taken effort by **Cpl Graham Hughes**. The semi-final, against RAF Aldergrove 'A' team was a little easier being a 2—0 win thanks to two opportunist goals by **LCpl 'Scouse' Nelson, RPC**. So, a little to our surprise we were in the final of the Plate Competition, where we met a team from L (Newry) Bty RA. Again, a very close fought game finishing in a 1—0 win for us. The goal again was scored by **LCpl 'Scouse' Nelson.** The winning team of the Plate Competition consisted of team captain **Cpl Graham Hughes**, and **Sqn Ldr Roger Clements RAF** (BALO), **Sgt Kev Thorpe RAPC, LCpl 'Scouse' Nelson RPC, Sig Tom Naylor, Jon-Jon Mackrod** and **Paul Baker**, what you might call a truly representative team.

WATER SKIING

This has proved to be a very popular and entertaining sport within this unit, with many of the troops and children of the Squadron attempting to ski. Even the OC, **Maj Richard Farrimond**, tried though not very successfully at first. The season started way back in April, when the water was still very cold and only the bravest came along. With the start of the school holidays every Wednesday was devoted to the kids, with plenty of amusement every week. One or two became very good, notably **Lisa Nelson,** daughter of WO1 (RSM) **Geoff Nelson**. With some expert instruction from both **Cpl 'Stu' Townsend** and **Cfn Tim Eyley, Lisa** came along in leaps and bounds and soon progressed onto mono skiing.

Comms Tp supplied by far the best entertainment with **Sig Brian (Tank) Sherman** trying very hard to empty the River Bann by swallowing it all. However, he wasn't the best. **Sig John Fox,** trying out the ski sledge, became a bit nervous on a turn and with the sledge doing about 25mph decided to get off. Well, this doesn't work, because he bounced over the water and straight up the river bank. After a trip to hospital he was seen limping around for a few days with a very badly bruised rear end.

The climax of the season came one very fine Sunday at Ballycastle **CFN Tim Eyley** entered for the annual Ballycastle to Rathlin Island Ski race. **Cfn Tim Eyley** is to be congratulated on not only winning the race, but for holding the new record time. He completed the race in 26 mins covering a distance of 15 miles, taking more than two minutes off the old record.

SQN SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION

Over a period of four or five weeks the Squadron held an inter-department six-a-side competition organised by Mike Troop. A total of seven teams entered including teams from 122 INT Section and our D. & E. P1. The pre-competition favourites were Mike Troop and Comms Troop with Bde HQ and SHQ as dark horses, and the QM's department as total unknowns. The first few rounds went to form, highlighted by some high scoring feats by Mike Troop. Until eventually the 'crunch' match came.

Mike Troop versus Comms Troop, both undefeated. Due to superior play, Mike Troop came out winners with an unbeatable points lead and eventually won the competition with Comms Troop runners-up.

Individual scoring feats worthy of mention are:

Cpl John Hadjicostas (Mike Troop) 11 goals
WO2 (FofS) Colin Bachelor (Mike Troop) 10 goals
Lt Gordon James (Comms Troop) 7 goals
Cpl Graeme Hughes (Comms Troop) 7 goals

The competiton was much enjoyed by all who took part and several players were 'unearthed' for our Squadron Hockey Team for the coming season.

Winners of the Sqn 6-a-side Hockey Competition. *L to R:* WO2(FofS) Colin Bachelor, Sgt Neil Duncan, Sgts Robbo Robinson, Mick Tucker, Steve Nickless, SSgt Om Chhetri and Cpl Gary Legge

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRST AID COMPETITION 1983

As holders of the NIFAS '82 Trophy, the Squadron entered this year's Competition with high hopes of winning. Training has been sporadic however owing to the difficulty of having all the team members together on a regular basis, but on the day the Squadron was well prepared for the situations that arose.

The Competition consisted of two incidents. The first saw the team kitted out to NBC State RED and coping with two blast casualties. Some smart work by **LCpl Pete Ali** resussitated one man successfully and **LCpl Ivan Gibson** demolished a derelict door to provide an amazing splint for the second casualty's arm which had suffered a compound fracture. With bonus points for improvisation, the Squadron was well placed for the next incident.

This turned out to be a major road convoy crash, needing treatment and evacuation of six severe casualties. They were quickly helped clear of their vehicles and the team got to work on injuries ranging from deep glass wounds to a fractured skull and punctured lungs. With so many complications, points were there to be won or lost with equal ease. Unfortunately our team couldn't quite match the winners, but finished a good third.

The teamwork was excellent in helping the injured. Time seemed to pass very quickly with so much to be done, yet all the casualties were treated efficiently and compassionately.

Congratulations to all the team for their hard work on the day, and many thanks to **Cpl (now Sgt) Archer** our medical assistant who gave up a great deal of his own time to help in practising.

Team: **Lt Gordon James, Cpl Ron Stephenson, LCpls Ivan Gibson, Woody Wood, LCpls Steve Brisk, Pete Ali, Sig Kent Marshall.**

Since our last report there have been a considerable number of changes in the Squadron with a large proportion of those being amongst the key personalities. To help clarify the position we have listed them all below:

DEPARTURES

Au revoir then to: **Capt Nick Corbin** off to 22 Sig Regt, **Capt Bill Mawer** to 14 Sig Regt, **Capt (QM) Gordon Wallace** to 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **WO2 (YofS) Bachelor** to SHAPE, **SSgt (ORSQMS) Crooks** to 259 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Archer RAMC** on promotion to 5 Armd Fd Amb, **Cpl Townsend RCT** to Berlin and finally **Sig Fox** to 244 Sig Sqn (AS). To them all our best wishes for their future postings.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to their replacements: **Capt Mike Dent** from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Capt Trevor Bradley** from 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Capt (QM) Jimmy Akehurst** from Queen's Ghurkha Signals, **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins** from 28 Sig Regt and **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes** from 244 Sig Sqn (AS). We wish them a happy and successful tour in Londonderry.

STOP PRESS: Congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) C. R. Bachelor** on being awarded **Mention in Despatches.**

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

Since the last issue the squadron has been kept busy by a variety of events throughout the Province. In early August West Belfast experienced a wave of violence not seen since the riots following Bobby Sands death. An unfortunate chain of events, the visit of NORAID, American supports of Sinn Fein, and the shooting of a civilian by a British soldier in Whiterock Road, touched off a fuse. Petrol bombs, bricks and burnt out buses littered the streets. **Pte Andy Holloway** of Rover Group caught a brick on the shoulder which put him out of action for a few days but luckily for him no serious damage was done. **LCpl Bert Allen** and **Pte Titch Turley** were seen patch painting Rover Groups piglets every morning to hide the scars from the brickings the night before.

1LI have now left the Province after a most successful tour. In their place are 1RRW from Lemgo W Germany. We wish them well for the next four months. In the south 1DERR are starting to pack their bags to go back to Canterbury and in their place are 1st Bn The Grenadier Guards.

The mass jail break from the Maze prison—38 prisoners in all managed to get out of the front gate—caused a general alert throughout the Province. Alpha Troop was very quick to deploy its Standby Radio Vehicles to the Maze and set up a Bde Tac HQ for the Deputy Bde Comd. This HQ remained at the Maze throughout Sunday night and Monday as the immediate area surrounding the Maze was searched in case any escapees had gone to ground. As the search widened throughout the Province and reinforcements were called in to assist, the squadron was called upon to co-ordinate the issue of radio equipment. The new pegasus manpack designed by TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** and **2Lt Paul Hudson** proved invaluable.

Sig Jack Turner models the new Hudson Frame. The new pegasus manpack designed by 2Lt Paul Hudson and Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson won them an award of £50 each

THE SQUADRON OPEN DAY

Saturday 3 September—The long awaited squadron open day had arrived. It was due to start with a squadron photograph but the weather didn't look promising—typical Irish weather, it was pouring with rain. Miraculously, 15 minutes later the rain had stopped and a large gathering of soldiers appeared from all corners of the squadron. Many unfamiliar faces who normally manage to avoid every squadron parade materialised to grin at the camera.

Wives, girlfriends, and other dependants arrived mid morning to be shown round the squadron. **LCpl Mac McLeish,** one of our riggers offered to escort any volunteers up the squadron new 120 ft mast. He had few takers, especially in the strong wind when the top of the mast

Sig Snapper Snape of Handbag Troop models the new style Anti Riot Helmet

Who is the girl? Sig Mick Stout and Diane Sutherland pose for our photographer

The French Connection. Sig Dave Harris and LCpl Martin Hayter selling onions

started to sway. **Cpl Scouse Wikeley's** heli tele display was the main attraction, but **Cpl Paul Jennings** and **Sgt Tony Moses** got most attention from the under 10s when they offered to dress them up in flak jacket, riot helmet and SMG.

Rover Group captured the morning with an impressive anti-ambush display in front of the squadron. Living up to their reputation as an elite bunch of cowboys, they loosed off hundreds of blank rounds and smoke grenades—fortunately the RMP had been warned to expect a lot of noise!

The whole merry affair cumulated in a bar lunch in the Horseshoe Club with a Knurdling Competition 'organised?' by **2Lt Paul Hudson.**

Many teams took part and lots of effort went into the fancy dress for the occasion. After a very close run heat for the best fancy dress the winning team was **WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne, SSgt Dave Hogben, SSgt (ORSQMS) Pete Cuckow** and **LCpl 'Chewie' Gumm.** Sadly their performance in the more athletic part of the event wasn't quite up to it and they finished mid table, largely due to the age of the now non-smoking RSM and the beer gut of **LCpl 'Chewie' Gumm.** Of course 'every one else cheated'.

The eventual winners of the Knurdling came from MT Troop, the winning team being **LCpls Taff Henton, Chris Parslow, Dvr Mark Hoyland** and **Cpl Monty Monteith.**

Yes, it's really them. RSM Dave Osborne, SSgts Pete Cuckow and Dave Hogben pose during the Knurdling competition

Maj Martin Wilkinson presents the prize to the winning ladies team in the Knurdling competition. *L to R:* Diane Sutherland, Tich Howitson, Pauline Hayward and Clair Duckworth

MT Troop carry the day. Dvrs Taff Henton, Mark Hoyland, Cpl Monty Monteith and LCpl Chris Parslow celebrate after their win

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Troop has just seen a period of many changing personalities. Many of the old stalwarts have now left us and in the last month we have said goodbye to **Cpls Chris Hobday, Eddie Connelly, LCpls Phil Horne, Danny Webb** and **Sig Neil Inman.** In their place we welcome **Cpl Steve Matthews, LCpl Paul Jones, Sig Andy Cook, Ptes Bob Vince** and **Andy Stenhouse.**

We offer congratulations to **Sig Jack Turner** who has just taken the plunge and married and we offer good luck to **Sig Mick Stout** who is off to P Coy to get his wings. Just back from Catterick are **Sig Smudge Smith** and **Sean Ingram,** a lively pair who promise there won't be many dull moments in the troop for the next few months.

For the last few weeks **Cpl Harry Fellows** and his band have been busy fitting new radios in South Armagh ready for the arrival of the Grenadier Guards. Jack of all Trades **Cpl Brian Mackey** has been assisting and is thinking of claiming for a Radio Ops pay as well. **Cpl Paul Jennings** has just had a job change and is now the troop's West Belfast crew leader (he says it beats soldering bits of wire together).

Finally **Cpl Steve Matthews** has been pinched from Bravo (Handbag) Troop on indefinite loan to take over from **Cpl Eddie Connelly.**

SHQ TROOP

As with most Squadron HQs, the chiefs outnumber the Indians.

The Chiefs:

OC	**Maj Martin Wilkinson**
2IC	**Capt Terry Canham**
AO	**Maj Tom Corcoran IG**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Dave Osborne**
YofS (Ops)	**WO2 (YofS) Pete Tapsell**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Pete Cuckow**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Dave Hogben**

With **LCpl Jamie James** leaving and not being replaced, the only **Indians** are:

Cpl Vinny Vincent
LCpl Chewie Gumm
Sig Zuppy Zuppinger
and Annette—our typist.

The morning after Bravo Tp's Tramps Ball, **LCpl 'Chewie' Gumm** was found asleep, still in his tramps kit, in the Duty NCO's bunk. He can't remember how he got there! Prior to the Tramps Ball, the Chief Clerk and **Cpl Vinny Vincent** had visited the local 'War on Want' shop and, whilst searching for suitable tramps kit, they found **2Lt Paul Hudson** at the bottom of the pile. I bet he denies it!

SSgt Dave Hogben is smiling more these days—he's handed over the job of Mess Treasurer and is now looking for his uniform.

MT TROOP

From April to June this year the squadron drove 156,831 miles free from accidents and was awarded a Road Safety Diploma by the Northern Ireland Command Road Safety Committee; an excellent achievement. Well done to all our squadron drivers.

3 Sep, Squadron Open Day saw our wives trying their hand at driving a 4 ton truck around an 'empty' vehicle park. For the more advanced lady drivers, manoeuvring a ¼ ton 'Piglet' between, around, and over cones proved to be more exciting.

SSgt John Syer said farewell to the troop on 5 Sep, we all wish him luck at 60 Sqn RCT. **SSgt Paul Walsh** joins the troop and his claim for disturbance allowance has been rejected by the APDO as he only came from 26 Sqn RCT, just round the corner! **LCpls Pinky Fenton** and **Parky Henton** have moved into Rover Group. **LCpl Parky Henton** broke his leg in rugby training and we all wish him a speedy recovery at Woolwich and an early return to the squadron.

Cpl Monty Monteith has a large 'pot' on his foot which he inherited whilst playing football and which helps him now at closing time in his duties as squadron barman.

BRAVO TROOP

We have said farewell to some old faces, many of whom have not been replaced. **Sgts Pete Jarvis, Paul Hayward, Cpls Tim 'Elvis' Timby, John 'Rocky' Dyer** and **Sig 'Stretch' Barnes** are among those who have left. However, we welcome in their places **Sgt Phil Crowther** and **Cpl Cliff Knighton.**

The main event of the last month has been the rebuild of the Commcen, Crypto Room and the new troop office. As an interim measure the temporary Commcen is in the kitchen much to the chagrin of **Sgt Jim McDonald.** Fortunately the tolerance of the shift workers is quite high which is just as well as the builders do make a lot of noise.

Finally our best wishes go with our OC, **2Lt 'Gaylord' Hudson,** as he leaves for his P Coy course.

Where is my office? YofS Jason Wood supervises the rebuild of the Commcen

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

SUPERSOLDIER COMPETITION

September ended in a frenzy of military activity, each troop training for the annual Supersoldier Competition which was held on 1 October. The event was well co-ordinated by **Sgt Bob Cunnion** (with a little help from the SSM) and seven military skills stands provided a real challenge for the competing teams.

Echo Troop, having annexed themselves from their traditional competition partners, Admin Troop, less than a week before the event, won the day. Mention must be made of the two WRAC teams who posed quite a threat until it came to the shooting stand. The presentation of the riot baton was made by **Maj Pat Kington** in the Peake Inn.

MAZE BREAKOUT

Action at last for Comms Troop who deployed in double-quick time to set up emergency communications at Maze Prison. Led by **SSgt Pete Root** they sped through the road blocks to provide secure telephone and teleprinter circuits more quickly than they ever managed on practice runs. The only person who wasn't happy about the whole affair was **Sgt Lee Searle** who, having practised some 20 times for this sort of eventuality, was on a sailing course at the time and missed it completely!

McKELVIE COMPETITION

The annual inter-troop sports competition is under way again with Basketball and Badminton keenly contested in September. On 7 October the Fun Run (surely a contradiction in terms?) was organised by the TOT, **Capt Matt Campbell** whose namesake **SSgt Graham Campbell** was the first runner home. The run was won by Admin/Echo Troop who thereby nudged their way ahead of Tech Troop in the McKelvie Trophy.

AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE NEWS . . .

Capt John Shepherd became **Maj John Shepherd,** followed rapidly by his departure, Cyprus-bound. Some people have all the luck! His replacement as OC Victor Troop is **Capt Catherine Snedden** to whom we extend the usual welcome. OC Comms Troop, **Lt Grace Harrison,** left to return to 16 Sig Regt. She does pick up her Acting Captaincy on the way, although rumour has it that she'll be needing the pay rise!

Some of the 'girls' have been out and about recently. The switchboard operators have penetrated that bastion of male chauvinism, 1 RHF, and are currently deploying three girls in Palace Barracks to carry out this work. Help has also been given to the UDR, in the form of **Ptes Heather Boyes** and **Maggie Boycott** who acted as terrorists for the recent Anderson and Liddle Cups, 'Military Skills competition.' We believe that they were very convincing!

AND TALKING OF ROMEO TROOP . . .

We've all heard of Murphy's Law, that if something can go wrong—it will. Romeo Troop have recently unearthed O'Toole's comment: 'Murphy was an optimist'. They have also discovered The Golden Rule of Arts and Sciences: 'Whoever has the gold makes the rule.'

An exchange overheard recently in the Squadron Office:

Chief Clerk—'Is it true that Training Wing are going to run refresher courses for personnel re-entering the Service from Romeo Troop?'

Sgt Aldous (Trg Wing)—'No, we don't train civilians from scratch'.

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.

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

MASS EXODUS

Since the last *Wire* report the most eventful part of our busy calendar has happened—'Summer Leave', four weeks away from the extremely busy College life. The mass exodus was a sight to be seen. Cars, bikes, caravans, vehicles of all shapes and sizes fighting to clear the main gates, **Cpl Red McKenna** leading. Each driver glancing backwards, fear in his eyes waiting for the re-call from Doctor Death (The Adjt **Maj Harry Feber**). Even halfway down Penny Pot Lane it was hard to conceive that it was actually happening—'we are free—we are free' all were shouting inwardly—but deep down inside our tummies we knew that it was not the hectic life of the College, the extra mural activities, the endless jobs that arise from this environment that we were all running from. No, it was **Capt Wally Lockwood!**

GRADUATION DAY

The Graduation this term was held on Fri 3 August. The College Padre, **Rev John Blackburn** had obviously been doing his little piece as the weather was beautiful. The reviewing officer was our Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL.** This was the Master's first visit in his new capacity. The parade was of an extremely high standard and the parade commander, **AT RSM Simon Norris,** earned the praise of the Master and the Commandant **Col G. C. Verdon OBE.**

Congratulations to all the prize winners who have worked hard to achieve their just rewards.

MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD for the 'Best all round apprentice of the Senior Term'—**AT SSM P. F. Maloney (R).**

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF's AWARD for the 'Best all round tradesman of the Senior Term'—**AT Cpl M. R. Stillie (R).**

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARMY TRAINING AWARD for the 'Best individual military performance of the Senior Term'—**AT RSM S. P. Norris (S).**

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE for 'Conduct, discipline and example'—**AT RSM S. P. Norris (S).**

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE for 'Outstanding academic progress whilst at the College'—**AT SSM D. Menice (P).**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE

'To the best Apprentice of the Senior term in each trade'.

TECHNICIANS

Terminal Equipment	**AT SSM D. Menice (P)**
Radio Relay	**AT Cpl P. D. Weaver (P)**

TELEGRAPHISTS

Radio	**AT Cpl C. J. Thomson (R)**
Special	**AT Cpl A. S. Costello (P)**

EDUCATION PRIZES 'For the best academic progress during their time at the College'

Technician	**AT Cpl P. D. Weaver (P)**
Telegraphist	**AT A. C. Joy (B)**

BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZE 'For service to the community'—**AT Sgt T. W. Comyns (R).**

Congratulations are also in order for the following medal presentations:

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT (MILITARY)
WO2 (Band SM) R. G. Thompson RRF

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL
Freddie Craven Electronic Wing Instructor.

Maj Gen Badcock speaks to AT Sgt Hanchard, while Col Paddy Verdon looks on

L to R: AT M. Pullim (P), AT RSM S. Norris (S), AT SSM M. Maloney (R), The Master, and The Comdt

TRIANGULAR GAMES

Each year during the summer term the three Apprentices Colleges, Chepstow, Arborfield and Harrogate pitch themselves into a number of sporting battles during the Annual Triangular Games. This is the only opportunity the Colleges have of fielding full teams in each sports as the age limits on the various Junior Army sports events of ten debar the more senior apprentices from participation. The standards achieved in the activities are always high and it is a pleasure to see the friendly rivalry between the colleges. This year in particular, Harrogate were well rewarded for their fine efforts as can be seen from the following results:

Athletics	**First**	**OIC Maj Dick Hoyle**
Swimming	**Third**	**OIC SSgt Bob Bowman**
Volleyball	**Second**	**OIC WO2 (SSM) John Warren**
Badminton	**First**	**OIC Mr Roy Cooper**
Tug of War	**Second**	**OIC Mr Charlie Allen**
Fencing	**Second**	**OIC Mr (Ex CSM) Brian Matless**
Squash	**First**	**OIC Capt Paul Robertshaw**
Cricket	**First**	**OIC Maj Bill Price**
Tennis	**Joint first**	**OIC Capt Karen Ibbotson**
Basketball	**First**	**OIC Capt Ian Buckley**
Cycling	**First**	**OIC Mr Alan Green**
Sailing	**Second**	**OIC Maj Peter Hoppe**

Our thanks go to the OIC Sports who devote a great deal of their own time to the team's coaching. Also to the apprentices themselves, who work and play so hard during the sporting seasons.

COLLEGE ORIENTEERING
THE ROYAL DEESIDE SCOTTISH ORIENTEERING CLUB 6-DAY EVENT
31 JULY–6 AUGUST

In the last week of Summer Term, three members of the Permanent Staff and six Apprentices went Over The Border for a week's orienteering: The College had entered a squad in the Royal Deeside 6-Day Event. The event is held by the Scottish Orienteering Club once every two years, and the six 1983 courses were dotted along and around the Dee Valley.

Sgt Pete Probin was hoping for a quiet week away from the College: This dream was shattered when, as he drove the minibus over the Scottish Border, **AT Andrew Moffat** got out his bagpipes and 'piped' the minibus into Scotland, to the amusement of other motorists and unsuspecting wildlife . . .

The understandably deafened group arrived at the Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, where we were to be accommodated for our week on Deeside. They were shortly joined by **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown** and **AT Mark Hudson,** both 'fresh' (!) from a stint in London at the Royal Tournament, and **AT Cpl Steve Davis** and **AT Colin Larrad** a day later, having been delayed in Harrogate.

On Day 1, (having eventually got **Sgt Probin** from his bed) we set off for Ballater. The courses were set in an area that made Ex *Tiercel* look like a nature ramble: The area was a mass of contours, brambles were thick on the ground and the sun beat down relentlessly. The 'Nimble Nine' staggered up and down the Pannanich Hill saying to themselves 'No pain, no gain . . .'. Looking back on the week, Day 1 was probably the hardest, but the fantastic scenery and superb weather continued throughout. The following five days took us to Lossiemouth, Balmoral, Crathes Castle (training event) and the Bin Forest to name a handful—some of us attaining greater success than others . . .

In the Men's 17B Class: **AT Mark Hudson**—17th, **AT LCpl Alan Holyoak**—19th, **AT Phil Moffat**—22nd, and **AT LCpl David Blyth**—14th, in a class of 28 competitors.

In the Men's 19A Class, **AT Cpl Steve Davis** was 47th and beat 'a couple of people . . .'

AT Colin Larrad came 68th in the Men's 17A Class, in a field of 80 odd runners; **Lt Elspeth Mollison** achieved 43rd out of 115, **Sgt Pete (PJ) Probin** bulldozed his way to 46th out of 76 and **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown** quickly came to the conclusion that entering the M21A1 class was a mistake.

Our week in Scotland was a great success and I will shortly be submitting Trade clearance forms in order to get a team to Tayside '85—thank you TG and Tech Wings!!

The Lads (well, 5 of them) — Day 4

'Begone Dull Care' AT Mark Hudson, sporting the striped T-Shirt was re-named 'Martini' for his sleeping habits — Anytime, Anyplace

The Nimble Nine
Back row L to R: Sgt Pete Probin, Lt Elspeth Mollison, Lt Patrick Windsor Brown, AT Cpl Steve Davis
Front row L to R: AT Mark Hudson, AT LCpl David Blyth, AT Phil Moffat, AT LCpl Alan Holyoak, AT Colin Larrad

THE ARMY JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's championships were once again held at the Army Apprentices College Aldershot over the weekend 28–29 May. Seven teams in all were entered these being:

Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Army Apprentices College Aldershot
Army Apprentices College Chepstow
Army Apprentices College Arborfield
Army Apprentices College Worthy Down
Junior Leaders Regiment Bramcote
Junior Leaders Regiment Colerne

With stiff opposition we knew we were in for a hard weekend, therefore the College had been training vigorously for some time. So it was we arrived in Aldershot on the night of the 27 May, picked up at the station by minibus and deposited at the College. As our first game wasn't scheduled until 1400hrs Saturday we collected our bedding and got our heads down for a good night's sleep.

SATURDAY 28 MAY

1300hrs saw us all in the gym ready to go, but as our first game wasn't until 1400hrs we decided to stay and watch as much of the opposition as possible. After watching the first two games, it was our turn and we were to play AAC Chepstow. Thanks go to **Sgt Dave Randall** for his coaching of warm-up drills, the like of which has never been seen before in this competition, but by the end of the weekend everyone was trying to copy them.

We finally took to the court against Chepstow and after a very hard fought match we eventually ran out winners by 18 pts to 16 pts. Our second and third matches on the first day proved slightly easier and resulted in wins for the College 35 pts to 13 pts and 32 pts to 10 pts.

After the first day's play the league positions were as follows:

	P	W	L	D	F	A
AAC Harrogate	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**85**	**39**
AAC Arborfield	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**63**	**40**
AAC Aldershot	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**106**	**54**
AAC Worthy Down	**4**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**61**	**93**
AAC Chepstow	**4**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**74**	**63**
Jun Leaders Colerne	**3**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**47**	**80**
Jun Leaders Bramcote	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**30**	**97**

SUNDAY 29 MAY

So into the second day's play, doing better than anyone had dared hope. This was obviously going to be the hardest of the two day's play as we had to face AAC Arborfield, AAC Aldershot and AAC Worthy Down who stood second, third and fourth respectively in the table.

0900 AAC HARROGATE v AAC ALDERSHOT

The AAC Aldershot were not only the hosts but also the holders of the trophy and therefore promised to be a hard match for the College. The College played a fine game, with outstanding performances by **Mick Swift, Taff Williams** and **Nobby Clarke,** Harrogate running out eventual winners by 20 pts to 12 pts.

1030 AAC HARROGATE v AAC ARBORFIELD

This was billed as the big match, the championship decider, for whoever won this match would probably win the Tournament, it was certainly a nail biting affair, close to begin with, with neither team wanting to take the initiative; it was such a close game that with 42 seconds remaining, our coach **Cpl Pete Trigwell** called a time out, which left Arborfield only time to serve once more. Therefore, Harrogate beat Arborfield 19 pts to 9 pts.

1200 AAC HARROGATE v AAC WORTHY DOWN

This last game actually proved to be the hardest as AAC Worthy Down decided to put on their best performance so far, also a few nerves were beginning to show from the College team. But after much effort from the team and shouting from **Pete Trigwell** (who looked as though he had lost a little bit more hair, if that were possible) the College finally won 19 pts to 9 pts again.

OVERALL TEAM PLACINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A
AAC Harrogate	6	6	0	0	143	69
AAC Arborfield	6	5	0	1	135	78
AAC Chepstow	6	3	0	3	123	93
AAC Aldershot	6	3	0	3	134	106
AAC Worthy Down	6	2	1	3	98	125
Jun Leaders Bramcote	6	1	0	5	72	163
Jun Leaders Colerne	6	0	1	5	67	135

Thanks must go to the team who played so well and turned the College Army Junior Champions into something else, also to **Sgt Dave Randall** and **Lt Windsor Brown** who both helped to make a successful team. Well done!

EXERCISE *THINK UPRIGHT*

On Sep 9, a party of six canoeists from the College travelled to Aberfeldy in Perthshire. The object was to complete a week's training prior to the 'Inter Services Canoe Slalom Championships'. The location was a picturesque spot on the River Tay called Grandtully. The canoeists were looking forward to the championships as it was the culmination of a hard summer's training and preparation under the eagle eye of **Capt Paul Robertshaw.**

A disappointing sight greeted the eager paddlers on arrival at Grandtully. The conditions were going to be extremely difficult due to the Tay being high and bouncy. Fortunately as the week progressed the level dropped and one by one the canoeists mastered the water. This after quite a number of soakings and nervous starts. **AT Zippy Sharp** appeared to like 'stoppers' and 'holes' as he was never out of them. **AT Cpl Taff Reed** managed to lose a bet by going 'nap' on a fibre glass canoe being stronger than the rocks. Luckily these craft are able to be repaired in just under 12 hours. The height of the training schedule was the sight of **AT Slim Collings** repeatedly defying gravity and remaining upright in his craft.

On the selection day for the Army team, **AT Cpl Taff Reed** had an impressive selection run and was rewarded by being selected.

On the first competition day the team had rather mixed fortunes. Each individual had two runs at the course with the best one to count. After a poor first run by **Cpl Ian Dobson** and **LCpl Mick Eaton** they managed to reach their normal high standard on the second one. By doing so, they beat the RAF crews into second place and won the gold medal in the C2 event. Other notable achievements that day were in the K1 event in which **LCpl Andy Eaton** managed a good sixth place and further points were scored by **AT Cpl Taff Reed.**

Friday was the big day. This was the team events and members from the College came out of it extremely well. Gold medals were won by **LCpl Andy Eaton** in the Army 'A' Team K1 and **Cpl Ian Dobson/LCpl Andy Eaton** and **AT Cpl Taff Reed** were all selected for the Combined Services Team. Many congratulations to the squad for achieving such a high standard of slalom canoeing over the competition.

A 'ROOKS' EYE VIEW ON MILITARY INDOCTRINATION

Report by Recruit Macdonald

I got up at 0715hrs and left Sunderland station at 0900hrs. I reached Harrogate station at 1300hrs. A Sergeant met me at the station. From there a few lads and I got the mini-coach up to the College. First, I was taken to the indoor arena where I was given a haircut and went through documentation. **Cpl Jenks Jenkins** was the first NCO I saw in 'rook troop'. He seemed all right. After getting my hair cut I was issued with all my kit. Then I was taken up to my room (Scott Sqn, Alfa Troop, Room 23).

Cpl Paddy Ireland arrived on the scene and told me to do 10 press ups for not standing up as he entered the room. This repeated itself throughout my first day at the College. I was busy labelling my kit and I was told to do something else, then something else again. I had to fold my kit. I was getting into a lot of trouble because I did not know how to fold it. I hated that first day. I didn't know where I was, I was here, there and everywhere. When we went down to dinner we only had a few minutes to eat. I hated all the NCOs at first! The first morning of my 'rook troop' I got my bed tipped by **Cpl Fido Francis** for not getting out of bed quickly enough. The first few days were the worst.

Our first weekend was spent at the Scott Squadron Camp near Morecambe. It was a laugh. We had a game of football, volleyball and had a boat and raft race with the senior lads.

Now and then we had 'bullnights', sometimes a few in a row. They were not that bad really. We got a BFT in our first PT lesson. Nobody liked PT at first but now it's all right. Our second week at the College started off with Ex *Fist* in the Military Training Wing. We learned the skills of camouflage and concealment which was put into practice on Ex *Fledgling*. We learned to handle an SLR and fired the weapon later on. I liked Military Training and so did all my mates as that is one of the things we all wanted to do. More of our time should be devoted to Military Training as well as trade, which we must have.

I was in section six with **Sgt John Burgess** as my SNCO in Military Training Wing. He is a canny bloke. He likes people doing pyramids. Most of the SNCOs in Military Training are all right.

Sgt Paddy Black took our 'rook troop' for drill. I did not really like it much at first but after a few days or so it got to be tolerable. **SSM Mike Nixon** also took us for drill. Three weeks after I came to the College, I and the rest of recruit troops, Bradley and Rawson included, went on Ex *Fledgling*, near Ripon. We learned about First Aid, Sentry Duties, how to work cookers, lamps etc, field formations, camouflage and concealment. We also cooked our own food in the 24-hr one-man ration packs. The food in them was nice except the AB biscuits which tasted like water (no taste at all). On the last day we went for a pack run with back pack, kidney pouches, full webbing, etc. One lad fainted and a few went down with the heat and sprained ankles.

After a few weeks NCOs didn't shout at us so much!

The other day I did walk off. I was flapping, so were my mates. Everyone walked off the square. We just scraped through the drill side of it though.

We go on leave for a week soon and when we come back we are no longer Recruits!

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FAREWELL TO MRS JOAN CUNNINGHAM

On 9 June we said farewell to **Mrs Joan Cunningham** on her retirement. She has worked for the School for 16 years and was one of the first to join the School staff when it moved down from Catterick in 1967. **Joan** worked as a typist in the Officers Mess for 10 years and for a shorter spell with the QM(Techs), and finally in the Typing Pool. Her many friends are sad to see her leave. Our appreciation of her service was marked by a ceremony in the Sergeants Mess where she was presented with a number of gifts. Our

picture shows **Joan, Lt Col Ron Saville** (the COS) and **Sigi Adams,** our Supervisor of Typists, enjoying the occasion.

TRIALS SQUADRON DEPLOY ON SALISBURY PLAIN WITH PTARMIGAN

The last time you heard of us, we had just returned from BAOR at the end of the trial to prove that PTARMIGAN would work with BRUIN through the tactical interface—obviously a vital requirement when PTARMIGAN goes to BAOR next year. Well—we've been at it again. From March to June this year was the first big major system trial of PTARMIGAN. Ex *Soaring Plume* was the exercise in which four PTARMIGAN Nodes were deployed on the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) during the period 4–25 May 83.

Our Squadron 21C, **Capt Miles Stockdale,** had the unenviable task of coordinating the move of virtually the complete squadron plus, approximately, an additional 80 personnel drafted in from UK, and BAOR, HQ, who were all needed to help us run the trial. The planning was so detailed that he needed to issue Admino 1/83 closely followed by Admino 2/83 (at least, that's his story).

MANY LESSONS LEARNT

Although the Squadron deployed to SPTA on 4 May the build-up started much earlier with staff work, comms and site planning being done by **Capt Tim Bryning, WO1 (YofS) Morris Campbell** and **WO1 (FofS) Mick Scott.** In addition we needed to train the attached Technicians and Operators who were to man the PTARMIGAN installations during the exercise. This task fell to Radio Relay Troop and Systems Troop personnel who, without the proper training facilities or sufficient equipments, did a magnificent job. (Some of our ex-students reading this may not, of course, fully agree.) It was a difficult task for both instructors and students and many lessons were learnt. Our students will remember **SSgt Bob** (wrinkles) **Webb** for his 'introduction' to computers, **Sgt Bob Branson** (I've never done any instruction before) for his excellent lessons on Subscribers Facilities and Equipments, **Cpls J. J. Smith** and **Alex Dick** on Radio Relay, **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins** for his PTARMIGAN 'Crypto' lesson carried out in a partitioned room (minus roof) within a large warehouse with 'unauthorised' civilian personnel walking around the area (thank goodness **YofS Campbell** was free to give the lesson again at a later date) and **Sgt Pete Sellars,** our overworked and hard pressed admin SNCO for his 'tea'. This training being carried out at Plessey, Christchurch, our thanks go to **Mr Keith Brewer, Mr Ivan Symonds, Mr Terry Brabon, Mr Grant Wellman** and **Mr Dave Parton,** the hard pressed Catering Manager.

Exercise Control was located at New Zealand Farm Camp with Systems Executive Plans (SEP) (CP7 equivalent) being manned by OC Squadron, **Maj Phil Whitemore** and **Capt Miles Stockdale** and Operations Systems Control (OSC) manned by **Capt (TOT) Bob McKay, Capt Adrian Pearce** and **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins.** The Nodes were deployed as 3 × Trunk Nodes (Commcens) and 1 × Access Node (Comm Head plus HQ). The exercise consisted of individual trials: Link engineering, tactical Movement and Siting, Subscribers Facilities and Commsec aspects. These were carried out by individual teams 'taking over' the system for a period, conducting their trial and then returning to Blandford to write their trial report. The remainder of us, kept the system running and were responsible for providing the comms requirements for each trial; it worked very

well (most times). The photo shows on the left, OCS **Capt Pearce** and **Cpl Steve Thorpe** and right, SEP, **Maj Whitemore** in perfect harmony. Our next photo shows OSC and SEP squaring-up for a quiet planning discussion with sympathetic parties aligned accordingly. The civilian attired gentlemen are Plessey engineers, **Mr Bob Craig** (left) and **Mr Ron Wright,** roughing it. **LCpl Nigel Wildman** and **Cpl Lofty Nall** (right foreground) when not acting as Sqn Clerk and SQMS Dept respectively were recruited as SEP persuaders by **Capt Stockdale** (SEP one on right with moustache).

When things threatened to quieten down **Capt McKay** would have a 'sort-out' at OSC, move a few Nodes around the SPTA and generally stir things up a bit. However, it must be said that for stirring things up **Capt Adrian Pearce** excelled, and **Sgts Pete Halstead, Chuck Walker** and **Scottie Handibode** will testify to that. The Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA) and Tactical Interface Installation (TII) crews finished the exercise and were mere shadows of their former selves. It was said, and this is only rumour, that **Capt Pearce** could find a problem before it even realised it was one.

Ex *Soaring Plume*—Excon at its worst!
L to R: Mr Bob Craig (Plessey), Mr Ron Wright (Plessey), Maj Phil Whitemore, Capt Miles Stockdale, LCpl Nigel Wildman and Cpl 'Lofty' Nall (11 Sig Regt)

THE CLEANER

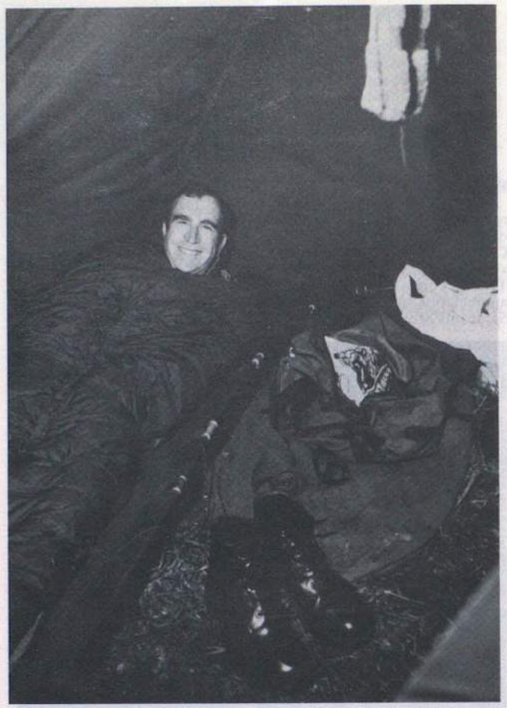
It must be stated that even we excelled ourselves when **Col Mickey Topple** was hosting our American guests who were visiting PTARMIGAN, and in particular the SCRA sub-system. Owing to the time difference **Mr Ed Kelly** and **Mr Al Madrick** were unable to make a telephone call over the SCRA, through PTARMIGAN to the local GPO exchange and then through the international exchange to their office in America. So later, during lunch in the Officers Mess, a discreet tap at the window announced the arrival of an SCRA Det. The SCRA Control Indicator Group (CIG) was passed through the window and the American guests invited to speak to their office. Unfortunately the only person in the office at that time was the cleaner!

THE SOFTWARE

The PTARMIGAN Software Support Team (PSST) were once more looking after our interests under the leadership of **Maj Helier Exon** with help from stalwarts such as **Sgt Jerry D'Alquen** and **Foremen Bob Bradford** and **Lee Randerson**. They could be seen huddled together in the Incident Reporting (IR) cell working slowly through an ever increasing file of Incident Reports (IRs).

Out at the sharp end were the Nodes blaming OSC and SEP for asking them to move in the rain and even in the dark. (Author's Note: After the first night move we thought twice about asking them again).

Capt Tim Bryning (see photo) was working on the principle that PTARMIGAN is so good that it does it all alone. He was actually practising the Horizontal Command Principle (HCP).



Capt Tim Bryning practising the Horizontal Command Principle at Access Node 511

Assisting him (but not in photo) were **WO2 (FofS) Don Wooff** (1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) and **SSgt (YofS) Bob Marshall** (16 Sig Regt).

Sgt Chas Gemmell commanded Node 003, until **Capt Nick Blampied** arrived from another trial in Denmark while **WO2 (FofS) Mick Flanagan** and **SSgt (now WO2) (YofS) Dave Barnett** commanded Node 004 and **Sgt Dave Shaw** ably assisted by **Sgt Bob Branson** commanded Node 054 back in Blandford Camp.

MORE COULD BE SAID . . .

More could be said about **LCpl D. C. Declancy** in an isolated Staff Vehicle single handedly fighting off an Infantry Platoon attack on his wood. The succulent meals produced under the direction of **SSgt Dave Few**. How New Zealand Farm Camp was attacked by a Squadron of tanks. How **Sig John Dickinson,** one of our 20KW generator experts was awakened at 0500hrs and told he was not needed on the early shift at 0530hrs that morning. How **Cpl Tim Hardy** was stopped just in time from turning the camp bar into an international night-club. Although it was rumoured that **WO2 (SSM) Ray Marshall** (now retired) was considering applying for the post of manager, nobody believed this. How the Call Forward facility in PTARMIGAN was misused so that you finished up speaking to yourself.

THE BIGGEST

Ex *Soaring Plume* was the biggest PTARMIGAN deployment to date. We practised command and movement of Trunk and Access Nodes, SCRA working, Single Central and Cluster SCRA working, Store and Forward working and all the PTARMIGAN facilities available were used. Problems were found and where possible rectified, many still remain but at least we know about them and with SOPs can overcome most of them until they are sorted out at a later date. To achieve success very close cooperation was needed with the Plessey Company and this was provided by a team led by **Mr Ivan Symonds** and **Mr Terry Brabon** who lived in the field with us.

WITOGRAMMES

The spirit of the exercise can be summarised by quoting some of **WO2 (YofS) Dave Barnett's** weekly Top Ten Witogrammes (transmitted and received via Cossor teleprinters):

Leader Of The Pack	**OC Sqn, Maj Phil Whitemore**
More Questions Than Answers	**2IC, Capt Miles Stockdale**
Stairway To The Stars	**Tech Adjt, Capt (TOT) Bob McKay**
Brand New Key	**WO1 (YofS) Morris Campbell**
Space Oddity	OSC—(Excon)
The Good, The Bad And The Ugly	**SSM, WO2 Ray Marshall**
Convoy	Node 511
Can't Get Used To Using You	Store and Forward
I Talk To The Trees	SSM
Paranoid	**Plessey and Co**
Up, Up And Away	**Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins**
My Way	**Capt Adrian Pearce**
Wrinkle, Wrinkle Little Star	**SSgt Bob Webb**
Puppet On A String	Radio Relay Dets
I Don't Want To Talk About It	PSST

We hope that all the attached soldiers from UK and BAOR units enjoyed their stay with us and enjoyed using PTARMIGAN too. We have made use of all their comments in our final Trials Report.

There was a considerable amount of tidying up and writing to do at the end of all this activity, but we still managed some fun during the Summer.

GLIDING AND SAILING TOO

It was time for some of the 'experts' to show off their skills to the other willing followers! **Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins** introduced even more of his Troop to the delights of gliding. His troop—Systems (and Gliding) Troop—have several pilots to help out, **LCpl DC Declancy** and **Sgt Martin Hardy. SSgt Bob Webb** took a party off-shore sailing during the same period, along with **LCpl Mick Hincks,** now the bosun at JSSC Gosport.

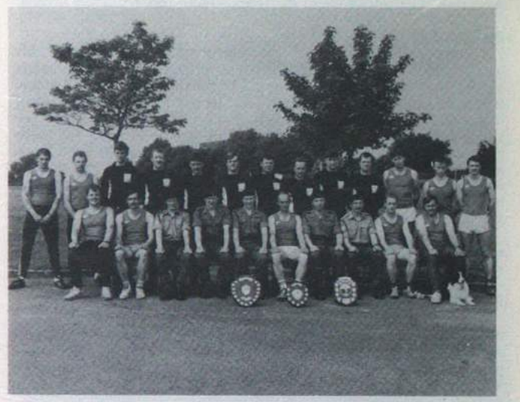
Systems Troop Sports! An apprehensive Sgt Bob Branson on his first flight with Capt (Tfc) Andy Harkins. Sgt Pete Sellars hangs on to the winch rope

Systems Troop go sailing.
L to R: Sgt Pete Sellars, LCpl 'Mick' Hincks, SSgt Bob West and Cpl 'Gas' Stratton

ATHLETICS SUCCESS WITH DIPLOMACY

And there was even time for the Squadron to take all the major awards and most of the individual ones too, at the Annual Garrison Sports Day on 28 June. Prior to this day, a Regimental Athletics Standards Competition was run to pick the gladiators for the great day—Trials Squadron won that too! **Sgt Pete Halstead** ran the team and he must take the credit for selecting the athletics team which enabled us to overcome the previous dominance of Instructional Wing. The clean sweep of the day was provided by the Tug-of-War team and even the chain-of-command foursome. In fact the only event not won by the Squadron was the Old Soldiers' race where we (and this is our version) diplomatically allowed the Commander, **Brig Willcox,** to finish first.

It would be unfair to mention any one of the stars without naming all of them, but not a bad performance only two weeks after returning from Salisbury Plain and a busy year trialling PTARMIGAN.



(A serious-minded team glare into the sun)
Trials Squadron Athletics and Tug-of-War team
Back row, L to R: LCpl 'Al' Newton, Sgt Barry Barnett, LCpl 'DC' Declancy, Cpl Andy Winter, Sig Bruce Pearce, Cpls Steve Howarth, 'Cass' Cassidy, LCpl 'Blue' Lloyd, Sgt 'Chuck' Walker, LCpl 'Lofty' Watson, Cpls 'Nige' Stafford, Roger Crossley
Front row, L to R: Sgt 'Mal' Allerton, SSgt (FofS) 'Gav' West, SSgt (YofS) Dave Barnett, Sig Roy Price, Capt (TOT) Bob McKay, Sgt Pete Halstead (Team Captain), Maj Phil Whitemore, SSgt 'Higgy' Higgerson, Cpl Andy Snaith, Capt Adrian Pearce and 'Meg

GENUINE KIT

- •DPM JACKETS
- •WOOLLY PULLYS
- •PARA SMOCKS
- •BOOTS (U.P.B.)
- •BERETS
- •FACE PAINT
- •PUTTEES
- •PARKAS DPM
- •58 WEBBING
- •DOWN S/BAGS
- •O.G. TROUSERS
- •BERGANS SAS
- •STABLE BELTS
- •O.G. SHIRTS

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News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

LIBERATION

The Regiment has spent the Summer in a state of liberation with everyone not on duty departing for their hard earned Summer leave. As it turned out the mass migration South was for once not entirely necessary. The sun shone in Northumberland too.

PREDICTABLY HECTIC

The start of the new term with 190 new arrivals has been predictably hectic. Apart from the normal priorities there has been the pressure of manning the Reservists Annual Reporting Centre at Fenham Barracks, and preparing for the ARU. The strain has mainfested itself in various ways, some more drastic than others. For instance some young officers just had to get away from it all—26 miles 385 yards away in fact. A true reflection of how hard they normally work when a marathon can seem like relaxation. The results were encouraging with **Capt Bob Etherton** leading the way in 2hrs 59mins well supported by **Lts Mike Complin** and **Paul Thwaites** in 3hrs 11mins and 3hrs 59mins respectively.

On the training front Kukri troop opened the Adventure Training season with a week at Penhale Camp in Corwall, this is how they remember it.

EXERCISE *CORNISH SHUFFLE*

The CO's exercise for Kukri Troop took place at Penhale Camp just outside Newquay in Cornwall. Everything got off to a good start with us leaving the camp at 0615hrs on Sunday 25 September. There were plenty of mutterings of 'never been up this early, certainly not on a Sunday'. The trip down was a marathon run and by the time we arrived we were grateful to get off the bus.

Next morning at 0600hrs **Sgt 'Brian' Tanner** roused the troop for early morning PT. There was a nice surprise awaiting the Troop. After a short run to the beach, a quick dip in the surf. It certainly woke most of them. **JSig 'Wigwam' Iheagwaram** turned blue with cold as did **JSig 'Sads' Sanderson, 'Paddy Miller** and **Creepy McGowan**.

For the first three days the troop was split into three sections each in turn taking part in rockclimbing and abseiling, Canoeing and Military Skills.

The rockclimbing and abseiling was run by **Lt Graham McNeill** and **Cpl 'Greame' Wilkinson. JSig 'Mushy' Mustoe, 'Boney' Bone, 'Parky' Parkinson** and **Denis Wakefield** demonstrated the new 16 points of contact climbing technique. The nose jam was also invented. There were some good climbers, **JSig 'Caveman' Friar, 'Quiff' McConnell, David White** and **'Greame' Goodall,** all managed the hardest climbs there.

The Military Skills competition was run by **Sgt 'Brian' Tanner**. Section 2 were the outstanding section. After being given a bearing and distance to the target (1 kilometre) they were found some eight km away in the wrong direction! During first aid **JSig 'Paddy' Miller** could not open his field dressing so produced a knife and cut it open, along with his finger!

The canoeing was run by **QMSI 'Alf' Hilton** and **Cpl 'Joe' Fiteni.** The days aim was to canoe out to an oil rig and back, with **Cpl Fiteni** operating the safety boat. All went well apart from the person playing at submarines and **JSig Dammes** who had great difficulty in finding a big enough canoe.

Tired feet and sore shoulders resulted from spending the next two days walking from Penhale Camp to St Ives along the coastal path. **JSig 'Paddy' Miller** counted all the ups and downs which came to a grand total of 78. **JSig Parkinson** won the largest blister followed by 'Submarine imitator' Dammes. On Saturday everybody rested apart from the energetic few who went canoe surfing. **JSig Darrel Barrowman** managed to dislocate his arm and was carted off to hospital. The exercise ended all too soon and we are now back to routine training at Ouston, but we all have a wealth of memories.

A new underground movement appears to be forming in the Regiment, its aims and composition are not yet known but look out for further reports on OATS.

Cpl Wilkinson (Greame) tries to convince his section that he gave the map to one of them

Member of Kukri Troop wait to see Dr Lt G. McNeill perform major surgery on blister parade

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

NEW DIVISIONAL SIGN *
BRIEF HISTORY

The red triangle was the emblem of the 1st Infantry Division during World War 2. At that time the 1st Armoured Division sign was that of a charging Rhinoceros.

When the war ended, 1st Armoured Division was disbanded and the 1st Division was formed in Germany. Being a mainly infantry organisation it took as its sign the famous red triangle.

With the formation of the 1st Armoured Division no attempt was made to incorporate the old armoured ensignia—this has now been rectified.

NEW RECRUIT

On 28 August, **Andrew Forbes** 16¼ continued a family tradition by signing on as an Apprentice tradesman in Royal Signals. **Andrew** has joined the September intake at Harrogate and is training as an Electronic technician. Watching the ceremony in the CO's office were his father **Capt (TOT) Ian Forbes,** and older brother **John. John** is an A/T Sgt, at Harrogate, in his final term, so he will be able to keep an eye on his brother's progress.

New Recruit
L to R: Capt Ian Forbes, Andrew and John

WIVES SEE ALL

As promised in the last issue here is a selection of photographs from I Sqn covering the wives visit to Commcens Charlie and Delta.

'Help'
Sue Spencer, our OC's wife is obviously enjoying the day out

'Catch me if I fall'
Our WO1 Foreman's wife, Jackie Tanner, gets to grips with a 12 metre mast while Sig Jim Eddowes acts as catcher

'Ladies, here are the NAAFI Star buys for September . . . ! Capt Al Smith, the Canadian exchange officer, briefs the 1 Sqn wives at the beginning of their visit to Commcen Charlie and Delta

* (Editors note: We apologise, on behalf of our printer, for losing the charging rhinoceros. We are confident he will be found and incorporated in future issues).

SO YOU WANT TO BE A SOLDIER, EH LAD.

An unusual devotion to their art is expected of the actors performing in the play 'The Silver Cup' which had its première in Bremen, on Oct 2nd. The play tells of the exploits of an English football team who answer the call to arms in World War I. To ensure their performances were as realistic as possible the Thespians visited the Regiment to pick up a few tips.

They were met by **WOI (RSM) Ron Hails** who explained where the camp barber was situated and how to get there. This caused much agitation amongst the Thespians. Peace was restored after the RSM was promised a complimentary ticket or two.

The actors were shown how to handle weapons (this is the nasty end and this is the nice end) and were then put through their paces at drill.

'So you want to be a soldier, eh lad'
'Hallo lovely boys .....'
The Bremen actors learning their lines!

'So you want to be a soldier, eh lad'
'Of course you'll have seen one of these . . .'
LCpl Steven Beattie (3 Sqn) explains the LMG to a very attentive audience of actors. The SLO (In Suit) Jim Hawkins, looks more doubtful!

'So you want to be a soldier, eh lad'
'You'll all need haircuts of course .....'
WO1 (RSM) Ron Halls explains where the camp barber is. The actors look rather worried

'So you want to be a soldier, eh lad'
'I think I'm going to be photographed . . . '
How to handle a SMG. Despite attempts to exclude him Sig Ian Jeffery has sneaked into the photograph!

Sgt Clive Blackburn stood in as the drill sergeant and a nice time was had by all (he told me to say that). For anyone in the Bremen area who would like to see the play it runs until 18 December and is at the Goethe Theatre. Although the company is a professional one they have recruited a member of the Regiment to appear in all the performances. Your scribe is of course sworn to secrecy about the identity of said person but stand by for exclusive interview in the next issue.

ANGLO/GERMAN WEEKEND

Sunday 28 August saw the Grand Finale to several days of Anglo-German festivities held annually at Verden. The Fête was the culmination of a crowded five days of multinational activity, ranging from horse racing to discos, from band concerts to swimming galas, athletics meetings and displays of German, American and British military equipment.

The 'It's a Knockout' competition was organised by **Capt Ned Gravel,** our Canadian officer, and seven teams took part in varied events such as chariot racing, mummy dressing (see photo) and a catapult race.

Hundreds of sun-drenched spectators sat and watched a team from the Cpls Mess walk out eventual winners, albeit somewhat wet and bedraggled champions.

Static displays by the Scouts, Riding Club and Toc H helped make the day enjoyable for all age groups as well as raising lots of money for charity.

Our thanks go to 1 Sqn for co-ordinating the event and to the Padre for ensuring we got the good weather he promised. (Maybe God is a Yorkshireman as he keeps telling us!)

'Have the Russians got any of these?'
It's a Knockout Catapult race

Making Mummies

The Noddy Train

'Okay we give up. Where's the steering wheel?'
Part of the static display

2 SQN

Since our last contribution to *The Wire* there have been many arrivals and departures and the personality list has changed by 50% since July. To those who have left 'Good Luck' for the future and to the new arrivals 'Welcome'.

It is not possible to mention everyone who has left us, but we must bid farewell to our outgoing Squadron Commander **Maj Carl Conlon.** It would appear that **Maj Conlon** has the right kind of friends, as he has been posted to Canada! However after all he did for 'Shiny 2' it's not a case of sour grapes' honest! We welcome the incoming Squadron Commander **Maj Jack Wraith MBE** and his family and hope they enjoy their tour in Verden.

The updated personality list is as follows:

OC	—	**Maj J. A. Wraith MBE**
2IC	—	**Lt A. W. Boag**
OC P	—	**Lt R. G. Nicholson**
OC R	—	**Lt Pam Smith**
SSM	—	**WO (SSM) P. Sutherland**
SQMS	—	**SSgt (SQMS) Gibbons**
YofS	—	**SSgt (YofS) Hawley**
FofS	—	**SSgt (FofS) Hooley**

The Squadron has been involved in several exercises, a training camp and many other tasks. Two recent commitments were;

NATO PARADE AT BARME

The 12 August saw the Squadron on parade in Barme, the local German Barracks where three different German Regiments held their recruits 'swearing in' ceremony. This parade included Dutch and American detachments thus making it a Nato type parade.

Having rehearsed vigorously under **SSM (Pete) Sutherland** the only worry for **Lt Nicholson** who was out front was when to Present Arms, what 'stillegestanden', 'abfart', and the rest of the German commands meant.

After the early morning rehearsal everything fell into place. **Maj Carl Conlon** in a VIP seat could hear remarks (he understands German) that there was only one detachment of real soldiers on parade!

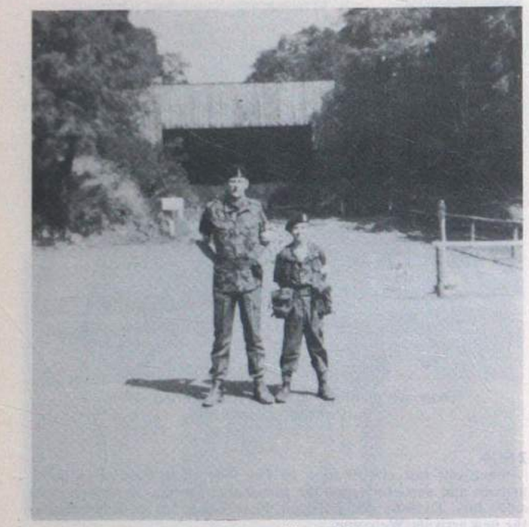
The lads would never admit it, but they all looked very proud of themselves when marching off parade.

CCF VISIT—9 TO 17 AUGUST

'They're Here' came the cry from the Guardroom as a Rolls Royce pulled up. Royalty perhaps? No, members of the CCF King William's College, Isle of Man, and so began 10 days of Army life for 13 boys and two officers.

The week started with a welcoming speech by **Maj Conlon,** OC 2 Sqn and a briefing on the Regimental role of BAOR. They were then handed over to **Sgt Phil Rumsey** who would be like a father to them for the rest of their stay.

Issue of webbing was the order of the day and most of the boys had not seen webbing before. It was quite amusing watching them fit it on, especially one boy who was only 4' 7" tall. However, **SQMS Alan Gibbons'** webbing fitted him perfectly, so he was able to set the example.



'Little and Large'
SSM Pete Sutherland and 'Titch'

Most mornings started off with PT which was enjoyed by all as trained soldiers PT, assault courses etc made a welcome change from school PT. We are still waiting for **Maj Christion** OC CCF to turn up for a PT period.

WO2 (SSM) Pete Sutherland SSM 2 Sqn also added to the week with his drill parade where he found out that maybe he had been taught wrongly on his guards course, when one order of 'Right Turn' had 13 boys going in different directions. Oh well, maybe it would be better on the ranges. The shooting on the whole, was very good but a decision must be made on either smaller SLRs or bigger boy soldiers!

The week ended with Ex *Primary Diamond*, a tactical patrol exercise during the weekend and led by **Sgt Phil Rumsey** ably assisted by **LCpl Chalky Lang.** After various lectures (and practicals) on trench digging, hides, ambushes and patrol movements, the highlights came with a night vehicle ambush which was carried out with a great deal of enthusiasm, not to mention flares, blanks and a great assortment of pyrotechnics. Voices can still be heard echoing over Kohleberg training area 'I shot you first'; 'no you didn't you're dead!' The visit finished with a group of very tired but happy (I think) young men. After a visit to the inner German border on the Monday the cadets left for England and with, I hope, some good memories of their time in 'Dads Army'.

P.S. Only one Rolls Royce, the rest came by train.

3 SQN

The months of August and September have been particularly busy for the Regiment both at work and socially.

EXERCISE *MAIN SHEET*

We started our Regimental Training period with Ex *Main Sheet* from 5–12 Aug, the CRA's Arty Div exercise. It was a very different kind of exercise for the Royal Signals operators since most of them were able to get their hands on some pieces of artillery equipment.

SOinCs VISIT—9 AUG

Maj Gen Benbow paid his first visit to the Regiment accompanied by his wife. The General was met by a Squadron quarter guard at the guardroom, they fell in rather unusually, they doubled from the guardroom.

The SOinC toured the Regiment with the CO, **Lt Col Fisher,** visiting Squadrons undergoing trade training, watching the Regiment on PT doing gymnastics, battle pt, aikido, fartlek and various other activities.

Gen Benbow had lunch in the Officers Mess where he was presented with a picture of 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn on parade (in berets of course).

CCF VISIT

From the 9–13 Aug, 2 Sqn were hosts of a CCF contingent from King William's School Lancashire. A full programme of military training, tours of the Regiment, a visit to the IGB and a visit to Bremen was arranged and the boys seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

ANGLO-GERMAN WEEKEND

This year's Anglo German weekend started on Wed 14 August with a fun horse riding competition in the woods around Verden. This was enjoyed by everyone with **Sig Geordie Divers** showing that he has some of Harvey Smith in him, or is he trying to emulate our riding CO?

On the Thursday evening the Germans organised a Volklauf, a swimming gala and an athletics match. On the Friday night invited officers and warrant officers were guests at the Grüner Jager Hotel for the Anglo German ball. The main features of the evening were the beautiful buffet prepared by local Bundeswehr cooks and the dancing by a local German folk club.

An ever popular Anglo German disco was held in the gymnasium on the Saturday night. About 3000 party goers, danced to the early hours of Sunday morning. They were, of course, up bright and early to attend the Anglo German Church service in the sports stadium at 1000hrs.

Sunday 28 Aug was also the day of the Anglo German fête including a variety of fair ground type stalls, fish and chips as well as 'braty' shops, bands and 'It's a Knockout' or 'Spiel ohne Grenze'. In the afternoon the Germans had a horse racing event on Verden's race course, many soldiers found a new use for LOA; I bet.

BAOR ROYAL SIGNALS REGATTA

Over 1–2 Sept **Lt D. Sullivan** captained a regimental dinghy sailing team at the BAOR Royal Signal Dinghy Sailing Regatta. Unfortunately they weren't very successful, coming 5th out of the five major units that turned up, but were successful at clearing the corridor in RHQ of trophies.

The whole team enjoyed the two days on the Möhnesee and agreed to do more sailing next season.

While on the subject of sailing the Regiment also fielded (or watered) a team in the Divisional Dinghy sailing Regatta at the British Weser Yacht Club. Again the team had an enjoyable day's sailing with some good winds but allowed the more serious sailors to win the prizes.

The picture shows the team relaxing after the individual championships
L to R: Lt David Sullivan, Cpl Windy Wilson, LCpl Jock Hay, Cpl Theo Caderius Van Been, Sig Alan Payne, Sig Khan

Payne obviously distracted by some wet-suited dolly bird
Cpls Theo Caderius Van Been and Sean Wilson
Look as if they are enjoying it

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

The Regimental Battle Camp was held at Putlos, in the North of Germany. The camp was split so that two of the four Verden squadrons could go at one time. The training mainly concentrated on live firing, including section attacks, CQBR, 21mm sub calibre LAW, Grenade, Anti-Aircraft and a night fire power demonstration. The vast majority of the lads had not done anything like this before and subsequently learnt a lot, borne out by the very successful competition at the end of each half, devised by **SSM Paddy Crabtree** from 'Doublin' and more than ably assisted by **SSgt Crabtree RPC** and **Sgt P O'Connor.**

SUMMER PAGE TROPHY

The Page Trophy is a competition involving several sports played twice a year, summer and winter. This years' original Summer Page Trophy had to be cancelled due to an Exercise *Active Edge*. All the same we managed to squeeze it in on 29 Sep. The sports this year were cricket, six-a-side hockey, volleyball, softball and tennis. Just about everybody was seconded to play in one of the sports or adjudicate. The final result was a clear win for HQ Sqn.

201 SIG SQN

The Squadron has been extremely busy over the last four months. We have been on exercise for almost two of them, provided Site guards for three weeks and, with the remaining four weeks available for in barracks work, have seen CIAT remodel our 432s (again), hosted a number of visits and still allowed most members to get some leave in!

Maj Jack Amberton presenting a new Squadron Plaque to the Commanding Officer

EXERCISE *LONELY MOOSE*

Apart from Ex *Summer Sales* and a Brigade run exercise on Soltau Lüneberg Training Area, June was essentially one of the few months where we were able to run our own events. The first was an exercise designed to test map reading, endurance, leadership and military skills. The Ex, *Lonely Moose* involved groups of four to six individuals having to march for three days (at up to 40 KM per day) carrying full kit round a series of 'stands' not far from our home base at Hohne. There was, of course, a small capture force with a (limited) heliborne capability to encourage tactical movement by the exercise participants. The 'stands' included weapons assembly whilst blindfolded, first aid, ambush and a river crossing.

Whereas all the stands were of excellent value and provided 'players' with opportunities to demonstrate their skills, the most entertaining, for participants and spectators alike, was the river crossing. Sections had to cross a river taking a full ammo box with them without, hopefully, getting wet. Some resources were provided, a rope and some string, but otherwise it was left to the sections to carry on. Not everyone was successful and there were many near misses: **Sig 'Bamber' Gascoyne,** caught by **Sig 'Gaz' Cowie** on the far bank, avoided getting wet but was nearly strangled as a result, **Sgt Paul Martin** ended up with a loose rope and was defeated by gravity, **Sgt Dennis Morgan** stayed on the rope but his webbing dragged him through the water and **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan's** precipitation into the river was inevitable once **Sig 'Taff' Cowdrey** and helpers decided that he was doing too well!

Judging by the number of pairs of plimsolls being worn on the tank park for the rest of the week, there were some casualties but **Capt Peter Costello's** exercise was a success and a welcome break from erecting penthouses and camnets.

Sgt Paul Martin with an uphill struggle crossing the river on Ex *Lonely Moose*

Sig Tommy Murray and Stu Gibson re-assembling weapons during Ex *Lonely Moose*

VISIT BY BRIG LAST—21 JUN

Later that same month we were visited by Comd Comms 1 BR Corps. Following discussions with the Brigade Commander, **Brig DM Naylor MBE,** he took the opportunity to visit the Squadron on the ranges. During this time he spent several hours in relaxed conversation with groups waiting to fire and renewed old acquaintances in the Squadron. He had the opportunity to try the Blowpipe simulator of 10 (Assaye) Battery RA who kindly provided the team as a background activity (being in Hohne does have some advantages!). We are informed that although he missed the target it was a close run thing.

FAMILIES DAY—22 JUN

The following day we set the Squadron vehicles up on the training area for a plug-up exercise. This time we were reinforced by a number of wives, children and parents who came to find out how their 'heads of family' get so grubby and tired on exercise. In addition to setting up the command vehicles, comms and cam the 'trainees' were also given the opportunity of driving 432s, four ton vehicles and Land Rovers in the country. **SSgt 'Rick' Levett,** our QTO, was most impressed by **Mrs Heather Usher's** lack of fear and **Mrs Debbie Mussellwhite's** trust in Divine intervention when the vehicle was required to stop! **Mrs Sharon Costello's** progress as an HGV driver was noteworthy but why was **Dvr John Dowding** trying to leave the cab of the vehicle whilst it was moving?

The visit ended after a combat lunch provided by **Cpl Paul Clare,** and presentation of Squadron Plaques to **Mr and Mrs Usher** and **Mr and Mrs Davies** in recognition of the sterling work they put in to helping their 'children' at their work.

The Davies and Usher families sampling Cpl Paul Clare's cooking during the Open Day

SQUADRON CAMP 22 AUG–3 SEPT

This year the Squadron established a military-cum-adventure training camp near Gerolstein in the Eiffel. The camp, organised by **Lt Justin Johnson,** involved a variety of military activities and challenging pursuits in and around the area. It also gave the opportunity for individuals to visit another part of Germany—with real hills!

The military pursuits started with helicopter training using two Puma helicopters from 230 Squadron RAF. We soon got the hang of emplaning and deplaning from the machines at various stages of elevation, including the use of ropes and short distance freefall! Having completed that they were used for the deployment of sections to conduct an escape and evasion exercise and, also, for the mobility of an enemy which added spice to the exercise.

A day was spent on the ranges firing an assortment of Bundeswehr weapons from 930 Fernmelde Batallion who so generously hosted us throughout our stay. We also spent a day at the US Air Base at Bitburg where the F-15 was shown to us and **SSgt Rick Levett** 'crashed' its flight simulator in Denmark. Whilst watching Active Edge within the Fernmelde Batallion our thoughts went out to **LCpl Jock Lambe** and other members of our rear details who were doing the same in Hohne!

The challenging pursuits included rock climbing, abseilling, canoeing, wind surfing, caving, trekking and orienteering. The various instructors were **Capt Peter Costello, Cpl Mick Wray, Sgt Kev Townsend, Lt Robin Clapp** and **Lt Jonathan Perks** whose efforts made the adventurous aspects of the camp so rewarding. On the leisure side many members of the Squadron participated, actively, in a Wein Fest on the Mosel a Sprudel Fest in Gerolstein and took part in a three way soccer tournament involving the Squadron, 930 Fernmelde Batallion and Stadt Gerolstein.

To repay the many kindnesses extended to us by the organisatons, a barbecue was given and was attended by 100 guests. It was a great success. The camp has resulted in many friendships being made that we hope will continue.

NEW VOICE PROCEDURE

The Brigade has now tested the proposed New Voice Procedure on a number of occasions, yet all has not been without problems. Although the debates between **Maj Jack Amberton, WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowden** and **WO1 (YofS) Dave Weston** and other interested parties have been reported as being worthy of any university seminar, and the arguments by the pessimists have ranged long into the nights, progress is being made. It has been a very busy period but we have found that, in general terms, it is supported by all users.

SPORT

Although our cricket team has not been very successful this year, our soccer team has started to show a touch of class by winning the Task Force Cup during Summer Sales against 206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. We won a good match 3—1 to retain the cup in the 1st Division.

A number of individuals are to be congratulated on their athletics prowess. **Sig Pete Swailes** not only won the Regimental 800 and 1500m races but came 5th in the BAOR and 2nd in the Morrison Cup at 800m. He is now winning many prizes at local races and has started the Cross Country season by coming 2nd in the first of the Div Meetings. **Lt Jonathan Perks,** and **Sig 'Smudger' Smith** and **'Gaz' Cowie** also showed up well in their middle distance events at athletics and are now well in training for marathon running, having attended the recent Berlin Marathon already!

SOCIAL

The social events organized within the Squadron are too numerous to mention here but particular note must be made of the Squadron Summer Ball organised by **Sgt Ken Townsend.** The event, attended by Brigade and Squadron personnel, was a great success with a beating retreat by 14/20 H Band disco, dance band, providing the entertainment through the night and a fantastic buffet for sustenance. The committee were congratulated by the Commander, **Brig D. M. Naylor MBE** on the quality of the evening; a sentiment shared by all. We now look forward to our Christmas Draw which should be up to the Squadron's customary high standard.

FOCUS ON 207 (7 ARMED BDE) SIG SQN
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	—	**Maj J. D. Stokoe MBE**
21C	—	**Capt N. J. Thompson**
A1Tp Comd	—	**Lt J. W. Clark**
A2 Tp Comd	—	**Lt S. L. Hawkes**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) Noble**
SQMS	—	**SSgt (SQMS) Infeasey**
YofS	—	**WO2 (YofS) Floyd**
Acting FofS	—	**SSgt Cook**

VOGELSANG 1983

The Squadron this year was lucky to have the full facilities of Vogelsang in SW Germany for one week for its annual Battle Camp. Assisted in training by both Squadron instructors and instructors kindly lent by units already at Vogelsang, the Squadron was taken through Grenade throwing, 66mm instruction and house clearing in a deserted village, which enlivened normal infantry training.

The social highlight of the week being the Charades party on the last evening in which Squadron personalities from the OC down found out more about themselves, or rather what other people thought, than they had learnt during the week.

MOSELLE 1983

After a rather hectic Brigade CPX with a name that had a Rat in it, in which the Squadron was so bored with moving that we had 'setting-up' down to 17mins (attention all Bde Sig Sqns) we all went on Summer Camp.

Diving was the main activity led by **Lt Simon Hawkes** and assisted by **SSgt Brian Coult** from 7 Armd Worksps in which, eventually, seven potential Jacques Cousteaus achieved a full dive under controlled conditions with air tanks. **Sgt Martin Harrow** found it all particularly worth while moaning about the cold etc so had his leg pulled by the instructors—literally for up to 5secs, which instilled the necessary panic as he clawed for the surface. **LCpl Ray Bray** found it possible to laugh at this under water!

Climbing instruction was given by **Maj Rob Symonds** from HQ 7 Armd Bde, taking students down 120ft abseil and up two climbs of 90ft. **Sig Jock McNaught, Tommo Tomlinson, Titch Aves** and **'Wendy' McNaught** found the meaning of 'Disco' legs.

Canoeing was done on the Moselle itself under instruction from **Sgt Shuff Shufflebottom** and **LCpl (now Cpl**—congratulations) **Ray Bray** over a total of some 36 km; **LCpl Bob Paterson** impressing upon everybody the need for a 1.5 second capsize in water as cold as this!

A football match was arranged and coincided with a visit to the American Air Force at Hahn Air Base in which the Squadrons were allowed to crawl into Wind Tunnels and attempt to retrieve souvenirs from an F.16 American fighter. The football ended with a final victory to the Americans but credit goes to **Cpl 'Scouse' Owen** for his breathtaking break from the Right back position to score a goal from within the enemy penalty area.

Thanks go to 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn for their football match against us in the first round of the Army Minor Units Cup—the score 2—2, and we look forward to the replay. Thanks also to 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn for returning our trailer to us which we are certain you intended to return to us earlier but must have forgotten.

Congratulations go to **SSgt Bob Cook** for his entry and result in the Berlin Marathon with a respectable time of 3hrs 18mins and a good position. Pictures and stories of the Verden Marathon will follow in subsequent issues.

212 (12 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Once again, I find myself reporting on a busy period for the Squadron, but then, is there any other time? Having settled into our new surroundings, we found ourselves in the chain of summer exercises.

Ex *Summer Sales* passed at its usual slow pace. However off-shift distractions were many and varied. The small town we visited found its swimming pool contained a large number of visitors who put their leisure time to good use. We found out just how good the squadrons swimming skills were—especially with a female audience—most notable probably **Sig 'Jock' Govan** whose diving skills were hard to follow.

SPORT

It has been a long hot summer and when not on exercise we have used it to good advantage. We did our sports training enthusiastically and had some excellent cricket matches, in addition to other summer activities of volleyball, softball, tennis and soccer.

The cricket team, led by **SSgt Ernie Green** had mixed fortunes but great enjoyment. Apart from the varied all-round performances from **SSgts Ernie Green** and **Mick Leitch,** we had similar performances from **Cpl Eric Young** and **Sig Andy Green.** Except from the early appearance of the Golden Duck club, we had a good season.

So, after a good summer, we hope for a mild winter to give our winter sports, not to mention our winter exercises, a chance of greater enjoyment.

FAREWELLS

As always, we have our list of departures of familiar faces.

After some four and a half years, **Capt Frank Atkins** has departed for the School of Signals as MTO. It has meant the passing of a noted, perhaps notorious, feature of squadron life. We wish both **Frank** and **Sylvia** the best of luck for the future.

WO2 (YofS) Alex Macarthur also left for the glories of Blandford. Best wishes to the **Macarthur** family in their new posting. **Cpl 'Paddy' McCrum** has returned to the RPC in UK. **Cpl Steve Matthews** goes to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, following **LCpl Steve Moltide** who recently made that journey. **Sig 'Rich' Cressey** has moved further east to join 14 Sig Regt. To all of them and their families we send every good wish for the future.

NEW ARRIVALS

In the same breath, welcome to, **Lt Steve Hunt, WO2 Jim Williamson, SSgt Mick Boyle, Sig Gartside, Gorton, Green, Warren** and **Pte's Greenwood** and **Malsden** to the RPC element. Welcome to Osnabruck, we hope you all have an enjoyable tour with the squadron.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Taff' Jones** and his wife **Jane** on their recent marriage (we knew Frank couldn't take away all aspects of Atkins enterprises); we all wish you every good fortune for a happy future together.

Congratulations also to **Sgt Brian Boomer** and **Frances** on the birth of their son **Matthew**—don't worry, he'll be worth all the sleepless nights.

PROMOTION

Congratulations to **LCpl Willie Ryan** on his deserved promotion. So another round-up comes to a close. In the next issue we will have news of that beloved little alien—ET I hear you ask? No doubt his lovable smile will have been shattered before much longer.

Technicians

Opportunities in Advanced Telecommunications Technology

Our Technicians have wide-ranging responsibilities and can make full use of comprehensive and unique facilities. There are also good prospects of promotion. The posts are at three different locations and there is the opportunity of service overseas.

Hanslope Park (Milton Keynes) and Central London

for installation, maintenance and other work associated with HF communications equipment, VHF, UHF and microwave links and associated test equipment; teleprinters, telephone subscribers' apparatus, PMBXs PAXs, PABXs and ancillary equipment including that using analogue and digital techniques and voice frequency telegraph.

One post is in the Test Department of an Electronics Manufacturing Group in Hanslope Park involved in the small batch production of a wide range of electronics and communications equipment.

Crowborough, Sussex

for maintenance and operation of high power, medium and short wave broadcasting transmitters and associated equipment. Opportunities also exist for postings to other Broadcast stations at Orfordness, Cyprus and Masirah.

Applicants should normally have four years' relevant experience (seven years for more senior posts), and must hold one or more of the following:

- ★ ONC in Engineering (with pass in Electrical Engineering 'A');
- ★ ONC in Applied Physics;
- ★ TEC/SCOTEC certificate;
- ★ City & Guilds Telecommunications Technicians Certificate Part II (Course No. 271) or Part I plus Maths 'B' Telecommunications Principles 'B' and one other subject;
- ★ a pass in the Council of Engineering Institutions Part I examination;
- ★ an equivalent or higher relevant qualification.

Ex-Service personnel who have had suitable training and at least three years' appropriate service (as Staff Sergeant or equivalent) will also be considered.

Salary: Salary will rise from a minimum of £6262pa to a maximum of £8580pa for the Junior Grade and from a minimum of £8420pa to a maxium of £9522pa for the Senior Grade. Starting salary in the Junior Grade may be above minimum for those with additional relevant experience.

Relocation assistance may be available.

For an application form, to be returned by 30 December 1983, please write to Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes MK19 7BH, or telephone Milton Keynes (0908) 510444 Ext 232.
Please quote reference YHU/TT/11/83 also indicate the position desired.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

COMMCEN FOXTROT

By an intelligent piece of research it was realised that July's issue had already got a focus on 1 Sqn, so out of the window went two pages of copious notes. Next, September's issue was rescued from under the pile of coffee cups and troop commanders notebooks and it was noted more copious notes had been written on Summer trips to BAOR, Ex *Summer Tide* and *Summer Sales*, visitors and **Lt Nevil Thompson's** tracking ability when it comes to umleitungs, ausfahrts and cul de sacs. As a result the previously generous contribution has been whittled down to something more digestible, includes other personalities in the Squadron and is in the form of one excellent photograph, farewells, congratulations, new arrivals, handovers and takeovers.

Capt Mike dent leading *L to R:* Taff Taylor, SSgt (YofS) Ron Burrell, SSgt Andy Wilson, WO2 (FofS) Frank Running, Lt Nevil Thompson leading . . . well!

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Hugh Dillon** on his promotion and posting to sunny Catterick. To **Sgt 'Dobbs' O'Brien** on his marriage to **Julia** and on selection and posting. To **Cpls Wally Westrop, Dave Whiting** and former RR Op **Paul Hickinbotton** on their selection for promotion to **Sgt** and **Cpl Mark Alexander, LCpls 'Gaz' Fagg** and **Steve Middleton** on their recent promotions. Last but not least to **WO2 (SSM) Ray Georgeson** who leaves the Army to start a second career; to you and **Margaret** good luck and thanks for the past two years.

NEW ARRIVALS

SSgt 'Taff' Taylor, Sgts Fred and **Geoff Waters** (not related), **Cpl Dave Meggitt, LCpls 'Poet' Crouch, Craig Foran, Mick Jenkinson, Kev Wosika, Nick Snowden, Sig 'Dixie' Dix, Neil Wilson, Chris White, Alan Priestly** and **Tom McCormack**—to you all, welcome.

HANDOVER—TAKEOVER

Our Tp SSgt, **Andy Wilson**, handed over the reins (and the stores) to **SSgt Mick Schnable** on 9 September. **Staff Wilson** has done a stirling job during the difficult period of re-roling and moving from Bunde to York, he now moves to 2 Sqn as Tp SSgt of 15 Bde Sig Tp and we wish him and **Vera** as happy and enjoyable time as they have hopefully had with us in COMMCEN FOXTROT. The OC, **Capt Mike Dent**, is busily preparing his handover notes in readiness for his move to Northern Ireland in October, but no doubt you will read about it in more detail in the next issue of the 'Wire'.

15 INF BDE SIG TP

OC	**Capt Bob Brannigan**
2IC	**2Lt Paul Pople**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt A. Wilson**
YofS	**SSgt D. Appleyard**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Wright**
RTG Sgt	**Sgt Blythe**

Who are 15 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop? Some would describe us as the better half of the 15 and 49 Brigade Troop partnership, and like them, we came into being in March of this year and are a 42 all ranks strong troop and part of 2 Squadron in York, but work for a Brigade Headquarters based at Topcliffe.

The Brigade Headquarters Staff are 95% regular with our 100% regular Signal Troop. The Brigade itself consists of one Armoured Recce Regiment, an Artillery Regiment, five Infantry Battalions (including 4 PARA in peace only) and a host of service units, all TA and based in the North East of England from Alnwick to Hull and across to Liverpool. 55 Signal Squadron (V) provide RLDs for the Battalions and are also based in Liverpool. This makes for a Brigade strength of approx 7000 all up. This does mean we have an 'interesting' function in the Brigade.

THE CHERRY

Working with the TA inevitably means some weekend work, and this, in our case, has been a series of excercises called *Border Baron*. In each exercise a battalion is FTX'd for a weekend from Friday night to Sunday afternoon, with enemy provided by other battalions. Added are RAF Support Helicopters, AAC Helicopters, Cassim teams plus logistic play. The weekends tend to be hectic as the troop works the control and umpire communcations and enjoy manpacking radios, including rebros (only volunteers required). The cherry on the cake is however that the troop does get involved in the helicopter work, Cassim play and as enemy forces.

THE PLAIN

Everyone has just returned from Salisbury Plain where the whole Brigade was deployed for two weeks Summer Camp. There, our main task was to provide for the Brigade Headquarters in the hutted camp of New Zealand Farm with the added 'fun' of a deployed Border Baron in the middle. As the TA Brigade is a fairly new concept, we received a more than normal amount of visitors that ranged from the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, **Lord Trefgarne**, down to a bevy of Brigadiers (please note 'down'). We had planned to record the historic event of the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces meeting the Tp OC **Capt Bob Brannigan** and **'JJ' Thompson** by having **SSgt (YofS) Dave Appleyard** take some pictures. However as the YofS bounded across to the group with more camera kit around his neck than Lord Litchfield, the Commander, **Brig Aris**, introduced the YofS to the Secretary. We now had one very flustered Yeoman who talked to **Lord Trefgarne** and forgot to take the picture. Photography appears to get the Yeoman into trouble for, but a few days later, he was interviewed by the RAF after the door of their Chinook fell off after a photo sorties with the Yeoman! Mind you this was the same Chinook that landed near **2Lt Paul Pople** who was escorting the CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor**, and RMS, **WO1 Bernie Neillings.** On this occasion out leapt a crewman, who, clutching a map, ambled over, as only the RAF can, and asked if someone could tell him where he was! Admittedly there was some mist about! At apporixmately the same time the OC Tp **Capt Bob Brannigan** and **SSgt (YofS) Dave Appleyard** were talking on the net to two RLDs who had decided to take a short cut to their RV, hence:

Ø Where are you over
RLD On a tank track over (there are only X No of tracks on the plain)
Ø How far off the roads are you, over
RLD What road?
Ø Are there any features you can see, over
RLD Yes a wood
Ø Stop there, out! (There are only five or so clumps of tree in that area! So they were found)

However, this can happen to all of us, and we must thank 55 Sig Sqn (V) detachments for their hard work and especially to **Capt Langan** who translated from Liverpudlian to English.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS SLOT

OC Tp **Capt Bob Brannigan** on passing **Cpl Duncan** stuck in mud hole 'That'll cost you a few beers Cpl Duncaaaaaan!! expletive deleted as the CO got out from his own, now stuck fast, Rover having slid sideways into the same mud.

'Too Risky''! Sig Risk umpiring 4 PARA FTX

'That's how you're all supposed to be dressed'
L to R: LCpl 'Golda' Meir, LCpl Wally Walters, Cpl Bob McClurg, LCpl Charles Roost, Sgt Henry Blythe, Sig Jock McClaughlen

EXERCISE *POLAR BEAR*

Like the other troop, 49 Inf Bde Sig Tp exercised with their Brigade on Salisbury Plain for two weeks in September. We played enemy and with helicopters too. The visitors might not have included a Secretary but had its fair share of German and American officers and included a film crew after suitable shots of the Royal Signals Cap Badge for a recruiting blockbuster. **Cpls Mick Hellewell** and **Chris Sugden** were selected as possible, I say again possible stars and the film crew found them the strangest of places included map reading lessons from the bonnet of a landrover with a Puma landing 50 yards away. This might have constituted a fail on the M of I course but will, hopefully, provide a few unfortgettable moments for budding stars in the Spring premier.

656 SIGNAL TROOP TO THE BALTIC

Exercise *Web Foot* was a little jaunt on the Baltic for the troop as we provided the communications for the Royal Signals Regatta. **WO2 (YofS) 'Grandad' Allen** deployed detachments to the ports of Kiel, Copenhagen, Huddersfield and Korso. This maintained a ship to shore link for all the fleet throughout the regatta. **LCpl George Coffin** did his best for Anglo-Danish relations but failed to liaise with a young lady in every port, or for that matter in any. The OC, **Capt Paul Ellis**, sailed in the regatta, in order to visit the detachments from his yacht. The crew for **Capt Ellis, Cpl Smudge** 'I see no ships' **Smith, Sig 'Huey' Fell, Sig Kenny Everett** and **Mick Clarkson** came in a creditable third overall in the regatta.

Nipping from the sea via the land, the Troop headed for the sky, when 664 Squadron AAC kindly hosted the troop for a day to teach them how to manoeuvre helicopters. It now means there is an abundance of suitably trained individuals to trip down to the LZ from the Main or Su complex.

Cpl Smudge Smith, Sig Kenny Everett and Mick Clarkson relaxing on the Baltic

The Hundersted connection. From *L to R:* Sig Dave Wooley, Wayne Lockey, LCpl George Coffin, Sgt Chris Christian, Capt Paul Ellis

'Those Magnificent Men.' *L to R:* Sig Jenks Jenkins, LCpls Bob Hildreth, Gaz Mason and Bob Parks

EXERCISE *SHOW CASE*

On Saturday 10 September **Sgt Steve Walker** of HQ Sqn supported by **LCpl Fred Fry, Sig Steve King, 'Mouse' Cox** and **Ginge Caton,** assisted Thurcroft Army Cadet Detachment with their Open Day cum Jumble Sale to raise money for new equipment.

The public and cadets were able to enjoy a mixture of military activities which included using field telephones and an exchange, seeing a four ton Box Body Command post, displays of military clothing and NBC kit, a full field kitchen including cordon bleu compo and a two man slit trench constructed to the correct dimensions. In all £40 was collected from the jumble sale and raffle; the raffle was won by **Sig Ginge Caton.**

As a follow up to the Saturdays festivities a one tonne and ¼ ton FFR were taken for the cadets to practise radio skills and mast erection. **Capt Dick Good,** the Radio Troop Commander, will be pleased to know that **LCpl Fred Fry** and his crew managed to maintain a net of VRC 351/2/3 around the village, without losing control.

WOs' & SGTs' MESS REPORT

By no means the first Mess Dinner to have been held since our arrival at York, but the one held on Thursday 11 August was remarkable for a number of reasons.

It was the first, and thanks to such wags as **SSgt Dave Snowdin,** almost the last to be held totally within the confines of the Sergeants Mess, the rebuilt dining room having been accepted from PSA only twenty-four hours previously. The numbers of members being dined

out, with the resultant 'entertainments' and the fact that Friday was a normal working day will inevitably leave an indelible mark in the memory of more than one member present.

Following a magnificent meal served efficiently by the Civilian Mess Staff, and having been well entertained by the Band of the 1st Yorkshire Volunteers, the tables were cleared in order that the main purpose of the evening might be achieved which was not only to Dine-Out three staunch members of our Mess on completion of twenty-two years Colour Service, but also the 2IC **Maj Maurice Davies.**

Apart from COs, it is not usual to pay such a compliment to many other officers within a Regiment. However, **Maj Davies** has, during his extended tour, been such a main stay of the Regiment throughout several traumatic changes of role and location, with admirable steadiness and good humour, that it was felt the Mess, whose members owe him so much, should honour him on this occasion, the last available before his departure.

Before the speeches and presentations commenced, **RSM Bernie Neillings** read out the list of 'fines' for those who had failed to recognise or react to their Regimental Marches. Obviously forewarned, the list of miscreants was not as long as at previous functions, only the RHA and RAPC joined our usual offenders, the tone deaf RAOC, in particular **Sgt Mick Ward.** Our Sheriff **Sgt John Leighton** felt sorry for **Capt Ashworth** and so stood up to join him for 'The British Grenadier', the RSM either didn't see him or turned a blind eye. However, your Ace Cub Reporter **SSgt 'El Citrone' Woodthorpe** made note of the fact.

Having been dissuaded from giving a speech of his own **WO1 (YofS) Ron Chisholm** contented himself with joining in the RSM's speech from time to time, to the delight of those around him. Our first farewell was to **Sgt Del Elliott** whom many of us have not seen since we left Bunde, where we left him behind to tie up loose ends and turn the lights out. He had travelled up to York especially for the occasion. **Del,** as ever, a man of great tact, obviously noted the strained expressions around him as he gave his speech and realising that the tears were not caused by emotion, kept his speech short. He presented the Mess with a magnificent Silver Rose Bowl, and having received two beautiful Silver Candelabra in return, he sat down to massive applause.

Secondly we said goodbye to **Sgt Ron Napier** whose efforts in the MT World have somehow managed to keep things mobile despite **WO2 (AQMS) Less Soper** and his Black hand gang. **Ron,** not by nature very vociferous followed **Del's** example and kept things brief. Having received a Crystal Decanter, goblets and Silver Tray, Ron presented us with a remarkable Candelabra which the Silver Member is still learing to play. Always successful at keeping his own emotions penned in **Ron** sees his vocation as doing the same for others and soon takes up an appointment at HM Prison, Durham. The third but by no means least of our Members to be bidden farewell was **WO2 (SSM) Ray Georgeson. Ray**, having had time to mull over the situation during the previous two speeches cast his beady eyes over the assembled host, noticed again the strained expressions and beads of perspiration and, as usual, took absolutely no pity on anyone. His speech encompassed virtually the whole of his Army Career with particular emphasis on exploits in the field, any field. It was a highly entertaining speech which grew steadily more Glaswegian as time passed. We presented **Ray** with a Silver Coffee Set and tray, and he in return presented the Mess with his personal solid silver 'Quake', which the Mess had been in the habit of borrowing for special occasions, in previous years. The value of this gift, although large monetarily was larger for the fact that **Ray** has always prized it so highly.

Various challenges involving a variety of penalties were inflicted upon each of our guests of honour with predictable results. **Maj Davies** also was required to partake in this entertainment, but as he is such a decent chap nothing more drastic than causing him to sit at a tremendous altitude dressed as an angel was considered necessary. Whilst not exactly afraid of heights it must be said that skydiving is not **Maj Davies'** favourite sport.

The organised festivities ended at half past midnight when the parched masses descended upon the bar to fortify themselves for the remainder of the evening, which ended in a champagne breakfast for those hardy enough to have survived the night. It is suprising how quiet a British Army Barracks can be on a Friday morning when only a skeleton staff of Sergeants Mess Members is present.

Note must be made of the official guests at our dinner. Apart from the 2IC we were also pleased to welcome **Maj Thornton, Capt Ashworth Grenadier Guards, Capt Brannigan, Turner** and **Wally Lockwood** (who had arrived twenty-four hours early), **Lt Thompson,** who is getting to be a regular and **2Lt Pople,** who had some slight difficulty finding a seat for himself at the table, also a mystery guest from overseas complete with long hair, tuxedo and cheeky grin who went under the name of **Phil Castle. Sgt Christian** arrived from Lubbecke as the respresentative of our Forward Headquarters Troop, and promised to distribute his extras amongst those he was representing; when **RMS Bernie Neillings** says three line whip, he means three line whip. With such a gathering to add to the glamour and glister of the evening it is small wonder that our Dinner went so well. (This statement will be reviewed upon receipt of Mess Bill).

Finally we thank **WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett** for redecorating our washrooms with a large amount of blood from his nose following a Mess Rugby mishap, and **SSgt Dave Snowdin** for demonstrating the attraction between custard pies and newly decorated walls.

We wish bon voyage to those who left us, with every good wishes for their chosen second careers.

The guests arrive. As the RSM teaches Lt Thompson the secret handshake Capt Wally Lockwood eyes the flowers as a possible hors d'ouvres

It wasn't me! WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison stands transfixed by WO2 (SSM) Ray Georgeson's beady eye

WO2 Ray Georgeson bites his nails in anticipation as the RSM, ably operated from behind by Maj Davies makes the presentation

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	Maj Ashley Truluck
2IC	Capt Jo Fletcher
2IC Desig	Capt Nick Blampied
OC Sp	Capt Henry Jennings
OC Comms	2Lt James Bertram
SSM	WO2 George Hedge
YofS	WO2 Trevor Taylor
FofS	SSgt Chris Wilkie

FAREWELLS AND GREETINGS

Sadly, since our last article, we have said 'Goodbye' and 'Good Luck' to two key members of the squadron—**WO2 (SSM) Ron Smith and WO2 (FofS) Larry Proctor. Ron** joined us as a stop gap to see us through the move from Osnabruck to Catterick. His contribution was out of all proportion to the short time he spent with the squadron and we wish him all the very best in his new job in Cardiff UOTC—there is no truth in the rumour that next year's adventure training exercise will take the form of sailing instruction in Poole Harbour with the squadron camped in the back garden of **WO2 Smith's** house nearby! **Larry Proctor** and his wife **Carol** have moved up the road to 8 Sig Regt and although their contribution to the squadron will be sorely missed, they are still close enough to keep in contact.

Having traded in **WO2 (FofS) Proctor** at 8 Sig Regt we got **WO2 (SSM) George Hedge** and his wife **Susanne** from 8 Sig Regt 'in exchange'. Just before that we welcomed our new Foreman **SSgt Chris Wilkie** and his wife **Ann**. We welcome these new arrivals and all others who have joined us since the last issue of *The Wire* and wish them a happy tour with the Squadron.

SUMMER TRAINING

Having decided that we were becoming too 'khaki brained' as a result of a seemingly endless succession of CPXs, the theme for summer training was 'to get out of uniform and out of camp'.

The main result of this policy was Exercise *Eagles Surf*, a 5-day adventure training period at Saltbury-by-the-Sea organised by our intrepid windsurfer **Capt Jo Fletcher** and his surf canoeing companion **Lt James Bertram**. With a base camp established in a farm overlooking the bay, each troop in turn came down to the seaside to be introduced to the skills of board sailing, canoeing, surfing and sea fishing—the latter as part of a series of expeditions led by our Army standard anglers **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Cpl Mick Johnson**. Despite the strong winds blowing on the first few days the instructors eventually got their students to a sufficiently high standard to transfer their sailboards and canoes from the relative safety of the boating lake to the heavy surf of the North Sea.

Cautiously aligning his canoe with the waves to avoid the danger of a roll or pitch-pole, LCpl 'Dicko' Dickinson surfs in at speed

Balancing his weight against the wind in his sail, LCpl Jim Henderson heads for shore through the waves

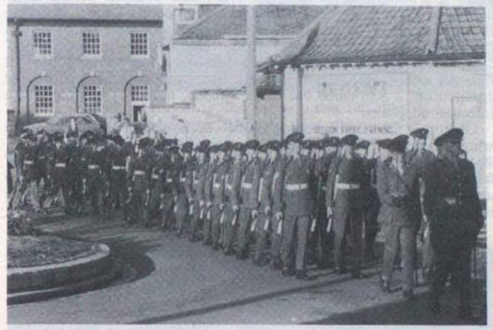
EXERCISE *EAGLES LONGSHOT*

Some people thought that Comms Tp were suddenly becoming extremely keen when they volunteered to do a UK-wide skywave HF exercise. Then they discovered locations included Blackpool, Margate, Eastbourne, Brighton, Rhyl, Weymouth and Dundee! Despite this, some very useful training resulted, with operators teaching even Powermen and Linemen how to erect masts and cut dipoles! Most of the troop did however manage to acquire rather suspicious suntans, and the SQMS is wondering when the sailboard seen on a departing landrover had become part of its loading list!

FREEDOM OF RICHMOND

The squadron returned from Block Leave with just four days to brush up our drill for the Freedom of Richmond Parade. 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn, representing 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, led the parade consisting of representative squadrons from 8 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt and the Army Apprentices College as the Royal Corps of Signals exercised its right to march through Richmond with 'Swords drawn, bayonets fixed and band playing'.

After the parade, the Corps Band beat retreat in the scenic grounds of Richmond Castle before a representative group of all ranks attended a very enjoyable Champagne Buffet in the Mayor's Parlour.



Spinning around the main roundabout in Richmond, the Squadron led by the OC Maj Ashley Truluck and OC Comms Tp 2Lt James Bertram straighten up for the march past the Mayor in the Market Square

VISIT OF COMMANDER UNITED KINGDOM FIELD ARMY

The Comd UK Fd Army, **Lt Gen Sir Edward Burgess** visited the squadron in mid September. We found him a stimulating visitor, asking some very direct questions and insisting on talking to everyone, irrespective of rank.

'Whatd'ya mean you're not letting me in if I don't know the password? Comd UK Fd Army confronts Sgt Alf Ramsey outside the OSCAR Group CP. OC Comms Tp pouts at the General's ADC in background

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HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE

On Friday 30 September the Regiment was visited by **Mr John Stanley**, Minister for the Armd Forces. 2 Sqn put on a demonstration with the main complex and the comhead laid out in a local farm. Mr Stanley presented an aerial photograph of the farm to the owner, **Herr Dick Springorum**, and thanked him for his co-operation on this and many previous occasions. He then toured the headquarters.

On arrival Mr Stanley, found the headquarters at NBC state 'High' (the new term for RED for you old hands) and was surrounded by anonymous shapes, in suits and masks, busily manning their vehicles. Luckily the threat decreased and NBC state 'Medium' was called in time for the briefing to continue in comfort. Mr Stanley was given a thorough brief on the role of the headquarters and a demonstration of the communiciations facilities. He made a telephone call to the UK, assisted by OC 2 Sqn, **Maj Chris Donaghy**, and a team of technicians led by **SSgt 'Stu' Bromidge** (the 'plastic foreman').

It was not only the NBC state which was 'high'. During the immediate build up to the visit, adrenalin sentries (posted to warn of imminent 'wobblers') reported dangerously high concentrations building up, particularly near the RSM! These reached almost fatal levels at one point when **Herr Springorum,** who had been brought out of his house, ready to receive his framed photograph from the Minister, decided to pop back into his office for something. Sure enough, Murphy's First Law ensured that the Minister arrived 30 seconds after this. Much arm-waving by the RSM ensued and the recce officer, **Capt Peter Neale,** was seen running towards the house to drag the reluctant farmer out again. Not realising **Capt Neale's** intention, the RSM thought he had decided to make a run for it in order to avoid the potential embarrasment—O, ye of little faith! Luckily the adrenalin proved to be a non-persistant agent and a few minutes after the Minister left the normal air of calm retured and the RSM regained his usual composure.

Mr John Stanley MP talks to two of his constitutents, Maj Jim Day RAPC and Sig Steve Lloyd. It is not recorded whether either of them actually voted for him, or whether they will do so next time

The Minister takes the photograph from the CO, Lt Col T. I. M. Waugh, to present it to the farm owner, Herr Dick Springorum. The GOC keeps well back and hopes that they won't drop it

CO'S CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Thursday 22 September saw the gazelles of the Regiment once again enjoying the quarterly 'CO's Cross County Run'. The rest of us felt it doing us good, for as every PTI knows, 'Once it starts to hurt, you know it's doing you good'. The event also counted as the inter-squadron cross country competition, with points gained counting towards the inter-squadron championship. Congratulations to **LCpl 'Ned' Kelly** of 2 Sqn who came first overall and also to **Sig 'Brains' Lawson** who was the first 'non cross country runner' to finish. He will now get a free invitation to join the cross country squad! In a close competiton, 3 Sqn came out team winners, narrowly beating 2 Sqn into second place.

Obviously the word is getting about—even the Div Staff have heard what fun running is and quite a number of them joined us this time. 204 Sig Sqn travelled all the way from Munster with great hopes of winning the inter-squadron competition. Perhaps they had better go and find some hills to train on! Running on the flat round Munster is all very well, but it doesn't train you for the CO's favourite course.

The CO's Cross Country. WO2 (SSM) Mick Bailes sets a good example to the rest

INTER-SQUADRON BOXING

The Inter-Squadron Boxing Finals took place on 28 September and a good evening's pugilism it was too! Most of the bouts were fairly evently balanced, only one being stopped by the referee because one boxer was too strong for the other. There was only one technical knockout, which came when **Sig 'Sid' Siddal** of 1 Sqn failed to beat the count in his contest with **Sig Tony Waddington** of 3 Sqn. Of the seven bouts which counted for the inter-squadron competition, three only were decided on a majority vote of the judges. All the boxers put up a very good show and the final team placings were not decided until the last bout. In the end the title went to 204 Sig Sqn by virture of the fact that they had won one more bout in the whole contest than 3 Sqn. Much heated debate followed concerning the justice or otherwise of

Cpl Charlie Rigg of 3 Sqn lands a good blow to the head in his fight against Sig 'Ginge' Hardy of 204 Sig Sqn

Sig Tony Waddington of 3 Sqn faces up to Sig 'Sid' Siddal of 1 Sqn who later failed to beat the count

the competition rules, but in the end the rules were deemed to be the rules. Our congratulations to all the boxers, put particularly to **Cpl Charlie Rigg** of 3 Sqn who was judged to be the best winner and **Lt Charles Turner** of 204 Sig Sqn who took the award for best loser.

INTER SQUADRON SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY

After dominating the competition for the past two years, the big question was could 1 Sqn retain the cup for a third year? A rugby-orientated 1 Sqn were hopeful but a confident HQ Sqn thought otherwise. The best game of the morning came when these two squadrons met in their league game. After an end-to-end game the final whistle blew with both sides on 12 points. Both teams went on to finish the morning undefeated and although 1 Sqn were awarded the 'A' league because of their greater points difference, HQ Sqn's depth carried them through, as their 'B' team won the 'B' league, giving them the Inter-Squadron Trophy.

Revenge was sweet for 1 Sqn, however, when they again met HQ 'A' in the final of the knockout phase and ran out winners by 24 points to 18. The final results of the day's play were:

Winners of the Inter-Squadron Trophy HQ Sqn, 2nd 1 Sqn, 3rd 2 Sqn, 4th 3 Sqn, 5th 206 Sqn, Best team of the day/Winners 'A' league 1 Sqn 'A' Winners 'B' league HQ Sqn 'B'

CONNAUGHT SHIELD COMPETITION

On 9 September the Regiment entered a team in the Connaught Shield Competition. This was a first aid and military skills competition for 1 (BR) Corps in which each division entered four teams. The venue was Sennelager and the team faced an interesting and challenging series of stands covering First Aid (of course), NBC, Map Reading, vehicle fault-finding, equipment recognition and a forced march with a stretcher casualty. The team, led by **Sgt Dave Stewart** and his deputy, **Cpl Andy Waterston**, finished the course wet and tired, but everyone said that they had enjoyed it. (Whether they were telling the truth we will never know!)

MATTERS MILITARY

Amongst all the sport and fun, a great deal of military work has gone on as well, with HQ, 1, 2, and 3 Sqns training for the infantry

Briefing the JNCOs. WO2 (SSM) Dave Scott sets the task. Cpls Mick Newman and Tom Holmes study the map while Cpl Smith checks his 'crib' sheet

role for their turn at Op Beggar. A lot of rangework was involved and the junior NCOs were given a chance to show their worth. Although it all contributed to a hectic life, the change of environment was enjoyed by everyone (or almost everyone) and a lot of mandatory range work was completed. Whether a week on the Op itself will prove to be as exciting remains to be seen—hopefully, it will not!

Anyway, it is comforting to know that, if the members of the Raving Peace Party come and threaten to over-run the camp in the name of non-violence we shall be ready for them!

The end result of defence budget cuts? WO2 (SSM) Dave Scott prostrates himself and begs for a few coppers to pay for the training ammunition

ENDEX! Cpl Burchnall drives his 'Panzer' off the train at Munster. The smile says it all. Cpls Tuite and Barber look on

FOCUS ON 204 (4 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Some considerable time has elapsed since the Squadron has been able to update past members and other interested parties on recent events and the current state of affairs. Read on—lots has happened. The current hierarchy is:

OC	**— Maj John Griffin**
2IC	**— Capt Don Steele**
OC Comms Troop	**— Lt Charles Turner**
OC Support Group	**— 2Lt Callum Clarke (currently at RMAS)**
SSM	**— WO2 John O'Rourke**
YofS	**— WO2 Brian Greenwood**
YofS	**— SSgt Tony Brend**
SQMS	**— SSgt Tony Spray**

MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Sig George** and **Mrs Roberts** on the birth of a son **Trevor** and to **Cpl 'Robbo'** and **Mrs Robertson** on the birth of their son **Nicholas.** To **LCpl 'Robbo' Robertson** on his marriage to **Miss Maxine Gubbins** and to **Cpl John Garner** on his marriage to **Miss Susanne Norman.**

HIGHLIGHTS

The first six months of 1983 were full with the normal busy round of exercises culminating in Exercise *Summer Sales*, when the Squadron ran the Lower Control HQ for 3 Armd Div.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

Brigadier C. N. Last OBE paid the Squadron an informal visit on 13 June. The Commander was conducted around the stands of the Squadron Detachment Skills Competition, the first phase of the Squadron Annual Patrol Competition. Each soldier was tested in a number of aspects of his trade and his marks counted towards his patrol's score. Tests varied from driving to installation fault finding, vehicle camouflage to voice procedure. **Dvr 'Hoggy' Hogg RCT** was notable with 100% results in the very difficult driving skills and B vehicle maintenance tests. The fact that he is the OC's driver must say something for the OC's judgement. The rumour that **Dvr Hogg** intends to obtain two sun filter type windscreen stickers, one for the passenger screen that says 'BOSS' and one for the drivers screen that says **'HOGG'** are not true.

SPORT

The Squadron literally pipped 227 Sig Sqn at the post to win the Morrison Cup (Minor Units) Athletics Trophy. It was a very exciting competition decided on the last race (4 × 100m relay) which we had to win to take the trophy. It was a dead heat on the watch but the race was given to us by a chest (**Cpl John Garners'**) on the dip. A tremendous contest breaking three years of domination by 227.

The Squadron Sailing team have just won the BAOR Corps Minor Units dinghy sailing trophy (The Rhino Cup), and the Cricket Team were Runners Up in the Garrison Competition, beaten by 25 runs in the final by BMH Munster. The team beat 2 Field Regiment RA and QRIH on the way to the Munster final.

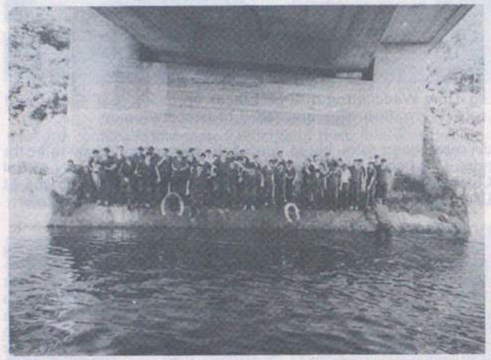
SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

The annual Summer Camp was held at Norderney, the local social delights only occasionally being interrupted by the inconveniences of daily beach runs, early morning swims, windsurfing, surf canoeing, survival exercises and so on.

Fame goes to **LCpl John Osborn** for using his Hunter Force techniques to catch a real robber who tried to make off with the PRI bar cash after a Squadron Barbecue. The rugby tackle was perfect and cuffs applied with expertise.

LIFE GOES ON

Finally, the morning runs continue . . .



It may not look like it, but this is a 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn Run

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VARIED AND INTERESTING

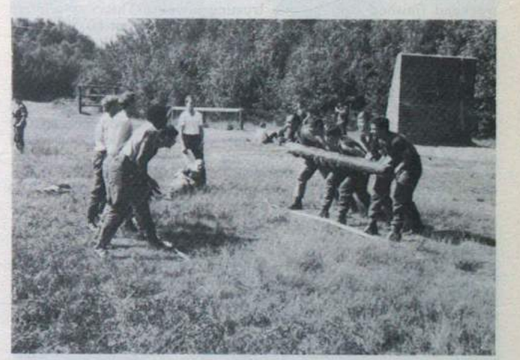
Life in a divisional signal regiment is always busy, but between Ex *Summer Sales* in July and Ex *Eternal Triangle* in October, we were able to do some of those things that make soldiering fun. Our notes on the Summer of '83 emphasize the more varied and interesting aspects of training in BAOR. Vogelsang (a worms eye view), squadron training in Denmark and adventure training for Scottish schoolboys feature in this issue. We also cover sporting events in which we have had an element of success: Shooting (see report), Golf (BAOR Inter Unit Champions) and Cricket (Divisional Champions and BAOR Runners Up) feature in this issue.

VOGELSANG—A WORMS EYE VIEW
Report by LCpl Chels Lovett—3 Sqn

On our arrival at Vogelsang training area we were whisked away in full battle order to a muster area, given short talks on first aid, fieldcraft and the Geneva Convention and led away on a swift 5km tab to the airfield. As each group arrived, all our 'necessary' kit was taken from us and we were given a scenario during which there was a sudden explosion, accompanied by a rather startled **Maj Morton** exclaiming 'Oh my God—the enemy!' So that's why we handed everything in, we were on an escape and evasion. After an arduous two days of eating nothing but grass, cow pats and the odd rabbit we were returned to the training area, regrouped into our three platoons and returned to the field as a well drilled section under the leadership of **Lt Dexter.** Our tasks consisted of: setting up patrol bases (a few times), setting up ambushes, observation of enemy meetings and recces. Although the work was hard, very few sombre faces were seen. During one ambush, **Lt Dexter** was unfortunately 'killed' and **Sgt John Hunt** took command. After being caught unawares by the hierarchy of the Squadron, things once again returned to normal.

On our return to the (by now luxurious) training camp, only a few activities were left to complete. These consisted of grenade throwing, CQB range, and a battle innoculation range which made the wearing of our own tin helmets comfortable(ish). My Squadron could be heard 'strolling' between these activities singing a variety of songs under the guidance of our SSM: **WO2 (SSM) Licence.**

The final day consisted of potted sports, assault course, and 'a Bar-Be-Que and beers'. Although our participants gave the potted sports their best effort, the week took its toll. However, congratulations go to our assault course team who came first in a closely contested competition. All in all, an enjoyable week was had by all.



3 Sqn Potted Sports Team Tossing the log

OC Maj Duncan Jones wryly contemplating his next 'stitch' on the SQMS, and SSM WO2 Rick Licence thinking it could be me

EXERCISE *ODIN RADIO*

Three buses crammed with enthusiastic(?) troops crossed the Danish border into Viking country in early August to the tune of the Spam Song. Singing didn't last long though as we all realized what a featureless country this was. Three hours later we pulled into Nymindegab Camp, home of the Danish Home Guard, who had kindly loaned us the use of a barrack block for our fortnight stay.

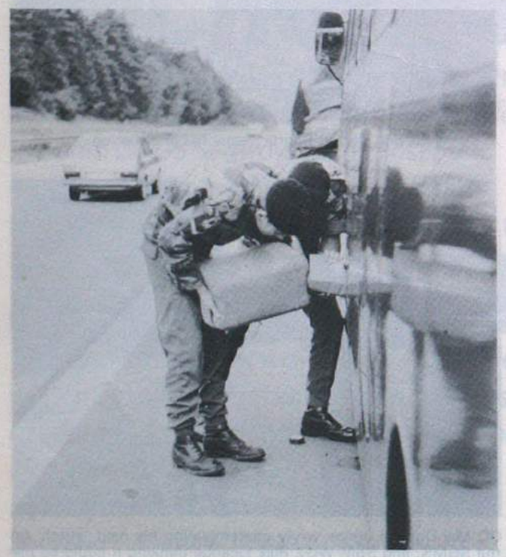
The highlight of the first day was a slide show given by a senior Danish officer. On showing a slide of three people on a massive expanse of sandy beach, he went on to explain how the beaches were always crammed in such a way. Hysterical laughter followed and it's rumoured that even the OC, **Maj Chris Nind,** saw the joke.

During the first week there was a lot of instruction, and subjects taught included Pyrotechnics, Section Attacks, FIBUA, First Aid and NBC. The FIBUA proved to be very popular, everyone getting far too carried away and half destroying the Danish 'Tin City'. **Cpl Paul Skinner** earned instant fame during his section attack when only he had located the enemy. 'Watch my tracer' he screamed and then fired his last blank round. Fits of uncontrollable laughter followed and he did magnificently well to regain control.

The highlight of the week was the night attack against the 6th Danish Signal Battalion. The day was spent receeing the position, culminating in a move that night of four sections attacking in extended line. When the first trip flare went off, about a hundred machine guns opened up and the unanimous decision was made to 'clear-off quick'. We did. '—this for a laugh, let's go for soup,' said **Pte Dave Olive RPC.**

During the final weekend, the Squadron ran its escape and evasion exercise. Thirty-two ran the course, and were up against the Danish Army Home Guard and two platoons from the Squadron. It wasn't long before the first escapers were caught—in fact, **Cpl Martin Lelacheur** fell out of the helicopter straight into enemy hands. The weekend finished with no-one trusting anyone. This was typified when **LCpl Jim Cowan** was asked if he wanted a beer after a patrol had caught him and gone for refreshment in a nearby guest house. 'I can't answer that question' he said. There followed a mêlee at the bar when several of the patrol said that they could.

After a day's rest, the watersports began. **Sgt Paul Duffy** annoyed **Sgt Terry Filer** by yawning whilst on just one water-ski at 30knots; so **Sgt Filer** headed for the nearest marker buoy and did a U-turn. **Sgt Duffy** stopped yawning. A lot of thanks go to **Cpl 'Ginger' McDermott** and **Sgt Paul Duffy** for their canoeing and windsurfing instruction. Unfortunately, there are so many stories to tell with so little space. Our pictures tell part of the story but Commander Comms 1(BR) Corps, **Brig C. N. Last,** seemed to enjoy his few days with us.



It all started innocently enough, and then . . .
The bus ran out of petrol . . .

...Sig 'Neil' Street shot down a Puma ...

. . . so they stopped our rations. Cpl Paul Critcher and LCpl Pete Ffitch waited patiently for bananas to be thrown . . .

The lads searched each other for food. Sig 'Buffalo' Jones finds a sandwich between his magazines

SSgt John Wooders considers eating his script . . .

. . . and does so!
Nil for willpower

. . . and on the beach

Visit of Commander Communications, 1 (BR) Corps, Brig C. N. Last during Ex *Odin Radio '83*
Meanwhile . . .
SSM 'One day lad, all this will be yours . . .
Brig 'Wot, the sand dunes?'

'Gassing Sir? First door down, line on the left, one cylinder each' . . .

'And if you pull hard enough, you can turn into a monk' . . .

'Come back, I'll bite your legs off . . .'

SCOTTISH SCHOOLBOYS VISIT

From 6–20 Aug, **Lt Tim Watts** and **Lt Bob Sharp** organised a Summer Camp for 29 schoolboys from the central region of Scotland, two careers advisers, the Army Schools Liaison Officer (West) and a Fusilier from 1 RHF. The summer camp covered three aspects; military training in Herford, sailing on the Mohnesee and rock climbing, abseiling and canoeing in the Diemelsee area.

The Herford phase was designed to be physically hard and incorporate a degree of military discipline. We also ensured that the boys were given every opportunity to meet and converse with soldiers and officers both from Royal Signals and other regiments. The boys, not surprisingly, enjoyed purely military activities such as shooting and the assault course but also found the IGB and local towns interesting.

The Diemelsee phase was designed to be carried out in a much more relaxed atmosphere and to test the boy's courage and determination; in some cases to the limit. The boys slept under canvas and cooked for themselves and the instructors (we must be masochists).

Each boy did one day's rock climbing and abseiling, one day's canoeing and had one day free. On the day off they were taken to the local town in the morning and went either skating or canoeing in the afternoon. During the Mohnesee phase the majority of the boys got yachting qualifications by the end of the three days.

SHOOTING

Under the supervision of **Capt Eddie Humphreys RPC** the shooting standard of the Regiment has developed by leaps and bounds over the last 12 months.

The overall performance of the Regimental team at major units level has produced some excellent results. Firstly; we came 3rd at the Corps SAM, winning the 'Association' and 'Section' match trophies. **Sig Steve Whitehead** is congratulated on winning the overall 'Class B' and 'Young Soldiers Trophy'.

The team then went to Bisley to compete in the Major Unit RASAM and, after an absence of several years from this competition, came a creditable 48 out of the 65 major unit teams competing. A noteworthy result was our 15th position in the SMG (Parachute Regt V Cup) having beaten a considerable number of infantry teams.

Further honours were gained in the Army Tickle Competition in which all Squadrons achieved a high degree of success; in particular HQ Sqn who won the Other Arms and Services Minor Unit Championships.

The Regiment concluded this year's full bore shooting by competing in Denmark, at the Danish Army International Shooting Meeting, with one of the three teams from the Regiment finishing in 11th position out of 50 teams.

The Regiment now intends to build for next year, and with the recent completion of the indoor range, hopes to advance our shooting programme and perhaps even produce better results next year.

Back Row L to R: Cpl Brash, Sig Nolan, Capt Humphreys, LCpl Patterson, Sig Allen. *Front Row L to R:* Sig Whitehead, Cpl Evans, Sig Greenhill, Pte Johnson

GOLF

Captain's Report by WO2 (SSM) Mick Raybould

Being new to the responsibilities of Regimental Golf Officer (and incidentally a fanatic golfer), I assessed the situation early in the season. First of all we had to find out who could wield a stick! Oh yes, there was our fairly newly-appointed RSM, **WO1 Mick Ledwards** (very competitive) playing off a very handy 14 handicap. There was **Sgt Nigel Scott** playing off 9, though I had thoughts that it might have been difficult to persuade him that golf was a far better game than cricket, even if he did play for BAOR. **WO2 Bob Allison RAPC** had been there before when he was a member of the 1 Queens team in 1981 and in my view almost unbeatable off an 11 handicap. **SSgt George Willerton RAOC** had just started playing again this year and I thought he was definitely unbeatable off a 13 handicap! Finally, I myself was off a 6 handicap (sometimes playing to it) and was not going to be left out. Now all I had to do was mould three Royal Signals, one Royal Army Pay Corps and one member of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps into a team and that wasn't going to be easy.

The competition started in June against 39 Heavy Regiment RA, who had two current BAOR players and were last year's losing finalists. A difficult game, made even trickier because only four players of the team count and someone had to be left out. On this occasion, **Nigel Scott** was left out (he had been playing far too much cricket). We ended up winners by 8 holes but it was a hard match.

We had hoped things would get easier but they didn't. Our next opponents were none other than 1 (BR) Corps, last year's winners. The battle commenced with 1 (BR) Corps leading off with **Brig A. Yeoman,** whom the signals element know very well. This round couldn't have been closer as, after three games, the match was all square and it all depended on the last game. After a number of nail-biting moments **SSgt George Willerton** came in 4 up. That was, needless to say, quite a relief and we were through to the finals.

The finals took place at Sennelager (British Army) Golf Club on 22–23 Sep, when the last eight teams appeared together for what was to turn out to be a very demanding, interesting and enjoyable two days. 35 Engr Regt were our opponents in the quarter finals; we beat them convincingly.

The semi-finals were against 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who had disposed of 14/20 Hussars in the quarter finals. We had a close game but eventually ran out winners by 14 holes. By this stage, we were aware that the very fancied 13 Sig Regt team had been beaten by Rheindahlen Garrison in the other semi-final. This was quite a surprise (hard luck **WO1 (RSM) Glover,** better luck next year!).

The weather was absolutely perfect for the final the following morning with blue skies and no wind. If anyone played badly, it wouldn't be because of the conditions, just pressure.

The first pair away were myself and **Maj Willie Bruin.** When my first drive landed between the bunkers and jumped over, I had a sneaking feeling it was going to be our day and after 18 holes our match ended all square. **Sgt Nigel Scott** ran out 4 up against **Brig Coakley, WO2 Bob Allison** lost 1 down against **Maj Ayes** and in the final match **SSgt George Willerton** won by 3 holes against **Maj Thomas.**

Our picture shows **Mr Malcolm Moss** of Mandrake Insurance, who sponsored the event, presenting a fine Cup to **WO2 Mike Raybould.**

The BAOR team champions from 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt receive the trophy from Malcolm Moss, a Director of Mandrake, the sponsors

Team members from *L to R:* SSgt Willerton RAOC, WO2 (SSM) Raybould, Sgt Scott, WO2 Allison RAPC and WO1 (RSM) Ledwards

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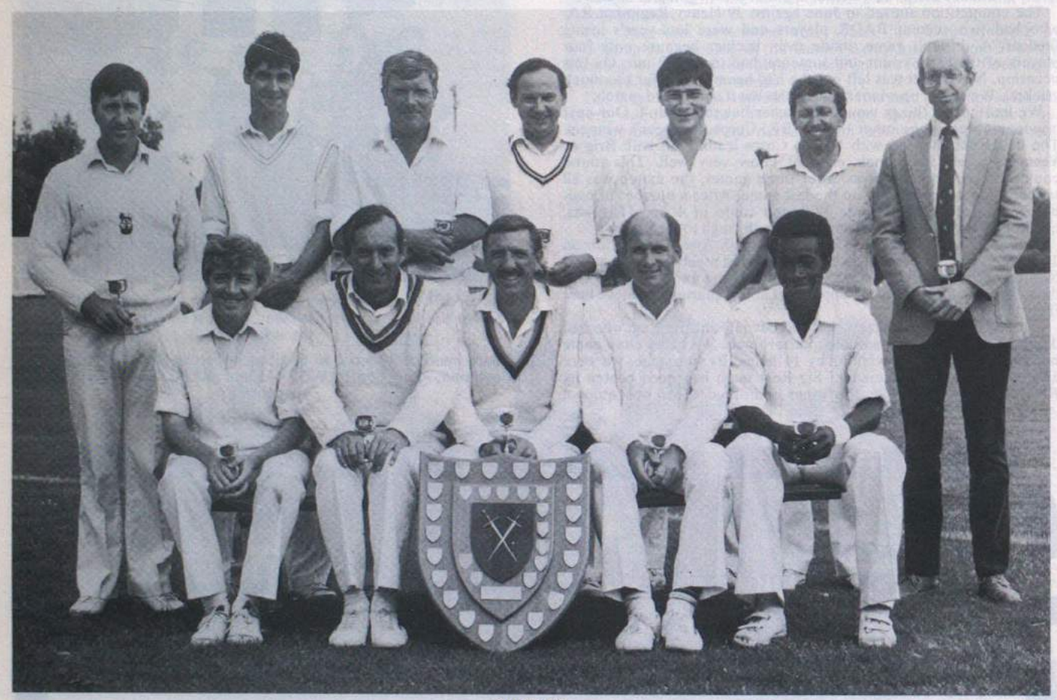
BAOR INTER UNIT CRICKET FINAL

The Regiment met 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in the final of the BAOR Inter Unit Cricket Cup, the Regimental skipper **WO2 Mike Raybould** lost the toss and the opposition elected to bat. The fielding side was hampered by atrocious weather conditions, gusting winds up to gale force, rain and poor light. 5 Inniskilling DGs openers got their side off to a good start, putting on 92 for the first wicket. The Regimental bowlers plugged away bravely with little success, especially **Sgt Nigel Scott** and **Sig Andy Lidstone.** Once the openers were dismissed 4 Div gradually came back into the game; however poor fielding and missed catches cost them dearly. The innings closed at 199 for 7 in the allotted 40 overs, but play was abandoned for the day.

The next day was bright and sunny and, as the Regiment needed 200 runs off 40 overs, the game looked finely balanced. However the loss of two quick wickets for 9 runs was a disasterous start. But when **LCpl Glen Bailey** and **Capt Kerry McLean** came together they looked in good form and both looked set for big scores. Sadly our hopes were unfullfilled as they both scored less than 20. With the score at 49, **Scott** was caught for 2 and the Regiment at 53 for 5 were in big trouble. **WO1 (RSM) Mick Ledwards** offered some stern resistance with **LCpl Carl Saunders** and **Sig Andy Lidstone** adding 20 for the last wicket. However, the Regiment never really got going and were all out for 112. 5th Skins bowled and fielded tightly, with plenty of enthusiasm and held all their catches. A good all round performance by a team favoured by the weather and taking full advantage of winning the toss.

Apart from this game the Regiment had a most successful season winning the following trophies: The 4 Division Knock-Out Cup, The Westfalia Inter Service Knock-Out Cup, and the Westfalia Inter Services League Championship.



CRICKET

Back Row L to R: Capt R. W. K. McLean, Sig A. Lidstone, Sgt R. Woodfine, WO2 S. Dimmock, LCpl C. Saunders, Sgt N. Scott, WO2 G. Harris

Front Row: Sgt A. Lea, Lt Col A. F. Eastburn, WO2 M. M. Raybould, WO1 (RSM) M. V. Ledwards, LCpl G. Bailey

HERFORD 10

On Sunday 4 September some 540 competitors gathered at Hammersmith Barracks, Herford to take part in the Herford 10 mile road race. The event, the first of its kind to be held in Herford, was organised by **WO2 (BSM) Dave Hardy,** and was well supported by many spectators in breezy but dry conditions. The runners were of all ages and both sexes with prizes to be awarded in various classes. Local German sports clubs were invited to join the fun and, as it happens, took away some of the prizes.

First home in a time of 52 minutes 25.6 seconds was **SSgt Bill Venus** of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The first lady to complete the course was **Mrs Celia Duncan,** again from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in a time of 63 minutes 13.8 seconds.

The first of our runners came in 27th place; **Sgt Martin Case** of 1 Sqn completed the course in 59 minutes 6.2 seconds.

The photograph shows the Commanding Officer of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Lt Col A. F. Eastburn** accompanied by **Herr Doctor Schrober,** the Mayor of Herford who kindly consented to present the prizes to the winners of the different classes.

NEWS FROM THE BRIGADES

THE PRIME MINISTER VISITS 200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

During her recent tour of BAOR, the Prime Minister visited HQ 20 Armd Bde which was deployed on the Soltau training area. The Prime Minister was briefed on the headquarters by the Brigade Commander, **Brig. N. G. P. Ansell** before touring the main headquarters complex. Although time was very short and **Mrs Thatcher** did not meet many of the Squadron our Ex *Long Look* visiting Australian **WO2 (YofS) Tom Penrose** did manage to get in on the act. The Prime Minister's Personal Private Secretary was most impressed when he was able to make an urgent telephone call to No 10 from the Comms Ops vehicle in the middle of a wood on the training area.

The OC, Maj Stephen Siddall, explains the length of something to the Prime Minister. WO2 Tom Penrose can just be seen in the murky depths of the Comms Ops vehicle.

Photographs by courtesy of Oz Foz Todd

202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Amidst the hazy summer months, leave and courses have taken many of the Squadron to faraway places. However, two interesting and challenging Battle Camp exercises have taken place.

EXERCISE *HARD NUT*

On 14 July, 17 intrepid heroes, chosen from a cast of thousands, ventured forth to Vogelsang for a week of military training. The Squadron element blistered on to 1 Sqn to make up the numbers and Ex *Hard Nut* was in business.

The first day began with the inevitable early reveille and squadron run. **Sig Dave'Big Lugs' Hindley** noticed early that Vogelsang had more hills than Paderborn. Everyone looked at him and wondered why he hadn't been promoted. Potted Sports and preparation followed whilst the command element went for a recce.

The weekend arrived and after lectures on survival, the Geneva Convention and first aid, the Squadron marched with the rest of the Regiment to an airfield. Apparently, orange forces had invaded and we had to get back to Paderborn. Well, those orange forces were pretty good because all of a sudden they were on us and everyone 'withdrew'. Everyone, that is, except the officers who were told to return. 'That must be because we're going to be agents for the escape and evasion exercise,' thought **Lt Kevin Fisher.** Wrong; kicked to the ground, stripped of everything, he too was sent running. After three hours he met up with **Sig Stan Tivey** and **LCpl Stu Edwards** who sank to the ground and gasped 'Thank the Lord you've arrived, Sir.' Ah! such loyalty.

Many stories were told at the end of this part of Ex *Hard Nut*. **Sig Mick 'I fly Rebros' Hughes** found a bakery at 0300hrs and got away with a basketful of fresh rolls. **LCpl 'Doris' Day,** walking out of a supermarket, saw a lorry load of enemy waiting at the traffic lights—which were on red. Such were the rules of engagement that **LCpl Day,** being more than 15m away, got off scott free.

Three days were spent on Squadron training with night attacks, section attacks and in some cases, chronic stomach attacks, or so it sounded from the noise in the Thunderboxes.

On the penultimate day, the Squadron competed in the Regimental Potted Sports. **Sig Pat Phillimore** proved that officers can't shoot the pistol. The Squadron ended up 8th out of 19 teams competing, which proved that our talent at throwing the welly far surpassed anything else.

INCOMING/OUTGOING

We welcome **SSgts John Wooders** and **Dave Gaffney** to the Squadron and say farewell to **Lt Simon Renfrey** who is off to camouflage RMCS Shrivenham. We also welcome his replacement **2Lt Nick Metcalfe** whose first job will be to decam his troop.

211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Now that the majority of the spring and early summer exercises are over, the efforts of the Squadron have turned to adventure and Battle Camp training.

In mid-July, with the SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Jim Coffey** at the helm, the Squadron strode forth to Vogelsang on the Regiment Battle Camp—Ex *Hard Nut*. Thirty-five members of the Squadron and 45 cadets from Prince Rupert School, Rinteln, spent a very enjoyable week improving their military skills.

LCpl Mike Walker RPC endeared himself to the SSM by adopting the 'Barnes Wallis' grenade throwing technique whilst **Sig Ian Allan** threw from the crouching (or was it cowering?) position.

Two hundred and fifty 84mm sub calibre rounds were fired and some of the Squadron not only lived but also dreamt the events of the day; often in the early hours of the morning the immortal words 'Tank action!' were heard.

The final day of Potted Sports proved of great training value as well as providing more than a few amusing incidents. But to many, the highlight of the week was the opportunity to fire on the battle range, even if the stories being told afterwards made it sound like D-Day.

During Vogelsang week, the new Ops/Trg Officer **Capt Simon (watch the jibe) Harris** arrived, or rather moored up, having sailed his boat across from Southampton to Kiel. Five days later he was seen heading for Kiel again with a scratch (and do we mean scratch?) crew for the Royal Signals Regatta. **LCpl 'Des' Desmond** endeared himself to his skipper by sharing the same bucket for the whole trip as well as regularly throwing winch handles overboard. **Sig John (I'll do it my way) Lee** impressed everybody with his powers of leadership, and was nearly keel hauled for his troubles, whilst **Sig Tony Booth,** spent the whole trip providing soup at the rate of 2 gallons an hour. Five hundred miles and a day in Copenhagen later, all agreed that the trip had been worth it, even if we did not win.

As a farewell present, **Lt Mark Castle Smith** organised the Squadron adventure training Summer Camp, ably assisted by **WO2 (YofS) Bob** (and his dog) **Beebee.**

The RMP Snow Queen hut (a very well appointed building more closely resembling a hotel) near Sonthofen, was used as the base camp from which activities were launched.

For the first week all the lads undertook a 'round robin' of activities including canoeing, rock climbing, windsurfing and hill walking.

The water sports were ably taught by **Cpl Martin Lockyer** (windsurfing) and **Cpl Steve Hartley** (canoeing). Our most reluctant waterbaby was **Sig 'Speedy' Allan** who having had an expensive blond tint put in his hair was loath to get it wet.

Without doubt the star pupil at rock climbing was **LCpl 'Pigwin' Goodwin** who, having been introduced to abseiling, had to be physically restrained from leaping off any vertical rockface (with or without a rope). By far the most unpopular man on the camp was **Sgt Norman Alcorn RPC,** 211's answer to the mountain goat, who in leading the hill walking managed to prove to everyone that going downhill can actually be worse than going up.

Having gained a taste for the exotic in the first week, everybody was free to choose their own sport during the second week. Several small expeditions were undertaken with the canoeists paddling for two days down the River Luisach, and **Sgt Alcorn** and his intrepid mountaineers climbing the Alpspitz. Finally, as we go to press, **Cpl Mark Swinton** returns, having just won the BAOR Signals angling; congratulations to him for a fine effort.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

ATHLETICS

It has been a very successful year for the Regiment's Athletics team with a twist of fate which took us to the Army Athletics Final in Aldershot. This was brought about by a mixture of individual talent and good fortune even though Regiment commitments hampered consistant training.

We started the season by coming second in the 4 Division Athletics meeting at Sennelager in May. This was a good result as the 4 Divisional area is much bigger this year with a better standard of athletics. Second place at this meeting ensured the team a place at the BAOR meeting later in the season. Also on the strength of some performances eight members of the team qualified for the BAOR Individual Athletics Championships. These were **Sgt John Bower** (Javelin), **LCpl Clyde White** (400m), **Sig Alan Poulson** (400m Hurdles), **Sig Viv Henry** (100m, 200m) **Sig Hutch Hutchinson** (100m, Long Jump), **LCpl Kev Jarivs** (Pole Vault, High Jump), **Cpl Dave Amos** (Pole Vault, Triple Jump), and **LCpl Steve Lawrence** (800m, 1500m). Of these **Sig Alan Poulson** was selected to go on to the Army Individual Athletics Championships in England.

In the Morrison Cup at Sennelager in June the team improved on its fifth position in 1982 by being placed runners up this year to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. In this competition both our relay teams in the 4 × 100m and 4 × 400m came in first displaying the depth of talent in sprinting within the Regiment. Next year the Regiment will be seeking to win this competition.

At the BAOR team Championships the team again improved on its 1982 position when it came eighth, by coming fourth in 1983. This clearly demonstrated the improvement in most athletes since the previous season and their determination to do well as a team. Although we came fourth it seemed as if the Gods smiled on us.

The third place team declined the offer by the BAOR Sport Board to go to England for the Army Athletics final in July, and because we were a close fourth the invitation was offered to us. The team went to the Army Athletics Final in Aldershot in late July knowing it was up against the very best athletes in the Army. Our attitude was to enjoy the competition and gain much experience from 'rubbing shoulders' with the best. At the end of the day we came a creditable fifth position beating 8 Sig Regt.

All in all it has been an enjoyable and successful season for the team with many happy memories. We look forward to hosting the Morrison Cup competition in Herford in 1984, and give notice to other Regiments that 7 Sig Regt will be training hard to win.

CRICKET

7 Sig Regt had a quite successful summer starting with a team of unknown quantity. The batting was brittle with only one or two reliable batsmen but this did improve towards the end of the season when **Maj Geri Maddren** hit form and we discovered a new opening batsmen in the form of **Sig Simon Boyd**.

Our bowling was well balanced with a good attack capable of holding any side of BAOR. **Cpl H. Glean** led the way well supported by **Cpl Kev Jarvis, LCpl Hammey Hamlet, Cpl Tony Howard** and **Sig Andy Fyfe**. The skipper **Maj Steve Coltman**, our only spinner, got a surprising number of wickets.

Probably the best part of the side was its fielding ability. We 'discovered' the BOAR wicket keeper, **LCpl Dean Richardson**, who proved to be a wicket keeper of high standard. As a result the fielding was of a very high standard and the catching and throwing was good.

The weather in May was poor and we suffered three defeats in a row losing twice to RAF Gutersloh and once to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the Westphalian League. After this we had an uninterrupted string of successes in both the League and Cup. This lasted until we met 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the fourth Division final. Although having beaten them in a friendly the month before we did start as the underdogs. However by stint of good bowling and fielding we restricted them to 141—eight in their 30 overs. **Cpl H. Glean** bowling particularly well.

We had a good start and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were distinctly worried when we were 41—two over ten overs and going well. However one over by their **Sgt Nigel Scott** a combined services player, turned the scales and our brittle batting collapsed and we were well beaten by 43 runs. All was not finished when we gave 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt a final warm-up for the BAOR final. The tables were turned and we won comprehensively by eight wickets. We look forward to doing even better next year.

The Page Trophy Inter Squadron cricket was hotly contested with four winning well with 1 Sqn and HQ Sqn equal second. Over 100 players took part. Finally at the end of an enjoyable year we thank our Paymaster **Maj Ian Whittaker** for all his hard work as Regimental Cricket Officer.

6 SQN REPORT

As it is some time since the Radio Sqn were included in 'The Wire', we begin with the establishment.

Squadron Commander	**Maj Peter Hallett**
Second in Command	**Capt John Byrne**
Sergeant Major	**WO2 Phil Daisey**
SQMS	**SSgt Bob Stewart**
Yeoman of Signals	**SSgt Dave Wright**
Foreman of Signals	**SSgt Steve Churchman**
OC A1 Troop	**Lt Ginny Edwards**
OC A2 Troop	**Lt Peter Grogan**
OC A3 Troop	**Capt John Bryne (again)**
OC A5 Troop	**Capt Kim Parsons**
OC EW Defence Monitoring Team	**Capt Bob Baker**

With 170 Officers and Soldiers to Command **Maj Peter Hallett** has a large Squadron by any standards.

After a very busy year spent mainly in the field on exercise in detachment, troop or Squadron strength it was felt that we needed a complete change of scene. After much planning and scrounging, a military and adventurous training camp was set up on the shores of the Baltic Sea near Eckernforde. It ran from 15 to 29 July and included Offshore Sailing, Dinghy Sailing, Windsurfing, Water skiing, Canoeing and paddling assault boats when the outboard motors became temperamental or the driver went on strike. The Sqn Comd looking like the son of Capt Birds Eye herded two groups of more or less reluctant landlubbers on to his yacht and took them on a cruise around the Baltic Sea. To quote a recent commentator, 'I counted them all out and I counted them all back and if they are not yet ready to challenge for the America's Cup it is not the fault of Squadron Commander.'

HONOUR EVEN

A keen rivalry developed between the Dinghy Sailors instructured by **SSgt John Mold** and the Windsurfers under **SSgt Chris Laughlin** 'Windsurfers are not sailors' proclaimed **SSgt John Mold**. 'Dinghy sailors are all puffs', replied **SSgt Chris Laughlin**, referring, I believe, to all the hot air they spouted. On the final day of the course they raced against each other and the honours were declared even. Other pleasures were not neglected. The 3 Sqn PTI **LCpl 'Sugar' Cane** was hired at enormous expense because it was felt our own PTI **LCpl 'Chalky' White** would be too soft on the internees. **'Sugar'** lived up to his ferocious reputation. Runs along the beach at 0630 hours were followed by vigorous exercises and a plunge into the sea made even the sturdiest heart quail. But even the mightiest are brought low and in the second week **'Sugar'** was seen to be hobbling and had to be excused the early morning runs because of blisters, to the great amusement of the 2IC, who gave thanks that he should see the day when a PTI developed blisters.

POPULAR

SSgt John McManus was put in charge of recreational visits which included visits to shoe factories, a glass bottle factory and a fish canning plant. The Squadron Commander was so intrigued by this inspired programme that he went on one of these outings. The mystery was cleared up when all these firms were found to be in the nearby Holiday Camp which also had a swimming pool, bathing beauties (swimsuit optional) and refreshment. On its more serious side **Sgt Pete Smith** organised visits to a German Air Force Base, a German Destroyer in Kiel and a Naval Weapons School in Eckernforde. **Lt Peter Grogan** had the unenviable task of chasing three sections of less than enthusiastic hikers, complete with kit on his four day 100km plus treasure march with three scenic stopping off points en route. **Cpl Graham Kendall** organised the Motor Cycling Course which was probably the most popular activity. The list of guest riders was impressive, they included the Squadron Commander, the RSM (out on a visit) and **Capt Kim Parsons**. Much fun was had by all and not a few bruises. **Cpl Dave Pollard** discovered one obstinate tree that would not get out of his way. In the ensuing argument rumour has it that the tree had the best of it. **Cpl Kendall** is now 'scrounging' spares from his contacts before he has to return the bikes to a certain friendly Gunner Regiment!

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

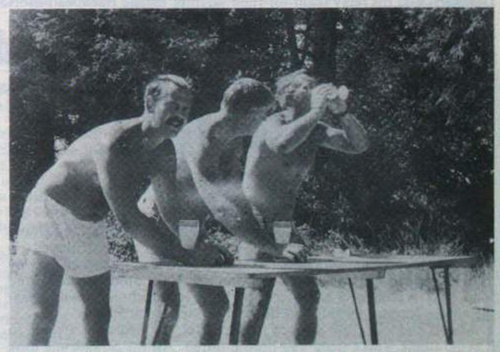
We also managed to find time to train some HGV class three drivers. One German driver of a three day old BMW now wishes we hadn't found time. He very rashly parked his brand new machine too close to the entrance to the training camp just as **Sig Bob Blythe** was making his debut on the public road in a four ton Bedford G.S. Needless to say the Bedford lorry came off the best but I am told the garage bill will not be too hefty. It wasn't all work, however, at Camp. Much sport was played and in a closely contested Volleyball League played each evening a Cpls team led by **Cpl Steve Woodford** just beat a Sgts Mess team led by **SSgt John Mold** by one point. The Squadron played a football match against the Supply Battery of 39 Battalion of the German Air Force. The score was tied at 2—2, **Lt Peter Grogan** exhibited his diplomatic skills by scoring a goal for both sides. A very successful barbeque was laid on by **SSgts Bob Steward, John Mold** and **Sgt Steve Toms**. It appeared to attract most of the German holidaymakers, in the area. Many friends were made among the Germans, particularly amongst the young females. **Sig 'Marilyn' Doyle** was seen to be particularly successful in this field. It was with some regret that on 29 July the Squadron moved back to Herford. They had worked hard and played hard. It will be something to remember as they carry out the busy training programme that faces them in the 12 months ahead.

The Dinghy sailors pictured before the course starts. *L to R, back row:* Cpl Gooch, SSgt Steve Churchman, Sig 'Oxo' Oxtoby, John Ridgeley, Paul Farr, Sid Knight, Geordie Lunn and Cpl Paul Elkington. *Front Row:* SSgt John Mold (instructor), Cpl Cherry, Sig Cam Logan and Maj Peter Hallett (inspector)

Cpl Martin Pascoe (kneeling) and members of his patrol. *L to R:* LCpl Gary Bennet, Sig Joe Rowe, Mich Ryan and Mac Wells

An exciting moment during the 'Dragon' boat race. Lt Peter Grogans crew have an advantage over the crew led by Cpl Ray Spencer who seem to be more interested in getting their picture taken.

SSgt John Mold imitating King Alfred during the Barbecue



The Sgts Mess team drinking their raw eggs and milk during the boat race. SSM Phil Daisey is draining the bitter cup to the dregs while Sgt George Greaves looks on apprehensively and Sgt Neil Hatton appears to be praying for divine help as his turn approaches

4 SQN SUMMER CAMP EXERCISE *WET QUADRANT*

On Monday 18 July, after weeks of doubts about lack of equipment and even lack of a campsite, 4 Sqn eventually set off for their Summer Camp.

Led by OC Sqn, **Maj D. F. Palmer** (later to be known as 'Captain Birdseye' for his prodigious efforts with fishing rod and wind surf board), 60 members of the Squadron travelled the 700 kms to Kochel Am See in Bavaria. On arrival they found that **SQMS Taff Williams** had succeeded in building a life like copy of an average Butlins holiday camp tucked away at the foot of a cliff right at the edge of the lake.

The 10 days available for the camp were split into two parts. The first five days were for Ex *Wet Quadrant*. This was arduous walking exercise where the Squadron personnel were split into sections led by JNCO's. Each section had to visit six check points over a course of approx 90 kms and carry out command tasks at these check points.

Just for a change there was a river crossing, manned by **Sgt Keith 'Flasher' Leighton** and **Sgt 'Stack'** (Have I got to stay all night by myself?) **Stachini**. This led eventually to the U.S. Special Forces Assault Course, run by **SSgt (YofS) Mick Taylor. Cpl Rumsey's** section proceeded to smash the course record much to the amazement of the American instructors who had kindly offered us the use of these facilities.

Then came 'Murphy's Folly' a 120m dry bobsleigh run where **Sig 'Brains' Murphy** broke the record for falling off most times and almost broke his neck. Despite repeated requests he wouldn't try again.

Possibly the most popular check point (just beating the Stretcher race) was the Alpine Swimming Pool, where the sections had the opportunity to cool down for a couple of hours and the only difficult part was trying to preserve one's eyesight. Finally came the Hill Climb where the sections climbed to a height of 1801 meters and traversed a 3km stretch of mountain offering superb views over the Austrian Alps. In fact some of the descriptions of the view were so colourful as to be unprintable. I would appreciate it if someone could point out the location of these check points to **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Colston** and his crew so that next year they needn't take their passports and ice axes!

As Saturday lunchtime approached, the sight of hobbling, aching, blistered and bleeding soldiers arriving at Base Camp confirmed that the aims of the exercise had been achieved and after 24 hours R. & R. we could now get down to some serious relaxation.

Part 2 of Summer Camp was divided into various leisure activities. Canoeing, windsurfing, abseiling, swimming and a visit to Munich filled the days. While the traditional flag lowering ceremonies occupied the evenings.

The windsurfing school, ably run by **Cpl Alfie Birch** (despite a takeover bid by OC Squadron) was the setting for a World Record attempt by **Sig Slim Ruck** on the underwater windsurfers depth record currently held by himself.

At the Rock Climbing, **Sig Jones** (the relay) suffered vertigo coming down from the back of the transport and has opted out of next year's Katmandu expedition. Special mention must be made of **Cpl 'Runs' Dewhurst** and his relay team for their attempt on the European short sprint record. I'm told that even a week after the camp some of them are still at it.

No report of the camp would be complete without asking the questions 'How did **Sig 'White Lies' Lewis** get those two extra bits of 'baggage' on the bus without the Sarn't Major **Mick Pawlak** noticing? and 'Can we go there again next year?'. Finally thanks are due to **SQMS Taff** for his efforts in administering the camp and to **Capt Neil Swainson** and **2Lt Bruce Rose** (just loitering) whose organisation of the exercise proved that P & P aren't always necessary for successful results.

EXERCISE *SILVER SHIELD*

The Regiment went on a Royal Signals Battle Camp at Vogelsang from 15-23 September. Although 4 and 6 Sqns were deployed on communcations exercises at Herford, the former provided a very active enemy led by the Traffic Adjutant, **Capt John Nichols**, and **SSgt Taff Williams**. 6 Sqn provided 18 FFR detachments who spent their time leaping up hill and down dale communicating.

After a pleasant train journey to the Eiffel, the Regiment arrived to a programme where sleep had been omitted. All the Squadrons took part in the Commander Comms competition (including HQ Sqn). Pride of place must go to 5 Sqn, who won the SLR competition and were second overall in the shooting. 1 Sqn were third in the SLR and fourth in the shooting. However, what was creditable was that all the Squadrons were fairly equal at what they did, producing good timings.

Watermanship Training
2 Sqn on the lake after Ex *Iron Arrow*
Captain (for the day) LCpl Jarvis (Front Left)

Watermanship Training
2 Sqn paddling their raft — going nowhere!
Under the Skipper Yeoman Wright (sic)

A special word of praise must go to the HQ Sqn team whose team spirit was excellent considering that they came from every nook and cranny in the Regiment. Also to **Lt Jinny Edwards WRAC** (6 Sqn attached to HQ Sqn) who not only did the hill run and assault course but also completed the 10 miles march carrying 16kg of kit in a very good time that left a few men behind. Well done **Jinny.**

Everyone had the 'chance' of doing a 10 mile march, a hull run up a 'vertical cliff' (it was vertical—honest) and the assault course.

They also fired the 84mm and 66mm sub-calibre, threw grenades and generally frightened the feathered population of Vogelsang.

Finally every Squadron took part in a 24-30 hour company exercise, Ex *Iron Arrow*, against a controlled enemy. This involved a live section shoot in either the defence or attack followed by a company advance to contact, digging in, night patrolling, ambushes and a dawn attack. All in all a fairly exhausting exercise—most seemed to obtain a perverse enjoyment in it.

Sunday 18 September saw a rest day. After a Drumhead service the Regiment took part in 'It's a Knock-Out'. After many highly amusing games 1 Sqn won with the enemy second. All were covered in flour and water. Thank you 3 Sqn for organising it.

THE MANAGEMENT

The training wing instruction team led by **WO2 Tom Charteris** generally had a busy time. Many went a week early to assist 14 Sig Regt. Notable among the instructors were: **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Carpenter** who took over the Tank Override, ran people over and became great friends with the Belgian tank driver who was nicknamed 'Lurch'. Lurch looked like a Frankenstein without his bolt (in his neck). **SSgt Mo Harkin** and **John Hodges** 'The Jolly Twins' who were asked continually to instruct 14 Sig Regt as their soldiers found them so humerous. Something for methods of instruction here. **SSgt John Hodges** at the grenade range being covered in mud when one of his drivers dropped his grenade short with the comment: 'I got Boss Hogg'. **WO1 (YofS) Bob Badger** who organised everything!

The Tank Override
5 Sqn — Moving it was fun

The Tank Override
Before LCpl Willie Rennie 'For what we are about to receive'

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

BULL v BULLDOZER

In the latest round of landscaping to take place in Vimy Barracks the square has come under attack! In full view of the RSM's office the drill shed offered little resistance to an aptly named equipment—the BULLdozer.

ATTESTATIONS

On 17 Aug, the CO, **Col Moss,** attested two sons of serving members of 8 Sig Regt. The first was **Sean,** son of **WO2 (SSM) Humphries. Sean** is now at AAC Harrogate and has joined the army only months before his father finishes his career with Royal Signals. **Sean's** brother is also in the army, serving at the AAC Chepstow.

Mark Rose, son of **Sgt Rose** was also attested on the same day and not only does his father work for 8 Sig Regt, but his mother **Brenda** is employed as the tailoress.

L to R: David, Lisa, CO, WO2(SSM) Humphries, Sean, Mrs Carol Humphries, Rebecca

L to R: Amanda, CO, Mark, Mrs Brenda Rose, Adrian, Miss Susan Wilcox

WRAC SPORT

The two major competitions of the winter season saw the girls involved in the Army 6-a-side hockey tournament and the army rounders championships. Having convincingly won the NEDIST rounders competition, the team had a final placing of 5th. In the hockey, the team did even better and led by **2Lt Jane Boxell WRAC** finished 3rd out of 32 teams.

INTER-TROOP SPORT

The past two months have seen 8 Sig Regt fully deployed to the sports field. Almost every evening saw some competition being played and each squadron has success in something to write about.

The first ever Softball tournament was run by the US Officer attached to the TTS, **Maj Mike Griffiths.** The game based on baseball involved many complex rules and in the final, played in heavy rain, it was the team who had picked up the 'complex' rules that won. The victors, 1 Sqn are now preparing to meet the School of Signals Champions at Blandford in the first 'international'. No doubt **Maj Mike Griffiths** the organiser will coach the 1 Sqn team to ensure success is achieved.

In brief the other competitions included, football, cricket, hockey, basketball, orienteering and a special rounders competition aimed at giving the WRAC team practice before competing in the Army finals. **Maj Roulestone WRAC** provided the administrative details and also the bottle of champagne to the winning team.

I SQN ROUND-UP

The 1983 Inter-Squadron Football Competition was held on 5 August. This year the standard was extremely high which helped to provide a very even and entertaining competition. The overall winners were ther P Troop team (potential technicians).

Front Row: Sig Murray, Yam, LCpl Forshaw, Sig Stallard, Maughan, Jones
Back Row: Sig Mann, O'Brien (Capt), Bates, Jennings, Bayfield, King, Prince

Our other sporting achievement was to win the annual Inter-Squadron Hockey Competition for the second year running, beating 2 Sqn in the final. A very convincing win which confirmed the strength and skill of this exceptional team.

Front Row: Cpls McRoberts, Drinkall, Chambers, Allen, Lobb, Drysdale
Back Row: Cpls Krishna, Shyte, Blondel, Sgt Shrive, Cpls Gibbons, Wilkerson, Pickett

Tuesday 20 September saw the first Softball competition held in the Regiment. Although a totally new sport for many of the participants, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our winning team now travel to Blandford to compete against their winning team. Well done to the organisers and 'hot dogs' all round. The picture clearly shows a happy but wet team!

Victorious Softball team—1 Sqn

On the academic field, **Cpl Krishna Gurung** (Queen's Gurkha Signals) achieved an 'A' Grade on his Radio Tech Upgrading Course Our photograph shows **Cpl Krishna** receiving his 'A' Grade from OC TTS, **Lt Col Smith**.

1 Sqn has said goodbye to the following over the past months. **WO1 Clark** on his retirement, **Sgt Shrive** and **Cpl Heaton** on their postings. The Squadron wishes them well for the future and good luck.

Welcome to **WO1 Wallace, Sgt Smith** and **Cpl Johnson** on arrival to the team; we've plenty of work awaiting them.

2 SQN REPORT

This month's notes begin with arrivals and departures. We would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to **Capt Norman Ladds** and his wife **Jan**. We wish them well in their new posting in the sun at 11 Sig Regt. We welcome in his place **Capt Paul Stock** and hope his tour with the squadron will be a happy one.

The latest trophy to be gained has been for rounders in the Inter-troop Competition. This was won by Bravo Troop against strong opposition from the rest of the Regiment.

On 17 September a party of 'mountain trekkers' left Catterick for the delights and sights of the Yorkshire Dales, the aim being to walk over Hawes Head breaking for lunch at a local hostelry. We would like to quash rumours that **2Lt Jane Boxell WRAC** was able to cross 12-foot walls unassisted. It was a 2-foot wall. **SSgt Ken Counsell** and **Sgt Jim Simpson** did not get a lift to the final RV and **Miss 'Redlegs' Boxell's** team did get lost. An enjoyable day was had by all even if **Capt Paul Stock** did regale everyone with stories of 'When I were a lad in't Dales'.

3 SQN REPORT

At last the Red Army is heading for success. Gone are the days when 3 Sqn battled on the sports field in search of the plate finals and over the past few hectic months limited success has been achieved. It all started way back in August when a very determined football team fought to the final. Despite a lot of hard work though, the team had to settle for second place.

In the basketball the team suffered the same fate but again after a long hard battle the team went down 19—17. A determined effort when one considers at the final whistle only two players remained on court!

So did this winning trend continue? . . . the answer is yes, and the 12 fine gentlemen of the cricket team found themselves playing a strong HQ Sqn team in the final. Some erratic bowling led to the downfall of the team but dogged batting by **Sgt Slog Bradshaw** avoided a crushing defeat. A special thank you goes to **Sig (now Mr) Woodward** for leading the team and making a wonderful catch which sent the CO back to the pavilion.

From the efforts on the playing fields of gentlemen it was fitting that the rounders team should carry on in search of the elusive trophy. The D Tp team took to the game like ducks to water and found themselves up against the NEDIST champions in the form of the WRAC team. Having scored only one rounder it looked as if it was all over but after much scurrying about, including a catch involving three players, the team was in yet another final. Alas, the pride of the linemen won through and it was decided that handbags were more suited to the title of rounders champions.

And so it continues. Hockey was next and after last year's disaster of only winning one match many teams felt that 3 Sqn were easy game. In the first match a team that turned up thinking it was a trial match put four goals in against the young technicians. Unfortunately, it was the only goals that this team scored. Two no-score draws earned the team a place in the semi-finals but the eventual winners, the old technicians destroyed the team 5—0.

Having had the gentlemen's sport, the ladies' sport it was then the chance of the Americans who introduced softball. With complicated rules and fixture lists and a bat that resembles an offensive weapon it is not surprising that this is the sport for the hairies. Imagining the ball was something related to technicians, home runs came fast and and furious. The incentive of a trip to Blandford for the winners led to a lot of concentration, but alas, runners-up again.

Congratulations go also to Pte Elizabeth English seen here receiving her much sought after 'A' Grade Data Telegraphist Basic Certificate from Maj Elliot

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

PTE BRIODY—A POTENTIAL WORLD CHAMPION
Judo — The Dutch Open

Pte Briody was a member of the British Judo Squad who went to Holland on 9 September to participate in the Dutch Open. Fourteen nations had entered the competition and the standard of Judo was expected to be high. In **Pte Briody's** draw the world silver medalist Marie France Collingnan had a place. After winning two fights **Pte Briody** met Collingnan. **Pte Briody** beat Collingnan by a Koka and went on to beat the German National Champion to gain a place in the final. It was an all British Final with **Pte Briody** fighting **Sandy Fry**. At the end of the fight there was no score and the result had to go on a judge's decision finally going in favour of **Sandy Fry. Pte Briody** hopes to represent Britain again in the near future.

NEWS FROM THE NO 1 SQUADRON SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The warm weather and promise of a good sun-tan drove many members of the Squadron into the open air for the summer sports season. Swimming, rounders, tennis, golf and athletics kept the girls occupied whilst the men tried their hands (and legs) at volleyball, six-a-side hockey, cricket and marathon running. Here are a few of our more notable performances:

Athletics. We gained three first and four second places in the Western Area Individual Championships. **Pte Maria Hornsby** went on to the Army Individuals to become the Womens Javelin Champion with a throw of 40.86m. 10th Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF) won the Western Area Inter-Unit Championships with a good all round team: **Pte's Penny Lansbury, Bev Fox, Chris Kay, Maria Hornsby, Lynn Pickering, Rachel North, Laura Skimming, Lt Fiona Blood, LCpl Ruth Woodhouse** and **Cpl Julie Maycock.**

Rounders. Although not faring too well in the summer league, we did succeed in winning the Western Area Rounders Championships, after a closely fought battle, and went on to represent the district at the Army Finals in Camberley.

Tennis. With five matches played, five won and one match to play we are poised to win the W. Area League. This seasons players: **Cpl Karen Topley, Pte's Sue Ward, 'Taff' Robbins, Lisa Gras, Lt Annabel Stiff.**

Marathons. Sgt Dave Milner came second in the Tidworth Marathon with a time of 3 hrs 20 mins. Other members of the Squadron joined him for the Cardiff Marathon. Times were as follows: **Sgt Dave Milner** — 3 hrs 4 mins, **Cpl Phil Carroll** — 3 hrs 26 mins, **SSgt Pete Day** — 4 hrs 27 mins, **Sig Dave Jenkins** — 3 hrs 45 mins, **LCpl Kevin Smith** — 4 hrs 10 mins.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Numerous trophies were won by 10 Sig Regt's bowling team in the 1983 Sustainer's League. The photograph shows how successful they were as they exhibit their trophies. L to R: **Sgt Phil Bray, Pte Jackie Johnstone, Pte Chris Rutherford, Sgt Allison Pengelly, Cpl 'TC' Rees, LCpl Helen Menzies** and **Sgt Brian Budd.**

Some of the members of 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)'s Ten-Pin Bowling team exhibiting their trophies

FOCUS ON 2 SQN

OC	**Maj David Podevin**
2IC	**Capt Carolyn Wilding**
OC SWS TP	**Maj Roy Lund**
OC R TP	**Lt Dick Sparshatt, Capt Nigel Moore (Designate)**
OC O TP	**Capt David Tunmore**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Davis**
YofS	**WO2 Larry Bird**
SQMS	**SSgt Bob Harrild**
ORS	**Sgt Jeff Batt**

There have been several changes within the management of the Squadron in recent months and indeed these will continue into the New Year when the OC finally hangs up his ceremonial kit, waves a cheery goodbye to his last Hounslow Jumbo Jet and settles for a relatively quieter two years at RAF Upavon.

However, for the moment we will restrict ourselves to movements within two of the troops: R Tp and O Tp. **Lt Dick Sparshatt** has obviously decided that the London Ceremonial scene is too hectic and embarks upon a Degree Course at RMCS. The casual observer may note that the strain of commanding R Tp was so great that even his hair changed colour. However we all hope that he will recover rapidly in the Shrivenham peace and quiet. **Capt Nigel Moore** is soon to take over the reins of R Tp upon his return from BFFI. Consequently he is not yet aware of the treats in store, namely guest appearances at all ceremonial occasions in London that require co-ordination by radio.

O Tp has also undergone changes and has gained a new OC and YofS. **Capt David Tunmore** arrived in August from Hong Kong and is still adjusting to the cultural shock of life in Hounslow. However he is showing definite signs of improvement; no longer does he duck as the Heathrow aircraft trail their landing wheels along the roof of his office. YofS **Larry Bird** arrived from the Signals Wing at Larkhill and would appear to be enjoying Squadron life. He was recently observed walking around SHQ muttering. 'One, Two', 'One, Two'. All was explained when he confidently handed in an Arms Check certificate to the SSM. That sort of sense of humour should most definitely endear him to the rest of the Squadron.

Last, but by no means least, our congratulations go to **Cpl Ali Hunter** and **Pte Carol Clinton** on tying the knot at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hounslow, on 1 October.

EXERCISE *EVERGREEN*
Report by Pte Heather McNair

Summercamp or Battlecamp as it's more appropriately called immediately brings to mind bumps, bruises, pulled muscles and hard work but if you can forget all these little things, there's also a lot of fun, laughter and friendship involved as well.

NEW HOME

Fremington Camp was to be our 'home' for the next week. Once the Wilton and Hounslow contingents arrived, we were put into sections and then the RSM quite happily told us that we were going on a small run, (he didn't have to do it so no wonder he was in a good mood). We set off in sections at a brisk pace but this got slower as time went on. The threat of guard duty that night for the slowest section pushed us to our speediest limits and my section escaped guard that night.

THE AIM

Physical fitness 'they' were aiming at — Bang Bang on the door each morning at 6 o'clock with PT at 6.25 am is definitely the best way of waking up in the mornings! We worked and ate in sections which consisted of about eight, both male and female, and a good team spirit soon built up. The first two days were used for developing skills, or should I say making a fool of yourself, in horse riding, canoeing, map reading and abseiling.

The map reading took place on the hills of Exmoor and when my section went out the weather was so unpredictable that we spent half our time packing and unpacking waterproofs. Following the famous six figure grid references we did manage to reach every point. Jumping fences and climbing walls was fun but care had to be taken when landing — cow pat!

THE ACHE

Horse riding was definitely worth waiting for. It was such a laugh watching the beginners hang on to the saddles for dear life although I'm no John Wayne myself! When one horse started to gallop the others immediately followed, surprisingly enough. I don't think anyone fell off although there were a few close shaves and if I had known that my horse was called 'Rocket' I would definitely have changed him as he lived up to his name. After two hours riding many of us found that legs and behinds were aching.

AMAZEMENT

The next day after the usual PT, we headed off for abseiling and canoeing. I didn't expect abseiling to be quite so vertical, and from the top it seemed a long way down. The safety line gave us the courage to take the plunge. The worst part was getting over the edge but once past the going was fairly easy and before you realised it you were at the bottom. Next, to my amazement, we were expected to go down forwards. The worst part again was getting over the edge but this time you could see the bottom which seemed very far away indeed. Some of the group actually ran down which was the expected thing though I'm sure that I set the record for the slowest time to descend.

WHAT A DAY

Now, canoeing was definitely an experience I'll never forget. We were shown how to paddle forwards, backwards, sideways and to go round in circles (although many of us could do the latter quite easily without trying!) The dreaded thought amongst us was of capsizing but only a few had the honour of an early soaking. But then we joined our canoes together to make a raft and had to try and run across them in turn without falling in. It ended up in chaos with everyone in the water and a lot of water-filled canoes. What an end to a super day until we realised that we had extra PT that night. What a day!

NORMANDY AGAIN

The next day, Saturday, was a big day for us all with our BFTs first thing in the morning and then our exercise beginning that evening. After a lecture on the use of a radio and a demonstration on survival, it was time to get our packs on and prepare for leaving. The packs were fairly heavy at the start so we could guess that at the end of two days they would seem a lot heavier. We crossed the estuary in a World War 2 vehicle called a 'DUK' — it was like the invasion of Normandy all over again. Each section left at different times and after a 1½ mile walk we picked up our rations and prepared to make some tea. After spending 20 minutes trying to light the hexy block, we were so hungry that even compo food tasted like heaven. Then after dark we proceeded on our way following the hands of the compass. Unluckily for us my section just missed our way and carried on walking on the same bearing for what seemed like miles, up and down sand dunes, catching our legs on brambles and rolling down the occasional slope. Finally we set up our ponchos as cover and then it started to rain, and boy did it rain! By the morning we were cold, wet and tired from trying to sleep in soggy sleeping bags — but on we trudged until the transport picked us up and took us to Dartmoor, where, after some breakfast, we felt a lot better and were soon on our way. We had six checkpoints to cover and although we only went about 15 miles, it was all up and down hill. The laughs came with people falling in bogs up to their chests and others walking on supposed grass which turned out to be a four foot water hole! There were a few blisters but nothing more serious and by seven o'clock that night the happy sight of the last checkpoint greeted our eyes. There we were informed that we wouldn't be sleeping out that night due to the wet state of all our kit from the previous night. Surprise and elation was quickly silenced when we were told of a night navigation exercise. By the end of it all, although we were tired and weary, it was an experience that we will never forget and a challenge that we succeeded in meeting.

IT WAS GREAT

Our NBC Drills were carried out next day and the gas chamber was again put to some good use: leaking respirators were instantly recognised. The highlight of the day was the last night disco and barbecue which everyone, including the instructors, attended. A very enjoyable evening was spent by all — the bar staff definitely had no reason to complain of under-employment. All good things come to an end and once everything was packed away and accounted for it was time to leave. Looking back on the week there is no doubt in my mind what I thought of it — 'it was great.'

1983

SOME DATES YOU WON'T NEED

JANUARY 1, 1799

In 1799, income tax was introduced. Still, at only 4p in the £, it wasn't really worth working in Saudi Arabia for two years to avoid it.

JULY 25, 1909

In 1909, Louis Bleriot made the first powered solo flight across the English Channel. Rumours that he was secretly aiming for a rendezvous with Lockheed in Saudi Arabia have been persistently denied.

NOVEMBER 22, 1890

In 1890, guineas ceased to be legal tender. A good thing too, otherwise your tax free salary for two years in Saudi Arabia would only have been 18,000 gns, which sounds a lot less than £20,000.

...AND SOME YOU WILL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Radio	17 →	→	4	11 →	27	20 →	5			3 →	18	
Line Comms	17 →	18		11 →	13		4 →	5	19 →	21		
Navaids		21 →	18		9 →	3	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Ground Radar T40T2	17 →	→	11	11 →	→	3	4 →	26		3 →	25	
ATC Radar AR1		21 →	18		16 →	10	25 →	19		24 →	18	
Computers	31 →	→	18		16 →	→	1	22 →	→	7	7 →	23

Now for the serious bit. Above, you'll see a complete timetable of the training courses IAL are running for Lockheed in 1983.

Their purpose? To make electronics technicians who already have a C&G or forces equivalent plus seven years practical experience fully familiar with the equipment they'll be training Royal Saudi Air Force personnel to operate and maintain.

The courses last an average of seven weeks and by the end, you'll be ready to fly straight out to Saudi Arabia to take up a challenging two-year assignment.

If that's a prospect that appeals to you and you're leaving the forces soon, contact your Resettlement Officer or fill in the coupon.

TO: The Senior Recruitment Executive (Lockheed), IAL, Personnel Consultancy, Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 5NJ.
Please send me full details of careers with Lockheed.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
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AVAILABILITY _____
REF: L192

Lockheed IAL

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

A RECRUITS VIEW OF TRAINING
3 Troop Personalities

Troop Commander	**WO1 Clarke**
Troop Sergeant	**Sgt A. Parry**
Troop NCOs	**Cpl Justice**
	Cpl Tough
	Cpl Wood
	Cpl Scott

RECRUIT COURSE INTAKE 8306
FORMED THE WEEK COMMENCING 11 JUL

During forming week one has little time to reflect on the reasons for joining the Army and in particular Royal Signals. The Troop NCOs introduce us to the finer points of military life, bed packs, highly polished boots and the highlight is our first haircut. Homesickness is quite prevalent amongst the troop, deep down I feel it too, but try not to show it. The food is good and though there is not much time to enjoy it we have been told to eat as much as we can, burning a huge amount of calories is part of the curriculum. At the end of the first week it is becoming patently obvious that the Cadre are almost maniacal in their desire to make us 'lean and mean'. Yet they are all easily approachable, as long as you stand rigid and perfectly still.

The training has now progressed at an alarming rate, saluting tests are now history and we are looking forward to the fifth week exercise. It is a 48 hour exercise designed to teach us how to live and survive on the battlefield. All the skills we have learned from the CMS (R) are to be put to the test. **Cpl Tough** has organised an Inter-Troop basketball competition and we have some talented players. The exercise comes and goes, **Sgt Parry** and the Tp Comd have a debrief, reluctantly they relegate a couple of recruits who have not come up to standard. The Sqn Comd **Maj J. Boyle** presents us with our lanyards and we are beginning to believe in ourselves. Life is looking brighter until we come back to earth with **Cpl Wood** shouting quite loudly to 'Get on Parade'. He is quite normal really and is organising our 'Do' in the ninth week.

THE BASKETBALL COMPETITION

The Basketball Competition is upon us and yes we won it. 3 Troop have beaten 'Pass Off' troop quite easily, team spirit and troop pride is running high, but there is no need to blow our trumpets, we are well trained in all aspects of military life. The team was **Sig Brown, Hunter, Budd, Derbyshire, Wickens, Gibbs, Beech, Evans** and **Hartland.**

We now have a long weekend: a privilege accorded to the troop, for a successful exercise. August comes and goes, we have actually had a formal parade as 'back up' troop. The CO, **Lt Col P. J. R. Brown** complimented us on our drill.

Winning Team of Regimental Basketball Competition
Back L to R: Brown, Derbyshire, Beech, Hartland, Thomas
Front L to R: Hunter, Gibbs, Wickens

THE REGIMENTAL FUN RUN

The Regiment have a regimental run on the 6 September. It's only five miles and we are all looking forward to it. Our confidence and fitness is a credit to the Tp Comds, **WO1 P. Clarke, Sgt Parry** and all the Cadre. We have used the transport out to the ranges and training areas but it has a knack of not turning up for the return journey. It is only now that we appreciate it. At the end of the run each Troop nominated a runner who, with their troop guidon, race about 200 metres. **Sig O'Brien** ran for our troop and won the race and our morale and spirit were boosted about 10 miles high.

FINAL PHASE

We are now in the penultimate week of training, a three day field exercise, a full day on the ranges and an endurance phase on the last day is a sure guide to the level of training we have reached. At the end of the exercise we had our 'Troop Party' to look forward to. It turned out to be a splendid evening and we presented a plinth to the Tp Comd, our thanks for their dedication.

THE PASS OFF PARADE

The Pass Off day approaches fast, and on the Thursday evening we meet our parents in Richmond. The Cadre are also there to answer any questions about us. Then 'suddenly it's the day of the parade'. It goes exceptionally well and the Inspecting Officer, **Col R. Ching** spoke to all of us in turn, out on the parade square. With the parade over, we then went to the NAAFI for the presentations to be made by **Col R. Ching.** The best recruit was **Sig O'Brien**; the best shot prize went to **Sig Knight** and best section to **Cpl Tough**. We depart for home feeling proud. A big thank you from us all at 11 Sig Regt.

Best Section
Back L to R: Spokes, Mottram, Brown, Derbyshire, O'Brien
Front L to R: Church, Quinn, Hunter, Ingleby, Webb

CADRE COMMENTS — WO1 P. CLARKE

The standard of recruit, academically and physically is improving considerably. They are receptive and want to be Royal Signals soldiers and tradesmen. A Troop Commanders appointment is both satisfying and inspirational. High calibre NCOs are essential to the training of the future of our Corps.

DEPARTURES

Cpl Geordie Tough leaves on posting, to 7 Sig Regt.
Cpl Puck Justice on promotion, to Harrogate.

DEPOT TROOP
Troop Personalities

OIC	**WO1 Les Budworth**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dennis Glanville**
Mov NCO	**LCpl Steve Brookes**
Clerical Officer	**Mr Frank Donaldson**
Clerical Assistant	**Miss 'Nita' Wright**

On 6 Sep the Troop moved into its present accommodation, a brand new purpose built building within Helles Barracks, the home of 11 Sig Regt.

The 'Old and Bold' of the Corps will no doubt have fond memories of their own experiences whilst passing through the 'Depot' when such names as Baghdad, Hodge and Piave struck fear into the hearts of even the hairiest 'limey'. Gone are the 20 beds to a room huts, with their central ablutions. In their place is a magnificent 2 storey accommodation block with four man rooms fully centrally heated with wash rooms and showers 'just outside the door'.

For the uninitiated the role of the Troop is quite varied but in brief, we deal mainly with those members of the Corps outside of UK units. If you are in one of the following categories then you will pass through Depot Troop either in person or on paper at some time during your move.

Discharges and transfer to the reserve.
Medical Retention — following hospital treatment and downgrading.
Rejoined Reservists.
Absentees.
Return to unit ex leave or course.
Releases from military corrective training centre.
Those spending last six months in UK.
On courses in between postings.
On inter tour leave between units outside of UK.
Retentions of a disciplinary nature — manning and record office authority.
Attachments and secondments.
Officers wing — held strength 11 Signal Regiment.

It can be seen that this covers a wide range of Corps personnel and on average there are about 140-150 all ranks on the books at any one time.

On Friday 15 July 83 the Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** visited the Regiment and officially opened the Depot Troop Building by unveiling a commemorative plaque in the entrance. To all Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps who so kindly donated a plaque to the Troop for this occasion we extend our grateful thanks. A photograph of some of the plaques is below.

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

This year our usually easy summer holiday period has been busy with visits and training and in October H Troop were honoured by the presentation of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

VISIT BY SOINC

Maj Gen and **Mrs Benbow** paid a brief visit to the Regiment on Friday 5 August. After a tour of the operational block where he met as many personnel as possible the SOinC was invited to open a new extension to the Regimental Sports Pavilion. He then took tea with a selected number of the Regiment together with their wives.

Maj Gen R. Benbow opens the new pavilion with CO, Lt Col M. P. Walker

MUCH IMPROVED

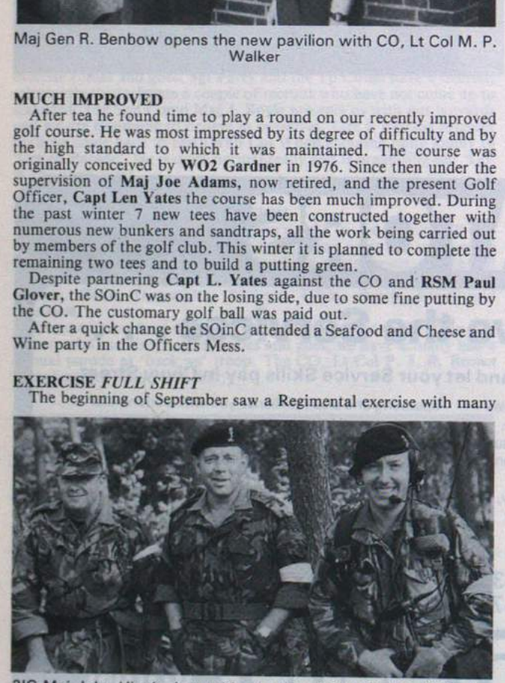
After tea he found time to play a round on our recently improved golf course. He was most impressed by its degree of difficulty and by the high standard to which it was maintained. The course was originally conceived by **WO2 Gardner** in 1976. Since then under the supervision of **Maj Joe Adams**, now retired, and the present Golf Officer, **Capt Len Yates** the course has been much improved. During the past winter 7 new tees have been constructed together with numerous new bunkers and sandtraps, all the work being carried out by members of the golf club. This winter it is planned to complete the remaining two tees and to build a putting green.

Despite partnering **Capt L. Yates** against the CO and **RSM Paul Glover**, the SOinC was on the losing side, due to some fine putting by the CO. The customary golf ball was paid out.

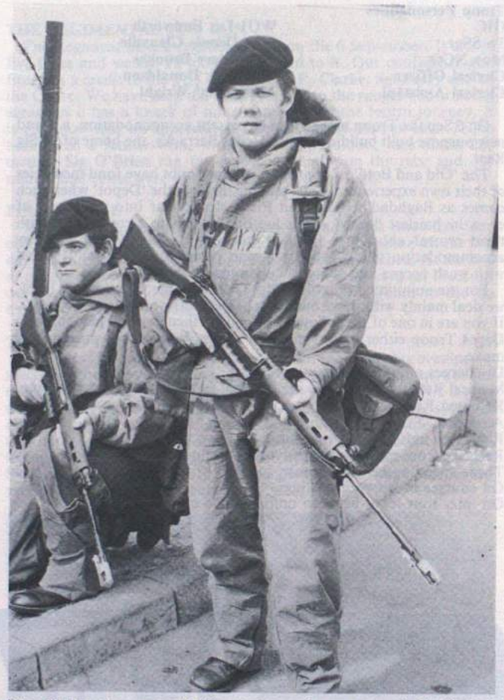
After a quick change the SOinC attended a Seafood and Cheese and Wine party in the Officers Mess.

EXERCISE *FULL SHIFT*

The beginning of September saw a Regimental exercise with many realistic incidents orchestrated by our Adjt **Capt Robert Baxter** who seemed to feel fully dressed again clutching pistol and radio.



2IC Maj John Hincks just without ski's, CO Lt Col M. P. Walker and Adj Capt Robert Baxter who ought to find a more modern hearing aid



Part of the sharp eyed 1 Sqn defence force were (left) Sig Tell Goodman and LCpl Lofty Byrne

Yes HQ Sqn were on the exercise with a tremendous 'We Sustain' effort from the cooks. *Back Row L to R:* Sgt Bill Costello 'Jock' 1/52 Lowland Regt (TA), LCpl 'Smudge' Smith, Pte Tony Spellman, Cpl 'Charlie' Swarbrick
Front Row L to R: WLCpls Julie Strangeways, Jill Conroy, Elaine Swift

Capt Robert Baxter (left) shows Cpl Ginge Field RPC (right) how to stand while talking to RAF pilots

ARCHERY

While archery within BAOR is suffering from one of its all too frequent lows, the Mercury Bowmen (and Women) continue to flourish. We would like to welcome the following new members: **WO2 Geordie Hennrie, Sgt Brian Sly,** his son **David** and **Sue Forbes.** We have lost young **David MacGregor** due to his father's posting and wish him the best of luck for the future. **David** won a number of German and Dutch junior trophies during his time with the Mercury Bowmen. The Regimental team of **WO2 Mick Kippin, Sgt Mick Moir, WCpl Ann Moir** and **Cpl Steve Maddison** took part in the BAOR Championships in August and returned with the BAOR team trophy and a handful of individual medals each. The club is hosting the final BAOR outdoor tournament for 1983 on 8 and 9 October. This is the Mercury Plate which has remained in Mercury Barracks for the last two years. Unfortunately this year it will go elsewhere as we cannot enter a team. **Sgt Moir** is on a course and **WO2 Kippin** is suffering from a fractured elbow. Despite this our newcomers will be able to gain good competitive experience before the winter indoor season begins.

REGIMENTAL VOLLEYBALL 1982/83

Having started the season as BAOR Champions it could be said that we are not as successful this season, however a lot of good experience was gained.

Rhine Area League

	Played	Won	Lost	Sets For	Sets Against	Points
21 Sig Regt	**8**	**7**	**1**	**31**	**4**	**22**
13 Sig Regt	**8**	**7**	**1**	**30**	**5**	**22**

Rhine Area Knockout Cup

Winners — 21 Sig Regt
Runners-Up—13 Sig Regt

As can be seen our old rivals 21 Sig Regt were getting the upper hand in the major competitions but the day before the trip to the UK finals we scored a satisfying 3—0 win over them.

ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a build up to these championships the Regiment won three games during the week, one against a very strong West Midlands Fire Service which produced our best volleyball. However, this form could not be repeated in Aldershot on 12 March. After an easy win in the semi-finals against the UK Champions, everything fell apart in the final when we faced the same team we had previously beaten the week before. In our worst display in any competition for two seasons, the team still managed to push 21 Sig Regt to the full three seats and were on match point before being beaten in the final set 16—14 (incidentally it restricted to only three sets). Overall the UK tour was successful with few hitches and this was mainly due to the hard work of **WO2 Tony Bird.** Our thanks also to Comms & Sy Gp (UK) at Loughborough for their hospitality and help during the week.

SUCCESSES AND GOODBYES

WO2 Tony Bird has now left the Regiment for cooler climates down South and after a season's very hard work in which he coached/managed the team, he hands over all headaches to **Sgt Terry Waites. Cpl John 'the spike' Wheater** was chosen to represent the Army in the 1983 Inter-Services and then goes on to Cyprus to play in the sun.

Cpl 'Bergy' Bergmeier also leaves the Regiment along with **SSgt Davey Savage,** so it's with a very depleted team that we face the BAOR Championships in May 1984. Last of all, congratulations to **LCpl 'ET' Maddock** and **Sig Stevey Prowse** for being chosen to play for BAOR this season.

BERLIN MARATHON

A very succesful Marathon team was sent from the Regiment to compete in the Berlin Marathon on 25 September. Under the firm but fair guidance of **WO2 (SSM) John Smith** all managed to complete the race in creditable times.

Berlin Marathon Team: Sig Bob Fanning, 3 hrs 13 mins 20 sec; Cpl Dave Forbes, 3 hrs 10 mins 11 sec; WO2 John Smith, 3 hrs 29 mins 20 sec; Cpl Steve Shannon, 3 hrs 28 mins 09 sec; SSgt Graham Crossland, 2 hrs 51 mins 46 sec; Sgt Keith Cox, 3 hrs 35 min 51 sec; Cpl Andy Bishop RPC, 3 hrs 20 mins 36 sec

CROSS COUNTRY

The annual inter Squadron cross county event was won by HQ Sqn with 1 Sqn second. However 1 Sqn hold on to success with **WO1 (YofS) Naylor** coming second in the veterans race.

Mrs Walker presenting WO1 (YofS) Naylor with his veterans prize

SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY TOURNAMENT

The tournament took place on 28 August, which turned out to be a hot, sticky day and not ideal conditions for running round a Rugby pitch. Twelve teams took part from the Regiment each team playing a minimum of five games.

The semi-finals brought together Bravo Troop versus Delta Troop and Alpha Troop versus Charlie Troop, a complete One Squadron affair. After two very competitive semi finals the final was played between Alpha Troop, led by **Cpl Neb Young** and Delta Troop lead by **WO2 Brian Inglis**. The result was very close with Alpha Troop coming out on top 12 points to 10, with **WO2 Bob Carty** getting the final points with a conversion right on full time. The winners of the Plate were H Troop who defeated MT Troop in another very entertaining final.

The prizes were very kindly presented by the 2IC **Maj Hincks,** which rounded off very nicely a good days Rugby enjoyed by both players and spectators. Finally a mention must go to **WO2 Bob Carty** who worked hard to make the day run smoothly and successfully.

A Tp Winners of 7-a-side Rugby
Back Row L to R: Sig 'Red' Gould, LCpl 'Bav' Bavin, Cpl 'Boomer' Hamilton, Sig Martin Ellis
Front Row L to R: Sig 'Wally' Cuthbertson, 'Gaz' Payne, Cpl 'Neb' Young, WO2 Bob Carty, Sig Bob Fanning

FOOTBALL

Depleted by courses, postings and the general shortage of **Bryan Robsons**, the 3 Sqn team have amalgamated with the local BMH in the Berlin Minor Unit League. Under the above management of **SSgt John Sands** and his assistant **CSM Dave Finney RAMC** from BMH the team has so far remained unbeaten this season.

Two pre-season friendlies, one a thrilling 6—5 draw against a team from the newly formed 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) and the second an excellent 1—0 win over a very strong (Big) team from 62 Transport and Movements Squadron put us in the right frame of mind for our opening league fixture against 'D' from the Queens Own Hussars, which resulted in a very fine 3—2 victory for the 3 Sqn/BMH team. Stalwarts for the team from the Squadron are:-

Sgts Joe Beattie, Nick Fordyce, John Webster, Cpls Dhugal Baker, Mark Leigh, Pete Pearson, Mac McCreedy, LCpls Phil Stringfellow, Dave Walton, Phil Ashworth.

BERLIN INFANTRY BRIGADE ATHLETICS MEETING

The annual Berlin Infantry Brigade athletics meeting was held on 31 August at the Stadium Athletics Trace, with 3 Sqn providing one of the six minor units participating in the event. The competition was as hot as the weather, with no less than 17 brigade records being broken during the day, to the great delight of the many spectators. 3 Sqn put up a spirited fight against strong opposition, but eventually had to be content with fifth place. Performances worth a special mention were those of **LCpl Paul Meadows** and **Cpl Nick Ranier. LCpl Meadows** won the javelin competition setting a new brigade record of 46.16 metres. **Cpl Nick Ranier** was narrowly forced into 2nd place in the high jump despite adding a massive 6cm to the previous brigade record. Well done to the two medallists and all members of the team.

BERLIN MARATHON

This event has been described as the biggest British Marathon outside London because almost 1000 of the entrants were British. Of the total entry of 6272, five of the competitors in the 1983 Berlin Marathon were from 3 Sqn. After six months of hard training they lined up for the start on a perfect day for the event, not too warm, a cooling breeze and a spot of sunshine for the spectators. All five runners finished the 26 mile 385 yard course in creditable times. First Squadron member to finish was **Cpl Pete Pearson** with a time of three house 13 minutes in his first Marathon. The other four runners, **Sgt Ginge Woodward, Cpls Tony Patchett** and **Phil Gordon**, and **LCpl Nigel Vagg** all finished in under three hours 45 minutes. A splendid effort by all five competitiors—Well Done.

GOCS FAREWELL VISIT TO 3 SQUADRON

On Thursday 29 September the General Officer Commanding Berlin (British Sector) **Maj Gen J. D. F. Mostyn CBE** paid his farewell visit to 3 Sqn. He toured the working areas of the Squadron and said thank you and goodbye to all personnel who were on duty. Before he departed he thanked the CO, **Maj Alan Griffiths** for all the hard work and dedication shown by members of the Squadron during his three years as British Commandant. In reply **Maj Griffiths** said that the Squadron was grateful for the support given by the GOC and wished **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Mostyn** farewell and good luck for the future.

WELCOME

WO1 Dennis Weir, SSgt 'Faz' Fadzilah, Sgt Clive Soutar, Cpl Bob Hodgson and LCpl Martin Gill.

FAREWELL

SSgts Keith Hall, John Phillips, Sgts Maurice Farquhar, Paul Vollentine, Geoff Wilson, Cpls Tommy Arthur, Dave Poulter, Nick Ranier, LCpl Paul Meadows and **Pte Angela Norman.**

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FREEDOM PARADE

The Autumn started with the annual exercising of our rights on the Freedom Parade. The parade was inspected in front of the Rathaus by the Oberburgermeister, **Herr Dieter Putzhofen,** escorted by **Lt Col David Hunt.** Then the Commanding Officer led the three squadron contingents through the streets of Krefeld. The parade was watched this year by the Lord Mayor of Leicester, **Councillor Billington,** the Lady Mayoress and the Chief Executive, **Mr. Derek Mellor** and his wife. They all had a chance to meet the members of the Regiment at an All Ranks Lunch held in the gymnasium.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Immediately following the ceremony and pomp of the Freedom Parade celebrations, the Regiment set its sights on the forthcoming handover/takeover of the regiment.

It started on the afternoon of 14 September with an invitation from the Oberburgermeister of Krefeld to all officers and WOIs to attend a special farewell reception and presentation in the Rathaus to **Lt Col David Hunt.** It was the first time the city have honoured a departing CO in such a way and was an ideal opportunity for the new CO, **Lt Col Iain Kerr,** to meet the civic leaders.

For the officers it was a quick change into Mess kit for the formal farewells to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Hunt** at a Ladies Dinner Night. A packed house, despite the rubble of the Mess undergoing major renovations, a delightful evening attended by friends from all the units and departments in Bradbury Barracks.

Lt Col and Mrs Hunt are escorted into the Officers Mess by the PMC Maj Tony Gibb

The pace after this first day did not let up for one moment. There followed the dining out from the WOs and Sgts Mess, farewells from the staff of RHQ and the motor cycle club. In addition a full programme spread between Krefeld, Bielefeld and Rheindalen.

The finale fittingly took place at the Regimental Skill at Arms competition held on Arsbeck ranges. The events also included a dual between the incoming and outgoing COs. The result of that little contest will remain a secret! Following lunch and the presentation of the Leicester Trophy to M/MT Tp as winners of the male competition and RHQ who won the WRAC trophy, the Regiment lined the route leading out of the ranges. To the traditional three cheers, the Regiment bade its farewell to **Lt Col David Hunt.** Our best wishes go with him and with **Inge** on their move to SHAPE and our thanks for all they have done in Krefeld.

Lt Col Hunt presents the Leicester Trophy to M and T Troops

The great shoot out — Lt Cols Hunt and Kerr decide who will command the Regiment

We extend a warm welcome to **Lt Col Iain** and **Mrs Pip Kerr** and hope they enjoy their tour with 16 Sig Regt. Their first duty was the presentation of prizes at the RSAAM.

RSAAM 83

The annual Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Arsbeck under the skilled co-ordination of **Lt Jim Allen.** The meeting had an ambitious programme including a modified Association Cup and Henry Whitehead Cup for the rifles. Other matches fired included Match 9. SMG cup, Match 11, the Pistol XXX cup and a modified LMG match. Two fun competitions were arranged for the final day which were enjoyed by all who entered or watched the Pistol Tiles and Bunting Balloon events.

As with all rifle meetings the finale was of course the prize giving. The CO **Lt Col Iain Kerr** presented prizes and cups to the male winners whilst his wife, **Pip,** presented them to the WRAC winners. HQ Sqn managed a clean sweep winning The Association Cup, The Henry Whitehead Cup, The SMG Cup, The Pistol XXX, The LMG Cup and the Falling Plates Trophy.

The male Champion at Arms was **Cpl Jeff Copley** whilst the WRAC Champion was **Sgt Pat Darby** of 4 Sqn. Regrettably one small trophy slipped through HQ Sqn's grip when the Commanding Officer's Trio clinched the Pistol Tiles competition (who said the Adjt was a Bisley shot?). Congratulations are also due to 28 (BR) Sig Regt who were our winning guest team.

Headquarter Squadron RSAAM Teams. Regimental Champions

Sgt Pat Darby receives her prize from Mrs Pip Kerr

1 SQN

Over the August Bank Holiday five members of 1 Sqn took part in Ex *Foxhead 4* run by 14 Sig Regt. They were **Ptes Lisa Barker, Ann Lindsay, Jill Crafts, Sue Hilton** and **Sig Pete Smoothy.** After an arduous journey to the frozen North of Germany with an overnight stop, they were soon learning how the sharp end lives. All coped well with a 'not so familiar' fully tactical comes exercise, with cries of 'Put that light out' soon becoming second nature. At least the exercise provided JHQ with a fresh batch of war stories to pass around. They must have been convincing judging by the volunteers for any future trips.

2 SQN LEICESTER TROPHY—STRETCHER RACE WET

To the glee of many in the Regiment the assault course was out of action for the yearly assault course race which counts towards the Leicester Trophy Competition. Not to be outdone and after watching 2 Sqn in their own Stretcher Race Competition the 2IC **Maj Chris Melhuish** decided to use this in place of the assault course race. Duly summoned were **Lt Jim Allen**, who started it all off in 2 Sqn and **Sgt Andy Hyde APTC**, HQ Sqn. They were tasked to organise the competition for the Regiment.

Kilo Troop pound round the course in the stretcher race

3 SQN - JULIET TROOP

J Troop has lost two more of its old hands recently with the departures of **Cpl Brian Penny** and **Sig Chris 'Toad' Braund. Cpl Penny** is well known for his wood carving and he presented the troop with a display board of all the knives made on the exercises he had been on during his time in the Regiment. **'Toad's'** humour will be sadly missed. We are wondering if his new Troop SSgt has asked for a posting yet.

The Troop team for the Stretcher Race might not have been the youngest but it certainly was the fastest on the day. **SSgt Pete Dunnings** (Tp OC) was carried along by **SSgt (YofS) Bob Marshall, Sgt Billy Watts, Cpl Bob Griffiths, LCpls Derek Rankin** and **Vic Bates** and **Sig Andy Mortlock** and **Carl Crofts.** What a load of old crocks but what a performance! — 2nd overall.

Cpl Dave Henry organised a Troop outing to the War Museum at Overloon in Holland. It wasn't all **Pte Mary Pedersen's** cup of tea, but she was heard to ask about a driving course for a Centurion tank. Our two American guests from the 43rd Signal Battalion, **Cpl Tim Zimmer** and **Pte 1st Class Mark Young** were amazed at **LCpl Derek Rankin's** version of 'Capt Jack' as the bus returned home.

The Troop would like to welcome their new OC **Lt Paul Glibbery, Cpls Brian Dixon** and **Bob Ward** and their wives, and **LCpl Sheila Mathews, Pte Debbie Holden** and **Sig George Anderson.**

4 SQN

The Squadron has been very busy recently running a military skills camp for the WRAC designed to increase their experience at living under canvas. **Capt Kate Collinson** must accept most of the blame as course designer; her popularity soared, however, when she found a friendly Sqn Comd who kindly provided three 432s for the final exercise. The girls did not need to walk into battle; they rode in style.

The Squadron has been competing to good effect in the Coe Cup, a sports competition for the staff branches of Corps HQ. We must congratulate **2Lt Jennie Chambers** and her WRAC team who won the Tug of War! However we should, perhaps, say that they were allowed two girls for every man on the rope. The Squadron Team came first equal in the Summer competition, a truly joint effort on everyone's part.

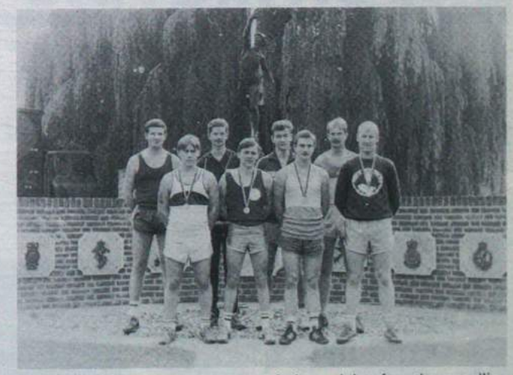
KREFELD RODBENDERS

It's not often that the sedentary fisherman hits the news, but when you are BAOR Champions it's time all was told. It was over the August Bank Holiday that the Rodbenders journeyed to the River Lippe near Hamm for the BAOR Championships. After the qualifying rounds involving 41 teams the A Team found themselves winners by 23 points. Among those who fished from the Regiment were **SSgt Alf Hall** (Capt), **WO2 Roy Coffill, Cpls Dave Henry, Mac McDonald, Clive Williams, Dave McMillan** and **Alan Toner.** The teams also included **Mr Glen Nixon** (who founded the club), **Cpl Colin Greaves, Mr George Barclay** and from the LAD **WO2 (AQMS) Pete Brooks, Cpls Keith Agnew, Joe Elliott, Dave Brown** and **John Kuzera.**

Krefeld Rodbenders with this seasons catch of pots. Not much in the keep net

MARATHONS

On 25 September ten members of the Regiment went to Berlin, where in glorious sunshine they ran a 'hellish' marathon. They were **Lt Gallie, SSgt Bibby, Cpls Crozier** and **Young, LCpl Withers, Sig Hughes, Pollock, Smithdale, Taylor** and **Kevins.** Everyone successfully completed the course with **LCpl Withers** coming in as first BAOR soldier in a time of 2hr 41 mins. Not far behind were **Cpl Crozier,** and **Sig Taylor** who was running his first marathon. Places don't count when there are over 6,000 competitors.



The Berlin Marathon team sport their medals after the gruelling race

CANOEING

Despite the loss of **Cpl Bob Story, LCpl Kenny Primrose** and **Sig Kevin Potter,** the Regimental Team won the Rhine Area race on the River Erft. There were the odd spills but everyone achieved excellent results which should help us to win the League Team prize although the BAOR Race is yet to be run — on home water. The Ladies Team came second in the Novice Class against several powerful men's teams! Well done.

FOOTBALL — UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon and **SSgt Pete Doughty** have taken over the reins of the Regimental Football Team for the new season 83/84. Many of the old stalwarts from the past have moved on leaving behind regulars, in the form of **Cpl Stan Matthews, LCpl 'Precious' Wiltshire, LCpls Colin Ward 'Maggot' Lindsay, Sig "Piggy' Latimer, Al Higgins, Frank Brennan** and **Kev Reynoldson.** The 'new-look' squad includes a few old heads, namely, **Sgt Billy Watts, Sgt Larry Little, Sgt Chris Barlow** and **Cpl Joe Elliott.**

The season has got off to an energetic start with the team reaching the final of the Corps seven-a-side competition held at Lippstadt in September, only to lose to our arch rivals from St Tonis. Many thanks to **SSgt Jim Flockhart** for organising the event.

The league results have revealed our strengths and weaknesses, along with, at present 100% success record, having beaten 21 Sig Regt 3—1 and 28 Sig Regt 2nd XI 2—1 in the NRISFL Div 2. Promotion looks on the cards and a good run in the Army Cup can do nothing but improve the teams performance.

Thursday 15 September was the day it all happened and eight teams formed up to take part. The race was in three phases covering a distance of 3½ miles involving obstacles, first aid, swimming, NBC and eventually the 30 metre range. The aim of the competition was to create mutual thinking within a group and to inspire team spirit, motivation and the will to succeed in arduous conditions. Teams were tasked with carrying a patient in a stretcher around the 3½ miles course, overcoming obstacles and unforeseen predicaments en route without incurring penalty points and finishing the course in under the cut-off time of one hour.

After running the first mile (well some did, didn't they **Sgt Alvey**?) teams encountered an NBC attack, (yes, they were carrying their kit) this was followed by obstacles by way of sharp embankments. At the two mile point and some pounds in weight lighter, teams came to the swimming pool where they had to swim two lengths of the pool, retrieve four triangular bandages and render first aid to their stretcher-bound patient. Once completed teams continued on route and at the three mile point were tasked to fire in the 30 metre range. This completed and by this time feeling rather tired, teams finished the last half mile of the race back to the Gym. Throughout the race teams were accompanied by a DS who were there to see fair play and deduct points as and when necessary. The eventual winners were Alpha Troop from 2 Sqn, (we know they trained for it) and close behind were Juliet Troop from 3 Sqn. Never mind LAD there will always be next year!

Is the race to be an annual event? Well, watch this space next year.

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21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

INTO TOP GEAR

The year 1983 will undoubtedly go down in the Regimental History as one that will probably be unsurpassed. The visit of our Colonel-in-Chief (see last issue) followed closely by a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) made life not only hectic but very interesting.

However with main leave period over the Regiment slipped into top gear to prepare for our next important visitor. Life in '21' is far from dull and the question 'Who's next?' is often being asked.

THE PRIME MINISTER

On Tuesday 20 September the **Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP** landed at RAF Wildenrath at the start of her visit to British Forces in Germany.

A Guard of Honour consisting of No 1 half division furnished by the Regiment, and No 2 half division furnished by 16 Squadron RAF Regiment formed up by the Air Terminal to await the arrival of the Prime Minister. **Flt Lt Dipper RAF Regiment** commanded the guard with our Adjutant, **Capt Paul Oldfield** as the Guard 2IC. The RA Alenbrooke Band under the supervision of their Director of Music, **Maj McKay RA** and the BSM. **WO2 Jonny Melly RA** played an arrangement of the Regimental Marches of all three Corps/Regiments for the Guard to march on parade. Under the watchful and critical eye of **RSM Geoff Northey,** the Guard duly swung into the parade format to ready themselves for the arrival of the Prime Minister. Met by the CDS, CinC BAOR, CinC (RAF(G)) and the Station Commander RAF Wildenrath, the Prime Minister then took up position on the dias for the General Salute.

The Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour escorted by **Flt Lt Keith Dipper RAF Regiment,** who then introduced her to the Director of Music of the RA Alenbrooke Band, after this the Prime Minister left to commence her very intense itinerary throughout BFG. The Guard of Honour then marched off parade to a very well earned pint and a buffet in 16 Squadron RAF Regiment Squadron Bar.

Having left Rhine Area the Prime Minister journeyed North into the Corps area and whilst visiting the Harrier Force met more members of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) who supply the 'Bruin tail' for the Harrier Force. The lucky members of the Regiment to meet the Prime Minister were all part of E Troop, 2 Sqn who are now fully based at RAF Detachment, Osnabruck.

The Troop were deployed under the command of **Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor** ably assisted by **SSgt Colin Ager,** in support of 3 (F) Squadron Harriers, based at RAF Gutersloh. The Prime Minister visited the site accompanied by the CDS, **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall** and the CinC RAF (G) **Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine.** Members of the Press and executives of the Harrier Force were also in attendance as the Prime Minister toured the site. At an informal meeting **Mrs Thatcher** met the Harrier Force Signals Officer, **Maj David Richardson,** along with other executives of the Harrier Force.

Prior to her departure **Mrs Thatcher** was introduced to the 'lucky few' who had the good fortune to meet her. **Cpl 'Bud' Abbott, LCpl 'Elsie' Lawrence-Crockford** and **Sig 'Jasper' Frazer** and **'Flounder' Anderson** waited with bated breath, however, **'Flounder' Anderson** was ready with quick answers when the Prime Minister paused briefly to speak to him. The brief word over, the Prime Minister climbed into a Puma and 'winged' her way off to her next stop.

Autographed copies of both 'still' photos and the BFBS video of the PM's visit are available from our star of screen, **Capt Paul Oldfield.** Author's note: Could he be upstaging the RSM at last?

The Prime Minister escorted by Flt Lt Dipper RAF inspects the men of No 1 Half Division furnished by 21 Sig Regt (AS). Capt Paul Oldfield in foreground, in front of No 2 Half Division of the Guard furnished by 16 Sqn RAF Regiment.

2 SQN MOVE TO OSNABRUCK

As reported in the last issue of The Wire, elements of 2 Sqn, namely the Support Helicopter Troops, India and Juliet took up residence in RAF Det Osnabruck in May. The remainder of the Squadron completed the move during the month of August.

The final act of the move was a parade on 19 August. The acting Station Commander, **Wing Commander 'Black' Robertson,** OC 92 Squadron, (Phantoms), kindly consented to inspect the men of 2 Sqn and take the salute on behalf of the Station Commander, **Group Capt John Allison RAF**, absent on leave. Prior to taking the salute, **Wing Commander Robertson** handed the Squadron pennant to a Harrier Pilot, **Flt Lt Mark Leakie RAF** of 3 (F) Squadron RAF for safe keeping during its flight to Osnabruck.

The parade over, the reviewing officer then joined the officers and men of 2 Sqn for lunch and a pint. **Maj Leslie Steane** and **WO2 Les Collins** Acting CO and RSM respectively, escorted the Deputy Station Commander throughout the parade and joined in the après parade festivities.

The Squadron are firmly settled in now in Scarborough Barracks and getting used to their new home. There are still many teething problems which are being overcome bit by bit. However, the main problem of husbands commuting weekly to their families in Wildenrath, is slowly being eaten away and, hopefully, will soon be extinct.

The Squadron has a new SSM in the chair with **WO2 Rod Gladwin** taking over the reins from his stand-in **SSgt Colin Ager.** We welcome **Rod, Shirley** and **Simon** to '21' and of course to 2 Sqn and hope their tour will be a happy one.

Wing Commander 'Black' Robertson, OC 92 Sqn RAF, Deputy Station Commander RAF Wildenrath, hearing the finer points of the Harrier Force Communications Squadron (2 Squadron) from G Tp Tp SSgt, SSgt Bob Beattie, OC 2 Sqn, Maj David Richardson and OC G Tp, Capt Jim Harris look on

Maj David Richardson leads 2 Sqn on the March Past at the end of their 'Farewell to Wildenrath' parade. Wing Commander 'Black' Robertson takes the salute, supported by Maj Leslie Steane, acting CO and WO2 (SSM) Les Collins A/RSM

Flt Lt Mark Leakie of RAF Gutersloh with 2 Sqn pennant prior to flying the pennant to Osnabruck

AERIAL RIGGING IN BELIZE

Two members of 21 Sig Regt (AS) recently spent three weeks Aerial Rigging in the hot, humid and sunny climes of Belize. **Cpl 'Jock' Riach** of L Troop, RAF Laarbruch (**now Sgt 'Jock'** of H Troop RAF Bruggen) and **Sig 'Bruce' Bragg** of E Troop, 2 Sqn were sent to Belize, their task being to maintain and replace the large HF antennae around the Airport Camp, prior to the arrival of the seasonal hurricanes.

From the outset the task was going to be not only enjoyable, good experience, and the chance of a lifetime, but also of an expensive nature.

The journey to Belize was very hot, very long and very arduous. This led to much imbibing of liquids to quench the never-ending thirst. To this end **Sig 'Bruce' Bragg** found out he was not as good at housekeeping as he thought he was, having spent some £90 of his money before even arriving in Belize, the final destination. The journey took our pair of seasoned travellers from Wildenrath to Brize Norton, Brize Norton to Washington, Washington to Miami, and finally Miami to Belize. Not exactly the cheapest of resorts or cities to stop-over in.

Despite working long hours and labouring in the hot sun, our 'Robinson Crusoe' and 'Man Friday' still managed to enjoy the local scenery. The first weekend in Belize resulted in the hiring of a boat and being able to visit many small islands off the coast of Belize including one called Caye Conker. Activities such as snorkelling, walking, tree-climbing and sun-bathing were pursued during off-duty periods with the latter growing in popularity as the beer ration dwindled. In addition to these off-duty breaks from work on an assorted array of Log Periodics, Sloping Vs, and Broadband Antennae, our trusty men made many visits to other places of interest, taking in cultural establishments like the brewery in Ladyville which is situated some 500 long, weary metres from the camp gates.

As their final Coup de Grâce, our weary but bronzed travellers were invited to join a party from 633 Sig Tp on a trek into the 'bondu' to do some caving. The sturdy pair accepted the invitation and set off towards Hidden Valley Falls which plunge 1000ft into the valley below.

During the caving they inadvertantly disturbed hundreds of slumbering bats. As a result of ducking and weaving to avoid the irate, whirling and spitting bats, our merry travellers returned from their adventure with a long-lasting, painful farewell present from Belize—many anti-rabies injections.

'The snakes certainly grow large round here'
YofS Marshall (16 Sig Regt), OCDT Dalby (28 (BR) Sig Regt, NORTHAG), YofS Thompson (16 Sig Regt), An unknown gentleman maybe looking for his name

'If this is the rod, how big are the fish'?
Cpl 'Jock' Riach putting up one of many antennae

Sig Bragg doing his 'David Bellamy' impression in the Jungles of Belize

RCZ - COMMUNICATIONS TEWT

On 7 September 21 Sig Regt (AS) ran on behalf of 4 Signal Group the RCZ Communications TEWT. The theme of the TEWT was Air Support Signals (Airfield Communications) and was aimed at Junior Officers and YofS/FofS.

The programme started with a tour of RAF Widenrath. Having seen the vast area an operational airfield covers the gathered ensemble were more readily aware of the problems involved in maintaining communications on the airfield. The tour of the airfield over, those taking part in the TEWT set to work on presenting their solutions to the first problem.

At the end of a fairly hectic morning's work, everybody retired for a well earned buffet lunch and liquid refreshment. A demonstration of cable laying and jointing by **SSgt Ken Schindler** and his merry men of K Troop followed the lunchtime respite. The communicators then set about their third and final problem, laying cables themselves.

The weather was first class and helped to make the day a resounding success.

Capt Hoole of 16 Sig Regt, showing SSgt Ken Schindler that macramé can be done anywhere

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS MESS

Many farewells and welcomes have been said since the last issue of The Wire. We welcome **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson, Sgt Gary Annetts,** to 1 Sqn **Sgt Kieth Allen** to K Troop, **Sgt 'Dutch' Hollands** to the QMs, **SSgt 'Trucky' Rogers** to the MT, **FofS Joe Aquilina, Sgts D'Rosario** and **Martin** to Osnabruck. Welcomes always attach themselves to farewells and sadly we have had to say goodbye to **Sgt Fred Share, SSgt Bob Oliver, Sgts Bob Farley, John Dent, Pete Smith, Ken John** and **Geoff Masters.** To them all we wish every good fortune in their new units.

Friday 30 September the Mess said a fond farewell to **SSgt Pat and Norma Garrehy** and **Sgt Eric and Pat Williams** who are 'retiring' to civvy life. A first class meal laid on by **SSgt Terry Green ACC** and **Sgt John Roberts RAF** served by our willing staff and capably overseen by **WO John Bateson RAF,** our Mess Manager, set the scene for a magnificent evening. Dancing until the small hours saw our guests off in true style. To **Pat** and **Norman** and **Eric** and **Pat** we give our best wishes for their new lives in Civvy Street.

1 SQUADRON SUMMER REVIEW

With the children back at school and RSIT inspection barely forgotten, it is time to reflect over the past few months.

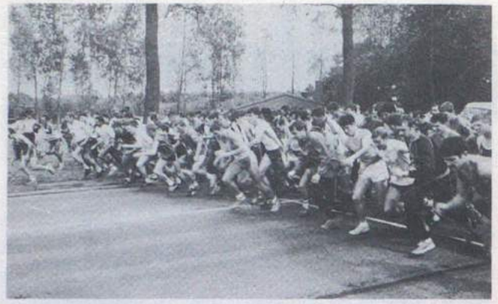
In its usual fashion, 1 Sqn has had an action-packed summer with numerous activities organised to keep our minds off our work. Once the afterglow of highpowered visits from **HRH The Princess Anne** and the **SOinC** had worn off the Squadron excelled itself by entertaining 'our' loved ones, for once, with a Squadron Family Day.

EXERCISE *FAMILY VIEW*

The whole of the BAOR has gone berserk in an attempt to put Regiments/Squadrons 'on the map' by staging fêtes, open days and fund raising events. 1 Squadron like a leviathon lurking in the shady border glades of RAF Wildenrath finally reared its head and said 'Welcome to Family View' in an attempt to allay the fears that the BRUIN Sqn had gone into complete hibernation.

The whole day was devoted to displaying the skill, talent and equipment of our men. This was interspersed with lighthearted competitions, games and general merry making, not to mention

The race is on! LR Sig Stan Timperley and Geordie Howe and Cpl Paul Shenton act as technical advisers



The start of the 1983 Inter Squadron Cross Country Competition

another mammoth barbecue. There were static displays featuring, NBC, field cooking, casualty simulation and platoon hibernation.

A running commentary was provided by **Capt Stuart Lockie** who was kept liberally supplied with refreshment so that the day could run smoothly.

Family View was a huge success with families feeling a little more confident and knowledgeable about their husbands' exercise activities. PS: To all those mothers who spent the entire evening washing their children—Sorry!

'SQMS!! Break out some more ice cream for Battle Camp'.

CROSS COUNTRY

The annual Inter Squadron Cross Country race was held on 9 September 1983 at Wildenrath over a 4¼ mile course. Favourites for the competition were 2 Sqn, who though having to travel from their recently new found home in Osnabruck, were known to have some very good runners.

In fine weather the CO, **Lt Col M. I. Ayrton** started the race right on time to the dismay of the odd runner who was not so punctual and who immediately had some catching up to do.

With **Sgt Gaz Wilson** away jumping out of aeroplanes and last year's winner **LCpl Hughie Latta** less than fully fit after his Falklands tour and injury, **LCpl Chris Rose** of the LAD was the pre race favourite. Running to form, **Chris Rose** soon took the lead with Marathon runners **Cpl Neil Allamby** and veteran **WO2 (SSM) Steve Tucker** along with **Cpl Ian Godley** close behind. As expected the race was won by **Chris Rose** in a time of 23 mins 19 secs, some 23 seconds ahead of the surprise success of the day **Sig Bob Holden**, third was **Neil Allamby**, fourth **Ian Godley** and fifth and first veteran, **Steve Tucker**. Gallons of tea and squash and masses of sausage rolls provided by **SSgt Terry Green ACC** and his staff were consumed while the results were quickly worked out by Chief recorders, **Sgt Ron Bragg** and **Mrs Marilyn Offord**.

As the team results were displayed it looked at first as though 2 Sqn had won comfortably, but with 3 Sqn's result being kept to last it was 3 Sqn, last year's winners, who had just managed to win again. HQ Sqn were third and 1 Sqn fourth.

The Commanding Officer presented the prizes helped by OIC Cross Country, **WO1 (FofS) Dick Offord**, the latter had failed to defend his veterans title knowing he would be beaten, by persuading the local RAF hospital to put his leg in plaster.

As a postscript, at an unofficial post mortem, complaints were heard from **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson** of rugby fame, who no doubt would have been up with the leaders instead of 122nd, had there been 'more places to overtake' on the course.

LCpl Rose REME individual winner of the Inter Squadron Cross Country approaching the finishing line

Sig Holden of 3 Sqn being presented with the Inter Sqn Cross Country Cup by the CO

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

BATTLE CAMP

The strict physical, military and adventurous training activities of the Summer months culminated in September with Ex *Silver Shield*, the Corps Regiments' Battlecamp at Vogelsang. The Regiment has now returned to barracks (and some Squadrons to exercises) and preparations are in hand for events such as the 10th Anniversary of the Freedom of Lippstadt in October and CO's days in November. Consequently the Regiment are mostly to be seen wearing either No 2 Dress (with plenty of 'spit and polish') or overalls (with plenty of oil, grease and paint).

FAREWELLS

The Regiment has recently said 'farewell' to the Adjutant **Capt (now Maj), John Hudson** who has departed for Staff College, **Capt Gareth 'the doc' Vincenti** who is off to Northern Ireland for an emergency tour, **Lt (now Capt) Mike Gilyeat** who has eventually been drawn by the magnetism of Blandford and **Lt Des Moloney** who has opted for the warry appeal of 1 Inf Bde in Tidworth (we are still trying to get rid of his MFO boxes!).

Lt Mike Wise is off to the sun in Belize for six months but promises to return.

WELCOMES

Lt Ann Humphreys has recently joined the Regiment from her CQ Course to help **Lt Marian Evans** promote the 'female cause' (both deny that they are feminists!)

Capt David Wise has just arrived hot from the TEM Course, and the Adjt **Capt Nick Corbin** should keep the subbies in check.

EXERCISE *SILVER SHIELD* THROUGH THE EYES OF 4 SQN

Battlecamp at Vogelsang got off to a good start this year with 4 Sqn (are we in four-wheel drive yet?) Advance Party running out of petrol en route! However, they made it in the end and were there to greet the rest of the Squadron.

The Camp started with early morning PT taken by the Regiment Photographers **Sig 'Push out 10' Wilson**. The majority of the Squadron believe that he'd be better off sticking to photography.

Day One (we'll forget about weekends) continued with a BFT closely followed by a cross country run (on a Saturday?). It was on the Cross Country that we were introduced to a new word 'upulating', or 'hilly' to the uninitiated. Day Two started off as an Orienteering Competition but turned into something like a marathon with Map Reading thrown in. Days One and Two, we were assured, were just a warm up!

The next five days were spent travelling around 17 stands on which we learnt about NBC, map reading, Demolition, Grenades, Infantry Tactics and many other 'useful' things. Without a doubt, the two most interesting were the Anti-tank combat and First Aid stands. The Anti-tank stand involved one very muddy tank and its mad Belgique driver. He ran the tank over us whilst we lay in muddy holes or, even more fun, stood up whilst the tank approached us then, at the last moment, lay down between its tracks. **Sgt Muir** particularly enjoyed this stand and had to be forcibly moved on to the next. Part of the tank stand involved the manufacture and throwing of petrol bombs. Most of the Squadron were a little rusty on this, but soon picked it up again.

The First Aid stand included instruction on the use of a plastic drip. **Sgt** 'this won't hurt a bit, son' **Phillips** demonstrated on Squadron seniors, much to the delight of **Sig** 'want to buy some sports kit?' **Scott.** A particular SSM was overheard saying that he wouldn't let a particular instructor put a plaster on him let alone a needle in him!

Included in the first weeks' activities was the Commander Comms Competition between the three Corps Regts. 4 Sqn did well, winning the Hill Run, 16 km Battle March and Assault Course competitions and the competition overall. Some good performances were put in by **LCpl's** 'I hop better on my right leg' **Jones**, 'I hop better on my left left leg' **Reagen** (pity they didn't have a three legged race!) and **LCpl** 'is my back still there' **Davies**.

Bless you my son!
'Father' QMS1 Chris Christopher reassures Sgt Pete Reynolds before a tank rolls over him

4 Sqn at the start of the hill run. They eventually went on to win

The week culminated for us with a night exercise involving 4 Sqn and HQ Sqn. The scenario was set around a Glasgow Rangers v Celtic Football match with HQ Sqn playing at home representing an enemy logistic unit in a local deserted village. 4 Sqn's mission was to kick HQ Sqn through those great goal posts in the sky. A recce party was deployed representing a stay behind OP—they got lost! **YofS** 'is this the way to the Sgts Mess?' **Waller** got a bit confused and described the enemy as having four legs and a curly tail. Once the difference between wild pigs and craftesmen/storemen, cooks etc had been explained to him **FofS Dave Andrews** and **SSgt Geordie Armstrong** provided us with useful information on the disposition of the enemy. Acting on this information, we changed our carefully laid plans and timings and, instead of leaving our patrol base at 2100 hrs as expected, decided to go back to bed. Awaking refreshed at 0200 hrs we started the approach march. By this time the not so refreshed HQ Sqn had discovered that warm clothing comes in useful when you're occupying deserted buildings. The move up to the start line was done with great stealth, some people realised why it is important not to eat rich food before an operations which requires a silent approach.

The attack went in involving a series of house clearances. The more switched-on Section Commanders realised that sometimes words are more effective than action. Overheard was 'if you don't come out the thunderflashes go in'. The attack was successfully completed and the Squadron tabbed it back to bed for a few more hours sleep. The weekend was upon us and we were generously given the choice of potted sports or a marathon. Thus ended the first phase.

Phase two was a three day patrol competition putting into practise the lessons learnt in week one. The highlight (?) of the week was a 24 hour escape and evasion exercise, the aim of which seemed at one point to be a little hazy. Was it the patrol that got ambushed the most times that got the 5000 points or the person that stripped on request in the fastest time?

Having worked out exactly whose side we were on we were dropped in the middle of nowhere with a piece of paper with some lines on and 30pf. The German population were then treated to a demonstration of the British Soldier's ability to sleep anywhere. Some amusing war stories were heard on returning to Vogelsang; of the four old ladies who acted as lookouts and harboured two hungry signalmen in a German grocery shop and of the two seniors who thought they had found their partisan contact only to discover after interrogating him that he was, in fact, an injured German soldier on his own exercise awaiting transport.

On returning uncaptured to the final RV the DS were treated to a display of how much chicken and chips could be consumed by the average signalman in the least possible time.

The patrol competiton over, all that remained was to collect prizes for the Commander Comms Competition.

A parade was held in the Beligique bar afterwards for a (no, not another briefing) DEBRIEF! This was very successful and the results are to be seen when **Sig Samson** (sorry **Nelson**) gets his 108 prints back.

So ended what was for most of us an interesting and exhausting Battlecamp and for a few masochists an enjoyable one.

EXERCISE *CAPO QUADRANT* — ISOLA D'ELBA ITALY
EXPED PERSONNEL
Lt Vyv Thatcher
FofS Graham Chaplin
SSgt Keith Ellison (Dive Sup 4 Signal Group)
SSgt Alex 'The Boat' Carmichael 586 BLD
Sgt Phil 'Done the Course got the T Shirt' Whittaker
Sgt Al 'Where's the Bar' Hill
Cpl Al 'Bandido' Dixon
Cpl Dave 'Tap Dancer' Till
Cpl Andy 'Presser' Single
Sig Stevie Nelson
Sig Nigel (sorry Towny!) Townsend
Sig Dave 'Open Sesame' Cunliffe
Sig Andy Fisher
Craftsman Chris Parry

Two weeks before we intended to leave things were looking good, everything that had to be booked was booked, paid for, issued etc and then the gremlins struck. 32 GT 63 decided she did not want to go to Italy. She hid behind a faulty water pump, radiator and brakes (results of Ex *Summer Sales*). All these were effortlessly brushed aside in the LAD by **SSgt Shankland** and his crew, then the master stroke, four days to go and the gearbox went. **Staff Shankland** was seen to shake his head in disbelief and lean on OC LAD's shoulder, for a minute we thought he was going to break down. We should have known better. Two days later there she was, an immaculate paint job and brand new gearbox—sighs of relief all round and the LADs backs broken from hearty congratulations. Thanks must also go to **Sgt Henderson** and **Cpl Beesley** of the unit BFG Office for their assistance.

Finally we were off! The journey down was uneventful apart from our introduction to Italian drivers. We arrived at the Island, negotiated incredibly winding, narrow roads and pulled into the camp site; beautiful beaches, beautiful women, warm water and bars! The diving was superb, virtually limitless visibility even at 30+ metres. We soon had a system worked out, splitting into two groups, one diving while the other filled their bottles (pressing) and vice versa. The schedule was; ready to move by 0800 hrs, move to dive site, dive, press, dive, press, with a short lunch break or snack if the other team finished their morning dive early. As filling one teams bottles could take up to two hours (depending on how lucky you were with O rings) late finishes were not unusual. If you were in the second team (we alternated) and had your first dive at 1000hrs a 2200-2300 hrs finish was likely. Who said this was a holiday? Just to hammer the point home we did a night dive, a superb experience.

However, access to the dive was by Shanks' pony, no problem. That is no problem except we had to climb down a mountain path, easy(?) but try doing it in a wetsuit carrying 60+ lbs of kit, diving, and then carrying it up hill!

Still the drive was good and the barbecue afterwards even better. Pretty hard work but we even managed to fit in some windsurfing as well. We soon discovered the two main delights of the water around Elba, wrecks and Octopus. After celebrating **Sig Townsend's** birthday in some style the owner of the restaurant told us that if we brought an 'occy' in he would cook it for us. The hunt was on! Eventually we caught one and brought it back to the boat. It looked so sorry for itself we promptly let it go again. So much for roughy-toughy soldiers!

As the expedition drew to a close exam time approached, people could be seen wandering around the campside with their heads in the BSAC diving manual muttering about Boyles Law, Charles Law, Daltons Law, which was which and what did they mean anyway? Everyone passed and a celebration was planned for the final evening. The weather had other ideas. It started to rain at 2000hrs and by 0300hrs the tents that hadn't collapsed were few and far between. We all sat in the cars wondering if it would ever stop. It finally did, leaving the campsite inches in water. Taking this as an omen we cut the exercise short by one day and returned. The Saturday after we got back we had a dinner for all those who had helped us, **SSgt Willison** our Dive Sup **Cpl Jones** our windsurfing instructor. The unanimous opinion was that it had been a great expedition and those from other regiments asked to be remembered for our next expedition.

Finally, to all diving club members 'If you can't tap dance, you're . . . '

ONE FOR THE RECORD

The Officers' Mess have finally clinched the RSM's Trophy after the Sgts Mess had hogged it for just over a year.

The Officers' won the annual Sgts v Officers cricket match even though the Sgts tried to field an extra man (who was out on the second ball!)

VOGELSANG
2 SQN

The newcomers to Vogelsang experienced a sinking feeling as we drew closer to the camp. Gone were the flat expanses of Lippstadt, instead the countryside looked like a roller coaster gone mad. *Silver Shield* was going to put the M back into military training in a big way.

Week one was preparation for week two with stands covering all aspects that the sections would be tested on later in the exercise. The visit to our first stand run by the BRF was a shock to the system, doubling everywhere with the infamous **Cpl Strong** bellowing like a man possessed! The last stand of the week was the demolition stand run by the Sappers under **Capt Lewis**. Here we make our two pound confidence charge and despite two blinds we were all left in one piece. As we were the last Squadron through the stand and **Capt Lewis** had 'some' explosive left he laid on a special show for us. We retired to an observation point over half a mile away, donned steel helmets and waited. About a minute later we watched in amazement as a large chunk of German countryside shot about 20 feet in the air.

Interspersed in week one were the Command Comms competitions. These were entered into as a complete squadron with people hiding rather than producing sick notes. Sadly we didn't win anything but the team spirit created by everyone competing was better than any cup or medal.

And so we came to week two. Having been complimented by DS at various stands for being the best group they'd had and after our performance in the competitions we were feeling pretty confident, a quick 'attitude check' soon confirmed this! Sure enough our confidence was not misplaced. **Cpl O'Riordan's** section came second overall helped by a superb performance on the escape and evasion phase where they scored maxium points.

The final verdict on Vogelsang, hard but worth it.

Saying of the exercise 'Remember you are only cheating yourselves!'

Brown and Brown in the green stuff

HQ SQN

August was a fairly quiet month with leave periods etc, but towards the end of the month we had the final build up towards Vogalsang, that wonderful camp in the south where we had more than two weeks battle camp (Ha Ha).

Well what with Hill Runs, Battle Runs, Cross Country—an undulating course! Only an RSM could use these words, we had a few

of our own by the time we had finished. Many people were glad of the physical training we had during the build up.

And to all those who think HQ Sqn's are all pen-pushers who sit down all day long they had better think again. Well done to our lads who won the Patrol Competition which was over a tiring three days.

The winning Patrol was:-
(note the various cap badges)

Sgt Mick Evans	**REME**
Cpl Chris Myers	**RAPC**
Cpl Gordon Whale	
Cpl (now Sgt) Steve Mayne	
Cpl Gaz Corrigan	
LCpl Alf Garnet	**RAPC**
LCpl Chris Burnell	**REME**
LCpl Dave Durbak	**REME**
LCpl Bob Duff	
LCpl Jock Patterson	

For those who are still baffled, HQ Sqn provided, 2 Mercian (V) a team of mystery men for 'The Cage' (a POW camp which all patrol sections visited). Our interogator gave a forceful but 'correct' grilling supervised by the Mercian's MO.

Brig C. N. Last presenting winning section in the Patrol Competition with their prizes

QUADRATHON

A member of the Squadron **Cpl Roy Smith,** returned to UK to compete in this gruelling competition on the 20-21st August. **Roy** having completed the 8 km swimming, 50 km walking and 160 km cycling (parts of the event) was somewhat bewildered to find that when he came to run the marathon the organisers had mis-placed his running kit. **Roy** managed to keep smiling and has received a free entry into next year's event, where we wish him all the best, and hopefully there will be no hiccups next time.

Talking of marathon we have our very own **SSgt Gerry Hegarty** who can run, but for some reason can not find the correct route. How many times he's been lost we dare not mention, but you must be really dedicated to run an extra five miles in a 25 mile race.

'Age does come into running'. Quote by the RSM, beaten by his son in the 10 mile race. 'Yes son, but I do carry a lot of weight on my shoulders'.

Congratulations to **Pte Andy Howard ACC** in the Lippstadt Station Tennis Tournament. **Andy** was runner up in the singles, and also runner up with his partner OC **Maj John Radford** in the doubles. Both did exceptionally well against stiff opposition.

DINGHY SAILING

All the preparation for this year's Regimental Regatta on 31 August had gone according to plan until the morning of the event. The organiser, (who also happened to be the Orderly Officer) received a telephone call at 0200 hrs and heard those immortal words, 'Ex *Active Edge* has been called,' does SACEUR really understand the problems he causes?

The re-scheduled Regatta took place on 28 September. A light breeze filled in during the morning, and the warm sunshine was welcomed by sailors and spectators alike. After the first two races, the Officers Mess challenged the Sergeants Mess to a board sailing race. The Officers Mess team walked from the opposition to win easily. (The next day, **SSgt Boor** of Commcen Echo was heard to remark dryly, 'The result only goes to prove that Officers have more time to practise . . . especially our two!

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28 (BR) Sig Regt
BFPO 35 (NORTHAG)

REGIMENTAL RUGBY TEAM

The beginning of a new Rugby Season may seem an odd time for a team photograph proudly displaying last year's trophies but as always we have a good, if somewhat involved, explanation. The trophy at the centre of the photograph is the Rhine Area Challenge Cup. In 1982 Rhine Area was unable to run an effective Major Unit Competition due to the small number of teams able to enter. Arrangements were made for Rhine Area major units to participate in the 3 Armoured Division Knockout competition. This boosted the 3 Div contest and ensured a healthy standard of Rugby. The arrangement seemed perfectly satisfactory to all, until the 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) team won. The fact of a team not in 3 Div taking their trophy caused a re-think of the rules and the cup was awarded to the top 3 Div side. Our team came away from the competition without a trophy. However, after extended negotiation we were awarded the Rhine Area Challenge Cup being undoubtedly top Rhine Area team. The other trophies in the photograph are the Venlo Tournament Cup a pre-season one-day competition and the Skol League Cup. Having won the Skol League the team has graduated to the Double Diamond League for the 1983/84 season. In this league they are meeting stiffer opposition but have got off to a good start.

Regimental Rugby team

Back row L to R: Cpl Bob Mason, Sig Jonah Jones, Cookie Cooke, Cpl Neil Colligan, LCpl Shakey Walker, Sgts Steve Higgins, Paul Marsden, LCpl Ben Kelly, Sgt Steve Dobson, Cpl Dave Phillpott, Sgt Dave Price, LCpl Nick Fordom, Cpl Mick Donovan

Front row L to R: LCpls Taff Morgan, Bob Hepplestone, Tony Walls, Lt Col B. L. Belton, Sgt Keith Mathers, WO2 (SSM) John Stanley, Sgt Willy Weatheritt, Cpls Dave Woolley, Dud Maher, LCpl Taff Lewis

The Trophies

The Venlo Tournament cup, The Rhine Area Challenge Cup, The Skol League Cup (winners)

PRESENTATION TO ACTION MEDEOR

Action Medeor is a charitable organisation specialising in medical and food aid to Third World Countries. The Regiment has had a long association with the charity for two reasons.

The Charities Headquarters is at Vorst, part of the twin town of Tonisvorst, which honoured the Regiment by granting the freedom of the towns in 1976. Secondly the Burgomeister of Tonisvorst, **Herr Richard Beckers** is a valued friend of many years standing and as the director of Action Medeor has conducted many tours of his establishment for visitors to the Regiment. Our photograph shows the Commander **Lt Col Brian Belton** handing over a cheque for DM 2259. The money was part of the profits of our summer fête organised by 1 Sqn.

Lt Col Brian Belton and Herr Burgomeister Richard Beckers with a cheque for charity

CHELSEA PENSIONERS

Every summer we look forward to the first of two annual attachments of Chelsea pensioners from the Royal Hospital. This year we welcomed **WO2 Tom Nash** and **WO2 Tom Goldsmith MM.** These visits are popular with all ranks since the pensioners join enthusiastically in all our activities. Such quotes as 'we marched 60 miles just to get to camp' put the 8-mile combat fitness test which the Regiment did at summer camp into its true perspective. While here, they play their part in hosting other visitors as can be seen below in the report on the SOinC's visit. To mark a long and continuous association between the Regiment and the Royal Hospital the pensioners presented a beautiful, limited edition hand-painted plate depicting the buildings and grounds of the hospital. This will take pride of place in our Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess which jealously guards its privilege of hosting these elders of the Corps.

WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton receiving the Royal Hospital plate from In pensioners Tom Nash and Tom Goldsmith

VISIT OF SOinC

In August, **Maj Gen R. Benbow** paid his first visit to the Regiment as Signal Officer-in-Chief. Accompanied by his wife they spent the afternoon and evening with us. During the afternoon the SOinC and his wife followed separate programmes, the SOinC getting his ear bent with a brief on the Regiment while **Mrs Benbow** spent the afternoon at a tea party hosted by **Mrs Anne Belton,** the Commander's wife in her garden and attended by many wives of the Regiment.

Gen Benbow's visit started with a quarterguard commanded by **Sgt Dave Taylor,** better known for his prowess on the football pitch. Nevertheless, in the SOinCs words, he commanded an excellently turned out quarterguard all of whom had something to say—when asked! Following these formalities the SOinC was briefed on the Regiment by the Commander **Lt Col Brian Belton.** He was then shown round a NORTHAG Mobile Signal Keep by OC 2 Sqn **Maj Jim Heck** and a NORTHAG Switch by OC 1 Sqn **Maj Judy Webb WRAC.** Both Signal complexes were fully deployed within the barracks. Having, we hope, gained a good impression of what it is like to serve the NORTHAG headquarters with NORTHAG equipment and meeting some of those whose responsibility it is to implement this rôle, the SOinC was invited to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. In place of the more usual beverage consumed in that establishment the SOinC was given tea. A stronger brew may have prepared him better for a 'no-holds barred' discussion on almost every topic from the standard of recruits arriving at the Regiment to pay and allowances in Germany. **Gen Benbow** proved a good listener. Later he spoke to the In pensioners **Tom Nash** and **Tom Goldsmith.** In the evening the SOinC and his wife were entertained to a buffet supper at the Officers Mess, at which the Officers bade farewell to **Capt (Tfc) John Morrison** and his wife **Jean.** We wish them all the best for their tour on Salisbury Plain.

SOinC and Quarterguard Commander Sgt Dave Taylor find something to laugh about

The Quarterguard from *L to R:* 2nd Lt Malcolm Llewellyn (ADC to SOinC) Sgt Dave Taylor (Guard Commander) and Cpl John Standen, Sig Dick Rutherford, Scouse Maloney, LCpl Rob O'Hara, Sig Paul Roberts and Paddy Potter

The SOinC takes tea with, *L to R:* SSgt George Forbes, Sgts Taff Eynon, Taff Taylor and Mac McFarlane

The SOinC with In Pensioners Tom Nash and Tom Goldsmith

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

In July 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) long distance marching team kept up the tradition of participation in the Nijmegen Marches. The team led by **SSgt Steve Singers** one of our bionic Pay Staff, and **Sgt 'Mac' McFarlane** completed the gruelling test of endurance with the whole group in good spirits. The Regiment assisted in the administration of the event providing orderlies and a pay section commanded by **Capt David Sharpe RAPC.**

29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
BFPO 45

'JIMMY'LL FIX IT' — BERLIN'S LATEST REGIMENT

These were the headlines that met the British Community in Berlin in early September, following the formation of the Regiment on 1 September 1983. Since Berlin's way of life is cermonial, it was decided only to mark the event with a small ceremony at which the GOC linked the two existing elements, 229 Signal Squadron (now officially (229 Berlin Infantry Brigade) Signal Squadron) and the Berlin Garrison Administrative Unit (BGAU) to form the main elements of 29 Signal Regiment. Our official celebrations are from 29 October to 1 November.

The GOC symbolically links the new Regiments Communicating and Administrative sides

WHY A NEW SIGNAL REGIMENT, AND IN BERLIN AT THAT?

Many members of the Corps were sceptical about forming a Regiment for Berlin, and perhaps if they based this on the old Berlin life styles this attitude had some foundation. In 1981, a report recommended that there should be an integrated Headquarters and Signal Regiment as in BAOR. In the case of 29 Signal Regiment however a recent decision was made which has only caused and will continue to cause everyone here more work, in that in effect we are an integrated headquarters but with several separate establishments and equipment tables. The combined elements of the various headquarters, administrative staff, and communications personnel for static and mobile communications amount to some 500 in all, and there is another civilian element of just under 500. In addition the Regiment looks after most of the administrative and welfare organisations and is responsible for their personal administration. In general terms everything that is not on the actual field force or civilian establishment of formed units in Berlin comes under the 'umbrella' of 29 Signal Regiment. Umbrellas are being issued to key Regimental personnel as the full implications of this unique responsibility becomes apparent!

WHY 29 SIGNAL REGIMENT?

Everyone here naturally thought and still hopes that the Regiment would be named Berlin Headquarters and Signal Regiment, even if it was given a number. However once it was learnt that it would be a Regiment with a number, the Corps Historian was tasked with providing the options, of which there were 14, with Regular units being numbered from one to thirty, and Territorial units from 31. 29 Signal Regiment was chosen as its previous role as the Cyprus Signal Regiment was the most similar. Yes, it really did exist, and lots of people have already contacted us to tell us that they were in it. The fact that 29 Signal Regiment contains 229 Signal Squadron is a coincidence. It may of course have seamed 'logical' to someone in high places!

29 SIGNAL REGIMENT (CYPRUS)

In 1955, a Cyprus District Signal Regiment was formed from 1 Divisional Signal Regiment in the Canal Zone, and the Egypt and Cyprus Signal Troops. In 1959 when all Regiments were numbered, this Regiment became 29 Signal Regiment. Its life was short, as in 1960 it amalgamated with 15 Signal Regiment, and the '29' disappeared. However shortly afterwards 15 Signal Regiment disbanded, and the predecessors to 259, 261 and 262 were born. We have relatives who are still alive! Hi there 259 and 262!

CO REPLACED AFTER ONLY TWO WEEKS

Few of the key personnel are here yet, and so we will leave their publication until later. However the Comd Comms Berlin on 1 September was **Lt Col Peter Rowland** (I've already commanded once) and he became the first Commanding Officer until **Lt Col James Budd** (I should have gone to QATAR) deigned to arrive. **Lt Col Budd** assumed command on 16 September, having previously also taken over the administrative element on 14 September from **Lt Col Roger Rodick RA.** It is not the 'two hats' that are the strain, it is the two offices! At the time of handover Berlin was in the midst of Tattoo fever, and as Comd Comms is traditionally OIC Ticket Sales and publicity, this was the major handover problem, and real work was left in the trays! The Berlin Bulletin summed it up with this photo and caption.

'Well you see, Tattoo ticket sales have taken priority over the past month'

FAREWELL TO GOC

On Friday 9 September HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade's WO's and Sgts Mess dined out the GOG Berlin (British Sector), **Major General David Mostyn CBE.** During his three years as Commandant **General Mostyn** has been one of the main forces behind the formation of the Corps' newest Regiment. The General left Berlin on promotion in the beginning of October to take up his appointment as Military Secretary.

WO1 (Brigade RSM) Walker presenting the GOC Berlin with a statue of an 1815 Lieutenant General

229 (BERLIN INFANTRY BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Well as you can see our name has changed but so far life seems to be going on as normal. Let's start at the end and work backwards.

BERLIN TATTOO 1983

Although not 'stars of the arena' the chaps from 229 did their bit as usual. In MQ & L Troop **Sgt Trev Beeley's** linemen installed over thirty telephones reaching from the top of the Deutschlandhalle to the very bottom and out to Halle 23. Foreman **Dave Bayley's** technicians maintained the radios used in the production. There was even one in the dragon! We thought the voice procedure on that net might be interesting. 'George to Dragon, Fire now over!' **Cpl Chris Cousins** operated the video kit allowing **Maj Parker** and the acts themselves to review their own progress throughout rehearsals. A special mention goes to **Sgt Ned** (No-job) **Kelly** for his outstanding (or rather outsitting) performance during his liaison duties with the D Halle technicians.

Radio Troop was also active, this time 'above the scenes'. They operated the spotlights as well as giving BFBS Reporter **Sonia Leivers** a quick whirl around the roof. There was one incident worthy of note. During a rehearsal the Royal Naval Display team met with a rather unscheduled ending. The final volley of shot brought a handful of feathers down from the lighting gallery. This brought a smile to everyone's face, all except the Navy's that is. **LCpl Jim Neaves** name is being withheld for his own safety. Having said that hard feelings did not stay for long, we were playing football with the Navy before the week was out. We can't leave the Tattoo without mentioning the Tattoo advertising posters. Someone had to put them round the streets of Berlin, well done Radio Troop. **TOT Maj Colin Day** our Tattoo coordinator also deserves a mention as the man who saw it all through from beginning to end. Well done and thank you all concerned.

LCpl Jim 'Feathers' Neaves

Floodlight operators Sgt Phil Cotton, Cpl Harry Bibby, Sig Steph Newton, Sgt Tony Freeman

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

We came a close second to our ever present rivals 38 Fd Sqn RE in the Brigade Athletics competition. Notable success stories were **Sig Tony Stevens** who broke the 200m record and the 4 × 100m relay team who came first. Congratulations **Cpl Taffy Duffy, LCpl Rocky Mountain, Sgt John Boyd** and **Sig Tony Stevens.** A few chaps entered the Berlin Marathon again this year. **RQMS Dave Brown** hit 'the wall' at the 30km point but made it home eventually. He's gone to Verden to get it right this time. **SSgt Steve McKechnie, Cpls Bob Dodds** and **Phil Duddell** also took part. **LCpl McMahon** was only in it for the free space blanket at the end. They'd run out when he crossed the line.

Not content with entering other peoples competitions we have to organise our own too. This years Inter-Troop Sports Cup competition was awarded to a combined Commcen/SHQ team. It was a close run match with **Cpl Billy Johnson's** team, the Gnomes beating Sgt **Ned Kelly's** Allstars 104 points to 101. **Sgt Phil Cotton's** Nuggets came third with 95 points. Eight nine men squads competed over a nine week period in a total of nine different sports. Only six team members competed in any one event in order that leave and duties etc could also be fitted in over the summer period. It was a good competition and well fought.

TIMES OF CHANGE

Not only has our name changed, sadly, so too have some of the faces around the Squadron. A close friend of the Squadron was **Capt Michel D. Orange,** OC of the French Signals unit. His departure was celebrated by a parade that members of 229 actually took part in. To be suddenly involved in a French Parade was a pleasant surprise though something of a shock. It wasn't nearly as big a shock as the one the lads got at the reception afterwards. They were served orange juice! To be fair it wasn't ordinary orange juice. Our saddest farewell was to **SSM Brian Wilson** and his wife **Gloria.** They've gone off to Catterick. Both gave so much of their time and energy to Squadron life throughout their tour. They will be greatly missed. **SSM Wilson's** replacement is **SSM Bernie Thomas.** We reckon he must have a guardian angel in Records Reading as he joined us from Hong Kong! Look out on the football scene as he seems to be taking a strong guiding hand in managing the team this season. We're coming back with a vengeance this year.

Other changes around the Squadron include the arrival of the first of our WRAC girls who will work in the Commcen. We welcome **WLCpl Carol Rockliffe** and **WPtes Trisha Berry** and **Jo McBroom.** Commcen Troop's most recent arrival, however, is **Stuart,** the son of **LCpl 'H' Newton** and his wife **Shona. Stuart** starts day shift a week on Monday!

LA VIE MILITAIRE

Finally, just a reminder that despite the hustle and bustle of forming a regiment, Tattoo work and raft races etc, the more mundane side of Squadron life still goes on. This is just a mention for the members of the first Freight Train guard carried out by members of 29 Signal Regiment as opposed to 229 Signal Squadron. (confused yet?) They were **Cpl Mick Durnall** and **Sig Dave Phillips, 'Dog' Humphreys, Steph Newton** and **Pete Meadway.** Just for the record, it felt no different from the same duty when we were a Squadron — life goes on unchanged! It must be the slowest train in Europe — running from Berlin to Helmstedt and back in only three days! Never mind, it gave the chaps a lot of fun trying to teach **Capt Mike Spoors** how to play Risk. It's funny that the lads came to the same conclusion about **Capt Spoors'** knowledge of tactics as did the Commandant of Junior Division of the Staff College! See you soon.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

GOODBYE TO DUSTY MILLER

The time has come to say farewell to an old stalwart of the Regiment — **WO2 (RQMS) Owen Stanley Miller** known as **'Dusty'**! **'Dusty'** enlisted in Kingston, Jamaica on 12 December 61 with 57 other Jamaicans. He trained as a Radio Operator in Catterick and then began a career fluctuating between between 2 Div and 30 Sig Regt, with a brief spell in Cyprus.

One of the highlights of his career was during a tour with 2 Div when he was employed as the GOCs Radio Operator. His Troop Officer at that time is the current 2IC of 30 Sig Regt, **Maj Muir,** who still wonders whether **'Dusty'** was a member of his troop or the other way round! During the last three years he has been employed as the RQMS (Tech) and there are very few people within the Regiment who have not benefitted greatly from his expertise and knowledge.

Recently he has been preparing for his demob and so the Regiment kindly held an exercise in Jamaica to enable **'Dusty'** to carry out a recce prior to his return and the assumption of the post of President! Now packed, container ships chartered and Volvos purchased he awaits his day of departure, a day that will signify the end of an era in the Corps as he is the last of the Jamaicans to leave who were 'shanghai'd' in 1961. His tact, experience and expertise will be sadly missed by the Regiment and we wish **'Dusty',** his wife **Grace** and children the very best of fortune for the future. Perhaps we'll see you in Jamaica one day.

FAREWELL TO MAJOR MUIR

Having only recently welcomed **Maj Norman Muir** in The Wire as 2IC, it is already time to say goodbye to him as he leaves on promotion to **Lt Col** to take over officer recruiting. In the short time he has been with the Regiment he has achieved a great deal and will be sorely missed; especially his special brand of humour — beware the Q courses! We wish him and his wife **Sue** the very best for their next posting.

OFFICERS v SENIORS CRICKET

This was not a cricket match in the Boycott fashion. The CO played **WO2 (FofS) Baldwin** at cricket and the other players created diversions wherever possible. Accepting that all is fair in love and war, the Officers included in the side two attached Australians who believed, as all Australians do, that war includes cricket. These two opened the innings, **Capt Rob Murray** and **Capt Denise Dunn.**

Denise struck the first blow by appearing at the wicket dressed in a leotard which covered most things but contrived to conceal very little. Across the front of the garment was emblazoned a chart of Australia and a deal of interest was shown in the nature of the terrain between Darwin and Tasmania. A few carefully chosen words in the Australian idiom deterred the odd finger which sought to trace the route between the two locations and the Seniors, duly satisfied that **Capt Dunn** was properly equipped for cricket and life in general, bowled the first ball.

There was a distinct lack of concentration on the actual cricket during the first dozen overs; a few runs were scored and a couple of wickets fell but **Capt Dunn** was still there mostly because nobody wanted to see her depart. The wicket-keeper tried running her out with several yards to spare but the umpire declined to notice and she might have been their all day if **SSgt Nick Knight** had not intervened by bowling her next ball. **Nick,** as Chief of Regimental Police, nurtures neither fear nor favour and possesses that amount of ruthlessness and brutality which is commensurate with the job of Sheriff.

Meanwhile, the CO, **Lt Col Backhouse** tried to introduce real cricket into the game by clouting his first two deliveries for four apiece and trying to drive the next one through the palms of **WO2 (FofS) Jim Kelly.** The intense pain caused **Jim's** fingers to contract tightly and involuntarily around the ball and he couldn't drop it, much as he tried. The CO declined to accept that as an excuse and took **Jim's** name before marching off to plan a counter-attack, and the Adjt **Capt John Thomas,** came in to avenge his master.

The Adjt got a lot of practice in the Falklands fracas brushing aside wayward Seacat missiles which appeared to fancy his tin hat and he used the same technique on the Seniors bowling, swatting the ball from any old angle in any old direction as long as he got rid of it. In contrast, **Maj Nigel Fairley,** skipper of the side, was cleverly scoring runs off the top of his thumb which eventually split under stress of punishment. Should the gallant Major ever choose to use the bat for its proper purpose he may become a prolific scorer. The technique is there.

Remaining highlights of the innings included **Maj Geoff McKie** scoring a few runs by genuine cricket type batsmanship; **Maj Norman Muir,** 2IC, trying to alter the game to baseball and, most impressive of all, **2Lt Penny Sinnatt** appearing at number 11 looking very pale and fragile, claiming she felt poorly and appealing to the Seniors' finer feelings which hadn't been used for years. They responded unbelievably by bowling more slowly and calling her 'Miss'. when the innings closed at 73 she was still there.

FULL OF OPTIMISM

The Seniors, faced with the fact that they needed seven runs apiece and four extras to win the game, were confident. They were even more encouraged when they found that 2IC was keeping wicket and they rapidly reassessed the task to read four runs apiece and thirty extras. **SSgt Brian Tranter** got half of his stint off the first ball and **Maj McKie** bowled him with the next one. The Major, bowling slow straight and accurate, was partnered by the CO bowling slow bent and equally accurately at the other end. The Colonel's method was very interesting; he tossed up the ball out of sight and when it returned to the pitch it spun viciously at the required angle to hit the stumps. All of which was too much for the Seniors and wickets tumbled like skittles. It all worked on the principle that **Geoff** blinded them with science at one end and the CO mercifully shot them out at the other.

After seven overs of this treatment the Seniors had scored 23 runs for six wickets of which the Colonel had taken five for four runs and the Seniors were smack on schedule for utter defeat. But the Seniors had not entered this match without planning and on the basis that the beer could run out and they might have to play actual cricket, they had thoughtfully added a real cricketer to their side, one **WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin** who fortunately excels with the bat, in addition to which, being a Foreman and therefore an intellectual, he naturally wears spectacles and these enabled him to follow the flight of the ball all the way to the stratosphere and back when the CO bowled his last over. **Pat** took 11 runs off this over including one six and the Colonel retired to the outfield to reconsider his establishment requirement for Foremen of Signals!

The officers thought that they should replace guile with speed and put the Adjutant on to bowl left arm expresses. This he did. It was soon evident however that he was still suffering from his 'missile syndrome' and though he sprayed balls at speed and in quantity, he failed to hit the target, although he succeeded splendidly in hitting the bat.

When **Pat** lost his partner he was joined by the Sheriff, **Nick Knight** who characteristically used the bat as some sort of club and brought his partnership with **Pat** into a Beauty and the Beast relationship or perhaps the Rapier and the Bludgeon comparison. It was nevertheless too good an arrangement for the Officers and the required total for victory was achieved by these two without further loss; a win for the Seniors by four wickets, **Pat Baldwin** having collected 44 of them in a most proficient display of 'real cricket'.

Capt Denise Dunn R A Signals with WO1 (YofS) Ian Sleightholm behind looking uncharacteristically bashful

Photos by courtesy of HQ UKLF

THE REGIMENTAL SPORTS DAY

The Regimental Sports Day was held on Wednesday 24 August and fortunately this year we were blessed with a beautifully fine day. There was a full programme of field and track events (not forgetting the Tug-of-War) and each Squadron provided a side show or two to entertain the families.

The heats of the Tug-of-War were held during the morning and produced a line-up for the final of 3 Sqn v 1 Sqn. It looked as though it was going to be a close run thing but 3 Sqn proved to be the stronger, winning the event in two straight pulls—they do have the monopoly on Linemen after all!

HQ Sqn ruled the day and eventually won the overall championship by 16 clear points over 1 and 3 Sqns who tied for second place. In the field events, HQ Sqn got 'value for money' from their 'Old and Bold' with **WO1 (FofS) Lightfoot** winning the Javelin with a great throw of 48m, **WO2 (RQMS) 'Dusty' Miller** (soon to return to his native Jamaica) won the Long Jump, and **WO2 (AQMS) Tony Moogan** walked away with the Shot. 1 Sqn had obviously been practising hard in the Triple Jump and came first and third in the event with **Sig Hanlon** and **Cpl Dootson.** 3 Sqn used the muscles of the 'linies' again and won the Discus with **LCpls Cooney, Powell,** and 3 Sqn also won the High Jump.

HQ Sqn kept up the pace in the track events, and took the 100 and 200m with **Cpl 'Taffy' Williams,** who escaped from the Pay Office for the day, and the 400 × 100m Relay. As a parting gesture, **WO2 (RQMS) 'Dusty' Miller** romped home to win the 110m Hurdles. In the 5000m **Cpl Williams** (2 Sqn), one of the favourites, fell early on in the race—or perhaps he thought it might be easier on all fours? **Cpl Bowley** came through the jostling unscathed and won by several lengths.

Just to prove that cooks don't spend all their time slaving over hot stoves, **Lt Andy Johnson ACC,** the Catering Officer, won the 800m, notching up another 9 points for HQ Sqn. 3 Sqn scored in the 1500m with **Lt Dave Larkham** when he took time off from the Cambrian Marches Team training, and also in the 400m Hurdles with **LCpl Cairns. Sig Hanlon** sprinted home to win the 400m for 1 Sqn. The 4 × 400m Relay was won, after an exciting finish, by 3 Sqn. The wives' race produced quite a large 'field' and was won by **Mrs Millar,** wife of **LCpl Millar** of 1 Sqn.

The professional atmosphere of the whole event was completely shattered mid-way through the afternoon—the Chain-of-Command Race 'happened'. Surely that couldn't be the RSM in the pink elephant outfit? **Capt Denise Dunn** (our Colonial Officer) got it completely wrong when, instead of turning up as a Kangaroo, she arrived as a white rabbit. Still, what can you expect when her OC, **Maj Nigel Fairley,** came as a gorilla! No one is actually quite sure who won but the RHQ team, led by the CO, claimed the victory and drank the beer. Well, we think it was the CO in the clown's outfit, and you couldn't mistake the Adjt in that village idiot kit, he insisted he was wearing a wig, but we really couldn't tell the difference!

THE CAMBRIAN MARCHES

At dawn on Thursday 8 September our nine man patrol set out from Tywyn on what is said to be the toughest infantry competition in NATO. Ahead of us was a four day patrol over 95 km of the roughest country in Wales. Our team consisted of: **Lt David Larkham, Sgt Glen Pennington, Cpl Rick Dent, LCpls Roy Dangerfield, Chill Bridgewood, Roy Emblen, Nick Organ, Sig 'Big Jim' Halligan, Paul Wilkins.**

The first day was the longest route which also included military skill stands on Map Reading, House Search, Assault River Crossing, and Signal skills. However the constant rain and high winds proved to be the biggest obstacle and by the end of the day there were several teams with casualties and two teams, the Royal Marines and the Royal Green Jackets, who had not been seen since the first checkpoint.

Day two was the shortest march and with better weather most teams performed well. On arrival at base camp we found out that we were in fourth position at the end of day one. From then on our team statistician, **Sig 'Big Jim' Halligan,** gave us a non stop commentary on our score and expected final position.

Early on day three the skies cleared enough for us to be deployed to the start point by Puma, but before the first checkpoint the wind and rain were again upon us. At checkpoint two the wind was strong

The team arriving at a stand

Photos by courtesy of HQ UKLF

Lt Larkham leading from the front

Photos by courtesy of HQ UKLF

enough to lift away a 9 × 9 complete with DS. The next leg saw us climbing down a waterfall saving us enough time to catch the team ahead who were resting at the bottom. After a few words both teams set off—in opposite directions. We later spotted the same team crossing a ridge line a few miles behind. At the end of the day we had dropped to seventh place but were one of only three teams to still have all nine men. Our only problem for the final day was **LCpl 'Nick' Organ** who had a twisted ankle.

Despite our injured man we finished the 7 Km run and assault course in a fast time. This proved the value of all the hard work **LCpl Willy Williams** had put into our PT. The final military skill was the falling plate where we managed the fastest time by only one second. This gave us the highest total score of the day and brought our final position up to fifth overall.

JAUNT TO JAMAICA — EXERCISE *FILAMENT MERCURY*

After sampling the sunnier climates of Cyprus and Kenya in the Spring, intrepid travellers 1 Sqn, went sun seeking again in July. They deployed to Port Royal in Jamaica for a joint contingency comms exercise with Tactical Communications Wing (TCW) 38 Group RAF and occupied the old Police training centre adjacent to the Coast Guard base HMJS Cagway.

A Joint Communications Centre was established and manned by forty-eight operators and technicians including two RN radio operators from RN COMMCEN, Gibraltar and two apprentices from Harrogate, **AT Sgt Hanchard** and **AT Cpl Weaver**.

In addition to the HF means, a satellite comms terminal was established, using an experimental RACAL 2 land rover mounted station, from the Royal Signals Research Establishment, Defford. During the exercise, comms were established with anchor stations in Belize, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Whitehall.

ADVANCE PARTY

The advance party was involved in the air insertion of cabins on to the beach. **Maj 'Moby' Dick Hood** fascinated the local children by strapping paddles to his arms and waving the pilot in. **Mr Geoff Parselle**, our photographer from the School of Signals, recorded his antics on film, and presented copies to the children before his departure.

JAMAICAN WELCOME

The main party were welcomed by the already suntanned faces of **Maj Hood** and **WO2 (SSM) Mick 'She's Mine All the Time' Nevill**, and millions of mosquitoes. Comms were established and the routine of shiftwork began.

We arrived just in time for the annual reggae dance. Four enormous speakers thumped out the reggae beat and heads pounded for two further days!

The CO, **Lt Col Bill Backhouse**, managed a visit shortly after his arrival in the Regiment. He was suitably dined in by the officers and several seniors under the palm trees on a white sandy beach called 'Frenchman's Cove'. An O Group was held to discuss the feasibility of moving the exercise location from Port Royal to 'Paradise', but the logistic problems proved to be too great.

PR—OR—'HOW OUR COLONIAL FRIEND WAS NEARLY DEPORTED'

When 1 Sqn deployed to Jamaica, it was decided that a Public Relations Officer would be absolutely essential in such an exotic location.

From a 'cast of thousands', **Capt Denise Dunn Royal Australian Signals** was selected. Highly delighted, she embarked with the main party and arrived in Jamaica on Wednesday 5 July. She was met by **Maj Hood** and escorted to the exercise location only to find a rather worried looking 2IC, **Capt Jane Stockdale** there. For some unknown reason, diplomatic clearance for an Australian national had not been applied for, and the Commander of the JDF Coast Guard had been instructed to place her under close arrest until the matter could be cleared up!

Capt Dunn was 'arrested' by the Coast Guard Executive Officer and placed in close arrest in the Wardroom—the room she was in even had bars on the window! She really had no idea that it was all a practical joke! To answer plaintive cries that kept emitting from the 'window' we replied 'We're trying to sort it out!' About an hour later she was let out to be greeted by a large cold beer! For once, **Capt Dunn** was speechless!

The Jamaican Coast Guard co-operated superbly, as they did throughout the exercise, and thoroughly enjoyed the whole incident! Unfortunately, we now all live in fear of **Capt Dunn** getting her revenge!

SPORTING PROWESS

Physical training was not left behind in Blandford, and **QMSI Bill 'G and T' McQuilken**, started us on a PT programme each morning at 0630hrs. The troops were subjected to a 'green goddess' style warm up, followed by a small circuit, shuttle runs, jog along the beach and finally a swim. At the end of the exercise a BFT and Army Swimming Test were successfully conducted. Interservice rivalry reared its head early in the exercise and a softball match between Army and RAF/RNB resulted in a convincing win to Army. With appetites whetted for sport, a football match was arranged with 2nd Jamaican Regiment. There was some doubt as to whether our team would make it to the field in one piece, after a journey into Kingston in an open truck with a JDF driver at the wheel.

Spectator support was vocal on both sides, the match was exciting but a diplomatic 1—1 draw resulted with **LCpl 'Gazza' Johnson** scoring from a pass by **SSgt 'Smudge' Smith**. Confidence boosted by this result, a challenge was issued to the Coast Guard for a cricket match.

It now appears that West Indians are born with a bat in their hands, and they produced some fine batting to emerge victorious on the day. **LCpl Les Colquhoun** top socred with 27 runs.

OPEN DAY

As a result of the keen interest in the exercise shown by the JDF, an open day was held where invited guests and the media were shown around the exercise location. **Sgt Percy Johnson** and his staff served up a curry luncheon in temperatures near 100°F.

The exercise received coverage on television, radio and in the newspaper through interest shown in two 'local boys', **WO2 (RQMS) Owen 'Dusty' Miller** and **SAC Ian Grant**, both native Jamaicans.

ADVENTURE TRAINING/R AND R

Several sub-aqua familiarisation courses were conducted by the diving team of **Lt Andy Kendall, SSgt Dennis Mustard, Sgt Brian Stevenson** and our RN diving instructor **PO Ken Ball. Capt Mike McLatchey**, our MO, was kept busy providing diving medicals and extracting sea anemone spines from feet.

Although hindered by a shortage of transport, most of the troops managed a visit to the north, to either Ocho Rios or Montego Bay. Unfortunately, our planned jungle training did not take place due to lack of transport and an injured instructor.

ENDEX

As the exercise drew to a close, a barbecue and disco was held to say farewell to the hospitable Jamaicans. **LCpl Jimmy Hanlon** donned a toga (or was it a mosquito net?) and collected a substantial sum for local charity by flashing those famous 'footballer's legs'. Thanks go to all the lads who worked so hard to make the night a success, and a public thank you to **WO1 Gordon Cochrane RAPC** and his family in Jamaica who provided support whenever it was needed.

NEXT STOP — FLORDIA '84!

PS. Having been imprisoned by the Coast Guards on arrival in Jamaica, it is rumoured that **Capt Denise Dunn** has withdrawn her application to travel with 1 Sqn to Florida in January 84.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

41 SQUADRON

Squadron personalities:

OC	**Major J. D. Mill TD**
2IC	**Capt M. Zaremba-Tymieniecki**
OC J	**Capt M. Zaremba-Tymieniecki**
OC K	**Lt J. Ruske**
2IC K	**2Lt K. Doull WRAC**
OC N	**Lt L Webber WRAC**
2IC N	**Vacant**
SSM	**WO2 J. Mackins**
NRPS	**Watch this space!**
PSI	**Sgt R. Sutherland**

As our regular readers will, no doubt notice we are a little short handed at the top, but what's new!, any applications for the above vacancies will be given serious consideration. Since camp the squadron has enjoyed a period of relative calm!

During the troop commanders weekend **Lt John Ruske** tried to lose his troop in Mereworth Woods, **Lt Linda Webber** tried to drown her troop at Holmepierpoint, and **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** tried to communicate with his throughout the south of England. We are happy to report that K troop can map read, N troop can swim, and J troop occasionally talk to their OC.

The exercise season proper started on September 10-11 with a regimental exercise on Hankley Common. This proved to be most interesting from which arose the following questions;

Can **Lt Linda Webber** go without sleep for 48 hours?

Does **Cpl Ray Rock** always wear a black tie to dinner?

Can **WO2 John Mackins** tell the difference between a bale of hessian and **Capt Zaremba-Tymieniecki**?

What strange attraction have trees for **SSgt Lovatt**?

Does **Maj Jim Mill** have an allergy to breakfast?

And what is the significance of the teddy bear wearing a combat jacket in N troop command post?

It is hoped that the Brigade exercise in October will provide the answers to the above.

Meanwhile the squadron has maintained its record on the regimental cadre course with **Pte Roxannne Norris** of K Troop passing out as the top student, well done. Watch this space for further tales of an everyday TA signal Squadron.

Are the RSM 'Cas' Francis and SSgt Mick Mallet Guarding the Cadre Course? Ptes Roxanna Norris and Beverley Holley (3rd and 2nd from right) came 1st and 2nd

47 SQUADRON

This period of the year is popularly known as 'the silly season'. You know, it's the time when you want to do something like a Troop Commander's weekend only to find that everybody's on block leave and no one knows where the key to all the works tickets is!

Trials and tribulations like this aside—47 Sqn has also exchanged PSIs. We said farewell to **SSgt Barry Gibbons** on his promotion to **WO2 (SSM)** and posting to 30 Sig Regt and welcomed **SSgt Tom Harrison.**

Troop Commander's Weekends were mentioned and F (Switch) Troop's consisted of instructing the technicians in tent erection and repair of the No 1 burner. After all, when the OC Sqn volunteers to do the cooking (ably assisted by **LCpl John Hancock**) he must be provided with the tools for the job! Pedestrian and Landrover map reading exercises completed the weekend—three different real ales in the nearby hostelry did not contribute significantly.

Line Troop also did a map reading exercise. However, whilst they can find out their bearings in the wilds of Hertfordshire on foot, **LCpl Stevie Young's** locating a golf course leaves a lot to be desired, even when **LCpl Ray Peters** works there.

Allied to the 'silly season' is the rigmarole of PRE/ARU/UEI or whatever it's being called this year. Preparation of vehicles consists of pouring 25% of the Squadron over them in the hope of getting them clean—the vehicles that is. This year the employment of a steam cleaner assisted and **SSgt (FofS) George Johnston** and **Sgt Bill Ralph** have achieved their B2 in this trade, signalled by both independently steam cleaning the OC **Maj Bill Morris. SSgt Jim Morton** masterminded the whole operation, of course.

After cleaning the outsides the insides have to be looked at. **Pte Barbara Bailey** now knows that RLs need batteries to start them rather than half the Squadron at the rear of it—amazing what you don't learn on an HGV3 Course! **Cpl Reg Banks** is no longer allowed loose with the spray gun—we can't cope with vehicles and trailers looking pristine and the PSI then refusing to let them be used.

83 SQUADRON

Those who might have imagined that Post Camp was a dull period for the Squadron would be greatly mistaken. The first major event was the Cobham Cup. For the uninitiated this is an annual Military Skills Competition open to all the Regiment, organised by 'B' Troop at Cobham. The original cup is firmly affixed to the wall of the 'Charlie' bar at Cobham and for many years the only permitted result was a win by 'B' Troop. Now there is a new Cup and this year **Cpl Graham Drew** and a bear from 'A' Troop won the Cup engraved with a bear from HQ Squadron. By a happy coincidence, **Cpl Vivienne Drew WRAC** (yes they are married) led one winning WRAC team.

The next event was the Troop Commander's Weekend. OC 'A' Troop, **Lt Penny Radway** and OC 'C' Troop, **Lt Ian Webber** decamped to South Wales, doubtless to distance themselves as far as possible from RHQ and SHQ. The theme of the weekend was rain and more rain. **Lt Penny Radway** was heard to ask why the sun shone for E Troop. She swears OC E Troop has a friend in a high place.

Camp was made in a field belonging to a friend of **SSgt Graham Brain** and it was from there they mounted an attack on Offa's Dyke. The first obstacle that had to be overcome was a 'house licensed to sell spirits' and this took at least two hours to achieve. This same house featured prominently in the evening's entertainment which was a barbecue organised by **Cpl Kevin Charlton**. The Troop went down a coal mine, taking care not to lose **Cpl Dick Cattrall**. Back at the TAC the sun shone again. There is no truth in the rumour that OC A Troop has nearly perfected a rain dance ready for next year.

'E' Troop's weekend appropriately termed Exercise *Water Rat* also involved water. It was a canoeing and orienteering weekend based in a Scout Camp in deepest Kent. OC 'E' Troop, **Lt Diane Lilley** and **Sgt David Raynor**, the Troop Sergeant, strongly denied that the object of the weekend was to give 'E' Troop its annual bath.

The canoeing (and bathing) was in the capable hands of **Sig Gary Baker** and the orienteering was run by **Sig Lawrence Goddard**. There was a hostelry within walking (crawling!) distance of the Scout Camp. On the Saturday evening there was a Troop Dinner at which the OC Squadron, **Maj Paul Whittle**, was guest of honour.

'B' Troop had a Drill Hall based weekend devoted to Troop Training and maintenance of equipment. Their fair weekend comes at the end of October when they descend en masse from the skies over Aldershot led by the gallant duo OC **Capt Roger Knowles** and **SSgt Tom McCarthy**. More about that another time. Wedding Bells! Belated best wishes to **SSgt John 'The Pipe' Makinson** and **SSgt Kate Killick WRAC** who eventually found a free weekend on the Regimental Calendar and got married in August. Both will continue to serve in C Troop and to avoid the almost inevitable confusion OC 83 Sqn is rumoured to be considering promoting/demoting one of them!

2Lt Vicki Hutchinson, the newest Squadron Officer who is 2IC of B Troop has established a reputation as a fast mover. Following an emergency night move in the last Regimental Exercise she woke up the next morning to find that she had 'crashed out' in the Line Troop tent. Lips are sealed as to how the misdirection occurred!

A remarkably young-looking Lt Ian Webber gets his hands dirty helping C Troop prepare for PRE

Pte Jackie Upson and Pte Sharon Driver bring the feminine touch to getting our generators up to scratch, but will they run? (the generators!)

HQ SQUADRON

The 'providers' tell us that they 'are very busy getting into top gear' after the 'silly season'. Either nothing is happening or it is all very secret!

Their current team of specialists includes:

TOT	**Maj Jim Fowler**
UPM	**2Lt Tom Muir**
RMO	**Capt Ross Ellice**
OC LAD	**Lt Steve Martin**
AQMS	**WO2 George Collins**
ACC	**Sgt Alan Joyce**

Under the eagle eye of the OC **Maj Jim Allan** and TA QM **Capt John Robson** we think they are preparing to swap uniforms for the Fancy Dress Halloween Party.

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

HELICOPTER TRAINING

The Training Major, **Maj Pat MacCulloch,** was quietly crooning to himself a few of Frank Sinatra's old standards. 'Come fly with me' and 'Fly me to the moon' were heard from within his office. The Adjt and QM raised their eyebrows suspiciously as another Admin Order appeared to be hastily drafted on the back of a cigarette packet! The Regiment, ever faithful, arrived at Cultybraggan and overnight a flotilla of Puma and Chinook materialised.

Our photograph shows the 61 Sqn 'Yeomanry' preparing to embark for a 'trip round the bay'. Note the steely grins and calm exteriors.

The next photograph shows their total relief at having survived their Highland trip in the back of the Army's biggest and newest hairdryer.

CO'S EXERCISE 2/3 OCTOBER

The CO, **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen,** tasked his permanent staff with producing command tasks to fit in with his yearly exercise. 'Fun, with an element of danger' were the criteria. The devious PSIs retreated to their Squadron lairs to plot their revenge! The Bde Comd, **Brig K. H. Olds,** got wind of this one and decided that a recce north was essential to assess whether the stories he had heard about this mad Jock Regiment were all true. Command tasks with names such as: 'Everest—the hard way', 'Escape from Colditz', 'Wild water for beginners' were duly thrown at the Squadron teams throughout the weekend and conquered with brain and lots of brawn.

The highlight of the weekend was a Regimental Celidh on the Saturday night. Our photograph show 51 Sqn girls peforming!

(Applications to join the Regiment should be forwarded to **WO1 (RSM) Brian Peel** in a plain brown envelope).

THE BOUNTY HUNTERS

L to R: SQMS Bill Cree, WO2 (SSM) Brian Murry, WO1 (YofS) John McGrath, Maj Ron McNaught

The final photograph shows the elation and joy experienced by the TA officer and WO on hearing that he has completed enough training for his annual bounty.

In all seriousness the cause of elation was the mistaken belief that the Chief Clerk, **SSgt John Powles,** had received a posting order.

HONORARY COLONEL

The Regiment has been extremely fortunate in having **Col Ken Lloyd** as Honorary Colonel during the last five years. **Col Lloyd's** keen interest in all aspects of Regimental life has always been apparent. His civilian position as Secretary of Lowland TAVRA has often been a welcome bonus. Our sincere thanks to **Col Ken** and may he long continue to be a true friend of the Regiment.

Col D. J. MacIntyre has been appointed as the new Honorary Colonel. He is a native Jock and subsequently has dispensed with the Adjutant's assistance as interpreter. The Regiment wishes **Col MacIntyre** an enjoyable tenure.

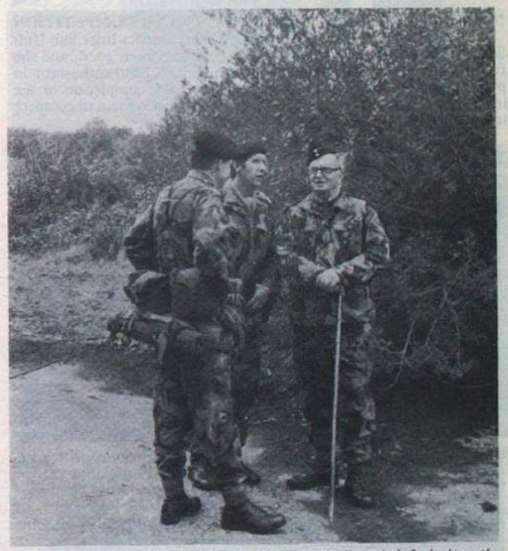
33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

BURTONWOOD EXERCISE

The prospect of a Plug Up exercise at Burtonwood represents something of an anticlimax after the excitement of Annual Camp. It does however provide a useful opportunity to renew acquaintance with the packed lunch you thought you had lost on the last exercise, to be reminded of those vehicle faults you had intended to report, and hopefully to discover the comms equipment still works.

Having the Regiment together on one piece of real estate also has other advantages like enabling the Hon Col, **Col Michael Stanley,** to visit all formations at his convenience and ours, and the CO to hold an al fresco 'O' Group without getting bogged down by the usual TA red herrings.

Shaking off the sloth of summer holidays took a little time but by the middle of Saturday afternoon with traffic flowing and NBC alerts reverberating around the site we were back in the old routine. Another first for the CO was provided by **Maj (TOT) Alan Preston** achieving the apparently impossible by getting into his noddy suit. All good things come to an end and all too soon (for some) we were disappearing, flushed with success, down to the M62.



The Hon Col, Col Michael Stanley being briefed by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tony de V Hunt and OC Switch 'Y' Maj Chris Byrom, on his arrival at the Regimental Exercise at Burtonwood Airfield

Cpl Barbara Walker (HQ) continues work in Echelon Comd Post during a NBC alert on the Regiment Ex

LCpl Eddy Rowe, SSgt Tom Griffiths and Sgt Steve Higgins of 42 Sig Sqn (V) engineering circuits in Switch 'X' Multiplex vehicle on the Regimental Ex *Plug Up*

NORTH WEST DISTRICT SUB UNIT SOCCER COMPETITION

All four Squadrons entered the North West District Inter Sub Unit Soccer Competition. The standard of soccer has been good, and the four team managers are congratulated on their zeal and enthusiasm in preparing their teams and arranging fixtures for completion of the initial round. HQ Sqn (V) and 59 Sig Sqn (V) now remain to compete in the Second round of the competition.

HQ Sqn (V) Soccer Team after winning the first round of 'North West District TA Comp 5–0 against 107 Fd Engr Sqn (V)
L to R Back row: Sgt Naylor, Cfn Robertson, Sig Hardy, Fleming, LCpls McIntosh, McFarlane, Sgt Almond RAMC (Manager)
Front row: Sgt Morrison, Sig Frank McCormick, Mick Murphy, Cfn McCoy, LCpl Ron McCormick, Sig Stowers

MERSEYSIDE MARATHON

The Regiment were represented in the Merseyside Marathon on Sunday 25 September by **SSgt Steve Donaghue** of 59 Sig Sqn (V), who completed a gruelling course around the suburbs of Liverpool. Well done **Staff Donoghue**!

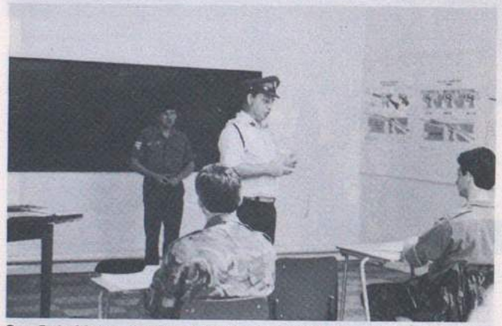
SSgt Steve Donoghue waiting for the start of the Merseyside Marathon

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

VISIT BY DEPUTY COMMANDER

Col Bill Illingworth, the Deputy Commander of 12 Sig Gp (V), made a whistle-stop tour of Wantstead and Cambridge on 30 Jul. Despite the hectic pace of the visit he managed to speak to quite a few members of the Regiment.

Col Bill Illingworth and Sgt Brian Robinson look on as the CO, Lt Col David Walden, gives a maths lesson



Sgt Bob Major, Sig Paul McKenna and Alan Wallace practising their multiplication tables with Col Bill Illingworth

PHOTOREPORT

The Regiment attended annual camp at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, from 1-15 Oct. In order to meet the edition deadline only photographs appear; more details will be published in the next issue of *The Wire.*

Lt Ken Fickling, Capts Sarah Maude, Jackie Allan and WO2 (SSM) Eddie Baldwin pose in fancy dress

The workers of RHQ (or so they say), Mrs Jackie Corbin, LCpl 'Tiny' Little, Pte Kathy Barrett, Cpl 'Trooper' Cooper, Sgt Jenny Flanaghan, SSgt Brian Robinson and Sgt John Birchby

LCpl Pat Binks displays what happens when you do an about turn the wrong way and the RSM is watching

Pte Pat Walsh saying 'Let's plug it in here and see what happens'

WO1 (RSM) Keith Purkis demonstrating to Sgt Liz Day and Pte Sarah Bignell another use for the pace stick. WO2 (RQMS) 'Buffalo Soldier' Drake attempting to hide in Liz Day's poncho

Cpl Whiting from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt about to karate chop Sgt Vicky Cross's finger to stop her touching his antenna

Brig John Burrows, Lt Col David Walden, and Maj Tim Mountford look on and wonder how the FofS Dave Wild can sleep standing up. Note the RSM dozes quietly in the background

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

PENHALE

Annual Camp, 24 September-8 October, was spent at Penhale, where some 300 members of the Regiment trained hard from the daily 0630hrs PT parade through a variety of trade and military training to competitive sport ending at 1800hrs.

The middle weekend provided both a time of testing and a welcome break, and for many it was a case of 'a change is as good as a rest'. It was a pity that the Regiment had to march on parade in pouring rain, but if anything, the Corps Bandsmen looked even smarter in their black capes. The rain stopped before the inspecting officer arrived and a TV recording is proof of the smartness of all on parade. The medal presentations were a little slower than expected, in some cases because of the wet uniforms, but at least that permitted a longer informal chat by the inspecting officer. Only one slight blemish, was when a 'REME person' came smartly to attention while standing in a puddle—three feet from the inspecting officer!

The parade was followed by Squadron photographs and then Tickle Tests, which were of course great fun—to talk about afterwards. For the more adventurous this was followed by wind-surfing in Stithians Reservoir, and water-skiing, canoeing and abseiling. The Penhale Escape Committee was therefore not in demand and anyway, it was overshadowed by an interest in rabbit holes. Rumour has it that our Chief Clerk, **SSgt John Richardson**, was the instigator of this activity—strongly supported by seeing him stood to attention in front of THOR's representative in the Regiment, holding a cardboard box with a rabbit hole in it.

Canoe instruction Stithians Lake Cornwall instructor Sig Pearce far left

One extra man on Guard Mounting meant that a Stick Orderly could be selected. Can't call him a Stick Man because on occasions the WRAC took the honours.

An excellent Night Noise and Light Demonstration stage by 18 CTT proved that one can be heard talking a quarter mile away at night, and that trip wires were hard to see in the dark.

AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

The most important morale factor of any Camp—food—was excellent. Well done all 21 cooks whether our own, 35 Sig Regt (V) or CVHQ.

DARTMOOR

For the young officers, officer cadets and those in the 'Military Circus', the second week will be remembered for the three days and nights spent on Dartmoor in the usual misty, moist weather, except for a sunny Day Three. After a certain amount of 'aggro', Blue Force, under **Capt Andrew Berncastle**, and Orange Force, under **Capt Andrew Cornish**, signed a truce in order to attack the Detachment Commander's course on Dinger Tor. By using subterfuge (they just drove in, in unmarked Landrovers) some tactical advantage and surprise were gained. Both sides claim to have annihilated the other. Incidentially, our sympathies go to a young lady, **Pte Julie Emerson**, who was holding a tent peg with her left hand when her friend **Cpl Kathy Roper** hit it with a wooden mallet!

Military circuit course on Ex *Mercury Patrol* on Dartmoor during a briefing by OCdt Steve Holder (kneeling on right)

Officer Cadet Steve Holder leading a patrol across a swollen Dartmoor stream during Ex *Mercury Patrol*, a three-day exercise during the Regiment's annual camp; Sig Graham Ennis and Michael Guest digging in

Photo by The Birmingham Post & Mail Ltd

A GOOD PARADE

The Det Comds rushed back from Dartmoor for their Pass-Off Parade, which was taken by **Maj Gen M. S. Gray OBE,** GOC South West District. It was a good parade and congratulations are in order for **Cpl Garry Watson** and **LCpl Marion Isaac,** who received the awards of best Royal Signals and WRAC students. We were delighted that the District Commander paid a visit to one of our squadron 'Smokers' and managed to fit in a visit to the WOs and Sgts Mess after that. Throughout camp an inter-squadron sports competition took place for the 'Commanding Officer's' cup, presented to the Regiment by our CO **Lt Col J. C. Blackwood TD WRAC (V)**. The first ever winners of this cup were 57 Sig Sqn (V)—well done.

Maj Gen M. S. Gray GOC SW Dist presenting trophy to Cpl Garry Watson for being judged the best male on Det Comd course. Lt Jane Buckels on left was OIC and Capt Ken Hadfield (Adjt) reads citation

Det Comds course instructors in relaxed mood after pass off
L to R: SSgt Clapham

CO Lt Col Jean Blackwood presents CO's cup to Cpl Gave the Captain of 57 Sig Sqn as the overall winners

A PERK

The HGV drivers course was indebted to RAF St Mawgan for use of their facilities for the manoeuvering skills and in return our HGV tester, **WO2 Gerry Farey,** was pleased to test some of their HGV3 trainee drivers. A much appreciated additional 'perk' was that some of our Volunteers were given a flight in an RAF Nimrod aircraft.

Not yet mentioned are the DTg, Cbt Rmn and Tech courses where a hard slog paid dividends in good trade test results and also our REME tradesmen and cooks who were given practical 'on the job' training.

IT CAN'T BE BAD

Was it a good camp? Well, as you may have discovered from BBC radio and the national press, **Sig Paul Staples** and his young wife, **Pte Cathy Staples** of our 57 Sig Sqn (V) 'spent their honeymoon at Annual Camp in Pehale', it can't be bad.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CHANGES AT RHQ

During Annual Camp the Regiment said goodbye to Training Major **David Gardiner**, who leaves to become 2IC of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Leaving at the same time for cooler climes was adjutant **Capt Bob Pearce** on his way to the Falklands. Both were dined out at Edinburgh. We wish them and their wives, **Sarah** and **Christine**, every happiness for the future and express our warmest thanks.

At the same time we welcomed our new adjutant, **Capt Denise Ashton.** As the first WRAC R.Signals adjutant with a TA Regiment we hope she will enjoy her stay with us.

ANNUAL CAMP

The Regiment headed North for Annual Camp in mid-September. The first ten days consisted of trade training, sandwiched between Tickle tests, sports and the annual military training competition. 89% of the Regiment passed the Tickle Test—which seemed quite good for the first time. The Hawksworth Trophy went to 46 Sqn—well deserved after their early morning squads had sung their way round the course!

46 Sqn also seized the inter-squadron sports trophy in a lengthy and hard-fought competition. The Deputy Commander of 2 Signal Brigade, **Col Alan Hawkesworth**, presented trophies to the winners in monsoon-like conditions. They included a new inter-squadron trophy, awarded in memory of **Brenda,** wife of **Maj (TOT) Stuart Cottage,** who died last Christmas.

Ex Team Mate, the military training competition, had been tuned to a peak of exquisite torture for its third year by **Maj** (I'm leaving next week') **David Gardiner**. Speed marches, assault courses, driving, an NBC course—to name a few—combined to test the skills of the 180 competitiors. Decisive winners were 93 Sqn—taking both team and squadron awards. Winning male individual was **Sgt Barry Austin** of 87 Sqn and winning WRAC individual was **Sgt Marion Poulter** of HQ Sqn. Best young soldier and winner of the Warburton award was **Cfn Steve Platts** of the LAD.'

Presentations were made by **Maj Gen C. P. R. Palmer CBE**, GOC North East District, during his visit to the Regiment in camp.

Other VIPs we were pleased to welcome at Edinburgh were **Brig Keith Olds**, Commander 2 Signal Brigade, **Col N. R. Robertson**, Commander WRAC at HQ UKLF, and respresentatives of the three TAVR Associations linked with the Regiment. 46 Sqn was pleased to be visited by the Mayor of Derby.

LCpl Ken Gilbanks receives the new Inter Squadron Sports Trophy

Maj David Smith receives the Team Mate Trophy from Maj Gen C. P. R. Palmer

Pte Lorraine Churchill asks the Mayor of Derby Clr Margaret Wood for a late pass! Maj Terry Lea looks on

IN THE CAGE

Caged! Naughty Cpl Angie Jones learns the hard way not to take shoe laces from the QM's stores!

And then for something entirely different . . . a three day communications exercise to end the camp. Due to a number of unforeseen emergencies certain key personalities were not available to take part. Fortunately the CO was able to find a replacement for himself in **OCdt Simon Blagden.** Squadron 2ICs found themselves in the hot seat and five amazed corporals found out the hard way what the SSM does on exercise! The RSM's crystal boot was found to fit **Sgt Mick Piechota** who became RSM for the duration.

Despite, or because of all this, the exercise worked. Squadrons communicated, encouraged no doubt by the acute attention of 'Carbon Dioxide' Blagden (CO2). It was an interesting and revealing end to camp for all concerned.

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS
WEDDING BELLS

A guard of honour of officers and soliders of 873 Troop assisted at the recent wedding of **Cpl Martin Seymour**, son of **Maj Toby Seymour** R. Signals (Ret'd)—of RHQ , and **Miss Mary Elliott**. The guard was led by **Maj (TOT) Stuart Cottage MBE** and **2Lt Paul Wenlock** (veiled).

Wedding of Cpl Martin Seymour to Miss Mary Elliott. 2Lt Paul Wenlock (veiled)

93 SQUADRON AFLOAT

Up the creek—but with some paddles—were 878 Troop of 93 Sqn during a training weekend in August. Their command task, devised by 272 Field Support Squadron (V), resulted in a highly unstable raft.

Lt Alan King (left) and LCpl Mark Cosgrove keep the raft on a circular course

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE

RQMS Jack Naylor, who recently retired as SSM of 93 Sqn after seven years, was awarded a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for his long and successful tour with the squadron.

Col Simon Towneley, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, presents certificate to RQMS Jack Naylor

HONORARY COLONEL PRESENTS MEDALS

Hon Col, Col John Francis presents medals at Edinburgh

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

THE FLAVOUR OF ANNUAL CAMP
Report by R. Burns

The storms that blew were nowt they say
Its just that we got in the way!!

When masts came down (most in the night)
The cry went up 'well put it right'

The Deutschland det, were full of tact
with Gib and Cyprus in the act.

The traffic count went up—and still,
they wanted more!; I need a pill.

The Cooks they cooked, the Doctor docked,
The Preacher preached and the mockers mocked

But it 'came right' through all the pique,
The 'Bear' was pleased—now that's unique.

FOCUS ON 3 SQN — TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Personalities

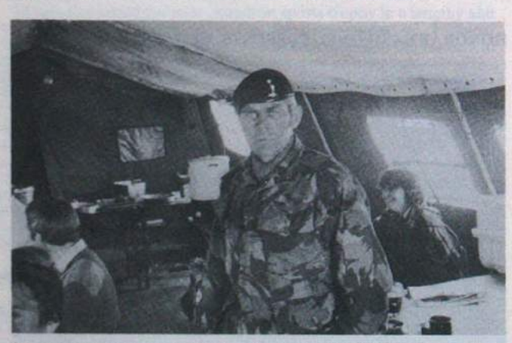
OC	**Maj Martin Vinson**
PSO	**Capt J. R. Garratt**
OC F Tp	**2 Lt Alison Lusted**
OC G Tp	**Lt Andrew Adams**
SSM	**WO2 Brian 'Tich' Reynolds**
SQMS	**SSgt Brian 'Brock' Barnes**
PSI Ops	**Sgt Neil 'Gus' Colville**
PSI Tech	**Sgt Mick Gaylard**

CAMP 83

Early in the morning of Saturday 10 September a number of 'Civilians' assembled at the TA Centre Tunbridge Wells and set off by road for Penhale, near Newquay on the north coast of Cornwall. Here they met up with other 'Civilians' who had travelled from London, Banbury and Dundee for the Regiment's two week Annual Camp.

On arrival at Penhale a reception Committee greeted the travellers where copious pieces of paper were checked and written on and innoculations brought up to date. Within the next few hours a transformation took place and 39 Sig Regt (V) was once again on parade.

The Squadron's task at Camp, in company with our colleagues in 5 Sqn from Banbury, was to run the UK Base Station for exercise *Dogger Bank* working HF Radio to our overseas detachments in Cyprus, Gibraltar and BAOR in addition to other locations in England. The Cyprus Detachment had set off two days previously flying from RAF Brize Norton and were all from 3 Sqn, whilst 1 and 5 Sqns respectively provided the other two detachments.



On a recent Squadron Weekend exercise SSM Tich Reynolds in the mess tent

While Pte Sara Spray WRAC (V) and Cpl Sue Allum WRAC (V) rough it in the great outdoors

and Sgt Bob Hibbit clears the way for his line section

3 Sqn Cyprus Detachment on their Day Off en route for the Troodos Mountains.
Sig Steve Low, Loic Flory, Pte Sara Spray, Cpls Eric (the tech) Smith, Eric (the Op) Daines, Sgt Sandy Hardy and OC Det 2 Lt Alison Lusted using a PRI Minibus from the RCT in Episkopi

TRAINING AWARDS

We are proud that two of the three Regimental Trade Training School Awards at Camp were won by 3 Sqn Volunteers. Congratulations to **Sig Dave Major** (ex regular army Intelligence Corps) for the Best Student Award, and to **Pte Mo Taylor WRAC (V)** for Best Radio Operator.

Congratulations also to **Sig Chris Pettet** and **Dave Russell** on successfully completing their parachute training and being awarded their wings. And a hearty slap on the back to those members of other Squadrons (wonder why none from 3?) who survived the Detachment Commanders Course run during Camp by our indefatigable **SSM Tich Reynolds.**

VISITORS

The Regiment was greatly honoured to be visited at camp by **Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall,** Chief of Defence Staff.

Chief of Defence staff presenting Maj Vivian Dunn and Maj Gwen Margatroyd (34 years service) with their TDs. Maj Harry Warde in the background

We in 3 Sqn were also delighted to receive a visit from **Maj Gen John Badcock** wearing his Chairman of South East TA & VR Association hat and in whose area we reside.

PROMOTIONS

Just before Camp our OC got his Majority—creating what must be a record for meteoric progress in this day and age. Enlisted in 1977 he successfully completed a Radio Telegraphist Course before spending a gruelling year with 5 Queens Regt(V) on the first TA Officer Cadet Course. He was commissioned after attending the TA Officers Course at Sandhurst in October 1979 and passed two promotion examinations before being promoted Major in July 1983. We also congratulate **Sarah Maclean** on her promotion to **Sergeant.**

DEPARTURES

We were sad to say farewell to **Capt Martin Horan**, who was able to spend the first few days of camp with us before leaving for Luanda, South Africa, where he will be spending the next two years in his civilian employment.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Sue Allum WRAC (V)** on her wedding which took place in Tunbridge Wells on 1 October.

To **Sgt Sandy Hardy WRAC (V)** on her engagement to **Mr Eddie Whitrow** (formerly a Cpl with 3 Sqn)

To **Pte Stan Potten ACC(V)** and **Pte Chris Hooper WRAC(V)** on their engagement.

A SAD NOTE

Ending on a sad note we have to report the death of **Andy Dale** who served for over 30 years at Tunbridge Wells, first as a Gunner before transferring to the Corps as a Signalman when R. SIGNALS first took over the TA Centre here. **Andy** retired from the TA in September 1981 but continued attending Drill nights as Squadron Officers Mess Steward. He also came to Annual Camp at Scarborough with us in 1982 as a kitchen hand in the Officers Mess. He died on 11 August from injuries after being knocked down by a motor cycle. He loved the army and took great pride in belonging to the Squadron. His funeral in Tunbridge Wells on 18 August was very well attended by members of the Squadron, many of whom wore uniform as a mark of respect for his long and dedicated service.

LCpl Andy Dale
— a loyal and dedicated Volunteer Soldier

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

A RECORD

Cpl John Shaw, 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), created a record at the week-end at Scarborough when he bounced for 24 hours on a trampoline in aid of charity. **Cpl Shaw**, 43, a physical training instructor with the Regiment, bounced some 77,736 times with a five minute break each hour when **Ptes Christine Winters** and **Frances Galloway**, Women's Royal Army Corps, also members of the Regiment, bounced through the natural break, and at times towards the end of the marathon bounce to give support and encouragement to **Cpl Shaw**. Support was very much in evidence from passers-by and shopkeepers in the vicinity kept up a constant flow of refreshments for the team. Proceeds from sponsorship and collecting boxes will go to the Scarborough lifeboat and the Mayoress's Community Fund, a total of £223.00.

In Ulster £300 has so far been collected in sponsorship for Northern Ireland Action Diabetes!

FIRST AID PARTY WAS ON THE SPOT

Soldiers from the 40th Ulster Signal Regiment (Volunteers) were on hand to help out at a road accident in Pickering.

A motorcycle was in collision with a car in the town, and the rider, **Mrs S. P. Pearson**, of Pickering, was injured. A first-aid party from the regiment was just returning from a seven mile march at Flyingdales and helped the injured man.

Sgt 'Scotty' Scott gave first aid to **Mr Pearson**, while WRAC **Pte Betty McCulloch** comforted him. Meanwhile, a sergeant went to the man's nearby home and told his parents of the accident. **Sgt Major Billy Woodrow** righted the motorcycle, which was spilling petrol, and controlled traffic until police arrived.

Police told the Army party that their prompt action had prevented **Mr Pearson's** injuries being aggravated. **Mr Pearson** was taken to Scarborough Hospital, but was able to leave after treatment.

85 SQN REPORT

Annual Camp can be described as an extremely successful and enjoyable fortnight, which culminated with the Squadron lifting three trophies, despite being beaten into second place in the competition for Champion Squadron. Every member will have their own particular memories, but some experiences will last far longer than others.

For example, it is unlikely that **SSgt Neill** will go walking down forest lanes in the dark for some time to come after his encounter with **Sgt Magill** on the Regimental exercise. Likewise **OCdt Robin Scott** will be able to reflect on the experience of being shaved by **Sig Totten**, on the second day of the Squadron exercise—it was certainly a sight; those of us who saw it will not forget in a hurry! As a last comment on the exercises, it would be extremely tactless to mention a pub called the 'Pigeon Pie' to **Lt Jimmy Woods**.

As is normal during annual camp, the Squadron had its share of people who insisted on burning the candle at both ends, our most notable example being **Sig Martin**, who will surely remember to get up in the morning after falling foul of **WO1 (SSM) Doherty** on the last day. Speaking of **WO1 Doherty**, there is absolutely no truth to the rumour that he carried the squadron cigarettes during camp. In general, rumour control was working well, and **Capt P. Riley WRAC** categorically denies that she turned puce every time the word 'compass' was mentioned, and **SSgt (SQMS) Kelly** was equally firm in denying that he was kept in cigarettes and alcohol by the remainder of the squadron (only during exercises skiff!).

On now to a man very much in the news. Firstly, it appears that **Sig Kenna**, in partnership with **Sig Bush**, has become a cat lover in his old age, and the same fellow is rumoured to have been charged with attempted murder alongside **LCpl Cush** after the CO nearly died laughing at their attempts to cross a rope bridge. We sincerely hope **Sig Kenna's** teeth are now OK!

Sometimes it isn't easy to spot an officer when wearing combat pips but **2Lt V. Hutchinson, WRAC**, on attachment from 31 Sig Regt took some time to recover after **Sgt Magill**, showing admirable fatherly instincts, put his arm around her, and enquired 'What's the matter luv?' Good try **Sgt Magill**, you even managed to look embarrassed!

This however was nothing compared to **SSgt Caines** who having just got used to working for a WRAC Troop Commander, proceeded to call the CO 'Maam'—twice!

On a more serious note, at camp the Squadron welcomed **LCpl Scott** and **Sig Scott Brown** as additions to our line detachment; hope you enjoyed it lads,, and will stay with us for some time. Further additions were **Lt Ian Kyle** as 2IC F Tp, from 5th Royal Irish and **2Lt Ray Scott** as 2IC D Tp on commissioning—by the way **Ian**, you had better get a proper uniform soon before the QM has a heart attack!

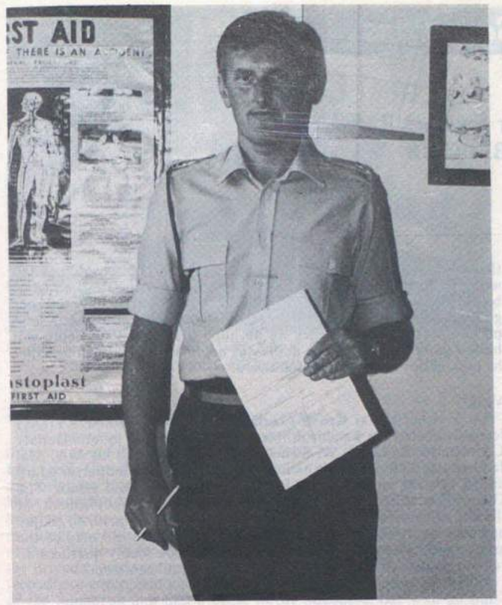
Finally, **Lt J. Woods, Lt I. Kyle,** and **2Lt P. Harty,** as 85 Squadron's representatives of the Swamp (alias Room 6 of the Officers Mess) would like to report to **Capt (QM) Mal Smart** that drainage was completed on time and that all non-human entities were beaten to death and packed in suitcases!

PS. A report on the Squadron's camp would be incomplete without mentioning the OC—**Maj B. Darragh**, and his efforts during our regimental presentation at the recent 12 Bde Study Weekend, where his ad libs sent sundry high-ranking officers into convulsions—the coat was borrowed from **Capt P. Riley**, WRAC!

Pictured paying a courtesy call on the Mayor of Scarborough (Councillor David Jeffels) at the Town Hall are the CO, 40 Sig Regt (V), Lt Col Alan de Bretton Gordon (left), and the Regiment's Permanent Staff Officer, Maj Crawford McMahon

Photograph by kind permission of Scarborough Evening News

Pte Adrienne Stewart who has recently finished two weeks' intensive training at WRAC centre, Guildford where she earned a proficiency certificate as the most improved recruit, settles down to her new post as a recruiter with 40th's recruiting team



MO with a clean bill of health. RMO Maj Robbie Kinnear has scored again on his health and hygiene inspection

EXERCISE *FOXY LADY* 19-12 AUGUST 1983

As an exercise designed to practise D Tp in Driving, Navigation and Detachment Siting, Ex *Foxy Lady* worked well, proving a valuable learning experience for all members of the Troop. For instance, **LCpl Stannex** learned that where he thinks a site is on the map isn't always quite like that on the ground. **Pte Johnson WRAC** discovered that driving ¾ ton landrovers up steep twisting roads isn't as cosy as it looks, and **LCpl Cannavan** found out that if an RV is missed, it can result in a cold evening meal. From my point of view, as a new Tp Comd, it was an invaluable experience in assessing the abilities of the Troop, as well as getting to know them personally. Certainly I never realised how **Sig 'Shirely' Irvine** acquired his nickname until I had to wait 25 minutes for the use of a shower at the TAC in AYR where we stayed overnight!! On a more serious note, the exercise revealed a number of weaknesses which must be remedied prior to Ex *Lionheart*; but perhaps the biggest benefit was in terms of morale, which augers well for camp in Scarborough this year.

Training Major West country style, Maj Greg Grist contemplates his future with 40th

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News from Squadrons

Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

BUSY MONTHS

The last two months have been particularly busy ones for the Squadron. During this time we have been on three air exercises, Summercamp, Nijmegen Marches and had a visit from the Northag Chief of Staff, **Maj Gen R. Zerling** (GE Army). We also welcome to our Squadron **Sgt Ray Bruce** and his wife **Marj** who have come to us from Coventry. We also welcome **Sgts 'Ferdy' Jansen** and **'Yogi' Bahr** both of the NL Army. We hope that they all have a happy tour with us in Tongeren.

SUMMER CAMP 83

In July the Squadron went to Harderwijk for its annual Camp consisting of three days sporting activities with various competitions and two days military exercises. The programme orchestrated by the **2IC Kapt Jan Vanherle (NL Army)**, and the **SSM WO2 'Mick' Gue** kept all extremely busy. The two highlights being the competition day when all had to swim, canoe, complete an assault course and run a log around a 2 km course with obstacles. The German team under **OG Jurgen Lang, OG Ralph Emenet, OG Kurt Gerbig** and **OG Uwe Scheer** won the day clearly followed by **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott** and his team **Cpl 'Jeff' Lelievre, Cpl Harold Van Buggenum, Sld 'Toxi' Toxopeus**. The final day saw all having a B-B-Q organised by the **SQMS HFW 'Rick' Van Ess (GE Army)** with various chefs involved behind the scenes. It was also a good time to say thank you to all who had helped us from the local 41 Signal Battalion (NL Army).

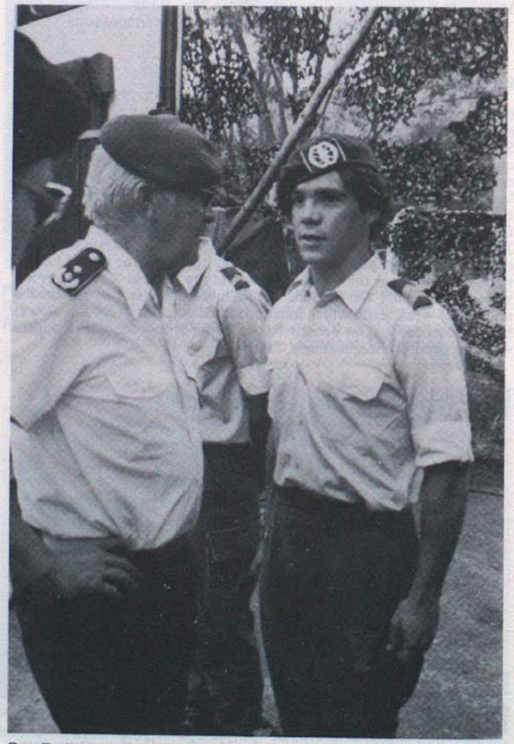
'Will someone please make a decision! Which way are we going?' Cpl 'Jeff' Lelievre, Cpl 'Scotty' Scott, SLD 'Toxi' Toxopeus, Cpl 'Harold' Van Buggenum

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

The Squadron team consisting of the OC **Maj Michael Anderson, WO2 (SSM) 'Mick' Gue, SSgt Paul Smith** (our much needed bike orderly), **Sgt 'Jock' Gibson, Cpl 'Scotty' Scott, LCpl Steve Hobbs, Sig 'Chas' Taylor, Cpl 'Gus' Webster, Cpl Harold Van Buggenum, Sld 'ET' Van de Streek, Cpl Pete Rogers, Sld Harry Zillikens, Sld Morris Saive** all arrived two days after summer camp at Nijmegen to take part in the four-day international marches. None bar our SSM had ever taken part and no one had any idea of what to expect. For all it was an unforgettable experience. We longed for the souvenir hunters to take away our blisters or to see our cycle orderly have a puncture. Mornings started at 0300hrs and the days ended with many attending the evening 'chorus' in the first aid tents as blisters were eagerly sorted out by a band of fanatics in white coats. Sadly **Sgt 'Jock' Gibson** and **LCpl Steve Hobbs** had to retire due to very bad blisters and **Sld Zillekens** and **Sld Saive** had to retire due to various injuries to the knees. The remainder who completed the course and collected their medals will never forget the final day's marching, which ended with the team marching through the town past crowds estimated to be near the million mark. So far, the OC's suggestion, to have another go next year, has only been greeted with muted enthusiasm. As a parting note on the marches we all hope that **SSgt Paul Smith** will have a good alibi for all the addresses he collected and pictures that he took of our various camp followers!

VISIT

On 2 August **Maj Gen R. Zerling (GE Army)** COSNORTHAG formally visited the Squadron. He was accompanied by our Deputy Commander **Lt Col J. W. Swindells R.SIGNALS** and his MA, **Maj Ian Stevens RTR.** The visit included an inspection of a quarter guard and a briefing by the OC, 2IC and Troop **SSgt Paul Smith**. The General saw the Squadron laid out in an operational environment. At the end of his visit the General was presented with a Squadron plaque and he very kindly presented the Squadron with an old map of the area. **Stuffz Gerhardt Kaduk (GE Army)** took many pictures to remind us all of the day and, for a change, they all came out!



Gen Zerling talking to Cpl1 'Ugly' Verbruggen a member of the NL remote section

Gen Zerling enjoying a drink with *L to R:* Cpl Ian McCutcheon, Sig Tas Taylor, Sig Hazel O'Connor and LCpl Neal Hill

VISIT BY COMD COMMS 1(BR) CORPS

The morning of 25 September saw members of the Squadron touching up on the last minute preparations for the visit of **Brig C. N. Last OBE,** Comd Comms, 1(Br) Corps. He was coming to visit us for the last time prior to handing over his appointment. The OC **Maj Mike Anderson** met the Brigadier outside the Squadron lines and after a briefing the tour of the unit commenced. This was at 1030hrs in the morning, the visit finally ended at 1700hrs with the Brigadier driving to the OCs house for the evening. Between his arrival and departure the Brigadier had seen and spoken to every member of the Squadron, seen all our equipment and vehicles, lunched with officers and SNCOs of the Squadron and had a drink in the Squadron Bar with all our nationals. We were informed later that the Brigadier was most impressed with our unit. The comment from the unit—'We are most impressed with the Brigadier'.

NORTHAG SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP—SWIMMING COMPETITION

August saw the unit participating once again in the annual NSSG swimming gala. To say the team enjoyed the event would be an understatement. Although not running out winners, the team gave its all for the Squadron, as can be seen in the photograph of **OG Jurgen Lang (GE),** he certainly was determined to finish. At the end of the day there was a little misinterpretation. The sergeant Major **WO2 Mick Gue** was dunked. A little bird tells us that he spread the rumour that the Major should be dunked—wrong!

5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

WITH THIS IN MIND

Sun, Sea, Sand and plenty of local Vino is how the brochures describe the island of Venus (Cyprus). With this foremost in mind the squadron packed its bags and moved to Radio Sonde Camp, Episkopi, on 23 June for its annual battle camp. For the battle camp the squadron was split into platoons and on arrival at RAF Akrotiri were briefed on the current political situation in Cyprus and on the training programme, devised by **Capt Peter Day,** so that the maximum benefit would be gained by all during our stay in the sun.

During the first two weeks all the platoons covered range work, infantry tactics map reading, orienteering and the most popular activity, the beach camp, where **WO2 Ray Tattersall** and his merry pirates taught all the watermanship skills including windsurfing, water skiing, sailing and canoeing.

PATROL COMPETITION

The patrol competition, although originally devised by **Capt Day** had to be run by the Bde HQ Staff as **Capt Day** opted to chase the nurses in hospital instead (the pace too tough?!). The Competition was a 36hr tactical patrol over a circuit of approx 30km with numerous stands en route. At each stand the patrols were tested on many military aspects including first aid, weapons cache, anti ambush drills, radio, demolition and house clearance, to mention but a few.

The standard of patrol work was very high, thereby indicating that the lessons of the first two weeks were well learnt. The trophy (RSM's old boot) was shared between the patrols led by **Cpl Bob Archer** and **Cpl Howson RCT** with the remaining patrols close behind.

That's the Way! Cpl Chris Brown points the way during the patrol exercise while Maj Gen Trant smiles knowingly

EXERCISE *SAXON KNIGHT* (AKAMAS) 9-15 JULY

For anyone who has never visited Akamas it would be difficult to describe politely other than to call it Apache country. After numerous recces the format for the field firing and final exercise were eventually passed to print and **Sgt Mick Herbison's** Template was cleared for firing.

The main body of the squadron moved to Invicta Camp on 9 July to set up the base camp and ranges. Over the next three days all members of the Squadron fired on the section in Defence, CQB SMG and CQB SLR ranges with varying degrees of skill and accuracy while **Sgt Steve Whittick** collected scorpions (funny fella).

EXERCISE *HOT FOOT*

The ranges duly packed away and base camp struck, Ex *Hot Foot*, the final exercise of our trip to Cyprus, got underway with the friendly forces moving in full kit from Invicta Camp to the most prominent heights on Akamas to set up their platoon bases and OPs. Meanwhile the 'enemy' under command of **Lt Mark 'Animal' Edwards**, with a section from 259 Sig Sqn under **Sgt Owen Evans** carried out a beach assault on the western tip of the island.

2 Platoon had the first success when the Pioneer Cowboy **Sgt Ben Rodgers** with **Cpl Gay** and his section captured the enemy assault craft and released the first hostage before setting up base in a lovely clear bay. At this stage, it was wondered why everyone was volunteering for guard until it was realised that there were topless bathers on the yachts in the bay! The exercise finished with a speed march withdrawal to the beach to catch the transport to Radio Sonde.

On 21 July the squadron returned home looking brown and healthy only to find that UK had been having a heat wave, so everyone else was looking the same. Many lessons were learned and a good time was had by all. We would like to thank all members of 259 Sig Sqn and 262 Sig Sqn for the invaluable help and friendship they gave us.

EXERCISE *BRIGHT EAGLE*

With Cyprus out of the way it was 'all hands to the pumps' for a Bde CPX in the Cinque Port training area. For the first time Para Tac and Para Main were tried out with some success and it was very pleasing to hear the Brigadier say the exercise had gone well.

SHOOTING TEAM

While the unit were basking in Cyprus the new shooting team were about to make their mark. The team consisted of **WO2(YofS) Corky Corcoran (Capt), Lt Trevor Bradley, SSgt 'Al' De La Haye, Cpl Brian Hayward** and **LCpl Chris Newman.** With only a few weeks practice they went forward to the South East District Skill at Arms meet and, beyond all expectations, managed to come third in the minor units, qualifying for Bisley and the Regular Army Skill at Arms meet.

Squadron Shooting Team
L to R: SSgt Alan De La Haye, Lt Trevor Bradley, WO2 (YofS) Corky Corcoran, Cpl Brian Hayward and LCpl Chris Newman with trophies

Full of confidence and with two more weeks sport on the ranges, the team went to Bulford for the Royal Signals Skill at Arms meet. Thinking that all they had to do was beat the 'infamous' Gurkha Signal Squadron, the team was overwhelmed when they managed to beat the Gurkhas in the first two matches. However it wasn't to be. The Gurkhas recovered and won their remaining six matches, with the Squadron team coming second overall.

WO2(YofS) 'Corky' Corcoran was awarded Champion at Arms, coming first in the Roberts and second in the pistol; **LCpl Chris Newman** became the first B Class shot in the Whitehead. The Army Hundred is the aggregate of all the individual rifle matches and resulted in the team coming first, sixth, seventh, twenty eighth, and sixty eighth.

The following week saw the start of the ARA meeting at Bisley without the YofS, who had to leave for compassionate reasons. Despite the loss of their best shot and coach, the team did exceedingly well, managing to come twentieth in the minor units. The YofS returned in the second week in time to join **Cpl Brian Hayward** in gaining 3rd place in the LMG match. The YofS also managed 17th place in the Pistol Championship, our highest individual placing and was selected as a member of the Corps team for the Methven Cup.

To complete the season all the team entered as individuals in the National Rifle Association and like the Corps meeting, each member of our team managed to gain at least one award. The best placings again going to the YOS who managed 9th in the KINNAIRD, 10th in the sitting and 25th in the Queen Mary. Unfortunately as a team we will not be able to continue our good fortune into the 1984 season as 3 out of the 5 members are posted in the next few months.

PARA HQ IS FIELDED

On 19 September, for the first time, 5 Brigade Para Main HQ consisting of 38 members of the Squadron and two Medium Stressed Platforms containing the landrovers were on standby to drop on to Salisbury plain. Unfortunately, a combination of the weather and RAF 'technical problems', resulted in the personnel aircraft being cancelled but the heavy drop going ahead. The exercise ended with a dash through Wiltshire on 4 tonners to try and retrieve the lonely MSPs. That's life! However, all was made up two days later when the Signals element of the HQ carried out an excellent descent on to Hankley Common. Nothing could have gone more smoothly except for **Sig Hope,** our renegade Legionnaire, whose helmet came off on exit, never to be seen again. He blamed the helmet but we think it could be something to do with the new haircut!

SUN, SEA AND BUCCANEERS

Tired of life in Aldershot **Cpls Newton, 'Fritz' Arunasalon** and **LCpl Extance** opted for warmer climes and decided to go off to Lebanon to play with the Buccaneers. **'Fritz'** missed his plane and had to wait a few weeks during which time **LCpl Extance** decided England wasn't so bad after all and came home to do some courses. We wish **Cpls Newton** and **Arunasalon** all the best in Beiruit and look forward to hearing their war stories on their return.

Footnote:
AN OFFICER'S LOT IS NOT AN 'APPY ONE!
Extract of Y.O.'s annual confidential published below for your edification. Can you guess the identity? Names on a postcard to Terry Wogan.

'He is a quiet retiring young officer who has consistently worked hard to polish his image as a dashing young blade. He has a sledgehammer wit and rapier-like sense of humour and carefully considers what he has to say before habitually swallowing both feet. Physically fit, I have often had to warn him to remove his bergen when in the office and mess. During the reporting year he has built and maintained a squadron assault course in his room. Socially inept, I do wish he would stop throwing my wife against the walls of the bar. He finds some difficulty in gaining a decent sun tan and looks dreadful in shorts.

I have no hesitation recommending him for promotion to Obergruppenfuhrer and a staff appointment in any service health farm.'

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

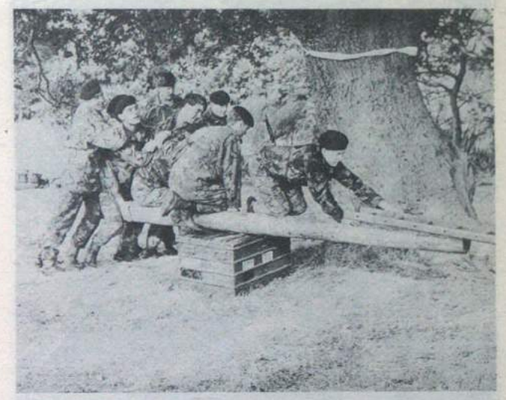
WELL EARNED REST

The last three weeks of August saw the squadron personnel taking their well earned summer block leave after a fairly hectic half year and looking forward to a more sedate pace in the run up to Christmas. This was however not to be the case with September bringing the tels equipment Pre for 'M' Troop, the vehicle PRE for the LAD, the Brigadiers ARU inspection, a military skills week and then the troops disappearing for the final week of September for Adventurous training.

ARU VISIT

2 September was the day that the Brigade Commander **Brig Peck** was to visit the squadron for its formal ARU inspection. The task of planning this occasion fell squarely 'yet again' on the 2ICs shoulders. After a quick look around the camp the **2IC Capt Tim Rimell** decided with his usual cunning that the best bet was to steer the Commander away from the barracks as this would probably involve the least work! With this idea in mind a plan was formulated, the senior NCOs of the squadron would devise stands thus testing them and the junior ranks, split into sections, would work their way around these stands, thus also being tested. The plans laid, the organisation complete, for the big day. The evening before, all the sections completed a night navigation exercise arriving at a designated range area the next morning rather tired. Here the fun started with the sections completing a circuit of stands comprising of shooting, first aid, NBC, recognition camp admin and a couple of command tasks. On one of these tasks a section made up of pioneers from D&E Troop managed to break a tree in half, dropping most of the section into a simulated river; this tree having stood up to the rigours of all the other sections without mishap. The section commander **Cpl Tony Day** thought this the ideal solution to the task as the tree now spanned the river and the rest of the section were able to cross easily. At the end of the day the Brigadier was well pleased with the day and presented the winning section from MT/LAD with a trophy and a crate of beer.

Brig Peck speaking to a patrol from 'J' Troop during the Squadron ARU. *L to R:* Sig Sandy Blair, Cpl Ron Belcher, Sig Winnie Wharton, Dickie Bird, Cpl Dave Roberts, Sig Farrah Fawcett



Alpha Troop about to attempt a command task during the ARU

Relaxing after the night navigation march.
L to R: Sig Woody Woods, LCpls Flash Gordon, Dave Mariott, Cpls Flash Gorman, Bob Clewley, Sig Bill Jones, Cpl Harry Hawkins

EXERCISE *DRAGONFLY*

The last week of September saw Mike Troop depart for the adventure training centre at Capel Curig, North Wales for a successful week of adventure training involving canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing, trekking and, of course, a few beers at the end of each day. The Welsh beer was much appreciated in the evenings but not so much the following morning as a clear head was needed for the day's activities and to achieve this sunrise saw the troop doing a three and a half mile run each morning. It was at this point each day that the dedication of the cooks could be seen as **LCpl Tony Mason** and **Pte Nigel Arkieson** argued about who would cook breakfast and who would take part in the dreaded run.

Canoeing formed the main activity of the week with half the troop taking to the water and the other half trekking with **Sgt George**

Wilson; Cpl Bob Clewley had to make do with the trekking as it was discovered he swims like a leaky welly boot! At the end of the week some of the troop passed their canoe proficiency test which resulted in the FofS **WO2 Graham Atkinson** giving action replays of his eskimo role in the bar with **Cpl Flash Gorman** saying 'It wasn't part of the test anyway.'

On one of the days mid week a change of scene was called for and the troop left the water and took to the rocks for an introduction to abseiling and top roping. This proved very popular and a number of people have been bitten by the bug and are hoping to apply for courses in the new year (let them dream). The end of the adventure training came all too soon and the troop returned to Colchester with wild ideas for next year.

WO2 FofS Graham Atkinson belayed by Cpl Bob Clewley about to climb the instructor. Cpl Trevor Groves 1 Staffords can not bear to look

LCpl Holmes shocked with his salmon and marmalade sandwiches. A Mike Troop tradition. *L to R:* LCpl Chris Holmes, Sgt George Wilson, WO2 FofS Graham Atkinson, Cpl Bob Clewley

EXERCISE *WET PADDLE*

This exercise saw Juliet Troop led by **2Lt Andy Bristow** leave Colchester to sample the delights of the wild and windy Norfolk Broads. The first task of the exercise was to teach everyone capsize drills and here the troop personnel showed just how quick they were to learn as most of them seemed to grasp the art of capsizing without being shown. Unfortunately for **LCpl Dave Marriott** the Broads were neither as clean or as deep as the tourist posters would have us believe as on surfacing he was covered in a black smelly mud pack.

After the first day of getting wet the rest of the week was spent paddling along the rivers with the admin party moving by road to set up new camps. For his sterling work as IC Admin **Sgt Fred Tedby** has been put forward to join the recce section for all future exercises as he managed to site all the base camps within easy reach of the local pubs; in fact at one location he managed to set up in the car park of the Ferry Inn. To round off the week a 'J' Troop version of 'It's a Knockout' was organised and the final day saw everyone getting just as wet as they had on the first day. This competition brought an enjoyable end to the exercise.

'It's a Knock Out'
Sig Paddy Leitch and Sig Farrah Fawcett about to get wet with Sig Charlie Drake giving a helping hand

BOOK REVIEW

THE WINGED MESSENGER, by Pierre E. Hall. Published by The Regency Press Ltd., 401 pages, illustrated.

There have been biographies written by many officers of the Armed Services but very few published by those who did not reach commissioned rank. This book is therefore believed to be unique in that it is the story of a soldier who enlisted at the age of 17 and had reached the rank of RSM when he left the Active Army after 24 years' service. It is also, so far as is known, the only biography published by an 'Other Rank' of the Corps.

When the author was 10 years old, a Regular NCO of the Corps came to live with his parents as a paying guest and regaled the young boy with tales of life in the Army and the North West Frontier of India, which fired him with enthusiasm and a determination to become a regular soldier, preferably in Royal Signals. This enthusiasm for and dedication to a Military Career never left him throughout his service. Accordingly when he was 14 he joined the Territorials as a Boy in the Royal Engineers and on reaching the age of 17 enlisted in the Queens Royal Regiment transferring to the Corps on completion of his Recruit Training. This book describes in great detail his life, experiences and impressions in the Corps and afterwards with the Zambian Army and with a civil engineering firm in Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia. It will bring back nostalgic memories to those who served at the same time even though some may query the validity of some of the facts and disagree with some of his opinions. It is none the less an interesting and readable book which should appeal to those who have never served in the Army as much as to past and present members of the Corps.

De luxe hard cover edition, signed by author. Cost, including packing and postage is £9.60. Cheques to:-

Mr. P. E. A. Hall
'Kohima'
1030 Harrow Road
Wembley, Middlesex
HQ0 2QT

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

RAPID MOVES

The period has seen more personality changes in the Squadron than normal. **Capt Gareth Smith** was promoted on posting and the Squadron wishes him the best of luck in 7 Sig Regt. In August **Lt John Hall** departed for Australia on Ex *Long Look* and **2Lt Ray Trevisan** arrived only to be told 'Don't unpack, you are visiting BAOR whilst the Squadron goes on block leave.' He spent an enjoyable three weeks with 21 Sig Regt, during which time he made a whistle stop tour of Europe. Places visited included Paris, Mosel and Bavaria.

To cover for our regular Yeoman's attendance on a pre-loan service language course in mid-September, **SSgt (YofS) John Chilcott** arrived for a three month stint in the Squadron. His feet barely touched before he was off; this time on Ex *Ample Express* in Denmark.

As if all these rapid moves were not enough, **2Lt Hugh Mullan** arrived on Friday 30 September to be told 'Dinner Night tonight, Exercise Monday.' There is, however, no truth in the rumour that the Squadron refuses any LTA date that doesn't coincide with an exercise.

EXERCISE *AMPLE EXPRESS*

The entire Squadron, less the rear details led by **RQMS Ray Jeffery** and **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes,** both shortly to leave the Squadron, deployed on the exercise in a mixed Sea/Air move. The pace of the exercise was gentle, giving those who have been before the chance to rediscover the delights of Denmark and those new to the Squadron, their first taste. It is rumoured that one or two individuals may be skipping off work to return for a social/cultural visit.

ASCENSION ISLANDS PROJECTS

The Squadron has had men detached in support of the RAF on Ascension since the start of Op Corporate. Our remaining lineman **Sgt Mick Howie** who specialises in one off projects in distant places has again been called upon to demonstrate his talents to those lonely souls on Ascension; leading a mixed team of 1 Signal Group Tele Mechs and linemen in yet another line task. The prospects of entrenching 5Km of cable in the Ascension 'lunar' surface was a daunting one, but the team buried the cable in record time.

VISITORS

The Squadron was visited by **Maj Gen Stibbon,** Commandant RMCS and Commander Shrivenham Station. The photographs show the more unusual aspects of the visit.

The OC, Maj Tony Kimber demonstrates a drill movement — thought to be of RAF origin — peculiar to the Squadron as Maj Gen Stibbon prepares to salute Sgt Martin Aubrey

The OC and WO2 (YofS) Dave Gruncell look on as Maj Gen Stibbon and LCpl Charlie Goodman practise a few callisthenics

The YofS and the General test LCpl Charlie Goodman in the 'retriever role' as the QC acts as an impartial judge

CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES
JOB VACANCIES

Commissionaire—Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Salary £4,014–£4,563 p.a. Pensionable. Full uniform. Under age 60. Urgently needed. *Log 47*

Gate Security—Ware, Herts. £5,000–£6,000 p.a. No further details available. *Log 181*

Housekeepers Asst.—Reading, Berks. Plain clothes as supplied. £4,500 p.a. *Log 174*

Commissionaire—Office Block Richmond. £85 p.w. *Log 187*

Caretaker—Full uniform. Office block NW1. Fit and active, preferably experienced. Approx. £100 p.w. *Log 171*

Commissionaire/Receptionist—Full uniform. Office Block SW3. 0830–1800hrs 5 days. £6,000–£7,000 p.a. or can be split duty if two suitable applicants available. *Log 186*

Static Guard. 0800–1800hrs 5 days. Full uniform. Basic housekeeper duties. Wages negotiable. Presumably Jewry St. EC3. *Log 185*

Commissionaire—Club in Old Broad St. EC2. 37½hr week at £80 p.w. No further details available. *Log 000*

Uniformed Estate Patrolman—West London. Approx. 40hrs. Approx. £6,000 p.a. Age limit 55. Must live in West London. *Log 155*

Reception/Security—Grafton St. W1. £6,500 p.w. Preferred age 45–55. *Log 188*

Uniformed Doorman—Must be able to drive—Davies St. W1. Moving to Bond St. W1. £5,000. To be as young as possible and fit. *Log 183*

Uniformed Doorman—New Bond St. W1. 39hr week at £100 p.w. *Log 148*

The Corps of Commissionaires,
3 Crane Court,
Fleet Street,
London EC4A 2EJ.
Tel: 01-353 1125/6/7.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

PREPARATION FOR DENMARK

The Squadron returned from block leave on 22 August minus the late arrivals who had the usual lame excuses. Those present received the good news of the following promotions: **Cpl Gordon McKenzie** and **Sgt Dave Fuller,** who now joins Main Tp. The first task in hand was the preparation of the Vehicles for Denmark. Ex *Adventure Express* in Turkey had taken its toll and a lot of hard graft was needed from the troops in order to get the vehicles back on the road.

KIWI CLEAN UP

One again this responsibility had to be met and the task went to Main Tp. The clean up was completed in a day and various new vocations in life were discovered: **Cpl Geordie Storey** posing as a Canadian 'look-a-like' on the Strimmer and **LCpl Eddie O'Kelly** discovered that it was possible to get a ¾ Ton GS into top while driving down a 1.1 chalk slope.

SUMMER BIATHLON

Following a week of early morning runs, designed to loosen everybody up after the summer break, some good times were expected from the event this year. However the event result was finally decided on shooting ability and not on running time. **Sig Barker** took first place after recording a maximum score of 20 at the range. **LCpl Redman** and **Cpl McNally** taking 2nd and 3rd places, **Lt Col Leonard** representing the Comd HQ 1 Sig Gp presented the Kiwi Trophy.

Sig Stephen Barker receiving the Kiwi Trophy from Lt Col Leonard 1 Signal Group

EXERCISE *AMPLE EXPRESS* — DENMARK
MOVEMENT

The first phase of the exercise went smoothly. All flights and boats leaving and arriving more or less as planned. The first casualty however occured two miles out of the docks when the last packet drove past a bemused looking **YofS Pete Wykes** who was holding the Radcon gear stick in his hand at the time. By the 15 September the Squadron box was set up in Ringsted Barracks, ready for the next phase of the exercise.

FIELD EXERCISE

A few quiet days were spent checking vehicles and radio kit, being visited by VIPs and wondering how to get hold of a few more of those now closely guarded American Camp Cots. Amongst the mild confusion that followed the new COMAMF(L)'s movement order, the squadron deployed to the field on the 18th and 19th, alternate Headquarters actually moving at night!

In every respect the squadron had a good exercise: providing good VHF and HF Communications, showing flexibility at the daily changing staff requirements and educating the non English speaking users in Voice Procedure.

There were the usual noteable incidents: **FofS Christopher Fielding** showing not only complete confidence in the system when, on entering Radcon at Alternate Headquarters, he inquired 'is there any chance of getting in contact with anybody from here?', but also a profound knowledge of army abbreviations when the following was logged: 'This is the FofS ringing from the FAA to tell the techs at Ech CP to bring FRT to the FAA with a DMU ASP'.

ECHELON

Echelon CP set up independently and was able to provide better support for both Headquarter elements. This produced an extra task for the line section at Alternate. They completed this after getting a lift from a grounded Gazelle helicopter which they had to literally 'bump start'. **Sig Oscar Clutterbuck** suffered the pre-posting blues and failed to impress the SSM, **WO2 Glenn McArdle** with his erratic driving skills.

The high point of the exercise was when all stood to, only to find that the enemy advance had by-passed them and that their location was now a few miles in front of the blue forces FLOT. The problem was solved when echelon reappeared near Alternate's new location with big smiles and no questions asked (white mine tape possibly?).

MAIN

Meanwhile up at the sharp end the enemy had succeeded in finding Main Headquarters, if only in patrol strength. Radio Village however was ready for them with trenches dug, despite **LCpl Wilkinson's** insistence on using the pick on his foot and not on the ground. The attack was broken off (rumour has it that they tasted some of **LCpl O'Kelly's** curry) and life returned to normal. The following day it was proved beyond reasonable doubt that after two weeks on compo rations, burdened down with a 'loo' roll and a pistol, a Squadron OC is quicker than a 'Senior' Yeoman over 50 metres.

ALT

Alternate had a quiet exercise, only having command for a brief period. The initial night move, completed in a storm proved interesting, especially when the no light rule was actually enforced. Stand to produced a new meaning to the term "interlocking arcs of fire" when **Sgt Jimmy Jameson** pointed out to OC Main Tp that his arc of fire included four members of the US HQ Coy. The highlight of the exercise was when the Radcon crew, assisted by the 2IC, went to the aid of **Sig Shawn Brookes,** he had reported being attacked by a large rat. (For Sale, one very small field mouse, 5 DKr ONO).

PR

The Squadron participated in a four sided football tournament which took place at the Danish Signal School. The 12 man squad assembled having travelled the length and breadth of Denmark via various forms of transport. The other three teams were provided by the German Wire Company, the Danish Sgts School and a team from the Signals School itself.

The squadron beat the Signal School 5—1 in the first round and met the German Wire Company, who had an easy 5—0 victory over the Sgts School, in the final. The match itself was quite hard, with a lot of niggling tackles taking place. However in the words of the Captain, **Sgt George Cook,** 'we kept our cool' and the squadron went on to win 3—2. **Sig Steve Barker** scored four goals in total and **LCpl Tony Redman** had two good warm up games prior to joining the Corps squad.

NATO CHALLENGE CUP

With two previous successive victories, the first exactly two years ago on the 25 September 81, the Squadron was looking for its third win. The opposition was known to be harder this year, other minor units being keen to acquire the cup. Also, although competing in the Major Units cup, the team from the 1st Parachute Battalion were obvious contenders for being out right winners. The run went well, determined leadership being shown by the 2IC **Capt Scott Ewing,** whose career was in the balance. The squadron team was one of the fastest up to and through the assault course and after experienced pace making from YofS **Mick Altham** the team finished with a running time of 75 minutes. Despite being unable to zero their weapons, the team shot well and achieved the highest SLR score, beating all teams entered by 1 Para! The only Team to beat us at the range was the AMF(L) Workshop who fired SMG's from 75 metres. Overall the Squadron retained the challenge cup having a joint second fastest running time with a team from 1 Para but winning the minor units outright.

Sig Paddy Harkness stealing rations from Sgt Jimmy Jameson during the NATO Challenge Cup assault course

Sgt Jim Perry preparing for the NATO Challenge Cup

FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS

The Squadron recently said goodbye to **Lt Alan McComb,** off to the RMCS to receive an education! He is replaced by **Lt Graham Norris** who now takes over Main Troop. Starting alongside him is **Cpl David Hamilton** who steps into the Line Detachment Commanders slot, after the departure of **Cpl Steve Chopping.** Meanwhile in Support Troop **SSgt Max Williams,** takes over from **SSgt 'Stretch' Dalton** who is still here.

Sgt 'I never go anywhere without my shaving foam' McClune

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

LEMONED—AN OLD CYPRUS TRADITION

Turning to the ever smiling Chief Clerk, **SSgt Ray Smith** (one of these days I'll find out why he's always smiling), I innocently asked who was doing *The Wire* notes this month. His answer was that there was an old tradition that it was OC Squadron's turn in September. Now I'm learning a lot about old traditions in this Squadron and I cannot honestly say I like many of them so far. For example, in the land of Keo and Emva Cream and a hundred other excellent sherries, why is it an 'old tradition' that the Squadron Commander buys Harvey's Bristol Cream after the Corps Sunday Service? However, I've also learned not to fight old traditions and that includes the QM, **Maj Eric Le Quesne**!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

So what news from the centre of power? We said goodbye some time ago to **SSgt Pete Wilson** and his wife **Pam** and had to wait a while for his replacement, **SSgt Frank McAleer,** to arrive. How little we appreciated that golden age, with SHQ untroubled by RTg SSgts. Anyway it's all over now! **SSgt 'The Beast' McAleer** has arrived and nothing will be quite the same again. Our thanks go to 249 Sig Sqn for their generosity; we'll find a way to get even! Seriously though, welcome to **Frank** and **Helen** and we hope that we enjoy the rest of their tour. We must also welcome **Sgt John Somerville** and **Sig Taff Price** and families as new additions to the MT section.

HQ Troop continues to support the rest of the Squadron to its usual high standards and even supports the Hodgson Shield points table as well although there are dangerous signs after the swimming, won by Mountain Troop, and orienteering, also won by Mountain Troop, that we may have to make a real effort in the Tug-of-War to avoid getting into the top three! That would never do . . . I gather it's another old tradition!

CAPTAIN WHO?

We had one embarrassing incident quite recently when the Chief Clerk noticed someone in the 2IC's office. When challenged, the blonde haired, sun tanned figure claimed to be the 2IC, **Capt Tim Gigg,** and since no one could remember what the real one used to look like, we've just had to let him carry on. He does seem to know what he's doing and he does know the safe combination, so we suppose it's OK. The SSM, **WO2 Ian McSherry** thinks he is actually a clone and the real **Capt Gigg** is on a course somewhere in UK.

SNAKEBITE!

And speaking of the SSM, he is down at Akamas for his two week snake aversion therapy course. The fact is that he doesn't like snakes, but living in Episkopi he doesn't see many and so as time passes he begins to think more kindly of these lowly creatures. This is where Akamas comes in . . . the constant danger of being attacked by hordes of venomous snakes sharpens up his reflexes and hones his survival skills to a point where he can return to Episkopi prepared for the very worst. Word has leaked out that the example of **LCpl Robbo Robson** who used his posterior to gauge the lethality of an Akamas viper and survived (despite the fact that no one could be found to suck the poison out!) has led to the Sergeant Major moving out of the back of the 4 tonner . . . and he now sleeps on the roof! We also confidently expect a new series of war stories arising from this year's camp, which no doubt will grace a future issue of *The Wire* but we wonder if the TOT, **Capt David Finighan,** and the SSM will explain how they managed to drive 12 miles to refill the water bowser trailer only to find when they got there that the bowser had become detached some 11.9 miles back. No doubt there will be an excuse but it will need to be good.

OP HYPERION OR 'WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?'

As things go on and on in the Lebanon, we continue to see 30 Sig Regt personnel passing through fairly frequently. We assume they go on somewhere, because we seldom see them again and for all we know, we could actually be the holiday end of a Blandford based travel firm. Anyway, we're thinking of getting a little desk at Air Movements in Akrotiri with '259 Sig Sqn (Aphrodite's Own) Reception Desk' on it and manning it with a handsome Tele Mech (is there such a thing?) with a badge which says 'We try harder' or somesuch. Actually we quite enjoy our supporting role and don't mind at all, but if 30 Sig Regt had a troop of say 40 WRAC who wanted to be 'rotated' through Cyprus, we'd be even happier!

AND FINALLY . . .

We owe thanks to Communications Branch for our tailpiece this time. As background, the TOT **Maj Des O'Connor** has become quite involved with local archaeology and so one day . . .

And it came to pass that on the first day of the week, Commander Communications entered into his office, summoned his page and sayeth.

'Where are my SO2 Tels and my TOT?'

'Verily, sir' replied the page, 'they are on leave and I know not where they are'.

Commander Communications was sore vexed at this and said:

'Summon unto me one or another so that the branch may labour'.

After some time passeth, the page reported to his master, 'Sir, the SO2 Tels is in his house and the TOT is in a grave at Sotira'.

'Send for them both' sayeth Commander Communications and lo within one hour the SO2 Tels did labour anew at his desk but the TOT did not return for another week.

First Moral. The wrath of Commander Communications is very great and has powers to summon even TOTs from the grave.

Second Moral. Allow a week to get a TOT back from the grave no matter who you are.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

SQUADRON ORIENTEERING COMPETITION
Report by Sgt Terry Hayes

On Friday 12 Aug at 0600 hrs in 'the Valley' the Squadron assembled (er . . . paraded) for the big day. All the fit and strong young men that make up our Squadron were there, along with the old and tired which make up the remainder.

A quick brief by yours truly and **Cpl (now Sgt) Mayne,** to tell the slower witted to look at the coloured side of the map, and we were off. Seriously though, there was keen competition among those who had done it before, and interest shown by many who hadn't.

A FAST TIME

The course was about 5–6 km, though a few covered many more, and the winner **Sgt Martin Leighfield** really did well by finishing in an extremely fast time of 44 mins, second and third, **Sgt Steve Anderson** and **LCpl Spike Hughes** were only a shorty way behind; a very good effort by all. The rest of the Squadron were then staggered (and some did) behind, with several surprises, the tortoise and the hare syndrome all over again.

WON BY MAINT TROOP

The Troop Competition was won by Maint Troop, and all the prizes were presented by our OC, **Maj Emslie,** in the world famous Bitsa, over a few well deserved Dextro Tablets. In the aftermath only a few complaints were heard, one such complaint came from RQMS **WO2 Geoff Marshall** who asked, along with his whistle and compass, could a pacestick be included for the more military minded? A rumour from the Chief Clerk, **Sgt John Nicol,** 'They never taught me this on the course.'

All in all it was generally agreed that although a first time event it was worthwhile, and not just another run in the Bondu.

THE LEBANON

All of the RTGs in 262 Sig Sqn are on virtually permanent standby to go to the Lebanon, or act as radio operators on Landing Crafts moving between Akrotiri and Beirut. The first to be called up was **LCpl Dave Thomas** who had been back in the Troop for two days, after successfully completing his Detachment Commanders Course in England. He was away for 36 hrs on an RPL with 58 Port Sqn RCT, moving from Akrotiri to Beirut and back again. Now **Cpl Chris Pugh** is working with the British Contingent of the Peace Keeping Force for two weeks while one of their operators is taking a well deserved R & R. **Cpls Chris Bean, Keith Roach** and **Sig John Eccles** have now also acted as the radio operator on an RPL crossing between Cyprus and the Lebanon. A rear link is also being operated in Episkopi by **LCpls Dave Thomas, Taff Twohigg** and **Sig Dave Chapman,** so the troop is being kept very busy.

DHEKELIA ONE MILE SWIM

This event is held annually and is a one mile swim in the mediterranean starting from Dhekelia Jetty. The Squadron had several competitors and quite a few fun swimmers. **LCpl Fred Steel,** (our very own Army Water Polo player) won the event setting a new record, almost five minutes faster than last year's winner. Other Squadron entrants were **Maj Malcolm Emslie's** wife **Gail, Capt C. C. McColville, SSgt Joan Wilmot, LCpl Taff Cummings** and **Sig John Eccles**.

1983 SWIMMING SEASON IN CYPRUS

LCpl Fred Steel captained and trained Dhekelia Garrison swimming team throughout the season. Both the mens and the ladies team won their respective leagues. **LCpls Fred Steel, Taff Cummings** and **Sig John Eccles** were members of the mens swimming and water polo teams and **LCpl Babs Statham** of the ladies team. All of them then went on to represent the Army against the RAF. The mens team won both the swimming and the water polo and the ladies event was a draw.

LCpl Fred Steel with Dhekelia Garrison Ladies Swimming Team

COMMS TP (RADIO & MT)
DHEKELIA BOARDSAILING CLUB
Report by SSgt Steve Bailes

For the past two years boardsailing in Dhekelia has been a booming sport. The struggle from a humble beginning of one board on a car roof rack to a club house with equipment valued at over £12,000, has meant a great deal of work for the troop, both past and present.

From some of the original sailors, **LCpls Sammy Simcox, Dave Willis, Cpl Ken Jones** and **LCpl Terry Crosby,** to construction crew, **LCpl Tiny Brint, Sig Tim Babbage** and more recently **LCpls Taff Twohigg, Keith Roach, Sig Ian Richardson, Lightning Peters, John Eccles** and **Boris Cadwallader** and the back-up team of **LCpls Danny Joyce, Fred Steel** and **Sig Dave Gillespie** and **'Wurzel Corner'**, the Club has gone from strength to strength.

The most recent Troop Contribution was the dismantling and re-siting of a Twynham prefabricated hut in no more than 80 man hours-which must be a world record! Many thanks from all Club members.

Not only has the Troop proved itself in the engineering department but has recently shown its expertise at communicating in *Ex Mercury Cover*. Troop detachments came 1st, **Cpl Keith Roach** and **Sig Eccles,** and 3rd, **Cpl Alf Garnett** and **Sig Price** out of all the Signal units and detachments stationed on Cyprus.

CROSS COUNTRY

This year's cross country season started late in August with the 12SU relays. The Squadron 'A' team consisting of **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey, Sgt Alan Geddes, LCpls Matt Helm** and **Spike Hughes** were 3rd and **WO2 (FofS) John Turvey** did the fastest lap of the day. So the Squadron runners are all set for a good cross country season and are at the moment training for the Cyprus Walkabout which takes place in October.

SGTS MESS NEWS

The Squadron seniors made quite a splash in the Garrison Sgts Mess recently. On behalf of all the Warrant Officers & SNCO's of the Squadron **WO2 (RQMS) Geoff Marshall** presented the Mess with a collage of the Squadron painted by our own Yeoman of Signals. This was gratefully received by the GSM, **WO1 Mick Davies RCT,** in the presence of most of the Mess members and not a few Officers of the Garrison. This presentation symbolises the complete integration of the Squadron in Garrison Mess life and the painting now occupies pride of place over the fireplace. Our photograph shows the artist **SSgt (YofS) Mervyn Finch** with the GSM and, of course, the painting.

SSgt (YofS) Mervyn Finch with his painting and the GSM

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

On Wednesday, 31 Aug, an inter Troop Hockey competition organised by **Cpl Keith Roach** was played in the blistering afternoon heat. The SHQ team comprising **Lt C Owen** (att from RMCS Shrivenham), **WO2 (SSM) John Farrell, WO2 (RQMS) Geoff Marshall, Sgt John Nicol, Cpls Keith Roach** and **Alf Garnett** with reserves **SSgt (YofS) Merv Finch** and **Cpl Bill Hunter** showed the rest of the Squadron how to play 6-a-side hockey properly. Our commiserations go to Line Section who played a hard but good game.

266 Sig Sqn
(South Atlantic)

THE CHIEFS

The management of the Squadron is:

OC	Maj J. A. Grierson
2IC	Capt I. P. Brownlee
QM (T)	Capt (QM) R. L. Stark
AO	Capt N. H. Denning
SSM	WO2 (SSM) G. J. Mason BEM
Chief Clerk	SSgt (ORSQMS) N. H. Hastie BEM
SQMS	SSgt (SQMS) W. A. Pounder
Line Tp Comd	Capt G. Platts
RR Tp Comd	Lt J. S. A. Lancaster
Commcen Tp Comd	WO2 (YofS) A. M. Stokoe
TM Tp Comd	WO2 (FofS) B. L. Randerson
R Tp Comd	SSgt W. Henderson
MT Det Comd	Sgt C. Holden
Power Det Comd	Sgt R. E. Thompson

Maj John Grierson signs for the Squadron from Maj Bob Brewis

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMING OF THE SQUADRON

LCpl Paul Smith, Maj Gen K. Spacie

The Squadron celebrated its 1st Anniversary on 28 July. This happened to coincide with the transmitting of the 'one millionth message'. The Commander British Forces Falklands **Maj Gen K. Spacie OBE** kindly consented to transmit the message. The squadron celebrated both events with a very entertaining talent evening (smoker) in the Grand Town Hall of Stanley. The stag disco was a sight to be seen.

ON THE MOVE

Maj Brewis on his way to the airport, driven by LCpl Paul Foley

Maj Bob Brewis presenting Capt Peter McGann with his farewell mars bar

The quick turnover of personnel continues and two notable departures were that of the OC **Maj P. R. Brewis** and the Admin Offr **Capt P. T. McGann. Maj Bob Brewis** could always be seen travelling around Stanley on the Squadron motorbike, in any weather. To make sure he didn't take it home as a 'gizzit' we chained it to a landrover and drove him and the motorbike away from the Squadron. **Capt Peter McGann,** among his many administrative duties, found time to run the Squadron PRI shop. He always claimed he had the biggest mars bars in the world so as a farewell gift the lads made sure he left with a suitable souvenir. To those who have recently left the Squadron for pastures new, thank you for all your hard work. To those who have just arrived welcome and 'Nobody's got that long to do'.

SUN NEWSPAPER—REPORTING TEAM

The Squadron hi-jacked **Shan Lancaster** and **Roger Bamber** of Sun newspaper fame and we gave them a guided tour of the unit, with which they were suitably impressed. They were in the Falklands to get a story on the lines of 'It ain't half cold mum'. Being Royal Signals we duly provided some seedy characters and clothing from the QARANCS and produced our Squadron Concert Party, which resulted in a centre page spread in the Sun on 4 August.

'It a'int half hot Mum' . . . rehearsals for 266 Sqn Royal Signals, Port Stanley, Falklands . . .

L to R: Cpr Dave Leaming, Cpr Stephen Stevenson, Sgt Gus Hales, SSgt Tim Crook, Lt Burt Lancaster, Cpl Kev Jones, Cpl Denis Clancey
and 'Lofty' . . . SSgt Peter Braithwaite with Sgt Maj Gary Mason and on the Gun Chief 'Nibbs' Hastie

Photo by Roger Bamber

BATTLEFIELD TOURS (OR SSM SUNDAY OUTINGS)

Every Sunday an assorted bunch of Squadron members can be seen yomping to one of the mountain battle grounds. Organised by **WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason** ably assisted by **Sgt Dave Hope** and with chief scout **Sgt Paddy Weir** out in front (being Irish, he has a built-in mine detector but has a problem with commands due to his fingers being in his ears). **Cpls Jock Main** and **Rab Mulholland** are still practising lighting their hexy burners before everyone else finishes eating. Most of the battlefields have been toured (and searched for souvenirs) with the exception of Mount Harriet, which has just been declared a blue area like the rest. This means the area has been checked by EOD and is not suspected of being mined, but you cannot be too careful.

MOTORBIKE LESSONS—COURTESY OF MT TROOP

As part of the handover of the Squadron, **Maj Grierson** signed for the 'motorbike' so decided one afternoon he had better try it out. Accompanied by the SSM, down to the MT (pig farm—2ft of mud everywhere) they tabbed. A few minutes dry training and then the OC tried; no problem and he nearly went in a straight line. The SSM tried definitely not a straight line and fell off hurting his arm. He got bags of sympathy! **LCpl Wise** our REME Mechanic said he would show us how easy it was and promptly fell off and broke his arm. He is now back in the UK with a big smile on his face. A field with 2ft of mud is not the best place to learn but **Maj Grierson** has said he will not be beaten by it (and it won't beat you either, will it Sergeant Major?, no comment!

RADIO TROOP

The purpose of Radio Troop, 266 is to provide HQ BFFI with comms to South Georgia and East/West Falklands. The Radio room is located at HQ BFFI, Stanley, and comprises of a portakabin. It is manned by three shifts, each being expertly commanded by **Cpls Dave Showell** A shift, **Bill Simpson** B Shift and **Taff Roderick** C shift, all under the eagle eyes of **SSgt Billy Henderson.**

The shifts which make up the main body of Radio Troop are reaching new levels of humour poking lighthearted fun at each other using the Troop Chunder (scrap) Book. This book must be read by all newcomers so they can obtain a lightearted potted history of the Troop before their arrival proforma is signed.

The personnel at the Rebros and S Georgia are rotated so that nobody spends their entire tour at 266 doing the same job. At the moment the following are Det Comds; **Cpls 'Rebro' Mullins, Appleby** and S Georgia **LCpl 'Charlie' George.**

The hours down here are long but very satisfying, with everybody getting down and doing their utmost to keep comms open and traffic flowing. To those of you who will be joining us, a rewarding time is guaranteed.

RADIO RELAY TROOP

Slowly the conditions out here have improved and the facilities and level of comfort available are now fairly high. The soldiers on the hill tops have a cabin with beds, lockers and heating, and a video machine and television to help pass the hours. However a cottage industry has also grown up and **Cpl Bill Gillespy** does a very good line in Falklands souvenir compo tin ashtrays.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BASE RATS!

Having completed their four months we say goodbye to **Cpl Roy Pledger** and **LCpl Clancy.** Between them they moved 61,073 kg of equipment and stores and 383 passengers. They got a bit of assistance from the Army Air Corps! Our congratulations to **Cpl Pledger** who has been awarded the Commander's Commendation, a very deserving prize to a most hard working NCO, well done!

'GUMS' McDONALD

An aerogramme arrived at HG Radio Relay saying 'Sir, please find enclosed my dentures for repair, **Cpl O. McDonald'**, but no teeth. Luckily a few days later a mystery package appeared at the dental centre. With great haste they set to work. A happy ending though as **Cpl McDonald** can give up his oxtail soup, onion soup and tomato soup. His teeth are back!

TM TROOP

OC	**WO2 (FofS) Lee Randerson**
21C	**SSgt (FofS) 'Mac' McDoland**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave Hope**

TM Tp is of the order of 45 strong and although this may seem rather a lot for a Squadron, nine technicians are deployed to out dets including **Sgt Paddy Donohoe** at S Georgia. The rest of the troop are split into a shift section and a day workers section so the only time we all get together is at Rose parades, (happy hours at a local). We even have the AO **Capt Denning** as an occasional tech so that he can come to these parades.

The troop works a 6-day week, days off being staggered by day workers so that there is 7-day workshop cover as well as the 7-day a week 24 hours working shifts.

At the moment the troop is involved in preparing the ground for a number of major projects as well as carrying on with the maintenance of very hardworked equipment. One of the minor projects which has already been tested to UK is news between BBC and FIBS. This will enable up to date news to be transmitted from the local radio station.

We are shortly to lose a few more members of the troop, notably Chief Scout **Sgt Colin Weir** and a smash and bash (RR) **Cpl Fred Topp** who did a very good job helping to build and then wire in MODUS units for the out dets. We will be sorry to lose them but will welcome their replacements.

COMMCEN TROOP
PENGUIN HUNT 21 JULY 83

Party Members: **Cpl 'bullet dodger' Colvin**
Cpl 'Quasi-modo' Crooks
Sig 'Noddy' Jones
Sig 'Goon' Noon
SAC 'Farmer-boy' Greenwood
SAC 'Ghandi' Gough
SAC 'Winston' James
(All of C Shift Joint Commcen Stanley)

The aim of the expedition was to gather photographic proof that we had been in the Falkland Islands, ie Penguins. The expedition started at 1030hrs 21 July after collection of the essential supplies required like haverbags, a Landrover (scrounged from JSMS) and a radio prised from the grips of Radio Troop (for emergency use only). The route taken was the only muddy motorway in the Falklands, similar in comparison with the tank tracks in Hohne/Sennelager and it is called the Darwin Road. It runs through the well plotted Argentinian minefields so we had to stop and photograph them just to let our loved ones back home know of the danger we were in.

THE COLONY

After an hour and quarter drive on the Falkland Islands grand prix circuit we stopped at the end of the road just before it disappeared into the bondu. We then headed south which wasn't that hard to do as that was the direction of the fence. Next a plod over the peat and rock flows for an hour before we sighted the coastline, though we did pass quite a few lakes on the way. From the top of the ridge leading down to the coastline we could see the Penguin colony, as **Cpl 'Quasi-modo' Crooks** commented on, he had never seen so many head waiters at one convention.

Down at the seashore we stuffed ourselves with our haverbags before the assault by camera on the colony. Meanwhile we could see a few groups of Penguins giving us the once over. If we had been a bit cleverer we could have taken a white shirt and **SAC 'Winston' James** could have got in close to the birds without alarming them.

It took us a little time to find the colony once we got down to the beach. What surprised us was the distance from the shore to the colony site. The birds were all alert and looking for us as we climbed the slight rise to the site. The birds were very wary as a few looked to be carrying eggs. We settled down to take some long distance shots of them so **SAC Gough, SAC James** and **Sig Noon** tried to outflank the birds to get in closer for some better snaps. However they were spotted causing the colony to 'form in a new direction', which they executed in better fashion than the Guards Depot. After satisfying our needs for photos we decided to call it a day and leave the birds to settle back into their squaddie-less way.

In conclusion, a very satisfying day away from the usual routine. It was well worth the trekking to see real Penguins and for some the only trip out of Stanley during our tour.

MT TROOP

The MT section here at Port Stanley is a wonderful place to be for any Corps driver. It is known to the rest of the Squadron as the Pig Farm, aptly named by **WO2 Gary** (I want my HGV 3 and bike licence) **Mason. Cpl Jonah Jones** informed him that first he needs his light vehicle licence!

The MT Section consists of **Sgt Chris** (who's replacing me) **Holden, Cpl Gaz** (days to do) **Dando, Cpl 'Jonah' Jones, LCpl Paul** (I've been lemoned again) **Foley, Sig (Scouse) (Grumpy) Rutter, Sig Graham** (bless you all) **Norris** and **Sig Shaun** (I want to go home) **Martin.** Also VM **LCpl Ernie** (motor bike) **Wise,** who has been replaced by **Cfn Sean Riley.** The lads would like to thank **LCpl Wise** for all his hard work during his tour with us.

We recently had a visit from the Sun Newspaper team. Missing from the photograph is **Sig Graham Norris** and **Sig Shaun Martin** absent on duty.

Finally the lads would like to pass on to any driver coming to join us out here 'don't forget your wellies'. The drivers out here work an average 12¼ hours a day, six days a week (days off are staggered). Its hard work but very interesting and gives the lads a chance to do first line repairs.

L to R: LCpl Ernie Wise (REME), Sig Scouse Rutter, Cpls Jonah Jones, Gaz Dando (on bonnet), Shan Lancaster, Roger Bamber, LCpl (Lemon) Foley, Sgt Chris Holden

LINE TROOP

The troop is divided into two sections one of Telemechs up at RAF Stanley and the other of Linemen in Stanley, both commanded by **Capt Gordon Platts.** There are a huge number of projects in various stages of planning or work, that involve the linies a lot. Any soldier who joins Line Troop certainly learns a huge amount of his trade and the work is greatly enjoyed by all. Occasionally a welcome break appears in the routine.

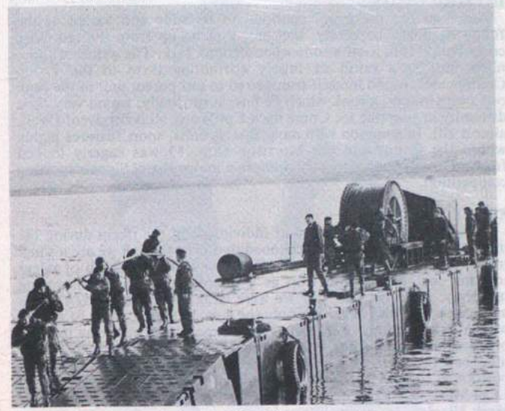
VISIT TO HMS *BROADSWORD*

Several members of the troop accompanied the OC on a visit to HMS *Broadsword* which proved to be an excellent day out. You have presumably heard of the failure of the chip vans, you can't get chips here unless you visit the Navy. With typical Naval hospitality to contend with, partings were protracted and they lost six Signalmen in the seamans mess but many thanks Navy.

Other good social activities were organised and Line troop were determined to keep their end up: An excellent barbecue took place in August, though you seldom have a barbecue with the temperature *–1*. Congratulations to cook **LCpl Jock Gray.**

And so lastly a great milestone for Royal Signals, the first major submarine cable laid since the war was done by 266 Sig Sqn on Sun 11 Sep 83. The drum first had to be lifted on to the maxifloat, it was then carried to the crossing point. The steady unwinding across the harbour went smoothly but the hardest part was to pull the last 300mm off and manhandle that, at 0.9 tons/100m, off the drum and into the ground. In the final pull OC **Capt Gordon Platts** was left supporting the length, and he collapsed backwards into the peat!

A MILESTONE



'Me?'
L to R: LCpls (Me?!) Gray, Pearson, Cpls Tierney, Murray, Sig Sloan, Burge (Tech Stmn, Hon Lmn), Sgt Thomas, Member of Port Sqn (back to photo), OC Capt Platts, Cpl Coulson with Cpl Harman on the right hand side and LCpl Viner on the left hand side of the drum. Thanks to 73 Port Sqn re the remainder

QM (T)

Between the last week in May and the first 10 days in June a complete changeover of staff occurred.

QM Dept 66
Standing L to R: LCpl Georgie Vance, Cpl Mal Brookes, LCpl Dave (Kelly's) Maw, LCpl Corky Cork, Sig Robbo Robson, Sig Spike Burge
Sitting L to R: Sgt Mick Swallow, SSgt Bill Pounder, Capt R. Stark (QM), Sgt Gerry Rose, Cpl Bryan Carbury

PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt (QM) Stark**
SQMS	**SSgt Bill Pounder**
Account Sgt	**Sgt Gerry Rose**
Armourer	**Cpl Bryan Carbury**
Expense/R & I	**Cpl Mel Brookes**
FATSO	**LCpl George Vance**
Supply	**LCpl Dave Maw**
Accn Coastel	**Cpl Corky Cork**
Demand	**Sig Geordie Robson**
File/Expense	**Sig Spike Burge**

– News from Troops –

We have had a busy but eventful 3¼ months in the QM dept. Half the Squadron have now moved into new living accommodation on the Floating Hotel Safe Esperia. The other half of the squadron has moved to Lookout Camp, windy city, along with a fair amount of offices thus splitting the Squadron. This involved a lot of QMing effort! The QM dept was included in the move up to Lookout Camp lock, stock and equipment, and completed the move by 6 Aug.

The QM, **Capt** (I have an Airbridge) **Stark,** has been very busy liaising with other Quartermasters on the Island, and making sure that correct accounting procedure is being carried out by the Squadron (I had to put that in!). He is now a confirmed 'Gozomie' and was last seen heading to the Coastel to pack a couple of boxes. **SQMS Bill** (can I borrow your bergen, sir) **Pounder** is still finding it difficult to be in three places at one time, the Coastel, Lookout Camp and Kelly's Garden. He is responsible for all SQMS and Q type tasks. At present he has gone on a tour of all out detachments for R & R! **Sgt Gerry** (before my time) **Rose** has just about managed to clear his 'in' and 'pending' trays after completing the AF G1098 comparison and 100% stockcheck of the Squadron. He is now making a rubber stamp with BMT on it in readiness for the defence auditor's visit. **Cpl Malcolm** (likes it here) **Brookes** after only a month on the island put in for an extension, and got it. **Cpl Brookes** runs the expense store and at present is sorting out the Pack-away and all the G1098 equipment. **Cpl Bryan** (I'm not driving) **Carbury** who is not driving the dept landrover, runs the ammunition account and accommodation for Lookout Camp with help from the SQMS. **LCpl George (Gizzit) Vance** has just been promoted and used to do all the driving but now runs the FATSO account in HQ BFFI. **LCpl Dave** (Kelly's hero) **Maw** is at Kelly's Garden and has been since January 83 though in October he starts his 3rd tour over here. He must like it! **LCpl Corky** (the Coastel III rat) **Cork** who also got promoted, runs the accommodation for the Coastel with the help from the SQMS again. **Sig Geordie** (Specs) **Robson** does the filing and demands side of the accounts ('don't think he likes it though, doesn't look too healthy in the morning, must have been a good night'). Finally **Sig Spike** (I'll hit him) **Burge** came down as a Tech Storeman and found his true vocation in Line Troop against the mud. That's it from the QM's Dept 266 Signal Squadron. Hope all the blokes who arrive after we have gone enjoy it as much as we have?

RUGBY

On a Sunny, but windy Sunday morning on 25 September the rugby team made its first appearance since before the winter against a Stanley XV. The pitch recently dried out, was still suffering from being used as a Chinnok PUP. Before a capacity crowd of eight, including the Civil Commisioner, the Squadron quickly established itself as the stronger side. **Sig Dave Brudenall** opened the scoring with a try. He scored again after a fumble by the Stanley scrum half towards the end of the first half. Good light play by the pack, adventurous running in the backs and aggressive support from the back row produced a fast moving open game. **Cpls Dave Showell** and **Steve Stevenson** were tackled more often by the pitch than the opposition. The final score was 44—0 with tries from **Sig Dave Brudenall** (2), **Cpl Dave Showell** (2), **Cpl Steve Stevenson** (2), **LCpl Robert Booth** (1) and **Lt Burt Lancaster** (1) with **SSgt Bill Henderson** converting 6 of 8 attempts. We then retired to the 'Rose' for the third half.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

NATO FSS (Shetland)

THERMAL SHOCK
Report by Maj (TOT) D. B. Collins

'So, you're posted to Shetland, what have you done wrong?' That's how I learnt about my posting. To add insult to injury they'll go on to tell you all about Benbecula—the RA ranges and the Hebrides. Lucky for me I had seen a TV documentary about Sullom Voe and the oil boom in Shetland and I knew exactly where I was bound. To refresh your memory Benbecula is off the west coast of Scotland and Shetland is 180 miles NNE of Aberdeen, on the east coast.

If, like me, you are the victim of the sense of humour of the postings department and go straight from Cyprus to Shetland you are in for a slight thermal shock. I arrived during UK's hottest July on record to be met by my predecessor in woolly pully complete with Jacket, Foulweather, and this was a good day—he said. During our handover the weather was on occasions beautiful and, out of the ever present wind, quite warm. The Shetland Islands lie across the 60 parallel on the same latitude as Leningrad, Alaska, Cape Farewell in Greenland and Oslo. The reason why it's not so cold here is our old friend the Gulf Stream.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

You may well ask what are Royal Signals doing in the northernmost extremity of the British Isles. We are part of the NATO communications system known as ACE HIGH and maintain three stations of Forward Scatter or Line of Site Microwave communication links. There are approx 40 Army personnel, 1 TOT, 1 RSM, Admin Officer, sundry Radio Relay Techs, Combat Dvrs, 1 Tech storeman, 1 RAPC, 7 ACC, 1 REME. The detachment at Collafirth Hill, LOS relay, must be the most isolated in the Corps, their quarters are 2 miles from the nearest shop and 7 miles from work. The HQ of NATO FSS Shetland is 'Maybury' next door to Sumburgh Airport on the southernmost tip of Shetland, here live the admin staff and the Mossy Hill technicians. We have a thriving All Ranks Club, run on Sergeants Mess lines. The married quarters are shared with the MOD police with the BIA coming from Aberdeen to march you in!

ONLY JUST IN UK

The farthest detachment at Saxa Vord is 80 miles and two Islands away. They are in quarters supplied by the RAF and have the doubtful privilege of having to shop from NAAFI! From their station they can see, when it's not foggy or raining, Muckle Flugga lighthouse—the farthest north you can go and remain in UK.

ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING

To those who like fishing and bird watching this is an ideal posting, with conditions for both probably the best in UK. Communications are stretched here, the ferry takes 14 hours overnight to Aberdeen and it does the trip only three times a week. You can fly from Sumburgh in about an hour but this service is very dependant on the pilot being able to find the airport! Not a posting to everyone's liking but I have yet to meet anyone who has not enjoyed his tour here.

639 Sig Tp
BFPO 23

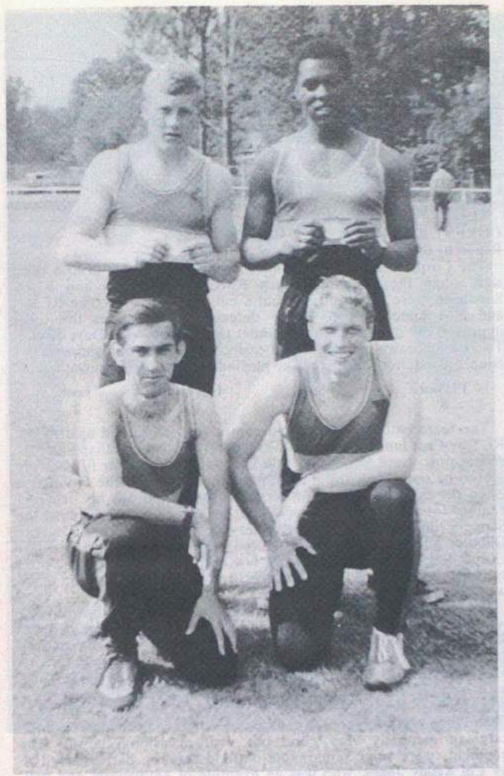
INTRODUCTION

Activities for the troop continue to be wide and varied as the following notes, hopefully, indicate. Picking up from the last Wire contribution is in itself a somewhat difficult task. The writer of those notes has, as a result of falsely attributing them to the Troop Commander, found himself transferred to our parent unit in the rank of Local Gunner, a rank which he has, surprisingly, found very little difficulty in adapting to. Come back **Cpl Wood** all is forgiven! (Well, almost all). In common with most BAOR units, sport features highly within the troop, and the Morrison Cup '83 was eagerly looked forward to as a chance to participate in a major Royal Signals sporting competition.

SPORT

As a result of the successes of individuals in the troop during the inter-battery athletics it was reckoned that even though we are a small troop (just nineteen strong), we still had a sufficient depth of talent to enter in the Morrison Cup as a minor unit without disgracing ourselves. After the first day we were lying 4th out of eleven teams and, come the final day, with only the 4 × 100 metre relay to go, we were in 3rd position. Great things were expected of our relay team as practices had been going well. However, a lack of experience and a little bad luck left us trailing in the race and we ended up in 5th position at the end of the day. Notable individual achievements were, **LCpl Mark 'Paddy' Elliot,** 1st place in the high jump 1m 75cm. **Sig Mark Higgins,** 1st in the 1500m in a time of 4mins 9secs. **Sig Danny Hart,** 2nd in the 400m, time 56—02secs. **Sig Frederick Winston 'Benson' Whyte** 2nd in the 200m. It was agreed by all that it had been an excellent two days organised by team manager, **Cpl John Coles** and team captain **LCpl Mark Elliot.** Thanks must also go to **Maj Savage** (21 Sig Regt), Meeting Co-Ord, for his help in our participation (7 Sig Regt please note to keep us on the distribution for the 1984 meeting). A small mention must be made here of other notable sporting achievements made by troop members. In the 94 Locating Regimental Athletics team selected from the troop were: **SSgt Howe** 5000m, **LCpl Mark Elliot** High Jump, **LCpl Rod Oakley** 110 MH, **Sig Mark Higgins** 1500m, **Sig 'Benson' Whyte** 200m. All found themselves back at the BAOR Sennelager Stadium, when 94 Loc Regt qualified for the BAOR stage of the Inter Unit Team Championships.

Sig 'Benson' Whyte who can't wait to pick up his Silver Medal, runner up in the 200 metres



The few that achieved honours on the day. *Standing:* Sig Danny Hart, 'Benson' Whyte. *Kneeling:* Sig Higgy Higgins, LCpl Paddy Elliot

MARATHON

After his selection to represent 1 Armd Div in the Inter-Formation Cross Country Championships, **Sig Mark Higgins** went to RAF Swinderby, for the Inter Services Marathon Championships. He was first home for 94 Loc Regt in 2hr 41 7secs. He and **SSgt Howe** are training hard for the Verden Marathon.

SUMMER CAMPS

Everyone in the troop managed at least one summer camp with the various batterys within the regiment which were held in sunny Deutschland and also Denmark. Our own 'local' camp being HQ Bty organised, made it possible for families to attend, a chance eagerly taken up by **Mrs Lin Coles** and **Mrs Caroline Verden,** who proved themselves worthy of any 'Fort George' volunteer scheme!

ATTACHMENTS

Two lads of the troop managed to escape the rigours of barrack life and found themselves working in other parts of the world. A short account follows from them. Firstly **LCpl Marty Blake** tells of his experiences in Canada.

THANKS TO 1st RHA
Report by LCpl 'Marty' Blake

Firstly I must extend thanks to **WO2 Warne RA** of RAGTE at Hohne and 1st RHA for the chance of a tour in Canada over the period of Medicine Man 3 & 4. This meant the opportunity to become a 'GUNBUNNY' on the 105mm ABBOT, others to be warned that when going out as 'Range Safety' with the Gunners don't expect to sit on your backside while the lads are grafting. They will have you loading, dumping empty shell cases and generally mucking in. Mind you, you have to hand it to the Gunners, their job is not as easy as it looks and during the course of the exercise they are really put through their paces!

Anyone getting the chance to watch the exercise as an observer should grab it. All Arms work in very close support of one another and to watch the combat teams attack going in with live firing really has to be seen to be appreciated that it doesn't leave much room, if any, for errors by anyone.

A word about the country. At the end of each Medicine Man exercise everyone is given R&R leave and if used wisely it is possible to get anywhere within Canada, or the States (take bags of money!) They are great countries to see, without doubt, and I really can't imagine anyone being stuck for something to do. Incidently the girls are really taken with the English accent!

Once again thanks to 1st RHA and a quick mention to an ex 639 troop member, **LCpl Rigsby Richards,** who is currently working in the ops room, STAG ON.

The next short account comes from **Sig 'Teddy' Stuart** who went a little closer to home — Northern Ireland.

I volunteered to go to N Ireland after 'E' Bty 1st RHA sent out an SOS for volunteers (in truth what they really needed were some real men!) As a result of volunteering I spent one and a half months in Hohne Garrison and a week and a half at Sennelager, doing 'Op Banner' training for the tour. Easy you might think but believe me training with 'E' Bty is not an easy task. For one thing the amount of PT they put us through, and if I can just add that PT is not a strong subject of mine, I'm sure you will sympathise (maybe?)

The four days spent in 'Tin City' Sennelager proved to be the most enjoyable of all the training. Bags of realism with riots, petrol bombs, stones and bricks, being thrown in abundance. What more could one ask for?

N Ireland in the end turned out to be a fairly pleasant tour. Our main rôle being the security of HMP Maze and HMP Crumlin Road, Belfast. However, we did manage to get in a fair amount of foot patrols. The highlight of my patrolling was two days spent with 1 RHF who showed me some hard areas in Belfast.

I'm pleased to say that everyone survived the tour and returned to BAOR in one piece. Should anyone from either 'E' Bty or HQ Bty 1st RHA happen to read this magazine I'd just like to conclude by saying thanks to the BC, BSM, my Troop Comdr **Lt Davies,** Troop Sgt — **Sgt Brown** of Waterloo Troop and all members of the 'Hero Brick' 43c for the way they treated me — as if I was one of their own Bty members.

FINALLY

There are a number of changes within the troop, but firstly, Congratulations to **Andy Bulmer** on promotion to **LCpl** and to **LCpl Rod Oakley** on posting to 533 RLD in the rank of **Cpl.** Welcome to **Sig A. Smith** from 8 Sig Regt and **Sig G. Gillett** from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Farewell to **Sig Keith Curr,** to 1 Inf Bde, HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sig Jock McIntyre** to 11 Sig Regt, **Sig Danny Hart** to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. All the very best of luck in your new units.

Association News

FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps, who were in receipt of a pension:

2316016	Sig E. Parish
2319236	Sgt F. W. Davies
1873571	WO1 W. N. Harrison
1868821	WO1 S. E. J. Champin
7257897	Sgt J. Enright
2318043	Sgt A. Hudson
2321217	SSgt G. H. Davis
2321705	SSgt W. T. Bromley

BRADFORD BRANCH

Report by Mrs Nora Houldsworth, Hon Sec.

The photograph taken at a recent social evening held by the branch shows members and friends who attended.

This branch was formed four years ago and monthly meetings have an average attendance of 20. We have four ex-ATS among our members and the highlight of the year is, of course, the Catterick reunion. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday in the month at the RAOB Club, Bradford.

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson, Chairman

Three retired members, namely a Major, a Captain and a Warrant Officer, travelled from Derby to Redford Cavalry Barracks, Edinburgh, happy to be guests of 38th Signal Regiment(V), at their Annual Camp and looking forward to rubbing shoulders with old comrades and to making new friends. The attention and warm welcome we received on arrival was superior to any hotel. To our delight, the WOs and Sgts mess laid on a function for Officers and guests, the entertainment and supper were excellent and a credit to all mess members. We also received an invitation to 46th Squadron party, which proved to be another happy and hectic evening.

Along with tours of the camp, breakfast at 0730 hours, bed around 0230 hours, for old soldiers, we managed the pace very well. The invitation to look in on the Tickle Test was, unfortunately, the day we sorrowfully had to return home.

The return journey was full of old memories of friends, old and new, and renderings of army ballards; also the wish that one could shed a few years and be a serving member again, with the knowledge that there is life in three 'old dogs' yet! Many thanks 38th for a very well enjoyed visit.

— Sport —

CRICKET

CORPS CRICKET 1983
Report by the Secretary—Maj C. W. Collier

The Corps team had a reasonably successful season after a poor start when the matches against RMCS Shrivenham and RMA Sandhurst were called off without a ball being bowled. The REME and RM matches were heavy defeats but thereafter the team improved out of all recognition under the skipper **WO2 Dave Taylor.** Two of the drawn matches could easily have resulted in victories if a couple of catches had stuck. The playing record for the season was:-

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
8	3	3	2

The team batted in depth and centuries were scored against the RCT by **Capt Ian Griffiths** who was fresh from an Australian Summer and against the RAC by **Sgt Bob Lawrence.** Nine other fifties were scored by six players the most notable being against the Pay Corps when the skippers' 55 n.o. in less than even time was his first half century for the Corps. **Sgt Ian Gilbert** made a patient 75 against the Sappers whilst adjusting to grass after 4 years in BAOR and **2Lt Paul Glibbery** showed enormous potential with his 85 against the Pay Corps. **Cpl Terry Gigg** also had a few useful knocks but sometimes suffered from the requirement to score runs quickly as soon as he went in.

Of the bowlers the skipper again bore the brunt of the bowling but was well supported by the opening pair **Maj Clive Collier** and **Cpl Steve O'Dare** who were steady but lacked real pace or penetration. **Lt Paul Wilkin** bamboozled the REME with his off spin taking 5 for 52 and **WO2 Bill Balding** turned in a match winning performance with his 6 for 61 in the second innings against the Pay Corps on a good batting track.

The fielding throughout the season was of a high standard with the catching generally very good but with occasional lapses. The highlights were some remarkable outfield catches, particularly two by **Cpl Kenny Jones,** who was an example of enthusiasm and willingness throughout, both on and off the field. Mention must also be made of **Cpl 'Hoppy' Hopkins** who scored in almost every match and who always kept the book looking neat and tidy.

RESULTS

REME	**165—6 dec**	**Lt Wilkin 5—52**
R SIGNALS	**41**	
Lost by 124 runs		
R SIGNALS	**113**	
	93	
RM	**157—9 dec**	**WO2 Taylor 5—56**
	50—2	
Lost by 8 wks		
R SIGNALS	**185—8 dec**	**Capt Griffiths 60, Sgt Lawrence 45, WO2 Taylor 37**
ACC	**137**	**Maj Collier 4—52**
Won by 48 runs		
R SIGNALS	**205—7 dec**	**Sgt Lawrence 102**
		Capt Griffiths 64
RAC	**177**	**WO2 Taylor 4—28**
Won by 28 runs		
RAOC	**212—5 dec**	
R SIGNALS	**184—8**	
Drawn		
R SIGNALS	**201—8 dec**	**Sgt Gilbert 75, Capt Griffiths 60**
RE	**141—6**	
Drawn		
R SIGNALS	**224—7**	**Capt Griffiths 113, Cpl Gigg 35**
RCT	**158—9**	**Capt Thewlis 4—24**
Drawn		
R SIGNALS	**233—7 dec**	**2Lt Glibbery 85, WO2 Taylor 55***
	161—3 dec	**Sgt Lawrence 60, 2Lt Glibbery 40, Cpl Gigg 32**
RAPC	**134**	**WO2 Taylor 4—17**
	185	**WO2 Balding 6—61, Maj Collier 3—9**
Won by 75 runs		

R SIGNALS v RAPC 14-15 July 1983 — Worthy Down
Back row: WO2 (YofS) W. Balding, Sig K. Stirling, Cpls K. Jones, T. Gigg, S. O'Dare, 2Lt P. Glibbery, Cpl Hopkins (scorer)
Front row: 2Lt D. Halstead, Maj C. Collier, Capt J. Thewlis, WO2 (RQMS) D. Taylor (captain), Sgt R. Lawrence, Sig K. Hunt

AVERAGES
BATTING

Name	Innings	NO	Highest	Runs	Average
Lawrence	5	1	102	241	60.25
Griffiths	6	–	113	347	57.83
Glibbery	4	–	87	164	41
Gilbert	3	–	75	100	33.33
Balding	3	1	30	60	30

BOWLING

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Wilkin	29	1	108	7	15.42
Taylor	143	41	341	22	15.5
Balding	30	2	112	7	16
Collier	99	32	274	14	19.57
O'Dare	92	32	245	10	24.5

GOLF

NEWSLETTER No. 5
Report by Maj Harry Meekings
Corps v RA

On a hot humid day on 27 July the Corps golf team met the Royal Artillery for our annual golf match to be played over the Red and Blues courses of the Berkshire Golf Club.

The morning singles proved to be a hard fought battle and although two singles were won by the Corps by 5½ to 2½ the games were very close. With the first four singles in the Corps was down by 1½ to 2 but our players at the rear came in with some good scores and all close to their handicaps.

In the afternoon the foursomes selection was decisive and some good results were produced by both teams. After drawing the game last year this was an especially good result for the Corps to win by 9 games to 3.

RESULTS

Singles			
Corps	**v**		**RA**
Maj Gen A. J. Jackson	½—½		**Lt Col Stoney**
Lt Col S. Schofield	0—1	(3/2)	**Lt Rowe**
Brig N. Hobler (3/27	1—0		**Maj Williams**
Brig N. Horler (3/2)	0—1	(3/2)	**Col Smith**
Lt Col L. Hill (2/1)	1—0		**Brig Cattam**
Lt Col B. Beattie (3/2)	1—0		**Maj A'Hearne**
Lt Col D. Hill (3/2)	1—0		**Maj Stowe**
SSgt B. Bradford (4/3)	1—0		**Col Fleetwood**
	5½—2½		
Foursomes			
Corps	**v**		**RA**
Jackson/Scholfield (2/1)	1—0		**Stoneham/Rowe**
Horler/Willcox	½—½		**Williams/Smith**
Hill/Bradford (5/4)	1—0		**Cottam/A'Hearne**
Hall/Beattie (3/2)	1—0		**Fleetwood/Stoney**
	3½—½		

Corps Win 9—3

CORPS V REME

With almost drought conditions lasting for over a month all golf courses were suffering from loss of water. Blackmoor golf course was no exception when the Corps golf team met the REME in our annual match on 17 Aug. Blackmoor has very little water on the course and everywhere the grass had been burnt to a golden brown with fairways and green baked very hard. Playing conditions were very hard for everyone, putters were even seen to be used for sixty yard approach shots.

The morning singles were evenly fought with good wins coming from **Maj Eric Gill, Maj Ray Windmill** and **Maj Harry Meekings** and a walk over was given to **WO2 George Coles** due to the REME team being a man short. Young **LCpl Steve Dixon** had a very good game just losing on the eighteenth by one down. Our mature veteran **Lt Col Stan Schofield** played his usual immaculate, well controlled game (he says) but failed to win, which is unusual for **Stan.** So at lunch the score of four all was a good result.

The afternoon foursomes were selected for youth and experience. Our first pairing of **Maj John Ient** (experience) and **Maj Harry Meekings** (youth) had a fine win of three and one with **Ient** playing some magnificent shots and having an immaculate game. Why he doesn't play off eighteen all the time is a mystery to us all. (Only kidding **John**). In our last pairing **Gill** and **Coles** had a very hard fought half. A note here for the golfing purist were the wearing of shorts for the first time by a Corps representative **(Giles** and **Coles)** the shorts were very smart but the bare knees were something to be seen. Our remaining two pairs were unable to produce a win and the Corps lost its first game of the year by 6½ to 5½.

RESULTS

Singles			
Corps	**v**		**REME**
Maj H. Meekings (2 up)	1—0		**SSgt W. Hughes**
Lt Col S. Scholfield	0—1	(4/3)	**WO1 B. Dryland**
Maj I. Ient	0—1	(6/4)	**WO1 B. Bryant**
Lt Col W. Kennedy	0—1	(3/1)	**Lt Col J. Hasting**
Maj R. Windmill (6/5)	1—0		**WO1 S. Smith**
LCpl S. Dixon	0—1	(1 up)	**Sgt R. Morgan**
WO2 G. Coles w.o.	1—0		**Lt Col T. Jones**
Maj E. Gill (6/5)	1—0		**Maj S. Labban**
	4—4		
Foursomes			
Meekings/Ient (3/1)	1—0		**Hughes/Bryant**
Schofield/Kennedy	0—1	(2/1)	**Dryland/Hasting**
Windmill/Dixon	0—1	(4/3)	**Smith/Morgan**
Gill/Coles	½—½		**Labban/Godney**
	1½—2½		

Corps Lost 5½—6½

CORPS V RAMC

The Corps were very fortunate to be playing at North Hants Golf Course on 4 October in their annual match against the RAMC. The Course was in superb condition, being made ready for the Hampshire Rose the following day. The morning round was devoted to singles and some very good scores came from **Lt Col Roy Williams** 76 and **Maj Harry Meekings** 68; other wins were recorded from **Brig Tony Willcox** and **WO2 George Coles** and a half from **Maj Ray Windmill,** giving the Corps a lunchtime lead of 4½ to 3½.

In the afternoon, St Andrews foursomes were played and the selection of partners was just about right, for our first three pairs came in with good wins. The partnership of **Lt Col Roy Williams** and **Lt Col Bill Kennedy** had a remarkable victory by being two down with three holes to go and winning on the last green. Our last pairing of **Brig Tony Willcox** and **Lt Col Gavin McKay** probably had the best results by halving the match against a very good partnership from the 'Medics'. This gave the Corps an afternoon score of 3½ to ½ and victory by 8—4. Everyone had a very good day. The overall winner was the North Hants Golf Course and this added to our great enjoyment of it all.

RESULTS

Corps	**v**		**RAMC**
Maj H. Meekings (8/6)	1—0		**WO2 R. K. Black**
Maj R. Windmill	½—½		**WO1 J. Greves**
Lt Col R. H. Williams (4/2)	1—0		**Lt Col S. Poole**
Lt Col W. Kennedy	0—1	(5/3)	**Maj N. Fairbrother**
Sgt J. Lauder	0—1	(3/2)	**Brig T. Smith**
WO2 G. Coles (8/6)	1—0		**WO1 R. Dodman**
Lt Col G. McKay	0—1	(3/1)	**SSgt P. Cheesley**
Brig A. Willcox (3/1)	1—0		**Lt Col J. Ward**
	4½—3½		
Greensomes (St Andrews style)			
Meekings/Windmill (4/3)	1—0		**Black/Greves**
Williams/Kennedy (1 up)	1—0		**Poole/Fairbrother**
Lauder/Coles (3/2)	1—0		**Smith/Dodman**
McKay/Willcox	½—½		**Cheesley/Ward**
	3½—½		

Corps Win 8—4

SAILING

DINGHY SAILING
ROYAL SIGNAL YACHT CLUB (GERMANY) DINGHY REGATTA 1983
Report by Lt Graham Taylor 22 Sig Regt

The Royal Signals Regatta took place on 1-2 September at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. The wind was Fore 1-3, shifting in direction, and challenging to the eight teams which competed. The Canon Certa Trophy awarded to the winning major unit, rested on the last leg of the final race between 14 Sig Regt and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The finely balanced race was eventually won by 14 Sig Regt who also won the trophy. 22 Sig Regt came second overall, and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, third.

The minor unit competition was won by 204 Sig Regt who were awarded the Rhine Cup. Their closest challenges were a 'Red Hatters' team which included **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE, Maj Gen (Ret'd) J. M. Saivers CB MBE** Admiral of Royal Signals Yacht Club and **Brig C. N. Last OBE.**

The Hild Trophy, awarded to the area competition winners was won by 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

There was much congestion on the start-line for the Individual event, the Maunsel Trophy, with 25 boats taking part. The races were contested in fine style, and a couple of protests indicated a healthy 'edge' to the competition. The overall results were:

1st — LCpl C. Cowell (3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt)
2nd — Lt G. M. Taylor (22 Sig Regt)
3rd — Lt Col W. Roper (14 Sig Regt)

QUADRANGULAR REGATTA

From the results of the Royal Signals Regatta, a team was chosen to represent the Royal Signals (BAOR) in a Quadrangular match against REME, Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery. The Regatta was held at the Dummersee on 12-13 September in winds of Force 5-8. Despite the heavy stall on equipment, the team enjoyed an exciting test of survival even if the conditions were not conducive to team racing. Our team was well placed to win the event until it was struck by untimely gear failure. However we did rescue the Hadrian Trophy from the REM who had held it since 1971. The Corps BAOR team was: **Lt Graham Taylor (Capt), Maj Martin Roberts, LCpls Chas Cowell, Eric Bristow, Jock Robertson, Rick Greenland.**

Three members of the Corps were chosen to represent the victorious BAOR Dinghy Team against RAF (G) on 15-16 September at the Dummersee. These were **Lt Graham Taylor, Lt George Olding,** and **LCpl Chas Cowell.**

SHOOTING

Report by Maj A. H. Symmons The Captain of Corps Shooting

The major event of the 1983 service rifle season was the re-introduction of the Corps Skill-at-Arms Meeting after an absence of two years. This event was held at Bulford/Perham Down ranges during 19–24 June, and attracted an entry of eight major units and nine minor units. We were delighted to see a WRAC team (that of 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt) who competed in SMG events but the lack of a Junior Soldiers' team was a disappointment.

The weather was kind to us, and we managed to expend a good deal of ammunition with varying degrees of effectiveness in pleasant surroundings. The meeting was suspended on the Thursday as a result of the accident on Ash ranges when all firing was banned. Fortunately this only caused us to cancel the Falling Plate, and the Army 100 Match, so the effect on the overall result was minimal.

Team results in the Unit Championship were:

MAJOR UNITS:	**1st**	**22 Sig Regt**
	2nd	**School of Signals**
	3rd	**4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt**
	4th	**21 Sig Regt**
	5th	**16 Sig Regt**
	6th	**8 Sig Regt**
	7th	**14 Sig Regt (EW)**
	8th	**30 Sig Regt**
MINOR UNITS:	**1st**	**246 (Gurkha) Sig Sqn**
	2nd	**5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
	3rd	**19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
	4th	**259 Sig Sqn**
	5th	**Junior Regt Cadre**
	6th	**233 Sig Sqn**
	7th	**8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn**
	8th	**262 Sig Sqn**
	9th	**3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt (SMG only)**

Individual championship winners were:

RSRA CHAMPION SHOT, AND CHAMPION-AT-ARMS 1983
WO (YofS) Corcoran—5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

BEST CLASS YS SHOT AND BEST CLASS B SHOT
Sig Whitehead—4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

BEST NON-R SIGNALS INDIVIDUAL
Capt Scriven REME—21 Sig Regt

YofS Corcoran was sadly prevented by a domestic crisis from collecting his silverware in person.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals Trophy was not awarded because of the cancellation of the Army Hundred. More detailed results are in your orderly rooms now.

BISLEY

The following units represented the Corps at RASAM:

School of Signals
4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
8 Sig Regt
16 Sig Regt
21 Sig Regt
22 Sig Regt
28 Sig Regt
5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
233 Sig Sqn
246 Gurkha Sig Sqn
249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
259 Sig Sqn
262 Sig Sqn

This is an increase of two major units and one minor unit over 1982

Results of note were:

Minor Units Championship: 3rd—246 Gurkha Sig Sqn

246 Sig Sqn also came 3rd in the Minor Units SMG Team Match, 1st in the LMG Match and 8th in the Team Snap.

The minor units LMG match was a good one for the Corps. In addition to the winners, we also managed 3rd place (5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), 6th (249 Sig Sqn), 7th (262 Sig Sqn) and 10th (19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), out of an entry of 36.

16 Sig Regt did well in the sniper and target rifle matches. They gained 6th place in the Short Range Match, 3rd in the Long Range and 7th in the Sniper Team Match, out of 38 entries. 16 Sig Regt 'A' team also won 1st prize in the Pistol Tiles.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn came 7th in the Team Snap, and 259 Sig Sqn 10th.

Individual results included a medal for 8th in the Roupell for **Sgt Nation** School of Signals, 4th place in the SMG championship for **LCpl Bir Bahadur** 246 Sig Sqn and 9th in the Pistol XXX for **Capt Hoole** 16 Regt, who also took 2nd place (after a shoot-off for 1st) in the Long Range Target and Sniper Rifle Match.

The Corps Methuen team came 20th. In the Woolwich Bowl competition we beat the Gunners, and managed to close the gap on the Sappers. Next year perhaps . . .

The Corps Methuen Team 1983
Standing L to R: Sgt Thomson (res), Lt Col Chaddock (Capt), Capt Hoole, WO2 (SSM) Manning (res)
Kneeling L to R: WO2 (YofS) Corcoran, Sgt Yam BDR Thapa, Sgt Chau BDR Gurung, SSgt Harka BDR Ghale, WO2 (YofS) Hindle

22 Sig Regt Team 1983 plus silver
Standing L to R: SSgt Lloyd-Williams, Cpl Keates, Lt Coupar (Capt), Lt Col Chaddock, LCpl Ford, WO2 (SSM) Manning, SSgt Reid-Roberts
Kneeling L to R: Cpl Mahon, Sig Knight, Compton, LCpl Eatwell

246 Gurkha Sig Sqn Team 1983 plus silver and friends!
L to R: SSgt Harka BDR Ghale (Capt), Capt Briant (ex QGS), LCpl Amar BDR Limbu, Maj Symmons (Capt of Corps Shooting), Sgt Yam BDR Thapa, Brig Burrows (President of Corps Shooting), LCpl Bir BDR Ghale, Sig Perandrajang GRG, Sgt Chau BDR Gurung, WO2 (YofS) Hindle (ex QGS)

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRONS AT THE CORPS SHOOT AND BISLEY 1983

Report by 259 and 262 Signal Squadrons

262 Sign from Dhekelia, Cyprus and 259 Sig Sqn from the other end of the island in Episkopi both qualified at NESAM for this year's Bisley. Prior to Bisley both teams also took part in the Corps Shoot at Bulford.

The two teams were made up of the following:

259 Sig Sqn: SSgt John Davis (Team Captain), Sgts Manny Knights and Keith Thompson, and Cpls Jock Parnell and Alfie Norrie.

262 Sig Sqn: Sgts Graham Reith (Team Captain) and Martin Leighfield, Cpls Chris Bean and Pete Latham and Sig Jim Burgess.

After much feverish activity, organising transport and accommodation in the UK, undertaken for both teams by Sgt **Graham Reith**, the two teams departed from RAF Akrotiri on 14 June. They were met at Brize Norton by a representative of 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn with two landrovers and trailers which were to be used by the teams throughout their stay in England. **SSgt John Davis** and **Sgt Martin Leighfield** both 'volunteered' to travel to Bulford with the weapons.

On arrival at 149 Sig Sqn in Bulford, it was discovered that they were on excercise in Turkey. So, there was **SSgt John Davis** and **Sgt Martin Leighfield** at 1930hrs with six boxes of weapons and kit and nowhere to go. Luckily 34 (GW) Regt RA came to the rescue and kindly agreed to store all the weapons and kit. This slight problem was to be the start of a week of trauma for both team Captains. On Sunday 19 July everybody arrived back from leave to be welcomed by a sheaf of signals, stating that all the SLR's were to be checked for defective barrels. Another batch of grey hairs appeared on both the Team Captains heads! Luckily all the weapons were found to be all right.

The Corps shoot was off to an early start on 20 June. Both teams were kept very busy, firing at least twice a day until Thursday morning when the fun shoots started, ie Team snap, Section match and the Falling Plates. By this time 259 Sig Sqn were lying third and 262 Sig Sqn, after a lot of bad luck, were bringing up the rear. By the end of Thursday 259 Sig Sqn had dropped to fourth and 262 Sig Sqn were still in last position. **Sgt Keith Thompson,** 259 Sig Sqn was the top A class shot in the Roupell Cup and **Sgt Graham Reith** 262 Sig Sqn was 5th in the SMG competition. On Friday morning the team was greeted by the headlines in the newspapers that all army ranges were closed until safety checks had been carried out. So the day was spent hanging around wondering whether Bisley would be given the go ahead or would be cancelled. It was announced that Bisley was to take place and on Tue 28 June there was a meeting for all team Captains to study the programme.

The first match was the Whitehead Cup on Wed 29 June; everybody had a good shoot. The week at the Corps Shoot obviously had been a good warm up to Bisley, everyone was performing well and it was soon evident that **Cpl Chris Bean** 262 Sig Sqn was on his way to qualifying for the Army Top 300.

Next came the SMG matches with **Sgt Bob Knights,** 259 Sig Sqn scoring 227 and **Sgt Martin Leighfield,** 262 Sig Sqn scoring 223, both teams were doing well. With good scores also coming from **Sgt Graham Reith** and **Cpl Pete Latham,** 262 Sig Sqn finished up in 4th place in the SMG match; a very creditable performance.

The LMG match then took place, each pair being just one of forty gun pairs running down the range on any single detail. At the end of the day 262 Sig Sqn's pair **Cpl Chris Bean,** No 1, and **Sgt Martin Leighfield,** No 2, finished seventh. This put 262 Sig Sqn just ahead of 259 Sig Sqn after trailing slightly behind.

The last two days of the competition were taken up with the team matches. Both the Squadrons did very well in these matches and the final positions at Bisley were 259 Sig Sqn 15th and 262 Sig Sqn 16th, so 259 Sig Sqn just pipped 262 Sig Sqn at the post by a mere 3 pts.

A special mention must go to **Sgt Keith Thompson** 259 Sig Sqn who was selected to shoot for the Corps after this his first time at Bisley.

For both teams Bisley was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Their thanks must go to the following who were so helpful during the two teams stay in the United Kingdom: The School of Signals, 34 (GW) Regt RA and 5 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

259 Signal Squadron Shooting Team
Back row L to R: Sgts Martin Leighfield, Graham Reith and Cpl Pete Latham
Front row L to R: Sgt Keith Bridger, Sig Jim Burgess and Cpl Chris Bean

262 Signal Squadron Shooting Team
Back row L to R: Sgts Martin Leighfield, Graham Reith and Cpl Pete Latham
Front row L to R: Sgt Keith Bridger, Sig Jim Burgess and Cpl Chris Bean

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1984

Stocks of the 1984 Corps diary are now available for sale. The diary is of a similar pattern to previous years. It is based on the modern slim-fold planner style. On opening, the day of the week runs across 2 pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance. The outer cover (6″ × 3½″) is in flexible blue vinyl embossed with a gold 'JIMMY'. Included with the diary is an address and telephone insert. There are also separate pages giving calendars for 1983, 1984 and 1985; listing of European holidays 1984; an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

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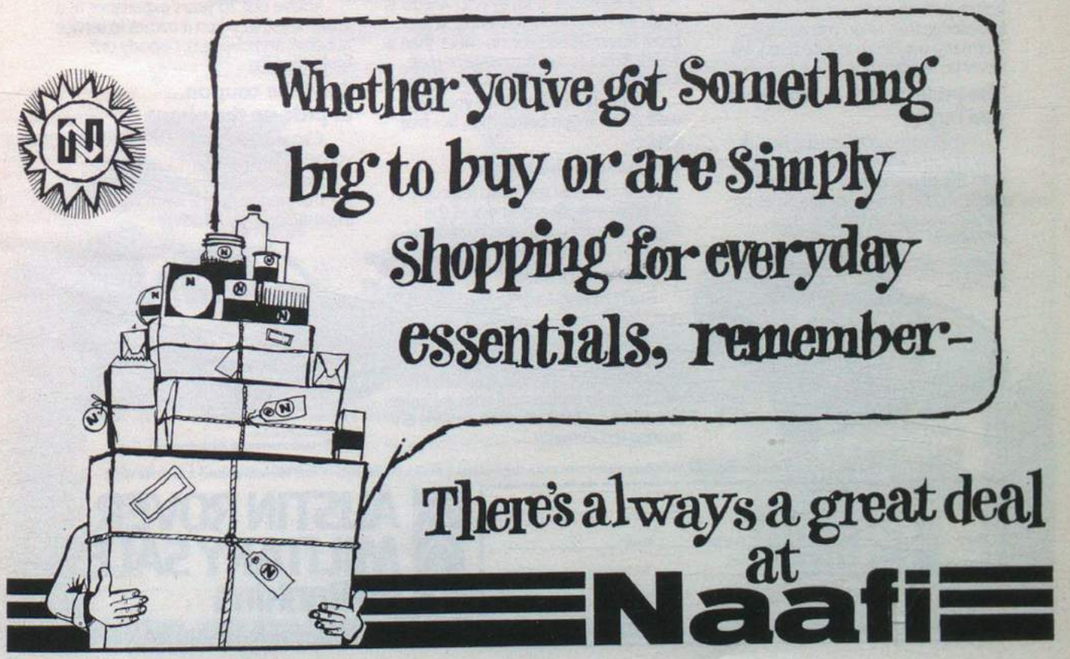

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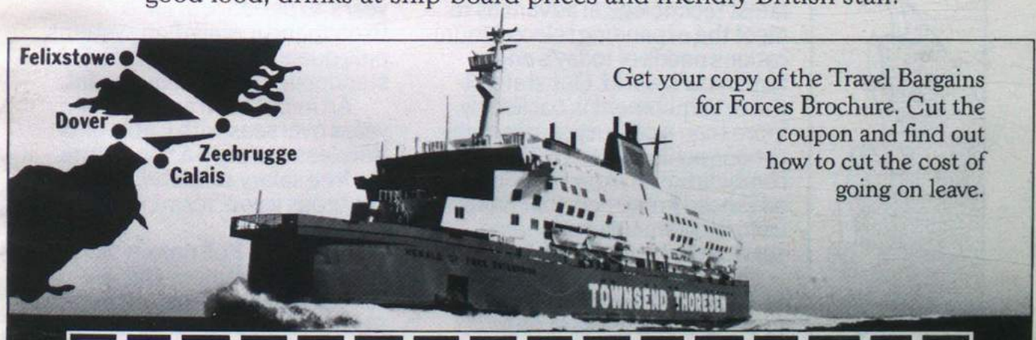

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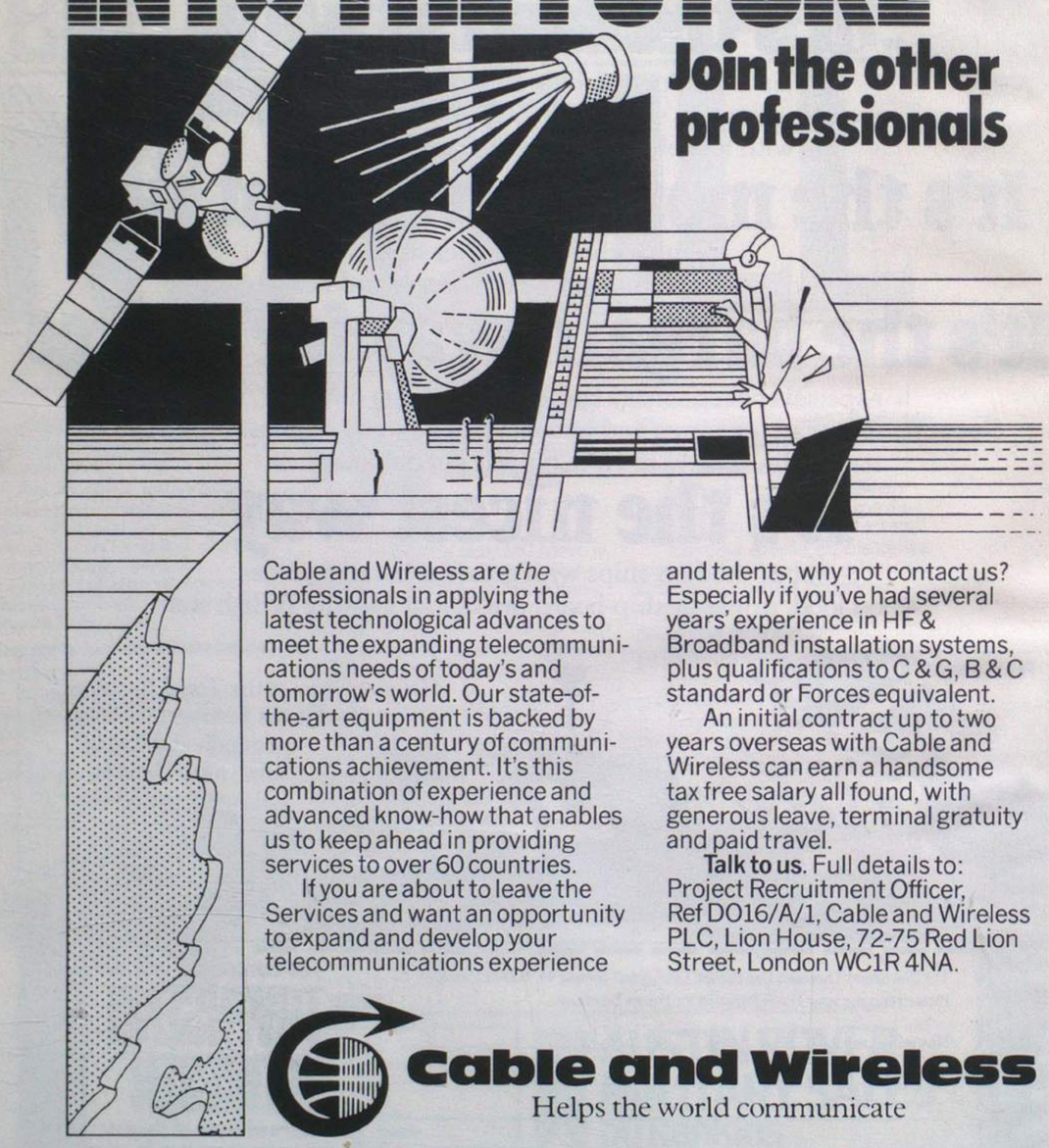

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Printed in Great Britain by Holbrook & Son Ltd, Norway Road, Portsmouth, Hants
Advertisement Managers: SERVICE NEWSPAPERS LTD. PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891)